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Corpus Christi College, Oxford: New Sub Main West

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Between 1–12 July 2019, Oxford Archaeology carried out an intermittent watching brief at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, on works to replace sub main cables. Two main sections of cable trench were monitored. Walls from building that are likely to relate to academic halls that predate the college were uncovered, and two examples were cut by features containing material of 13th -14th century date. A third pit contained roof tile of a similar date as well as residual early medieval pottery. The alignment of one of the walls suggest that the academic halls were set out a few degrees off the current college's layout.

The watching brief also covered intrusive groundworks associated with the alterations to the college kitchen that were subject to separate building recording survey. The bases of extant walls were found during these works. A basement structure and former floor were also uncovered inside the western range of the college buildings.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Corpus Christi College, Oxford, to undertake a watching brief during the replacement of electric sub main cabling.

1.1.2 The work which was undertaken was understood to fall under Permitted Development by the College. Discussions between David Radford, the Oxford City Archaeologist, and Gerry Thacker of Oxford Archaeology established the scope of works required; this document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (OA, 2019).

1.1.3 At the same time as the cabling works were being undertaken, a separate building survey was being carried out on works under Listed Building Consent (18/02421/LBC) as part of Planning Condition reference 18/02420/FUL, and some below ground archaeological recording was undertaken as part of this work in the kitchen area (Trench 3). This work is included in this report. The cabling works being carried out required floorboards to be lifted which revealed a basement structure. The basement was recorded and reported on as part of the building survey works (OA forthcoming).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Corpus Christi College lies within the centre of Oxford, to the south of Merton Street, and is centred on SP 51633 06003 (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of the main works focused in the western part of the precinct of Corpus Christi College (Fig. 2) in the Main Quad (Trench 1) and to the west side of the quad buildings (Trench 2). Additional below-ground watching brief works were carried out in the kitchen doorway to the east (Trench 3).

1.2.3 The site is located on the southern edge of the secondary river gravel terrace and the underlying geology is Oxford Clay. The site is mostly level, and lies at c 60m OD (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the previous phase brief (OCC 2016), and a desk-based assessment (OA 2015a) and is summarised below.

1.3.2 Founded in c 1517 by Bishop Fox, the site of Corpus Christi College is of archaeological interest because it is located within the extent of the late Saxon burh and later medieval walled town. The college was constructed over the site of a number of early 14th century academic halls including Neville's Inn, Leden Porch and Corner Hall, as illustrated on Slater's plan of medieval landholdings retrospectively drawn in the 20th century. The college is located in the eastern sector of the city against the former line of the town wall and on the line of the hypothesized primary late Saxon burh defences. The college originally comprised a single quadrangle on the Merton Street frontage and later expanded to the south.

1.3.3 Archaeological investigations have recorded remnants of the 14th-century Canterbury College boundary wall, along with the remains of an earlier road and medieval tenements on

the western side of the college. Possible evidence of the late Saxon defensive primary burh ditch has also been recorded to the rear of the college. The town wall has also been examined.

1.3.4 Archaeological investigations in 2000 at the Emily Thomas Building recorded several rubbish pits and a well containing fragments of 11th-13th century pottery which may relate to the former academic hall known to have existed on the site. The presence of animal bone of both cattle and sheep along with environmental evidence from the well indicate the excavations were centred in a former farmyard or kitchen area. The 11th-13th century deposits were recorded at a depth of 0.4–0.5m below current ground level on the eastern side of the college.

1.3.5 An evaluation by OA in 2007 on the site of a new music room identified late Saxon burials relating to the nearby monastic precinct of St Frideswide. A large ditch, possibly defensive in character, was uncovered along with evidence for industrial activity in the medieval period (tanning), pits likely to be related to the foundation of the college, and elements of the 16th-century garden layout.

1.3.6 In 2013 archaeological observations during the excavation of an electric cable trench at Merton Grove in the Grove Garden of Merton College recorded an apparent midden deposit comprising a large quantity of oyster shells and Brill/Boarstall ware pottery from the late 14th to 16th century. The midden pit was recorded at a depth of 0.18m below the current ground level. Unstratified material associated with high-status medieval buildings in the form of glazed ridge and floor tiles was also recovered (Jessop Consultancy 2013).

1.3.7 Geophysical survey and an auger hole investigations by OA and limited trial trench excavation by Museum of London Archaeology were undertaken in 2015 in Garden Quadrangle. The fieldwork established a sequence of dumped layers of soil and mortar which were clearly mixed given the residual pottery in the lowest deposits. The earliest layers appeared to date from the medieval period, perhaps the 13th century, though earlier ceramics mixed in suggest early medieval activity elsewhere. The sequence of deposits continued through to the 16th or 17th century and confirmed the sequence identified in the auger holes. The single feature found was probably an 18th-century path. The results of this work suggest that if the primary burh ditch is located under Corpus Christi College then it is likely to be located further east.

1.3.8 In 2016 Oxford Archaeology carried out an intermittent watching brief at Corpus Christi College, on works to replace sub-mains cables in the eastern part of the College (OA 2016). Two sections of cable trench were monitored, and three test pits were observed to inform the depth of a third section of trench, also subsequently monitored. Evidence for burials associated with the 16th-century chapel was encountered, including the capping of a stone and brick burial vault which contained a coffin observable through a void in the structure. Some disarticulated human bone was also recovered and reburied on the site, providing evidence for additional disturbed burials in the area. A rubbish pit dating from 1650–1700 contained pottery and animal bones, including a rare example of a turkey bone from this date. Walls and pillar bases from earlier incarnations of the college buildings were also recorded.

2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the watching brief were to identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed during the ground works, with particular regard to remains of medieval and post-medieval date. Any remains were to be interpreted with regard to the known archaeology of the college and grounds and appropriate resource assessments and agendas.

2.1.2 The specific aims were to mitigate the impact of the intrusive works through preservation by record.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 In Trench 1 the cables were placed within trenches re-cut through previous service trenches with sections of newly cut trenches. The trenches were between 0.3m and 0.4m wide and on average 0.45m deep. Trench 1 measured 46m long with projections into the college buildings ranging from an additional length of 1.5m to 3m. Trench 2 was 11.5m long and Trench 3 in the kitchen area measured 1.14m by 1.55m (Fig. 2).

2.2.2 During the course of the cabling works, between Trench 1 and Trench 2, the floor boards were lifted in the Grade I listed college building and the cable was run directly under them. Lifting the floor boards revealed a basement structure which was recorded as part of the building survey works (OA report forthcoming) and the floorboards and associated deposits were recorded as part of this report. Once the cable was installed, the existing floor boards were reinstated.

