## Luther Court Thames Street

# Oxford



Archaeological Evaluation Report Phase 1

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## **Luther Court, Thames Street, Oxford**

## Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report Phase 1

## Written by Chris Pickard and Tim Allen

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## Summary

In May/June 2014, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a watching brief on demolition of existing late 20th century buildings, followed by an evaluation by trenching and borehole drilling at Luther Court, Thames Street, Oxford (NGR SU 6071 8901). The work was commissioned by Exel Construction Ltd on behalf of A2 Dominion Homes Ltd. The evaluation revealed a considerable depth of modern made ground, beneath which in most trenches was a dumped layer later cultivated as a garden soil, cut by shallow broad features filled with Victorian occupation debris, presumably from activity in the backyards of the tenements known from documentary evidence to have been established on the site in the mid-19th century.

In Trenches 1 and 3 at the north-west edge of the site this overlay pits, those in Trench 3 containing large numbers of horn cores, suggesting that hide preparation, glue-making or some other process connected with leather-working was carried out in the vicinity. Although the pits cut a layer that contained one small 19th century sherd, pottery and tile of 16th or early 17th century date came from their fills.

The pit in Trench 1 was cut into a sequence of dumped layers, evident in most of the trenches across the site, representing reclamation of this low-lying area in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. This fits the historic map evidence, which reveals the gradual narrowing of the Shire Lake channel of the Thames by reclamation during this time. No features were found within this sequence in any of the evaluation trenches, and the historic maps show this area as open ground without significant occupation.

As stated above, the layer cut by the pits in Trench 3 included one small 19th century sherd, but it is possible that this was intrusive, and that the pits instead date to the later 16th or early 17th century, prior to the reclamation.

Below these soils in a couple of trenches were channel fills containing finds of 16th century and late medieval date, the latter possibly derived from occupation of the Blackfriars Friary just to the north of the site from the 13th century to the Dissolution. No features of medieval or earlier date were found within the impact depth of the drainage diversions, nor were any finds earlier than the period of the Friary found.

The three boreholes that were dug provided evidence of a deep channel crossing the southern part of the site. Organic peat at the base of the sequence is probably of prehistoric date. Grey gravel followed, indicating a period of fast flow and rapid deposition, suggesting an active channel cutting the gravel terrace deposits and redepositing them in a reactivated channel cut. The grey gravel was overlain by slower-forming sediments containing some organic material, and then a sequence of channel silts, with further organic material close to the top, probably indicating that flow had largely ceased. In contrast, Borehole 2 at the north edge of the site contained very clayey deposits, suggesting slow-forming sediments at the edge of the channel. These boreholes have clarified the initial date and changing character of a significant former channel of the Thames.



## 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Exel Construction Ltd on behalf of A2 Dominion Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the removal of foundations of existing late 20th century structures, an evaluation by trenching of deposits directly impacted by the development, and borehole investigation of underlying channels, at Luther Court, Thames Street, Oxford (Fig. 1). The work was carried out as condition 25 of the planning permission for redevelopment (12/1228/FUL).
- 1.1.2 A brief was set by Daivd Radford, planning archaeologist for Oxford City Council Heritage and Specialist Services team, detailing the local authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (Radford 2014). In response, OA wrote a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) setting out how Oxford Archaeology would implement the requirements of the brief (OA 2014), and this was approved by David Radford.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies, and in accordance with Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2008), and with the recommendations of the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation and research of archaeological materials (IFA 2008).
- 1.1.4 These archaeological investigations were carried out as Stage 1 of the archaeological mitigation of the development, with the possibility of further investigation in the form of more detailed excavation (Stage 2) should the evaluation reveal significant archaeological remains. No such remains were encountered within the limits of impact of the proposed development, so no Stage 2 work was required.
- 1.1.5 This report details the results of the watching brief and evaluation fieldwork. An interim report upon the borehole investigations has already been submitted to David Radford, and he has forwarded this to the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor Jane Corcoran, who has advised that further work upon waterlogged plant remains and snails from the cores, and radiocarbon dating of sediments, should be carried out before the borehole report can be finished.

## 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies approximately 40m north of the current route of the River Thames and approximately 900m north west of the confluence of the Thames with the River Cherwell. The site is located at NGR SP 5130 0568 and lies at c 55m OD.
- 1.2.2 The area of development covers an area of around 0.3 ha., and was previously occupied by 20th century housing. It is surrounded by residential properties to the north, west and south and a school building to the east, with Thames Street immediately to the south (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is located within the floodplain on the first river terrace gravels with an underlying geology of Oxford Clay (OA 2012).

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in an archaeological desk assessment carried out by OA (OA 2012) and was summarised in the WSI (OA 2014). Only those elements relevant to the discoveries made during evaluation will be repeated here.



- 1.3.2 A model developed from previous investigations in the surrounding area suggested that a major channel of the Thames ran through the site (Robinson in Dodd 2003, fig. 3.6). Channel fills of Mesolithic date were found in the BT Tunnel under Thames Street just south of the site, suggesting that this channel also extended into the site in early prehistory.
- 1.3.3 In later prehistory a rise in the water table inundated the area, and was followed by increased alluviation and the formation of multiple channels separated by islands (ibid., fig. 3.7). An Iron Age date was obtained from peat found at Linacre College, and another from peat at 79 St Aldate's (Robinson in Dodd (ed.) 2003, 77), but no Iron Age finds or features have been found in or close to the site, nor any finds or features of the Roman or early medieval periods.
- 1.3.4 In the Middle and Late Saxon periods the site lay south of the city limits, but a ford including an artificial causeway lay only 80m to the east (Durham 1984; Robinson in Dodd 2003, fig. 3.9).
- 1.3.5 The Oxford Blackfriars developed their Friary just north-west of the site from the second quarter of the 13th century until the Dissolution in 1538. All of the buildings of the Friary lay outside the site, but a trench dug to look for a waterfront in 1983, which lay within the west end of the current site, provided some information to support the existence of two former channels of the Thames separating within the site (Lambrick 1985).

#### Post-medieval

- 1.3.6 The more northerly channel was still silting in the 16th century, but overlain by dumping in the 17th century.
- 1.3.7 Agas' map of 1578 and Loggan's map of 1675 both show the site as largely occupied by the southern channel, except for strips of land at the north and south edges. By the time of Taylor's map of 1750, however, the river has narrowed, and most of the site is dry land. This remained open until after 1832, but was then developed for residential housing, as is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance survey map of 1876.
- 1.3.8 One burial of 17th century date was found in the Blackfriars excavations to the northwest of the site (Lambrick 1985, 60-62), but the context of this burial, ie whether part of a cemetery or an unlicenced burial, is uncertain.
- 1.3.9 The Shire Lake stream had been culverted underground by 1900, and the land taken into gardens.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 General Aims

- 2.1.1 The general project aims and objectives were:
  - To preserve by record any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered during the course of any ground intrusions;
  - To seek to establish the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered within the scope of the ground intrusion;
  - To secure the assessment, and where appropriate, analysis and conservation of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site, and its long-term storage;
  - To provide sufficient information to enable the Oxford City Archaeologist to understand the archaeological significance of the deposits/structures, artefacts and environmental materials encountered;



- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To assess, analyse and then disseminate the results of the evaluation through the production and publication (as appropriate) of an illustrated and interpretative report;
- To produce a site archive for deposition with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service according to their standards, and to provide information for accession to the Oxfordshire HER.

## 2.2 Specific Aims and Objectives

- 2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:
  - To sink boreholes through the two channels to establish if further borehole investigation can refine the character and any changes of deposits, and of the channel regimes, over time;
  - To clarify the date of the two channels and of the deposits within them;
  - To attempt to establish the nature of the areas outside the channels in prehistory, Roman and medieval times, their environment, and specifically to determine at what periods these might have been dry land, and when they were under water;
  - To look for evidence of prehistoric or early medieval activity within the site;
  - To identify and record the presence and extent of any medieval or post-medieval deposits, and relate these to friary life and post-Dissolution activity in the area
  - Should any burials be encountered within the site, to locate and record these and, where possible, date the skeletal data;
  - Should any structures relating to the Dominican Friary survive, to excavate and record these so as to inform as to their role in the operation and development of the Friary;

## 2.3 Methodology

## Scope of works

- 2.3.1 Stage 1 comprised a detailed watching brief for the duration of the grubbing out of foundations, the excavation of five trial trenches along the proposed service routes, and the sinking of three boreholes in the proposed locations of the channels.
- 2.3.2 Watching Brief was carried out as a series of daily visits during the removal of the foundations (see OA 2014a, fig. 2 for area covered). It had been anticipated that the removal of the foundations of the previous buildings would expose substantial areas of earlier deposits, and provide sections across these that could be recorded. In the event this was not the case, Made Ground being of considerable depth within and around the buildings, such that only small patches of earlier deposit were exposed, and no sections. No earlier features were observed, and no residual finds earlier than the 19th/20th centuries were seen.
- 2.3.3 The trial trenches were of varying length, but were all no less than 1.5m in width (Fig. 2). A total of 45m of trench was originally requested in the archaeological brief, but due to the constraints of existing services and destruction by previous large manholes, only 31.4m of trench was actually excavated (see Fig. 2). The northern part of Trench 4 was not accessible, and having viewed the southern part David Radford said that it would



not be necessary to dig the remainder of the trench. The shortfall was slightly compensated by the width of the trenches, which were between 1.65 and 2m wide. The depths of the trenches was generally around 2m deep, but a sondage in Trench 1 reached 2.5m below surrounding ground level.

- 2.3.4 It had been anticipated that the evaluation trenches would expose sufficient of the supposed channels to confirm their positions and alignments, but in the event the impact depth of the proposed new services was not sufficient to achieve this, and only the very tops of channels were seen. Due to the limited areas available, and the degree of later disturbance, it was not possible to confirm the size and orientation of any channels from the results of the evaluation.
- 2.3.5 Two boreholes were originally requested, one within each of the channels proposed in the model (Robinson in Dodd 2003), with a contingency for two further boreholes should the first two not locate the channels believed to cross the site. Due to the lack of evidence for the actual courses and limits of the channels in the evaluation trenches, the boreholes were positioned according to the model, within the constraints imposed by live services and deep previous disturbance.
- 2.3.6 In the event it was possible to sink three boreholes within the day (Fig. 2), and preliminary inspection of these, in conjunction with the model of previous boreholes within and around the site, was considered by David Radford sufficient to satisfy the aim of the archaeological brief in respect of boreholes.

