

New College, Longwall Street Archaeological Evaluation



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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New College, Oxford. Sacher Building, 8-14 Longwall Street and Bodicote House

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to conduct an archaeological trench evaluation at 8-14 Longwall Street, Bodicote House and the Sacher Building, which are adjoining properties along the west side of Longwall Street, within the precincts of New College, Oxford. The project was designed to inform two separate development proposals, comprising an extension to the Grade 2 listed Sacher Building, and renovation and remodelling of a row of Grade 2 listed buildings at 8-14 Longwall Street, including rebuilding of the unlisted Bodicote House.

A well-preserved section of Oxford's medieval inner city wall forms the western boundary of the site. The evaluation was particularly designed to investigate the line of the medieval city defences. Three trenches were all aligned perpendicular to the inner city wall and were cut to a depth of 2.0 – 3.5m below ground level. This was not sufficient to investigate the full depth of the city ditch sequence, but any deposits at greater depth are likely to be preserved in situ.

No recognisable structural traces of the Late Saxon burh defences were identified in any of the trenches. The burh defences are thought to underlie the medieval city walls in this section. The earliest evidence recovered is a single Late Saxon sherd of St Neot's ware (c AD900-1100), which was found in an elongated pit or short gully in Trench 3, which butted up against the base of the inner city wall. The pit appears to be functionally related to the inner city wall, and potentially contemporary with its construction. It is interpreted as either a drain, or a scaffolding support. The Late Saxon sherd was the only pottery recovered from the pit, but is thought to have been redeposited in a medieval context.

The trenching was largely successful in establishing the approximate extent and survival of the outer city wall and the western edge of the city ditch within the proposed development site. This is the first time that the outer city wall has been identified on the north-eastern side of medieval Oxford. The evidence from Trenches 1 and 2 showed that the inner face of the 0.96m thick outer masonry wall was located 7.7 – 7.8m from the outer face of the inner city wall. Several courses of stonework survived in Trenches 1 and 2. The date range of the associated artefacts is generally consistent with the suggested late 13th century date for the outer wall, but the scarcity of medieval artefacts from secure contexts means that the evaluation has not added significantly to the chronology of the defences. One late medieval sherd, found in the infill behind the outer city wall in Trench 2, is later than expected, but as a single sherd it could have been worked into the deposit during repair work or masonry robbing.

In Trench 3 the last vestiges of the masonry wall footing appear to have been removed by a 17th century recut of the city ditch, the western edge of which was recorded in all three trenches. The most likely historical context for this recut is the refurbishment of Oxford's defences in the 1640s, during the Civil War, although no ditch is shown on De Gomme's contemporary plan of the defences, dated 1644.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by New College, Oxford, to carry out an archaeological trench investigation to inform development proposals affecting 8-14 Longwall Street, Bodicote House and the Sacher Building, which lie within the precincts of New College. Two separate development proposals comprise:

- An extension to the Grade 2 listed Sacher Building, and
- Renovation and remodelling of a row of Grade 2 listed buildings at 8-14 Longwall Street, including rebuilding of the unlisted Bodicote House.

1.1.2 The site lies to the east of Oxford city centre, within the eastern extents of the precinct of New College, to the west of Longwall Street and south of Holywell Street. The site lies at NGR SP 5200 0640, at c 63.0 m OD, 240m west of the River Cherwell at Holywell Ford. The River Thames at the nearest point lies 1.09km to the west.

1.1.3 A separate desk-based assessment (DBA) has established that the site straddles the medieval outer city defences of Oxford (Oxford Archaeology 2015a).

1.1.4 Previous excavations along the northern city wall have shown that the top of the surviving stretches of the medieval outer wall lie at least 1.2m below the ground surface. However no significant previous investigations have been undertaken on the eastern side of the defences, so the sensitivity of the proposed development site was uncertain prior to this investigation. The impacts of the proposed developments are also uncertain, as the plans are at an early stage. This investigation was designed to record sections through the outer city defences and assess the depths at which significant archaeology survives. The development proposals will then be shaped to minimise archaeological impacts as far as possible.

1.1.5 The scope and methods for the trench investigation were provided in the form of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to the Oxford City Archaeologist, David Radford, for approval (OA 2015b). Due to the proximity of the trenches to the scheduled inner city wall the scope was also approved by the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Chris Welch). Roland Harris acted as archaeological consultant on behalf of New College.

1.1.6 Given the significance of the defensive ditch sequence and outer city wall in the development of Oxford's defences a series of three trenches was excavated to investigate and record transverse profiles from the inner city wall through the outer defences. The aim of the investigation was to understand the likely impact of the proposed developments on any significant archaeology that may be present, and inform the development design process.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The superficial geology of the site comprises the Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member (sand and gravel). The solid geology is Oxford Clay.

1.2.2 A section of Oxford's medieval inner city wall forms the western boundary of the site. Bastion 14 is located at the northern end, Bastion 15 in the middle and Bastion 16 at the southern end. A gap in the wall between Bastions 14 and 15 provides access from the Sacher Building to the gardens of New College.



- 1.2.3 The Sacher Building plot comprises the building itself, which dates from the 1960s, and a paved, slightly raised courtyard to the rear. In the centre of the courtyard is a modernist sculpture by Barbara Hepworth. The courtyard is flanked to the south by a lawn at a lower level.
- 1.2.4 8-14 Longwall Street and Bodicote House site comprises the row of properties to the south of the Sacher Building, which front onto Longwall Street, with gardens and yards to the rear, separated by a variety of fences and walls. Most of the buildings in this group are of 18th-century origin, except for Bodicote House, which dates from the late 1960s.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section is drawn largely from the DBA (OA 2015a) and WSI (OA 2015b).

Prehistoric to Roman Periods

- 1.3.2 No archaeological sites or finds dating to the prehistoric period have been located within the area of proposed development. Within the wider study area, Neolithic flints were found in 1968 during excavations under south nave of the Church of St.Peter-in-the-Easte (now St Edmund Hall Library).
- 1.3.3 The presence of prehistoric settlement, field systems and burial monuments in the area of the University Parks has been long established. Crop-marks of ring ditches were known as early as the 17th century. As archaeological work has been carried out during the 20th and early 21st centuries, the extent and range of these sites has increased, finding evidence for all periods from the Neolithic onwards. However, as yet very little evidence has been found to suggest that this activity extended as far south as New College. Any evidence will have been substantially damaged or removed by later activity. Excavations around and within the University Science Area and to the north of the University Parks in the 20th and early 21st centuries have uncovered evidence for occupation during this period. The evidence for farming activity during the Romano-British period within the Study Area and further north is extensive, but, as with the prehistoric period, there is no evidence for it extending southwards to New College.

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.4 No archaeological evidence dating from the Early or Middle Saxon periods has been found in the immediate vicinity of the present site. Evidence from this period in Oxford mainly relates to the establishment and maintenance of the crossing of the Thames in St.Aldates, settlement activity directly associated with the crossing, and evidence for the existence of St.Frideswide's priory (Dodd 2003).
- 1.3.5 There is documentary and archaeological evidence that Oxford was laid out as a planned *burh* in the late Saxon period (Dodd 2003). A recent analysis has suggested that it was built between May 878 and August 879 as part of a system of 31 fortresses, designed to support King Alfred's military strategy to drive the Vikings from Mercia and London (Haslam 2006). If correct, this dating represents a significant revision of the generally accepted dating, which assigns the construction of the *burh* at Oxford to between 911 (based on the first reference to Oxford in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) and 914-19 (the presumed date of the Burghal Hidage). The revised date is more consistent with the discovery of a silver penny of King Alfred (871-99), which carries the mint-name Oxford (*Ohsnaforda*) (Harris 2012).
- 1.3.6 The construction of the earliest defences of Oxford is not documented, although it is generally assumed that the late Saxon *burh* at the time of the Burghal Hidage must have been fortified. Writers including Salter (1912) and Jope (1956) suggested that the



boundary of the *burh* was most likely on the line later followed by the medieval city wall (Dodd, 2003). Archaeological evidence for fortifications pre-dating the later medieval city walls have since been found, as discussed below, but conclusive evidence of dating has not been forthcoming to date.

- 1.3.7 The significance and extent of evidence for the late Saxon *burh* defences within New College has recently been considered in detail in a heritage assessment prepared to inform renovations of the college kitchen, hall and buttery (Harris 2012) and the following text is based on this work. The extent of the *burh* is not certain, although it has long been considered that the area east of line of the near parallel Schools Street/Catte Street and Oriel Street/Magpie Lane and up to the later medieval Eastgate represents an extension of the original *burh*, and perhaps dates to early in the 11th century or, even the 10th century. The evidence is largely topographical. The eastern portion of the later medieval north town wall is offset some 60m north of the wall to the west. The case for a smaller *burh* has also relied on matching the length of the perimeter of the defences to the value of the hidage for Oxford in the Burghal Hidage. However the hidage for Oxford is not entirely clear due to the corrupted text. Furthermore it is demonstrable that a strict relationship between hides, manpower, and wall length does not apply throughout the system of Alfredian fortresses. The importance of determining the extent of the Saxon *burh* can be over emphasized, however, since it is probable that it had suburbs from the outset.
- 1.3.8 Archaeological evidence for the town wall and ditch, which may originally have consisted of an earth and timber rampart with external ditch, has relied on the interpretation of various deposits, that pre-date the later city wall, as elements of a late Saxon earthen embankment. If it is true that the *burh* boundary underlies the later medieval walls, the development site would probably have lain wholly or partly within the late Saxon defensive ditch, and outside the *burh*. It is possible that a ditch excavated in 1949 on the north side of the inner town wall at New College, adjacent to the NE corner (Bastion 14) of the town defences and just 20m from the NW corner of the development site (Hunter and Jope 1951. figs. 12 & 13), may have been part of the Saxon defences (Durham *et al* 1983, 26 & fig. 4). The turf facing of the Saxon rampart was also identified on the south side of the inner city wall at New College in 1987 (EOX4921), c. 240m west of the site, and during recent investigations in a lift shaft associated with New College kitchen, as described in detail in Section 1.3.9 below.
- 1.3.9 Some pottery dating from the late Saxon period was found in New College Garden in 1949 (Hunter & Jope 1951, 35). The level of occupation and activity within that part of the town is uncertain. No evidence has been found to suggest that there was activity on or close to the site before that date, although truncation caused by medieval and post-medieval activity may have removed any evidence of earlier date. Recent excavations and standing building recording (2013-14), ahead of a construction project to upgrade the college kitchens, buttery, pastry room, bar, hall and wine cellar connection, provided an opportunity to investigate a section of the late Saxon earthen *burh* rampart. Accurately dating this feature has proved difficult in the past, but this excavation, and planned scientific dating work, may provide an absolute date for the feature and help to establish whether or not this part of the Saxon *burh* was part of the original planned *burh* or an expansion in the 10th or early 11th century (B.Ford, Oxford Archaeology, pers.comm.).

Medieval

- 1.3.10 The earlier rampart around Oxford was replaced by stone walls, c 2 m thick, with semi-circular bastions in the first half of the 13th century. The ditch on the outside was



generally c 18 m wide, sloping fairly steeply from the wall to a flat-bottomed section, c 7.6 m wide and then rising more gradually. The earlier rampart was mostly removed when the wall was built, in contrast to the city walls of Hereford and Southampton, where the medieval stone walls were built into an earlier bank (Shoemith 1982).

- 1.3.11 It is possible that some bastions were built or rebuilt later in the 13th century, possibly when the outer line of the city wall was constructed. The late 13th century outer wall of Oxford did not extend around the whole fortified area, but only the north-east portion, from Smithgate, at the west end of Holywell Street, to the Eastgate on High Street, which includes the Longwall Street section. Excavations, mainly at 21 Longwall Street in 1979-80 (Durham et al 1983), have shown that the outer wall was only c 1 m wide. It was constructed in the middle of the existing ditch, c 10 m from the inner wall. The section of ditch between the two walls was infilled. If the position of the arrow-slots in the inner bastions was intended to fall above the level of the outer wall, this would suggest that the wall was c 5m high on the ditch side. Oxford is unique in having a double stone wall (Durham *et al* 1983) and this combination of the inner and outer walls with the city ditch in the north-east is of particular significance. The lack of previous investigations along the eastern side of the city means that existence of an outer wall along this stretch of the defences is unproven. None of the outer wall survives above ground and the section of the inner wall within New College represents the best preserved stretch. The upstanding part of Oxford's city wall is a Scheduled Monument. The monument description for the section of the wall from New College Tower to a point c.3m south of southern boundary of New College grounds (c. 368m in length), describes it as follows:
- 1.3.12 *"This section of wall is in an excellent state of preservation. It stands on average 30' (9.1m) in height and has 6 bastions all more or less complete, one of which was converted into a gateway in the 15th century. In this section on the northern side of the city there still exist the remains of an outer wall with a bastion about 5' (1.5m) in height parallel to the 3rd bastion on the inner wall. Bastions are at c.60m intervals, crenellated, with walkway and access stairs."*
- 1.3.13 The site would have lain within the city ditch until it was partly filled in to allow construction of the outer city wall in the later 13th century. Successive kings since before the Norman conquest granted the fee farm of Oxford (comprising grant of lands and privileges) to the burgesses of the town, in exchange for an annual fee. The city dates its ownership of ancient properties from a grant of fee farm by King John in 1199, which included the ground outside the city walls.
- 1.3.14 Within the city wall the land now occupied by New College had been divided into several plots by the 13th century, in mixed ownership, but with substantial areas held by Osney Abbey and the hospital of St John (Salter 1960, 156-62). The area between the inner city wall and an intra-mural lane was held by the Trinitarian Friars. William of Wykeham acquired the land in 1379 for the foundation of New College. The land to the east of Longwall Street lay in Holywell Parish, in the ownership of Magdalen College. The wall of Magdalen College that dominates the entire length of Longwall street on the east side, was built in the 15th century.
- 1.3.15 The 2013-14 excavations within the 14th century New College kitchen revealed extensive *in-situ* beaten earth and plaster floors, interleaved with charcoal-rich occupation deposits and rubbish pits. The deposits have not yet been analysed in detail but were pre-college deposits were found containing 11th-13th century pottery (B.Ford, Oxford Archaeology, pers.comm.).