2.2.3 The college quad paving slabs were removed by hand and all the trenches were hand excavated by the groundwork contractors under archaeological supervision. Once areas of deposits were identified as modern cable trench backfill, only intermittent monitoring was carried out. All *in situ* deposits were recorded in section and where masonry was encountered the structure was cleaned, photographed and recorded in accordance with OA's standard methodology for excavation and recording (Appendix A, WSI, OA 2019).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the areas that contained archaeological remains. The full details of the dimensions and depths of all deposits are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates can be found in Appendix B. Environmental data can be found in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence varied across the site and was interrupted by modern truncation. The natural geology was not encountered in any of the areas. The general sequence of deposits encountered consisted of garden soils overlain by the previous quad surface deposits which in turn were overlain by the quad paving slabs.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the watching brief were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trench 1 (Fig. 3) and are described in more detail below. Inside the quad building a basement (structure 19) and earlier floor (16) were observed (Fig. 4; Plate 9). Trench 2 (Plates 6-7) was devoid of archaeological features, revealing only make-up deposits for the current tarmac and paving slab car park surface, but the top of the foundations (24) for the current college quad building walls were observed at the north end of the trench. Trench 3 (Plate 8) revealed a dark garden soil layer (23), into which a small trench was excavated through to a depth of 0.26m. The layer was sealed by the concrete foundations (21) for the modern kitchen floor tiles.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Within the easternmost 16m of the trench only the previous sub main cabling and associated backfill, 2, was revealed. The original cable route must have changed direction at the point that a wall, 8, was uncovered (Figs 3, 5 and 7, Section 2; Plates 1-2). The wall was constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks, of which at least two courses survived. The wall was fairly substantial, at 1.1m wide, fair faced on both sides, and was orientated NNE-SSW, at odds to the alignment of the current college buildings which lie on a north-south and east west axis. The wall was abutted on both sides by deposit 15, a yellow-brown silty sand with gravel inclusions, which was sealed by layer 3, a brownish yellow clayey sand containing coarse flint gravel. Layer 3 was sealed by 9, a compact yellow-brown sandy clay with a high concentration of gravel and mortar fragments. Layer 9 contained residual pottery dating from 1350-1450 and ceramic building material (CBM) dating from 1175-1350 in addition to bottle glass of 18th- or 19th-century date. Layer 9 was truncated to the east by the former sub main cut and backfill, 2, and was overlain by the current quad stone slab surface and associated bedding layer, 1.

3.4.2 At the junction of the east-west and north-south sections of Trench 1 a dark greyish brown sandy silt, 11, was encountered (Fig. 7, section 1). It was a distinctive deposit with a high concentration of oyster shell and flecks of CBM throughout. It was difficult to define the limits or to see the cut, 10, due to the large number of modern services in the trench. It was confined

to one area measuring 0.85 m by 0.5 m and had a depth of 0.24m. Layer 11 contained pottery dating from the 9th to 11th century and CBM of 13th- to 14th-century date. To the western side of the trench deposit 11 was cut by the construction cut, 6, for a modern drain, 5, which had a concrete base with brick side walls and was filled by mid brownish-yellow silt, 7. To the east the drain cut layers 4 and 3 described above, and was sealed by layer 12, a dark grey-brown silty clay in turn overlain by the quad slab surface (1).

3.4.3 In the northern end of the north-south part of Trench 1, the upper two courses of a wall, 13, were constructed from both roughly hewn limestone blocks (Figs 3 and 7, Section 3; Plate 3). The blocks were laid at random with occasional patches of yellow-grey mortar present. The wall was sealed by layer 4, in turn sealed by 3 which was overlain by the quad surface (1).

3.4.4 A few metres to the south a further wall, 26, is likely to be a continuation of wall 13, and was of similar construction (Figs 3 and 7, Section 4; Plate 4). The wall was cut by a later feature, a pit or the base of a robber trench, 32, which was only visible in plan (Fig. 3). The fill (33) comprised mainly flat stones and roof tiles, and also contained CBM dating from the 13th or 14th century. The wall was partially overlain by layer 27 (only seen in plan), which may also represent the remnant of a robbing event, and comprised a grey-brown sandy clay containing tile dating from the 13th-14th century. Above layer 27 were layers 4, 3 and the quad surface (1).

3.4.5 Further to the south, beyond an area filled by further modern services, another stretch of wall, 28, was present (Figs 3 and 7, Section 5; Plate 5). It appeared to be more random in construction than the walls described above, and was also constructed from limestone with no apparent bonding material present. Layer 29 directly overlay the wall to the south, and was a grey-brown sandy clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions containing pottery dating from 1225-1450, 13th-14th century CBM, and window glass. Given that the remains of wall 28 survive to a greater height to the north, layer 29 may well be the fill of the base of a robber trench. Both wall 28 and layer 29 were cut by pit 30, which had concave sides, which were steeper to the northern side. The fill of the pit (31) was a greyish-brown sand containing pottery dating from 1225 to 1450, animal bone, oyster shell and an iron nail. Pit fill 31 was sealed by layer 3, in turn sealed by the quad surface (1).

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Between Trenches 1 and 2, within the western range of the quad, an area of the current floor was lifted, revealing an earlier phase of floor joists and floorboards (16) above the void of the basement, 19 (Figs 2 and 6), and an earlier mortar-rich deposit (18). The boards were overlain by a thin brownish-grey dusty rubble layer (17) containing pottery dating from 1750-1900.

3.5.2 Trench 2 revealed the top course of the foundations, 24, for the current college quad building walls which were observed at the north end of the trench. The wall foundation was abutted by layer 25, a yellow-brown sandy clay with small limestone fragments and gravel inclusions. This was sealed by the formation layer (20) for the current tarmac surface of the carpark to the west.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 4; Plate 8) revealed the foundations for the current kitchen wall (23). This was abutted by a yellow-brown sandy-clay layer (22), into which a small trench was excavated to a depth of 0.26m. The layer was sealed by the concrete foundations (21) for the modern kitchen floor tiles.

3.7 Finds summary

3.7.1 The finds assemblage was small and was typical for medieval and post-medieval sites in Oxford.

3.7.2 A total of seven sherds of pottery weighing 95g were recovered from six contexts and are fully described in Appendix B.1 The pottery comprises ordinary domestic medieval and post-medieval wares typical of Oxford.

3.7.3 A total of 13 pieces of CBM weighing 1353g were recovered from six contexts and are fully described in Appendix B.2. The CBM assemblage comprises medieval and post-medieval types typical of Oxford. Medieval material is commonest, mainly peg tile fragments and a few pieces of glazed ridge tile.

3.7.4 Four pieces of vessel glass of late-18th- or early-19th-century date and a single piece of window glass were recovered.

3.7.5 The single metal find recovered from context 31 is a small iron nail with a small head and is not closely datable.

3.7.6 A total of nine animal bone specimens were recovered from the site with sheep being the most common species present with pig bones only present in the medieval assemblage. Three fragments of oyster shell were recovered.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The hand excavation of the trenches resulted in clean sections and observations could be carried out with ease, but the cable trenches were narrow, restricting the visibility and interpretation of the archaeological features. There was considerable modern disturbance from services in the majority of the areas excavated.

4.2 Watching brief objectives and results

4.2.1 The watching brief objectives were to record any archaeological remains to be impacted upon by the works and this report sets out the results of the investigation in line with the written scheme of investigation (OA 2019).

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Walls 28 and 26 are likely to belong to the halls that occupied the site prior to the foundation of the college in the 16th century, potentially Neville's Inn and Leden Porch. Wall 26 was cut by feature 32 which contained 13th-14th century material, and wall 28 was sealed by layer 29 containing material of 13th to 15th century date, potentially the fill of a robber trench associated with clearance prior to the foundation of the current college. The orientation of the walls could not be established, as they ran parallel with the narrow trenches that were subject to this investigation, but it is possible that as with wall 8 (the only wall that ran across a trench), they shared an orientation slightly different to the current college layout. The restricted nature of the trenches subject to the watching brief and high degree of modern truncation did not allow the opportunity to see how all the walls related to one another.

4.3.2 Deposit 11 that was restricted to a small area of Trench 1 may represent the upper fill of a pit. The dates of the pottery recovered suggest that it was of 13th-14th century date and also represents pre-college activity.

4.3.3 It is clear from this, and previous work, that significant medieval and early post-medieval features and deposits are present at a shallow depth beneath the current college quadrangle surfaces, although there is a degree of residuality and mixing of finds in other deposits.

APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Stone slabs – Quad surface, trench 1.	-	-
2	Layer	0.4m	0.3-0.45	Service trench backfill, trench 1. Mid yellowish brown clayey sand and gravel. Concrete and stone fragment inclusions.	-	-
3	Layer	3	0.05-0.1	Gravel/clay surface, trench 1. Mid brownish yellow clayey sand. Course flint gravel inclusions.	-	-
4	Layer	3	0.2-0.35	Garden soils, trench 1. Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Gravel, charcoal, ceramic building material and angular limestone fragment inclusions.	CBM; pot; animal bone	20 th century (CBM); c 1800-1950+ (pot)
5	Structure	0.44	0.25	Brick and concrete drain, trench 1. Modern red brick, one course on a concrete base with cement mortar.		
6	Cut	0.48	0.45	Drain construction cut, trench 1. Vertical sided cut, structure flush with the cut edges.		
7	Fill	0.23	0.14	Drain fill, trench 1. Mid brownish yellow silty gravel with course flint gravel inclusions.		
8	Structure	1.1	0.3	Stone wall, trench 1. NNE-SSW aligned. Roughly hewn limestone and mid greyish yellow limestone mortar construction, faced on both sides with a rubble core.		
9	Layer	1.3	0.10	Compact layer over wall, trench 1. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	Pot; vessel glass; CBM ridge tile	C 1350-1450 (pot); Late 18th- or early 19th-century (glass); c 1175-1350 (tile);
10				VOID		

11	Fill	0.85	0.24	Pit fill, trench 1. Dark greyish brown, sandy silt. Frequent charcoal and oyster shell.	Pot; CBM tile; animal bone; oyster shell	C 900-1100 (pot); 13 th to 14 th century? (tile)
12	Layer	1+	0.11	Modern make-up layer, below slab, trench 1. Dark greyish brown bands of yellowish brown silty clay and gravel.		
13	Structure	0.4+	0.3+	Stone wall, trench 1. Roughly hewn and unworked limestone, no mortar visible, occasional patch of yellowish grey mortar.		
14	-	-	-	VOID		
15	Fill	1.2+	0.3+	Deposit butting wall 8 or possible backfill of wall construction cut, trench 1. Yellowish brown silty sand.		
16	Structure	0.7	0.02	Wooden floor boards, internal, between trench 1 and 2.		
17	Layer	0.7	0.02	Deposit over floor, internal, between trench 1 and 2. Brownish grey silt dust/rubble of fine sand and mortar. Chalk/lime, mortar frags, wood dust and chips.	Pot; animal bone	c 1750-1900
18	Layer	1.7	-	Deposit under floor, internal, between trench 1 and 2. Earth deposit below floor. Brownish grey silty sand. Mortar and chalk fragments, limestone rubble. Surface only visible, unexcavated.		
19	Structure	3.3	1.7	Basement structure under quad building, internal, between trench 1 and .		
20	Deposit	0.4	0.25+	Car park make-up layers, trench 2. Brownish yellow clayey sand. Flint gravel and concrete rubble inclusions.		
21	Structure	1.14+	0.20	Kitchen floor, trench 3. Concrete base for ceramic tiles. Greyish yellow concrete.		
22	Layer	1.55+	0.26+	Layer below kitchen floor, trench 3. Yellowish brown, sandy clay with gravel and small-medium limestone fragments. Recorded in section.		

23	Structure	1.14+	0.46+	Kitchen exterior wall, trench 3. Limestone, ashlar finish, no single block visible in excavation area. One course seen.		
24	Structure	0.70+	0.48+	Foundation of quad wall, trench 2. Roughly hewn limestone blocks, yellowish grey sandy mortar. Extends 0.1m west from college wall, top of foundation was 0.27m below ground level.		
25	Layer	0.70+	0.55+	Deposits butting foundation wall, trench 2. Yellowish brown sandy clay, small limestone and gravel.		
26	Structure	3.4	0.2+	Stone wall, trench 1. Limestone, roughly hewn and unworked stones, random pattern, 2 courses, no bonding material.		
27	Layer	0.15	0.25+	Deposit, trench 1. Greyish brown sandy clay. Gravel and charcoal flecks.	CBM tile	13 th to 14 th century?
28	Structure	6.8	0.2+	Stone wall, trench 1. Limestone, roughly hewn and unworked, random, 2 courses visible.		
29	Layer	0.15	6.8	Deposit, trench 1. Greyish brown sandy clay, gravel and charcoal flecks.	Pot; window glass; CBM tile	c 1225-1450 (pot); Medieval – early Post-medieval (glass); 13 th to 14 th century? (tile)
30	Cut	0.83	0.20	Pit, trench 1. Moderately sloped sides and curved edges in plan.		
31	Fill	0.83	0.20	Pit fill, trench 1. Greyish brown silty clay, gravel and charcoal flecks. Single fill, not fully excavated.	Pot; iron nail; animal bone; oyster shell	c 1225-1450+
32	Cut	2	0.2	Pit, trench 1. Cut not well defined, curved edges in plan. Only visible due to tiles in fill.		
33	Fill	2	0.2	Pit fill, trench 1. Greyish brown sandy clay, gravel, ceramic building material and stone	CBM tiles	13 th to 14 th century?

				rubble inclusions. Worked stone likely roof tiles.		
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APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of seven sherds of pottery weighing 95g were recovered from six contexts. Given the small quantity present, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Medieval fabric codes referred to are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994), whereas post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

Description

- B.1.2 Context (4) Spot-date: c 1800-1950+. Description: 1 sherd (weight 9g). Fresh body sherds from a flower pot in post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric PMR).
- B.1.3 Context (9) Spot-date: c 1350-1450? Description: 1 sherd (weight 50g). Near-complete horizontal handle probably from a skillet (frying pan) in early Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAW). Sandy cream fabric with a buff core and a splash of clear yellow glaze on the underside. Handle of narrow strap-shaped cross-section with a deep furrow running along the top. The tongue-like terminal is badly chipped.
- B.1.4 Context (11) Spot-date: c 900-1100. Description: 1 sherd (weight 8g). Fairly abraded body sherd in St Neots-type ware (OXR). Probably from the lower wall of a jar/cooking pot with traces of sooting externally. Typical of late Saxon-Norman contexts in Oxford.
- B.1.5 Context (17) Spot-date: c 1750-1900? Description: 1 sherd (weight 9g). Fresh body sherd from the rounded shoulder of a jug (or cylindrical bottle?) in English stoneware (ENGs). Off-cream sandy fabric with a brown salt glaze externally and a clear light grey salt glaze internally. Possibly from Bristol or London?
- B.1.6 Context (29) Spot-date: c 1225-1450. Description: 1 sherd (weight 7g). Fresh body sherd from a jug in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM). Decorated with traces of a red slip lattice under a clear yellow glaze (a typical 'red lattice' jug).
- B.1.7 Context (31) Spot-date: c 1225-1450+. Description: 2 sherds (weight 12g). 1x fresh body sherd from a jug in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM). Fairly thick-walled with a glossy yellow-brown glaze externally. The fabric contains sparse-moderate coarse inclusions of red iron oxide - possibly indicating this is a late medieval Brill product (OXBx, c 1400-1625)? 1x smaller abraded unglazed body sherd in the same fabric.

Discussion

- B.1.8 The pottery comprises ordinary domestic medieval and post-medieval wares typical of the Oxford area. The sherds are generally fresh but quite small.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.1.9 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis, particularly when reviewed alongside other assemblages from the same general area. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

B.2 Ceramic building material

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.2.1 A total of 13 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1353g were recovered from six contexts. Given the small quantity present, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Medieval tile fabrics and CBM types from Oxford have been described in some detail in previous reports (Cotter 2006; 2008).

