Station Hill South, Plots E and F, Reading

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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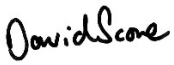
Signature:	

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Station Hill South, Plots E and F, Reading

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

From January to March 2020, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Station Hill, Reading in advance of proposed building works. 15 trenches were excavated across the site between Garrard Street and Friar Street.

Substantially affected by post-WWII development, indications of the Sites' original natural topography were gleaned from a handful trenches and demonstrated a relatively flat area immediately adjacent to the north side of Friar Street, leading to a northwards facing slope that fell away to the southern edge of the Thames floodplain where colluvial and alluvial deposition were noted.

All but the extreme northern extents of the Site fall within the north-west corner of the extents of the medieval town, but beyond the northern limits of the Saxon settlement. Friar Street is first documented as New Street in AD1186, which broadly concurs with the earliest occupation on the opposite side of the street from the Site. However, this is some c. 100 years earlier than the earliest date range of the medieval pottery from the rubbish pits in Trench 12, which may suggest later development on this northern side of the western end of New Street, perhaps associated with the relocation of the Greyfriars just 100m to the west of the Site. A probable medieval drainage ditch defined the boundary between the bottom of the slopes of the valley and the floodplain itself.

Evidence, in Trench 12, for earlier post-medieval buildings (17th century) expanding behind the Friar Street frontage building zone into back plot areas that had previously been used for waste disposal, potentially indicate the pressures on from population growth, and the resultant effects on the townscape of Reading within the urban core at this time.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ben Ford MCIfA, Senior Project Manager. The fieldwork was directed by Ben Attfield (Supervisor) and David Pinches (Assistant Supervisor). Survey and digitising was carried out by Conan Parsons and Simon Batsman. Sections and plates were prepared by Charles Rousseaux and Magdalena Wachnik. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nichola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by SH Reading Master LLP to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Station Hill South, Plots E and F, Reading, Berkshire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission, set by Reading Borough Council (RBC Planning Ref. 190441 – Condition 25 and 26 and 190442 Condition 25). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd and approved by Berkshire Archaeology (advisors to Reading Borough Council). This document outlines how OA implemented the requirements of that WSI, and the results of that work.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the south of Garrard Street, and to the north of Friar Street, in Reading and measures 0.96ha. in size.

1.2.2 The area of the proposed development is a brownfield site which consists of the now demolished remains of a former shopping mall and office block.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation. The superficial deposits being the Taplow Gravel Member.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been set out in the WSI produced by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd (Nov. 2019) and will not be repeated here.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives as set out in Section 3 of the WSI (Waterman I&E, 2019) were to:

- determine the presence or absence of any buried archaeological remains within the Plots that may be affected by the Development and where remains are present, to make a full record to CIfA standards;
- determine the approximate extent, condition, state of preservation and depth of any surviving remains;
- confirm the approximate date or range of dates of the remains;
- sample deposits to assess potential paleoenvironmental evidence;
- produce a report on the results of the archaeological evaluation;
- consult with BA on the need for archaeological mitigation; and
- ensure adequate provision for archival deposition of the archaeological record.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of fifteen trenches were proposed (Waterman E&I, 2019), these were excavated but did vary in dimensions from the proposal due to on site circumstances and health and safety allowances. Trenches 1, 5, 6, 13, 14 and 15 were extended from the original 2m width to 4m wide to permit a stepped batter for deeper excavation as archaeological remains or natural deposits were not encountered within the initial safe limits of the smaller and shallower trenches. Trenches 12-15 were foreshortened due to live services to the south, and restrictions due to the retaining wall to the north.

2.2.2 The trenches were excavated under supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist using a mechanical excavator equipped with a breaker and a variety of bucket types.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains, and a general description of those that did not. Due to the level of truncation and thereby archaeological preservation the trenches have been presented in three Zones: Northern, Central and Southern.

3.1.2 The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all archaeological contexts can be found in Appendix A. Finds/artefact reports can be found in Appendix B with reports on the environmental material in Appendix C. Trench locations, plans and profiles/sections and photographs of archaeological features can be found at the end of the report.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence revealed by the trenches was varied, with some trenches displaying higher levels of truncation than others. Generally, the trenches in the Northern Zone had greater depths of preserved stratigraphy, being at the bottom of the slope away from Friar Street. The trenches in the Central Zone seemed predominantly truncated by modern terracing during the construction of the recently demolished buildings, whereas the Southern Zone, adjacent to Friar Street, saw archaeology surviving, where it wasn't truncated by modern construction, at much higher levels.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying deposits.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

Northern Zone (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 – 7)

3.3.1 Trenches in the Northern Zone demonstrated the highest concentration of archaeological remains. Trench 1 contained a full sequence of colluvial and alluvial deposits overlying natural chalk and underlying Victorian structures. Trench 2 contained colluvial deposits cut by large feature(s) – pits or ditches, and pits were seen in Trench 4. Trench 5 revealed an undated NE-SW aligned linear feature truncated by a Victorian basement. The entirety of Trench 6 was composed of a series of dumps filling a large, flat bottomed cut feature, presumably related to the former coal yard. Trench 7, for the majority, was truncated by concrete structures.

Central Zone (Trenches 3, 8-11)

3.3.2 Trenches in the central area were devoid of deposits of archaeological interest due to the terracing of the former natural slope for the construction of the recently demolished buildings.

Southern Zone (Trenches 12-15)

3.3.3 Trenches 13 – 14 were entirely truncated by modern foundations, removing any archaeological potential. Trench 12 revealed a buried soil, cut by medieval pits and overlain by 17th century brick-built floor surfaces and subsequent demolition deposits.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 36.88mOD, where natural chalk deposits were observed. A full sequence of alluvial and colluvial deposits (1005, 1009 – 1011, 1016, 1020, 1021) comprising a mixture of yellowish brown / reddish brown sandy silts with flint gravels, and light yellowish-brown sandy clays, were present to a height of 38.58mOD. These deposits were overlain by a circa 0.70m thick deposit of dark greyish brown clayey silt with chalk fragments interpreted as a cultivation soil to a height of 39.08mOD. The cultivation soil was cut into by the numerous remains of Victorian structures at varying heights, which were, in turn covered by modern rubble, and concrete slab from 39.08mOD – 39.80mOD (top of slab)

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of circa 38.3mOD. What was believed to be natural untruncated chalk was encountered at a depth of 39.04mOD at the southern end of the trench gradually sloping down to the north to a depth (as observed) of 38.45mOD. It is believed that this slope is representative of the original slope of the ground before its later terracing. Several potential colluvial deposits (2010 – 2014) were observed running to the north above the chalk and following its incline. A large potential quarry pit, [2009], was observed cut through the colluvium at a height of circa 39.40mOD which was filled with a very dark brown clayey silt containing chalk fragments, CBM, and peg tile (13-17th century). These archaeological deposits were truncated by Victorian structures and modern levelling / concrete etc at heights between 39.10 – 39.40mOD. Current slab level is 39.90mOD approximately.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of circa 38.20mOD along its length. The trench demonstrated high levels of modern truncation and levelling down to its base, where the truncated natural chalk geology was observed.

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of 38.20mOD. A layer of light brown silt was encountered at circa 38.75mOD which was cut by two pits [4006] & [4009] of a date of 1600AD+, were filled with CBM and flint. Demolition material, and modern concrete slab overlay these deposits to the top of the trench at 39.65MOD.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Excavated to a depth of 37.80mOD, the approximate level of the natural chalk. Cut into this was a NE-SW aligned linear feature [507] filled with (506), a yellowish brown, sandy silty clay with flint pebbles, the top of which had been truncated at 37.90mOD by a series of deposits related to Victorian buildings including possible basements. These deposits filled the rest of the sequence to the top of the trench at 40.80mOD.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Excavated to a depth of 37.89mOD, which was the level of the natural chalk. The entire trench seemed to be a series of dumps of backfilled material including alternate layers of ash, charcoal & clinker, sandy clay and gravel, and chalk & CBM, filling a large, flat bottomed cut

feature [614], presumably associated with the former coal yard. The top of these deposits lay at approximately 39.40mOD, overlain by demolition material and modern concrete slab, crush, and gravel to a height of circa 40.59mOD.

