

# Brasenose College Radcliffe Square Oxford



## Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Investigations Report



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## **Brasenose College, Radcliffe Square Oxford**

*Historic Building and Archaeological Investigation Report*

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## Summary

*Between August 2008 and March 2011, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out historic building recording and an archaeological watching brief during works at Brasenose College Kitchens, Radcliffe Square, Oxford. Photographic recording was undertaken in the areas affected by to the works, which included a series of 20th-century buildings to the south of the Buttery that were to be demolished.*

*Building recording concentrated on the cellars beneath the Buttery and Hall where alterations were to take place. The cellars remain an important part of the kitchen facilities, with the Buttery Cellar containing the silver vaults and the cellar under the hall used for wine storage. Both contain elements of the original, 16th-century college building in the stonework of the lower walling. The Wine Cellar underneath the Hall contains three large stone columns that support the large floor beams of the Hall above. These date to the late 17th-century and it is likely that the cellar was a large open space at this time. Later alterations include the addition of brick vaulted ceilings and walls in both cellars and the creation of shelving for storage in the Wine Cellar in the 18th-century. Later changes include the addition of a silver vault in the Buttery Cellar in the 19th-century and the reworking of the west end of the hall cellar in the 20th-century.*

*The removal of panelling within the Eckersley room revealed a section of 16th-century timber frame, in a partition wall thought to have been built during the late 19th-century reworking of the kitchen by Jackson. Fixed to the timber frame were a series of wooden panels decorated with painted stars on a black background. The overall design is very rough in its execution but it is not thought to date to the same phase as the walling. The panelling probably formed part of a small bedroom or study which would have been separated from the main sitting room area by simple partition walling. The discovery of the panelling led to further historical research and analysis which formed the basis of a separate report issued in January 2011, and included in this report as Appendix E. The west elevation of the Eckersley room contained evidence for a former fireplace, larger than that seen today.*

*Below ground works were in advance of the excavation of a new gas trench and the conversion of an existing coal cellar into a boiler room, the construction of a temporary kitchen and dining marquee, and the excavation of a lift pit, cellar and general groundworks. Evidence for a building and associated pits that pre-dated the construction of the 16th-century College buildings were found. In addition, structural evidence for an internal wall within the Buttery, floors within the Servedy and walls forming the 19th-century College Rooms and Scullery were identified. Much of the site had been landscaped in the 19th-century.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 Between August 2008 and March 2011 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) carried out a series of historic building and archaeological investigations at Brasenose College, Radcliffe Square, Oxford (NGR: SP 515 062). The work was commissioned by BGS Architects in advance of ground works that included the excavation of a new gas pipe trench and the conversion into a boiler room of an existing coal cellar (August 2008), the construction of a temporary kitchen and dining marquee (March 2010), and the excavation of a lift pit, cellar and miscellaneous groundworks (July 2010 – March 2011).
- 1.1.2 The site lies within the historic core of Oxford, and as such conditions were attached to both the planning consent and the listed building consent, requiring an archaeological recording action during any intrusive works. Fieldwork was carried out following discussions with Brian Durham and David Radford (OCC) and the issuing of a brief (OCC 2010). OAS produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and a separate Project Design which outlined how the archaeological requirements of the work and the brief would be met (OA 2010a and 2010b respectively).
- 1.1.3 Brasenose College is bounded to the east by Lincoln College, to the west by Radcliffe Square, to the south by the High Street and to the north by Brasenose Lane (Fig. 1). It lies at approximately 70 m OD on Quaternary River Gravels of the 2nd (Summertown-Radley) Terrace Deposits (British Geological Survey Sheet 236). The terrace forms a north-south ridge of higher ground between the River Isis, c. 1.5 km to the west, and the River Cherwell, c. 1 km to the east. Overlying these gravels is a red-brown loess, a post-glacial deposit that is observed elsewhere in the city and is on average 0.3 m thick.
- 1.1.4 This report combines the results of both the standing building and the archaeological watching brief works. The historical assessment and paintwork analysis of decorated panelling within the Eckersley Room is included for reference as Appendix E.

### 1.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

#### *Before the Conquest*

- 1.2.1 The Anglo-Saxon burh of Oxford is thought to have been constructed at the turn of the 10th-century. There has been some debate as to the planned or organic origins of the early town, although it is now thought likely that it was laid out to a deliberate plan, albeit at least partially dictated by the topography at the edge of the second terrace, and the presence of existing routes running from the north towards the ford (Blair, 1994).

#### *Medieval*

- 1.2.2 The College occupies the site of former medieval properties that were laid out to front School Street (now Radcliffe Square). These tenements, including the academic Brasenose Hall, were identified by Salter in his Survey of Oxford (Salter 1960 – Fig. 3). The Hall was owned by the University from the mid-13th-century, and later acquired by the University College. The exact date of the change of ownership is unknown, although a Charter that established a college to be called 'The King's Hall and College of Brasenose' is dated 15 January 1512 (VCH, 1954, p.208).



- 1.2.3 The history of the College was presented in an earlier report for Brasenose College (OA 2005) the summary below is largely reproduced from the College website (<http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk>).
- 1.2.4 For the first-century of its existence, the College consisted of just one quadrangle. The only building to extend beyond it was the 15th-century kitchen, which had been inherited from Brasenose Hall. The Tower was originally a much more imposing architectural feature than it seems today, since it was surrounded by only two-storied buildings and a tangle of tenements and gardens where the Radcliffe Camera now stands. It wasn't until the 17th-century that a third storey was deemed necessary to increase the capacity of the College, and records suggest that the construction of this extension started in about 1614 and took some 20 years to complete.
- 1.2.5 Records suggest that the Library and Chapel were built between 1655 and 1666 and that further extension of the College to the High Street was planned for over 150 years before it actually happened. A house on the High Street was adapted to make a new lodging for the Principal between 1770 and 1771, but no further work was undertaken to improve the 'unseemly squalor' (Walter Pater's) which lay between the Chapel and the High Street. It wasn't until between 1880 and 1886 that a block designed by T.G. (later Sir Thomas) Jackson swept away the muddle of shops, cottages and miscellaneous back premises, which are shown in part on a drawing by Jackson, detailing buildings to be demolished (BGS Architects 2008).
- 1.2.6 The Old Principal's house was demolished between 1887 and 1889, and a new one constructed on the site, together with a set of undergraduates' rooms and the High Street Tower. There then followed a twenty year period during which the College had only half a High Street front, due to the lack of funding. It was not until 1909-1911 that Jackson was able to complete the building he had designed thirty years before.
- 1.2.7 During the 20th-century, the numbers of students continued to rise, partly as a result of population growth and partly because higher education was no longer seen as the prerogative of the few. As more and more accommodation was needed, commercial leases were terminated in favour of student use and students began to reside outside the College Quads. For example, in the 1940's, Frewin Hall in New Inn Hall Street was used by students for the first time. Owned by the College since 1580, Frewin's most famous previous occupant was Edward VII, who occupied the house as Prince of Wales when he was an undergraduate in 1859-1860.
- 1.2.8 By 1959 every staircase except one was equipped with toilets and bathrooms or showers, and the old bathhouses were demolished. A small block of single study bedrooms was built in 1959-1960, designed by Powell and Moya and greatly acclaimed in its day. A building for graduates in St Cross Road was completed in 1995.

### ***The Kitchen***

- 1.2.9 The Old Kitchen is outside the main quadrangle of the College, built out from the south side of the hall, and approached from the screens passage at the west end of the hall (Fig 8). The irregular angle of the Old Kitchen's attachment to the hall, and the truncation of a window have suggested to most College historians that the building may be a survival from the College's predecessor.
- 1.2.10 David Loggan's view of the College in 1675 (not included in the figures) shows the building much as it is now, with chimneys on the south and west sides, attic cocklofts at the north end, and two windows in the east wall (partly obscured by the west wall of the cloister, which at that time ran in front of the building).



- 1.2.11 The plan of the College in about 1732 by William Williams (*Oxonia Depicta*; Fig. 5) also shows large fireplaces in the west and south walls, but does not show the door located in the south-west corner. The building was unencumbered at this date, but a century later had acquired an extension on the southern end; a 'Scullery' on Allfrey's plan of the College in 1874 and also visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1878 (Fig. 6). It was presumably the location of the Scullery that necessitated the door being made at the south-west corner of the kitchen (Fig. 8). The Scullery building is shown on a photograph, prior to its removal, as being a single-storey building surrounded by a screen wall with a blank Gothic arcade.
- 1.2.12 The Scullery was removed in 1881 by Jackson during the construction of a new staircase on the west side of the Old Kitchen. A plan signed by Jackson in April 1886 shows a fireplace in the south wall, however building study shows that this had already been modified by the late 19th or early 20th-century. This modification is likely to correspond with documentation relating to the installation of a new range at the south end of the kitchen in 1912. Documentary evidence indicates that in February 1912 the College gave an order to fit a new range, and in May, Chas. P. Kinnell & Co. were contracted to fit a new range and gas grill along with other work. Their copy of the architect's plan dated 8th May 1912 shows the grill and range in the firehood, but does not indicate old or new work. No indication of any work in converting the fireplace has been found in the Bursar's letter books between 1886 and 1912.



## 2 AIMS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### 2.1 General

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of all archaeological and building remains in the areas affected by the works.
- 2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

### 2.2 Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Fieldwork

- 2.2.1 Record the cellar under the 16th-century Hall to English Heritage level 3 standard prior to alterations.
- 2.2.2 Watching brief works to the 16th-century fabric.
- 2.2.3 Investigate the chronology, construction and development of the building.
- 2.2.4 Photographically record the 20th-century and pre-20th-century elements prior to removal.
- 2.2.5 To identify any medieval and post-medieval deposits.
- 2.2.6 Identify and record any significant structural features or relationships revealed by the building work.

### 2.3 Acknowledgements

- 2.3.1 Thanks are extended to Jon DuCroz and Hamish McMichael of BGS Architects and to the staff of Brasenose College, particularly Elizabeth Boardman the college Archivist. The works were monitored by Brian Durham and David Radford of Oxford City Council, and carried out on behalf of OA by Ian Cook, Becky Griffin, Jim Mumford, Chris Richardson and Mike Simms for fieldwork and Alison de Turberville with Julian Munby for Historic Building Recording. The works were managed by Dan Dodds, Andrew Norton, Dan Poore and Jon Gill, and the figures produced by Markus Dylewski, Julia Collins and Georgina Slater.



### 3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY AND STRATEGY

#### 3.1 Historic Building Recording

- 3.1.1 A programme of building recording both prior to and during the refurbishment was carried out to enhance the understanding of the development, alteration and use of this part of the College. Recording was carried out during the summer and autumn of 2010 by Alison de Turberville.
- 3.1.2 Further recording with historical research and assessment was carried out following the removal of panelling within the Eckersley room which revealed timber panelling decorated with painted stars. The results of this further investigation was included within the Oxford Archaeology report 'Painted Panelling within the Eckersley Room, Brasenose College, Oxford - Historical Research and Paint Analysis Report' issued in January 2011 and included here as Appendix E.
- 3.1.3 Overall the work comprised three principal elements: a photographic, drawn and written survey.
- 3.1.4 The **photographic survey** consisted of general photographs and specific details and was undertaken using 35 mm black and white print and colour slide film. Digital photographs were also taken. Scales were used where appropriate. As well as completing a photographic record sheet, the location and photo numbers were added to a building plan to accompany the archive.
- 3.1.5 The **drawn survey** consisted of scale drawings completed by hand on archivally stable permatrace at an appropriate scale as well as annotation of drawings supplied by the project architects.
- 3.1.6 The **descriptive survey** complemented the photographic and drawn surveys and added further analytical and descriptive detail with the completion of appropriate recording sheets for the archaeological record.

#### 3.2 Watching Brief

- 3.2.1 The Watching Brief comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the new mains gas trench; the excavation of pile locations ahead of the temporary kitchen and dining marquee; a phase of testpitting ahead of piling; service trench excavation and general floor reduction (Fig. 2).
- 3.2.2 Test Pits 5 and 6 were machine excavated. Where machine access was impractical in Test Pits 1, 2, 3 and 4 excavation was carried out by hand under close archaeological supervision.

#### 3.3 Excavation

- 3.3.1 Full archaeological excavation was proposed for the location of the Lift Pit (Test Pit 8) and within the footprint of a proposed cellar extension to the south of the Servedy (Test Pit 7). The lift pit was excavated within the 'Dirty Returns/Pay Station' area of the Dining Hall, and measured about 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> and 2 m in depth. The cellar extension was 7 m long, 2.3 m wide and 3.45 m deep (Fig. 2).
- 3.3.2 Where hand-dug test pits were proposed within areas of higher archaeological potential (Test Pit 9), all hand excavation was carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist.



### **3.4 General**

- 3.4.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with standard OA practices. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with the established OA Field Manual (Wilkinson 1992).
- 3.4.2 Mechanical excavation was carried out by a 360° tracked excavator under close archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued until the proposed impact level had been reached or to the first archaeological horizon. Any revealed deposits were hand cleaned, excavated and recorded.

## 4 FIELDWORK RESULTS

### 4.1 Architectural Descriptions

4.1.1 The following descriptions relate to specific areas within the College which formed part of the survey area.

#### ***The Kitchen, Servery and Buttery*** (Fig. 8)

4.1.2 The present kitchen is located to the west of the Old Kitchen block in an extension constructed in the late 19th-century to a design by Thomas Jackson. Internally the kitchen has modern fittings. An opening has been created in the west wall of the Old Kitchen building to give access to the new building. All other doors and windows are of dressed stone (Plates 10-12)

4.1.3 The Servery is located within the former kitchen, which is the oldest College building still extant and dates to the late 1400s. The Old Kitchen pre-dates the adjacent 16th-century hall and a window in the kitchen's east wall was cut away when the hall was constructed. The components of the Old Kitchen comprise one room with a two bay timber frame roof of late medieval type with a door and hatch in the north wall, two windows in the east wall, and fireplaces in the west and south walls, with chimneys above.

4.1.4 The Buttery is located to the west of the hall and is separated by a screens passage. Its north west corner has been partitioned off to form a small staff room and storage area that first appears on the 1939 RCHME plan (Fig. 7). A door in this converted room gives onto the passage beside the Eckersley Room. On the east wall of the Buttery, there is a stair well to a cellar, which is below the hall, and where the silver vaults are located. There is a small window with internal wooden shutters on the south wall. A doorway in the north wall is flanked by two windows (one within the staff room) and these appear to be original to the building. The room has exposed beams, but the ceiling and walls are rendered. It contains several items of wooden fixtures and furniture relating to the function of a large kitchen, including wooden fixings on the walls to hang cooking pot lids and a cabinet with many drawers for cutlery.

4.1.5 Two stubs of a former partition are extant in the north and south walls of the Buttery and this partition can clearly be seen on the c.1732 plan by William Williams (Fig. 5), where the wall clearly separated the College accommodation from the kitchen area. Its width suggests it was part of the original construction for this range. It would appear that this wall was extracted during the later 19th-century works by Jackson (1886) as work plans show a new girder inserted between the two stub walls and a new 9" wall to the west end of the 'new Buttery' to form a passage between it and the Eckersley room.

#### ***The Cellars***

4.1.6 There are five main cellar areas within the survey area: the Eckersley room cellar, the Buttery Cellar and silver vault, the main Wine Cellar, the 19th-century Kitchen Store Cellar and a three part coal cellar located to the south of the former kitchen block.

4.1.7 The smallest is a Wine Cellar which is situated beneath the Eckersley room and presumably formed part of the 'Room 1 - domus and cellar' which is mentioned in the room lists. This cellar is accessed via stairs hidden under boards within a small store room to the north of the Eckersley room. The access was originally under the main staircase for the rooms in this area, however the layout was altered in early 20th-century works to this part of the College, which included the enlargement of the





smoking room and dining room. Within the cellar are large storage shelves constructed of brick walls and stone shelves which appear to be 18th to 19th-century in date. The ceiling has exposed timber beams, but was presumably altered during the early 20th-century. This cellar is still in use as a Wine Cellar.

- 4.1.8 The cellar rooms beneath the 19th-century kitchen extension are currently used partly for female and male changing areas and for cold/freezer storage for the kitchens. The staff areas have modern rendered surfaces and fittings.
- 4.1.9 The three part coal cellar located to the south of the former kitchen block is constructed of rough stone walls with brick barrel vaulted ceilings and is contemporary with the late 19th-century works to the kitchens.
- 4.1.10 The Buttery Cellar is situated beneath the hall and is accessed from the Buttery via a stone, four-centred arched doorway that gives on to stone steps. It contains two large safes used for storing silverware. The largest is freestanding and of modern construction. The remaining safe is 19th-century and built adjacent to the stairs. It is constructed of stone blocks with a metal door set within. The cellar has stone walls and a brick barrel vaulted ceiling, as well as a flag stone floor with drainage channels built in. Adjacent to the Buttery Cellar is a small boiler room which contains part of a barrel vaulted brick ceiling and a slatted wooden door (Plates 13-20).
- 4.1.11 The largest cellar within this survey is located underneath the hall and is accessed via an ornate stone doorway in the north elevation of the Old Quad. Steps lead down into the cellar space which has large stone Doric columns supporting the floor of the hall above. The main section of the cellar has brick vaulted ceilings and brick and stone shelf units. To the west end, the cellar has been refurbished and has a modern plaster ceiling and modern brick and concrete shelving (Plates 21-26).

### ***The Eckersley room***

- 4.1.12 A fuller history and description of the Eckersley room can be found in the assessment report (January 2011) attached here as Appendix E.
- 4.1.13 The Eckersley room is located on the ground floor in the south west corner of the Old Quad. Although early records do not indicate the room's use, by the early/mid 18th-century it was used for student accommodation as documented in the College room books. William Williams' plan of the College dated c.1732 (Fig. 5) shows that the room and the adjoining corridor and Buttery formed two College rooms, each with two study cubicles. A later anonymous plan dating to the mid/late 19th-century (pre-1886; not illustrated here) shows a different layout with only the Eckersley room forming two sitting rooms with bedroom cubicles.
- 4.1.14 The room continued to be used as accommodation until 1886 when the area was extensively remodelled by Jackson. Thereafter, it was used as a lecture room, Butlers room and as part of the Buttery. In 1936, an endowment from a former student (Lt. Col. Nathaniel Farington Eckersley) was used to improve the facilities within the area. The Eckersley room became the new dining and common room for College members and was enlarged by moving the adjacent stair to the upper rooms, to a new external extension. A new lavatory was installed and the former lavatory was removed to enlarge the Buttery. Two windows were inserted on the north wall and the room was suitably decorated with wood panelling
- 4.1.15 There is a bow window to the south and two smaller windows on the north end of the western elevation. An open fireplace is located on the west elevation with a stone surround with bolection moulding and marble insert. The approved construction plans



within this room were to insert a doorway to the south end of the east elevation and to convert this room into a dishwasher facility for the new kitchen (Plates 27-30).