Description

- B.2.2 Context (4) Spot-date: 20th century. Description: 2 pieces (weight 236g). 1x fresh corner fragment from a press-moulded brick in a very hard, orange-red, modern-looking fabric with a rectangular frog on the top. 1x fresh body fragment from a drainpipe in brown salt-glazed stoneware, 19th- or 20th-century.
- B.2.3 Context (9) Spot-date: c 1175-1350? Description: 1 piece (weight 94g). Fairly abraded corner fragment probably from a ridge tile in oolitic limestone-tempered Fabric 1B (F1B). Light brown fabric with a grey core. The upper/outer surface has traces of a decayed glaze.
- B.2.4 Context (11) Spot-date: 13th to 14th century? Description: 2 pieces (weight 161g). Fresh joining fragments from the side of a medieval peg tile in sandy orange-red F3B with a grey core.
- B.2.5 Context (27) Spot-date: 13th to 14th century? Description: 2 pieces (weight 218g). 1x fresh and 1x abraded corner fragment from two medieval peg tiles in orange-red F3B with grey cores. The fresher fragment has a circular nail hole.
- B.2.6 Context (29) Spot-date: 13th to 14th century? Description: 2 pieces (weight 154g). 1x fresh corner fragment from a medieval peg tile in orange-red F3B. 1x abraded V-shaped apex fragment from a medieval ridge tile in reduced orange-grey F3B with a dark brown glaze all over the external surface.
- B.2.7 Context (33) Spot-date: 13th to 14th century? Description: 4 pieces (weight 490g). Fragments of medieval peg tiles. 3x pieces in orange-red F3B, all fairly abraded and all with circular nail holes. These include a corner fragment and a side fragment (the latter unusually thick: 14-21mm). 1x abraded piece, with nail hole, in pink-buff F7B with rounded chalk inclusions (dissolved) and with thin traces of decayed glaze on the upper/outer surface.

Discussion

B.2.8 The CBM assemblage comprises medieval and post-medieval types typical of the Oxford area. Medieval material is commonest, mainly peg tile fragments and a few pieces of glazed ridge tile. A mixture of fresh and abraded fragments is present.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.2.9 The medieval CBM assemblage has some potential for further research and should be retained. The modern material from context 4 could be discarded.

B.3 Glass

By Ian R Scott

B.3.1 There are four pieces of vessel glass from context 9 and a single piece of window glass from context 29.

B.3.2 The vessel glass from context 9 comprises one sherd from lower body of dip-moulded cylindrical wine bottle of late 18th- or early 19th-century date very dark olive green glass, and three sherds almost certainly from a single cylindrical wine bottle in green glass with iridescent weathering. The latter could date from later 18th to the later 19th century.

B.3.3 The single piece of window glass from context 29 is now devitrified and opaque. It may have been painted but the surface weathering makes it impossible to be certain. Probably medieval or early post-medieval in date.

B.4 Metals

By Ian R Scott

B.4.1 The single metal find is a small iron nail with a small head from context 31. Not closely datable.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

- C.1.1 A total of nine animal bone specimens were recovered from the site, all of which were collected by hand. Features on the site were dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds to the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- C.1.2 The material was recorded in full, with the aid of the OA skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996).

Description

- C.1.3 Preservation on the site was very moderate (four specimens at Behrensmeyer 1978 weathering stage 3 and one at stage 4).
- C.1.4 Caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]) is the most common species in the assemblage, although pig (*Sus domesticus*) is the only species identified from among the medieval material (Table 1). Domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) and rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) were also present in the post-medieval material.
- C.1.5 Not evidence for butchery was observed on any of the specimens (Table 2), so the question of whether or not the rabbit bones (and small mammal rib) are intrusive remains open but it may be significant that it was in a similar state of preservation as the other material from context 17. A caprine tibia fragment from this context has been gnawed by a canid, suggesting that dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) were also present on the site at that time.

Conclusions

- C.1.6 Little can be read into such a small assemblage; all the species are commonly found on British archaeology sites.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- C.1.7 The assemblage should not be considered a priority for retention.

Table 1: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from hand-collected material from the site.

	c 900-1100	c 1225-1450	c 1750-1900	c 1800-1950+
caprine			1	1
pig		1		
rabbit			1	
small mammal			1	
medium mammal		1		
large mammal	2			
Total Mammal	2	2	3	1
domestic fowl			1	
Total Bird	0	0	1	0
Total NISP	2	2	4	1
Total NSP	2	2	4	1

Table 2: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.

	Gnawed	Ageing data
caprine	1	1
pig		1
rabbit		1
Total Mammal	1	3
Total	1	3

Table 3: Total NSP and weight of specimens from each context.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
4	1	19
11	2	6
17	4	12
31	2	11

C.2 Shell

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
11	2 oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i> L.) shells, 1 left valve and 1 right valve, 41g
31	1 oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i> L.) shell, left valve, 2 indeterminate fragments, 15g