Post-Medieval

- 1.3.16 At the end of the medieval period the defences were neglected and the city ditch was allowed to fill in for much of its length. Agas's Map of 1587 shows New College extending to the inner city wall, and a line that appears to represent the town ditch as an open watercourse outside the wall to the east. No sign of the outer wall or ditch is shown on either the northern or eastern side of the city on this map, although the outer wall is shown on the north side of the city on the Holywell Terrier from 1660, and on Loggan's Map of 1675 (OA 2010, Fig. 4).
- 1.3.17 During the Civil War the medieval defences were repaired and sections of the ditch recut as part of the protection of a major strategic base. The importance of Oxford during the Civil War arose in large part from its association with Charles I. While he was in dispute with parliament the king used Oxford as his base, making it in effect a temporary capital. The Longwall Street excavations of 1979-80 (Fig.2, Area E) found substantial depths of fill dating from the 17th century.
- 1.3.18 The land between Longwall Street and the inner city wall fell within the historic parish of St.Peter-in-the-East. The city ditch (or a remnant of it) is marked as an open watercourse on Loggan's map of 1675, either directly adjacent to buildings on the Longwall Street frontage, or possibly underneath them in a culvert for some of its length. All of the houses and cottages built on the west side of Longwall Street in the 17th and 18th centuries were city properties, separated from the gardens of New College by the inner city wall. The outer defences in the north-east corner of the city remained relatively undeveloped during the 17th century, in comparison with the northern defences or the stretch near Eastgate. The Sacher Building plot is shown on Loggan's Map of 1675 covered with trees. However one or more houses are shown on the site of No.8 Longwall Street and Bodicote House, while No.s 9-14 seem to have been occupied by small cottages along the street frontage, with an open area (probably gardens) occupying the remaining space up to the inner city wall. In contrast, along the northern city wall both the Terrier and Loggan's Map show houses all along the south side of Holywell Street.
- 1.3.19 By the mid-18th century the ditch along Longwall Street was clearly filled in and a row of terraced houses, most of which have survived to the present as Grade 2 listed buildings, had been built in 8-14 Longwall Street, with gardens occupying the space between the inner city wall and the houses. The Sacher Building plot is still shown tree-covered on Taylor's Map of Oxford (1751). On Davis's map of 1797 the plot appears to have a more formal garden layout. It was still in city ownership in the late 18th century.

Modern period

- 1.3.20 The Sacher Building plot is shown on the 1876 OS First Edition map with buildings on all four sides of a formal garden, including outbuildings constructed up against the outer face of the city wall. The land continued in city ownership until 1921 when the Sacher Building site was transferred to New College, in an exchange of property. The present Grade 2 listed Sacher Building was built in 1961-2, to a design by David Roberts.
- 1.3.21 Bodicote House replaced one of the 18th century terraced house along Longwall Street in the late 1960s.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks are due to the staff of New College, who facilitated access to dig the trenches, and Austin Newport Limited, who provided much logistical support, in particular Steve Dandy. Particular thanks are also due to Rev Dr Erica Longfellow, who put up with



Trench 2 in her back garden with great patience. The advice and support of Dr. Roland Harris, Chris Welch (Historic England) and David Radford (Oxford City Archaeologist) is gratefully acknowledged.

- 1.4.2 The archaeological site team was supervised by Mike Sims and Robin Bashford (Oxford Archaeology). Tim Cox supervised a team from Beecroft Plant who carried out much of the machine and hand excavation very efficiently. Stuart Foreman was the OA Project Manager.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The Evaluation Aims were informed by the Oxford Research Framework, as set out in detail in Section 5.2 of the WSI (Oxford Archaeology 2015b). The research objectives are discussed where relevant in Section 4.2 below.

2.1.2 The general evaluation project aims were:

- (i) To determine or confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains
- (ii) To determine the extent of any archaeological remains and the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- (iii) To determine the potential of the site to produce palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- (iv) To consider the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (v) To consider the range, quality and quantity of artefactual evidence.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Fieldwork methodology was set out in Section 6 of the WSI (Oxford Archaeology 2015b).

2.2.2 All three trenches were aligned E-W, extending through the garden/ courtyard areas between the base of the inner town wall and the rear of the buildings fronting onto Longwall Street, so as to cut sections through the outer town defences.

2.2.3 Trench 1 was located between the Sacher Building and the inner town wall. It measured 10m x 4m overall but was stepped in at a depth of 1.0 - 1.5m to create a deeper cut c.6.5m long x 2m wide. The position of the trench was constrained by the presence of concrete slab paving and electrical cables, which prevented excavation close to the inner town wall. The overburden was removed by mechanical excavator, and archaeological deposits were hand excavated.

2.2.4 Trench 2 was located in the garden of No. 14 Longwall Street. It measured 6.8m x 1.6m. The overburden was removed by machine and the archaeological deposits were hand excavated. The position of this trench was also constrained, by flower beds and drainage services, which prevented excavation right up to the town wall.

2.2.5 Trench 3 was located in the garden of No.8 Longwall Street. The trench measured 12.8m x 1.4mm and ran from the foot of the inner town wall, adjacent to Bastion 14. Excavation in this case was possible right up to the base of the inner wall. The trench was entirely hand excavated, partly due to the lack of access for a mechanical excavator and partly to prevent damage to the scheduled inner town wall.

2.2.6 Recording followed standard OS procedures (OA 1992; OA 2000) but in addition graphical recording of structures using 3D photogrammetric modelling was undertaken.

2.2.7 All trenches required shoring, which partially obscured the sections.

2.2.8 The depth of the trenches was limited, for health and safety reasons, to c. 3m below ground level. A hand auger was used to further test the depth of deposits in each trench.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 Detailed context descriptions are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A), and within the descriptive text in Section 3.2 where they are integral to the interpretation of the context in question.
- 3.1.2 Finds reports are presented in Appendix B. A discussion and interpretation of this evidence can be found in Section 4.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated in variable weather conditions. Some heavy rain caused temporary flooding in the base of the trenches, but this was controlled by pumping and did not significantly impede visibility.
- 3.2.2 The post-medieval and modern deposit sequence varied somewhat between the trenches.
- 3.2.3 Trench 1 was the most affected by modern development. The paved yard behind the Sacher building is raised by c 0.5m above the level of the former ground surface by made ground deposits laid during construction of the yard in 1961-2. A pair of large concrete beams below the yard surface at the eastern end of the trench are thought to be part of a crane base used in construction of the Sacher Building. This trench also encountered extensive sub-surface features relating to a range of late 19th century to early 20th century buildings first depicted on the OS 1st Edition map (1876). Medieval and post-medieval generally survived intact underneath the modern made ground, except where punched through by localised deep features.
- 3.2.4 Trenches 2 and 3 were in yard and garden areas behind the houses along Longwall Street, and thus less disturbed, although several service trenches were encountered. The overlying post-medieval deposits in Trenches 2 and 3 were fairly similar, consisting of extensive silty clay ditch fills and garden soils.
- 3.2.5 Natural terrace gravel was encountered only in Trench 3, at a depth of 2.1m below ground level (57.72mOD), where the edge of the medieval city ditch rose to meet the base of the inner city wall. Probable Oxford Clay was encountered during hand augering in Trench 3 at c 57m OD.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 The trenches all fell along the western edge of the city ditch, straddling the projected line of the outer city wall. The masonry of the outer city wall was successfully identified in Trenches 1 and 2, but not in Trench 3, where it is thought to have been truncated by a recutting of the city ditch in the mid-17th century.
- 3.3.2 Only Trench 3 extended right up to the base of the inner city wall. This revealed the base of the wall resting on the terrace gravel and at least one associated medieval feature cut into the gravel at the same level (324).



3.4 Trenches descriptions

Trench 1 (Figs.7-10)

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 was located between the Sacher Building and the surviving upstanding inner wall, and between Bastions 14 and 15. In comparison to Trenches 2 and 3, Trench 1 had to be excavated through an additional 0.5m thick made ground layer, associated with the Sacher Building courtyard. To achieve a comparable depth of excavation in all three trenches it was necessary to step the upper part of the trench. The upper step was 10.2m long x 4m wide and was excavated to a depth of between 1m and 1.4m below ground level (59.47m – 59.07m OD). The main trench was 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.5m below ground level (57.17m OD).
- 3.4.2 Probable natural sand was encountered at c 56.82m OD within three hand-augered boreholes (BH1-3, Plan 100, Fig. 3) at the western end of the trench and was overlain by a silty clay deposit (117). This produced a single sherd of pottery, possibly of 14th-century date, and abutted the western face of a limestone wall footing (105), 0.96m thick, which was revealed at 57.72m OD. Hand excavation and probing indicated that only a few courses of the wall survived (four on the western face, and at least six on the eastern face). Evidence from Boreholes BH2 and BH3 suggested that the base of the footing may have sloped slightly from east to west from 57.17m to 57.07m OD. The wall footing was aligned north-south and its west face was approximately 7.8m to the east of the inner city wall. A layer of rubble rich material (119) overlain and abutted the eastern face of the structure, and is likely to represent a mixture of tumbled stones and material discarded during the robbing of the wall. The top of this deposit corresponded with the top of the remaining in-situ element of the wall footing, and the overlying deposits (116 and 118) are likely to represent fills accumulating and/or being dumped within the cut 124 which truncated deposit 117, and also the top of wall 105.
- 3.4.3 Two clayey silt deposits (115 overlain by 114) sealed layers 116, 118 and 117, and these appear to represent an accumulation of material following the robbing or collapse of the outer wall. Layer 114 produced a single sherd from a jug of later medieval or early post medieval date (c 1400-1625).
- 3.4.4 Layers 114, 115, 118 and 119 were all truncated by a substantial cut (123) which appears to represent a re-cutting of the town ditch. The lowest excavated fill of the re-cut comprised a friable very dark grey/black fine silt with high organic content (113) which was overlain by a fairly homogeneous silty deposit (112). Both of these layers produced pottery dating from 1580-1650 and are likely to represent the latest episodes of silting within the ditch, prior to the deposition of layers (111, 110, 109) which the artefactual evidence would suggest date to the 18th century.
- 3.4.5 A hand augered borehole (BH4) at the eastern end of the trench reached 56.53m OD before being abandoned when suction and ground conditions made further progress impossible. The base of the re-cut was not located by this augering.
- 3.4.6 A square cut pit (122) had been cut into deposits 109-112 towards the western end of the trench. The lower fill 121 contained relatively large quantities of mid 18th- to early 19th-century finds of ceramic and glass. The pit is likely to be a rubbish pit associated with buildings fronting onto Longwall Street.
- 3.4.7 Layer 108, which was a mixed layer of limestone and Bath stone rubble in a light yellow brown sandy silt matrix with mortar, sealed the upper fill (120) of pit 122 and layers 114 and 109. Layer 108, which is likely to represent a levelling deposit, possibly consolidating the soft ground created by the underlying fills. The ceramic evidence



would suggest that this was deposited in the late 18th to early 19th century but the material may be residual. Layer 108 was truncated by the foundation trench (102) of an early 20th-century brick-built structure 101 at the east end of the trench.

- 3.4.8 The remaining features within the trench relate to the construction of the Sacher Building in 1962 including the construction cut 107 for the basement, and two north-south aligned reinforced concrete beams (103 and 104) which may have been a temporary crane base installed during the construction of the building.
- 3.4.9 These features were overlain by a layer of landscaping/levelling contemporary with the Sacher Building (100), which raised the courtyard surface above the level of the previous ground surface by c.0.5m. The courtyard surface is shingle, bordered by concrete slab paving.

Trench 2 (Figs.11-13)

- 3.4.10 Trench 2 was excavated to the rear of No. 14 Longwall Street and was 6.5m long x 1.5m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m below existing ground level (57.56m OD).
- 3.4.11 Probable natural gravel was encountered at 57.16m OD in two hand-augered boreholes towards the west end of the trench (BH1-2, Plan 200, Fig. 4). As with Trench 1, a silty clay deposit 214 overlaid the natural gravel. Deposit 214 abutted the west face of a north-south aligned limestone wall footing 205, which was 0.92m thick. As in Trench 1, hand excavation and probing suggested that only a few courses of the wall survived, with a greater depth on the eastern outer face. Four courses survived on the western face, and at least six on the eastern face. A single sherd of pottery dated c 1400-1625(?) was recovered from layer 214. The top of wall 205 was encountered at 58.1m OD, and its west face was c 7.6m east of the inner city wall. The top of the wall was sealed by a layer of clay silt (211) which produced the bowl of a clay tobacco pipe dating from the first half of the 17th century.
- 3.4.12 A rubble deposit (212) lay to the east of wall 205 (212) and, as with Trench 1, the top of the deposit corresponded with the top of the remaining in-situ element of wall 205.
- 3.4.13 A circular pit (210) of indeterminate function truncated both the rubble deposit (212) and layer 211. The fill (209) of the pit produced a single sherd from a jug which can be dated only broadly to c 1225-1625.
- 3.4.14 The rubble rich deposit 212, pit 209 and layer 211 were all truncated by cut 215, which almost certainly represented the recut of the town ditch. An attempt to locate the base of the recut by means of a hand-augered borehole (BH3) at the east end of the trench was unsuccessful. The auger hit an obstruction and the attempt was abandoned at 57.11m OD.
- 3.4.15 The lowest fill of recut 215 exposed in the evaluation trench was layer 208, which was a fine very dark grey or black silt, similar to layer 113 in Trench 1. Layer 208 produced no finds. It was sealed by a layer of friable clay silt with charcoal flecks and gravel (207). Layer 207 produced a small quantity of pottery of later 16th- to early 17th-century date. Layer 206 which sealed layer 207 produced pottery dating from c 1630-1700.
- 3.4.16 Overlying deposit 206 were imported garden soils (204, 202) separated by a thick layer of sand and gravel (203) which may represent a construction horizon or a garden path.
- 3.4.17 Garden soil 202 was overlain by a rubble, CBM and mortar rich layer (201) which is likely to be 18th century construction debris – possibly contemporary with the construction of No. 14 Longwall Street and overlain by the present garden soil (200).