- 4.1.16 The Eckersley room has a lath and plaster ceiling with a timber beam running east-west and slightly off centre to the room.

#### ***Outbuildings to be demolished***

- 4.1.17 Outside of the Eckersley room, a corridor leads to a series of 20th-century extensions and small buildings which were to be demolished as part of the scheduled works. A stair extension dates to the reworking in this area following the benefaction of Col. Eckersley in 1935. The new stair is located directly outside the corridor and provides access to all floors, replacing a stair that was located to the northern part of the Eckersley room. The new stair is an open well design with timber newel posts, balustrades and handrail. Externally the fabric is coursed rubble stone and the windows are dress stone cross windows with stone transom and mullions (Plate 5 and 7).
- 4.1.18 A single storey wooden porch with flat leaded roof is adjacent to the stair extension. Internally, this space contains stainless steel sinks and a large opening in the south wall leads through to the kitchen. A doorway in the east wall leads out into another small courtyard (Plates 6 and 9).

## **4.2 Historic Building Investigations**

### ***The Eckersley Room***

- 4.2.1 Removal of the 20th-century panelling revealed the fabric of the walls. The west elevation was drawn and this is included as Figure 10. The wall is predominantly constructed of roughly coursed stone with a friable cream coloured render over. The south end of the wall has two hearth openings; the southernmost was clearly disused. This consists of a recess 560mm deep with all surfaces covered in a grey coloured render and a timber board lintel. Beneath the recess is a void covered with loose fill, and the raised height of the recess suggests an early floor level; no other evidence was observed.
- 4.2.2 Above this hearth is an area of friable cream render with many stone inclusions and two visible bricks under the render. A stone adjacent to the lower south edge has some moulding which may be part of the decoration for this hearth.
- 4.2.3 To the north of the southernmost hearth is another fireplace with bolection moulded Clipsham stone surround and white marble panels. The hearthstones are inscribed with 'Bratt Colman & Co Limited London' and 'The Heaped Fire Patent'. At the time of survey, the mantle section of the fire surround had been removed and this revealed a rough pinkish coloured mortar with two fragments of used roof tiles. The tiles are stamped 'Iron.Broseley', indicating they were manufactured near Telford, Shropshire. This fireplace was probably inserted during the 1930s works.
- 4.2.4 Above both fireplaces are two large stones. The southern one has hollow chamfer moulding to the lower arris, and the upper arris extends upwards. The stone has an incised mark and the face has been limewashed many times. The adjacent stone is rougher in appearance with extensive tool markings on the face and uneven arrises. There is a small rectangular rebate of unknown use. This stone appears to be a replacement stone and the area above it has been filled with bricks and mortar dated to the 20th-century that suggests this area was reworked when the hearth directly below was installed. It is clear that the room originally had a large fireplace with moulded



stone surround, which was later adapted to a smaller hearth. It is unclear when the smaller southern hearth was in use, but this was possibly *in situ* until the reworking of the room in 1937. An anonymous 19th-century plan (not illustrated here) showing the room before the Jackson alterations indicates that this room was divided into two bed sitting rooms and each had a fireplace, both of which were on the east elevation. The 1886 Jackson plan shows only one fireplace on this elevation, so it is probable that this hearth dates to the early 19th-century.

- 4.2.5 Above and to the north of the fireplace, the wall is covered with a hard dark grey coloured render which is rebated, probably for the panelling supports. The two moulded stone windows were inserted during the 1930s works and the concrete sill also appears to date to this phase. The window lintel is formed of three steel beams and the window reveals are of brick. The southern brickwork consists of pink coloured bricks measuring 230 x 100 x 65mm, and laid in an English bond. The outer bricks have been cut to form the angle where the jamb meets the wall and some bricks show evidence of reuse. The bricks appear to be late 19th-century in date, but may have been positioned here during the 1930s works. The northern jamb is formed of darker coloured bricks which appear earlier in date.
- 4.2.6 The north elevation consists of modern brickwork laid in a stretcher bond. An opening exists in the brickwork beside the earlier brick window reveal. The broken bricks on the east side of this opening suggest this was opened up later.
- 4.2.7 The north section of the east elevation is also modern brickwork and has an early radiator within a recess. South of this is a doorway which was clearly designed to match the panelling. The south section of this elevation (Figure 11) consists of exposed timber frame with early straw plaster and dates to the primary phase of the range construction.
- 4.2.8 Many timber board panels are fixed to the timber frame and these are painted with a charcoal black colour with yellow stars on top. The panels do not cover the horizontal timbers and have clearly been designed to go around a doorway which has been later infilled with lath and plaster. It is likely that this panelling was within a small bedroom or study room, with the greater part of the Eckersley room being used as a sitting room. The dating for this panelling is unclear as the historic plans do not show a study/bedroom in this location and no plans exist with a doorway. Some plans, for example John Soane's (1807), do not show the wall even though it was clearly part of the original construction of the Old Quad in 1509-1518. The elevation has evidence of papers or printed notices which were adhered to the plaster and decorated panelling.
- 4.2.9 A fuller description and discussion of the decorated panelling found under the modern panelling on the east wall of the Eckersley Room can be found in the assessment report (January 2011) attached here as Appendix E.
- 4.2.10 The south elevation consists of a large window dating to the early 20th-century that replaced two earlier small windows. The window almost reaches ground level and has a deep concreted sill. The reveals are of modern pink coloured brick laid in a varying bond. The window itself has a timber frame set within a stone surround and consists of 'four over four' multi-light windows with casement openings. The window has scrolled latches, and turnbuckle catches. To the window's east, there is a section of rubble stone walling with render covering which is possibly contemporary with the 16th-century fabric of the east elevation.



- 4.2.11 Following the discovery of the star panelling on the east elevation, the building works plans were altered to preserve the panelling and the proposed doorway was relocated to the window.

### ***The Buttery and Large Wine Cellars***

- 4.2.12 As part of the investigation, the Buttery Cellar and Wine Cellar underneath the hall were examined in detail and a phase plan is included as Figure 9. Entered via stairs from the Buttery, the stone door frame has an off-centred stone arch lintel with simple plain chamfer detailing. There are cuts within the stonework for utility wiring and a possible earlier door.
- 4.2.13 The wood door is truncated at the top to allow for a low ceiling within the entrance. The door itself is a simple plank and batten timber door with two large metal hinge straps, the upper one being a later replacement. There is a bolt fixed to the lower section of the door and another fixed to a small opening in the upper section of the door. Beyond the doorway there are two pieces of roughly worked stone which are supported on a modern inserted steel 'I' beam. Voids to each side of this suggest the steel beam replaced an earlier lintel which was probably of timber. A section of modern ceiling was adjacent to the steel 'I' beam, and the brick vaulted ceiling begins beyond it, to the east (Plates 14 and 19). Stone stairs lead down into the cellar with most of the steps worn in the centre (Plates 13 and 19). There has been some replacement of sections, most likely of 18th or 19th-century date.
- 4.2.14 The walls are formed of a rough ashlar stone, to a varying height of 1510-1555mm, and above this is the brick vaulted arch ceiling (Plate 14). The height of the vaulted ceiling is 3 metres. The bricks forming this vaulting are 222-229 x 105-111 x 62-70mm and red brown in colour and are probably 18th-century in date. The mortar is dark cream coloured with many stone inclusions. The flooring is a mix of modern concrete and older flag stones (Plates 13 and 19). Some flag stones have clearly been relaid. A drainage channel runs east-west across the southern side of the cellar, goes around the silver vault in the south west corner of the cellar and terminates in a stone drain (Plate 16).
- 4.2.15 There are two silver vaults within this cellar. The vault located adjacent to the stairs in the south western corner of the cellar is constructed of coursed stone blocks with an uneven finish and probably dates to the 19th century. The upper section of the wall adjacent to the stairs is of 19th-century brick. The door is set within the east elevation and is metal painted green and black and carries the manufacturers name of 'Ratner Safes'. This door is late 19th to early 20th-century in date. The second silver vault is free standing and located to the east end of the cellar. The structure is of 20th-century concrete block with steel reinforcement and steel door within the west elevation. The door is manufactured by 'Chubb'. To each side of the vault is a modern board partition with a wire covered door.
- 4.2.16 The east elevation of the cellar is mostly blocked by the safe, but is of brick construction, probably 18th-century in date, and contains a door through to the Wine Cellar beyond. The door is of wood bead boarding and has a large bolt fixing and keyhole; the opening has brick lintel and jambs (Plate 18). The brickwork on this elevation has a thin render covering and appears similar to the vault brickwork, but has a smoother mortar and is flat pointed suggesting the wall was constructed during a different phase. Adjacent to the Buttery Cellar is a small boiler room which has a truncated brick vaulted ceiling and flagstone floor.



- 4.2.17 The large Wine Cellar is situated underneath the hall and is accessed via an external doorway with heavily decorated stone lintel and early wood door. Within the doorway stone steps lead down into the cellar where two large stone columns with Doric capitals support the large timber beams of the hall floor above. These columns are thought to date to 1680, as one bears this date. It is clear that in the late 17th-century the cellars beneath the hall were altered to create a large open undercroft, which was roofed with the substantial timbers of the hall floor above supported by a series of large stone columns and a lath and plaster ceiling. Later, during the 18th-century, the space was divided for the storage of wine and vaulted ceilings added, probably at the same time as the reworking of the central fireplace in the hall above.
- 4.2.18 Within the entrance the beams run from north to south and above this there is an early lath and plaster ceiling. To the east of the beam, the ceiling is of vaulted brickwork as seen within the Buttery Cellar and boiler room. The stone columns are made of limestone and appear heavily eroded, possibly due to damp conditions. A small opening at the top of the stairs allows access to the space beneath the hall floor and above the vaulted ceiling of the cellar space. The upper section of another column can be seen here. The entrance has a lath and plaster ceiling. Beyond the columns is a brick wall which is 18th-century in date and has a large opening framed with timber leading through to the cellar space beyond. To the west, the door leading to the Buttery Cellar could be seen, this door having a stone lintel. The majority of the cellar space is divided with brick walls, with smaller brick walls and stone shelves forming the storage facility. The westernmost brick shelf units are constructed using 20th-century bricks in a pink colour, the remainder of the brickwork appears 18th-century in date and the bricks dividing the shelf space are mostly limewashed. Some of the lower brickwork that divides the shelf space has additional brickwork beside it, presumably added later for support. Metal rods can also be seen supporting the shelves, which are a later addition.
- 4.2.19 A further stone column can be seen within the brick wall in the centre of the cellar space, its upper section observed above the brick vaulting. Adjacent to this column is a wide opening with a moulded stone frame that has rebates within the jamb, suggesting there was once a door hung here; the western jamb has brick infill within one rebate.
- 4.2.20 A brick vaulted ceiling covers the main storage area of the cellar and appears contemporary with the ceiling in the Buttery Cellar and boiler room. The easternmost cellar space has a modern plaster ceiling and concrete floor.

### **4.3 Below Ground Archaeology**

- 4.3.1 The natural drainage within the study area was good and soils were relatively dry. The natural geology comprised terrace gravels and, where it survived, an overlying 'natural' loess. The encountered archaeological deposits were largely derived from a mix of the natural geology and redeposited soils.
- 4.3.2 The following description of archaeological contexts (structures, cuts and deposits) is augmented by additional detail which can be found the Context Inventory at Appendix A.

#### ***Mains gas trench across New Quad (not illustrated)***

- 4.3.3 The gas trench was approximately 40 m in length and ran from the southern edge of the Quad, along the western edge of the lawn and into the south-western corner of the kitchen. The trench was 0.5 m wide and had a depth of 0.8 m.



- 4.3.4 At the southern end of the trench, a layer of grey-brown clay silt (3) containing numerous fragments of brick, stone and gravel lenses was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m below the current ground level. This was observed to exceed a depth of 0.5 m in the trench section and was overlain by a 0.3 m deep layer of reddish grey-brown silt loam that formed the present day topsoil and turf of the quad lawn (1).
- 4.3.5 Layer 3 continued to the northern edge of the quad lawn, where it reached a depth of 0.5 m below ground level. Here, it was overlain by a 0.2 m deep layer of made ground that comprised a grey-brown clay silt (2) containing many orange-brown clay silt inclusions, which in turn was below a 0.3 m deep layer of topsoil and turf (1).

#### ***Old Quad foul pipe trench and pile caps for the temporary kitchen (Fig. 2)***

- 4.3.6 The foul pipe trench ran from the northwest corner of the Old Quad lawn, then cut diagonally across and through to the Porter's Lodge gate. The trench was between 0.9 m and 1.2 m deep. Accumulations of 19th-century soil and mortar lenses were revealed 0.5 m below ground level, and were over 0.7 m thick (15). The lowest lens may have been earlier soil horizons. This sequence (15) was overlain by a mortar construction horizon (16), landscaping for the Old Quad (17 and 18), and the existing topsoil or paving.
- 4.3.7 A stone culvert (12) was revealed 1.2 m below ground level, immediately to the west of the Porter's Lodge, but its relationship with the levelling deposits was unclear.
- 4.3.8 The pile caps located within the western half of the Old Quad lawn were only 0.5 m deep. The earliest deposit revealed was a 19th-century levelling layer (15).

#### ***Test pits and excavation areas (Fig. 2)***

##### ***Test Pit 1***

- 4.3.9 Test Pit 1 was located in the corridor to the north of the Servedy on the east side of the College (1.2 m x 0.8 m x 0.31 m deep). A made-ground layer was revealed that was overlain by the concrete foundation for the present tiled floor.

##### ***Test Pit 2***

- 4.3.10 Test Pit 2 was located immediately in front of the western hearth in the Servedy (1 m x 1 m x 0.35 m deep). Two layers of made-ground were overlain by the modern steel reinforced concrete floor.

##### ***Test Pit 3***

- 4.3.11 Test Pit 3 was located in the corridor between the Buttery and the Eckersley Room on the west side of the College (1.2m x 0.8m x 0.6m deep). An *in-situ* joist from an earlier floor was encountered at 0.6 m below ground level. It was overlain by made-ground, concrete layers and the present stone slab floor. No finds were recovered.

##### ***Test Pit 4***

- 4.3.12 Test Pit 4 was located within the Buttery in front of the central northern doorway. The existing floorboards were removed but no excavation was carried out. The floorboards were plain butt jointed boards, 0.02 m thick and approx 0.18 m wide. They overlay east-west aligned joists that were 0.09 m x 0.09 m square and appeared to be pit sawn.

These rested on baseplates composed of pit sawn timber, 0.11 m wide by 0.09 m deep that had been laid directly upon a dark reddish grey silty loam.

**Test Pit 5 (Fig. 12, Plate 1)**

- 4.3.13 Test Pit 5 was located to the south of the Eckersley Room, east of Lincoln College's perimeter wall. It had an east-west alignment (2 m x 0.90 m x 1.60 m deep), and stepped out at either side as a safety precaution. Natural geology was not reached in this trench. At the bottom of the revealed sequence a dark grey brown clay-silt was identified that contained 15th -16th-century pottery (19) and is possibly a pit fill. This was cut by a construction trench (36) for what appears to be a SW-NE aligned limestone wall (22). The wall was on a slightly different alignment to the College buildings, and is not shown on any of the historical maps and as such could pre-date the 16th-century College buildings.
- 4.3.14 The wall was trench built and bonded with an orange brown sandy clay. It was at least 0.60 m wide and was exposed to a depth of 1.0 m. A NW-SE aligned return was present at the north-eastern end of the exposed structure. This was 1m wide, and terminated 0.4m south of the southern face of the SW-NE aligned structure, and may be the remains of a buttress. Alternatively, it is possible that the southern terminus may have marked a threshold or gap in the NW-SE return of the wall. The structure was overlain by a dark grey silty clay deposit (30), which was probably a truncated pit fill.
- 4.3.15 Deposit 30 was cut by Pits 29 and 35. Pit 29 also appeared to cut into the top of Wall 22, and was 1.2 m wide, 0.50 m deep and was filled with a mid grey silt (28) containing 17th to 18th-century pottery and clay pipe. Pit 35 was 1.0 m wide and over 1 m deep, it was filled with slightly 'cessy' fills (33 and 34) also containing 17th -18th-century pot and clay pipe. The relationship between this pit and Wall 22 was unclear, although it is feasible that the pit was excavated up against the structure. The pits were overlain by a thick garden-soil like layer (27), which was cut by the construction cut (26) for the Lincoln College perimeter wall (20).
- 4.3.16 Wall 20 had a foundation 5 courses thick (0.80 m high), bonded with yellow mortar. It sat directly on top of wall 22 and was abutted by a north-south aligned limestone wall (21). Wall 21 was three courses high (0.44 m high) and trench built (32) and was probably part of the Brewhouse marked on the 1st edition OS map (Fig. 6).
- 4.3.17 A pit (24) was cut into the garden soil against the side of wall 20. The pit was 0.40 m wide, 0.50 m deep and its fill (23) contained 17th - 18th-century pottery and clay pipe. The upper part of the trench was heavily disturbed by modern services.

**Test Pit 6 (Fig. 13)**

- 4.3.18 Test Pit 6 was located south of the perimeter wall of Lincoln College and to the west of Test Pit 5 (1.80 m x 1.20 m x 1.60 m deep). Natural geology was not reached and most of the trench was disturbed by modern service trenches. An east-west aligned limestone wall (40) that ran parallel to the Lincoln College perimeter wall was revealed. It was 0.35 m wide x 0.54 m high (4 courses) and bonded with yellow-white mortar. This was possibly also part of the Brewhouse (see Wall 21 above). A 15th - 16th-century jetton was found in one of the service trench fills (Allen and Scott below – Context 37).