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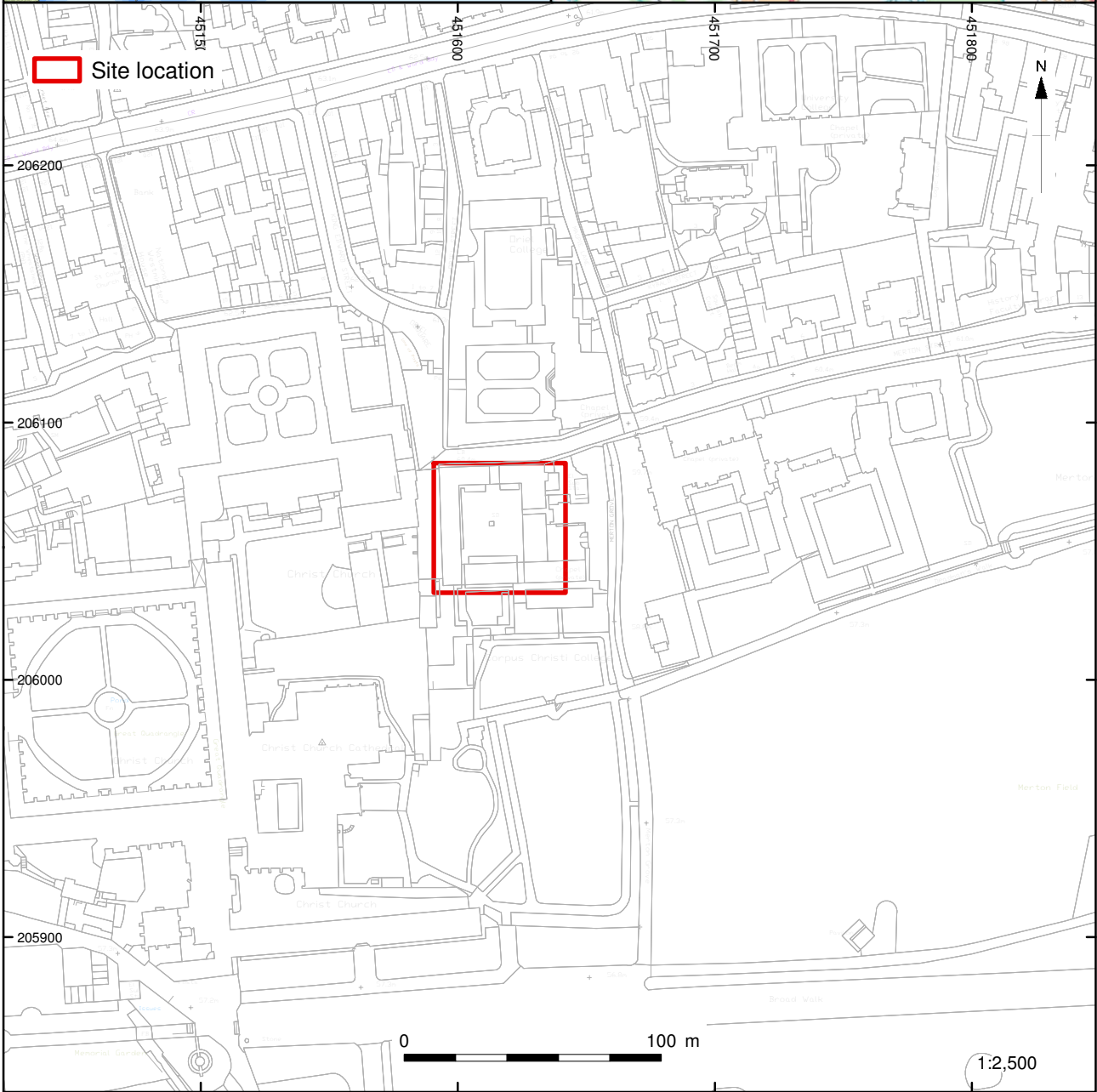
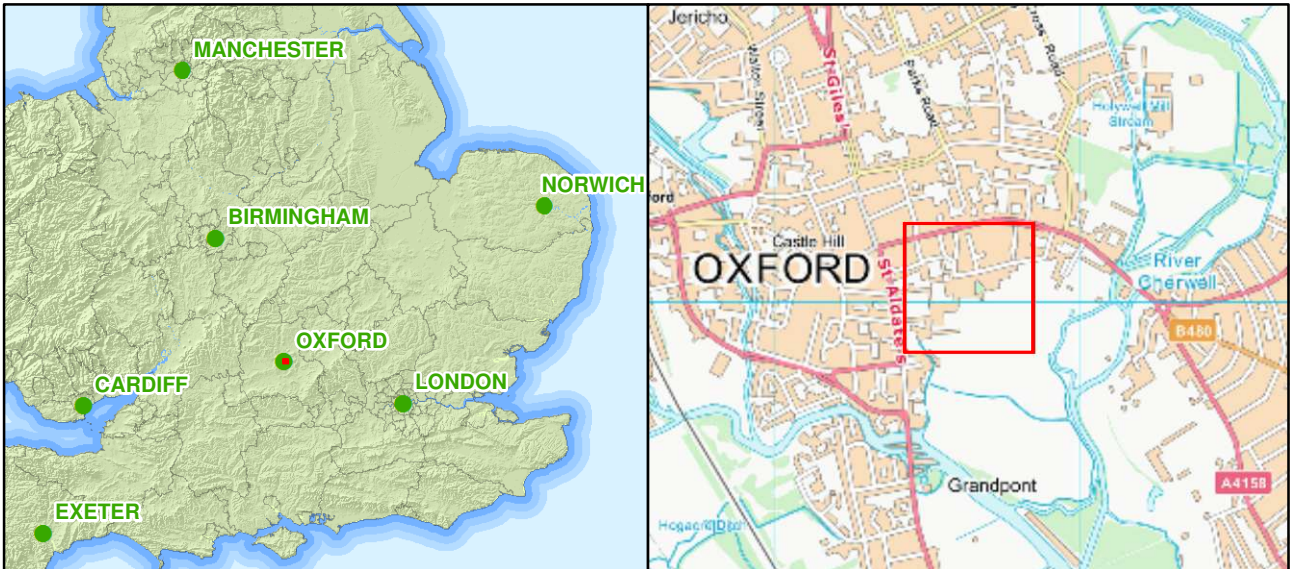
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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Corpus Christi College, Oxford: Sub Main West
Site code:	OXCWUB19
Grid Reference	SP 51633 06003
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	1–12 July 2019
Area of Site	0.3ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2019.86
Summary of Results:	<p>Between 1–12 July 2019, Oxford Archaeology carried out an intermittent watching brief at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, on works to replace sub main cables. Two main sections of cable trench were monitored. Walls from building that are likely to relate to academic halls that predate the college were uncovered, and two examples were cut by features containing material of 13th -14th century date. A third pit contained roof tile of a similar date as well as residual early medieval pottery. The alignment of one of the walls suggest that the academic halls were set out a few degrees off the current college's layout.</p> <p>The watching brief also covered intrusive groundworks associated with the alterations to the college kitchen that were subject to separate building recording survey. The bases of extant walls were found during these works. A basement structure and former floor were also uncovered inside the western range of the college buildings.</p>