Trench 3

- 3.4.18 Trench 3 was located to the rear of No.8 Longwall Street, adjacent to the southern boundary of the proposed development. The trench abutted the standing inner city wall, was aligned E-W and was 12.8m x 1.4m. The trench was excavated to a depth of 2.1m below ground level down to the top of the terrace gravel (301).
- 3.4.19 Probable Oxford Clay was encountered at 57m OD in three boreholes (BH1-BH3, Plan 300, Fig. 5) which hand-augered from the base of a hand-excavated sondage along the southern edge of the trench. The clay was overlain by terrace gravel (301) which was encountered at 57.72m OD at the western end of the trench and was overlain by 0.2m of mixed orangey brown silty clay with 10-20% gravel inclusions (302), which possibly represented re-worked/trampled brickearth between the inner city wall (323) and the edge of a north-south aligned ditch (308) which truncated the gravel and layer 302.
- 3.4.20 An elongated oval pit (324) was cut into the terrace gravel (301) near the foot of the inner wall (323). The lower fill of the pit was a patchy mid blueish-grey clay (325) which may have represented the remnant of a clay lining and was overlain by fill 330. Layer 330 was in turn sealed by layer 302. Fill 303 was very similar in composition to layer 302 but with concentrations of roughly hewn limestone blocks. A single sherd of St Neots-type ware (c900-1100) was recovered from fill 330. It is possible that pit 324 predated the construction of the medieval city wall.
- 3.4.21 Overlying layer 302 was a possible buried soil horizon (327=303). This comprised a mid grey brown clay silt and abutted the inner wall 323. Layer 327 produced pottery dating from c 1225-1300(?). It is likely that ditch 308 cut deposit 327=303 since the latter layer differed in composition from layer 322 which formed the adjacent fill of ditch 308 and comprised a greenish grey silty clay (Section 300, Fig 5).
- 3.4.22 The most notable feature of this trench was the absence of any evidence for the outer wall found in Trench 1 (context 105) and in Trench 2 (context 205). It would seem that if the wall had continued it would have been removed by the digging of ditch 308. The absence of the wall is possibly a consequence of the fact that the western edge of the recut ditch in Trench 3 is very close to the inner wall., whereas in Trenches 1 and 2 the post-medieval re-cuts 123 and 215 are between 6.2m and 7.2m out from the inner city wall. It is likely that the wall in Trench 3 has been completely truncated by the digging of the recut ditch.
- 3.4.23 The fills of ditch 308 comprised a series of silty clays (328, 326, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313) with varying concentrations of limestone rubble, notably in layer 326, and occasional lenses of re-deposited gravel (eg. 311). Layer 326 produced a small quantity of pottery dating from the second half of the 16th century and layer 309 a quantity of Brill products dated c 1480-1550/1575. Layer 328 also produced a small quantity of pottery dating from c 1450-1550(?). Layer 312 produced pottery of earlier date indicating that the material was residual.
- 3.4.24 The fills of ditch 308 were cut by a further recut ditch (314). Only the western edge of ditch 314 was located. The lowest fill revealed (329) was a light grey sand which produced no finds. Layer 315 also produced no finds. A thin organic layer (316) also had no finds, but layer 317 contained a quantity of later 16th century pottery including a complete Brill drinking jug. Layer 318 produced a quantity of pottery dated c 1550-1630.



- 3.4.25 The deposits overlying 317 either represent later fills of the re-cut ditch, or levelling deposits associated with the later 19th century garden soils (320, 321). Layer 321 contained 19th century ceramics.

3.5 Finds summary

- 3.5.1 **Pottery** – The earliest pottery was single sherd of St Neots type ware which was the only find from pit 324 in Trench 3. There were some sherds from 12th- or perhaps early 13th century glazed pitchers and cooking pots from an upper fill (312) of ditch 308 and from buried spoil 327 which also produced pottery of 13th or 14th century date. Pottery of 13th to 14th century date was recovered from context 117 which lay behind the outer wall footing in Trench 1. Early post medieval pottery of 16th and 17th century date was recovered from the fills (112, 113) of ditch 123 in Trench 1, and from fill 207 in ditch 214 (Trench 2). In Trench 3 the lower layers in ditch (308) produced pottery dating from the second half of the 16th-century, and the medieval pottery from layer 312 in ditch 308 was clearly re-deposited. The pottery from layer 317 (ditch 314) in Trench 3 dates from the second half of the 17th century. Later fills or levelling layers in the ditches contained pottery dating from the later 18th to mid 19th century.
- 3.5.2 **Tobacco pipes** - The earliest pipes, dating from c 1610-1640, were found in layer 211, sealing the robbed outer wall footing (205) in Trench 2. Pipes of 18th- to 19th-century date came from levelling layer 109 in Trench 1. A small quantity of pipe of similar date was found in layer 321 in Trench 3.
- 3.5.3 **Ceramic Building Material** – The CBM assemblage was dominated by pegtile and most of the tile derived from Trench 3. In Trench 1 (16th- to 17th-century CBM was associated with 16th and 17th century pottery in ditch fill 113, but otherwise came from later levelling layers 109 and 111. In Trench 2 early tile, dating from the 13th or 14th century, came from fill 209 of pit 210, which truncates the top of wall footing 205 and the rubble layer 212. Other tile of 15th- to 17th-century type, in St Giles related fabric, comes from fills 206 and 207 of ditch 215. In Trench 3 early tile dating from the 13th or 14th century comes from layer 327 which is probably cut by ditch 308 and may be the same layer as 303. Further medieval tile came from fill 327 of ditch 308. The remaining tile dates broadly from the 15th to 17th century and includes St Giles type fabric. Some sherds came from pit 300 (layer 306) but most of the tile is from ditch fills, either in ditch 308 (contexts 309, 311, 312, 326) or in ditch 314 (contexts 317, 318). A single piece of tile of 15th- to 17th-century date came from a later levelling layer (321).
- 3.5.4 **Glass** – The quantities of glass were limited and dated mainly from the mid-late 18th to the early 19th century. The only glass from Trench 1 was from the late 18th century or early 19th century pit 122. The glass from Trench 2 includes sherds from a late 17th century 'globe and shaft' wine bottle from layer 204, and a sherd from a mid 18th to early 19th century wine bottle from layer 206. The sherd from 204 is clearly residual. The glass from Trench 3 is all from levelling context 321 and includes stemmed glasses of late 18th to early 19th century date, but also some modern mass-produced 'cat-eye' marbles.
- 3.5.5 **Metal finds** – A small number of metal finds were recovered, including two undiagnostic fragments from Trench 1. There were no finds from Trench 2. The finds from Trench 3 included parts of a curb bit from fill 317 (ditch 314). This form of bit was current for a long time, but in this context could very well date from the 17th century. Part of a strainer or skimmer was found in context 318 (ditch 314). The remaining finds, including a spur, are from a late levelling layer 321.



- 3.5.6 **Stone** – Two pieces of worked stone were recovered as artefacts. A roof slab was found in context 113 in ditch 123 (Trench 1) and a possible roofing fragment from the upper levelling layer 321 in Trench 3. Masonry samples were also recovered from the outer wall footings, in case needed for petrological analysis.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 The Late Saxon *burh* defences

4.1.1 The earliest evidence recovered is a single sherd of St Neot's ware (c AD900-1100) from Trench 3 (context 330), which hints at late Saxon activity in the vicinity, although no recognisable structural traces of the Saxon *burh* defences were identified in any of the trenches. The sherd was fairly fresh and unabraded and was recovered from one of the earliest contexts encountered during the evaluation. However it is likely to be residual in a 13th century context, as detailed in section 4.2 below.

4.2 Evidence for construction of the inner city wall

4.2.1 Context 330, which produced the Saxon sherd, was the fill of an elongated pit or short gully (324), the function of which is unclear. It was cut into the terrace gravel and butted up against the base of the inner city wall on an almost perpendicular E-W alignment. There was no indication that it extended underneath the wall and it contained a concentration of stone rubble, which suggests that it was more likely connected with construction of the stone medieval inner city wall than with the preceding Saxon *burh* defences, which are thought to have been built from earth and timber. The position of the feature in relation to the inner wall suggests that they were functionally connected. The pit might have been a drain, or a scaffolding support. This would imply that the Late Saxon potsherd was residual in a 13th century context.

4.3 Chronology and structure of the medieval defences

4.3.1 The evaluation trenches revealed clear evidence for surviving archaeological deposits and structures relating to the eastern defences of the medieval and later town. In particular the evidence from Trenches 1 and 2 confirmed that there was an outer wall to the medieval defences on the eastern side of Oxford.

4.3.2 In Trenches 1 and 2 the footings of a N-S aligned masonry wall were located some 7.7m - 7.8m E of the inner town wall and parallel to it. These footings are interpreted as the remains of the outer wall of the town defences as shown on the north side of the town on both Agas's 1587 view of Oxford (Fig. 18) and on Loggan's view of 1675 (Fig. 20). Behind wall 105 in Trench 1 was a deposit (117) which contained a single sherd of 13th to 14th century pottery, which is broadly consistent with the expected late 13th century date for construction of the outer wall. However layer 214 in Trench 2 contained a single sherd dating from c AD1400 -1625, which appears later than expected. It is unclear whether these layers were deliberately deposited between the two walls as an integral part of the double wall design, or whether they were dumped subsequently in a more gradual process. The wide date range of the sherds in layers 117 and 214 gives slight support to the latter option, although single sherds cannot be considered reliable dating evidence. The later sherd could alternatively have found its way into the deposit in the course of repair work or masonry robbing.

4.3.3 No trace of the outer wall footing was found in Trench 3 which was located close to Bastion 16. However a large ditch (308) was cut close to the inner wall in Trench 3, and subsequently another ditch (314) was cut further to the E. These would have removed any trace of the outer wall.

4.4 Robbing of the outer city wall

4.4.1 In both Trench 1 and 2 the wall had been robbed out, leaving a rubble layer on the E side of the footing (Trench 1 layer 119, Trench 2 layer 212). No dating evidence came

from either layer. The two layers (deposits 116 and 118) overlying layer 119 also lacked pottery. In Trench 2 the robbed wall footing was sealed by layer 211 which produced a single tobacco pipe bowl dated c 1610-1640. The rubble layer 212 and layer 211 were cut by pit 210, and the fill (209) of this pit contained a single sherd of glazed jug broadly dated c 1225-1625 and a piece of glazed tile dated to the 13th or 14th century. On present evidence the robbing of the outer wall cannot be closely dated. The latest artefact in this very small and broadly dated assemblage suggests an early or mid-17th-century date, but robbing is likely to have taken place in more than one phase. The 17th century robbing is the earliest episode that is dated by association with artefacts. Removal of the above-ground masonry in earlier phases would not necessarily have left much archaeological trace.

4.5 Recutting of the city ditch

- 4.5.1 There was some evidence for a recut of the city ditch which was not securely dated but contained late medieval/ early post-medieval artefacts and was stratigraphically earlier than the major 17th century recut. In Trench 1, layers 117, 116 and 118 were sealed by a layer of grey green clay silt with stone fragments and gravel (115) and a layer of brown clay silts (114). A single sherd of pottery dating from c 1400-1625 was recovered from layer 114. Layers 115 and 114 sloped down to the E and it is possible that they filled a ditch, which was cut away by the 17th century recut (123). If there was an earlier ditch in Trench 1 and presumably in Trench 2, it could have been contemporary with ditch cut (308) identified in Trench 3. The pottery from the lower fills (326, 328 and 309) of ditch 308 date from the 16th century or slightly earlier. Pottery from layer 312 dates from c 1225-1400 but was certainly redeposited in a later context. The infilled ditch (308) was subsequently partly cut away by the 17th century ditch (314), the W edge of which was about 6m E of the inner city wall.
- 4.5.2 Clear evidence was found in all three trenches for a recut of the city ditch in the mid-17th century, dated by fairly large and closely dated artefact assemblages. Equivalent major ditch cuts (123 and 215) were identified in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively. In Trench 1 (ditch 123) the lower fills (113, 112) contained pottery dating from c 1580-1650. The lower fills in ditch 215 (207 and 206) contained pottery dating from c 1580-1650 and c 1630-1700 respectively. The lower fills of ditch 314 (329 and 315) in Trench 3 lacked dating evidence. Fill 317, however, produced a quantity of pottery including a small Brill drinking jug (Fig. 17, no. 2) dating from the second half of the 16th century. Layer 318 produced pottery of late 16th to early 17th century date. The most likely historical context for the ditch cuts in Trenches 1 and 2, and the second cut (314) in Trench 3, is the refurbishment of Oxford's defences in the 1640s, during the Civil War, although no ditch is shown on De Gomme's plan of 1644 (Fig. 19). One motivation for cutting the ditch on this line may have been to rob from the ruins of the outer city wall for use in the refurbishment.
- 4.5.3 Pit 300 in Trench 3 was possibly contemporary with one or other of the ditch cuts. Fill 306 contained late 16th-century pottery and also some tile dating to the 15th to 17th century.

4.6 Later post-medieval and modern activity

- 4.6.1 In the evaluation trenches there was no evidence for domestic occupation pre-dating the 18th century, and limited structural evidence apart from that relating to the defences.
- 4.6.2 The later fills or levelling of the ditches generally contained pottery of late 18th- to early 19th-century date. As the trenches are in garden and courtyard areas this is likely to be

predominantly domestic material. The levelling was presumably associated with construction of the houses fronting onto Longwall Street. In Trench 1 a Georgian rubbish pit (122) was found which contained late 18th century pottery, including a Creamware sherd with a hand painted inscription: 'Mag. Coll' (Magdalen College) (Fig. 17, No, 4). Connections with Magdalen College are unsurprising, as the owner of neighbouring properties. This material might derive from rubbish dumping by residents of the college, before the construction of houses in the Sacher Building plot in the mid-19th century.

4.7 Palaeoenvironmental potential

- 4.7.1 The deposits encountered were extensive made ground and ditch fill deposits, not suitable for palaeo-economic sampling. No bulk samples were recovered.
- 4.7.2 The lower ditch fills of the 17th century town ditch recut were organic and waterlogged and would have the potential to contain well-preserved organic artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains, although no waterlogged artefacts were observed during the evaluation. The trenches only reached the top of the waterlogged levels.
- 4.7.3 No monoliths were recovered. Given the post-medieval date and urban context of the deposits, palaeoenvironmental landscape reconstruction methods would contribute little to addressing the research aims of the project that could not be obtained from documentary evidence.