**Test Pit 7 (Servery Trench; Fig. 14, Plate 2)**

- 4.3.19 Test Pit 7 was located to the south of the Servery in the New Quad. Due to the discovery of services the test pit was extended to the west and to the east and measured 7 m x 2.30 m x 3.45 m deep.
- 4.3.20 Natural gravels were encountered approximately 2.50 m below the modern ground level (61.40 m OD). These were overlain by a thin band of probable natural loessic brickearth (92; 0.20 m thick). The gravel was cut by two partially revealed pits (89 and 91). The pits were over 1 m wide and over 0.5 m deep and filled with clay silts (88 and 90). Two sherds of 11th - 13th-century pottery were recovered from Fill 88, together with 12th - 13th-century pottery and peg tile from Fill 90, and the upper part of the pit was roughly revetted in stone (96). Fill 90 was truncated by a later pit (95), which was similarly filled (94) and contained 16th- to 17th-century pottery. Pit 101 had no stratigraphic relationship with the other pits, but it was filled with deposits of brick-rubble and mortar rich clays (100).
- 4.3.21 The earlier pits (89 and 91) and their fills were truncated by the construction cut (99) for an 18th- or 19th-century cellar, which was observed to be 5 m long and at least 2.8 m deep (Plate 2).
- 4.3.22 The walls of the cellar were exposed within the western and northern sides of the pit and could be seen to be constructed from limestone blocks bound with lime mortar (45) (Fig. 14, plan). The stones on the western side of the cellar were faced, but the northern side was undressed and roughly built which may indicate that this side originally formed part of an earlier buildings foundations before being incorporated into the cellar. The upper parts of the wall showed evidence of repair or rebuilding (43 and 44). The 1st edition OS map and Jackson's demolition plan record this structure as a 'Scullery'. The extant brick-built vaulted passageway (58) from the kitchen was also evident (Top LH corner of Plate 2).
- 4.3.23 A north-south aligned limestone wall (85) originally abutted wall 45 within the eastern half of the pit (Fig. 14, plan), before extending outside the limits of the pit on the southern edge (This wall was shown on Jackson's demolition plan as 'College Rooms'). This structure had been truncated down to the level of the cellar floor either as part of the cellar excavation or during a later phase of construction. The cellar had been backfilled with modern material.

**Test Pit 8 (Lift pit; Fig. 15)**

- 4.3.24 The lift pit was 2.50 m by 2.50 m and 2 m deep. Dumps of clayey soil make up layers were revealed at the base of the trench (71-73), and the upper deposit (71) was cut by the construction trench (70) for a stone wall. The wall (59) was north-south aligned, 0.60 m wide and faced on both sides.
- 4.3.25 To the east, these deposits (71-73) were also cut by a cess pit (68), which was over 1 m wide and 1 m deep. The pit was filled with a reddish brown silty clay (69) containing dumps of oyster shell, charcoal and 16th - 17th-century pottery.
- 4.3.26 Butting up to wall 59 and overlying layer 71 was a concrete floor slab (60).

**Test Pit 9**

- 4.3.27 Test Pit 9 was excavated within the Buttery (1.10 m x 0.70 m x 0.60 m deep). A dark soil horizon (65) was revealed at the base of the pit, which was overlain by a similar deposit (64) that may have formed either a soil horizon or construction level. Soil 64 contained 16th - 17th-century pottery and some animal bone, and was cut by a





construction trench (62) for a rough limestone wall foundation (63). Wall 63 was over 0.40 m wide and three courses high (0.40 m), and abutted by the backfill (66) of construction cut 62, and overlain by the existing Buttery floor (61).

#### ***Test Pit 10 (Plates 3 and 4)***

- 4.3.28 Test Pit 10 was excavated to the west of the Old Kitchen. The test pit measured 10m x 3.6m and was on average of 0.7m deep. The majority of the deposits revealed comprised garden soils (i.e. 103, 105, 108), which had been heavily truncated by modern services. One of the garden soils (108) overlay the top of a stone-built barrel vaulted cellar (109 - Plate 4). The precise date of the cellar was uncertain, although it had been truncated by the south wall of the south range of the Old Quad. This suggests it pre-dates the 16th-century construction of the range.

#### ***Floor reduction within the Servery***

- 4.3.29 In general only make-up deposits were revealed during the general reduction, but elements of earlier floor surfaces were revealed within the fireplace on the western wall of the Servery. A black glazed tile was revealed in the corner of the fireplace and a patch of roughly bonded stone fragments was revealed in the centre of the hearth.

### **4.4 Finds summary**

#### ***Pottery***

*by John Cotter*

##### Introduction and methodology

- 4.4.1 A total of 119 sherds of pottery weighing 3289g were recovered from 19 contexts. These represent a range of medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics but most of the material is of late medieval or early post-medieval date. All 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 Table B.1 (Appendix B), followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.).

##### Date and nature of the assemblage

- 4.4.2 Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition although many sherds are large and unabraded including two or three half-complete profiles. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. These are detailed in the spreadsheet and summarised here. Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994).
- 4.4.3 The range of medieval and post-medieval wares here is typical of sites along the main thoroughfares of central Oxford. Possibly the earliest context here is pit fill 88 which is dated to the period c 1075-1300 by a single sherd of Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) - the commonest early medieval pottery type from the excavation. The same context also produced a rare example of a probable north French greyware jar body sherd which may be a late Saxon import (c 850-1066?). However these two sherds are quite small and may be residual in their context. Pit fill Context (90) is dated fairly certainly to c 1175-1250 by 27 sherds of fairly early medieval fabric types. These mostly comprise



unabraded sherds of OXY cooking pots and a jug handle in East Wiltshire/Newbury B ware (OXAQ, from c 1175). There are also sherds of a green-glazed OXY jug, and body sherds from three glazed jugs in Ashampstead/Newbury C ware (OXAG) including two highly decorated examples - the most unusual of which is decorated with applied conical 'studs' probably copied from contemporary north French pottery (see Table B1 for details, and Plate 31). The roof tile fragments from this context are also of early type and compatible with the pottery dates.

- 4.4.4 Very little high medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) was identified from the site generally, suggesting the period c 1225-1400 saw relatively little activity here in terms of pottery deposition. A few sherds of 13th to 14th-century Brill ware occur residually in Context (10) including a near-complete long tubular spout from a jug with a strut attachment in the shape of a pair of human hands gripping the spout (Mellor 1994, fig. 57.3-4). The period best represented on the site appears to be the late medieval/early post-medieval period - in particular the late 15th and 16th centuries as typified by the relative abundance of sherds of late medieval Brill ware (OXBX, c 1450-1625) with its poorer quality, thicker-walled vessel forms. Much of this occurs in make-up layer Context (10) containing pottery of c 1525-1575/1600, although this assemblage may be disturbed or residual as it also contains clay pipes as late as c 1690-1720. The pottery from this context includes a number of vessels associated with drinking including the complete lower half of a small conical OXBX drinking jug and three imported drinking jugs in German stoneware (Raeren stoneware c 1475-1550 and Frechen stoneware c 1525-1750). Frechen stoneware jug sherds are also common in the few other contexts dated to the late 16th and 17th centuries. One sherd from a Frechen stoneware 'bellarmine' jug of c 1650 (Ctx 0, unstrat.) has part of a medallion on the front showing the arms of Amsterdam - a fairly common decoration on Frechen jugs of this period. The latest pottery in the assemblage comprises a teacup and a few dinner plates in mass-produced Staffordshire-type whitewares of the period c 1840-1900 (Ctx 80).

### ***Clay tobacco pipes***

*by John Cotter*

#### Introduction and methodology

- 4.4.5 The excavation produced a total of 27 pieces of clay pipe weighing 206g, from nine contexts. These have been catalogued and recorded on Table B.4. 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.

#### Date and nature of the assemblage

- 4.4.6 The assemblage is generally in an unabraded but mostly fragmentary condition with only slight wear visible on a few pieces. Twelve pipe bowls are present - mostly complete - which is quite a high number for such a small assemblage. Apart from milling around the rim on a few earlier bowls all the pipes are plain with no makers' marks present. Where possible, bowl forms have been compared to the assemblage published from St Ebbe's, Oxford (Oswald 1984). The earliest piece is a bowl of c 1630-1650 (Ctx 69). At least seven stubby-spurred bowls of c 1650-1690 are present as are three more slender bowls of c 1690-1720. The latest piece here is a complete London-type bowl of c 1740-1800 (Ctx 67). Fuller details can be consulted in the catalogue.



## **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

by John Cotter

### Introduction and methodology

- 4.4.7 A total of 11 pieces of CBM weighing 847g were recovered from five contexts. They were examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage in a similar way to the pottery (see elsewhere) and the data recorded in Table B.2. As usual, the dating of broken fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should therefore be used with caution.

### Date and nature of the assemblage

- 4.4.8 The CBM assemblage is in a very fragmentary and mostly worn condition although a few pieces are quite unabraded. The assemblage is described in some detail in Table B.2 and summarised only briefly here. All the CBM here appears to be of medieval date (13th-16th century). As usual in Oxford, fragments of plain flat roofing tile (peg tile) predominate, some with circular nail holes. Pit fill 90 contained several peg tile fragments in an early pink fabric (Fabric VIIB of the Oxford medieval tile fabric series, housed here at OAS) commonly found on monastic and other sites in Oxford of the late 12th, 13th and early 14th centuries. Its association here with pottery of c 1175-1250 is useful confirmation for the early dating of this type. Two pieces of medieval crested ridge tiles were also recovered but these were residual in their contexts (10 and 53). The larger piece from Context (10) is however surprisingly unabraded. This is from the apex/end of a ridge tile in an early glazed ridge tile fabric tempered with oolitic limestone (Fabric IB) which was in use during the period c 1175-1325 - contemporary with use of pink peg tiles. This particular tile is unusual in that it has a small perforation through the apex which may have been used to fix it to the roof line with a nail, or alternatively to hold a small decorative ceramic finial. No obvious post-medieval CBM was noted.

## **Metalwork**

by Leigh Allen and Ian Scott

- 4.4.9 A total of four metal objects were recovered from the archaeological investigations, comprising two copper alloy jettons and two iron nails.
- 4.4.10 The jetton (SF 1) recovered from context 37 is in very good condition. It was minted in Tournai and is late 15th- to 16th-century in date. The obverse bears a shield decorated with fleur-de-lis surmounted by quatrefoils and the reverse has a short cross with four petalled flowers in between the arms of the cross. The second jetton (SF 2) from context 64 is in very poor condition, but is possibly a jetton of a prince of the French blood royal. It bears a shield on the obverse with three fleur-de-lis inside and a single fleur-de-lis on the reverse; the legend is illegible.
- 4.4.11 The two iron nails were recovered from contexts 10 and 90.

## **Animal Bone**

by Lena Strid

### introduction

- 4.4.12 The animal bone assemblage comprised 56 re-fitted fragments from medieval and early post-medieval pit fills and layers. The entire assemblage was hand-collected, and is thus biased against small taxa.



- 4.4.13 The assemblage is associated with the medieval academic hall Brasenose Hall, and later Brasenose College (founded 1512), indicating that the faunal remains are primarily associated with college diet rather than a general urban diet.

#### Methodology

- 4.4.14 The bones were identified using a comparative skeletal reference collection, in addition to osteological identification manuals. All animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Sheep and goat were identified to species where possible, using Boessneck et al. (1964) and Prummel and Frisch (1986). They were otherwise classified as 'sheep/goat'. An attempt to distinguish pheasant from domestic fowl on ulna was carried out Tomek and Bocheński (2009), nevertheless, no bones could be identified as pheasant. Ribs and vertebrae, with the exception of atlas and axis, were classified by size: 'large mammal' representing cattle, horse and deer; 'medium mammal' representing sheep/goat, pig and large dog.
- 4.4.15 The condition of the bone was graded on a 6-point system (0-5). Grade 0 equates to very well preserved bone, and grade 5 indicates that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unidentifiable. For ageing, Habermehl's (1975) data on epiphyseal fusion was used.

#### The assemblage

- 4.4.16 The assemblage is very small and the analysis must therefore be considered with caution. Nevertheless, the observed predominance of domestic livestock (Table B.3) is typical for medieval and post-medieval non-highstatus assemblages (Sykes 2006, 56). The bones are in a good condition, suggesting a rapid disposal of organic waste. Only one bone in the early post-medieval assemblage showed evidence of dog gnawing.
- 4.4.17 Due to the small size of the assemblage, data for ageing are scant. Judging by bone surface structure and epiphyseal fusion, most cattle, sheep/goat and fowl were slaughtered as adults or sub-adults, while pig were mainly skeletally immature. A single vertebra from juvenile large mammal, probably cattle, recovered from the medieval assemblage, suggests that veal was included in the diet.
- 4.4.18 The presence of skeletally mature cattle and sheep/goat and skeletally immature pigs is a common pattern in Oxford (Poole 2009, 109; Wilson 1994; Wilson and Bramwell 1980, microfiche 2 E10) and suggests a cattle and sheep/goat husbandry focussed on secondary products such as wool, dairy and the use of cattle as beasts of burden. Since pigs don't yield any secondary products they were slaughtered young for meat. College assemblages generally have a higher frequency of younger animals, indicating a preference for prime meat, although the available assemblages are few in number and the data must be interpreted with caution (Strid 2010, 207).
- 4.4.19 The majority of the elements came from meat rich parts of the carcass. The presence of one sheep/goat first phalanx in the early post medieval assemblage suggests that entire shanks were occasionally bought. Several bones displayed butchery marks, the majority of these deriving from disarticulation or portioning of the carcass and from filleting.



## 5 DISCUSSION OF FIELDWORK RESULTS

### 5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 It should be born in mind that due to the small size of the excavations, this element of the interpretation is necessarily tentative.

### 5.2 Summary and Conclusions

#### *Building recording*

- 5.2.1 A photographic record has been made of a series of 20th-century buildings to the south of the Buttery that were to be demolished as a component of the works.
- 5.2.2 Following photographic recording, building recording concentrated on the cellars beneath the Buttery and Hall where alterations were to take place. The cellars remain an important part of the kitchen facilities with the Buttery Cellar containing the silver vaults and the cellar under the hall used for wine storage. Both cellars contain elements of the 16th-century college building, in the stonework of the lower walling. The Wine Cellar underneath the Hall contains three large stone columns that support the large floor beams of the Hall above. These date to the late 17th-century and it is likely that the cellar was a large open space at this time. Later alterations include the addition of brick vaulted ceilings and walls in both cellars and the creation of shelving for storage in the Wine Cellar in the 18th-century. Later changes include the addition of a silver vault in the Buttery Cellar in the 19th-century and the reworking of the west end of the hall cellar in the 20th-century.
- 5.2.3 The removal of panelling within the Eckersley room revealed a section of 16th-century timber frame in a partition wall previously thought to have been built during the late 19th-century reworking of the kitchen by Jackson. Fixed to the timber frame were a series of wooden panels decorated with painted stars on a black background. The overall design is very rough in its execution but it is not thought to date to the same phase as the walling. The panelling probably formed part of a small bedroom or study which would have been separated from the main sitting room area by simple partition walling. The discovery of the panelling led to further historical research and analysis which formed the basis of a separate report issued in January 2011 and is also included to this report (Appendix E). The west elevation of the Eckersley room contained evidence for a former fireplace, larger than that seen today.

#### *Below ground investigations*

- 5.2.4 The fill of pit 89 (88) in Test Pit 7 has revealed the earliest ceramic evidence on the site from a context dated broadly to c. 1075-1300; a single sherd of Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) and a rare example of a probable north French greyware jar body sherd which may be a late Saxon import. The fill of Pit 91 (90), also in Trench 7, has been dated between the 1175-1250. The presence of the 'natural' glacial loess in Trench 7 gives an indication of the ground level prior to the foundation of the late Saxon burh in the 9th or 10<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.2.5 If the southern return of the earliest structure (Wall 22) found in Test Pit 5 is the remains of a buttress, it would suggest that this structure formed the southern wall of a building which once lay on the site of the Eckersley Room (Fig. 12). However, if instead the observed terminus of the wall's return represents an interruption for a threshold, it

would imply that the identified remains of the wall are part of the north east corner of a structure. Agas' map of 1578 (Fig. 4) shows open space in this location, and as such it seems likely that this wall pre-dates the foundation of the College at the beginning of the 16th-century. The irregular angle of the Old Kitchen's attachment to the Hall could imply that it was a pre-existing building from the College's predecessor. As such, the similarity between the alignment of the Old Kitchen and that of the structure in Test Pit 5 may suggest a similar origin for the latter, and that it was demolished prior to the construction of the buildings which form the Old Quad, in the mid-16th century.

- 5.2.6 Why the kitchen building was retained is unclear, although evidence from Corpus Christi (Julian Munby pers. comm.) and recent excavations at Jesus College (OA, in prep.) has suggested that the kitchens of former academic halls may have been retained and incorporated into the buildings of the newly founded colleges (in the early-16th and early-17th centuries respectively for the two examples cited above). It is possible that the retention of the more utilitarian structures of the pre-existing academic halls by newly founded colleges was not unusual.
- 5.2.7 The relationship between Wall 22 in Test Pit 5 and the 16th- to 18th-century pit fill to the south (34) was uncertain (Fig.12). However, if the wall was a component of the Brasenose Hall buildings then it would imply that it pre-dates the deposition of the pit fills. This suggests that the pit was dug up against the wall.
- 5.2.8 16th - 17th-century pottery and clay pipe recovered from the 'cess' pit (68) within the Lift Pit Trench (Fig. 15; Test Pit 8) suggests that it was contemporary with the property to the south, identified by Salter (Fig. 3) as "Salissury", and therefore represents the last phase of activity on that plot prior to the construction of the Library and Chapel in 1655-1666. Similarly, the 16th - 17th-century pits in the Servery Trench (Test Pit 7) are likely to represent this final phase of activity, although the 11th -13th-century pits (89 and 90) indicate a continuity of occupation from the earlier medieval period onwards. Although the lack of high medieval wares may be indicative of a hiatus in activity during the 13th and 14th centuries (see Section 4.4.4, above), the area investigated was not sufficient to draw any definitive conclusions. With the exception of the possible cess pit in Test Pit 8, the function of these features was uncertain.
- 5.2.9 At least two features appear to have truncated Wall 22 in Test Pit 5 (Fig. 12). Whilst the function of these features is unclear, their date is clearly attributed to the 17th - 18th-century suggesting they post-date the construction of the Old Quad buildings. These features may have been associated with the demolition of Wall 22, although their fills were not characteristic of robber trenches. Alternatively they may represent 17th-century pits in the area shown in Agas' plan (Fig. 4) as open space to the rear of the newly constructed College buildings, prior to the southward expansion of the College.
- 5.2.10 It is plausible that the partial foundations revealed in Test Pits 5 and 6 were of the College 'Brewhouse' and that the eastern foundations found in Test Pit 7 were of the 'College Rooms' (see Fig. 6). The foundations abutted those of the late 19th-century Scullery to the east.
- 5.2.11 Few archaeological features were revealed during investigations inside pre-existing buildings. The wall footing revealed within the Buttery possibly formed part of the 16th-century structure identified on the plan of the college made by the RCHME in 1939 (Fig. 7). It was likely to have been removed during the late 20th-century remodelling of the Buttery. Evidence for early tile and stone kitchen floors did survive within the Servery, but were unlikely to have been medieval surfaces.