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Figure 1: Site location

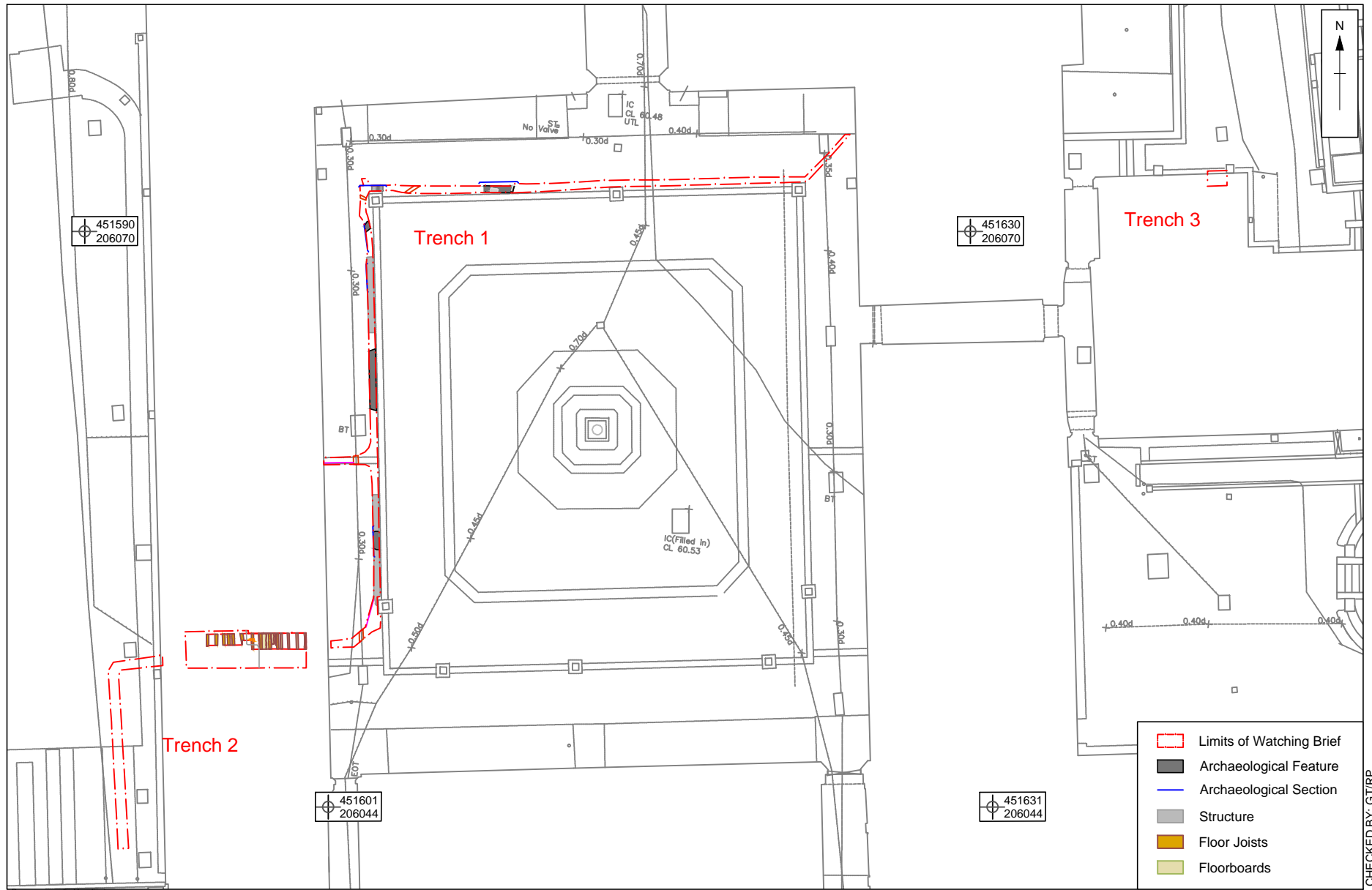
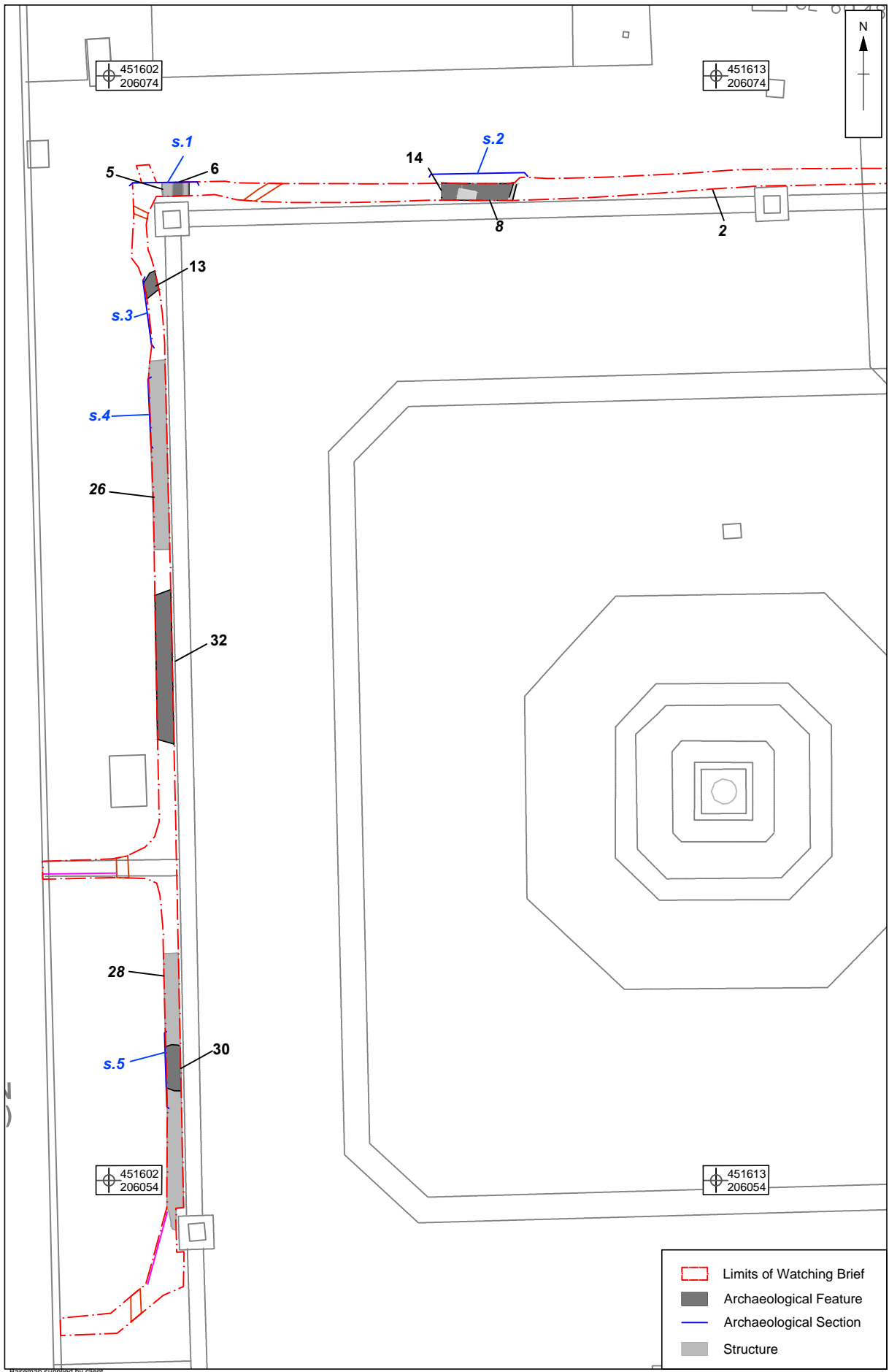


Figure 2: Watching brief areas showing archaeological features and deposits

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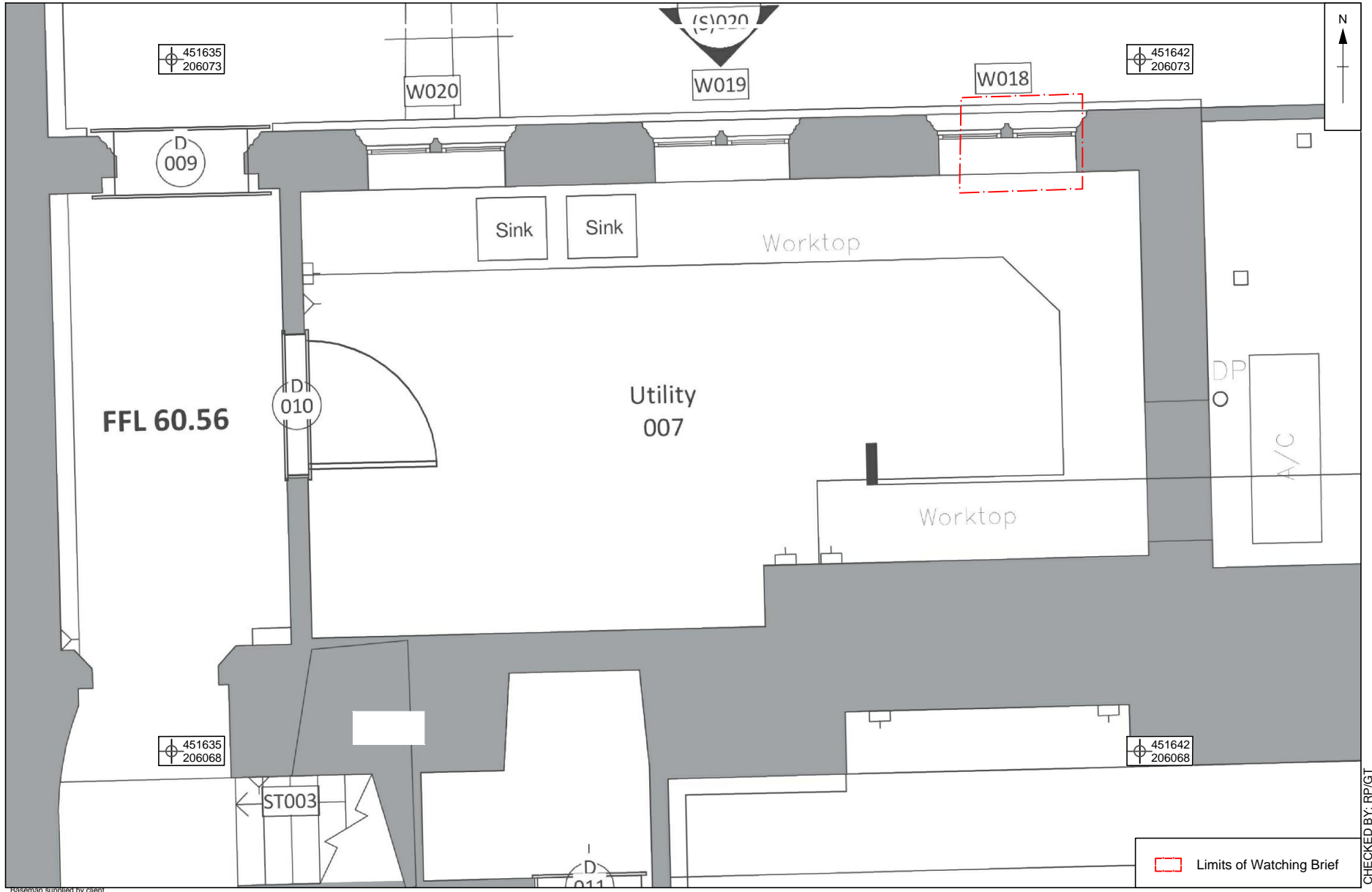
X:\Oxford Corpus Christi New sub mains Project\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\OXCWUBWB_2019-08-15_Latest_WB.dwg(Figure 3-A4)*OXCWUB19*OXCWUBWB*Corpus Christi College, New Sub Main* matt.bradley* 14 Nov. 2019