4.8 Artefactual evidence

- 4.8.1 The artefactual evidence is limited in range and quantity. The finds tell a coherent story in part because the stratigraphy of the site is for the most part relatively straightforward.
- 4.8.2 The pottery recovered provide confirmation of the current thinking on the chronological development of the city defences, but the scarcity of medieval pottery from secure contexts means that the evaluation adds little new evidence to the picture. More extensive excavation at the site would have the potential to develop a more robust and refined ceramic chronology. The pottery ranges in date from late Saxo-Norman period to the 19th century. The presence of a single piece of early pottery, a sherd of St Neots-type ware raises the possibility of evidence for deposits pre-dating the 13th-century defences although this particular sherd is likely to be residual in a 13th century context. The pottery assemblage includes some interesting and rare post-medieval material, including an almost complete 'globe and shaft' drinking jug (Fig. 17, No. 2).
- 4.8.3 The clay tobacco pipe is mainly of 17th-century date and much of the pipe assemblage is residual.
- 4.8.4 The ceramic building materials (CBM) is mostly fragmentary and worn. Some material in 13th- to 14th-century fabrics was identified, but most of the roof tile is St Giles fabric typical of the 15th to 17th century.
- 4.8.5 The vessel and other glass, is limited in quantity and interest, although it does include some stemmed glasses. The glass dates to the Georgian period when the houses on Longwall Street were constructed.
- 4.8.6 The metal finds are limited in number, although the presence of part of a curb bit in a lower fill of ditch 314 is notable. The only earlier glass are the sherds from a 'globe and shaft' wine bottle from an upper ditch fill. The worked stone comprised just two pieces of roofing material.



4.9 Survival and condition of significant archaeology

- 4.9.1 The medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains were extensive and appeared comparatively little disturbed or truncated by modern development. Trenches 2 and 3 were both in courtyard or garden areas to the rear of the 18th century houses along the frontage of Longwall Street and had consequently suffered little ground disturbance, other than from modern service trenches. The artefactual dating evidence suggests that the levelling of the town ditch, accompanied by localised rubbish dumping, occurred mainly in the later 18th or early 19th century.
- 4.9.2 Trench 1 had the most evidence for modern disturbance, associated with construction of the Sacher Building and with earlier foundations belonging to a range of 19th - 20th century buildings shown built up against the inner city wall on the 1st Edition OS Map (1876). The latter included a deep rectangular brick structure, possibly a drainage sump or cess tank. Even in this trench the medieval and post-medieval layers generally survived relatively intact beneath the modern levels.

4.10 Significance and potential to address research objectives

- 4.10.1 The site has some potential to examine the relationship between the Late Saxon *burh* defences and the stone medieval inner city wall. The potential is limited, however, as no structural evidence for the Saxon *burh* defences were found in the evaluation trenches. The only Late Saxon artefact recovered was residual in a probable medieval context.
- 4.10.2 More extensive excavation against the base of the inner city wall would potentially clarify the date and function of feature 324, and establish whether any other similar features are present. Artefacts or radiocarbon samples recovered from contexts that can be directly associated with construction of the medieval inner city wall, such as scaffolding supports, would have potential to refine the dating of the medieval defences, in particular the inner city wall. This is an important objective of the Oxford Research Framework, and particularly important in this location as New College contains the best-preserved section of the inner city wall.
- 4.10.3 The results of the evaluation have established the presence of an outer city wall on the east side of Oxford, and provided considerable information on the condition and extent of the surviving wall. The site undoubtedly contains extensive structural remains associated with the outer wall, and evidence for its robbing. The evaluation has only been partially successful in establishing the extents and structural form of the outer wall. It was not possible, for example, to determine whether the outer wall had bastions, as none of the trenches could be excavated close enough to the inner wall bastions to address that question. It has not been possible to establish whether the space between the inner and outer walls was originally infilled. More extensive excavation could answer this question. The medieval artefact assemblage is very small, broadly dated and insecurely stratified, which limits what can be said about the chronology of the defences. Further excavation would have the potential to recover larger artefact assemblages, samples suitable for radiocarbon dating, and more secure stratigraphic correlations. The potential for further investigation of the medieval city ditch sequence is likely to be fairly limited as the medieval deposits appear to have been very extensively truncated by the mid-17th century ditch recut.
- 4.10.4 The site has considerable potential for further examination of the civil war defences, although further investigation of the city ditches would be constrained by the depth of excavation that would be required to fully investigate the ditch sequence. The present evaluation only investigated the upper part of the ditch sequence, along the western edge of the ditch, so the full depth and dimensions of the ditch on the east side of



Oxford remain unclear. The waterlogged deposits infilling the bottom of the 17th century ditch would be expected to contain well-preserved waterlogged artefacts and palaeoeconomic evidence.

- 4.10.5 In general terms the artefact assemblage reflects changes of occupation and land-use in this part of Oxford from the medieval period to the modern. However structural evidence from the evaluation trenches was for the most part directly connected with the city defences and their development and use, and can contribute little to understanding the wider economy of Oxford, or the status and social activities of its inhabitants.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 1 formed an E-W transect in advance of the surviving town wall. The trench did not extend up to the inner wall. The trench revealed the footings a N-S wall (105) about 7.6 to 7.8m in advance of the surviving 13th-century inner town wall. This outer wall had been robbed out and later a large ditch (123) had been cut. Pottery suggests the ditch dates from 17th century. Levelling material was deposited over the ditch fills in the late 18th century. There was single late 18th-century rubbish pit					Max. depth (m)	3.5
					Width (m)	4.0
					Length (m)	10.7
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.60	Levelling. Compact light grey sandy silt clay. CBM, stone and concrete	-	20th-century
101	Structure	2.8 x 1.1	1.0	Brick-built structure, Red frogged bricks and cement mortar	-	20th-century
102	Cut	3.2 x 1.3	1.0	Cut for structure101	-	20th-century
103	structure	0.85	0.6	concrete beam	-	20th-century
104	structure	0.85	0.6	Concrete beam	-	20th-century
105	wall	0.96	0.8	Outer medieval wall, roughly dressed stone and lime mortar	-	20th-century
106	fill		>1.6m	Fill of cut 107. Friable light grey sandy silt with CBM and concrete.	-	20th-century
107	cut	2.0	>3m	Construction cut for Sacher Building. Filled by 106	-	20th-century
108	layer		0.95	Levelling. Friable yellow brown sandy silt with Bath stone offcuts	Pot	19th-century
109	layer		0.85	Fill of ditch cut 123. Friable, dark grey brown clay silt, with charcoal flecking	Pot; tobacco pipe; CBM	
110	layer		0.3	Fill of ditch cut 123. Friable yellow brown clay silt, with much gravel	-	
111	layer		0.3	Fill of ditch cut 123. Friable grey brown clay silts with some charcoal flecking.	Pot; CBM	
112	layer		0.75	Fill of ditch cut 123. Friable dark grey brown clay silt with sub-angular stone, gravels and lens of red brown soil.	Pot;	
113	layer		0.3m	Fill of ditch cut 123. Very dark	Pot; Cu;	



Trench 1						
				grey or black fine silts with organic material.	CBM; stone	
114	layer		0.6m	Possible made ground. Grey brown clay silts some gravel.	Pot; Fe	
115	layer		0.5m	Possible made ground. Friable green grey clay silt with small stone fragments and gravel.	-	
116	layer		0.4	Slumping. Tenacious grey brown silt clay, some gravel.	-	
117	layer		>0.6	Made ground. Tenacious olive green to grey silt clay with some gravel.	Pot	
118	layer		0.22	Mortar lens? Friable yellow brown silty sand	-	
119	layer		>0.3	Tumble from or robbing of wall 105. Friable light grey clay silt with many angular stone fragments	-	
120	fill		0.7	Fill of pit 122. Friable red brown clay silt with some sand and gravel.	-	
121	fill		0.4	Fill of pit 122. Friable dark red brown sand silt, with some gravel.	Pot; glass	
122	pit	1.3	1.1	Pit. Filled by 121 and 122	-	
123	ditch			Ditch recut. Filled by 109-113	-	17th-century
124	cut			Robber cut over wall 105. Filled by		

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench 2 formed an E-W transect in advance of the surviving town wall. The trench did not extend up to the inner wall. The trench revealed the footings a N-S wall footing about 7.6 to 7.8m in advance of the 13th-century inner town wall. This outer wall had been robbed out and later a large ditch (215) had been cut subsequently. Pottery suggests that the ditch dates from 17th century. Levelling material was deposited over ditch fills in the late 18th century.				Avg. depth (m)	0.44	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	6.8	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	layer	-	0.3	Garden soil. Dark brown silty loam.	-	-



Trench 2						
201	layer	-	0.4	Construction debris. Friable light grey sandy silt with much mortar, stone and CBM fragments	-	
202	layer	-	0.3	Buried garden soil. Grey brown silty loam. Some stone	-	
203	layer	-	0.04	Garden path? Compact light yellow brown sandy silt with much lime mortar and gravel.	-	
204	layer	-	0.3	Buried garden soil. Friable dark grey brown silty loam.. Much charcoal flecking and some gravel	Pot; glass	
205	wall	0.92	>0.17	Outer medieval wall, roughly dressed stone and lime mortar	-	
206	layer	-	0.32	Levelling layer. Or fill in ditch 215. Friable mid brown sandy silt loam, occasional gravel.	Pot; glass; CBM	
207	layer	-	0.35	Fill of ditch 215. Friable dark grey brown silt sand with gravel and charcoal flecks.	Pot; CBM	
208	layer	-	>0.22	Fill of ditch 215. Friable Compact very dark grey or black fine silt.	-	
209	fill	-	0.35	Sole fill of pit 210. Tenacious grey silt clay, occasional gravel.	Pot; CBM	
210	pit	1.4 x 1.4	0.4	Pit, near circular. Filled by 209.	-	
211	layer	-	0.22	Layer. Tenacious green grey clay silt with much gravel.	Tobacco pipe	
212	layer	-	0.4	Rubble layer. Compact greenish yellow brown sandy clay silt, with much orange brown gravel and some pitched stones.	-	
213	layer	-	>0.1	Fill Probable silting within ditch . Friable grey brown sandy silt, occasional gravel.	-	
214	layer		>0.6	Made ground. Teacious olive green to grey silty clay, occasional gravel.	Pot	
215	cut			Ditch cut. Filled by 206, 207 and 208		



Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
<p>Trench 3 formed an E-W transect running out from the base of the surviving 13th-century inner town wall. Unlike Trenches 1 and 2 no footings were found for an outer wall, but two successive ditch cuts were revealed. The earlier ditch cut (308) was close to the standing wall and dates perhaps to the late 16th century. This ditch cut an an earlier pit which containa single sherd of late Saxo-Norman pottery. The second ditch (314) cut the in-filled first ditch, and the pottery suggests that it dates to the 17th-century, and might be a continuation of the ditch revealed in Trenches 1 and 2. Levelling material was deposited over ditch fills in the late 18th century.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.44	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	6.8	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	cut	1.6 x 0.64 +	0.8	Pit, sub square. Filled by 304-306 and possibly by 307.	-	-
301	natural	-		Terrace gravel	-	
302	layer	-	0.2	Deposit. Mixed orange brown silty clay., with some gravel	-	
303	layer	-	0.3	Deposit. Mid grey brown clay silt with a little gravel	CBM	
304	fill	-	0.2	Fill of cut 300. Mid grey brown silty clay with very occasional gravel	-	
305	fill	-	0.2	Fill of cut 300. Very dark grey silty clay	-	
306	fill	-	0.3	Fill of cut 300. Mid greenish brown silt clay, with some gravel and charcoal leans, occasional fragments of limestone	Pot; CBM	
307	Fill?	-	0.3	Possible fill of 300 or possibly same as 320. Mid grey brown clay silt, with occasional gravel	-	
308	cut	4.6 +	1.4 +	Town ditch cut. Filled by 309-313, 322, 326 & 328.	-	
309	fill	-	0.36	Fill of ditch 308. Light grey green silt clay, occasional limestone fragments with some concentrations, and lens of gravel.	Pot; CBM	
310	fill	-	0.2	Fill of ditch 308. Light grey green clay.	-	
311	fill	-	0.2	Fill of ditch 308. Mid orange brown sand and gravel, with concentrations of limestone rubble.	CBM	



Trench 3						
312	fill	-	0.3	Fill of ditch 308. Mid grey brown silt clay with some gravel	Pot; CBM	
313	fill	-	0.2	Fill of ditch 308. Homogeneous mid to dark grey brown clay silt with some gravel.	Pot	
314	cut	3 +	1 +	Ditch recut. Filled by 315-319 & 329.	-	
315	fill		0.2	Fill of ditch recut 314. Compacted gravel rich silt.	-	
316	fill		0.04	Fill of ditch recut 314. Dark brown organic rich lens	-	
317	fill		0.65	Fill of ditch recut 314. Very dark grey organic rich silt clay.	Pot; CBM	
318	fill		0.2	Fill of ditch recut 314. Mixed mid grey brown silt clay and orange brown gravel with occasional limestone fragments	Pot; Fe & Cu; CBM	
319	fill		0.25	Fill of ditch recut 314. Homogeneous mid to dark grey brown clay silt with some gravel.	-	
320	layer		0.3	Deposit. Homogeneous mid olive green brown clay silt.	-	
321	layer		0.7	Deposit. Homogeneous mid grey brown clay silt with some gravel	Tobacco pipe; glass; Fe & Cu; CBM; stone	
322	fill		0.4	Fill of ditch 308. Mid grey green silt clay.	-	
323	wall			Inner town wall	-	
324	cut	2.4 x 08 +	0.3 +	Probable pit, oval. Filled by 325 & 330.	-	
325	fill			Fill of pit 324. Mid blue grey clay.	-	
326	fill		0.14	Fill of ditch 308. Mid grey green clay silt, some limestone rubble.	Pot; Fe; CBM	
327	layer		0.2	Possible buried soil. Mid grey brown clay silt with some gravel.	CBM	
328	fill		0.2 +	Fill of ditch 308. Limestone rubble in gravel rich matrix	CBM	
329	fill		0.14	Fill of ditch recut 314. Light grey sand.	-	
330	fill		0.25	Fill of pit 324. Mid orange or red brown silt clay and gravel, with some limestone concentrations.	Pot	
331	deposit			Oxford Clay (in boreholes)	-	

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 216 sherds of pottery weighing 8.650kg was recovered from 24 contexts from three trenches. Some medieval material is present but the bulk is of 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 an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg decoration etc).