5.2.12 The 19th or 20th-century dumped deposits revealed within the mains gas trench and pile cap locations, were probably laid during the 19th-century rebuilding of the High Street frontage by Jackson between 1889 and 1911. The north wing of the Quad was also rebuilt during this period. It is unlikely that many earlier deposits survived the landscaping of the area, although a possible earlier soil horizon was visible close to the Porter's Lodge (15).





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Figure 1: Site location map



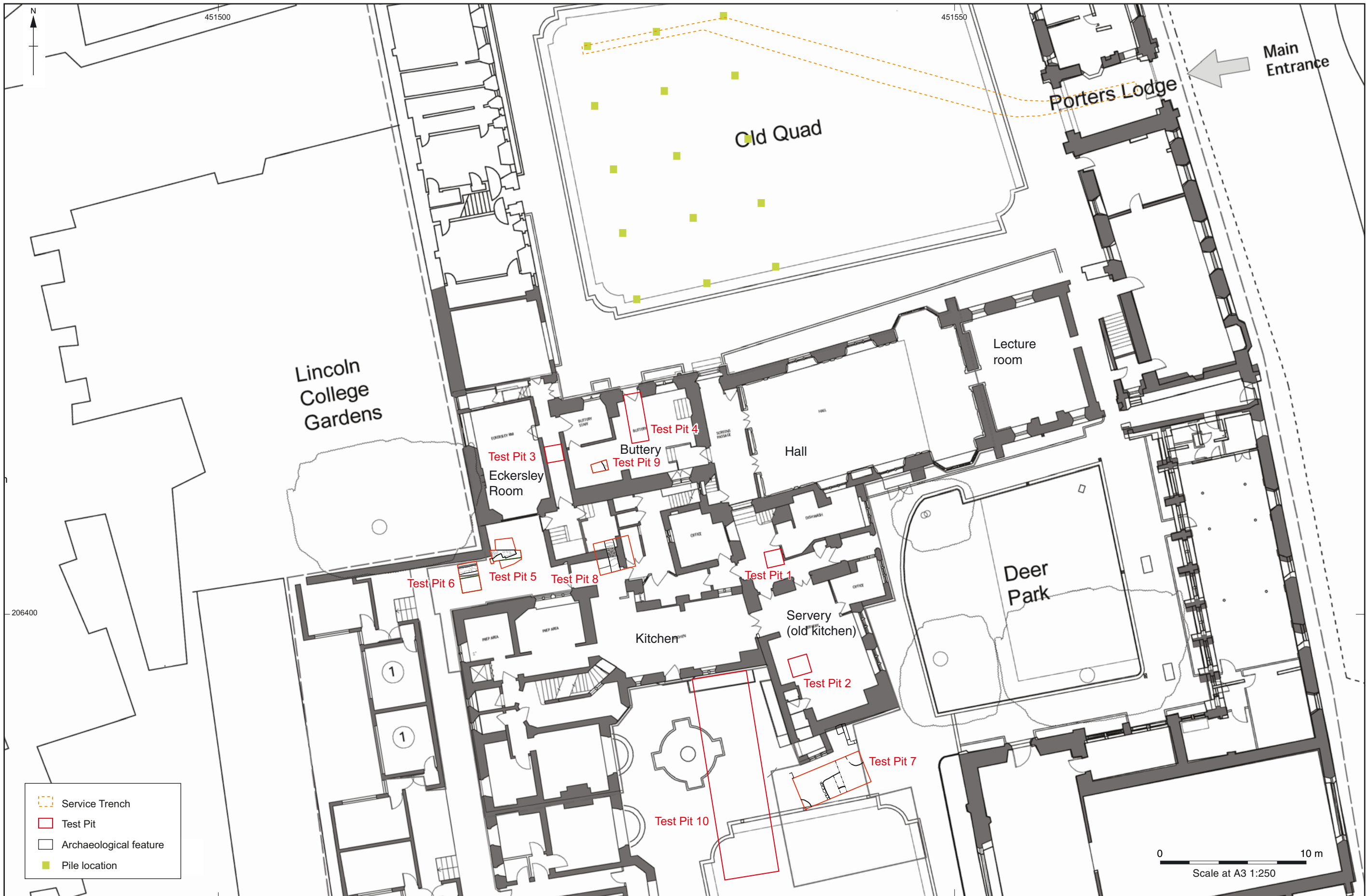
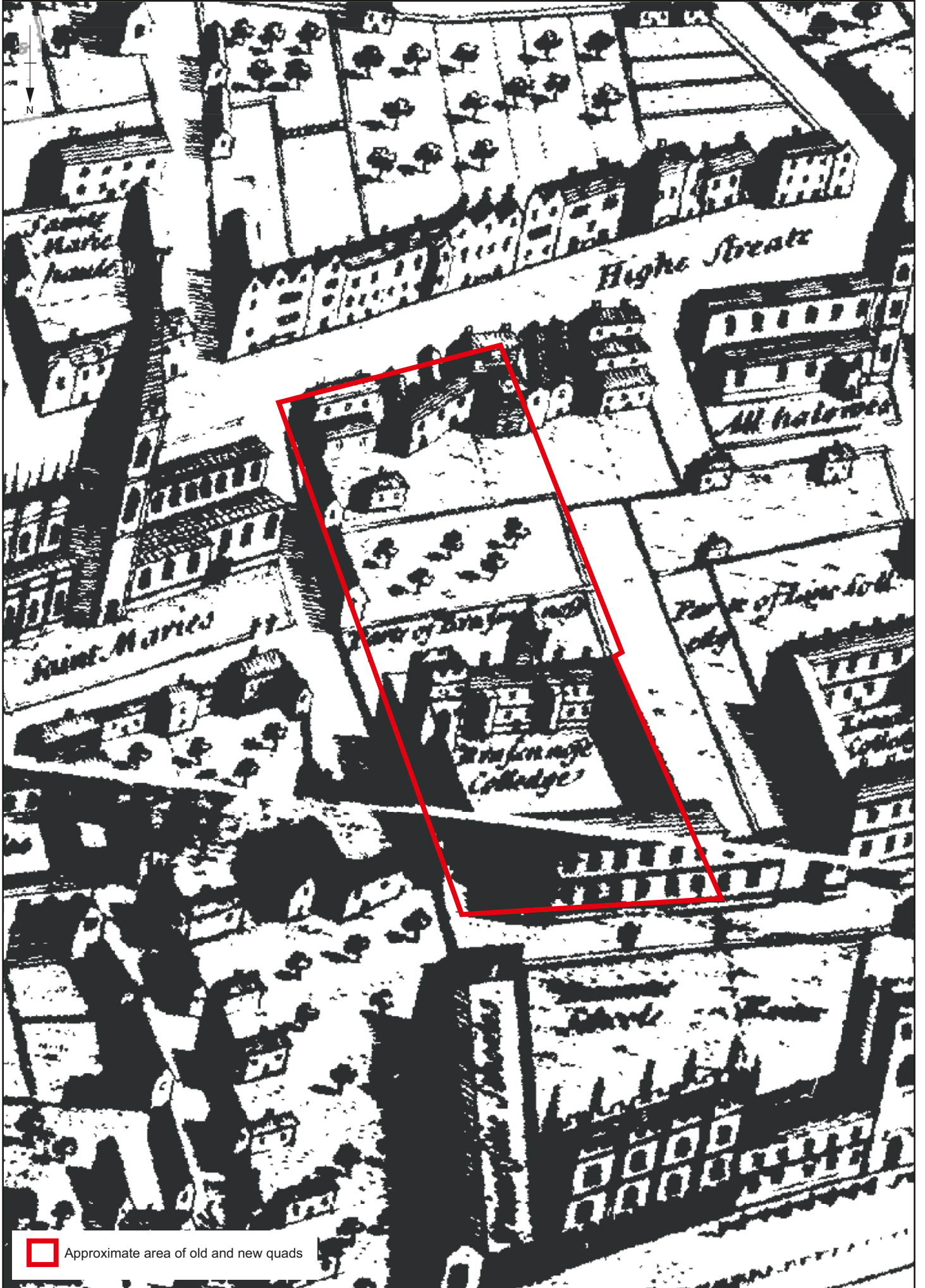


Figure 2: Site plan showing Test Pits, Services Trenches and Pile locations



Figure 3: HE Salter's plan of medieval tenements






 Approximate area of old and new quads

Figure 4: Detail from Agas' plan of 1578





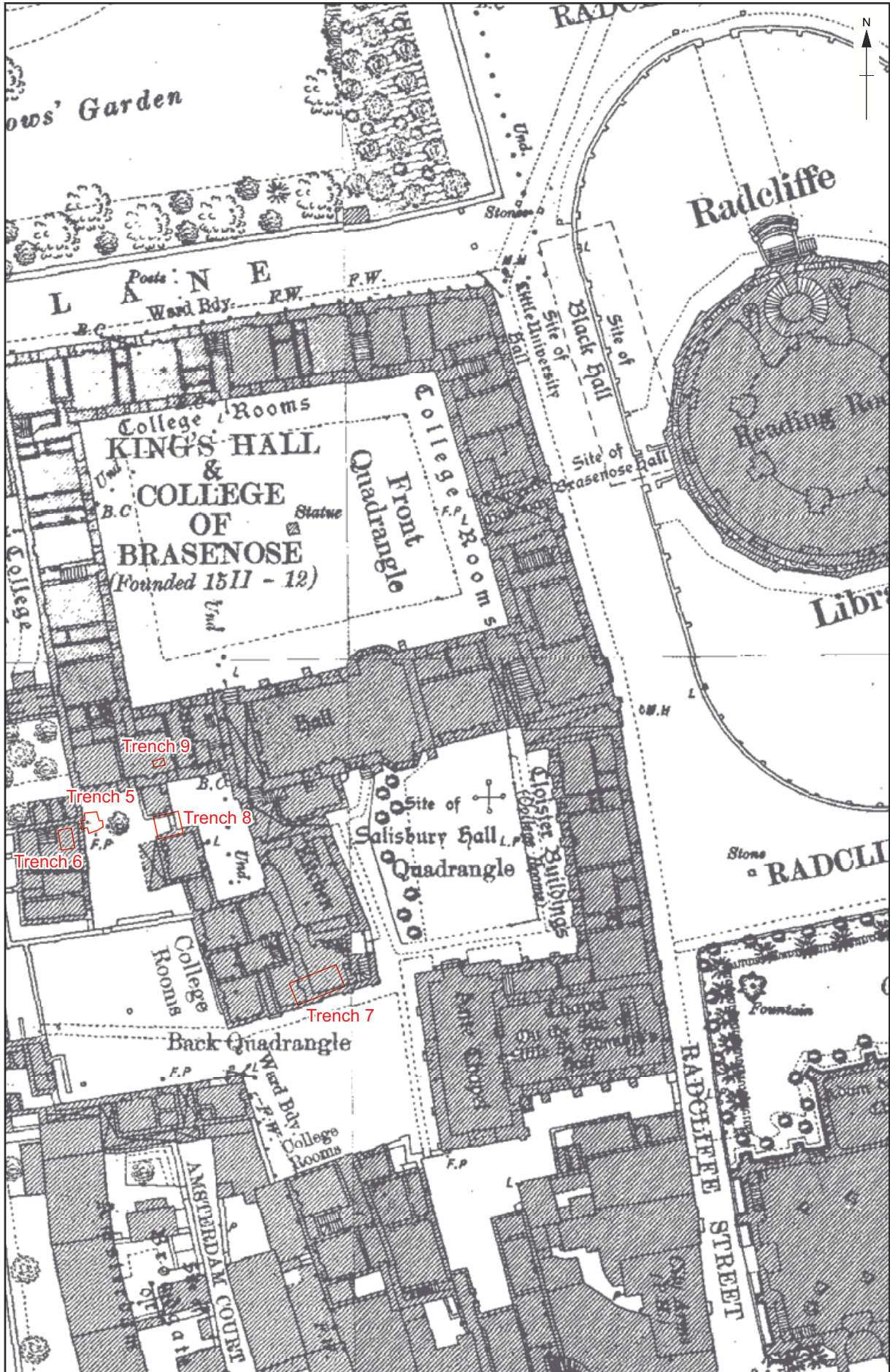


Figure 6: Detail from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1878



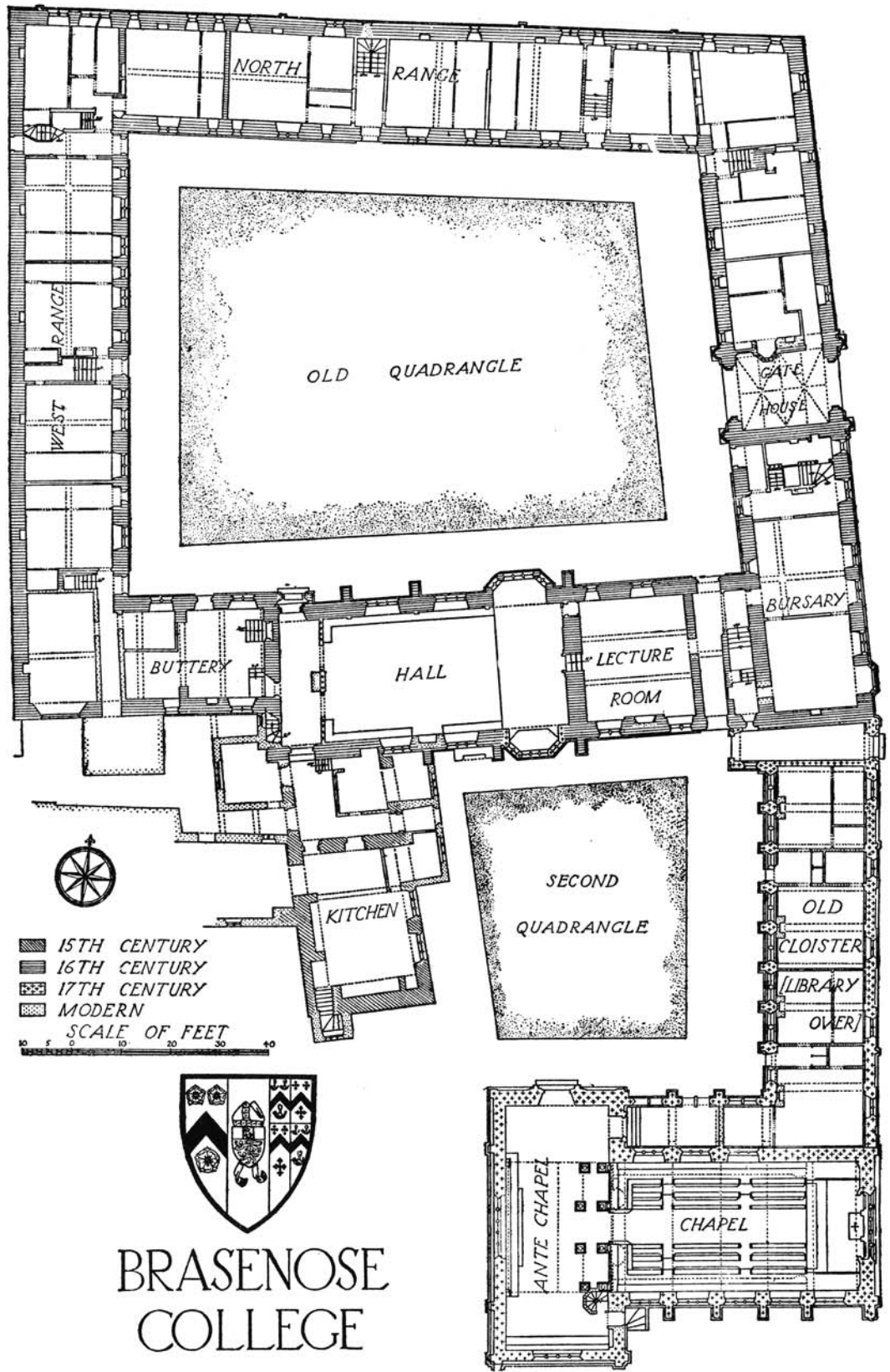


Figure 7: Plan of the College in 1939 (RCHME)



Figure 8: Plan of kitchen area showing extensions demolished as part of works and location of key features