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0 5 m
Scale at A4 1:100

Figure3: Archaeological features in trench 1



Basemap supplied by client

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Figure 4: Plan of Trench 3 in Kitchen Area

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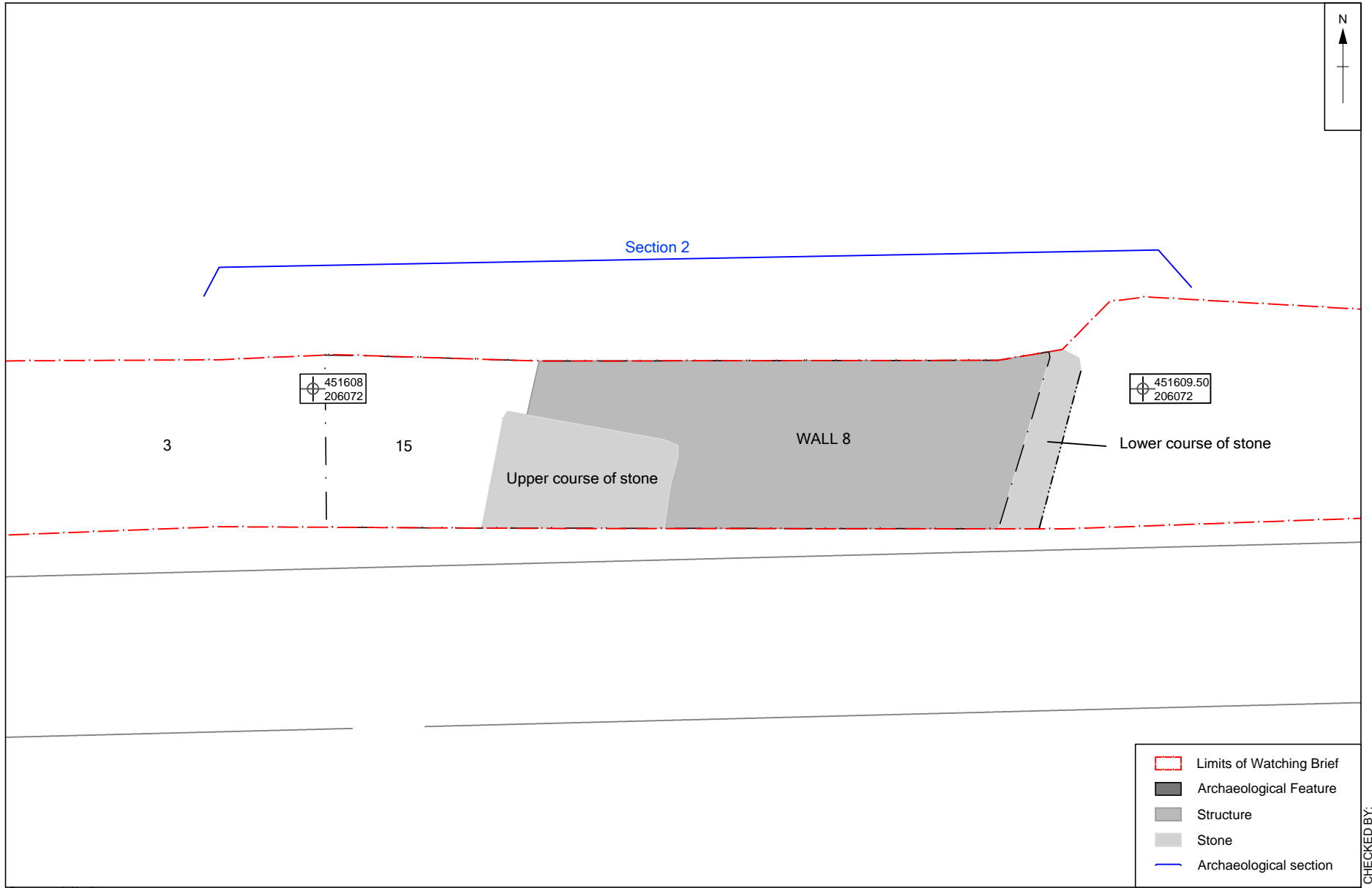
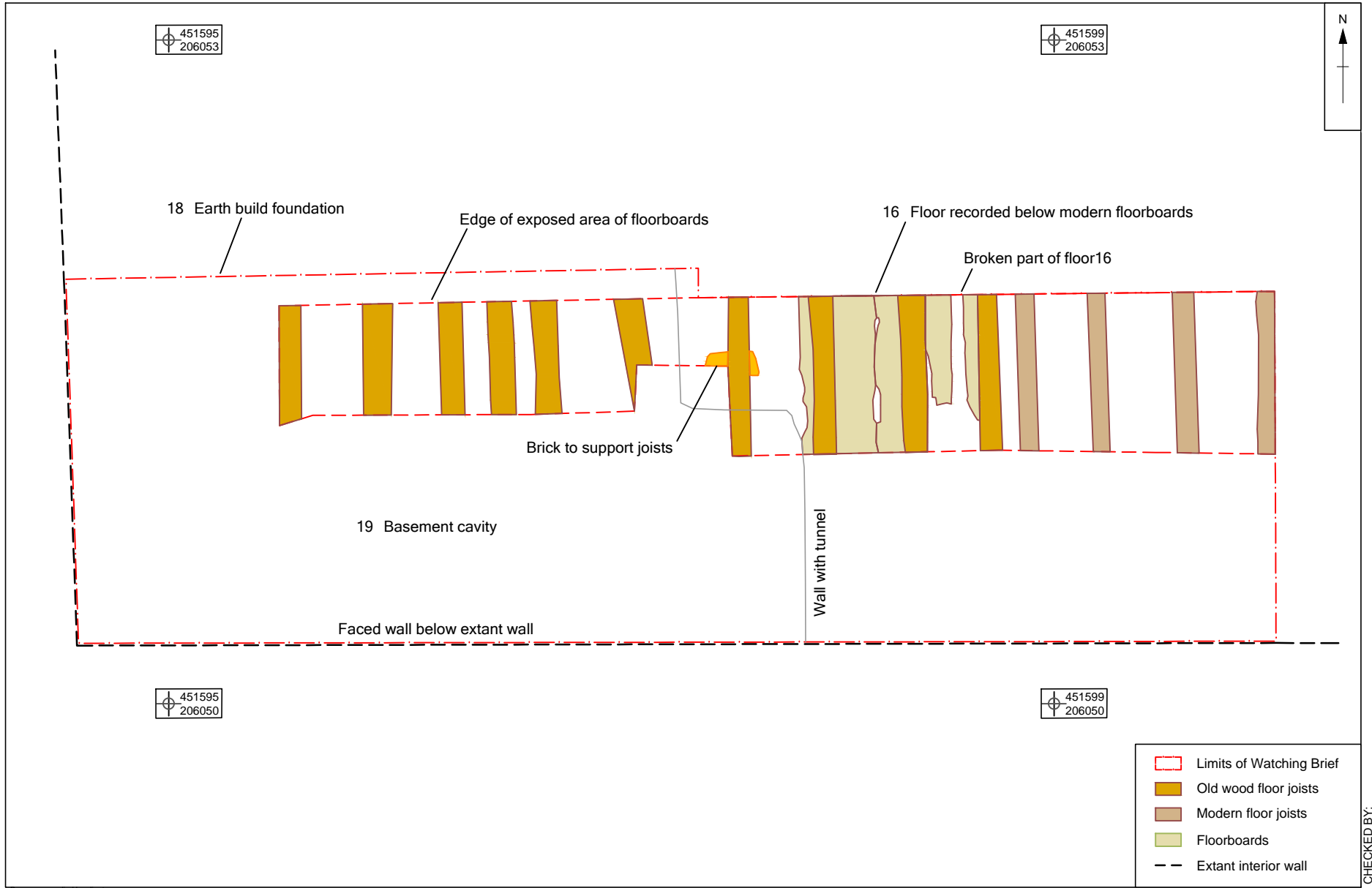