## Site specific methodology

- 2.3.7 Machine excavation was carried out under close archaeological supervision down to the depth of impact. Due to the depth of the trenches, these were stepped out on all sides, except for Trench 1, whose south side had already been reduced in removing the foundations of the previous buildings.
- 2.3.8 There were very few archaeological features or potential features. Both of the pits in Trench 3 were found in section, and so were slightly truncated by machine before they were recognised. A hand-excavated sample of these features was dug subsequently to recover finds, removing all of these features within the limits of the trench.
- 2.3.9 Excavation in Trench 1 stopped initially when a group of stones was identified, but once it was established that this was not structural, machine excavation continued.
- 2.3.10 The base of the trench was cleaned for the purpose of clarifying the remains, and sections were cleaned up and cut back in order to recover finds. Those containing significant information were drawn and photographed.
- 2.3.11 Environmental samples were taken from potential channel deposits at the base of trenches 1, 3 and 4, as well as from one of the pits found in Trench 3. The samples were taken both to look for finds and to assess the character and environmental potential of the deposits.

## 3 Results

## 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The following section summarises the results of the watching brief and the results from each evaluation trench, in each case describing the earliest to the latest archaeological deposits encountered during the archaeological works. Detailed context descriptions are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A), and within the descriptive text where they are integral to the interpretation of the context in question.



3.1.2 The location of the trenches on the site is shown in Figure 2. Plans and sections of the individual trenches are shown on Figures 3-7.

## 3.2 Watching Brief during removal of foundations

- 3.2.1 Visits were made, generally on a daily basis, to coincide with machine excavation of the concrete foundations of the building previously existing on the site. These took the form of ground beams. Contrary to expectation, the spaces between the ground beams, and the areas immediately around them, were filled with fairly loose modern gravel and rubble. It seems probable that the whole area had been reduced to the level of the base of the ground beams, and that these had been shuttered.
- 3.2.2 In consequence no intact deposits were found except at the very base of the ground beams, and removal of the ground beams did not expose sections of undisturbed earlier stratigraphy that could be recorded in section. This is shown most clearly from Trench 1, which directly adjoined one of the previous buildings, and where the level of the base of the ground beams corresponds to the top of layers 104-106 (see 3.3 below). The records of the watching brief can be consulted in the site archive.

## 3.3 Evaluation Trench Descriptions

## Trench 1 Fig. 3; Plates 1-2

- 3.3.1 Trench 1 lay at the north-west corner of the site, and was orientated north-west to south-east, measuring 6m x 1.7m at the base. It was stepped out on the north-west, north-east and south-east sides. The proposed drainage here was shallower than elsewhere across the site, so the trench was only 1.55m deep overall, but on the instructions of the Oxford City planning archaeologist David Radford a sondage was dug by machine towards the north-west end, increasing the depth here to nearly 2.5m.
- 3.3.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of blue-grey clay 115, whose surface was exposed at the base of the sondage. This was undated, but was probably a channel fill. It was overlain by 114, a dark organic clay some 0.3m deep, an environmental sample from which indicated that this formed in open shallow water with established plants. Finds from this deposit included worn sherds of 13th-14th century pottery, indicating a late medieval date. This was a relatively thick deposit that probably accumulated over some length of time.
- 3.3.3 Layer 114 was overlain by a tenacious blue-grey clay (layer 113), possibly the result of alluviation, which contained fragments of 16th/17th century tile. Layer 113 was followed by a greenish-brown silty clay 112, thicker than 113 below, which was without finds. This may also have been an alluvial deposit of early post-medieval date, although the fact that it ended partway along the trench may indicate that it was instead a dumped layer.
- 3.3.4 Above 112 was a series of clearly dumped layers, 111 and 110 both being sands mixed with gravel, mortar or limestones, and containing late 16th or early 17th century pottery. Layer 106 which followed was similar but siltier, and it contained 17th/early 18th century pottery. This was sealed in the south-eastern part of the trench by layer 104, a redeposited greenish-yellow silt with mortar, limestone lumps and occasional tiles of 15th-17th century manufacture, and further south-east this was sealed in turn by 105, another dumped layer, this time a silty sand containing occupation debris including charcoal and oyster shells. 17th century clay pipe fragments and medieval tile. Layers 104-106 were all overlain by a further dumped layer 103, a dark grey-brown silty clay that contained further late 17th/early 18th century clay pipe and pottery, plus residual



- late medieval tile, brick fragments, oyster shell and coal. Together these indicate a process of dumping and reclamation spanning the late 16th to the mid-18th centuries.
- 3.3.5 At the north-west end of the trench layer 103 was overlain by sandy silt 107, which contained only small undated brick fragments. This layer was cut by pit 116, which was filled with clay 109 overlain by a concentration of loose stones in a sand matrix 108. In amongst the stones were fragments of late 18th or 19th century clay pipe.
- 3.3.6 Layer 103 was cut by a brick wall or manhole 101 at the north-west, and by another (numbered 102) further south-east. Around and over these was modern made ground 100.

## Trench 2 Fig.4; Plate 3

- 3.3.7 Trench 2 was excavated towards the south side of the western part of the site, and was orientated south-west to north-east. It occupied a narrow strip between two of the former buildings on the site, and excavation was hindered by live services on the east and west, and by large manholes, one of which was to be retained in the new development. As a result the trench was only 4.25m long by 2m wide at the base, though it was stepped out on all sides. The whole of the north-east end and the south-east side, plus the northern part of the north-west side, was destroyed by a former service and a manhole, so it was only possible to record the south-west part of the trench (see Fig. ).
- 3.3.8 The base of the trench was cut into a series of deposits 205-208, all tipping slightly southwards. The earliest of these was 208, which covered most of the base of the trench, and was a sandy clay with occasional gravel that produced 17th century pottery. It was overlain close to the south corner of the trench by 207, a dark silty clay that contained late 16th century pottery, and this was overlain in turn by 206, a sandy silt with charcoal flecks that included residual late medieval pottery. Latest of these tipping deposits was 205, confined to the very south corner of the trench, which was a dark silty clay very like 207, but which contained later 17th century pottery, late 17th century clay pipe, post-medieval tile and brick. These deposits were presumably dumped deposits, part of a process of 17th reclamation also seen in Trench 1. The direction of tip fits the historic map evidence, Loggan's map of 1675 showing most of the site within the Shire Lake channel, Taylor's map of 1750 showing this part of the site as dry land with the channel to the south (OA 2012, figs 6 and 7).
- 3.3.9 The surface of all of these layers was flat, suggesting that the dumps had been levelled off before a much thicker dumped layer 204 was laid down. This was a firm silty clay and charcoal containing 18th century pottery, late 18th century clay pipe, wine bottle glass and 15th-17th century tile, indicating that dumping/reclamation continued to the end of the 18th century.
- 3.3.10 The homogeneous character of layer 204 suggested that it may have been cultivated as a garden soil, and historic maps show that there were gardens in the general area at this time. Layer 204 was overlain by another dumped soil 203, a sandy clay with gravel that contained Victorian pottery glass. It is possible that layer 203 was filling a broad shallow cut in 204 (see Fig. Section ), but this is uncertain. Layer 203 may relate to the construction of tenements in the mid-19th century on the site.
- 3.3.11 Layers 203 and 204 were cut by a 20th century pit 202, and this and 203 were overlain by around 1m of modern made ground (200).

## Trench 3 Fig. 5; Plates 4 and 5

3.3.12 Trench 3 was located close to the northern boundary of the site on the west, east of Trench 1 and north-east of Trench 2, over the line of proposed new services. It was



oriented broadly east-west, and measured 10.75m long by 1.7-2m wide at the base, with stepped sides all around. The earliest deposit was a mottled clay numbered 308, which produced a couple of sherds of later medieval pottery, possibly indicating a 14th century date. An environmental sample from this layer produced a little charred cereal and charcoal, but nothing to clarify the environment in which it was deposited. It may have been an alluvial deposit, but could have been redeposited clay of later date.

- 3.3.13 Layer 308 was overlain by a dumped deposit of silty clay and limestones 306, which contained residual medieval tile and two small sherds of pottery, one of late 16th or early 17th century date, the other of late 18th or 19th century date. On the west side of the trench this layer was overlain by a similar silty clay and limestone layer 311, which was without finds. These may both be part of one phase of reclamation.
- 3.3.14 These layers were cut by pits 305 and 310, both of which had steep or vertical sides and continued below the depth of impact, so were not bottomed. Both pits were only partly exposed at the edges of the trench, and in neither case were the full dimensions established, but both had curving sides, so were probably circular or oval, and were at least 2.6m across. The main fill of the pits, respectively 304 and 309, was a silty clay that included large numbers of horncores,; fill 304 also included 15th-16th century floor tile, and fill 309 late 16th or 17th century pottery plus brick and residual tile. Pit 305 had a thin capping layer across the top, and this (303) was a firm sandy clay without finds.
- 3.3.15 Both pits, and the layers that they cut, were sealed by layer 302, a silty clay with charcoal and gravel that included worn late 16th or 17th century pottery. The mixed character of this deposit suggests another dumped deposit that had been reworked by cultivation, like layer 204. Across the central part of the trench this was probably removed by a broad shallow cut filled by deposit 301, a dark tenacious silty clay that included Victorian pottery and clay pipe.
- 3.3.16 Overlying layers 302 and 301 was just over 1m of modern made ground.including brick manholes and service trenches.

