



# **Greyfriars Church, Reading, Berkshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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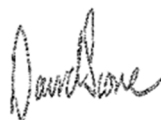
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## Greyfriars Church, Reading

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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*With contributions from John Cotter and Rebecca Nicholson,  
and illustrations by Matt Bradley and Charles Rousseaux*

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological test pit evaluation at the site of Greyfriars Church, Reading, Berkshire, in August 2020. The fieldwork was commissioned by Ash Contracting following the demolition of an existing foyer and in advance of its proposed replacement with a larger glazed foyer at Greyfriars Church.

Following the demolition of the existing foyer, four hand dug test pits were excavated across the site. Three test pits were located in the proposed position of three foundation pads for the new foyer and the fourth was positioned in the north of the site to the rear of Nos 2 and 4 Sackville Street.

A single large pit containing small quantities of medieval pottery dating to c 1150–1400 and animal bone was revealed in the centre of the site. Together with an inter-cutting but otherwise undated pit/posthole, this feature provides limited evidence of medieval activity that may have been related to the Franciscan friary that once occupied the site. No clear evidence suggestive of post-medieval activity relating to the Civil War was identified.

Probable construction cuts perhaps associated with former structural foundations relating to the 20th-century church and a number of construction/demolition and levelling deposits containing later post-medieval/modern debris attest to the redevelopment of the site in the 19th and 20th centuries. The varied levels at which the underlying natural geology of sand and gravel were encountered within the test pits also demonstrate the degree of truncation that has occurred on site.



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## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Ash Contracting Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Roland Smith who monitored the work on behalf of Berkshire Archaeology.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Jim Mumford, who was supported by Ben Attfield and Tomasz Neyman. Survey and digitising were carried out by Matt Bradley. 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 Nicola Scott.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Ash Contracting Ltd to undertake a test pit evaluation at the site of a proposed demolition of an existing foyer that is to be replaced with a larger glazed foyer at Greyfriars Church, Reading, Berkshire.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 19050). Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with Roland Smith (Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology) established the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA and approved by Roland Smith. The WSI outlined how OA would implement the specified requirements (OA 2020).
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CifA 2014) and local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the rear of Nos 2 and 4 Sackville Street at Greyfriars Church, Friar Street, in the centre of Reading (NGR SU 7120 7353; Fig. 1)
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of an irregular shaped parcel of land measuring 1,774m<sup>2</sup>, bounded by Friar Street to the south, by residential properties on Sackville Street to the north, by Caversham Road to the west and by Greyfriars Church to the east. The site comprises the Greyfriars Centre, book shop and coffee shop housed in a single building towards the north-western boundary, a tarmac car park and portacabins, the western apse of Greyfriars Church, a small grass verge south of the current car park and Nos 2 and 4 Sackville Street, and the Memorial Hall including the rear gardens.
- 1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2020), the solid geology of the area is mapped as chalk belonging to the Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated). This is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Taplow Gravel Member.
- 1.2.4 Topographically the site is situated on level ground on top of a ridge created by the River Kennet and the River Thames; however, levels across the site vary. Towards the eastern end of the car park and the rear gardens of the properties fronting Sackville Street, the site is level at a height of 44m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The ground then slopes down north-westwards towards the Greyfriars Centre to a height of 42.7m aOD.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared for the site (OA 2018) based on evidence held by the Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the Berkshire Record Office and other readily available sources, which is briefly summarised here.

- 1.3.2 There is a paucity of prehistoric and Roman finds within the vicinity of the site and in Reading as a whole. Records of isolated prehistoric flints, Roman coins and Roman pottery, however, are suggestive of a background presence within the landscape during these periods.
- 1.3.3 The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in the precinct of Greyfriars, a Franciscan friary situated at the edge of Reading's medieval settlement (Spriggs 1963). Cloisters were normally attached to the church by a rectangular passage either to the north or the south of the church (Martin 1937). Friar Street likely predates the founding of the friary, and therefore it is considered that the location of the cloister is likely to have been located to the north of the church building, though this has yet to be confirmed. It is possible that other buildings associated with the monastic precinct may have been situated within the site.
- 1.3.4 The Berkshire HER has identified Civil War defences bisecting the northern part of the site. This alignment is based upon a map of the siege of Reading (1643), although a different alignment is given in Lobel's *Historic Towns* (1969) and appears to depict a N–S aligned wall crossing the site.