3.10 Trench 7

3.10.1 Excavated to a depth of approx. 39.25mOD. Contained modern truncation and made ground. Slab level was at 40.55mOD.

3.11 Trench 8

3.11.1 Excavated to a depth of 40.10mOD, natural gravels and sands encountered at 40.70mOD, overlain by modern concrete slab and its' base to a height of 41.20mOD.

3.12 Trench 9

3.12.1 Excavated to a maximum depth of 39.64mOD. Top of natural sands and gravels 40.84mOD, and slab level 40.10mOD.

3.13 Trench 10

3.13.1 Excavated to a depth of 39.5mOD, natural chalk observed at 39.66mOD, overlain by modern levelling deposits and then modern concrete / slab to a height of 40.68mOD.

3.14 Trench 11

3.14.1 Excavated to a depth of 40.13mOD, natural sands and gravels at 40.83mOD were overlain by modern deposits and concrete with the slab up to 41.30mOD.

3.15 Trench 12

3.15.1 Trench 12 was excavated to a maximum depth of 43.93mOD, Natural deposits were encountered at a depth of 44.43mOD. At the northern end of the trench, and cut through these deposits, were two contemporary pits [1219] & [1222], they contained pottery dating to 1250 - 1450. A brick floor directly overlay these pits probably dating to AD1600+ at a maximum height of 44.63mOD. Overlying the floor surfaces were numerous layers of demolition material (probably related to the building to which the brick floor belonged) to a height of 44.93mOD. Overlying this were deposits of modern sand, crush, and concrete slab. Existing concrete slab was at a height 45.43mOD.

3.16 Trench 13

3.16.1 All archaeological potential truncated to a depth of 3.15m BGL (approx. 42.35mOD) by modern concrete foundations and slab.

3.17 Trench 14

3.17.1 All archaeological potential truncated to a depth of 1.90m+ BGL (approx. 43.6mOD) by modern concrete foundations and slab.

3.18 Trench 15

3.18.1 All archaeological potential truncated to a depth of 3.0m+ BGL (approx. 42.70MOD) by modern concrete pads and slab.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The fieldwork can be considered reliable, even given the constraints that foreshortened some of the original trenches. Site conditions were for the most part good, and archaeological deposits were visible and accessible within the trenches. In some cases where excavation extended between 2.0 - 3.5m BGL actual physical access to the trenches was not possible, however these deeper excavations were required to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains by assessing the depth of truncation and in some cases (Trenches 13-15) went below the levels at which archaeological deposits would have been expected. Where archaeological remains were observed in deepened trenches and physical access was not possible (Trench 5) measured sketches were made and machine excavated fills were examined by hand for finds and suitability for soil sampling.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation as laid out in the WSI (Watermans E&I, 2019) and repeated in Section 2.1 above were fully realised by this evaluation. The presence, depth, condition, date, and environmental potential, plus the state of preservation of the full sequence of archaeological remains, where present, were recorded on site, assessed and reported on by the specialist contributors.

Natural

4.2.2 Natural deposits of underlying chalk bedrock (Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation), with overlying sand and gravel deposits representing drift geology of the Taplow Gravel Member as well as reworked colluvial and alluvial deposits where untruncated in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 and showed a natural slope down northwards away from Friar Street on the northern edge of the Reading promontory towards Garrard Street at the southern edge of the Thames floodplain.

4.2.3 Untruncated chalk bedrock was not observed in the Southern or Central Zones, but was observed in Trenches 1 and 2 in the Northern Zone, and the slope down from 39.3mOD to c. 37.1mOD over a c 20m distance represents a 1:10 gradient towards the base of the valley sides into the Thames floodplain. The untruncated chalk in Trench 12 was not observed but must be below c 43.9m OD. It is c 90m between Trenches 2 and 12 and therefore the slope of the chalk bedrock will be on average *c* 1:20. Merchants Place to the east of the site suggests there was a relatively flat area perhaps extending for 30-40m to the north of Friars Street before falling away to the north – if this is the case within the site this would give a *c* 1:10 gradient as confirmed between Trenches 2 and 12.

4.2.4 The overlying drift geology of the Taplow Gravel Member was present at the top of the former natural slope on the Reading promontory in Trench 12 adjacent to Friar Street at a truncated height of 44.3mOD. Pockets of gravelly material (probably remnants of the same geological episode) were observed within the truncated chalk in several other trenches within the Central Zone, but the natural slope in this area was heavily truncated by modern construction. In Trench 2 deposits (2010-2014) probably represent colluvium deposited episodically upon the natural slope of the valley sides. In Trench 1, located at the base of the natural slope and within the Thames floodplain the chalk bedrock was overlain by a series of

deposits (1005, 1009 – 1011, 1016, 1020, 1021) which probably represents colluvial activity (the more stony deposits) along with alluvial deposition (the less stony and more silty deposits), this sequence of deposits survived to an untruncated height of *c* 38.5mOD.

Undated early feature

4.2.5 In Trench 5 in the Northern Zone the natural chalk was cut by a NE-SW orientated linear feature [507] was filled with a truncated yellowish-brown sandy silty clay at an uppermost level of 37.9mOD. This may represent a paleochannel at the edge of the Thames floodplain.

4.2.6 Apart from the possible paleochannel in Trench 5 there were no features or artefacts from the evaluation predating the medieval period.

Medieval

4.2.7 Medieval deposits were only observed within Trenches 2 and 12. Trench 2 partially revealed negative features (possibly pits, possibly a linear) containing pottery dated to AD1270 – 1500. The full extent of these feature(s) was not seen within the trench, however

4.2.8 Trench 12 contained the most complete sequence of medieval and early post-medieval remains. The two pits, (1219 and 1222) contained a variety of domestic pottery sherds dated to AD1250 – 1450. These features are interpreted as rubbish pits associated with, and to the rear medieval buildings fronting on the Friar Street.

Post-Medieval

4.2.9 Earlier post-medieval activity (probably earlier 17th century) was noted by the presence of a brick-built floor surface (1210) in Trench 12, which overlay the medieval pitting noted above. This truncated floor surface was related to the occupation along Friar Street.

4.2.10 Where archaeological survival was not negatively affected by terracing or modern foundations, the remains of Victorian buildings were noted (principally Trenches 1 and 4). These related to properties along Garrard Street, the veterinary infirmary, the coal yard, and the malthouse indicated on the 1st Ed. OS 1:500 plans of the town.

4.3 Potential

4.3.1 Comment on the wider extent of the preservation and the potential for archaeological remains beyond the limits of the evaluation trenches themselves requires consideration of the nature of the former impacts and truncation upon the pre-existing topography, from the construction of the recently demolished buildings. To facilitate this, the discussion will follow the three site zones introduced in Section 3.3 above, i.e. the Northern, Central and Southern Zones.

Northern Zone (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5-7)

4.3.2 The trenches mainly on the western side of the Northern Zone demonstrated the survival of the significant archaeological horizon at heights between 38.58 – 39.04mOD (Trenches 1, 2 & 4), the base of a truncated feature was observed at 37.90mOD (Trench 5). These results indicate that there is some survival of deposits of archaeological interest within the northern area of site. Although in a few trenches, these were truncated by later, intrusive features, it remains likely that in-between these areas archaeology will potentially survive at higher levels. Survival correlated to areas of former building floor slabs where their

construction had involved building up the ground levels, rather than the terracing away of the slope seen in the Central Zone.

Central Zone (Trenches 3, 8-11)

4.3.3 Most of the Central Zone had been truncated by the later terracing of the natural slope. The areas of the two N-S ramps either side of Trench 2 (Figure 2) are also thought to have higher potential for surviving archaeology as their heights in comparison to the terraced floor slabs indicate less truncation than the rest of the Central Zone.