#### Trench 4 Fig. 6; Plate 6

- 3.3.17 Trench 4 was located south-east of trenches 1-3 towards the centre of the site, and was oriented south-west to north-east along the line of proposed new drainage. To the south-west the trench was constrained by a live service, and on the north-east by the site toilet block, so only the southernmost part of the original trench could be accessed at the time of the evaluation. In consequence the trench measured 3.9m long by 1.65m wide, and was stepped on all sides. Towards the north end the stratigraphy had been removed by a deep service trench.
- 3.3.18 The lowest deposit exposed was layer 404, a dark organic sandy clay that contained an early-mid 19th century wine bottle, 19th century brick and pottery and 18th century clay pipe fragments, together with metal pins and a length of wooden stake. An environmental sample was taken from this deposit (sample 4), and produced a variety of waterlogged seeds and snails indicating plants growing close to the edge of water. This appears to suggest that a channel was still active either to the north or south of the trench, which would fit the evidence of the 1st edition OS map of 1876 that the Shire Lake channel ran immediately south of this in the later 19th century (OA 2012, fig. 8).
- 3.3.19 Layer 404 was overlain by a succession of dumped layers (403-401) containing Victorian pottery. Layer 403 was a sandy silt and gravel that also contained clay pipe and wine bottle fragments, 402 a similar silt but including mortar fragments, and 401 a darker silty sand. The last of these, 401, was overlain by around 1m of modern made ground.



## Trench 5 Fig. 7; Plates 7 and 8

- 3.3.20 Trench 5 lay south-east of Trench 4 in the centre of the site, and was orientated roughly north-south immediately south of the kink in the northern site boundary. It measured 7m long by 1.65m wide, and was stepped on all sides. Like Trench 4, it was truncated partway along by a deep service trench.
- 3.3.21 The earliest deposits seen were 506 and 504 at the south and north ends of the trench respectively. Layer 506 was a layer of greenish-brown clay with frequent roots and twigs, only whose surface was exposed in the base of the trench. No finds were recovered from this. Further north, and separated from 506 by a modern pipe trench, layer 504 was a silty loam containing later medieval pottery. The surface of 504 was slightly higher than that of 506, and the difference between these two deposits may indicate that 504 lay on dry ground, whereas 506 was at the very edge of a channel to the south.
- 3.3.22 Both layers were overlain by 505, a layer of greenish-brown silty clay that may have been alluvially deposited. It contained a little medieval roof tile. Sealing layer 505 was layer 503, a sandy silt with occasional gravel that contained late 16th or early 17th century pottery and residual medieval roof tile. This layer did not extend quite to the north end of the trench, and thickened to the south, suggesting that it was infilling a dip towards the channel to the south, and was a dumped levelling deposit similar to the reclamation soils seen in trenches 1, 2 and 3 further north-west.
- 3.3.23 Over the north end of layer 503 was a localised dumped layer 507, a sandy clay and gravel that contained 16th-18th century tile. This may have been intended as a barrier to further alluviation from the south, or simply a final dump that was not levelled off.
- 3.3.24 Sealing 503 and 507 was a thicker layer of greyish-brown sandy silt 502 containing charcoal and occasional gravel. This contained late Victorian pottery and residual tile, and was very similar in composition to layers 204 and 302 further west, so may represent dumping associated with the creation of the Victorian terraced housing, cultivated as a garden soil.
- 3.3.25 Layer 502 was overlain by a further layer of dumping 501, a sandy silt and gravel that contained only residual roof tile, and this was followed by 1m of modern made ground.

## 3.4 Borehole investigations

- 3.4.1 Three boreholes were sunk across the western half of the site (see Fig. 2), and the retrieved cores have demonstrated the presence of significant sequences of fluvial and alluvial deposits, some with organic preservation.
- 3.4.2 An initial assessment of the borehole cores has been carried out, and an Interim Report (OA 2014b) submitted to the Oxford City planning archaeologist outlining the potential for elucidating the changing character of the channel(s) over time, and for dating the channel development, through more detailed assessment of waterlogged and molluscan remains from key deposits and through radiocarbon dating. The borehole cores can be placed within the wider history of geotechnical investigation of the Thames and its floodplain, and a preliminary model was included in the Interim report.



## 3.5 Post-excavation programme

- 3.5.1 Following the completion of the Stage 1 evaluation and borehole investigation, an Interim Report was submitted to the Oxford City planning archaeologist David Radford to assist him in determining whether further evaluation or Stage 2 fieldwork should be carried out. He determined that no further archaeological fieldwork would be required, but passed the report to Jane Corcoran, Scientific Advisor to English Heritage, for comment upon the potential and possibility of further work upon the borehole cores.
- 3.5.2 Jane Corcoran has reviewed the interim report, and has asked for further detailed environmental assessment of waterlogged plant remains and molluscs, and up to six radiocarbon dates. This work is now underway, and a revised report will be prepared once this has been completed.



## 4 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

## 4.1 Assessment of the pottery

by John Cotter

## Introduction and methodology

A total of 60 sherds of pottery weighing 803g was recovered from 22 contexts. This 4.1.1 includes 9 sherds (45g) from sieved samples (ctxs 114, 308 and 404). This assemblage is mainly of post-medieval date but a reasonable number of smaller medieval sherds are also present. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage (see Table C.1). 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 (eq. decoration etc.). Medieval pottery fabrics codes used in the spreadsheet are those of the Oxfordshire County type series (Mellor1994). Post-medieval codes used are those of the Museum of London (LAARC 2007) which can be applied to most post-medieval types in south-east England. The pottery types present are summarised below and detailed in the spreadsheet.

#### Date and nature of the assemblage

- 4.1.2 The assemblage is mostly in a very fragmentary condition although some fairly fresh sherds occur mostly amongst the post-medieval wares. The smaller quantity of medieval pottery generally occurs as smaller worn sherds some of which are residual in later contexts. Pottery types are entirely domestic in character and comprise a range of fabrics commonly found on excavations in Oxford.
- 4.1.3 The earliest couple of sherds present probably date from the 12th or 13th century but are probably residual (Fabric OXY, OXAQ). Sherds of medieval green-glazed jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225-1600) occur in several contexts but few of these are closely datable. The four small sieved sherds from Context (114) however form a fairly consistent group of c 1250-1400 and include a worn rim sherd from a Brill double-shelled oil lamp (Mellor 1994, fig. 54.18-22). A Brill jug sherd with red and white vertical strip decoration also dates to this period (308) but most other OXAM sherds are undecorated and mainly perhaps date after c 1350. Vessels in the plainer (often unglazed) late medieval Brill/Boarstall fabric (OXBX, up to c 1640), also occur.
- 4.1.4 The commonest post-medieval type present is local post-medieval red earthenwares (PMR) which mostly appear to be of 17th-18th century date but includes pieces as late as the 19th century including red terracotta flowerpots. Body sherds from a number of late 16th- and 17th-century German Frechen stoneware 'Bellarmine' jugs also occur in several contexts.
- 4.1.5 The most notable item in the post-medieval assemblage, and from the site as a whole, is a dish rim in highly decorative Weser slipware (WESE) from Germany, which dates to c 1580-1630 (ctx 111). This ware is rare from sites as far inland as Oxford although a few other examples are known from the excavations here. The item is illustrated (Plate 9).



4.1.6 A range of other common (fragmentary) post-medieval wares is detailed in the spreadsheet. The latest vessels are plates and other forms in Staffordshire-type transfer-printed whiteware (TPW) dating to c 1830-1900, and a related whiteware (REFW) dish rim and preserve jar dating to c 1860-1900. Apart from the Weser slipware dish rim the assemblage is fairly unremarkable and therefore no further work is recommended.

## 4.2 Clay tobacco pipes

by John Cotter

## Introduction and methodology

4.2.1 A total of 16 pieces of clay pipe weighing 86g was recovered from eight contexts. These have been catalogued and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet (Table C.2). The catalogue records, per context, the spot-date, the quantity of stem, bowl and mouth fragments, the overall sherd count, weight, and comments on condition and any makers' marks or decoration present. It also records the minimum number of bowls per context. The pipe bowls can be paralleled with those published from excavations in St Ebbe's, Oxford (Oswald 1984) and to a slightly lesser extent with those published in Oswald's simplified national typology (Oswald 1975). A summary of the assemblage is given below; fuller details may be consulted in the catalogue.

## Summary of the assemblage

4.2.2 The pipes are mostly in a fragmentary but fairly fresh condition although no pieces of stem longer than 60mm have survived. Two of the five bowls present are complete. There are also 11 pieces of stem but no pieces of mouth present. Apart from milling around the rim of early pipes none of the pieces is decorated or bears makers' marks. The highest number of pieces from a single context is the seven pieces from Context (204) which dates to c 1750-1790 but includes residual bowls and stems of the 17th century. The earliest bowl from the site is of St Ebbe's Type A, of c 1630-1655, with a circular shaped heel (residual in ctx 204). There are three bowls of Type B (c 1650-1690/1700), which is one of the commonest types in Oxford. The latest bowl is a fragmentary base of St Ebbe's Type D (c 1750-1790) from context (204). The few 19th-century pieces are all stems. Most of the pipes are probably local Oxford products. In view of the small size and condition of the assemblage no further work is recommended.

## 4.3 Ceramic building material

by Cynthia Poole

## Introduction and Methodology

4.3.1 A total of 47 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 5584g were recovered by hand excavation from all five trenches apart from a few small scraps from a sieved sample. The assemblage predominantly consisted of roof tile of Medieval and early post-medieval date together with a few fragments of floor tile and brick. One floor tile and some brick fragments were of 19th-20th century date. The only pieces with complete dimensions were the modern floor tile and an associated brick of similar date.



The remainder of the assemblage was very fragmentary with a mean fragment weight of 50a.

4.3.2 The assemblage has been quantified and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet including fields for form, fabric and dimensions. No detailed analysis of the fabrics has been made, though apart from a single fragment of roof tile in a shelly fabric and a scrap of Fletton brick, the remainder is made in sandy fabrics. Much of the roof tile appears to be Oxford fabric IIIc or very similar in character. The assemblage is summarised by context in Table C.3).