Figure 9: Plan of Buttery and Hall Cellar showing key phases and features



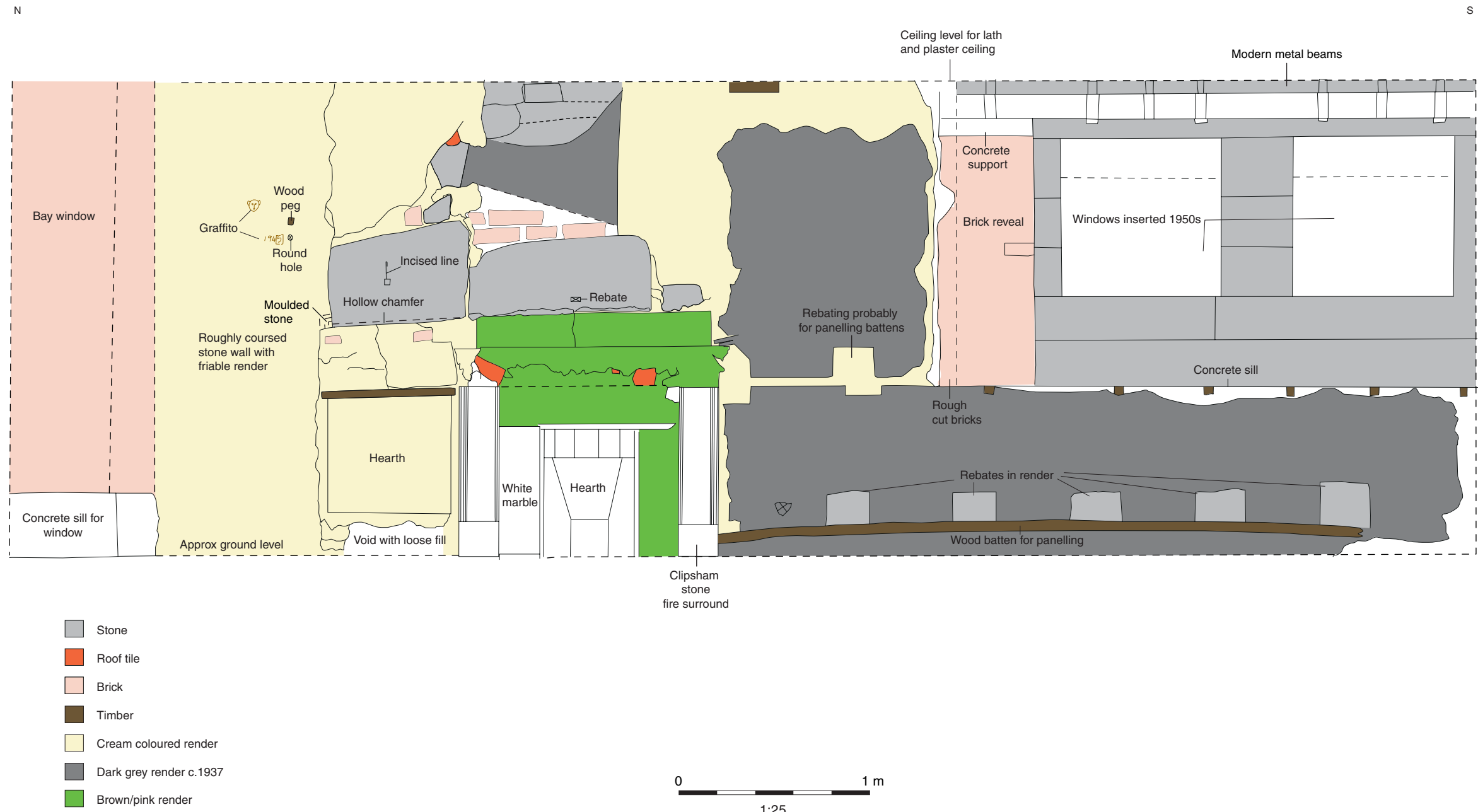
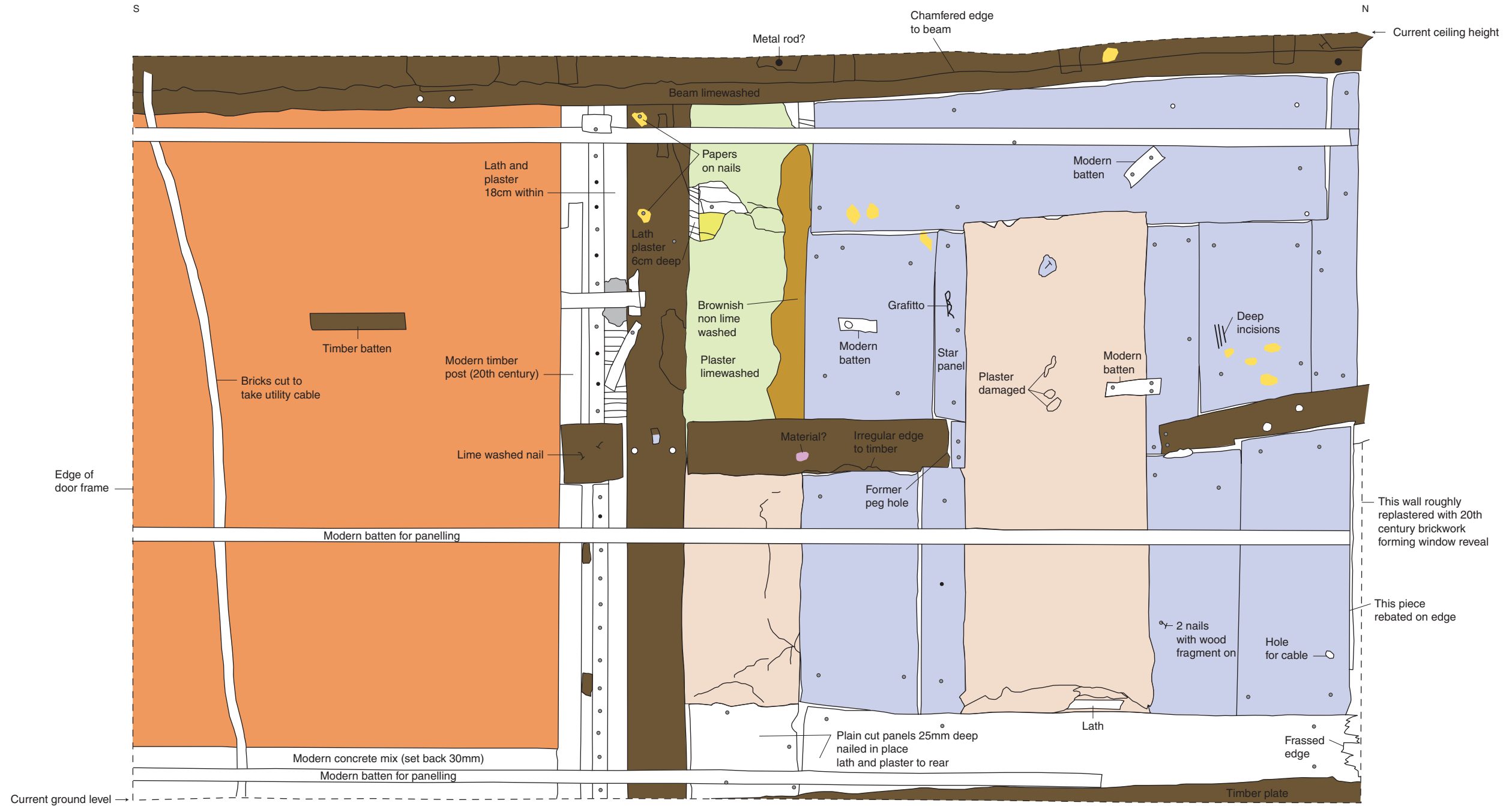


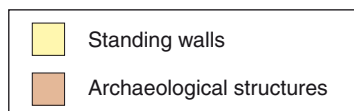
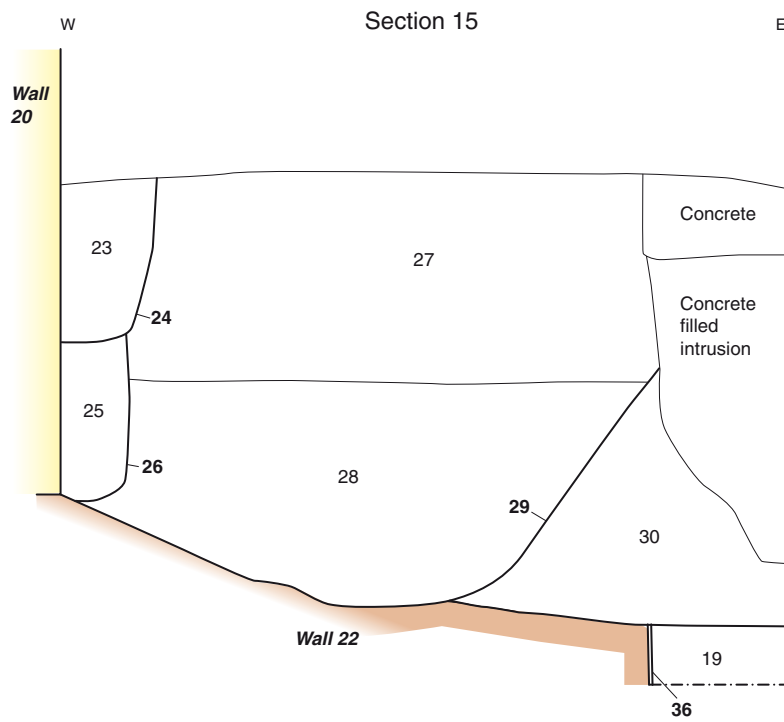
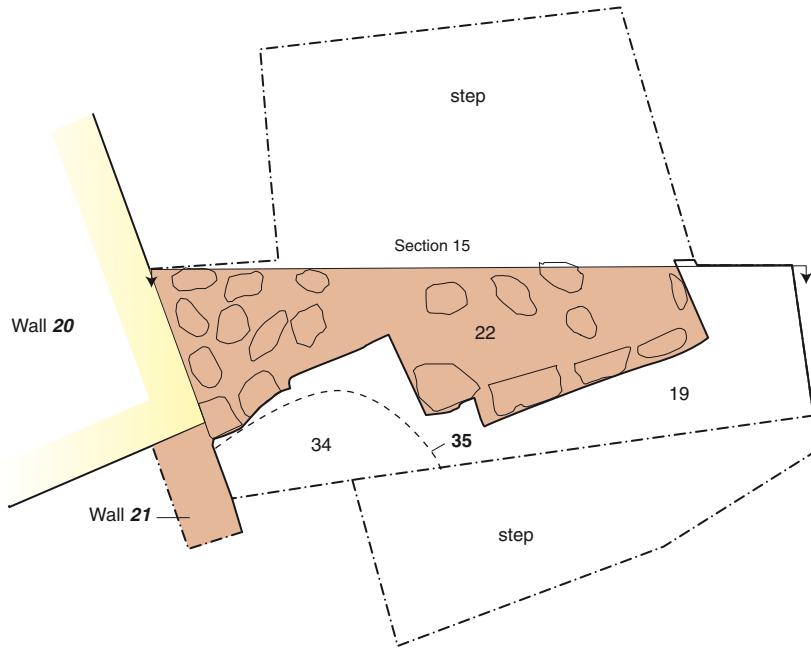
Figure 10: West elevation of Eckersley room following panelling removal



■	Timber frame	○	Nail
■	Lime wash	●	Nail hole
■	Paper trace	○	Peg
■	Painted decoration	●	Peg hole
■	Horsehair plaster		
■	Straw plaster (c.16th century)		
■	Plaster repair		
■	20th century brick		

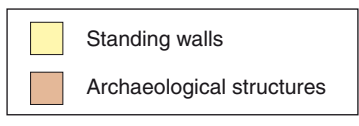
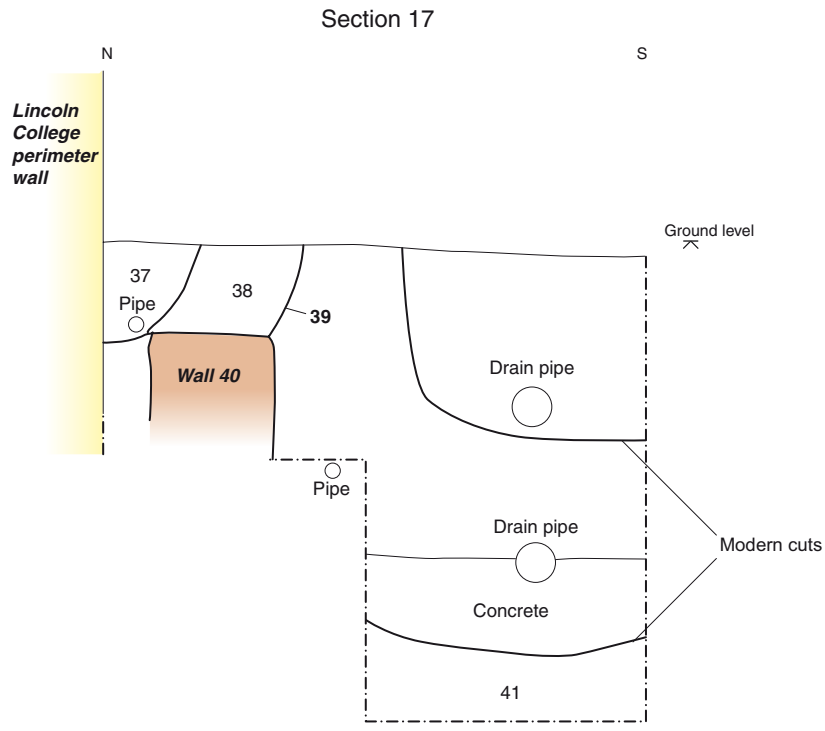
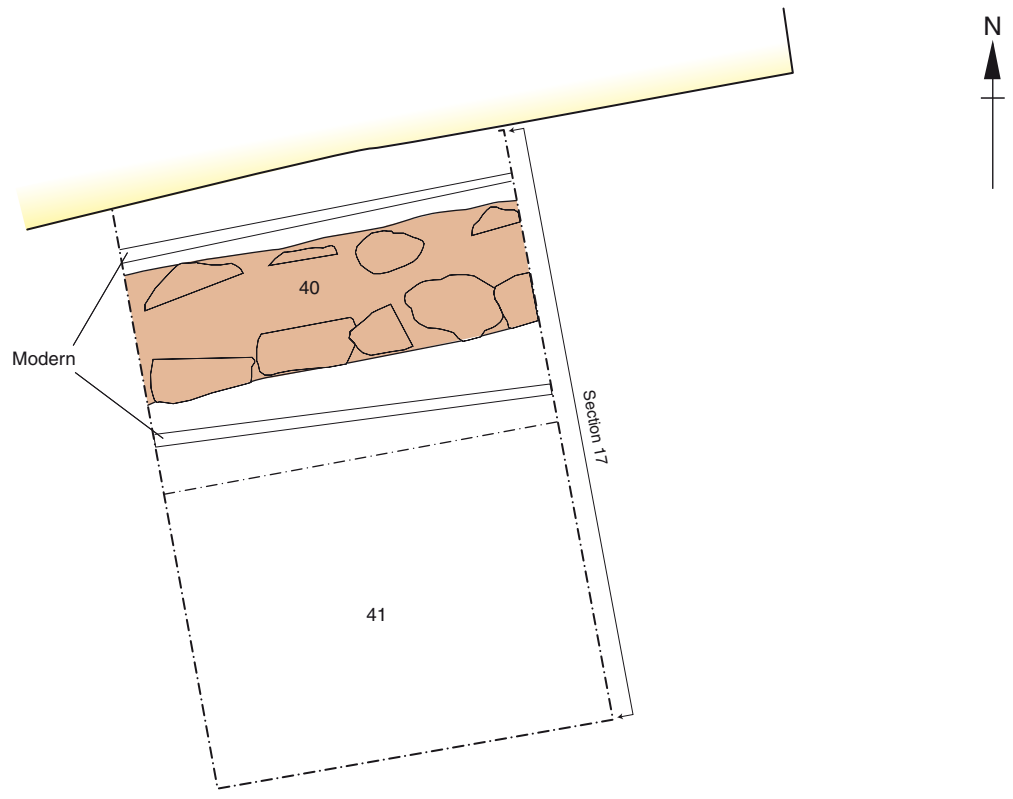


Figure 11: East elevation of Eckersley room following panelling removal



Plan and section 1:25

Figure 12: Test Pit 5, plan and section



Plan and section 1:25

Figure 13: Test Pit 6, plan and section









Plate 1: Test Pit 5, wall 22 - looking west





Plate 2: Test Pit 7, cellar remains - looking north



Plate 3: Test Pit 10, barrel vaulted structure





Plate 4: Test Pit 10, interior of barrel vaulted structure



Plate 5: Early 20th Century staircase to south of Eckersley room



Plate 6: Entrance porch to kitchen area



Plate 7: View of outbuildings to be demolished



Plate 8: Internal view of office adjacent to Old Kitchen





Plate 9: Internal view of porch (viewed east)



Plate 10: Detail of blocked doorway to kitchen



Plate 11: Detail of first floor window



Plate 12: Detail of window within Old Kitchen block (west wall).



Plate 13: View down Buttery Cellar stairs



Plate 14: Detail of north wall Buttery Cellar



Plate 15: View of Buttery Cellar (east)



Plate 16: Detail of drainage channel on floor, Buttery Cellar





Plate 17: View of drain adjacent to Buttery Cellar stairs



Plate 18: Detail of Buttery Cellar door



Plate 19: View of Buttery Cellar stairs



Plate 20: View south east within Buttery Cellar



Plate 21: View of stone column in main Wine Cellar



Plate 22: View of main Wine Cellar



Plate 23: Wine storage in main Wine Cellar



Plate 24: View of unused existing opening to Buttery Cellar in main Wine Cellar





Plate 25: Detail of stone column within main Wine Cellar



Plate 26: View of roofspace above main Wine Cellar and below hall

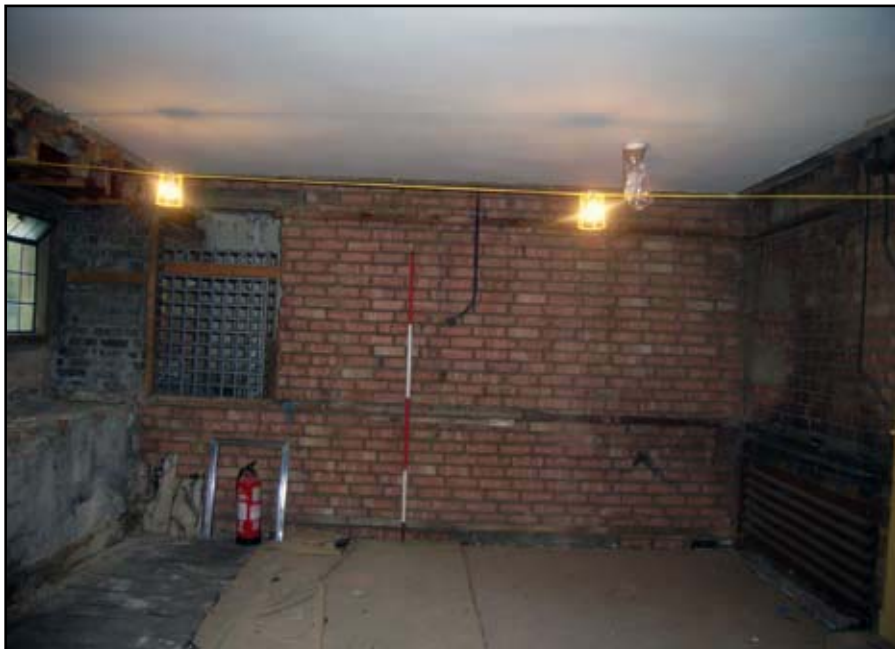


Plate 27: North elevation of Eckersley room



Plate 28: South elevation of Eckersley room



Plate 29: East elevation of Eckersley room



Plate 30: West elevation of Eckersley room

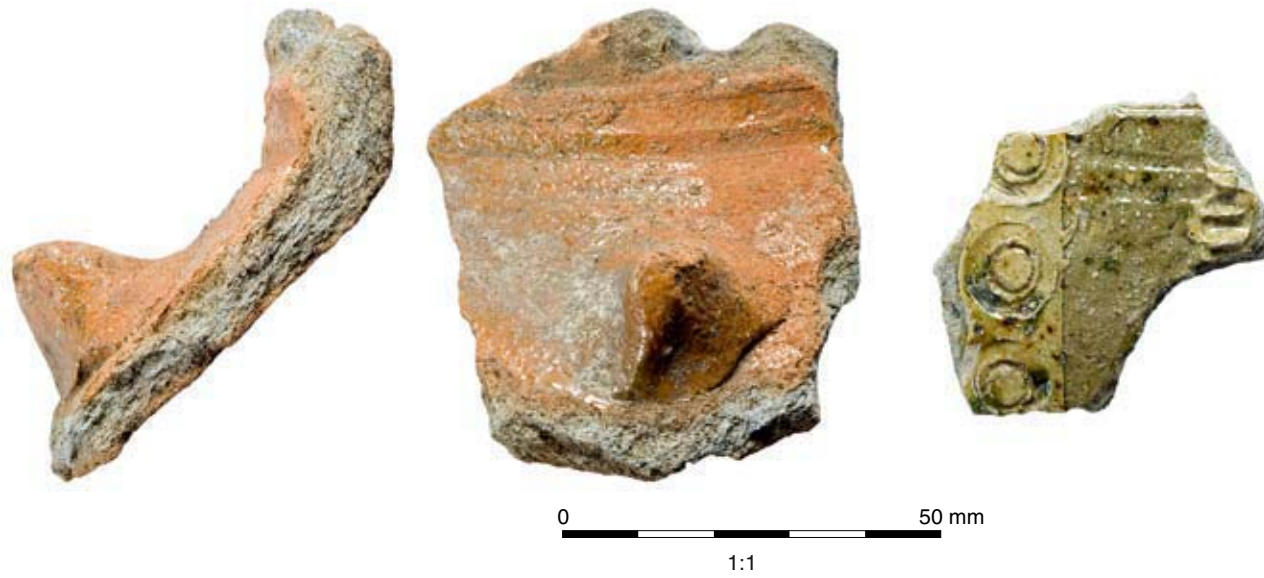


Plate 31: Two highly decorated jug sherds in Ashampstead/Newbury C ware (OXAG), c. 1175-1250





## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
	1	Layer	0.3		Topsoil	
	2	Layer	0.2		Make-up level	
	3	Layer	>0.5		Make-up level	
	4	Layer	0.3		Landscaping deposit	
	5	Layer			Stone paving	Modern
	6	Layer	0.15		Make-up level	
	7	Layer	>0.6		Make-up level	
	8	Layer	0.1		Topsoil	
	9	Layer	0.4		Landscaping deposit	
	10	Layer	0.4		Make-up level	
	11	Layer	1.1		Make-up level	
	12	Structure			Culvert	
	13	Structure			????	
	14	Layer	0.16		Levelling layer	
	15	Layer			Make-up level	
	16	Layer	0.1		Buried soil	
	17	Layer	0.04		Trample	
	18	Layer	0.24		Make-up level	
5	19	Fill	0.6		Fill of pit	
5	20	Structure	0.8		Wall	
5	21	Structure	0.44	>0.2	Wall	
5	22	Structure	1	0.6	Wall	
5	23	Fill	0.5		Fill of pit	
5	24	Cut	0.5		Pit	Modern
5	25	Fill	0.4		Fill of construction cut	
5	26	Cut	0.4		Construction cut	
5	27	Layer	0.85		Landscaping deposit	
5	28	Fill	0.5		Fill of pit	
5	29	Cut	0.5		Pit	
5	30	Fill	0.8		Fill of pit	
5	31	Fill	0.45		Fill of construction cut	
5	32	Cut	0.5		Construction cut	
5	33	Fill	0.8		Fill of pit	
5	34	Fill	0.3		Fill of pit	
5	35	Cut	>1		Pit	
5	36	Cut	0.8		Construction cut	
6	37	Fill			Service trench backfill	
6	38	Fill	0.3		Fill of robber trench	
6	39	Cut	0.4	0.35	Robber trench	
6	40	Structure	0.4	0.35	Wall	
6	41	Layer	0.3		Make-up level	
7	42	Layer	0.45		Make-up level	
7	43	Structure	0.48	0.65	Wall	
7	44	Structure	1.6	0.62	Wall	
7	45	Structure	2.2	0.54	Wall	
7	46	Structure	0.57	>0.5	Wall	
7	47	Cut	0.25		Floor construction cut	
7	48	Layer	0.25		Make-up level	
7	49	Layer	0.12		Cellar infill	
7	50	Layer	0.12		Cellar infill	
7	51	Layer	0.03		Cellar infill	



Trench	Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
7	52	Layer	0.18		Cellar infill	
7	53	Layer	0.54		Cellar infill	
7	54	Layer	0.3		Cellar infill	
7	55	Layer	0.16		Cellar infill	
7	56	Layer	0.29		Cellar infill	
7	57	Layer	0.05		Cellar infill	
7	58	Structure			Arched passageway	
8	59	Structure	0.2	0.63	Wall	
8	60	Structure	1		Concrete slab	
9	61	Layer	0.16		Make-up level	
9	62	Cut	0.36	0.9	Construction cut	
9	63	Structure		0.4	Wall	
9	64	Layer	0.36		Soil horizon	
9	65	Layer			Soil horizon	
9	66	Fill			Fill of construction cut	
7	67	Other			Finds ref.	
8	68	Cut	1.2	1.2	Pit	
8	69	Fill	1.2		Fill of pit	
8	70	Cut	0.3	1	Construction cut	
8	71	Layer	0.34		Make-up level	
8	72	Layer	0.46		Make-up level	
8	73	Layer			Construction horizon	
7	74	Layer	0.3		Topsoil	
7	75	Layer	1.5		Make-up level	
7	76	Layer	0.5		Make-up level	
7	77	Layer			Soil horizon	
7	78	Structure			Coal cellar	19thC
7	79	Structure	2	0.5	Coal cellar	
7	80	Layer	2		Cellar infill	
7	81	Layer	0.3		Cellar infill	
7	82	Layer	0.3		Make-up level	
7	83	Layer	0.15		Soil horizon	
7	84	Layer	0.4		Make-up level	
7	85	Structure	1	0.5	College Room wall	
7	86	Layer	1.7		Make-up level	
7	87	Structure			Wall	
7	88	Fill	0.6		Fill of pit	
7	89	Cut	0.6	0.8	Pit	
7	90	Fill	0.6		Fill of pit	
7	91	Cut	0.6	1.5	Pit	
7	92	Layer	0.2		Supra-natural	
7	93	Structure		0.4	Wall	
7	94	Fill	0.4		Fill of pit	
7	95	Cut	0.4	1	Pit	
7	96	Structure			Stone lining of pit 91	
7	97	Cut	1	0.5	Construction cut	
7	98	Cut	0.8	0.4	Construction cut	
7	99	Cut	2.5	5	Construction cut for cellar	
7	100	Fill			Fill of pit	
7	101	Cut		1	Pit	
10	102	Layer	0.2	3.5	Mixture of modern topsoil and disturbed	



Trench	Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
					ground above modern services	
10	103	Layer	0.2	3.5	Garden soil	
10	104	Layer	0.2	3.5	?Made ground	
10	105	Layer	0.7	3.5	Buried garden soil	
10	106	Cut			?Robber trench	
10	107	Fill	0.7	3.5	Fill of robber trench	
10	108	Layer	0.3	3.6	?Garden soil	
10	109	Structure		1.4	Barrel vaulted cellar	



## APPENDIX B. FINDS TABLES

### B.1 Pottery

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
0	c1650	1	38	Bodysherd (bs) from mid 17C Frechen stoneware bellarmine bottle with partial medallion showing Arms of Amsterdam (vertical ladder of saltire crosses) under stylised crown. Stylised foliage instead of heraldic bearers either side. unabraded
10	c1525-1575/1600	33	1287	1x Frechen globe & cylinder jug rim c1525+. Large unabraded sherds mostly. 2x Raeren stoneware mugs incl brown-glazed rim with complete handle & grey-glazed frilled base. Mainly late OXBX/OXAM Brill forms incl broad flanged-rim dish, lid-seated jar rim, various thick bases (mainly 1 vess) & complete lower half of a conical/cylindrical drinking jug (base diam 70mm, extant height 84mm), crudely made in thick unglazed cream fabric with poss trace of handle. Jug sherds in fine hard orange or pink late Brill with clear orange glaze with copper green speckles. Orange sandy dense PMRE ?jar base with int greenish-brown glaze. Some earlier 13/14C Brill incl near-complete tubular spout from jug (chipped end) with strut attachment in shape of a pair of anthropomorphic hands, traces of radial slashing at base of spout (Mellor 1994, fig. 57.3-4). Bs prob from Brill bottle w green glz. SEE CLAY PIPES - LATER DATE
19	c1475-1550	5	39	Rim Raeren mug, unabraded. Residual medieval incl bs Surrey whiteware, OXAM, OXAQ, OXAC
23	c1680-1780	2	78	Tin-glazed ware (TGW). 1x chamberpot rim with handle. 1x cup bodysherd with complete handle. Plain white glaze
25	c1450-1600	1	52	Late sandy Brill/PMRE. Crescent -section jug handle in oxid grey-brown fab with reduced dark green glaze
28	17-18C	1	5	Bs PMR (post-med red earthenware)
33	17-18C	12	193	3x PMR incl plain upright bowl rim. Mainly late Brill OXBX. 1x OXY
34	c1575-1700	10	162	1x black glazed PMR cup/tyg bs with handle stub. 1x Frechen G&C jug neck. Mainly OXBX. 1x OXY?
53	c1550-1625	2	40	Frechen - prob bellarmine rim, plain earlier type? OXBX ?pitcher or pipkin rim with pulled lip
61	c1500-1625	5	52	Late Brill OXBX bss. 1x OXAC bs
64	c1500-1625	3	33	Late Brill OXBX bss. 1x OXAC bs
67	c1450-1550?	3	15	1x Tudor Green ware cup bss. 2x OXBX bss
69	c1575-1700	2	20	1x black glazed PMR cup bs. 1x bs Border ware jar w green glz
80	c1840-1900	6	410	Transfer-printed ware x 4 incl green dec teacup with boat scene & blue dish base sherd with 'Asiatic Pheasants' mark underside - a common 19C style of dec. 1x bs large storage jar in S Yorks-type kitchenware with int white slip
83	L17-18C?	1	18	PMR bowl rim
86	c1600-1750	1	7	Frechen - prob bellarmine neck sherd, narrow, later?
88	c1075-1300	2	36	Sag cspot base sherd - prob OXY. 1x fine grey wheel-turned shoulder sherd from jar with black ext surface - poss a late Saxon N French import - poss OXT? (1sh, 12g.). Sooted ext



Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
90	c1175-1250?	27	772	Mainly large unabraded sherds. Mostly 1-2 OXY cpots incl rims - heavily sooted. 1x OXAQ jug strap handle with lightly thumb dec. 7 sherds incl slack collared rim from a single OXY green-glazed jug. 4 bodysherds from 3 glazed jugs probaby in OXAG incl coarse v hard pale grey shoulder bs with pale brown int surface - ext dec of vertical white clay strip with 3 surviving ring-and-dot stamps & trace of another vertical notched strip nearby with trace of incised ?chevron coming off it, 3+ horiz shoulder grooves, all covered with a pale greenish glaze with green speckles - poss copper or reduced iron - PHOTO? 1x pale ?OXAG or v hard/coarse ?OXY jug/pitcher shoulder sherd with grooved cylindrical neck & on shoulder a v unusual prominent applied clay cone or 'stud' similar to ones found on Rouen-type ware & tripod pitchers in London-type ware (Pearce et al 1985, fig.22.46 & fig.23.47a) covered with a thin yellowish glaze PHOTO? 2 joining glaze bss from OXAG jug - sooted. 1x small bs OXAC
94	c1550-1625	2	32	Frechen. 2 separate jug bss incl cylindrical neck. Good quality early-style fabric/glaze
TOTAL		119	3289	

## B.2 CBM

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
10	13-14C?	2	252	1x thick med pegtile frag with reduced early sandy fabric with sparse chalk & patchy green glaze. 1x unabraded large frag from top/end of a ridge tile in oolitic-tempered Fabric IB with complete applied pyramidal crest with deep thumb thumb-presses either side of base & unusually evidence of a pre-fired perforation c18mm diam just behind the crest - poss to take a nail or poss for an inserted finial? Pale brown with grey core. Large patches of dull green glaze
33	13-16C	1	20	Worn pegtile frag
53	13-16C	1	24	Worn frag from knife-cut pyramidal crest from a crested ridge tile. Fairly fine light orange sandy fabric with clear brown glaze
86	13-16C	1	8	Worn pegtile frag
90	c1175-1300?	6	543	unabraded & worn frags from early pink Fabric VIIB pegtiles including top edge frag with 2 circular nailholes. 15-18mm thick
TOTAL		11	847	

## B.3 Animal Bone

	Medieval	Early post-medieval
Cattle	1	2
Sheep/goat	4	10
Sheep	1	
Pig	3	
Cat		1
Domestic fowl	3	2
Rat		1
Medium mammal	5	8
Large mammal	5	3
Indeterminate	6	1
<b>Total fragment count</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
Total weight (g)	242	439



## B.4 Clay Pipe

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Tot sherds	Tot Wt	Comments
10	c1690-1720	2	2	0	4	35	2x bowls incl complete bowl 1690-1720 (Oswald 1984, St Ebbes, fig.51.C). & damaged stubby spurred type c1650-90 (St Ebbes Type B) - well burnished
23	c1690-1720	1	4	0	5	55	4x complete bowls incl complete bowl 1690-1720 (Oswald 1984, St Ebbes, fig.51.C). & 3x stubby spurred types c1650-90 (St Ebbes Type B) - well burnished
27	L17-E18C?	2	0	0	2	10	Burnished slender stems. Stem bores (SB) c2.8-3mm
33	c1690-1720	3	4	0	7	56	4x bowls incl complete bowl 1690-1720 (Oswald 1984, St Ebbes, fig.51.C). & 3x stubby spurred types c1650-90 (St Ebbes Type B) - well burnished - 2 complete & 1 just a spur left - unburnished or poorly burnished
34	17C	3	0	0	3	7	SBs c3mm, slightly worn
61	17C	1	0	0	1	2	SB c3mm, fairly unabraded
67	c1740-1800	0	1	0	1	16	Complete large London 'new type' bowl with pointed spur. SB 2.5mm. unabraded
69	c1630-1650	0	1	0	1	11	Complete bowl with broad circular heel. St Ebbes Type A
86	L17-E18C?	3	0	0	3	14	SBs 1x 2.5mm, 2x c3mm
TOTAL		15	12	0	27	206	



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## APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Brasenose College, Radcliffe Square, Oxford

**Site code:** OXBCCC08 and OXBCCC10

**Grid reference:** SP 515 062

**Type:** Watching Brief and Excavation

**Date and duration:** August 2008 – January 2011

**Area of site:** 0.5 ha

**Summary of results:** The works revealed evidence for a structure and pits that predated the construction of the 16th-century College buildings, and structural evidence for an internal wall within the Buttery, floors within the Servedy and walls forming the 19th-century College Rooms and Scullery. Much of the site had been landscaped in the 19th-century.

**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 Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS 2008.79.



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**APPENDIX E. PAINTED PANELLING WITHIN THE ECKERSLEY ROOM, BRASENOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD – HISTORIC BUILDING RESEARCH AND PAINT ANALYSIS (OA SOUTH, JANUARY 2011)**

**Brasenose College, Oxford**

# **Painted Panelling within the Eckersley Room, Brasenose College, Oxford**

**HISTORIC BUILDING RESEARCH AND PAINT ANALYSIS**



**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY**

**January 2011**



# Painted Panelling within the Eckersley Room, Brasenose College, Oxford

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND PAINT ANALYSIS

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# Painted Panelling within the Eckersley Room, Brasenose College, Oxford

## HISTORIC BUILDING RESEARCH AND PAINT ANALYSIS

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology were commissioned in December 2010 to carry out extra research on a section of early partition walling revealed during the course of the new kitchen extension building works in the north west corner of the Old Quad.

1.1.2 The extra research was carried out by Alison Kelly with added input by Julian Munby. Oxford Archaeology is grateful to Elizabeth Boardman from the Archive Department at Brasenose College for her invaluable assistance and advice.

#### 1.2 Aims and objectives

### 2 DESCRIPTION

2.1.1 The Eckersley Room is situated in the northwest corner of the Old Quad and until recently had been used as a small dining room.

2.1.2 During building works in 2010, the removal of panelling within the Eckersley room at Brasenose College revealed a section of wooden panelling painted black/green with a series of 7 and 8 pointed stars in yellowish gold (See Figure 1). The decoration extends over the chamfered beam directly above the panelling and also to a beam on the south elevation suggesting this decoration was only used in a space approx. 1.9 x 1.7 m square.

2.1.3 The ten wooden boards are approx. 25 mm thick and varying in size and shape, having the appearance of wide elm floorboards. They have been cut to fit around the timber framing that is probably part of the original early-16th century build. A blocked doorway is set within the panelling, and was either in situ when the panelling was added to the elevation or was cut in afterwards. However, the star pattern is not dissected by the doorway suggesting it was already in situ. The star decoration is carried over to adjacent panelling confirming that the panels have not been moved from elsewhere. The panelling is nailed to the timber frame behind using hand made nails. Only one panel can be seen to have rebated edges, however these are not used. The lower sections of panelling are not decorated and were probably later inserted in relation to the change in floor level as demonstrated on the west elevation

fireplace. Adjacent to the panelling is a section of plastered infill. This area demonstrates the complexity of the elevation with 3 different layers of lath and plaster including a section of early wattle and daub, which probably relates to the primary construction.

### 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Documentary Evidence

- 3.1.1 The Eckersley Room, is a former college room located in the south-west corner of the Front (old) Quad which was constructed in 1509-1518. On the first floor above was the old Chapel with an ante chapel room beside it. Little is known of the layout of the college rooms and the identification of specific rooms is unclear until the numbering of the staircases which is first recorded in the mid 18th century. Prior to this, staircases were referred to by location.
- 3.1.2 The expenditure accounts for the college do not specify exact locations of works however there are some that specifically refer to the rooms in the north west corner of the quad, including one submitted by Henry Milljoss entitled 'ye joiners bill for ye ground Chamber in ye north west Counow of Braznose Colledge' dated July 30 1691 (Appendix III). The first item on this bill is 'for painting 81 yards and 8 foot of wainscot at 10 ye yard 3 – 11 – 6'. Other bills refer to the rooms by the occupants name, however extensive research of the room lists and tradesmens bills do not pinpoint work specifically within the Eckersley room.
- 3.1.3 The room lists for the college begin in 1747 room number of the Eckersley room can be located on the room lists. The occupancy of rooms is divided into the academic quarters used at the time - Lady, Midsummer, Michealmas and Christmas. The room numbers 1 and 2 are ground floor rooms and we know the rooms were adjacent to staircase 1 but it is unclear as to whether room 1 or 2 refers to the space now known as the Eckersley room. The room lists for 1747 (Clennell B4d1) refer to room 1 as Domus Room and Room 2 as Butlers Do. (Domus?). Room 1 was occupied during Lady and Christmas terms by 'Yalden' but was unoccupied for the Midsummer and Michealmas terms. Room 2 appears to have been unoccupied throughout the year. In 1751/52 the description of room 1 changes to 'Domus cum cella' indicating that the cellar beneath the Eckersley room and formerly accessed by staircase 1 is now part of the room accommodation. This year also has the first entry in the rents column with room 1 rent listed as 5 – 10 - 0 and room 2 as 5 – 0 – 0, the higher rent for room 1 probably due to the additional cellar. Room 1 at this time is occupied by Dr Wroe. The room descriptions and rents remain the same until 1801 when the rent for room one is 7 – 10 – 0. During this year a Mr Dean, who is occupying room 2, an additional entry of 'owes 7/6 to Domus for cellar'. In 1809 the rents for room 1 and 2 are both 9 – 0 – 0. In 1818 both rooms are named as 'Domus' under the heading chamber. The

occupation of both rooms is fairly consistent across the Room lists until 1885-86, with occasional occupation of rooms by two people (eg. 'Wood & Greenfield' in 1829). Room 2 appears to have more periods of inoccupation than room 1 so we can assume that room 1 is the more desirable of the two rooms. In 1886 room 1 begins to be used as a lecture room whilst room 2 is occupied by someone called Rhys. Later in the academic year room 2 is 'taken into the buttery' but in 1887 is listed as another lecture room. Both rooms remain unused as accommodation until 1906 when room 2 is occupied by Mr RW Jeffery who pays 3 – 6 – 8 per quarter rent.