Southern Zone (Trenches 12-15)

4.3.4 Trenches 13-15 demonstrated very high levels of modern truncation and although archaeological deposits did not survive in these trenches, there is a possibility that they will occur in-between these areas at similar heights to the surviving levels within Trench 12, which had surviving archaeology to a height of 44.93mOD.

4.4 Interpretation

4.4.1 All but obliterated by modern large-scale development, indications of the Sites' original natural topography were gleaned from the trenches and demonstrated a relatively flat area immediately adjacent to Friar Street, leading to a northwards facing slope that fell away to the edge of the Thames floodplain where colluvial and alluvial deposition were noted.

4.4.2 All but the extreme northern extents of the Site fall within the north-west corner of the extents of the medieval town, but beyond the northern limits of the Saxon settlement (Astill, 1978, Fig. 23). Friar Street is first documented as New Street in AD1186 (*ibid.*), which broadly concurs with the earliest occupation on the opposite side of the street from the Site (Ford, S and Ford, B, 2007, p.13-15). However this is some *c.* 100 years earlier than the earliest date range of the medieval pottery from the rubbish pits in Trench 12, which may suggest later development on this northern side of the western end of New Street, perhaps associated with the relocation of the Greyfriars just 100m to the west of the Site.

4.4.3 Evidence, in Trench 12, for earlier post-medieval buildings expanding behind the street frontage building zone into back plot areas that had previously been used for waste disposal, potentially indicates the effects of population growth, and the resultant effects on the townscape of Reading within the urban core at this time.

4.5 Significance

4.5.1 An increased understanding of the natural topography of the Site forms a significant basis for understanding the development of this north-western corner of historic Reading and its' interface with the southern edge of the Thames floodplain.

4.5.2 Evidence for the medieval and post-medieval development of Friar Street is of interest and builds upon the piecemeal body of knowledge resulting from development control-led archaeology over the last 30 years. If the survival of medieval evidence beyond the limits of Trench 12 is relatively good, then this would be a significant addition to the corpus of existing knowledge.

4.5.3 The possible medieval drainage ditch in Trench 2 illuminates part of what must have been a comprehensive drainage network within the extents of the Thames floodplain, although this feature was not fully excavated, it is likely that the fills could also significantly

shed light on details on the medieval use of the floodplain and the wider environment at this time.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench excavated to a depth of 36.88MOD. Contained Modern concrete slab and build-up, Victorian structures, a cultivation soil, and a full colluvial sequence down on to underlying natural deposits of chalk.					**Length (m)**	15.55
					Width (m)	4.60
					Avg. depth (m)	2.20
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.13	Concrete Slab	-	Modern
1001	Layer	-	0.35	Modern Levelling / Demolition	-	Modern
1002	Layer	-	0.12	Demolition	-	-
1003	Layer	-	Various	Victorian floors, walls, and wall foundations	-	-
1004	Layer	-	0.70	Cultivation Soil – Dark Greyish Brown Clayey Silt w / frequent chalk fragments	-	-
1005	Layer	-	0.30+	Colluvial deposit – Dark Yellowish Brown, Sandy Silt w / very frequent gravel pebbles	-	-
1006	Cut	-	0.60	Cut and brickwork of Victorian Structure	-	-
1007	Fill	-	0.60	Backfill of structure – mixed brick rubble	Pottery vessel	1820 - 1900
1009	Layer	-	0.30	Dark yellowish brown loose sandy silt - colluvium	-	-
1010	Layer	-	0.18	Light yellowish brown sandy clay - colluvium	-	-
1011	Layer	-	0.10	Light reddish brown silty sand w / sub angular flint gravel	-	-
1012	Cut	1.20	0.70	Cut of Well	-	-
1013	Str	1.20	0.70	Brick built well	-	-
1014	Fill	1.20	0.70	Dark brownish grey silty clay fill of well. Frequent charcoal & CBM	-	-
1015	Fill	1.0	0.70	Dark brown sandy silt w / charcoal & clinker – fill of well	Pottery	1830 - 1880
1016	Layer	-	0.08	Reddish brown silty clay w / chalk flecks	-	-
1017	Layer	-	0.06+	Dirty yellowish brown chalk – Natural ground	-	-
1018	Cut	0.60	0.70	Cut of Post-Med (?) pit	-	-
1019	Fill	0.60	0.70	Dark silty fill of pit	-	-

1020	Layer	-	0.18	Brownish Red sandy silt w / sub angular flint	-	-
1021	Layer	-	0.36	Brownish yellow clayey silt w / sub angular flint pebbles	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench excavated to a depth of 38.30MOD, containing natural chalk deposits overlain by colluvium, pits, Victorian structures, and modern concrete slab and build-up					**Length (m)**	14.71
					Width (m)	2.73
					Avg. depth (m)	1.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2000	Layer	-	0.14	Tarmac Surface	-	-
2001	Fill	2.50	0.60	Modern Pipework & Service Duct Backfill	-	-
2002	Cut	2.50	0.60	Cut of Service Duct	-	-
2003	Layer	-	0.50	Modern Levelling / Demolition	-	-
2004	Layer	-	0.28	Brick & Cement, Concrete	-	-
2005	Layer		0.22	Levelling – Sand & Gravel	-	-
2006	Fill	-	0.44+	Fill of 2007 – Dark Brown Silty Clay & Chalk Fragments	-	-
2007	Cut	-	0.44+	Cut of Possible Ditch (pit?)	-	-
2008	Fill	1.80+	1.0+	Fill of 2009 – Very Dark Brown Clayey Silt w / Chalk Fragments and CBM Fragments	CBM, Bone, and Pottery	1270 - 1500
2009	Cut	1.80+	1.0+	Cut of Possible ditch, (pit ?)	-	-
2010	Layer	-	-	Colluvial Deposit – Mixed Sands, Gravels, Silts, and Gravel Pebbles	-	-
2011	Layer	-	-	As above	-	-
2012	Layer	-	-	As above	-	-
2013	Layer	-	-	As above	-	-
2014	Layer	-	-	As above	-	-
2015	Cut	-	-	'Cut' number assigned to the potential untruncated natural slope of the chalk geology.	-	-
2016	Layer	-	-	Natural Chalk Deposits	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench excavated to a depth of 38.83MOD, entirely truncated by modern services, concrete foundations etc.					**Length (m)**	12.50
					Width (m)	2.60
					Avg. depth (m)	1.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3000	Layer	-	1.50+	Modern Concrete Slab, Levelling and Truncation	-	-
3001	Layer	-	-	Natural Chalk Deposits	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench excavated to a depth of 38.20MOD, a deposit of light brown silt was cut by two pits which were in turn overlain by demolition material and concrete slab.					**Length (m)**	10.40
					Width (m)	2.50
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
4000	Layer	-	0.24	Concrete Slab	-	Modern
4001	Layer	-	0.08	Polystyrene filler	-	Modern
4002	Layer	-	0.80	Concrete 'block'	-	Modern
4003	Layer	-	0.30	Demolition deposit	-	-
4004	Layer	-	0.10	Concrete slab	-	-
4005	Layer	-	0.22	Brick rubble	-	-
4006	Cut	2.0	0.60+	Cut of pit	-	-
4007	Fill	2.0	0.60+	Dark brown silty clay fill of pit 4006	-	-
4008	Layer		0.60	Light brown silt	-	-
4009	Cut	0.40	0.21	Cut of pit	-	-
4010	Fill	0.40	0.21	Fill of pit 4009, yellowish brown sandy silt w / flint and brick rubble	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench excavated to a depth of 37.80MOD, a NE-SW aligned linear feature was cut into natural chalk deposits, and overlain by a series of deposits and structures related to Victorian buildings.					**Length (m)**	10.50
					Width (m)	4.50
					Avg. depth (m)	1.80
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	1.30	Concrete slab and modern crush and gravel	-	Modern
501	Layer	-	0.46	Victorian Demolition Layer	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.04	Greyish blue cement floor surface	-	-
503	Layer	-	0.16	Levelling deposit of CBM	-	-
504	Layer	-	0.80	Dark greyish brown sandy silty clay cultivation soil /	-	-

				backfill (?) w / rounded pebbles		
505	Layer	-	0.05	Apparent construction horizon for Victorian (?) basement?	-	-
506	Fill	-	0.20	Yellowish brown sandy silty clay and rounded pebbles	-	--
507	Cut	-	0.20+	Cut of NE-SW aligned linear feature visible at base of trench filled w / 506	-	