## Roof tile (30 pieces, 1863q)

- 4.3.3 The roof tile appears to be predominantly medieval in character, though a few pieces could be early post-medieval. Most pieces are reasonably well finished with even surfaces and often a slight camber and tend to be quite thick ranging from 13 to 18mm thick. One had a circular peg hole 12mm diameter and it is likely most of these pieces derive from peg tiles. One fragment from a stony deposit (306) overlying the alluvium had a patchy amber glaze typical of a 13th-14th century date.
- 4.3.4 Five pieces were identified as ridge tile. Two were curved, one with a greenish brown glaze, the other a thick (17mm) unglazed tile. Three thinner fragments (10-15mm thick) were flat and two had evidence of amber or clear glaze: these may derive from crested ridge tiles of 13th-14th century date, which often have an angular profile and straight sides.

## Floor tile (4 tiles, 1112g)

4.3.5 The floor tile covered a range of dates and types. The earliest was a Flemish type tile from pit 305, coated in a cream slip covered by an amber glaze to create a plain glazed tile probably used in conjunction with dark glazed in a chequerboard pattern. This type is of 15th – 16th century date. It was quite thin and a second similar worn piece from the channel infill (204) may have been the same type. A plain unglazed quarry tile 47mm thick from the alluvial clay (113) dates to the 16th-17th century. A red unglazed tile measuring 154mm (6inches) square of 20th century date was found in a modern feature (202) together with a near complete brick.

## Brick (7 pieces, 2602g)

4.3.6 Most of the brick comprised small broken fragments of medieval or post-medieval date found in channel fill 204 and 205, a humic silt (404) and pit 310, apart from a small scrap of Fletton brick of late 19th-20th century date from layer 404 and a near complete brick of 19th century date from feature 202. The latter was unfrogged machine pressed and measured 222mm long, 101mm wide and 68mm thick.

## **Discussion**

4.3.7 The character, forms and date range of the ceramic building material is quite mixed and suggests the assemblage derived from a variety of sources in the course of consolidating the ground around the river channels. Much, if not all, of the medieval roof tile together with the Flemish type floor tile could derive from the nearby Blackfriars Priory, as glazed roof and floor tiles would have been used in such an establishment. It is likely that building material from the monastery was recycled following the Dissolution and its demolition in 1544 with some debris being incorporated in the channel infills and made ground. However the general character of the tile is quite mixed suggesting it in fact came from a variety of sources, possibly accidentally incorporated into material brought in to consolidate the area. The date of the tile tends to be earlier than associated finds reflecting the time lag between production and use of building materials and their demolition and disuse. Two pieces of fired clay or daub (569g) were



recovered, although one of these has partially disintegrated, leaving a total of 13 fragments. These are not easy to date, but are described below.

- Context (208) 1 piece (85g): Post-medieval?
   Fragment of daub or plaster? Hard very pale brown/cream fine sandy fabric with original flat roughish external surface. The interior bears three stick or withy impressions of circular cross-section. Possibly from a roughly plastered wall or an oven etc?
- Context (310) 12 pieces (484g): Medieval/post-medieval?
   Shapeless lump of soft brown fine sandy ?fired clay disintegrated into twelve main pieces and many small scraps. Small scraps of white lime or chalky material also present.
- 4.3.8 No further work on this assemblage is recommended.

## 4.4 Metals

By Ian R Scott

4.4.1 There are just 4 metal objects, comprising 3 pieces of iron and a piece of lead. The iron objects are an incomplete hand-made nail from context 208, a tongue-shaped fragment of iron strip from context 404 (sample 3), and a fragment of wire rope from context 502. The nail and strip are not closely datable, and the wire rope will be comparatively modern. Modern wire rope was first developed in the 1830s and 1840s. The lead object is a fragment of came from a leaded window from context 404 (sample 3). This probably post medieval or later.

#### 4.5 Glass

By Ian R Scott

4.5.1 There are 14 pieces of glass from 6 contexts. There are 7 pieces of glass from context 404, including material from soil sample <3>. There are almost equal numbers of vessel and window glass (for details see Table C.4).

Context 203 (1) **Window glass**, 2 x fragments in olive green metal. Quite regular surfaces, probably modern.

- Context 204 (2) **Wine bottle**. Body sherd from a wine bottle, probably cylindrical. Dark olive green metal. Not closely datable.
- Context 402 (3) **Smelling salts bottle**. Complete small mould blown bottle with flat almost circular body with neck with burst-off rim. One face is decorated with close set concentric circles, the opposing face has a border of raised dots, but is plain in the centre and may have had a printed paper label. The size and shape suggest this could be a smelling salts bottle, or a small scent bottle. The burst-off rim indicates a cork closure. Very pale blue grey metal. Late 19th- or early 20th-century. Ht: 49mm; W: 34mm.
- Context 403 (4) **Wine bottle**. Fragment from base of free blown cylindrical bottle. Very dark green almost opaque metal. Late 18th- or early 19th-century. D: 90mm



#### Context 404

- (5) **Wine bottle**. Sherd from neck and finish of a wine bottle with a tooled finish made from added glass. Very dark olive green metal. Early to mid 19th-century.
- (6) Wine bottle. Body sherd in olive green metal. Not closely datable
- (7) **Possible wine bottle**. Small body sherd, iridescent weathering. Dark green metal. Not closely datable.
- (8) **Window glass**, small sherd, colourless with hint of blue green, very regular surfaces, possibly modern.
- (9) Window glass, small sherd very pale blue green, with regular surfaces. Possibly modern.
  - (10) **Window glass,** small sherd, weathered opaque. Regular surfaces. Maybe post medieval or modern.
  - (11) **Flat glass**. Small sherd with thickened edge, but probably not vessel glass. Colourlesss. Not closely datable.

#### Context 502

- (12) **small body sherd** probably from a bottle. Pale blue green metal Not closely datable.
- (13) tiny sherd, possibly vessel glass, but undiagnostic. Colourless metal.
- 4.5.2 Most of the glass need date no earlier than the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The exceptions are the wine bottle sherds from contexts 403 (no 4) and 404 (no 5), which date respectively to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 4.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

## Introduction and methodology

4.6.1 A single fragment of Jurassic limestone roofing was retained from context 309. This retains the worn perforation (measuring 9mm diameter) but no original edges. The fragment is not intrinsically dateable, though it is likely to be post-Roman.

#### 4.7 Clinker

By Geraldine Crann

4.7.1 Four pieces of vesicular purple to grey clinker containing highly-fired coal inclusions weighing 167g in total were found in context 309, which is of post-medieval date.

## Discussion and recommendations

4.7.2 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

## 4.8 Wood

By Geraldine Crann

4.8.1 Two pieces of unworked roundwood, approximately 50mm in diameter and 600mm long, and two warped by refitting fragments of worked wood came from context 404. The worked fragments came from a length of rectangular cross-section, split longitudinally, which had been trimmed at one end. This was probably originally part of a stake. The refitted length measured c 800mm long and 80mm across, and weighed 2960g.



## Discussion and recommendations

4.8.2 The wood assemblage is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, so is of low potential and requires no further work.

## 4.9 Animal bones

By Lena Strid

- 4.9.1 A total of 767 animal bone fragments were recovered from this site. This included 531 fragments (69%) which came from sieved soil samples. With exception of cattle horn cores from two pits in Trench 3, the assemblage primarily represent household waste deposited in land reclamation layers from the Medieval and Post-medieval periods.
- 4.9.2 The bone condition was generally good to fair. Gnaw marks from carnivores, probably dogs, were found on six bones in total from the 17th, 17-18th and 19th century assemblages. A single burnt bone was found in 19th century layer (1018).
- 4.9.3 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, horse, dog, rabbit, red deer, and commensal microfauna such as rat and frog (Table C.5). All animals but red deer are commonly found in post-medieval urban assemblages, although due to the small sample size it is not possible to extrapolate on the frequency of the different species and their contribution to the diet.
- 4.9.4 A small number of bones could be attributed to minimum age at death. In addition to the livestock summarised in Table C.6, the assemblage also included a fully fused rabbit humerus from a 17th century deposit. Most animals were adult or sub-adult. A calf metapodial from pit fill (304) may be indicative of the utilization of veal.
- 4.9.5 Butchery marks were noted on a small number of bones from each phase, all deriving from primary or secondary butchery processes. A late Medieval cattle femur had been chopped off at both ends, probably to render it into smaller cuts suitable for cooking. The 17th century assemblage includes sagittal splitting of a large mammal vertebra, portioning of a medium mammal rib and of a sheep/goat pelvis. A 17/18th century cattle radius had been portioned by a diagonal chop through the distal joint and a cattle scapula from the same time period had been sawn off mid-blade in a c.50mm wide strip. Portioning of a large mammal and a medium mammal rib were noted in the mid-late 18th century and the 19th century assemblages respectively.
- 4.9.6 Pathological conditions were found on two articulating large mammal vertebrae from pit (310), where third to last thoracic vertebra had a fractured caudal end-plate with associated exostoses on the second to last thoracic vertebra. The right mandible from the dog skull in pit (305) had pathological bone growth low on the buccal side, level with M2. The aetiology is uncertain but might be connected to infection of tooth roots or to infection from soft-tissue injuries to the jaw going into the periosteum and into the bone itself.
- 4.9.7 Two pits (305, 310), filled with cattle horn cores, suggest that industrial activities took place at or near the excavation area (Table C.7). These pits contained 16th/17th century pottery, but cut a layer containing a single sherd of 19th century pottery. Their dating is discussed below (sections 5.1.4 and 5.1.5), where the earlier date is favoured.
- 4.9.8 The pits also contain a large dog skull and pair of mandibles, probably from the same animal, a humerus from a large dog and a calcaneus from a small/medium-sized dog, a



hind leg from a horse, as well as a small number of bones probably representing kitchen waste. Measurements on the horn cores show that cattle horns of two different sizes were included in the pit. Unfused frontal/occipital sutures on eight specimens indicate that horn cores from both young and adult cattle were present. Horizontal chop marks through the parietal or between the parietal and the horn core on six specimens show how the horn cores were separated from the rest of the skull. No other butchery marks were present, suggesting that the deposit was either unrelated to horner activity or that the horners would remove the horn sheaths from the horn cores without damaging the horn cores. The latter is possible if the horns have been stored for some time, to let natural processes break down the connecting tissue (Yeomans 2006, 40). Distinguishing butchers'/tanners' and horner's waste is difficult, as absence of sawn horn cores is not necessarily evidence of absence of horn working (Yeomans 2006, 91-92).