Date and nature of the assemblage

- B.1.2 Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but with several quite large and fresh sherds present including a few complete vessel profiles amongst the later material. Ordinary domestic pottery types typical of Oxford sites 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) whereas the post-medieval pottery fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2015).
- B.1.3 The earliest piece in the assemblage is a fairly fresh body sherd from the wall of a cooking pot in St Neots-type ware (Fabric OXR, c 900-1100); this occurred on its own in Context (330). No CBM or later material came from this context. Sherds from a few 12th- or ?early 13th-century glazed pitchers and cooking pots in Medieval Oxford ware (OXY, c 1075-1300), some in surprisingly fresh condition, were also recovered, but these are probably residual in 13th-14th century contexts containing high medieval Brill/Boarstall ware jug sherds (OXAM, c 1225-1625). These include context (327) dated to c 1225-1300? and (312) dated c 1225-1400. Pottery dating to the 13-14th century (mainly OXAM) is fairly scarce and occurs as fairly small sherds - some of it in later contexts. Two small sherds probably from OXAM lobed cups in the Tudor Green ware style (c 1380-1500) occur residually in post-medieval contexts (306) and (321).
- B.1.4 Early post-medieval pottery (16th and 17th-century) is common and occurs in several contexts. Late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (OXBX, c 1400-1625+) is common in these along with some post-medieval red earthenware (PMR, 1580-1900) and a few other wares. At least a couple of drinking mugs in German Raeren stoneware (RAER, c 1475-1550) also occur - including a near-complete vessel in Context (317) which may have been fairly old by the time of discard. Sherds of German Frechen stoneware drinking jugs are fairly common (FREC, c 1550-1700), most of which probably date to the late 16th and first half of the 17th century. A few rare or unusual vessel forms occur in some of these contexts; these are more fully described in the illustration catalogue below. They include two very unusual jugs (from different contexts) in late Brill/Boarstall ware (OXBX) which appear to be direct copies of contemporary German stoneware jugs. The first of these is a yellow-glazed jug rim/body (Fig. 00.1) which appears to be a copy of a Raeren stoneware drinking mug. The second vessel, which is complete, is a very close copy of a Frechen stoneware drinking jug of c 1550-1600 (Fig. 00.2) with a glossy greenish-brown lead glaze rather than a stoneware salt-glaze. Although sherds from

similar Frechen copies have occasionally been identified from Oxford, this is the most complete example ever found. The two vessels show the adaptability and skill of the Brill/Boarstall potters in being able to respond to new fashions in ceramic tableware. Other rare items include a sherd from flower vase in South Netherlands maiolica (SNTG, c 1480-1575, Fig. 00.3). This is decorated in blue with a roundel on the front of the vessel containing religious subject matter - a cross above the 'YHS' abbreviation (meaning 'Jesus'). Flower vases were luxury items used for display only; they are known from several monastic Dissolution deposits across the country dating to the 1530-40s, but were also sometimes owned by well-to-do citizens. A few other examples are known from Oxford.

- B.1.5 Pottery of the 18th and particularly the 19th century is fairly abundant. A small group of c 1760-1800 from Context (121) produced several interesting tableware items including the base of a dish in developed Creamware (CREA DEV) with the inscription 'Mag. Coll' - for Magdalen College - painted on the underside in dark blue (Fig. 00.4). This would have been made for the college dining room. Similar vessels with other college names are known from several sites in Oxford - often quite far from the colleges they were made for. The same context also produced three vessels in Chinese porcelain including a sugarbowl with high-quality painted and gilded decoration dating to around c 1750-1775; also a creamware sauceboat, a vase in tin-glazed ware (TGW) and a probable chamberpot in Staffordshire white stoneware (SWSG). These vessels probably originate from a fairly well-to-do household. In contrast Context (204), of similar date, produced parts of four very large kitchenware crocks in post-medieval glazed red earthenware including storage jars and wide bowls probably used for food preparation or dairying. The highest number of sherds from a single context is 67 sherds (nearly 3kg) from Context (321). This produced a range of common tablewares dating to c 1830-1860 including dishes, bowls, jugs, cups and a tureen lid in Staffordshire-type transfer-printed whitewares (TPW), mainly with blue 'Willow Pattern' decoration.

Recommendations

- B.1.6 The assemblage contains a range of late Saxon-Norman to 19th-century pieces including some interesting or rare post-medieval items. Four pieces have been photographed for inclusion in the present client report. These include the two local copies of imported German stoneware jugs. These should be illustrated by line drawing at some point for publication as a note in the journal *Oxoniensia*. Other than this no further work is recommended.

Illustration catalogue

Fig. 00.1: Late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (OXBX). Rim from a jug copying imported German Raeren stoneware drinking mugs of c 1475-1550. The plain upright rim (diam 80mm) and shoulder cordon are typical of this form, originally it probably had a flrilled base. Fine cream fabric with an allover yellow glaze int and ext. Context (326). Context date c 1500-1550/75.

Fig. 00.2: Late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (OXBX). Complete small jug copying imported German Frechen/Cologne stoneware 'globe and shaft' drinking jug of c 1550-1650. Cylindrical neck with groove under rim externally, flat pad base and narrow strap handle, characteristic cordon or groove at neck/shoulder junction. Fine orange fabric with allover external glossy reduced greenish-brown glaze; some large unglazed patches on base. Glazed inside neck and on base floor. Underside unglazed. The fabric and glaze are similar to Brill/Boarstall ware 'Cistercian-type' cups (CSTN) and also to early post-medieval red earthenwares (PMR), also produced there. Probably discarded complete (but damaged during excavation). Otherwise in very fresh condition. Height 113mm, rim diam 51mm, base diam 65mm. Context (317). Context date c 1550-1600.

Fig. 00.3: South Netherlands maiolica flower vase (SNTG, c 1480-1575). Body sherd from front of small vase. Fine cream fabric with white tin glaze allover. Painted decoration in blue tones showing top part of religious medallion - probably inscribed with the 'YHS' trigram (from the Latin for 'Jesus') with the 'h' extended upward to form a cross. Only the cross and a trace of the inscription survive here. Originally it probably had a pair of looped ring-shaped handles on the neck. Several slightly different styles of the popular 'YHS' trigram are known from sites in England, of which the closest parallels to the one here are published by John Hurst (Hurst 1999, pl.1-2). Perhaps a couple of dozen sherds from flower vases in this ware are known from Oxford sites including two with variants of this inscription (*ibid.*, fig. 4.2. nos. 3-4). Context (306). Context date c 1500-1550/75.

Fig. 00.4: Developed Creamware (CREA DEV, c 1760-1830). Large sherd from the flat base of a dish/plate. The underside with the inscription 'Mag. Coll' (Magdalen College) in underglaze dark blue hand-painted letters. A group of Creamware dishes and jugs with painted inscriptions, including college names, is known from pit at Church Street, Oxford (Mellor and Oakley 1984, pl. 4). Context (121). Context date c 1760-1800.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
108	c1760-1830	4	51	Rims from 2 dishes in Developed Creamware (CREA DEV) incl 1 dish with brown border - typical of college tablewares (like the Pearlware dishes from Worcester College)
109	c1760-1800	9	120	4x CREA DEV incl fresh rims from 3 vessels in mid/late 18C more buttery fabric incl dish with scalloped rim with feathered or fern-like moulded dec at border & jar rim with rouletted bead dec. 1x dish base Chinese porcelain (CHPO). 3x Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) incl crimped dish rim with moulded barley seed dec; rim from small teapot, handle. 1x late tin-glazed ware (TGW) cylindrical drug jar with blue-tint glaze & horiz blue banding ext
111	c1720-1780	1	3	Bodysherd (bo) SWSG
112	c1580-1650	3	159	1x fresh bo jar/jug in early-style post-med red earthenware (PMR) or just possibly late Brill/Boarstall ware (OXB), v hard-fired reddish fabric with glossy greenish-brown glaze int. 1x pad base Frechen stoneware (FREC) jug c1550-1630. 1x fresh Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) jug rim with splash green glaze, probably 15/16C?
113	c1580-1650	2	57	1x fresh ?bowl/dish base early-style PMR, thin-walled with int brown glz. 1x Frechen stoneware (FREC) jug handle
114	c1400-1625	1	54	OXAM (or OXB) jug with plain flat base, specks green glz. Fairly fresh
117	c1225-1400	1	23	OXAM worn bo from strip jug with traces of 2 vertical strips & red band on neck under mottled green glz. Poss 14C?
121	c1760-1800	17	577	10x CREA DEV Creamware sherds with buttery 18C fabric: mainly dishes with plain crimped rims, also a pedestal vase/jug base, a small conical dish with footring base & the rim and handle from a sauceboat c 1770 with sprigged/moulded dec at upper handle junction & feather/fern-like moulded dec on rim. Large sherd from flat CREA DEV dish base floor with hand-painted blue inscription underside 'Mag. Coll' (Magdalen College) (Fig. 17, no. 4). 1x large/fresh SWSG bead rim from ?chamberpot. 3x Chinese porcelain (CHPO) = 3 vessels: incl famille rose-style 'sugarbowl' or large teabowl c1750-75 with footring base & high quality enamelled painted dec in orange-pink, brown, grey, red and gold gilding - Rococo-shaped zones of dec incl bird in bush & possibly traces of human figures, some enamelling possibly done in Europe? 2nd vessel = footring base with simpler blue dec incl small floral motif on



Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
				centre floor int. 3rd vess = thicker-walled deep dish/bowl with late-style dark blue dec int/ext. 1x TGW blue tint flaring vase rim with 2
204	c1700-1800	13	1881	All PMR. Min 4 vessels in similar thick-walled bright orange fabric with int orange-brown glazes. Probably post-med Brill fabric. Incls 2x fresh heavily beaded rims from 2 storage jars. 1x v worn wide conical bowl with heavy beaded rim (diam c440m). 3 rim frags & several bos from v large thick-walled bowl/pancheon with curving wall & heavy triangular/squared rim with deeply thumbbed horizontal strip ext under rim & with large ledge/lug handle attached to rim with 2 deep securing thumbbed pads either side; on top of rim is unusual incised lattice decoration; under the arch of the rim a horiz row of curving strokes which probably mark-out position for handle attachment. Rim diam c460mm, poss a large food-preparation bowl or dairying bowl? Date of all may be c1750-1800?
206	c1630-1700	6	187	1x FREC flat jug base prob c 1630/40+ (prob Bellarmine). 3x PMR incl 2 joining bos poss from jug with dark greenish-brown glz ext over band of horiz grooved dec. 1 other pale PMR dish/bowl sherd. 2x large fresh bos from a single large jug in late Brill OXBX with band of horiz combed dec at max girth & poss same on shoulder, patchy & speckly ext green glaze, large patch/splash green glz towards base & fine vertical glz dribbles/trails - could be 15/16C?
207	c1580-1650	7	501	6x early PMR (or OXBX/PMR) from 3 vessels incl sherd from large deep bowl/jars with int greenish-brown glaze; also bo from thinner-walled jug with horiz grooved/combed dec & dark greenish brown glz allover ext - v probably JOINS (206). 1x fresh bo from lower wall of FREC jug with trace of moulded base
209	c1225-1625	1	8	Worn bo OXAM jug with allover ext greenish/yellow glz, date indeterminate
214	c1400-1625?	1	9	Worn sagging jar/bowl base probably OXBX, v hard with glossy yellow glz int, otherwise OXAM?
306	c1500-1550/75	5	236	Fresh sherds from 5 separate vessels. 1x bo (13g) from the front of a South Netherlands maiolica flower vase (SNTG, c1480-1575) (Fig. 17, no. 3) with painted dec in blue tones showing top part of religious medallion with a cross with 4 curved strokes or scrolls in each angle, traces of dec lower down - possibly top of inscription - probably the 'IHS' trigram (Hurst 1999, pl.1-2, also from Oxford = fig.4.2.3-4). 3x large fresh unglz cream-coloured OXBX incl typical late bowl with horiz flanged rim (di 290mm), bos from large jar/jug with 2 thumbbed pits either side of handle attachment, bo from another jar/jug. 1x small bo prob from a green-glazed OXAM Tudor Green-style lobed cup (c1380-1500)
309	c1480-1550/75	7	123	All Brill products. Prob 7 separate vess, 1x large v fresh bo (63g) from body/neck of over-fired OXBX (or OXAP = near-stoneware) drinking jug with largely unglazed grey near-stoneware fabric - prob pear-shaped body with spaced horiz grooved dec on shoulder/neck, patch of metallic purple-brown glaze higher up. 1x smallish bo probably from a small Cistercian-style cup/mug with dark greenish-brown glz allover int/ext. 3x bos plain glazed OXAM/OXBX & worn unglz handle from OXAM jug with classic oblique slashed dec. 1x small bo early Brill ware (OXAW) cook pot with int greenish glz
312	c1225-1400	4	51	1x small fresh bo (2g) from OXAM strip jug with traces of red strip with square rouletting under green glz. Other sherds worn: 1x bo yellow-glazed Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) pitcher (c1075-1250) with combed wavy dec; 1x bo Olney Hyde-type shelly ware (OXCG, oxidised); 1x bo from ?OXY greyware bowl wall v



Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
				unusually with a horiz row of thumb pits on shoulder, trace everted/flattened rim, sooted ext.
313	c1400-1625?	3	87	Probably late med but not closely datable (range c1250-1625). All OXAM incl worn flattish base sherd & lower wall from large thick-walled jar or possibly dish/bowl with an allover int yellow glaze - late med-looking (15/16C?). 2x small OXAM jug bos incl strip jug with white strip under yellow-green glz
317	c1550-1600	10	740	See also record below. Large fresh sherds incl 2 vessel profiles. 1x FREC bo from smallish G&S drinking jug. 2x joining sherds (fresh breaks) = profile Raeren stoneware mug (RAER, c1475-1550) with frilled base & complete handle, rim shows use-wear & shoulder has ancient blow-out (accidental) perforation - so vessel would have leaked. 5x late Brill OXBX vessels incl record below. OXBX incl 3 joining sherds from chafing dish incl flat damaged pedestal/discoid base (diam c95mm) with hollow void inside & with single small perforation through centre of bowl base - conical bowl with sulphurous yellow glaze allover int & probably evidence of scorching from use, handle scar low down on vess wall (see Mellor 1994, fig.75.7 for similar form in 16C Combe ware). OXBX conical bowl wall sherd with flat base & int yellow glz. Unglz OXBX jar/jug bo; green-glazed thick-walled jug bo with ext grooved shoulder. 1x worn handle stub from OXAM strip jug with red strip & green glaze & slashed handle.
317	c1550-1600	5	234	5 joining sherds (fresh breaks) from complete small late Brill (OXBX) drinking jug - probably found complete. 1 main profile sherd & 1 main detached shoulder sherd & smaller scraps. Rim also with fairly large chip missing - partly ancient? Jug is an almost exact copy of a small Frechen stoneware Globe & Shaft jug with cylindrical neck with groove under rim ext, flat pad base, complete narrow strap handle, cordon or groove at neck/shoulder junction. Fine orange fabric (borderline PMR) with allover ext glossy reduced greenish-brown glaze - apart from large unglazed patches on base & unglazed underside; glazed inside neck & on base int. Height 113mm, rim diam 51mm (c75% complete), base diam 65mm (100%, faint concentric wire-marks underside). Fabric & glaze similar to Brill Cistercian-type cups (CSTN). Probably the most complete example of this form/type found in Oxford. (Fig. 17, no. 2)
318	c1550-1630	19	340	16 sherds from 3 FREC G&S drinking jugs incl 2 rims & 1 handle; sherds mostly from 1 jug with moulded base (fresh/modern breaks), 1 of the rims is ribbed ext by deep horiz spaced grooves. 2x bos late OXBX incl bowl wall with int yellow glaze lower down. 1x worn bo late med OXAM green-glz jug
321	c1830-1860	67	2755	51x blue transfer-printed whiteware (TPW) mostly Willow Pattern dec incl large sub-rectangular carving dishes, smaller sub-rectang dishes, circular dishes, side-plates, few saucers & joining sherds from a complete tureen lid square in form, domed with horn- or shell-like hooked knob, 1 or 2 small jar forms & tankard rim. TPW sugarbowl & jug base with European dec incl dog rose; 1 Euro' saucer base with part of lozenge printed pattern mark under 'KE[-]/No.4', some dishes with a late pearly blue-tint glaze. 3 sherds from 1 bone china (BONE) teacup. 1x bo CREA DEV. 1x rim refined 19C whiteware (REFW) ointment pot - chalice-shaped (like TGW forms). 4x PMR incl profile large late storage jar with bead rim (diam 260mm) and allover int & ext reduced greenish-brown glaze; also incl 1 flowerpot bo. 2x FREC incl jug bo & rim



Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
				from M/L17C Bellarmine with top of human mask. 1x handle 18C Staffs slipware mug/cup (STSL). 3x OXAM incl jug rod handle & poss lobed cup?
326	c1500-1550/75	15	184	3x joining sherds (23g) from yellow-glazed late Brill OXBX jug incl plain upright rim (diam 80mm), neck cordon & globular shoulder - almost certainly local copy of a Raeren stoneware drinking mug (c1475-1550). Yellow glaze allover int & ext, (Fig. 17, no. 1). 10x mostly scrappy small sherds OXBX incl larger sherd from base of tripod pipkin with sag base & stub of tripod foot with 3 vertical furrows ext & splash of greenish glz int on floor; sag base from bowl/dish. 2x worn residual East Wilts/Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ c1150-1350) inc inturned bowl rim & thickened flat-top cookpot rim
327	c1225-1300?	8	174	2x bos OXAM jugs (prob within c1225-1400 at widest): 1 unglazed & worn; the other prob from lower jug wall with specks of green glaze. 5x OXY (c1075-1300) = surprisingly fresh incl sag base & neck bo from 2 yellow glazed pitchers & 3x cooking pot sherds incl large fresh bead rim & shoulder from a second cpot. 1x worn bo OXAQ
328	c1450-1550?	6	82	1x prob OXBX small bo prob from bowl with allover int glossy sulphurous yellow glaze. Rest = fairly fresh OXAM poss late med undec forms incl green-glazed & unglazed jug bos & flat jug base & thickened flat-topped rim from unusual neckless jar form (diam c 200mm) with splash of green glaze ext
330	c900-1100	1	14	Bodysherd from lower wall of small jar in St Neots-type ware (OXR/NEOT). Grey with heavy ext sooting. Fairly fresh
TOTAL		216	8650	

B.2 Assessment of the clay tobacco pipes

By John Cotter

- B.2.1 The excavation produced a small collection of 18 pieces of clay pipe weighing 169g from three contexts. These have been catalogued and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. 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. Pipe bowls have been dated by reference to the local Oxford typology (Oswald 1984) or by reference to the London typology (Atkinson and Oswald 1969).
- B.2.2 The assemblage is very fragmentary but includes five complete pipe bowls out of a total of eight. Most of the bowls and stem fragments are of 17th-century date but are mostly residual in later contexts. A complete bowl of c 1610-1640 occurs in its own in Context (211), which has no pottery. The bowl is of some interest: it has a small circular heel - typical of pipes of this date - but the heel appears to have once had a maker's mark, but this seems to have been removed with a rough knife stroke before firing - whether by accident or design. A few fragments of 18th- and 19th-century pipes are represented by a single bowl fragment and some stems. In view of the small size and condition of the assemblage no further work is recommended.



Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Total sherds	Total Wt	Comments
109	L18-19C	3	3		6	44	2x slender L18/19C stems with stem bore (SB) diams 2mm & 1.9mm. 1x bowl back profile & stem stub, broadly 18C, prob AO25/26. 1x complete bowl with broad circular heel probably AO13 c1660-80. 1x complete smaller bowl Oxford Type A c1630-55, latter fairly matt/unburnished & with smallish asymmetric circular heel. 1x 17C stem
211	c1610-1640		1		1	9	Small fresh complete bowl AO4/5 c1610-40. Milled rim. Unburnished. SB c3mm. Small circular heel which looks like it may have had a maker's mark (possible traces of circular border survive) but this has been removed with a rough knife stroke
321	L18-19C	7	4		11	116	1x fresh slender L18/19C stem with stem bore 1.9mm. All the rest are probably 17C & possibly some L17/E18C - all fairly worn but fairly large pieces incl 6x chunky early stems. 3x bowls Oxford Type B c1650-90 incl 1 complete bowl (chipped rim), thick-walled with token trace of milling on back of bowl & none elsewhere, large conical stubby spur set back on the stem, probably c1680-1720? 1x complete bowl Ox Type A c1630-55 with broad circular heel & matt finish on yellowish fabric
TOTAL		10	8		18	169	

B.3 Assessment of the ceramic building material (CBM)

By John Cotter

- B.3.1 A total of 38 pieces of CBM weighing 2.864kg were recovered from 17 contexts. This was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage in a similar way to the pottery (see elsewhere) and the data recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. As usual, the dating of broken fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad. The assemblage, which is mostly very fragmentary and worn, is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and summarised only briefly here as there is little of note. The assemblage dates from the 13th or 14th century to the 17th century. Nothing definitely later than this was noted.
- B.3.2 As is usual in Oxford, fragments of plain flat roofing tile (peg tile) predominate, some with circular nail holes. Quite a few pieces in 13th-14th century fabrics were identified, but most roof tile occurs in the coarse sandy 'St Giles' type fabric typical of the 15th to the 17th century. A few pieces are in a smoother red fabric typical of the later 16th century onwards. Aside from flat roof tile a few pieces of curved ridge tile were also identified. Context (318) produced a single scrap of soft early red brick, probably of 16th-17th century date, and a single piece of glazed Flemish-style floor tile or 'quarry' tile of similar date. No further work is recommended.



Context	Pot Spot-date	CBM Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
109	c1760-1800	16-17C?	1	57	Worn pegtile edge frag in fairly smooth light orange early post-med fabric - poss related to St Giles fabric?
111	c1720-1780	16-17C?	2	155	Fresh joining frags from corner of thick pegtile with circular nailhole, in fairly smooth/fine red sandy early post-med fabric - poss related to PMR pot fabric?
113	c1580-1650	16-17C?	1	59	Fresh red pegtile frag in dense fairly smooth red early post-med fabric
206	c1630-1700	15-17C	2	106	Joining frags from corner of crudely made pegtile in red sandy St Giles-related fabric
207	c1580-1650	16-17C?	1	97	Bevelled edge frag from thick ridge tile in fairly smooth red St Giles-related fabric, probably early post-med
209	c1225-1625	13-14C	1	100	Glazed pegtile or ridge tile corner in medieval Fabric 3B, fairly worn
303	n/a	15-17C	2	200	Worn red pegtile frags in St Giles fabric
306	c1500-1550/75	15-17C	3	163	Fresh smaller pegtile frag in light orange St Giles-type fabric. 2 worn pegtile frags in 13-14C F3B
309	c1480-1550/75	15-17C	4	239	All worn pegtile frags. 3 in red St Giles-type fabric incl 1 smoother poss 16/17C? 1 frag cream F7A tile with circular nailhole
311	n/a	15-17C?	3	326	1x fresher reduced pegtile frag probably in coarse St Giles fabric. 2x worn frags in med F3B & F7BB
312	c1225-1400	13-16C?	2	145	1x thick red sandy worn peg or ridge frag, not v diagnostic - could be med or early post-med. Has some St Giles characteristics. 1x worn frag 13-14C cream-coloured F7A pegtile
317	c1550-1600	15-17C	3	323	1x curved unglazed ridge tile frag in red St Giles fabric, pegtile in same. 1 glazed med pegtile frag
318	c1550-1630	L15-17C	4	318	1x early red brick frag. 2x late med/early pmed red pegtile frags. 1x edge frag Flemish-style quarry tile with allover white slip under clear glaze on red fabric
321	c1830-1860	16-17C?	1	98	Edge frag v hard-fired red sandy pegtile - fabric related to St Giles fabric but not so many inclusions
326	c1500-1550/75	15-17C	6	222	5x worn pegtile frags incl 3 in St Giles-type fabric. 2 med in cream Fabric 7A. 1x worn med ridge tile edge, curved, in F3B
327	c1225-1300?	13-14C	1	44	Worn edge frag cream F7A pegtile poss with traces of decayed glaze
328	c1450-1550?	13-14C	1	212	Worn pegtile edge frag in medieval-type F3B
TOTAL			38	2864	



B.4 Glass

By Ian R Scott

- B.4.1 There are 31 pieces of glass, including five glass marbles, a possible glass counter, and 25 pieces of vessel glass. Much of the vessel glass comprises pieces from stemmed and other drinking glasses and comes from context 321. The stemmed glasses date to the latter half of the 18th century or the early 19th century. However the same context has produced mass-produced marbles of 20th-century date.

Catalogue

Context 121

- (1) **Pharmaceutical phial.** Small free blown cylindrical bottle in colourless glass. It has a small kick or pushup, a short vertical neck and out-turned horizontal fire polished rim. Ht: 118mm; D: 31mm. Cylindrical phial of mid to late 18th-century date.
- (2) **Wine bottle.** Base of a cylindrical wine bottle with markedly bulged heel and domed pushup. Probably made in a dip mould. Dark green glass. D: 97mm. Mid 18th- to early 19th-century date.

Context 204

- (3) **Wine bottle.** Two refitting sherds from the base of a thick-walled 'globe and shaft' bottle. Green glass. D: at least 130mm. Dates to the second half of the 17th century

Context 206

- (4) **Wine bottle.** Sherd from the base of a cylindrical wine bottle probably made in a dip mould. Has bulged heel. Not measured. Mid 18th- to early 19th-century date.

Context 321

- (5) **Stemmed glass.** 14 sherds, some refitting. The stem and trumpet shaped bowl are made as one and are facet cut except for the rim and a small ball knob part way down the stem. There are six facets. The stem widens near the foot then cuts into a step to join the foot. The foot is a plain cone. Colourless. Ht: at least 140mm. rim D: c 60mm; foot D: 61mm. Mid to late 18th-century, possibly early 19th-century
- (6) **Stemmed glass.** 10 sherds, some refitting. Round funnel bowl with cut facets with collar and plain stem, and a step to the plain cone foot. Colourless. Ht: at least 120mm; rim D: c 60mm; foot D: 56mm x 58mm. Mid to late 18th-century, possibly early 19th-century
- (7) **Tumbler.** Two sherds, no refit. Tumbler with near vertical sides plain in the upper part but faceted in the lower body. Has fire polished rim, though very little rim survives. Extant Ht: at least 80mm, could be much more. Colourless. D: c 70mm (est) Probably late 18th-century or early 19th-century
- (8-12) **Glass marbles** with coloured 'cat-eyes' The marbles are made of blue green glass with , blue, paleblue, green and yellow cats eyes. D: 17mm. These are mass produced marbles and can date no earlier than post World War One.
- (13) **Counter?** in scarlet glass, oval in shape with flat bottom and low domed top.. 21mm x 18mm; Ht. 8mm.



B.5 Metal finds

By Ian R Scott

- B.5.1 There are 10 metal finds from six contexts. The finds are all probably late medieval or post medieval. None of the finds need date later than the 17th century. The curb bit (no.3) could date as early as the late 15th century, or as late as the 18th century, but is from a context that contained late 16th-century pottery and may well be contemporary. The spur (6) which comes from the same context as the copper alloy buckle frame (No. 7), may date as early as the 14th century, but could date as late as the 18th century. However both the buckle frame and spur are residual, since the pottery from context 321 is of mid 19th-century date, the vessel glass is of later 18th-century date and there are modern mass produced marbles.