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench excavated to a depth of 37.89MOD. The entire trench contained a series of backfilled deposits filling a large, flat bottomed feature.					**Length (m)**	10.50
					Width (m)	5.20
					Avg. depth (m)	2.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.80	Concrete slab, modern crush and gravel	-	Modern
601	Layer	-	0.50	Demolition material	-	Victorian (?)
602	Fill	-	0.60	Greenish brown clay w / mortar fragments & CBM	-	-
603	Fill	-	0.10	Light grey ash & mortar	-	-
604	Fill	-	0.32	Greyish brown silty sandy clay w / rounded pebbles & CBM	-	-
605	Fill	-	0.23	Greenish brown sandy clay w / rounded pebbles	-	-
606	Fill	-	0.20	Chalk & crushed mortar fragments	-	-
607	Fill	-	0.23	Greenish brown sandy clay w / rounded pebbles	-	-
608	Fill	-	0.13	Coal / charcoal, & clinker	-	-
609	Fill	-	0.12	Greenish brown sandy clay w / rounded pebbles	-	-
610	Fill	-	0.27	Coal / charcoal, & clinker	-	-
611	Fill	-	0.12	Greenish brown sandy clay w / rounded pebbles	-	-
612	Fill	-	0.08	Chalk, crushed brick, & mortar fragments	-	-
613	Fill	-	0.32	Greenish brown sandy clay w / rounded pebbles	--	-
614	Cut	-	-	Large, flat bottomed cut containing 602 – 613. Probably related to a former coal yard		-
615	Layer	-	-	Natural chalk	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench excavated to a depth of 39.38MOD consisted of concrete escalator bases and modern truncations.					**Length (m)**	15.20
					Width (m)	3
					Avg. depth (m)	1.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
7000	Layer	-	0.40	Concrete Slab	-	-
7001	Layer	-	0.38	Concrete	-	-
7002	Layer	-	0.50	Dark brown silt & brick rubble – made ground	-	-
7003	Layer	-	-	Brick structure under escalator base	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Excavated to a depth of 40.10MOD, natural sands and gravels overlain by concrete slab and modern build-up					**Length (m)**	12.43
					Width (m)	2.50
					Avg. depth (m)	1.10
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.50	Concrete slab, steel, and crush	-	Modern
801	Layer	-	0.60+	Mixed light yellowish brown coarse sand with reddish brown sandy gravel w / flint nodules. Natural	-	Natural
Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Excavated to a depth of maximum depth of 39.64MOD, natural sands and gravels overlain by concrete and modern build-up					**Length (m)**	11.40
					Width (m)	2.70
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.50	Concrete slab & crush	-	Modern
901	Layer	-	1.20+	Mixed light yellowish brown coarse sand with reddish brown sandy gravel w / flint nodules. Natural	-	Natural

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	
Trench excavated to a depth of 39.5MOD, no archaeological features or deposits observed. Natural chalk recorded at 39.66MOD					**Length (m)**	
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10000	Layer	-	0.20	Concrete Slab		Modern
10001	Layer	-	0.32	Concrete Slab		Modern
10002	Layer	-	0.50	Gravel & concrete fragments		
10003	Layer	-	0.16+	Natural chalk deposits		Natural

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Excavated to a depth of 40.13MOD, natural sands, gravels, and chalk overlain by concrete slab and modern build-up and services					**Length (m)**	11.40
					Width (m)	2.40
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.50	Concrete slab & crush	-	Modern
1101	Layer	-	0.70+	Mixed light yellowish brown coarse sand with reddish brown sandy gravel w / flint nodules. Natural	-	Natural

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Excavated to a maximum depth of 43.93MOD. Natural deposits with a number of pits at the northern end overlain by brick built floor surfaces in turn overlain by demolition material and modern concrete, sand, crush, and slab.					**Length (m)**	7.70
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.60avg	Concrete slab, crush, & mixed coarse sands	-	Modern
1201	Layer	-	0.10	Mixed reddish yellow & brown silty clay & rubble demolition layer	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.38	Loose & mixed sandy silt w / rubble, CBM, stone, charcoal, and mortar fragments – demolition layer	-	-
1203	Fill	0.32	0.30	Dark greyish yellow sandy silt w / flint cobbles & occasional charcoal fragments	-	-

1204	Cut	0.32	0.30	Vertical sided pit / cut for wall foundation? Filled w / 1203	-	-
1205	Layer	-	0.10	Sandy mortar	-	-
1206	Layer	-	0.03	Dark brownish grey clayey silt w / occasional charcoal	-	-
1207	Layer	-	0.03	Sandy mortar	-	-
1208	Layer	-	0.13	Dark brownish red silty clay w / charcoal & CBM	-	-
1209	Layer	-	0.10	Brownish red silt clay w / charcoal flecks	-	-
1210	Layer	-	0.08	Single course of brick built surface	-	-
1211	Layer	1.45	0.05	Dark brownish yellow silty clay	-	-
1212	Fill	0.20+	0.22	Dark purplish brown sandy silt w / CBM & charcoal	-	-
1213	Cut	0.20+	0.22	Cut of vertically sided pit filled w / 1212	-	-
1214	Fill	0.13	0.60	Modern / Victorian? mixed backfilled demolition material	Pottery & Clay pipe	1650 - 1750
1215	Cut	0.13	0.60	Linear cut filled w / 1214 probably relating to Victorian buildings	-	-
1216	Fill	0.58	0.20	Dark greyish brown clayey silt w / flint and charcoal	-	-
1217	Cut	0.58	0.20	Cut of pit filled w / 1216	-	-
1218	Fill	1.25	0.34	Dark greyish brown clayey silt w / occasional charcoal, flint & gravels	Pottery	1250 – 1450
1219	Cut	1.25	0.48	Vertically sided pit – not fully excavated, filled w / 1218 & 1229	-	-
1220	Layer	-	0.40+	Greyish yellow sandy gravel – Natural	-	-
1221	Layer	-	-	Yellow / reddish orange clayey silt w / gravel lenses – Natural	-	-
1222	Cut	0.32	0.60+	Cut of potential refuse pit – filled w / 1223 & 1230	-	-
1223	Fill	0.32	0.44	Dark brown clayey silt w / frequent charcoal & moderate flint pebbles	Pottery	1270 - 1400
1224	Cut	1.5	0.47	Cut of modern feature – filled w / 1225	-	-
1225	Fill	1.5	0.47	Mixed rubble and sand filling 1224	-	-

1226	Cut	2.0	0.80	Modern truncation – filled w / 1227	-	-
1227	Fill	2.0	0.80	Loose silty sand and concrete filling 1226	-	-
1228	Layer	-	0.08	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal and chalk flecks and fragments	-	-
1229	Fill	0.84	0.26	Yellowish brown clayey silt w / occasional charcoal and moderate flint gravel	Pottery	1250 - 1450
1230	Layer	0.20	0.13	Dark brownish yellow clayey silt – redeposited natural	-	-
1231	Fill	-	-	Dark grey brown clayey silt w / moderate gravel and rare chalk flecks & fragments	-	-
1232	Cut	-	-	Cut of pit – filled w / 1231	-	-
1233	Layer	0.66	0.18	Yellowish brown clayey silt w / mixed rubble / CBM and brownish mortar lenses	-	--
1234	Fill	-	-	Brownish grey sandy clayey silt w / occasional pebbles & rare chalk fragments	-	-
1235	Cut	-	-	Cut of pit, filled w / 1234	-	-
1236	Layer	-	-	Natural deposits – same as 1221	-	-
1237	Str	-	-	Brick built Victorian structure	-	-
1238	Str	-	-	Remains of a brick built manhole	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Excavated to a maximum depth of 42.35MOD, all archaeological potential truncated by modern concrete foundations.					**Length (m)**	7.50
					Width (m)	5.20
					Avg. depth (m)	3.15
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1300	Layer		0.40	Modern concrete slab & crush	-	Modern
1301	Layer		0.60	Backfill & Rubble	-	Modern
1302	Layer		0.30	Concrete (basement?) floor	-	Modern
1304	Layer		1.85+	Loose sand & CBM	-	Modern(?)