4.9.9 While the material is contaminated, there is a dearth of industrial waste deposits from the later post-medieval period and I therefore recommend that the faunal remains from pits 305 and 310 are retained. Smaller horn core fragments and skull fragments from these pits may be discarded, as well as the bones from the landfill deposits.

## 4.10 Shell

By Geraldine Crann

4.10.1 Small numbers of oyster shells were recovered from four contexts. These are listed and quantified by context in Table C.8.

### Discussion and recommendations

- 4.10.2 The consumption of oysters in the medieval and post-medieval period is common in Oxfordshire, despite the distance from the sea.
- 4.10.3 The assemblage is small, and requires no further work.

## 4.11 Four Environmental Samples from Luther Court

By Sharon Cook

#### Introduction

4.11.1 Four environmental samples were taken from this site. Sample <1> (304) was taken from the fill of a pit rich in horn cores for artefact retrieval and the recovery of any charred or mineralised plant remains. Sample <2> (308) was taken from a layer of alluvium. Sample <3> (404) was taken from the fill of a 19<sup>th</sup> century channel and sample <4> (114) came from an undated channel deposit.

#### Methodology

4.11.2 Samples <1> and <2>, each 40L, were entirely processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250μm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500μm; both were dried in a heated room after which the coarser residues were rapidly sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at



approximately x10 magnification. Samples <3> and <4> (30 and 40L respectively) were similarly processed, but as waterlogged plant remains were observed in the flots these samples were kept wet for this assessment. All recovered finds are discussed in the relevant finds specialist reports.

### Results

- 4.11.3 Sample <1> was a grey silty clay (2.5Y 5/1) rich in horn core fragments. Animal bone and an iron object were retrieved from the residue.
- 4.11.4 The 20ml flot was scanned (100%) and proved to be rich in modern roots. It contained clinker as well as a small quantity of charcoal most of which is unsuitable for species identification. A single grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was noted as well as two fragments of unidentifiable cereal grain. Snails were also present.
- 4.11.5 Sample <2> was a greyish brown silty clay (2.5Y 5/2). A single fragment of pottery was retrieved from the residues. Modern roots were common in this small (10ml) flot with occasional small fragments of unidentifiable cereal grain and charcoal also present. Some fragments of charcoal may potentially be large enough to identify to species.
- 4.11.6 Sample <3> was a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam (10YR 4/2). Mammal bone, pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), glass, iron objects including 3 pins, slag, a lead object and fragments of clay pipe were all retrieved from the residues. A small subsample of the 300ml flot was scanned. The majority of the flot consists of wood fragments and roots, but some waterlogged seeds were noted, mostly of orache (*Atriplex sp.*), small nettle (*Urtica urens*) and dead nettle (*Laminum sp.*), plants which probably grew around the channel. The remainder of the seeds are largely unidentifiable due to poor condition, although a few fragments of buttercup (*Ranunculus sp.*) seed and a fragment of nutshell were also noted. Snails were also present within this flot as was a small quantity of charcoal.
- 4.11.7 Sample <4> was a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam (2.5Y 4/2). Mammal bone, pottery and CBM were retrieved from the residues. A small sub-sample of the 300ml flot was scanned and again the majority of the flot comprises wood fragments and roots. Large numbers of seeds were noted, the majority of which appear to be celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) bramble (*Rubus sp.*) and duckweed (*Lemna sp.*). In addition the flot contains a large number of water flea (*Daphnia sp.*) eggs and insect fragments. Snails were also noted.

## **Conclusions**

4.11.8 While the flots for samples <1> and <2> were small they do show that the site has some potential for the survival of interpretable assemblages of charred plant remains, although the remains recovered in these samples were not informative. That identifiable waterlogged plant remains survive within the channel fills is demonstrated by samples <3> and <4>, with sample <4> including remains from subaquatic plants and Cladocera indicative of open fresh water with established plants. If further excavations are carried out samples for charred and anaerobically preserved remains should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).



## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

## 5.1 Phasing and Interpretation

- 5.1.1 The earliest deposits observed across the site were of possible late medieval date, and no finds earlier than the 13th/14th century were seen. Channel deposits probably belonging to the later medieval period were seen in Trenches 1 and 5, the former providing some local environmental data, and the few associated finds are presumably derived from activity connected with the adjacent Blackfriars Friary to the north (Lambrick 1985). As might be expected, residual material from the Blackfriars was also found in post-medieval contexts.
- 5.1.2 The bulk of the deposits seen were of post-medieval date, and these give a fairly consistent picture of reclamation, perhaps starting as early as the late 16th century, but concentrated in the 17th and 18th centuries. As already described, the historic map evidence is consistent with this, Loggan's map of Oxford of 1675 showing all but thte north-western edge of the site as within the Shire Lake channel, Taylor's map of 1750 showing that by this time the channel was confined to the south part of the site, and south of Trench 2 (OA 2012, figs 6 and 7).
- 5.1.3 Reclamation was slower after this, but by 1876, the date of the 1st edition OS map, the channel had narrowed still further, and its northern edge had been pushed south of Trenches 4 and 5 (ibid., fig. 8).
- 5.1.4 Very few dug features were found. The earliest appears to have been pit 109 in Trench 1, whose infill was dated to the late 18th or 19th century. Two large pits (305 and 310) were found in Trench 3, and although the finds from them were early post-medieval, they were cut into a deposit from which came a small sherd of late 18th or 19th century pottery. On the face of it, therefore, the finds from these pits were residual. The site would then appear to have been utilised in the late 18th, or more likely the first half of the 19th century, for activities connected with leatherworking, perhaps indicating that tanning was being carried out adjacent to the Shire Lake nearby.
- 5.1.5 As the dating of the horncore pits rests upon a single small sherd of pottery, it is however perhaps possible that this sherd was intrusive, and that layer 306 was in fact earlier, possibly of the 16th or early 17th century date indicated by the other sherd from this context. If so, the finds from the two pits could date these features, 305 being backfilled in or after the 16th century, and 310 in the 17th century. This would not necessarily be inconsistent with the historic map evidence, as Loggan's map shows that this edge of the site was already dry ground by the late 17th century. The layout of the Blackfriars Priory also suggests that the northern bank of the river is unlikely to have been much further north in the late medieval period, if at all (OA 2012, fig. 4). In that case, the tanning activity could be of early post-medieval date rather than of the 19th century.
- 5.1.6 The final phase of reclamation dumping in most trenches appears to have been of 19th century date, associated with the plans for the construction of terraced housing on the site, which took place by the middle of the 19th century. This was followed by cultivation, and by further Victorian features, probably from activity in the backyards of the terraced housing.



## 5.2 Review of Project Aims

#### General aims

- 5.2.1 The evaluation has achieved aims (I), (ii), (iii) and (vi) through the preparation of an Interim Report on the Evaluation and Borehole Investigation, followed by this report.
- 5.2.2 Aim (iv) has also been met by the Interim Report, as the Oxford City planning archaeologist David Radford felt the information sufficient to determine that no Stage 2 archaeological mitigation on site need be carried out.
- 5.2.3 It is clear from the evaluation that the impact of previous development (v) has severely truncated any recent archaeological remains, but that some of the medieval and earlier history of the site remains intact, but deeply buried below the impact depth (other than by piling) of the new development. Previous piling has clearly already truncated the earlier stratigraphy of the site.
- 5.2.4 An archive of the site records and post-excavation assessment documentation is in preparation for deposition with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service under accession number OXCMS: 2014.87.

## Specific Aims and objectives

- 5.2.5 Aim (viii). Three boreholes were successful in locating fluvial and alluvial sequences through earlier channels, and a programme of further work is planned to date and further characterise the deposit sequence, as set out in Aims (viii) and (ix).
- 5.2.6 It has not been possible to address Aim (x) for the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods, as no deposits of these periods were found in evaluation. A possible late medieval deposit on dry ground was identified at the base of the exposed archaeological sequence in Trench 5, but this was of very limited extent.
- 5.2.7 No deposits of the relevant periods were found to enable consideration of Aim (xi).
- 5.2.8 Aim (xii). Although medieval deposits were limited, these have been identified and recorded, in particular providing some data for the local environment. Post-medieval deposits were seen in all of the trenches, and it has been possible to obtain an idea of the general development of the site throughout the post-medieval period, and to relate this to the historic map evidence for this area from the 17th century onwards.
- 5.2.9 Aim (xiii). No further evidence of burials was recovered. It seems likely that the woman found in earlier trenching within the site (Lambrick 1985, 160 fig, 11 and 162-3), who was buried face down in a grave accompanied by three 16th or 17th century potsherds, was an isolated individual. The only potential interest provided by this evaluation is that the pits with horncores, if indeed of late 16th or 17th century date, might provide some context for the disposal of a body on the site at that time.
- 5.2.10 Aim (xiv). No structures related to the Dominican Friary were encountered.