Catalogue

Context 101

- (1) **Wire**, copper alloy with gilding. Fragment of thin copper wire with gilded surfaces. Not measured. SF 1

Context 114

- (2) **Bar**, curved. Fe. Encrusted with corrosion products. L: 84mm.

Context 317

- (3) **Curb bit**. Fe. Comprises the S-shaped lower portions of each side bar. They are linked at the lower end by a solid bar attached to two small swivels. There are also rings attached to the swivels for attaching the curb rein. Part of a D loop survives at the top of one side bar. The mouth bar of the bridle would have been attached to straight side of the D and the snaffle rein to outer curved side. The D ring is completely lost on the second side bar. The upper parts of both side bars are lost. L extant: 145mm; W: c 130mm.
The bit is a form that was current from the late 15th century to the 18th century. It is plain, whereas many surviving examples are highly decorative high status pieces. The most unusual feature is the rigid bar linking the lower ends of the side bars. It is more usual to find a chain or a jointed bar.

Context 318

- (4) **Strainer**. Semi circular very slightly dished fragment of a strainer with holes rather crudely punched. Cu alloy. D: c 150mm.
- (5) **Nail**, with tapering square section stem and almost flat sub-rectangular head. Hand forged, complete. Fe. L: 94.
Dates to the second half of the 17th century

Context 318

- (6) **Spur**. Encrusted with corrosion, but the overall form is clear. Possibly a rowel spur. Sides have D-cross-section and are curved down and in small figure of eight loops, to one of which a strap attachment is still fixed. The neck for the rowel or prick is also curved down. Fe. L: 140mm; 90mm.
The form suggest that this probably dates as early as the 14th century, but it could date as late as the 18th century, depending on the precise form of the rowel or prick, and the thickness of the sides and neck. These critical details are obscured by heavy corrosion.
- (7) **Buckle frame**. Cast plain buckle. Cu alloy. L: 31mm; W: 33mm.
Buckles of this form are generally dated to the 14th century.
- (8) **Nail**, with tapered stem and sub-rectangular head, encrusted bu complete. Hand forged. Fe.



L: 62mm.

(9) **Nail**, encrusted. Probably hand forged. Possibly complete. L: 73mm.

Context 326

(10) **Nail**, tapered stem, but possibly incomplete. It is encrusted with corrosion. Probably hand forged. L extant: 46mm

B.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Description

- B.6.1 Two pieces of worked stone were recovered from the site. The larger of these (113, 231g) is a fragment from the upper end of a roof-slab. It retains a wide circular perforation of 13mm. A second much smaller fragment (321, 12g) may also have been used as roofing, but is too small for identification to be certain. Both are of a grey sandy limestone typical of Oxford in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- B.6.2 A further large block was kept as a sample (105). It is a very shelly yellow oolitic limestone known as Forest Marble. This stone was in common use in Oxford, including for architectural elements such as the portico columns of Canterbury Quad in St. John's College, Oxford dated to 1636 (Horsfield 2011, 6). The stone was quarried to the north and east of Oxford in the Wychwood Forest area and around Filkins and North Leigh.
- B.6.3 It is possible that it was in use considerably earlier, as evidenced by a complete Forest Marble roofstone from excavations carried out at Pembroke College, which was recovered from a 13th century pre-college pit (Ruth Shaffrey pers. comm.).

B.7 Leather

by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
113	1 shoe insole with stitch holes, 225mm x 38mm x 3mm, with offset squared toe, 76g
317	1 fragment of shoe sole (heel section) with stitch holes 60mm x 28mm, and 2 fragments of counter with stitch holes, 110mm x 15mm - all from single shoe. 1 piece leather 48mm x 24mm x 5 mm. 46g.

Discussion and recommendations

- B.7.1 The leather from the evaluation should be integrated into any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

B.8 Animal bones

Lena Strid

- B.8.1 A total of 79 hand-collected animal bone fragments were recovered from this site. The majority of the assemblage came from features preliminarily dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period (Table 1).
- B.8.2 The bone condition was generally good to fair. A small number of bones in the late medieval/early post-medieval assemblage had traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs. Burnt bones were entirely absent (Table 2).



- B.8.3 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, horse, dog and cod. Due to the small sample size it is not possible to extrapolate on the frequency of livestock and their contribution to the economy and diet.
- B.8.4 A small number of bones could be attributed to minimum age at death (Table 3-4). A further four cattle bones had a surface structure typical of young calves. An abundance of calf mandibles in comparison to those of adult cattle has been observed at other late medieval/early post-medieval sites in Oxford, as well as in Exeter, Lincoln and Northampton (Wilson et al. 1989, 261-262), and may be connected to an increased dairy production. However, most cattle and sheep would have been kept for a variety of products and slaughtered either as adults past their prime as breeding animals, milch cows, wool producers or draught oxen, or as sub-adults raised for meat.
- B.8.5 Sexing data was only available for cattle (1 male, 2 female) and sheep/goat (2 castrates, 1 female?) pelvises. Measurements were likewise few, but have been summarized in Table 5, in order to facilitate future research. A withers' height of 51.9cm could be calculated on a dog tibia.
- B.8.6 Butchery marks were noted on seven cattle bones and six sheep/goat bones from the late medieval/early post-medieval assemblage. The butchery marks primarily indicate disarticulation and portioning of limb bones including pelvis and scapula. Cut marks from filleting occur on two cattle bones and one sheep/goat bone. Three large mammal vertebrae and one large mammal sacrum were split axially, indicating division of the carcass into two halves. Further portioning of the carcass were noted on several ribs and vertebrae from both large and medium mammals. A single large mammal bone from the 19th century assemblage had been sawn off at both ends.
- B.8.7 Bones with pathologies include one fractured large mammal rib and one sheep/goat radius with exostoses laterally at its proximal end, both from the late medieval/early post-medieval assemblage.
- B.8.8 No further information can be gained from such small sample of bones. However, if further excavations take place on the site, the bones should be included in the full excavation report.

	10-12 th C	13-14 th C	Late medieval/early post-medieval	19 th C
Cattle	1		19	
Sheep/goat			13	2
Horse			1	
Dog			1	
Cod			1	
Medium mammal			8	1
Large mammal		1	25	1
Indeterminate			5	
TOTAL	1	1	73	4
Weight (g)	40	3	3145	49

Table 1. Bone assemblage from the Longwall Street, Oxford (OXLWS15) evaluation.



	N	0	1	2	3	4	5	Gnawed
10-12 th C	1					100.0%		
13-14 th C	1				100.0%			
Late medieval/early post-medieval	73	41.0%	57.0%	32.9%	1.4%			7
19 th C	4		75.0%	25.0%				

Table 2. Bone preservation and number of bones with traces of gnawing.

Species	Phase	dp4	M1	M2	M3	MWS	Estimated age
Cattle	Late medieval/early post-medieval	f	V			2	1-8 months
		f	V			2	1-8 months
		f				4-12	1-18 months

Table 3. Tooth wear and estimated age of cattle, following Grant (1982) and Halstead (1985).

Late medieval/early post-medieval		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Cattle	Early fusion			2
	Mid fusion	1		1
	Late fusion			1
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			4
	Mid fusion			1
	Late fusion		1	3
Horse	Early fusion			
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			1
19 th C		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			
	Mid fusion			2
	Late fusion			

Table 4. Epiphyseal fusion of cattle, sheep/goat and horse, following Habermehl (1975). Fusion stages follows Serjeantson (1996).

Phase	Species	Element	GL	Bp	Bd	SD
Late medieval/early post-medieval	Sheep/goat	Radius	138.0		27.5	
		Tibia			24.3	
	Dog	Tibia	174.5	29.8	20.0	12.1
19 th C	Sheep/goat	Tibia			26.0	



					32.3	
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Table 5. Measured bones of sheep/goat and dog from the Longwall Street assemblage.



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APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: New College, Longwall Street Archaeological Evaluation
Site code: OXLWS 15
Grid reference: NGR SP 5200 0640
Type: Evaluation

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to conduct an archaeological trench evaluation at 8-14 Longwall Street, Bodicote House and the Sacher Building, which are adjoining properties along the west side of Longwall Street, within the precincts of New College, Oxford. The project was designed to inform two separate development proposals, comprising an extension to the Grade 2 listed Sacher Building, and renovation and remodelling of a row of Grade 2 listed buildings at 8-14 Longwall Street, including rebuilding of the unlisted Bodicote House.

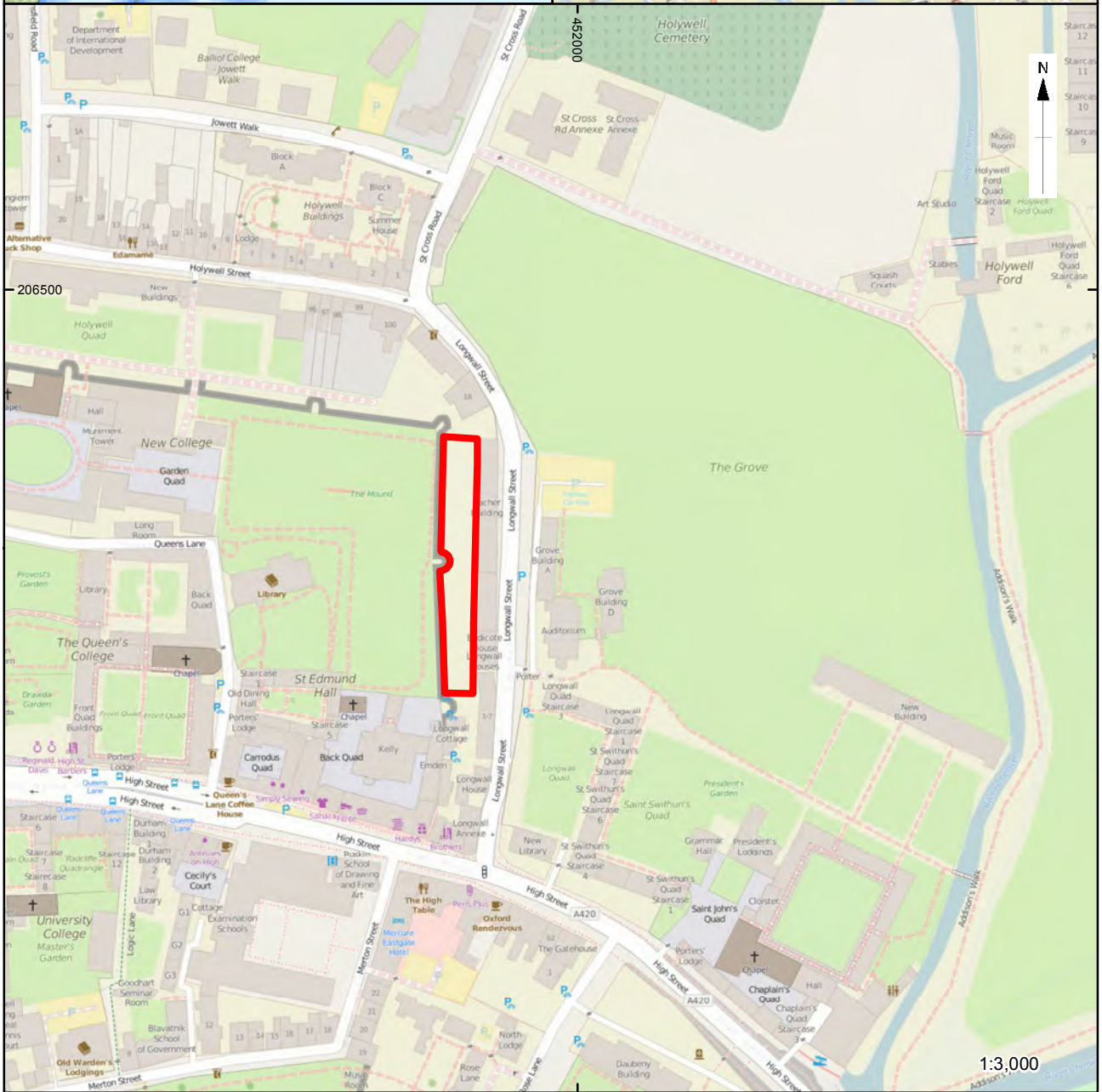
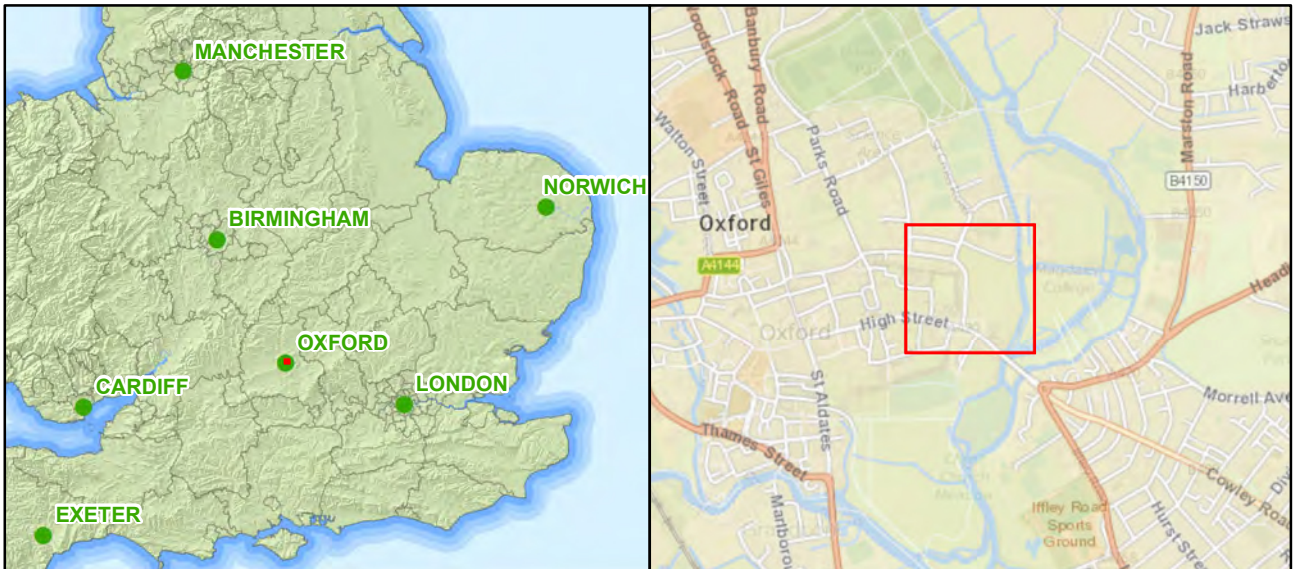
A well-preserved section of Oxford's medieval inner city wall forms the western boundary of the site. The evaluation was particularly designed to investigate the line of the medieval city defences. Three trenches were all aligned perpendicular to the inner city wall and were cut to a depth of 2.0 – 3.5m below ground level. This was not sufficient to investigate the full depth of the city ditch sequence, but any deposits at greater depth are likely to be preserved in situ.