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Excavated to a depth of 43.60MOD, all archaeological potential truncated by modern concrete foundations.					**Length (m)**	11.0
					Width (m)	4.70
					Avg. depth (m)	1.90
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer		0.50	Concrete slab & crush	-	Modern
1401	Layer		1.40	Loose brick rubble, concrete & sand	-	Modern
1402	Layer		Unknown	Concrete slab, piles & beams	-	Modern

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Excavated to a maximum depth of 42.70MOD, all archaeological truncated by modern concrete foundations.					**Length (m)**	10.90
					Width (m)	4.70
					Avg. depth (m)	3.0
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Layer		0.50	Concrete slab, crush & steel		Modern
1501	Layer		1.25	Loose brick rubble		Modern
1502	Layer		1.25+	Concrete pad & backfill		Modern

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 64 sherds (969g) of pottery were recovered from six contexts. These totals include 27 sherds (149g) of pottery from sieved samples which were spot-dated to maximise on the available data. A range of medieval, and post-medieval wares (after *c.* AD1480), are represented.

B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is mainly fragmentary, but some fairly large fresh sherds are present and one complete 19th century vessel.

B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (e.g. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the archive and is therefore only summarised in the table below.

Description

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
1007	c1820-1900	1	110	English brown stoneware (ENGS). Complete small, squat, cylindrical ink bottle
1015	c1830-1880	9	468	Large fresh sherds including profiles. Probably all mid 19C. 1x dish rim Transfer-printed whiteware (TPW). 2x refined whiteware with sponged decoration (REFW SPON) including teacup with purple sponged border & side-dish with green lozenge border decoration. 1x cylindrical mug rim in refined whiteware with painted polychrome dec (REFW PNTD). 3x joining sherds from profile of a carinated sugarbowl with bands of dark brown slip decoration (YELL SLIP). 1x jar rim in Surrey/Hants red Border ware (RBOR) with an externally lid-seated rim & with int and ext bright orange glaze (probably a large 19C pipkin or bread crock). 1x body sherd from a flowerpot in RBOR or post-medieval red earthenware (PMR)
1214	c1650-1750?	2	11	1x bo (body sherd) RBOR-type jar/jug with an iron-speckled brown glaze allover int and partially ext but also with a broad zone of copper-green glaze on upper part of vessel (possibly scorched/discoloured?), pale pink-buff fine sandy fabric (or possibly a post-med Brill-

				type redware?). 1x fresh bo Coarse Border ware (CBW, c 1270-1500) with sparse coarse rounded red and milky quartz & grey & white flint
1218	c1250-1400?	5	90	Local medieval coarseware. Includes large fresh body sherds from a minimum of 3 vessels including large sherd from lower wall of a wide cooking pot - probably handmade (date 13/E14C?) but possibly wheel-turned higher up the vessel? Latter heavily sooted ext. All in a similar grey-brown to slightly oxidised sandy coarseware with rounded quartz and sparse-moderate coarse earthy reddish iron-rich inclusions; possibly Maidenhead Camley Garden-type (CAMG, c 1200-1500)? Or more local?
1223	c1270-1400?	19	129	Mostly Surrey/Hants Coarse Border ware (CBW) green-glazed jugs & some cooking pots or bowls/dishes with internal green glaze. All body sherds except 1 thicker sagging base from a cook pot with ext sooting. Some v thin walled (dishes?) & 1 ?jug bo in smoother green-glazed fabric (possibly Kingston-type ware? KING, c 1240-1400). 3x local medieval coarseware (38g) in brown sandy fabric as in (1218), from 3 vess including unglazed jug neck/shoulder with spaced horizontal grooved dec.
1223	c1270-1400?	13	88	Sieved Sample <1200>. 9x CBW body sherds from green-glazed jugs, some quite large and fresh. 4x bos local brown sandyware (22g) including small brown-glazed bo with possible trace of applied dark red-brown strip decoration?
1229	c1250-1400?	14	61	Sieved Sample <1201>. Bos local brown sandyware. Mostly cooking pots (sooted ext) but including 3x small greenish-brown glazed sherds probably from jugs (1 with incised horiz groove/combed dec). 1 cooking pot basal floor sherd has a thick internal crust of carbonised deposit (food residue) & patches of internal limescale. 2 cook pot sherds have sparse coarse inclusions of grey flint (similar to South Herts/Limpsfield greywares)
2008	c1270-1400?	1	12	Fresh bo CBW. From lower wall of globular cooking pot with evidence of green glaze on the base internally. Sooted ext
TOTAL		**64**	**969**	

Table 1. Description of post-Roman pottery by context

Discussion

B.1.4 The bulk of the pottery (53 sherds) is of medieval date. Although the dates of the medieval wares could, potentially, be broader than the dating suggested in Table 1, it appears more likely that they are all broadly contemporary and a late 13th- to 14th-century date is suggested for the whole medieval assemblage here. The latter is generally in a very fragmentary condition - only body sherds and a few base sherds are present - but some of these are fairly large and most are quite fresh. Ordinary domestic kitchen and tablewares typical of the area are represented including jugs, cooking pots and possibly a bowl or two. There are two main medieval fabrics or traditions present in roughly equal quantity. The first is a coarse sandy Surrey/Hampshire whiteware fabric known as Coarse Border were (London Fabric Code CBW, c 1270-1500) which includes green-glazed jugs and jars/cooking pots sometimes with a green glaze on the inside of the base. This fabric was widely traded throughout the Thames valley area. The second fabric is a coarse sandy brown ware - mainly present as cooking pots and a few sherds from brown-glazed or green-glazed jugs. This is probably a local medieval coarseware produced somewhere fairly close to Reading. It bears some resemblance to samples from the Camley Gardens kiln site in Maidenhead (CAMG, c 1200-1500). The post-medieval wares are common regional imports. Most of the latter (context 1007 and 1015) consists of mass-produced 19th-century tablewares from the Staffordshire and Midlands potteries.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.1.5 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

B.2 Flint

By Geraldine Crann

B.2.1 A very small assemblage of two flints was recovered from this evaluation. The artefacts were catalogued according to OA's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type, general condition was noted, hammer type and presence/degree of platform preparation/abrasion noted, and dating was attempted where possible.

B.2.2 The flints were recovered from demolition layer 601 and fill 1223 of potential refuse pit 1222.

B.2.3 Technologically the flints are likely to be later prehistoric.

Context	Description	Date
601	One thick, coarse core rejuvenation flake, hard hammer struck, worn condition. 34g	Later prehistoric
1223	One flake, hinge termination, diffuse bulb, edge damage. 11g	Later prehistoric

B.2.4 A.1.5 The size of the assemblage, its residual location in a demolition layer and a pit fill, and its condition limits interpretation of the material. However, technologically a later prehistoric date is likely. The flints were residual, found in a demolition layer and a pit fill. The flints from the evaluation should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site.

B.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 Four pieces of clay pipe weighing 32g were recovered from two contexts. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

B.3.2 Bowls have been assigned form codes based on Atkinson and Oswald's (1969) London pipes typology with bowl types assigned to an abbreviated code (eg. AO22).

Description

B.3.3 **Context (1015) Spot-date: c 1840/50-1910**. Description: 1 piece (weight 11g). A fresh complete 'fancy' or highly decorated pipe bowl of London-type AO30. The stem is in the shape of an eagle's claw which clutches or holds upright the slightly egg-shaped bowl. The surviving 28mm of stem is finely detailed to resemble the scaly texture of the bird's foot, and four claws emerge upwards to grip the plain bowl. The underside of the stem is also finely moulded to resemble larger overlapping scales or possibly foliage. Scorching within the bowl shows it has been smoked. This design of fancy pipe was fairly popular for most of the Victorian period although the detail varied from maker to maker. It is, nevertheless, a very nice example of its type.