- 3.1.4 In a discussion of the college studies and bedrooms, Allfrey refers to their size, and states that some were formed of cupboard partitions with folding doors, which would seem relevant in this case (Allfrey, 38).
- 3.1.5 The room was extensively altered in 1936, when the former student room was converted into a small dining room, called the Eckersley Room. The works were carried out after a 'generous benefaction' of £5000 was left to the college in the will of Lt Col. Nathaniel ffarington Eckersley who matriculated at Brasenose in 1875 and the alterations were reported in the college magazine (The Brazen Nose, Nov 1936). The design was by the architect Sir Guy Dawber. Additional works included the removal of the lower level of staircase 1 and the construction of a new extension for a staircase to the first floor. The works included the demolition of a wall in which a broken wine glass and pocket calendar for the year 1694 were found - although it is unclear as to whether this refers to the wall within the Eckersley room.

## 3.2 **Map and Plan Evidence**

- 3.2.1 The earliest depiction of the former student rooms is shown on William Williams' plan of c.1732. The west (now Eckersley) room then had study/bed closets on its north side, and the east room had study/bed closets on its west side (now the passage).
- 3.2.2 The John Soane plan of 1807 shows doorways and windows but little internal detailing, this plan also shows an arcade outside the south elevation of the quadrangle. The Phillip Hardwick Plan of 1810, shows the same building layout for the Eckersley room area but also has designs for a proposed kitchen extension where the arcade had been previously shown. An undated plan, probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, again shows no changes to the layout and is similar to another undated plan, thought to be from 1870-1880. Neither plan show the east elevation of the Eckersley room in situ, whether the wall had been omitted for clarity is unclear, but there is likely to have been a partition as rooms 1 and 2 were rented separately on the college accommodation lists.



- 3.2.3 1878 OS 1:500 town plan, which includes internal details of the room shows a wall in the location of the east elevation and no internal study / bedsit areas in this corner of the room.
- 3.2.4 An undated proposed plan exists showing the Eckersley room divided into two sitting rooms with separate bedchambers. Each room has a fireplace and two windows. This plan is thought to be 19<sup>th</sup> century in date (pre 1886) but it unclear if this layout ever existed.
- 3.2.5 Jackson's plan of 1886 shows the formation of the passage adjoining the Eckersley room by the conversion of the adjoining window to a doorway. The passage is labelled 'new passage' and the eastern wall of the passage is a new addition 9" deep. The Eckersley room still retains two windows within the south elevation but shows no windows in the east elevation. The north end of the room has partition walling for a scout (probably cleaning cupboard) and a bedroom. There is a fireplace situated off centre on the west elevation.
- 3.2.6 The plan within the 1939 RCHM *Inventory* shows the north west corner of the Old Quad following the alterations of 1936. The two small windows on the south elevation have been replaced by a wider window. The fireplace is shown again off centre but appears smaller in proportion to that depicted in the Jackson plan. The east elevation is shown in correct position but this is marked as being modern in date when the southern half containing the timber frame is clearly 16<sup>th</sup> century fabric.

## 4 ANALYSIS OF THE WALL PAINTINGS

### 4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 Oxford is well provided with domestic wall paintings, which occur in a variety of locations and in greater or lesser quality. Painted cloths and wallpapers were also used for room decoration from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Brasenose painting is a good example of the decoration of a minor space (perhaps a bed closet) and is well preserved. An interesting parallel is the 1625 pew at Rycote Chapel, which is decorated with a blue starry sky. The newly discovered painting is most likely to be of 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. They are an important piece of evidence for the decorative quality of student rooms in the college during this phase.

### 4.2 Paint Analysis

- 4.2.1 The painting was examined by Madeline Katkov in October 2010 and paint samples taken were sent to Catherine Hassall for analysis. The dark colour was identified as charcoal black with a thin layer of orpiment. The surface is covered with a thin layer of varnish. The types of paint used do not enable dating of the painted decoration as orpiment was a popular pigment used from

the medieval period to the nineteenth century. We can therefore only say that the painting dates to the pre-nineteenth century.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The paint analysis did not enable a date for the panelling to be ascertained, with both the charcoal background and the yellow orpiment decoration used from the medieval period through to the 19th century. The yellow star decoration was painted on at the same time as the background and not added later. A clear layer of varnish could post date the decoration.
- 5.1.2 The date of the timber frame partition and the straw plaster is likely to date from the initial college construction following its foundation in 1509. Its exclusion from some 19th century plans of the college is confusing but the wall structurally appears to be in original location and not moved from elsewhere. The presence of lath and plaster at differing depths seen beneath the wooden panels suggest the panelling is not contemporary with the initial build but added later.
- 5.1.3 It has been suggested that the panelling is the remains of a former study and which is clearly depicted on the 1732 Williams plan, however the infilled doorway is not depicted in the correct location and the decoration of this elevation does not make sense as it would be the external wall of the closet. It is probable that the location of the study room was at some stage different to the configuration shown on the plans and the panelling relates to this layout which is not shown on any plan. The date for the panelling is uncertain but stylistically would appear to be part of a 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century decorative scheme.

Alison Kelly  
Oxford Archaeology  
January 2011

## APPENDIX I      BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### Primary Sources

The college archives were consulted with reference to rooms off staircase 1.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Location</i>
1747-1761	Room book	Clennell: B 4d 1
1764-1774	Room book	Clennell: B 4d 2
1796-1817	Room book	Clennell: B 4d 3
1818-1867	Room book	Clennell: B 4d 4
1868-1911	Room book	Clennell: B 4d 5
1911-1949	Room book	Room book 1911-1949
1950-1962	Room book	Room book 1950-1962
1962-1994	Room book	Room book 1962-1994
1509-1842	Bills for work on 3 ground floor rooms, 1691-2 & 1696.	Hurst: College Buildings 20
1691-1692	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 8-9
1694	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 10
1696-1703	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 11-22
1707-1710	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 23-24
1714-1810	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 25-126
1807 - onwards	Vice Principal’s Register	GOV 3 A1/7 onwards
1807	Tradesmen’s bills	B639
1809	Tradesmen’s bills	B640
1811	Tradesmen’s bills	B641
1814-1837	Tradesmen’s bills	B642-665
1817	Repairs	D353
1835-1836	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 128-129
1839	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 130
1841	Philip Hardwick’s report on College buildings	D352
1844-1845	Tradesmen’s bills	B666-667
1848	Tradesmen’s bills	B668
1864	Tradesmen’s bills	Hurst: Bursarial Tradesmen’s Bills 131
1864-1908	Tradesmen’s bills	B669-713
1886-1889	Bursar’s annual reports	B272
1889-1920	Notes by Principal Heberden about buildings	B774
1890-1894	Bursar’s annual reports	B273
1895-1899	Bursar’s annual reports	B274
1900-1904	Bursar’s annual reports	B275
1905-1909	Bursar’s annual reports	B276

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1909	Tradesmen's bills	B714
1909	Tradesmen's bills	B738
1910-1913	Bursar's annual reports	B277
1910-1932	Tradesmen's bills	B715-737
1914-1919	Bursar's annual reports	B278
1914-1929	Correspondence and papers about buildings (mostly Chapel)	B505
1920-1924	Bursar's annual reports	B279
1925-1929	Bursar's annual reports	B280
1934	Bursar's annual report	B638
1935	Bursar's annual report	B761
1936	Bursar's annual report	B1030
1937	Bursar's annual report	B1031

### Maps and Plans

*Located in College Archives Clennell B15.1*

William Williams Oxonia Depicta 1732-33

John Soane 1807

Philip Hardwick 1810

Undated plan, Probably early 19thC

Undated plan, probably 1870-1880

**APPENDIX II      PAINT ANALYSIS REPORTS BY MADELEINE KATKOV AND  
CATHERINE HASSALL**

Brasenose College, Oxford  
Wallpaintings

A fragment of painted architectural decoration has been uncovered during recent building works at Brasenose College, Oxford. The decoration consists of a black background with a diaper of yellow stars. I was asked by Alison Kelly, of Oxford Archeology, to take paint samples for analysis in order to date the paintings. I also undertook to examine the walls for other evidence for dating, and to comment on the condition of the paint.

The decoration is situated on an interior wall of a ground floor room whose original function is not certain, it may have been a kitchen because it gives onto a cellar, and documentary evidence for study and bed closets may refer to this build.<sup>1</sup> The range is dated 1509. The outer walls are of stone but this interior wall is timber framed. The section that is painted has wooden boards between the frame, but continues to the left, where it is unpainted, with plaster panels. The clue to the function of the room must lie in the understanding of this unusual construction.

The wooden boards are carefully cut to accommodate the structural timber frame and a central doorway, and they have a very smooth tooled finish. This would indicate that they are part of the original construction and were intended to be painted. The explanation of why only this section of wall should be decorated is less clear. It must have been part of a larger scheme, and it is useful to consider what its original context might have been.

The historic finish of the exterior stone wall to the right of the painting is lost. The paint on the adjoining wooded boards is stopped just short of the edge, leaving an unpainted margin which must have been covered by a wood or plaster finish to the exterior wall. This may well have been painted. On the left side of the decoration the boards are painted right up to the edge. They abut a plaster repair which runs from floor to ceiling. It is possible that there was a returning wooden partition, running parallel to the exterior wall, inserted here. There is a mortise in the upright timber to the left of the plaster panels, which may have formed part of a support for this. The painted area would thus span the width of a small chamber or passageway, the painting continuing onto surfaces now lost.

Any idea of how this area was used, and why it was painted, can only be conjectured. The space might have been a screens passage, There are numerous examples of painted friezes, which gave onto a communal area. One would need to consider the position of the fireplace and cellar to verify this. A date of 1509 would be appropriate for this arrangement. It may also have been a study, a small room adjoining the students living accommodation, though these are normally entered through a connecting door in the longer wall. There is only one example of a painted study in an Oxford college, at Lincoln, which is early 17<sup>th</sup> century. A popular and distinctive style of secular wallpainting was prevalent at this time. There is an example in 118 High Street, Oxford, where the technique is similar to the Brasenose fragment. It is also painted on wood, has a black background, with yellow as the predominant colour of the decoration. However designs of this period characteristically contained a dado and/or a frieze, the simplicity

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<sup>1</sup> e-mail from Alison Kelly, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 2010.

of the design at Brasenose would have made it exceptional. Without further corroborative evidence there is no way of telling whether this decoration is circa 1500 or 1600. The most compelling evidence is that it is not original, and would therefore be cotemporary with the build, i.e. 1509. If the choice of decoration preceded the build, wood might have been selected as the support because the yellow pigment, orpiment, is not stable on plaster.

It is difficult to date the painting on stylistic grounds. The decorative scheme is likely to have been simplest on this wall, because it contains the access doorway and would have been behind one on entering. We are missing the focal point of the room, and the least significant section survives as evidence. In this case a universal motif was chosen. Stars are a frequently used in medieval decoration and occur in a great many contexts, while sometimes associated with religious spaces, this is by no means exclusive. Nor can the materials employed contribute to this date debate, having been in continuous use for centuries.

Although unsophisticated to contemporary eyes, with its uneven execution and distribution of motifs, notions of uniformity and regularity would have been of no concern to artists at that time. More indicative of worth is the choice of the pigment orpiment for the stars. This pigment is refracting and its glistening nature would have been highly valued. To have such a painted chamber would have been an aspiration to, or indication of, status.

#### Conservation:

The original techniques are sound, and there are no signs of ongoing deterioration. In a few places there is a need for paint-fixing, for example, where mechanical damage has caused paint loss and exposed edges need catching and. The painting is extremely dirty with loose surface deposits which are easily removed with water. A small cleaning test revealed the original intensity of the yellow.

#### Recommendations

Considering how few examples of early decoration in college rooms survive, this fragment of original decoration is of particular significance, and merits further research. A measured drawing of this section of wall is likely to further our understanding, and because of the importance of this find and exploration of the reverse side is justifiable. This report is limited, offering initial impressions of a wallpainting conservator, without the benefit of a report by a buildings historian specialized in vernacular buildings of this period. An onsite dialog between specialists may also prove fruitful.

Whatever decision is made about the future care of these paintings, there will be some conservation considerations pertaining to the paint. If this section of wall needs to be boxed in, provision for air circulation should be allowed for, and a removable panel or door for viewing would be an advantage. The possibility of relocating the boards to somewhere where they can be displayed is being considered. Although a relatively straight forward job, I feel it would be a pity to move this wall out of context, and risk loosing archeological evidence. Paint fixing, and possibly cleaning should be carried out while the surface is accessible.

*Madeleine Katkov* November 2010

Brasenose College  
Wallpaintings



plaster repair

unpainted margin



Cleaning test



Mortise



# PAINTED PANELLING,

Brasenose College, Oxford

Wall panelling, with a decoration of yellow stars on a black background, has been recently revealed at Brasenose College. A sample of the yellow paint was sent by Madeleine Katkov for pigment identification.

**Examination** The fragments were examined under low magnification and then they were mounted in cold-setting polyester resin to be cut as cross-sections. The sections were examined at high magnification in halogen and in UV fluorescent light. Material from the black and yellow layers was dispersed on glass slides, and the pigments identified using a polarising light microscope at magnification x1000.

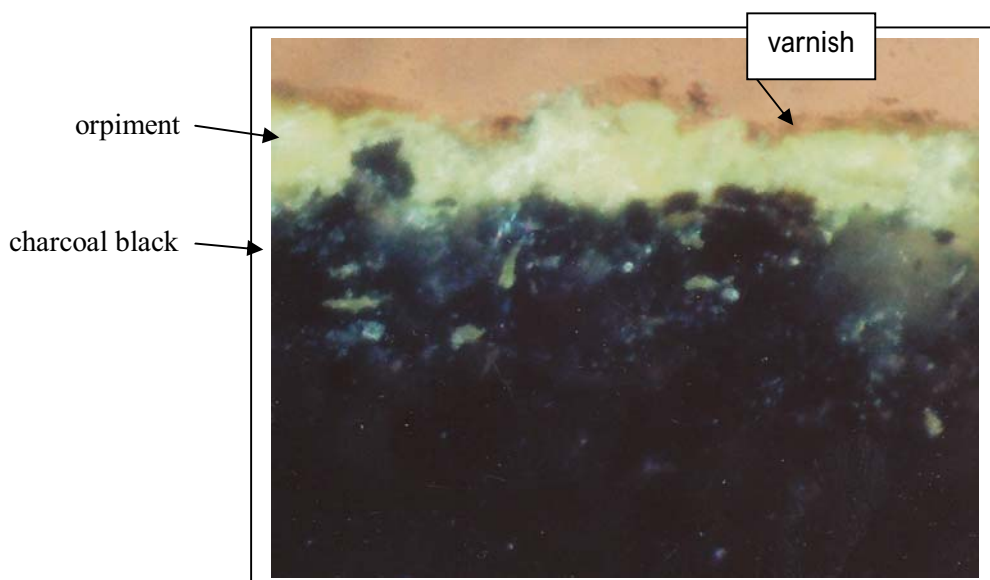
## RESULTS

The paint sample consisted of a layer of charcoal black, with a thin layer of pure orpiment on the surface. There were a few orpiment particles mixed into the charcoal layer, and the yellow stars were certainly contemporary with the black background.

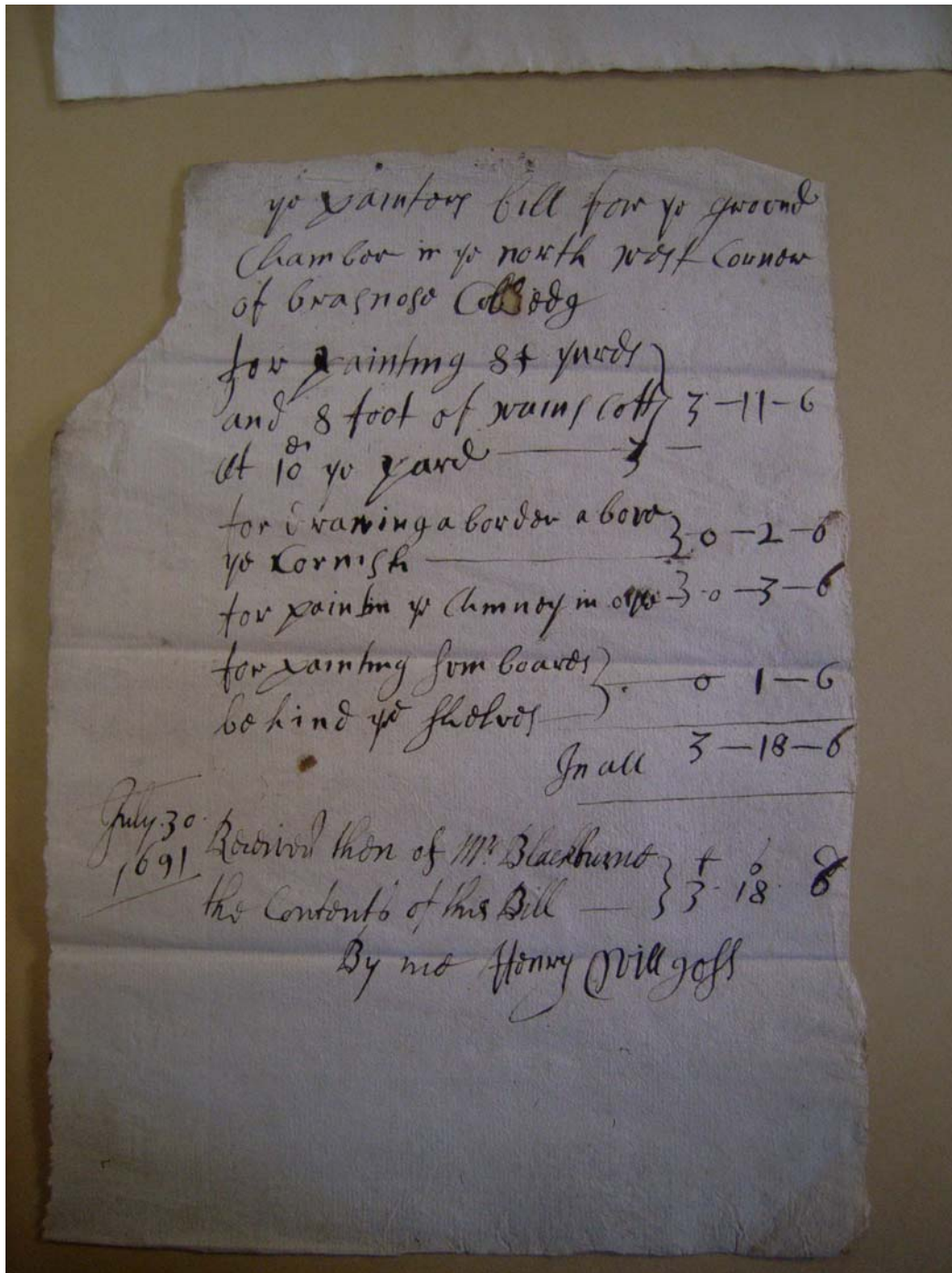
On top of the paint can be seen a thin layer of clear varnish.