## 5.3 Conclusions

- 5.3.1 The site has been severely truncated by recent development, such that archaeological deposits now survive only at considerable depth.
- 5.3.2 The high water table on site means that the potential for organic preservation is high, although the post-medieval deposits sampled, which lay at the uppermost limits of waterlogging, were not particularly well-preserved. Preservation of the deposits found in the boreholes was however better, and has the potential to clarify the development of a



- channel of the Thames in the Holocene, and to provide better information upon the local environment.
- 5.3.3 The deposits encountered would suggest that most of the site was underwater at some time in the past, as the model of channel development (Robinson in Dodd 2003) had predicted, but no additional information upon the local environment prior to the later medieval period was available within the limits of impact. A late medieval deposit in Trench 1 did indicate open water vegetation.
- 5.3.4 In the post-medieval period the site was clearly low-lying and quite wet, as a series of dumped deposits were found across the site that indicate a deliberate process of reclamation, predominantly in the 17th and 18th centuries. This is consistent with the picture provided by the historic map evidence, which shows a gradual narrowing of the Shire Lake channel from the 17th to the late 19th centuries.
- 5.3.5 No certain evidence of significant medieval or post-medieval development predating the Victorian period was found on the site, though it is possible that leatherworking, and perhaps tanning, were carried out at the north edge of the site adjacent to the Shire Lake channel in the early post-medieval period. If so, this might provide a wider context for the female skeleton of this periodasd found in earlier trenching on the site.
- 5.3.6 The historic map evidence does not indicate any industrial activity on the site in the 17th and 18th centuries, the land remaining open until the construction of terraced housing in the mid-19th century.
- 5.3.7 A final phase of dumping in the 19th century can plausibly be linked to preparations for construction of the terraced housing and associated gardens, and shallow cuts filled with Victorian occupation debris suggest activity in the backyards of some of these houses.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context no.	Туре	Length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	Interpretation	Soil description	Finds and date
	Trench 1						
100	Made Ground	Overall		1.2	Modern overburden	Hardcore, mortar /brick rubble, service trenches	20C
101	structure			0.3	Wall or manhole surround	Four courses of red bricks 0.10m wide and 0.07m high on a concrete foundation	Late 19th/20C bricks
102	structure			1.25+	Manhole within 100	Coursed red bricks in section	-
103	Layer	Overall		0.35	Dumped layer/garden soil	Tenacious dark grey- brown silty clay	17/E18C pottery, L17/E18C clay pipe, 13-15C tile, oyster shell, coal and brick frags
104	Layer	2.7	1.15	0.12	Dumped layer below 103, over 106	Friable greenish-yellow silt and mortar, 10% limestone lumps and 1% tile	15-17C tile
105	Layer	1m	1.5 +	0.1	Dumped layer over 104	Friable It grey silty sand, charcoal	17C clay pipe, med tile, oyster shell
106	Layer	2.25 +	0.85	0.2	Dumped layer below 104, over 110	Friable light brown silty sand with infrequent charcoal inclusions	Pottery 17/E18C
107	Layer	1.40+	0.90+	-	Below 103 at W end, abuts 108	Firm pale olive-grey sandy silt with lenses of dark brown clayey silt	Brick frags, undated
108	Fill of pit 116	0.8	0.5	0.4	Concentration of loose stones filling a pit	Matrix of pale yellow soft fine sand	L18/19C clay pipe
109	Fill of pit 116	0.6	0.5	0.3	Under 108	Firm mottled yellow and greenish-grey clay	-
110	Layer	1.25 +	1.5 +	0.15	Dumped layer, below 106, over 111	Friable mid-brown sand with infrequent charcoal	L16/E17C pottery, Animal bone, oyster shell
111	Layer	1.25	1.5	0.16	Dumped layer over 112/113	Yellow-brown sand and mortar fragments, 10% gravel and 5% limestone lumps	L16/E17C pottery



Context no.	Туре	Length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	Interpretation	Soil description	Finds and date
112	Layer	1	1.5	0.18	Dumped layer over 113	Firm greenish-brown silty clay	-
113	Layer	1.25	1.5	0.12	Redeposited channel fill, dump layer over 114	Tenacious dark blue-grey clay	16/17C tile
114	Layer	1.25	1.5	0.3	Channel fill below 112 and 113	Tenacious dark brown/black organic clay	L13/14C worn pottery
115	Layer	1.7	1.65	-	Channel fill below 114	Tenacious blue-grey clay	-
116	Pit cut	1	1	?	Pit containing 108 and 109	Only partly exposed in edge of trench	-
	Trench 2						
200	Made Ground	Overall		1	Modern overburden	Hardcore, mortar /brick rubble, service trenches	20C
201	Fill of pit 202	1	1	0.6	Single fill of modern pit	Compact light grey silty clay with pockets of natural gravel and bluegrey clay	20C brick and tile fragments
202	Pit cut	1	1	0.6	Modern pit below overburden 200	Vertical sides, rounded base	
203	Layer	2	1.95	0.3	Below 200 and cut by 202 in S of trench	Friable light brown sandy clay, 10% gravel	Victorian pottery and glass, med tile frags
204	Layer	Overall	1.95	0.5	Dumped layer and garden soil below 203 and over 205-208	Firm grey-brown silty clay with 5% charcoal	Pottery 1720-80, clay pipe L18C, glass wine bottle and med and 15-17C tile
205	Layer	0.6	1.95	0.2	Channel fill?, below 204 and over 206	Firm dark grey silty clay, occasional charcoal fleck	L17C clay pipe, mid- L17C pottery, tile and brick
206	Layer	0.5	1.95	0.2	Channel backfill below 205 and over 207	Friable light greenish- brown sandy silt with nfrequent charcoal flecks	L13-16C pottery
207	Layer	0.3	1.95	0.17	Channel backfill below 206 and over 208	Firm dark grey silty clay	L16C pottery
208	Layer	Overall		0.2	Channel backfill below 207, not bottomed	Friable light brown sandy clay with occasional gravel	17C pottery



Context no.	Туре	Length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	Interpretation	Soil description	Finds and date
300	Made Ground	Overall		1	Modern overburden	Hardcore, mortar /brick rubble, service trenches	20C
301	Layer or fill of cut	6.5+	4.5	0.55	Either part of 302 to either side or fill of cut into 302	Tenacious dark grey- black silty clay	Victorian pottery, 19C clay pipe
302	Layer	Overall		0.62	Dumped layer/garden soil (cf 103 and 204)	Firm mid brown silty clay with 5% charcoal and 5% gravel	L16/17C pottery, worn
303	Fill of pit 305	1.2	0.4	0.14	Capping layer over fill 304?	Firm orange-brown sandy clay with 10% gravel and 5% mortar	-
304	Fill of pit 305	2.2	0.5	0.3	Main fill of pit 305	Tenacious light grey silty clay with 30% horncores	15-16C floor tile, horncores
305	Pit cut	2.6	0.5(+)	0.36	Pit cut by 301 and cutting 302, filled by 303 and 304	Steep or vertical sides and flat base	-
306	Layer	Overall		0.25	Dumped layer - reclamation	Tenacious light grey silty clay with 20% limestones	L18/19C pottery, med roof tile
307	Layer	2	0.6	?	Alluvial or fluvial layer at base of trench	Tenacious dark blue-grey clay	-
308	Layer	Overall		0.2+	Alluvial layer below 306	Tenacious mottled light brown and grey clay	Mid 13-16C pottery, possibly 14C
309	Fill of pit 310			0.2(+)	pit	Firm greyish-brown silty clay	L16/17C pottery, brick, med tile, horncores
310	Pit cut	1.4	1.1	0.2(+)	Filled by 309	Vertical sides, curved in plan, 1/4 only	
311	Layer	4.5(+)	1.9(+)	0.3	Dumped layer – reclamation over 306	Tenacious light brown silty clay, 5% limestones	-
	Trench 4						
400	Made Ground	Overall		1.1	Modern overburden	Hardcore, mortar /brick rubble, service trenches	20C
401	Layer	Overall		0.2	Dumped layer below 400 and above 402	Friable dark grey silty sand	Victorian pottery
402	Layer	2.80+	1.7+	0.4	Dumped layer below 401 and above 403	Friable light brown sandy silt with 10% mortar lumps	



Context no.	Туре	Length (m)	width (m)	depth (m)	Interpretation	Soil description	Finds and date
403	Layer	2.8	1.7	0.18	Dumped layer below 402 and over 404	Friable mid brown sandy silt with 10% gravel	Victorian pottery, 19C clay pipe, L18-E19C wine bottle
404	Layer	2.8+	1.70	0.20(+)	Fill in top of channel	Tenacious dark grey sandy clay with 5% organic inclusions/ wooden stakes	L17/18C clay pipe, L18/19C pottery, E- mid19C wine bottle, 19-20C brick
	Trench 5						
500	Made Ground	Overall		0.95	Modern overburden	Crushed demolition debris over tarmac,make-up and gravel	L20C
501	Layer	Overall		0.25	Dumped layer below 500 and above 502	Friable mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel	16C roof tile
502	Layer	Overall		0.35	Dumped layer below 501 and above 503 and 507	Friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt with 5% charcoal and occasional gravel	L19C pottery, Med roof tile, vessel glass
503	Layer	5m	1.5(+)	0.23	Dumped layer below 502 and 507 and above 505	Friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel	16/E17C pottery, med roof tile
504	Layer	2.5m+	1.5+	At least 0.05	Channel fill below 505	grey brown silty loam	Mid 13- mid15C pottery
505	Layer	Overall		0.35	Alluvial deposit in channel top below 503 and above 504	Friable light greenish- brown silty clay	Med roof tile
506	Layer	3.0+	1.5+	Not dug	Alluvial or channel deposit	Tenacious greenish- brown clay with frequent roots and twigs	-
507	Layer	0.8	1.5	0.15	Dumped deposit over 503 and below 502	Friable light brown sandy clay with 10% gravel	16-18C tile, med roof tile



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## APPENDIX C. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