B.3.4 **Context (1214) Spot-date: c 1640-1670**. Description: 3 pieces (weight 21g). All 17th century. Comprises a fresh complete bowl of London-type AO12 (c 1640-1670) and two fresh pieces of stem up to 55mm long. The bowl has a broken band of milling around the back and has a large teardrop-shaped heel. It shows evidence of having been smoked. It has a weak burnish and is slightly discoloured and greyish compared to the two fresher-looking stems.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.3.5 The pipes here have some potential for further study and should therefore be retained.

B.4 Burnt unworked flint, clinker, shell and stone

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
601	Clinker – a single piece of clinker. 5g
601	Slate - a single piece of slate, 32mm x 35mm x 4mm, 10g. Possible roofing tile fragment.
1223	Shell - 3 oyster (Ostrea edulis) shells, 2 left valves, 1 right valve. 28g
1223	Burnt unworked flint - 4 fragments from environmental sample <1200>. 19g

B.5 Metals

By Ian R Scott

Introduction

B.5.1 The metal finds were recovered from two contexts, and most were recovered from soil samples. There are 14 small pieces of metal including 9 pieces of iron and 5 small fragments or pellets of cu alloy.

B.5.2 The 9 metal finds from context 1223 included nails and nail stems, and cu alloy fragments. None are closely datable.

B.5.3 The 5 metal finds from context 1229 include 1 nail stem fragment and 1 small fragment of iron and 3 tiny cu alloy fragments. Again the finds are not closely datable.

Finds Register

Context 1223	(1)	Wire, short length of iron wire, encrusted with corrosion. L: 32mm
	(2)	Nail stem or bar fragment, encrusted. Fe. Not measured
	(3)	Small fragment of narrow strip, some corrosion at one end. Fe. L: 22mm; W: 5mm. Sample < 1200 >
	(4)-(6)	Nails or nail stems. Three small nails or nails stems, encrusted. Fe. L: 39mm, 36mm, 33mm. Sample < 1200 >l
	(7)	Nail, incomplete, head, probably flat circular. Encrusted with corrosion. Not Measured. Sample < 1200 >
	(8)-(9)	Two tiny fragments, or pellets, of cu alloy. Not measured. Sample < 1200 >
Context 1229	(10)	Nail stem, heavily encrusted. Fe. Not measured. Sample < 1201 >
	(11)	Fragment, small encrusted. Fe. Nor measured Sample < 1201 >
	(12)-(14)	Three tiny fragments, or pellets, of cu alloy. Not measured. Sample < 1201 >

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Richard Palmer

Introduction

C.1.1 Two samples were taken from the evaluation at Station Hill, Reading, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of Charred Plant Remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

Results

C.1.3 Table 1 presents the details of the flot assessments.

C.1.4 Sample 1200 is from fill 1223 of pit 1222 which is of medieval date. An abundant quantity of charcoal was recovered in good condition and consisting of a mix of ring-porous and diffuse specimens. Recovered grain was damaged and consisted of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and a possible oat (cf *Avena* sp.). Singular weed seeds were also present with one identified as bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) which had suffered some distortion. The heavy residue produced a range of materials in good quantities including pottery, CBM, iron and a mix of animal and fish bone.

C.1.5 Sample 1201 is from fill 1229 of pit 1219 which is of medieval date. A mix of ring and diffuse porous charcoal was recovered in good condition. A small quantity of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) was recovered with many grains damaged and at least one being in a heavily vitrified condition. A possible oat (cf *Avena* sp.) was also present. Several legumes ranging from 1mm to 3mm in size were identified. Animal bone, fish bone, pottery, CBM and iron were all recovered from the residue.

Discussion

C.1.6 The samples indicate that there is potential for the recovery of charred material on site. Recovered material seems consistent with general waste disposal but quantities of material limit further interpretation. May of the recovered cereal grains were heavily damaged, but this is unlikely to be a preservation issue given the generally good condition of other recovered material. There is potential for further identification work with the charcoal, but many of the fragments fall into the 4-2mm size range increasing the likelihood of one or more planes being <2mm in size hindering full identification.

Recommendations

C.1.7 In general, if further excavation is carried out it is recommended that sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (Historic England 2011).

C.1.8 The flots warrant retention until all works on site are complete but further work is not expected to be required at this time and the flots do not require retention in the archive.

Sample no.	Context no.	Trench	Feature/Deposit	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
1200	1223	12	1222	Med	40	30	++++	++		++			10YR 4/3 loamy sand.
1201	1229	12	1219	Med	40	25	++++	+		+		++	10YR 4/4 loamy sand.

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+).
Table 1: Assessment of CPR Flots.

C.2 Fish Bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

C.2.1 A small quantity of fish bone, in good condition but weighing only 1g in total, was recovered from the dried residues of two bulk samples: sample 1200 from context 1223 and sample 1201 from context 1229, both are pit fills and likely to be of medieval date.

C.2.2 The bones from sample 1200 comprise a single caudal vertebra from a small gadid (cod family fish: Gadidae), as well as 3 eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) vertebrae, 2 clupeid (Clupeidae) vertebrae as well as indeterminate fragments. The remains from sample 1201 comprise a single eel vertebra, part of an eel vomer and several indeterminate fragments.

C.2.3 The presence of these bones demonstrates the potential for the recovery of even small and tiny bones at this site, as well as the value of sieving and sorting the residues of soil samples using meshes of no more than 2mm.

Recommendations for retention/dispersal

C.2.4 The small assemblage has been recorded and does not merit retention in the archive.

C.3 Animal Bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

C.3.1 A total of 55 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Table 1), most of which were collected by hand. Environmental samples were also taken and were sieved at 10mm, 4mm, 2mm and 0.5mm fractions. Features on the site were dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds (seriation), mostly to the Late Mediaeval period.

C.3.2 The hand-collected material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996). Material recovered from environmental samples was only recorded when it could be identified, following the same criteria.

Description

C.3.3 Preservation on the site was moderate, with twelve of the thirteen identified mammal bone specimens being assigned to Behrensmeyer's weathering stage 3 and one to stage 4 (Behrensmeyer 1978).

C.3.4 Among the domestic mammal specimens identified, caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]) is the most common, followed by domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) (Table 1). Pig (*Sus domesticus*) is also present, with domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) being the only bird identified in the assemblage. Environmental samples substantially boosted the numbers of bird (domestic fowl) and large mammal (domestic cattle) specimens recovered as well as contributing a frog/toad bone.

Conclusions

C.3.5 Little can be read into such a small assemblage. Domestic cattle and sheep, in particular, are common finds from British archaeological sites. The condition of the material suggests that extensive excavations could produce a large assemblage.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.3.6 The assemblage should not +be considered a priority for retention, but if further excavations take place on the site then this material should be considered alongside it..

C.3.7 The assemblage should not +be considered a priority for retention, but if further excavations take place on the site then this material should be considered alongside it..

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

	*c.*AD 1250-1450	*c.*AD 1270-1400	*c.*AD 1270-1500
domestic cattle	4	1	
caprine	4	4	
pig	1	1	
medium mammal		1	
large mammal	1	1	1
Total Mammal	10	8	1
domestic fowl	1	4	
Total Bird	1	4	0
frog/toad		1	
Total Amphibian	0	1	0
Total NISP	11	13	1
Total NSP	17	35	1

Table 2: Identified specimens (NISP) recovered through environmental samples (sieved) and hand-collection (unsieved).

	Sieved	Unsieved
Fish	0	0
Amphibian	1	0
Bird	1	4
Micro Mammal	0	0
Small Mammal	0	0
Medium Mammal	2	9
Large Mammal	3	3
Total NISP	7	16

Table 3: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.