No recognisable structural traces of the Late Saxon burh defences were identified in any of the trenches. The burh defences are thought to underlie the medieval city walls in this section. The earliest evidence recovered is a single Late Saxon sherd of St Neot's ware (c AD900-1100), which was found in an elongated pit or short gully in Trench 3, which butted up against the base of the inner city wall. The pit appears to be functionally related to the inner city wall, and potentially contemporary with its construction. It is interpreted as either a drain, or a scaffolding support. The Late Saxon sherd was the only pottery recovered from the pit, but is thought to have been redeposited in a medieval context.

The trenching was largely successful in establishing the approximate extent and survival of the outer city wall and the western edge of the city ditch within the proposed development site. This is the first time that the outer city wall has been identified on the north-eastern side of medieval Oxford. The evidence from Trenches 1 and 2 showed that the inner face of the 0.96m thick outer masonry wall was located 7.7 – 7.8m from the outer face of the inner city wall. Several courses of stonework survived in Trenches 1 and 2. The date range of the associated artefacts is generally consistent with the suggested late 13th century date for the outer wall, but the scarcity of medieval artefacts from secure contexts means that the evaluation has not added significantly to the chronology of the defences. One late medieval sherd, found in the infill behind the outer city wall in Trench 2, is later than expected, but as a single sherd it could have been worked into the deposit during repair work or masonry robbing.

In Trench 3 the last vestiges of the masonry wall footing appear to have been removed by a 17th century recut of the city ditch, the western edge of which was recorded in all three trenches. The most likely historical context for this recut is the refurbishment of Oxford's defences in the 1640s, during the Civil War, although no ditch is shown on De Gomme's contemporary plan of the defences, dated 1644.

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



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Figure 1: Site location

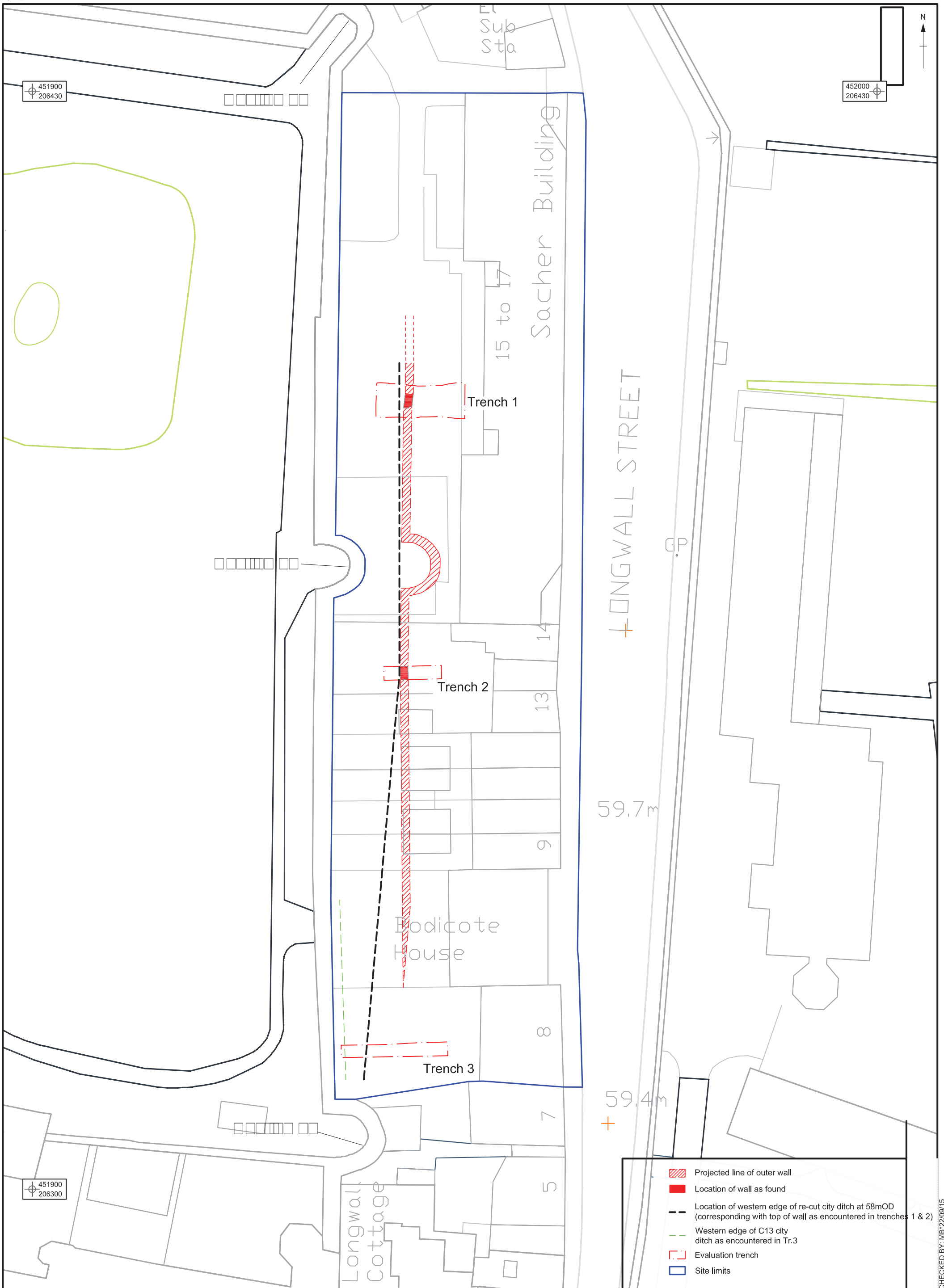


Figure 2: Trench location plan



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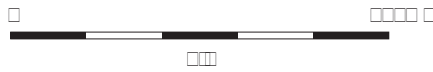
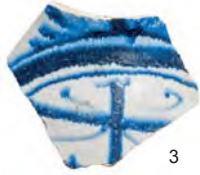
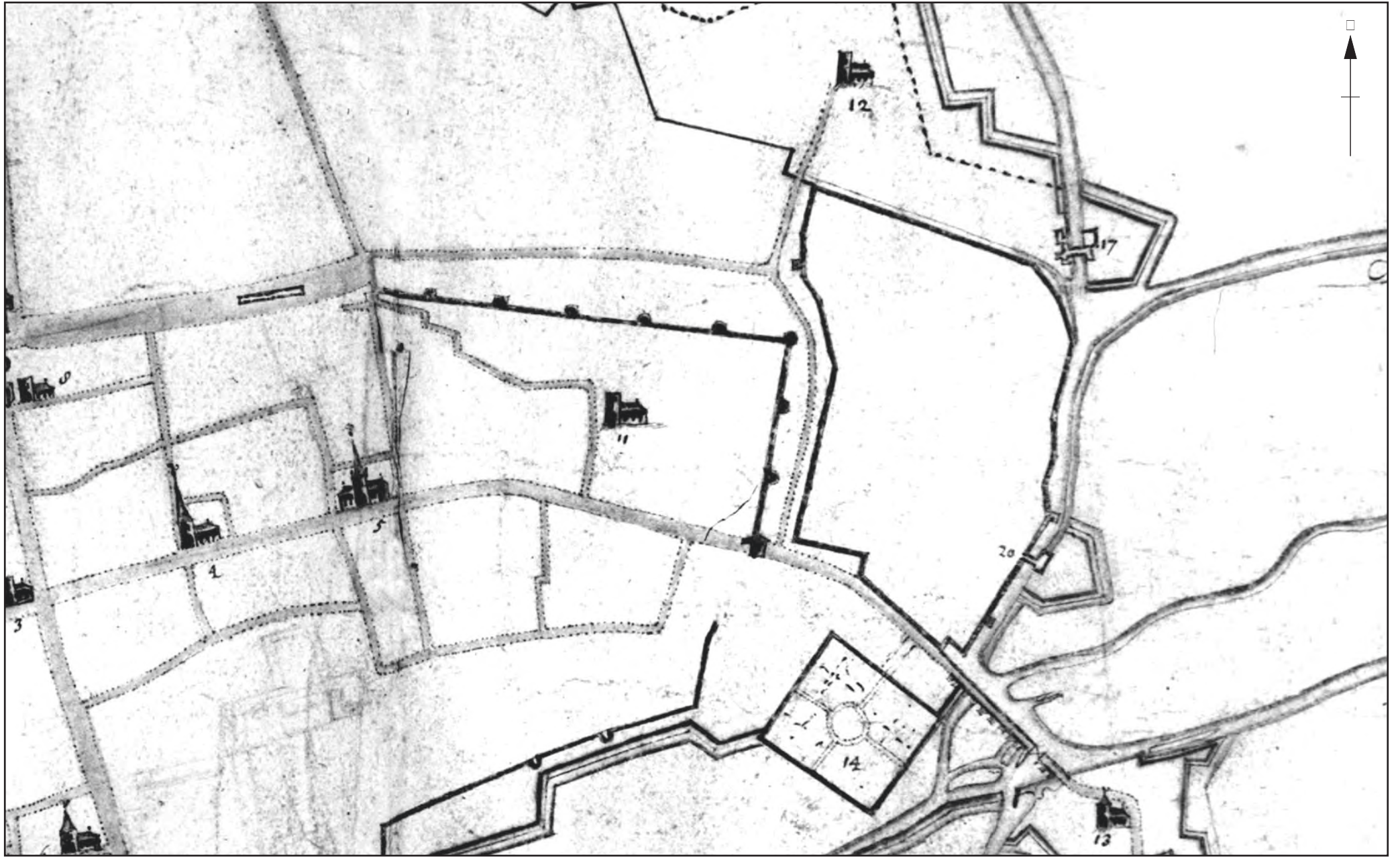
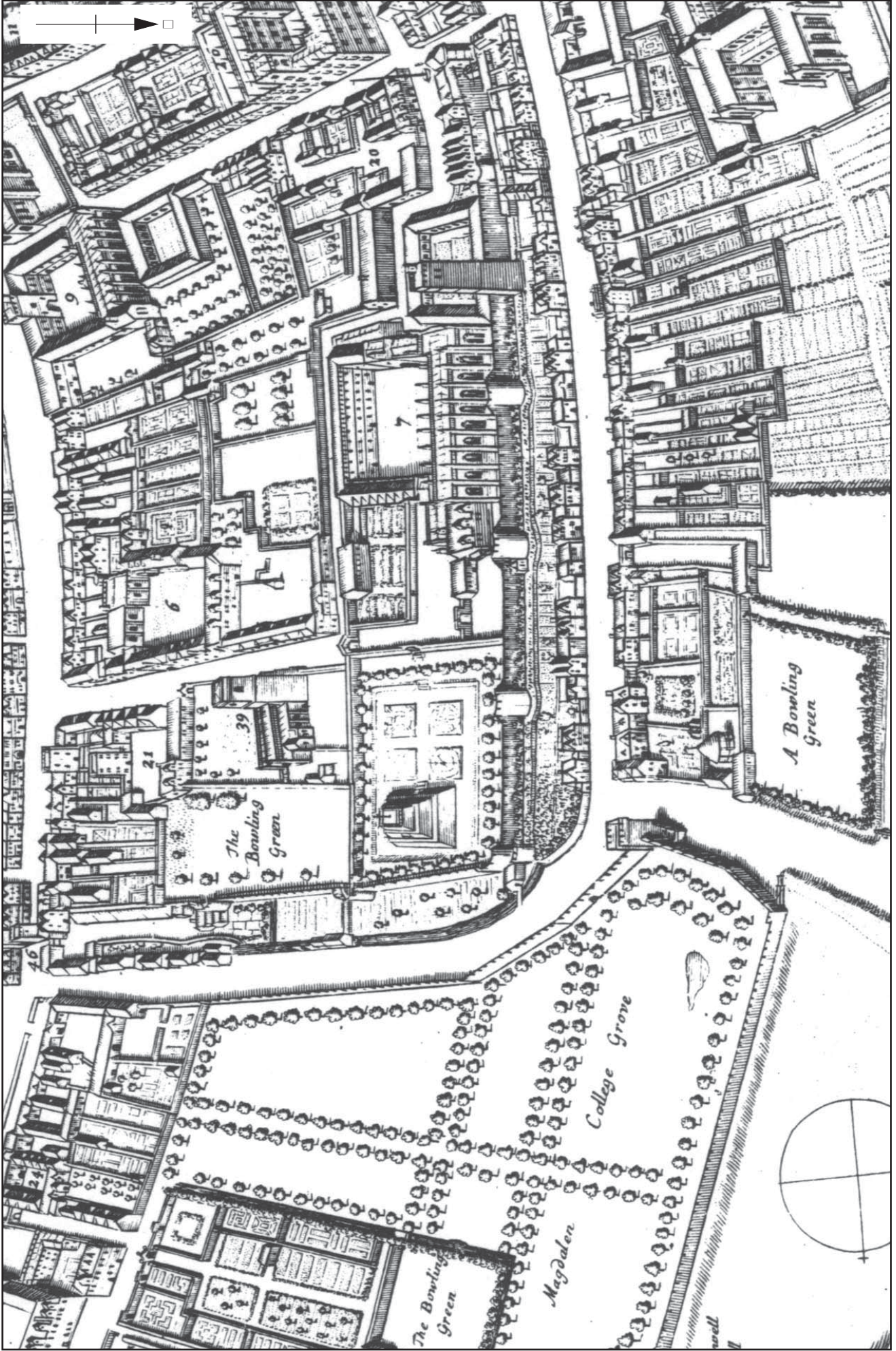


Figure 17: Pottery







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