Figure 5: Detail of wall 8



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Figure 6: Detail of internal cellar feature

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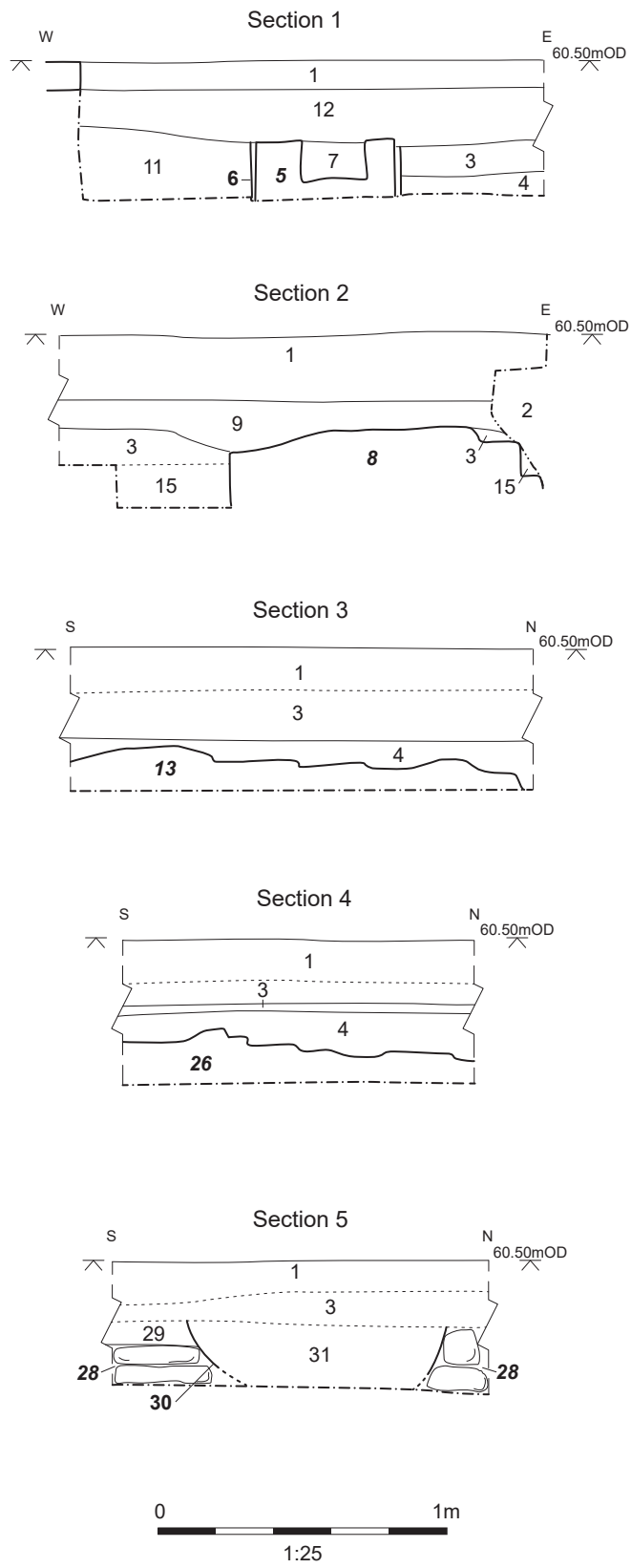


Figure 7: Sections 1–5, showing deposits and features within the watching brief areas



Plate 1: Trench 1, wall 8 in foreground,
view to west



Plate 2: Detail of Wall 8 in Trench 1, view to north



Plate 3: Detail of wall 13_view to west



Plate 4: Detail of wall 26 in Trench 1, view to west

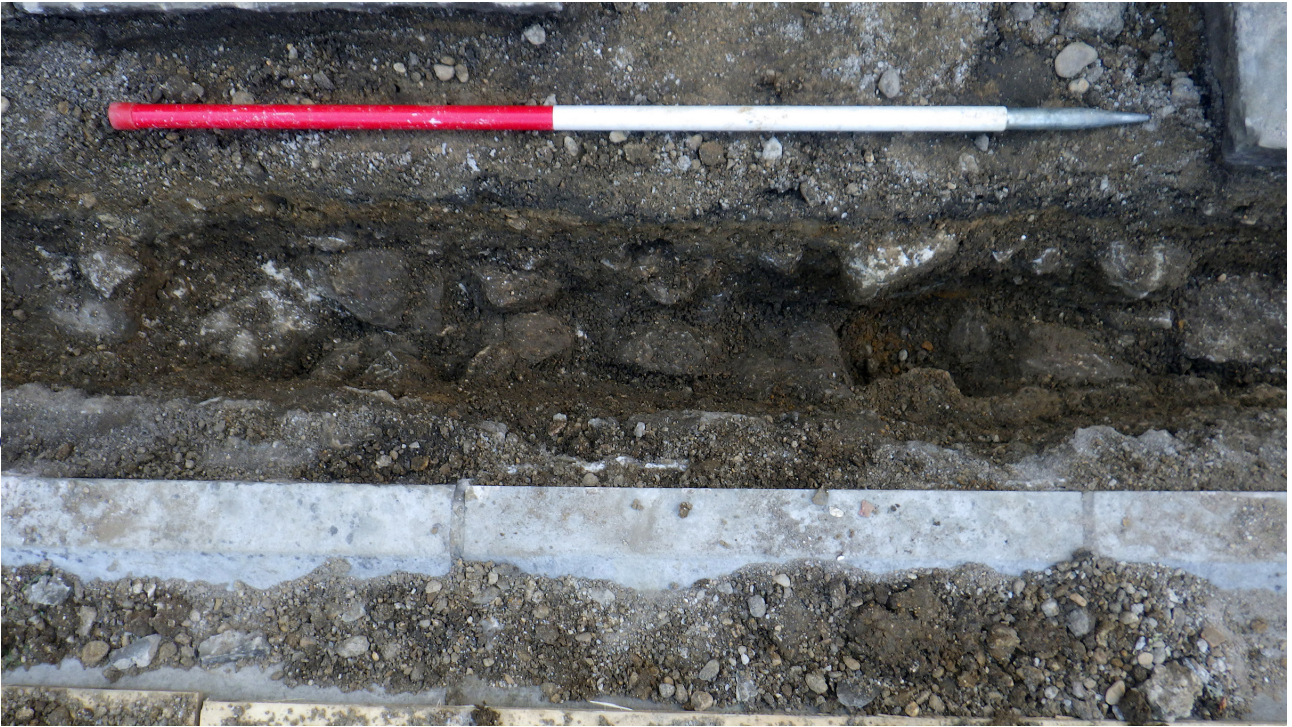


Plate 5: Detail of wall 28 in Trench 1, view to west



Plate 6: Trench 2, view to south



Plate 7: Trench 2, view to north



Plate 8: Trench 3, view to east



Plate 9: Floor 16 and basement structure 19, internal, view to east



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