	Butchery marks	Pathologies	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data	Sex
domestic cattle			1		2		
caprine					1		
pig					2		
Total Mammal	0	0	1	0	5	0	0
domestic fowl					4		
Total Bird	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Total NSP	0	0	1	0	9	0	0

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name:	Station Hill South, Plots E and F, Reading
Site code:	RESHSS19
Grid Reference	SU 7135 7370
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	January – March 2020
Area of Site	0.74ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OAS, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Museum of Reading in due course, under the following accession number: tbc.
Summary of Results:	*From January to March 2020, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Station Hill, Reading in advance of proposed building works. 15 trenches were excavated across the site between Garrard Street and Friar Street.* *Substantially affected by post-WWII development, indications of the Sites' original natural topography were gleaned from a handful trenches and demonstrated a relatively flat area immediately adjacent to the north side of Friar Street, leading to a northwards facing slope that fell away to the southern edge of the Thames floodplain where colluvial and alluvial deposition were noted.* *All but the extreme northern extents of the Site fall within the north-west corner of the extents of the medieval town, but beyond the northern limits of the Saxon settlement. Friar Street is first documented as New Street in AD1186, which broadly concurs with the earliest occupation on the opposite side of the street from the Site. However, this is some c. 100 years earlier than the earliest date range of the medieval pottery from the rubbish pits in Trench 12, which may suggest later development on this northern side of the western end of New Street, perhaps associated with the relocation of the Greyfriars just 100m to the west of the Site. A probable medieval drainage ditch defined the boundary between the bottom of the slopes of the valley and the floodplain itself.* *Evidence, in Trench 12, for earlier post-medieval buildings (17th century) expanding behind the Friar Street frontage building zone into back plot areas that had previously been used for waste disposal, potentially indicate the pressures on from population growth, and the resultant effects on the townscape of Reading within the urban core at this time.*

Project Details

OASIS Number	
Project Name	

Start of Fieldwork		End of Fieldwork	
Previous Work		Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code		Planning App. No.	
HER Number		Related Numbers	

Prompt	
Development Type	
Place in Planning Process	Choose an item.

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐ Grab-sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-core	☐ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochonological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	
District	
Parish	
HER office	
Size of Study Area	
National Grid Ref	

Address (including Postcode)

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Project Supervisor	

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)		
Digital Archive		
Paper Archive		

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☐	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☐	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☐	Context Sheets	☐
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☐	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☐	Drawing	☐
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☐	Matrices	☐
Text	☐	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
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		Plans	☐
		Report	☐
		Sections	☐
		Survey	☐

Further Comments

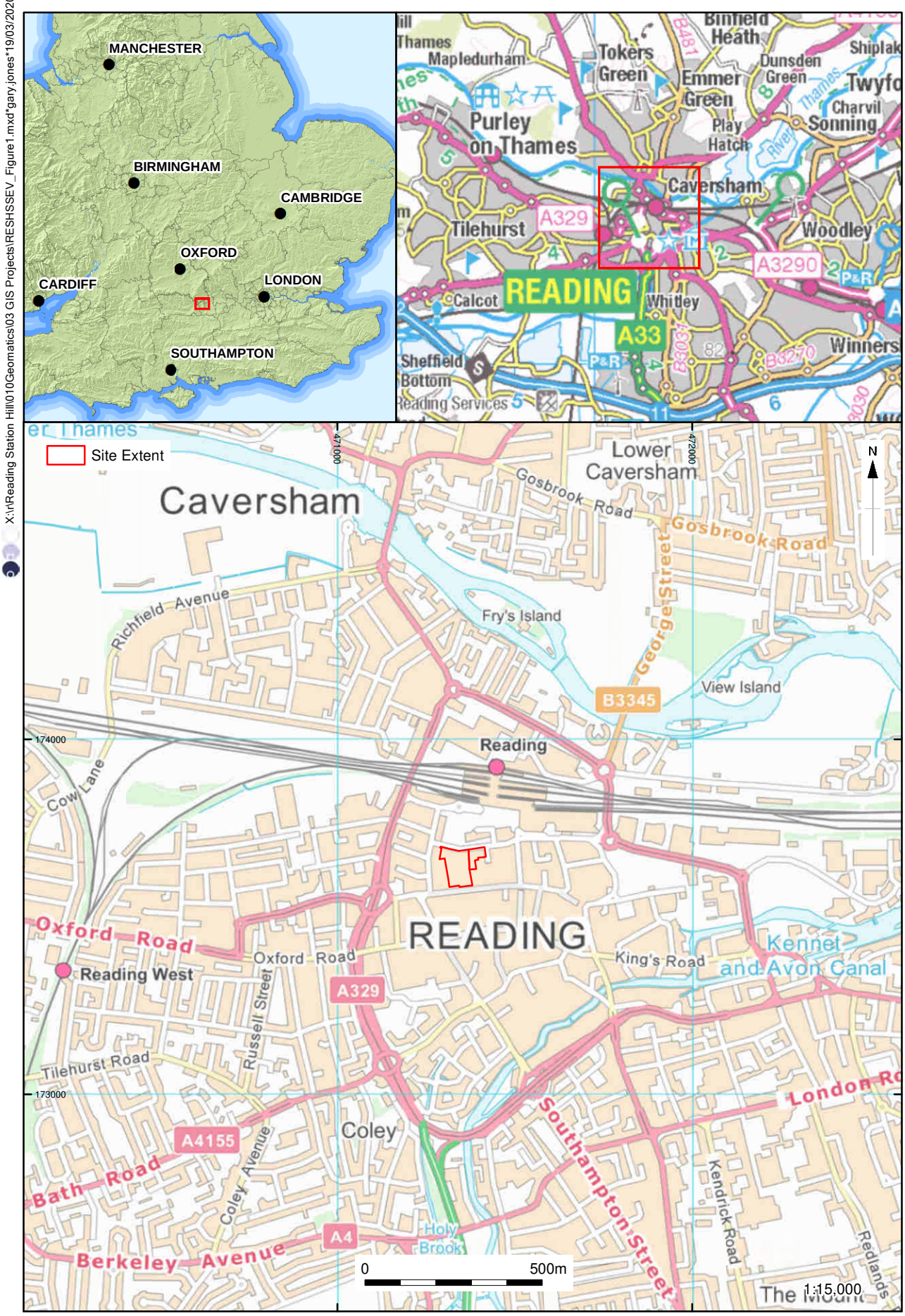
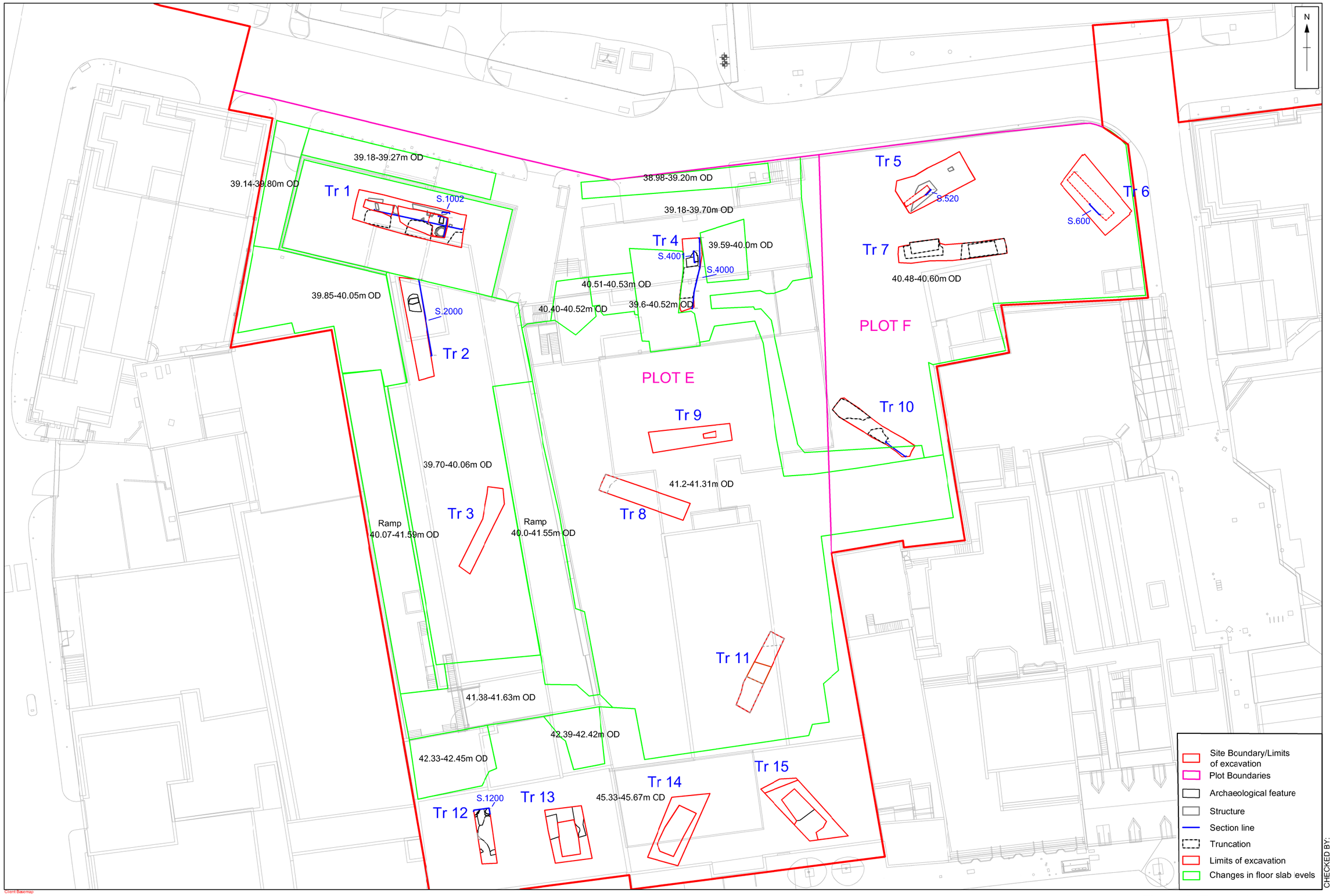