Although orpiment was very popular in the medieval period as a bright yellow pigment, it continued to be used right through to the nineteenth century, so it not helpful as a dating pigment.

**Cross-section**  
[x500]



APPENDIX III TRADESMENS BILLS FROM COLLEGE ARCHIVES



Joiners bill of July 30 1691, presented by Mr Henry Milljoss, for works to ground floor room in northwest corner of college.

Archive source - Hurst: College buildings 20

The Joiners bill for Mr Whites  
chamber July 25 1691

for 9½ yards and 8 foot of  
wainscot at 3 shillings 6 } 16-15-6  
pent a yard

for a set of shelves and uprights  
and drawers and propped and  
lining the wall with half inch  
deal } 1-15-0

for hinges and ledges and stays  
and sustin rods for the propped } 0-5-0

for outer shets } 0-6-0

for lining the wall and shelves  
in the lumber house } 0-4-0

19-05-6

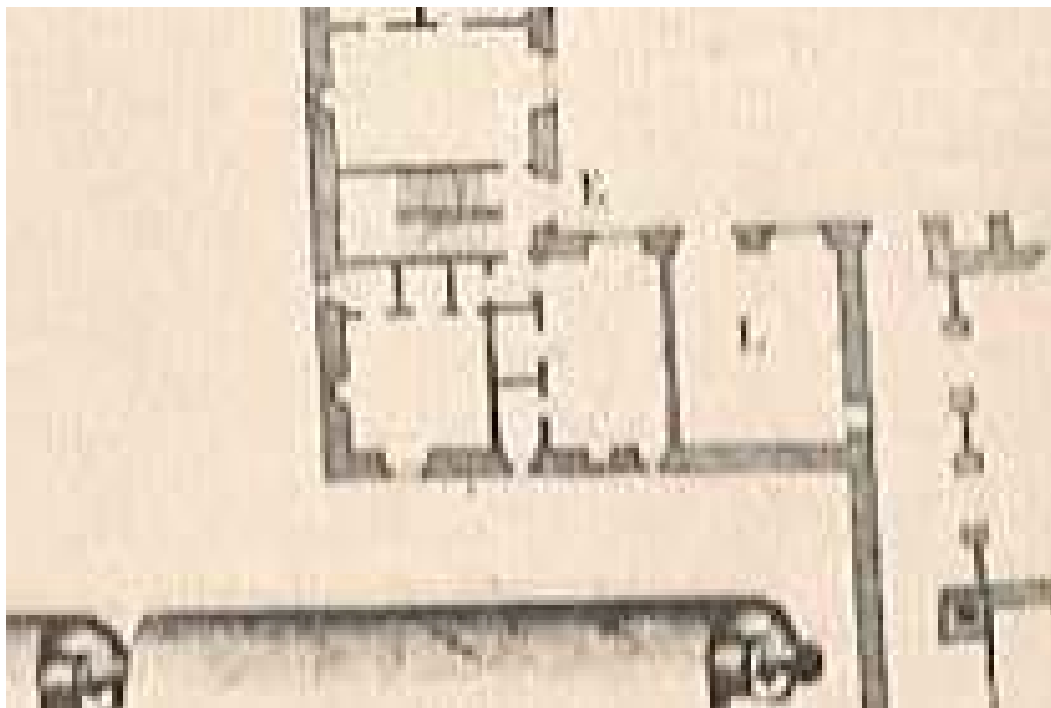
July 25  
1691 Received these of Mr Burfax Blackburne  
the contents of this Bill for Works in  
Mr Whites Chamber at the North West  
Corner of Brasenose Colledge  
By me James Davis

19-05-6

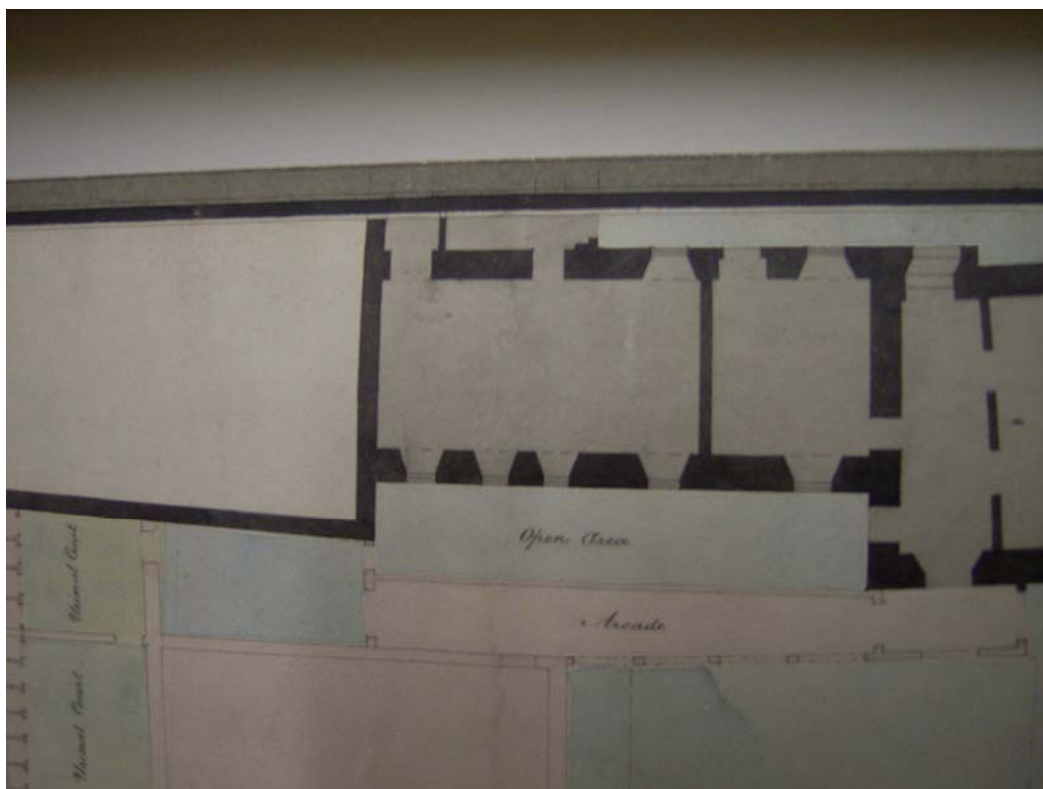
Joiners bill of July 25 1691, presented by Mr James Davis, for works to Mr Whites Chambers in northwest corner of college.

Archive source - Hurst: College buildings 8

APPENDIX IV PLANS HELD WITHIN ARCHIVES

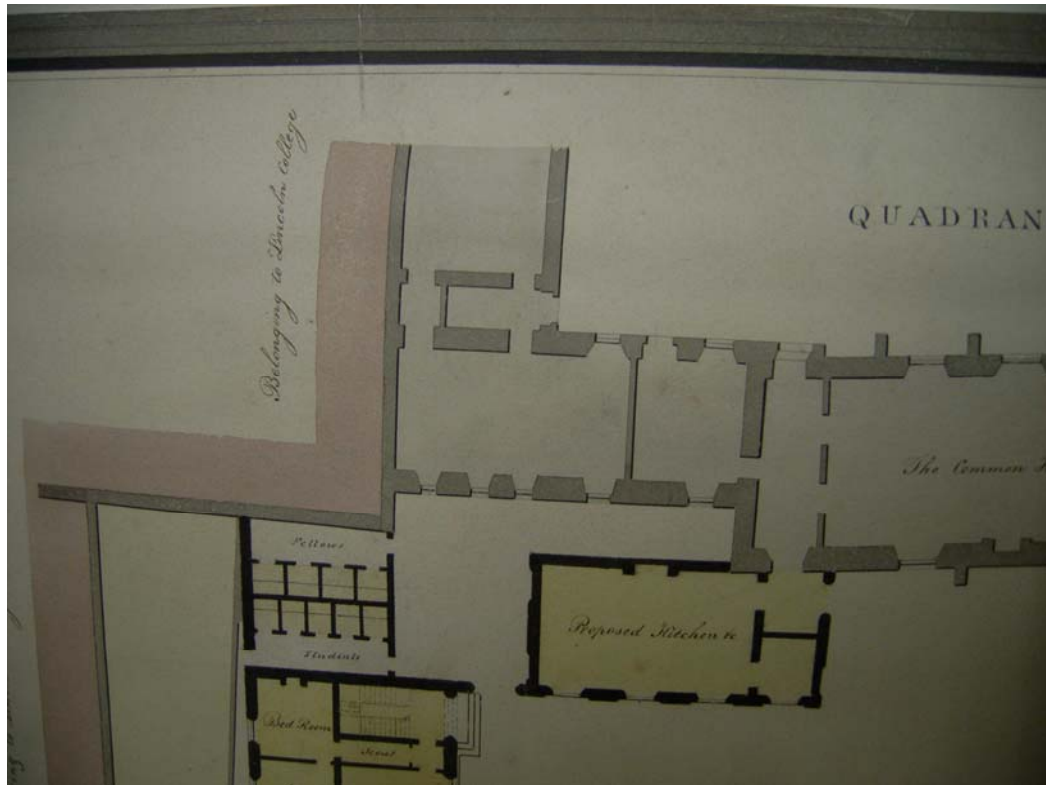


Extract from Hawsmoors Plan for the New Quadrangle from a plan by William Williams, *Oxonia Depicta*, 1732-1733 [Allfrey, Monograph III, PL. XVIII]

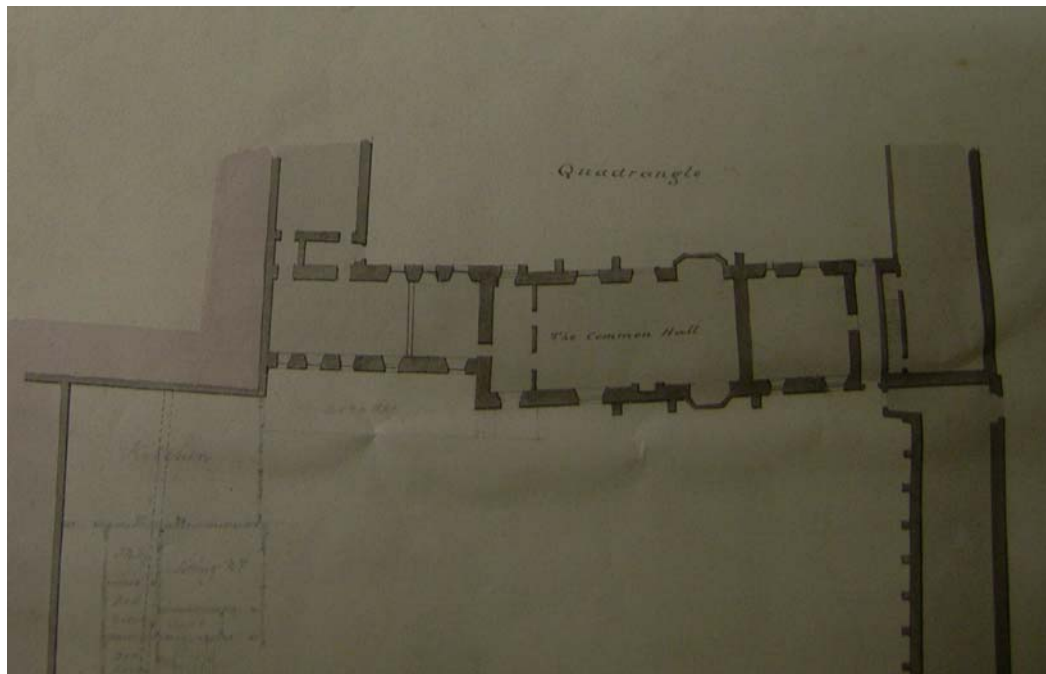


Extract from John Soane, 1807 [Clennell B15.1]

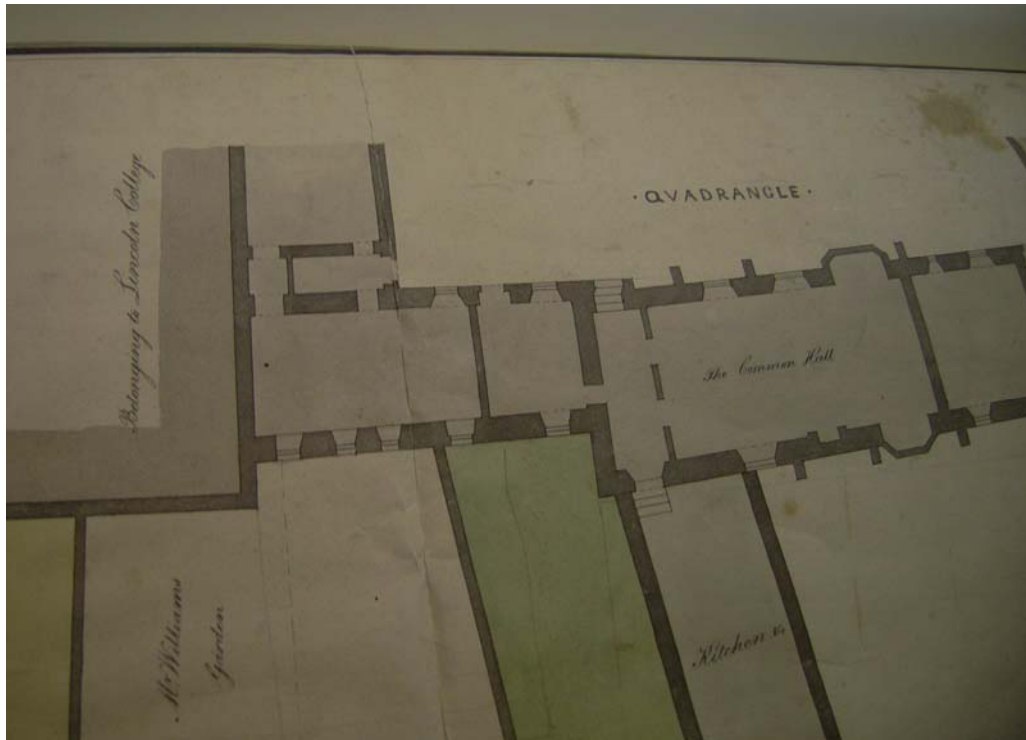




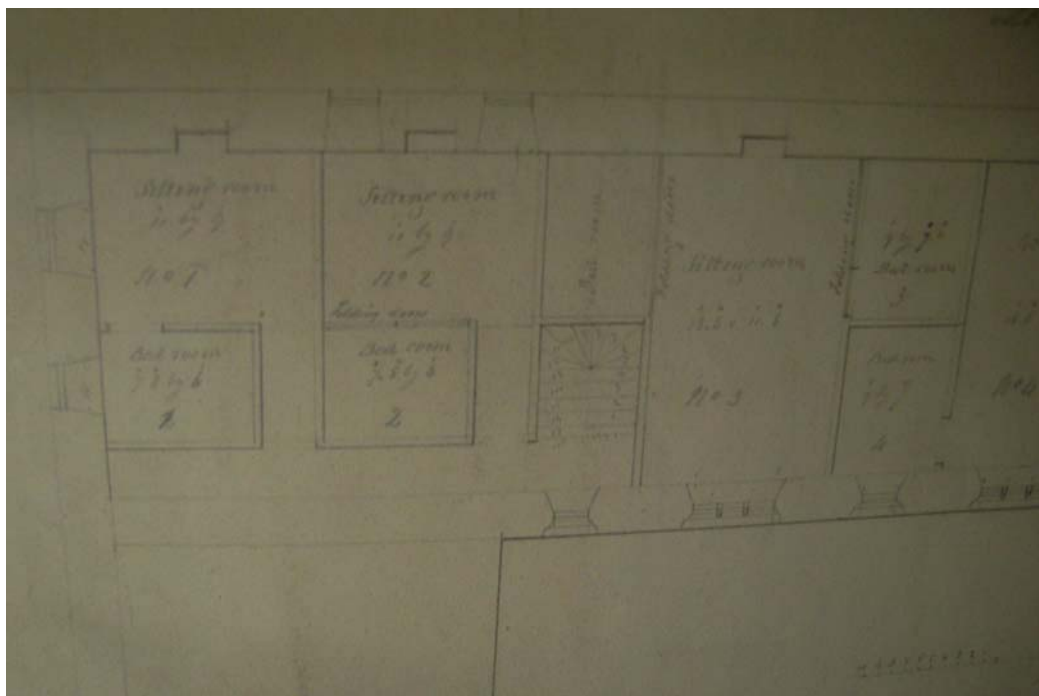
Extract from Philip Hardwick, 1810 [Clennell B15.1]



Extract from Undated Plan, Probably Early 19th Century [Clennell B15.1]



Extract from Undated Plan, Probably 1870 – 1880 [Clennell B15.1]



Undated proposed plan showing NW corner of quad (poss pre 1880s) [Clennell B15.1]



**APPENDIX V      FIGURE 1 - EAST ELEVATION OF ECKERSLEY ROOM SHOWING  
DECORATED PANELLING**

Please note that this figure now appears as Figure 11 of the main report, and so has not been reproduced here.





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