## C.1 Pottery catalogue and spot dates

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
	c1600-1750	4		3x post-med redware (PMR), body sherds (bos) from 2 vess. 1x East Wilts ware (OXAQ) sagging base from cooking pot c1170- 1350
	c1600-1750	2	83	2x PMR bos incl large fresh bo from a jar
1100	c1550-1640	1	7	V worn bo late Brill/Boarstall (OXBX) with int yellowish glaze
111k	c1580-1630	2		Weser slipware (WESE). Hooked/hammerhead rim. Classic decoration internally comprising concentric bands of brown slip just inside rim & groups of 6+ radial wavy lines in alternating brown and dark green slip. Rim diam 310mm. The smaller sherd is slightly darker than the larger and probably discoloured by burial conditions. Rare in Oxford. PHOTO
1140	c1250-1400	4		Sieved Sample <4> 2x OXAM incl green-glazed jug bo & worn sherd from the dish of a double-shelled oil lamp (diam c 80mm) with abraded rim stump, reduced grey fabric & dark green glaze int. 1x sagging base sherd from cook pot in early Brill/Boarstall (OXAW, c1175-1400). 1x worn bo OXAQ
2030	c1830-1900	3	16	Bos. 1x Staffs-type refined whiteware (REFW). 1x modern English stoneware (ENGS) brown ink bottle etc. 1x worn bo Medieval Oxford ware cooking pot (OXY, c 1075-1300)
	c1720-1780	11	88	1x plain white tin-glazed earthenware (TGW) rim from small L17/18C ointment jar. 3x bos (3 vess) Frechen stoneware (FREC) incl neck from Bellarmine bottle with trace of applied mask (1 bo v worn). 1x cup handle black-glazed earthenware (PMBL). 1x small bo green-glazed Surrey/Hants border ware (BORDG). 2x bos late Brill (OXBX) incl 16/E17C dish floor. 1x thumbed jug base early Brill/Boarstall (OXAW, c1175-1400). 1x worn oval/strap handle in v sandy orange ware with patches of thin white ?ash glaze - poss PMR or Spanish micaceous ware (SPAM, c1350-1700)?
205	c1620-1700	6	24	PMR. 2x small bos FREC. 1x worn bo yellow-glazed border ware (BORDY)
2060	c1250-1600	1	35	Fairly fresh lower handle junction Brill/Boarstall ware jug with knife slashes down the back, covered allover with pale greenish-brown glaze - poss late med Brill?? Poss L14-16C?
2070	c1550-1600?	1	19	patchy int greenish-brown glaze. Corrugated/carinated ext profile like London PMRE bowls
	c1600-1700	1	30	Plain upright rim, grooved under
	c1830-1900	3		1x dish rim Staffs transfer-printed whiteware (TPW) blue 'Willow Pattern'. 2x bos PMR L18/19C
	c1580-1700	2	28	
	c1780-1900	2	6	1x fresh rim PMR flowerpot. 1x small bo 16/E17C OXBX
3080	c1225-1600	1	5	Bo OXAM (or OXBX) Brill jug with speckled green glaze



308c1225-1400		1	8	Sieved Sample <2> Bo OXAM strip jug with red & white		
				vertical strips under pale green speckled glaze. Fairly fresh		
309	c1550-1700	1	35	Fresh bo FREC jug		
401	c1830-1900	1	15	Fresh rim REFW preserve jar		
403	c1830-1900	1	15	Bo blue TPW bowl		
404	c1780-1900	3	57	1x fresh bo PMR flowerpot. 1x pad base late PMR bowl/jar. 1x fresh rim Chinese porcelain large teabowl with traces of blue painted dec ext		
404	c1780-1840	4	21	Sieved Sample <3> 2x flakes Pearlware (PEAR) from same vessel. 1x small bo PMR. 1x worn bo OXBX		
502	c1860-1900	1	17	Fresh REFW plate rim with late purple-red painted borders		
503	c1500-1640	3	37	2x fresh bos OXBX (2 vess) incl drinking jug lower wall in unglazed smooth cream late fabric. Also bo from plain OXAM strip jug with green speckle glaze		
504	c1250-1450?	1	49	Large fairly fresh bo OXAM plain strip jug with green speckle glaze (14/15C?) poss joins (503)?		
TOTAL		60	803			

## C.2 Clay pipes: catalogue and spot dates

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Tot sherds	Tot Wt(g)	Comments
103	L17-E18C	1	0	0	1	4	Fresh early-style 'chunky' stem with stem bore (SB) c2.5mm
105	17C	2	0	0	2	8	Prob 2 separate pipes. Fresh chunky stem frags. SB c3mm
108	L18-19C	1	0	0	1	4	Fresh stem frag. SB c1.5mm
204	c1750-1790	4	3	0	7	42	4x 17C stems fresh & worn. 1x fresh bowl base with big square-profile oval heel on 18C stem - probably Oxford/St Ebbe's Type D 1750-90 (Oswald 1984). 1x fresh near-complete bowl St Ebbes Type B 1650-90+. 1x fairly worn bowl near-profile Type A 1630-55
205	c1650-1690	0	1	0	1	15	Fairly fresh complete bowl Oxford Type B
301	19C	1	0	0	1	2	Worn. SB c1mm
403	19C	1	0	0	1	2	Fresh slender 19C stem SB c1mm
404	L17-18C	1	1	0	2	9	Sieved Sample <3> Worn bowl base with stubby spur probably Type B c 1650-90. Chunky stem frag with SB c2mm prob L17/18C
TOTAL		11	5	0	16	86	



### C.3 Ceramic building material by context and type

Context	Spot date	Nos	Wt g	Form	Comments
103	13th-15 <sup>th</sup> C	1	21	Roof: ridge	Greenish brown glaze
103	Med	1	11	Roof: flat	
104	Med	4	407	Roof: flat	
105	Med	3	181	Roof: flat/peg	Includes tile with peg hole 12mm dia.
113	16th-17th C	3	165	Floor tile	quarry tile 47mm thick
203	Med	2	18	Roof: flat	
204	13th-15 <sup>th</sup> C	1	16	Roof: ridge	Remnants of thin glaze
204	c. 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> C	1	6	Floor tile	Unglazed; quite thin at 18 mm thick.
204	Med/Pmed	2	29	Brick	
205	Med/Pmed	1	5	Roof: flat	
205	Med/Pmed	1	12	Brick	
304	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> C	1	41	Floor tile	Flemish type with white slip and brown glaze; worn surface. 13-16mm thick.
306	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	1	39	Roof: flat	Patchy amber glaze
309	Med	6	416	Roof: flat	
309	Med/Pmed	1	49	Brick	
404	Med	2	226	Roof: flat	
404	Med/ Pmed	4	7	Indet	
404	C19-C20	2	7	Brick	Small scraps one in Fletton fabric
501	Lmed-Epmed	1	95	Roof: flat	
502	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	1	16	Roof: ridge?	Amber glaze
502	Med	1	18	Roof: ridge?	
502	Med	1	7	Roof: flat	
503	Med	1	30	Roof: flat	
505	Med	1	171	Roof: flat	Shelly fabric
507	Med	1	146	Roof: flat	

## C.4 Glass by context and type

Sum of Fragment Count	Туре		
Context	vessel	window	Grand Total
203	3	2	2
204	1		1
402	1		1
403	3 1		1
404	3	4	. 7
502	2		2
Grand Total	8	6	14

# C.5 Total number of fragments/taxon from the bone assemblage from Luther Court, Oxford

	13-15 <sup>th</sup> C	17 <sup>th</sup> C	17-18 <sup>th</sup> C	M-L18 <sup>th</sup> C	L18-E19 <sup>th</sup> C	19 <sup>th</sup> C*
Cattle	2		9		1	649
Sheep/ goat	2	3			1	4
Pig						



Horse						7
Dog						5
Red deer						1
Rabbit		1			1	
Indet. bird	2					
Rat					1	
Frog					1	
Microfauna	1					
Small mammal	1					
Medium mammal	1	3	1	7		7
Large mammal		3	3	2	2	26
Indeterminate	7			5	2	6
TOTAL	16	10	13	14	9	705
Weight (g)	138	98	436	42	106	18091

<sup>\*</sup> This assemblage is from two pits that contained later 16th/17th century finds, but cut a layer containing a single 19th century sherd. Their date is therefore uncertain, and may be earlier.

# C.6 Epiphyseal fusion of cattle, sheep/goat and horse, following Habermehl (1975). Fusion stages follows Serjeantson (1996).

17 <sup>th</sup> C		Unfused	Fusing	Fused	
Sheep/goat	Early fusion				
	Mid fusion			1	
	Late fusion				
17/18 <sup>th</sup> C		Unfused	Fusing	Fused	
Cattle	Early fusion	1			
	Mid fusion			1	
	Late fusion			2	
L18/E19 <sup>th</sup> C		Unfused	Fusing	Fused	
Cattle	Early fusion				
	Mid fusion				
	Late fusion	1			
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			1	
	Mid fusion				
	Late fusion				
19 <sup>th</sup> C*		Unfused	Fusing	Fused	
Cattle	Early fusion				
	Mid fusion		1		
	Late fusion				
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			1	
	Mid fusion				
	Late fusion				
Horse	Early fusion			2	
	Mid fusion				
	Late fusion			1	

### C.7 Total number of fragments/taxon from the horn core rich pits.



	Pit 305	Pit 310
Cattle horn cores and skull fragments	610*	6
Cattle (other bones)	1	1
Sheep/goat	1	
Horse		7
Dog	3	
Red deer	1	
Medium mammal		1
Large mammal	4	7
Indeterminate	1	
TOTAL	652	22
Weight (g)	16406	1682

NB 530 of these are small fragments, mostly from sieved samples.

## C.8 Oyster shell

Context	Description
110	4 oyster shells, 2 right & 2 left valve, 60g
114	<4> 4 fragments oyster shell, 23g
304	<1> 4 fragments oyster shell, 29g
404	<3> 2 fragments oyster shell, 4g



### APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Luther Court, Thames Street, Oxford

Site code: OXLUCOEV

**Grid reference:** Centred on SP 5130 0568

**Type:** Evaluation, Borehole investigation and watching brief

Date and duration: May/June 2014, 3 weeks

**Summary of results:** In May and June 2014, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a watching brief on removal of foundations, and then a 5-trench evaluation and borehole investigation at Luther Court, Thames Street, Oxford (NGR SP 5130 0568). The work was commissioned by Exel Group on behalf of A2 Dominion Homes Ltd.

The watching brief did not reveal anything of interest. The trenches were dug along the line of proposed new drainage runs, and exposed the tops of former channels or alluvial deposits containing a few finds of late medieval date, but were not large enough to establish the extent or orientations of the channels. Channel silting was followed by post-medieval dump deposits across the site, spanning the late 16th to the end of the 18th or early 19th centuries. No features were found during this phase, bearing out the historic map evidence of open ground.

Two pits in Trench 3 contained numerous horncores, which indicates that processes associated with leatherworking were taking place in the vicinity, and perhaps suggests that tanning was carried out nearby. These pits cut a layer containing a single sherd of 19th century pottery, but themselves contained later 16th/17th century finds. It is thought likely that the late sherd was intrusive, and that this activity belonged to the period soon after the dissolution of the friary, and before the main phase of dumping.