Figure 1: Site location

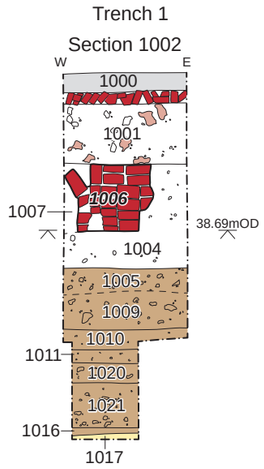


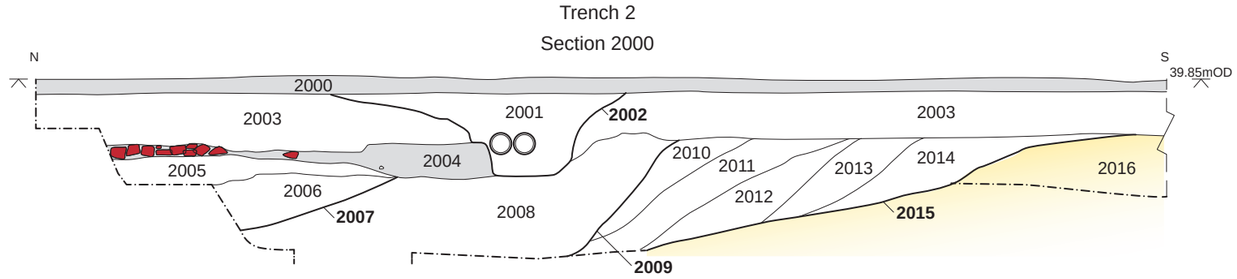
0 20m

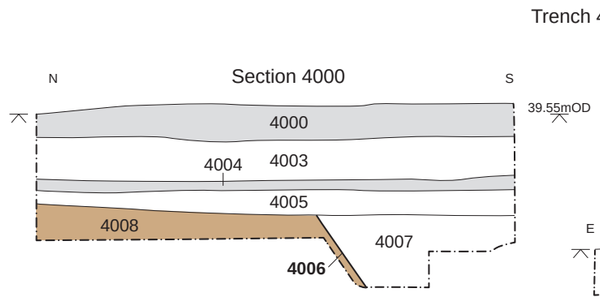
Scale at A3 1:500

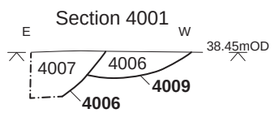
Survey Data supplied by :
Oxford Archaeology

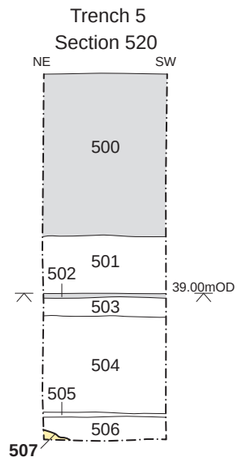
Figure 2: Trench location plan

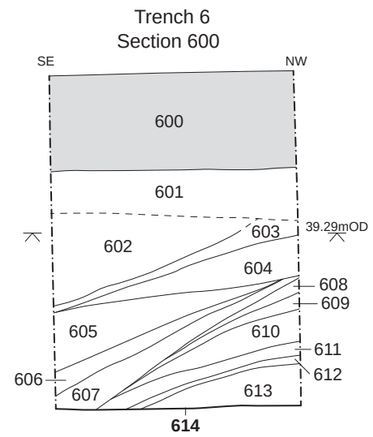












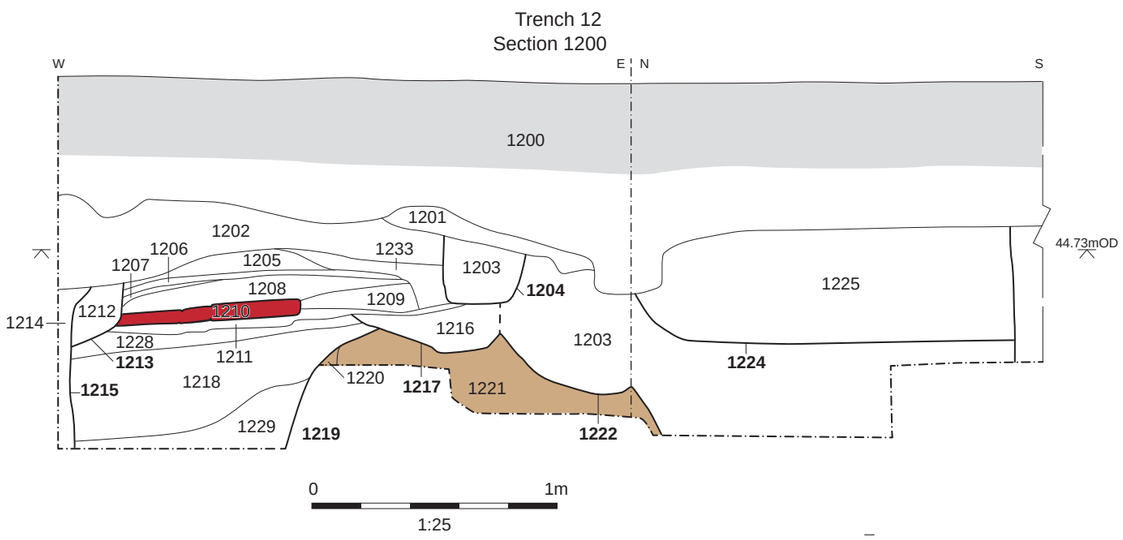


Figure 3: Representative Sections, Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 12

Plate 1: Trench 1 representative section, looking NNE, 1 x 1m

Plate 2: Trench 2, oblique trench shot, looking SE, 1 x 2m

Plate 3: Trench 12, general shot, looking N, 1 x 1m

Plate 4: Trench 12 representative section, looking N, 1 x 1m

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