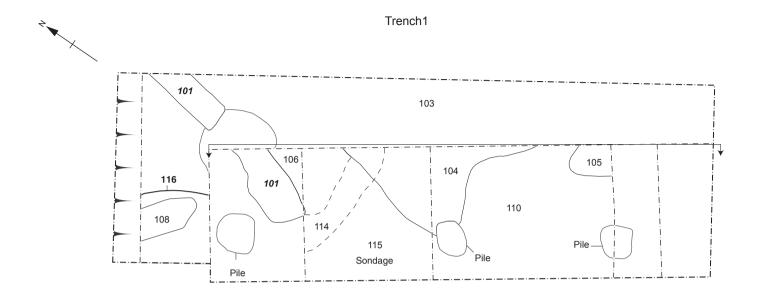
Another pit, this time certainly of 19th century date, was found in Trench 1. This activity was sealed by further dumping, possibly to create garden soils in the backs of the tenements known from historic maps to have been constructed in the mid-late 19th century. This was overlain by 1m or more of 20th century overburden/made ground.

Three boreholes were successfully drilled, and retrieved cores indicating that a deep channel had crossed the southern part of the site. The two southerly cores indicated an organic sediment of Mesolithic date truncated by a gravel, indicative of high-energy erosive activity, probably the reactivation of a channel. This was followed by more organic sediment, indicating slower and more stable flow, fining up profile as flow slowed. There was further organic material at the top of the profile, probably due to the cessation of constant flow and the consequent growth of plants across the channel. The northernmost borehole had a different sequence, without the high-energy gravel, and much more clayey sediments, suggesting that this lay at the edge of the channel, and that some of the sediment may have been alluvial rather than fluvial in origin.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service, in due course, under accession number OXCMS 2014.87.

Scale 1:12,500

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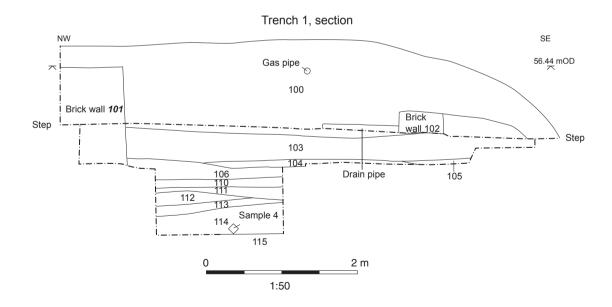
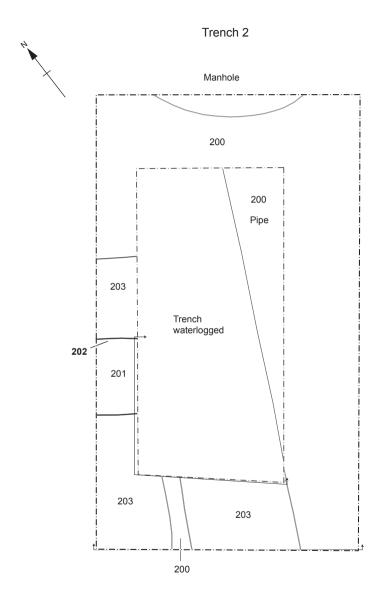


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and section



Trench 2, section

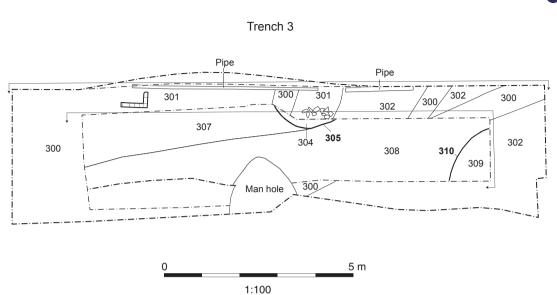
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200
Pipe
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208

SE

SE



Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and section



Trench 3, section

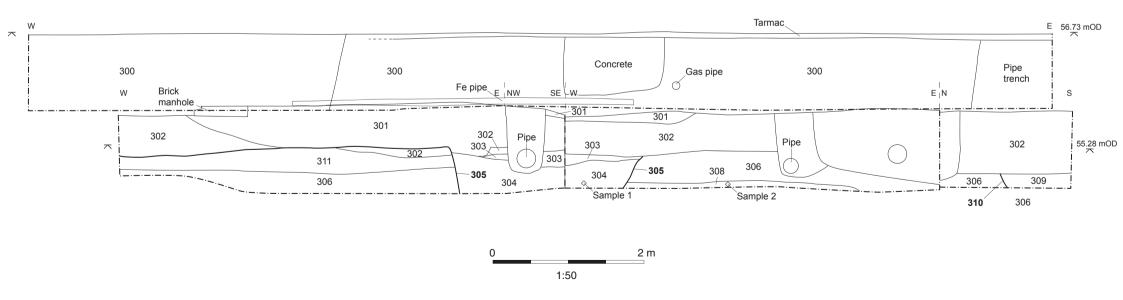
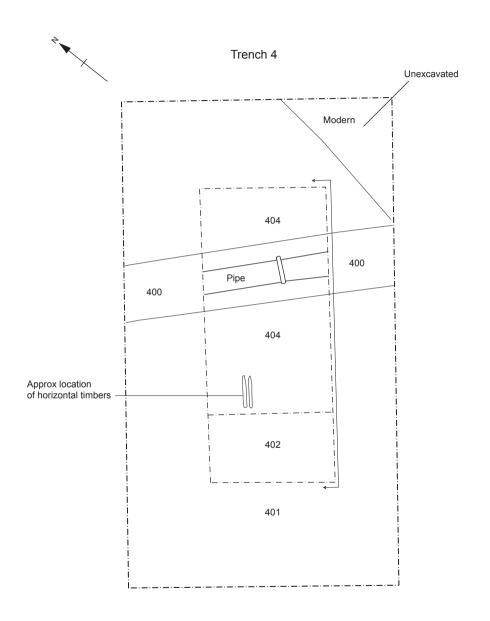


Figure 5: Trench 3, plan and section



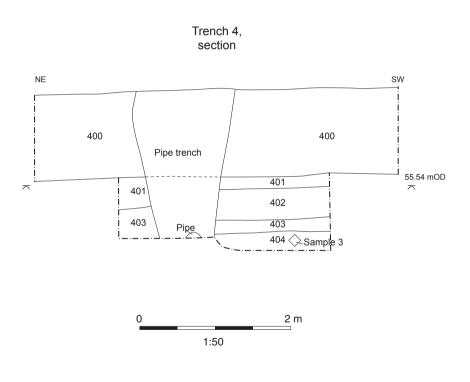
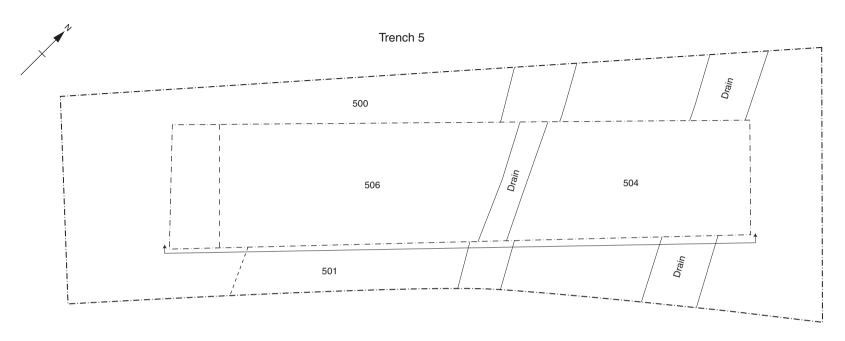


Figure 6: Trench 4, plan and section



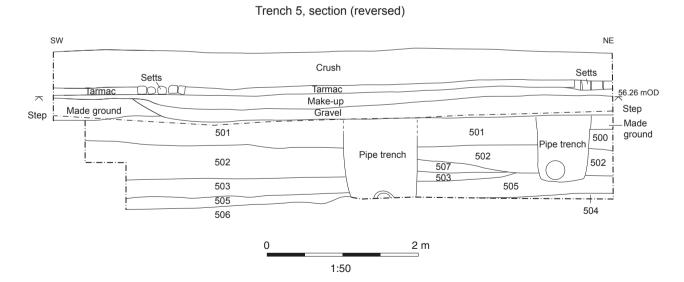


Figure 7: Trench 5, plan and section



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



Plate 2: Trench 1 sondage, looking north-east

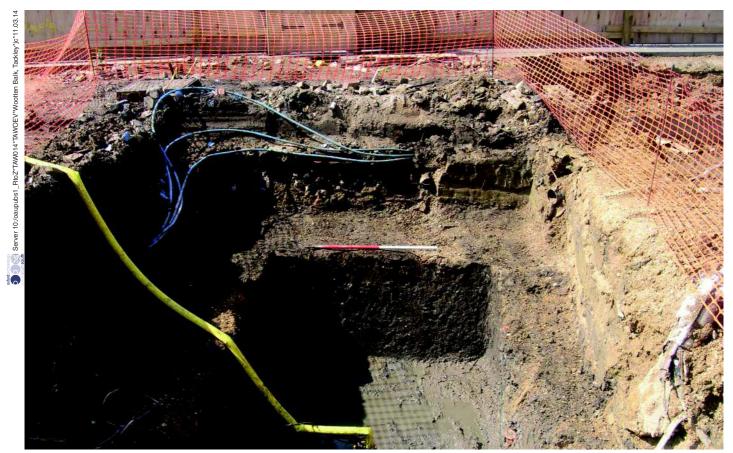


Plate 3: Trench 2 after machining and cleaning, looking north



Plate 4: Trench 3 after machining and cleaning, looking WSW



Plate 5: Trench 3 section showing pit 305, looking north



Plate 6: Trench 4: after machining and before cleaning, looking east



Plate 7: Trench 5 east section south part, looking east



Plate 8: Trench 5 east section north part, looking east-west



Plate 9: Two rims sherds from a Weser slipware with brown and green slip decoration . Germany. c 1580-1630. A rare type from Oxford. Rim diameter 310. Context (111)



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