## 1.4 Previous investigations on site

- 1.4.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on site in 2012 and comprised the excavation of three trenches within the area of the car park prior to proposed development (FA 2010).
- 1.4.2 The evaluation revealed medieval remains probably associated with the friary, though it was not possible to accurately interpret the form or function of the cut features. No building remains were identified, but it is possible that structures may survive in the unexcavated areas. The evaluation identified a substantial E–W aligned feature in Trench 3, which contained a small amount of medieval pottery but could be later in date and related to the Civil War defences.
- 1.4.3 A number of later post-medieval/modern deposits were recorded, suggesting that the site may have been used to dump material and/or was intentionally levelled/built-up.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general project aims and objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (OA 2020), were as follows:

- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive;
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains;
- iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means;
- iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
- vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape;
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy; status utility and social activity; and
- ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.1.2 The more specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- x. To determine whether remains survive relating to Greyfriars, a Franciscan friary situated at the edge of Reading's medieval settlement;
- xi. To determine whether remains survive relating to the Civil War defences.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Following the demolition of the existing foyer, the evaluation comprised the investigation of four hand-excavated test pits (Fig. 2; Plate 1). Test Pits 1–3 all measured 1m by 1m, while Test Pit 4 measured 1.5m by 1.5m. In accordance with the WSI (OA 2020), Test Pits 2 and 3 were positioned in the proposed location of the central and southern foundation pads for the proposed foyer in the west of the site, and Test Pit 4 was located in the north of the site to the rear of Nos 2 and 4 Sackville Street. Test Pit 1, however, was relocated and excavated in the location of a new foundation pad adjacent to the north-west corner of the church.

2.2.2 The test pits were hand excavated to the first archaeological horizon or to a safe maximum depth of 1m. Exposed surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.

2.2.3 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was completed in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual.

2.2.4 Upon completion of the works and in agreement with Berkshire Archaeology, the test pits were backfilled.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

3.1.1 The results of the test pit evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the test pits. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental data are given in Appendix B.

### **3.2 General soils and ground conditions**

3.2.1 The soil sequence encountered within each of the test pits varied, and these are discussed in detail below.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### **3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

3.3.1 Archaeological features of pre-modern date were present in Test Pit 2, while probable construction cuts, construction/demolition debris and levelling deposits of later post-medieval/modern date were revealed in Test Pits 1, 3 and 4.

### **3.4 Test Pit 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 2)**

3.4.1 Test Pit 1 was located in the proposed position of a foundation pad adjacent to the north-west corner of the extant church. It measured 1m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of c 1m.

3.4.2 Extending across the test pit and sealing underlying deposits was a 0.15–0.20m thick layer of probable construction/demolition debris (100) comprising loose, light grey silty clay with inclusions of modern concrete rubble and brick. Underlying this in the north-east of the test pit was a further construction/demolition deposit (101) of light reddish brown silty sand with gravel and rubble inclusions, up to 0.22m thick.

3.4.3 Underlying deposits 100 and 101 was a layer of light reddish brown silty sand (104), up to 0.21m thick. A probable construction cut (102) measuring more than 0.35m wide and up to 0.38m deep cut into deposit 104. Exhibiting moderately sloping sides and an uneven base, it contained a single fill of loose, light reddish brown silty sand (103) from which no finds were recovered.

3.4.4 A possible subsoil (105) consisting of compact, dark reddish brown silty sand was overlain by deposit 104 and was partially truncated by cut 102. It was recorded directly overlying the probable natural deposit (106) of light yellowish sand and gravel, and appeared to fill a natural depression/hollow within the bedrock geology, which was exposed at a minimum of c 0.55m below the present ground level.

### **3.5 Test Pit 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 3)**

3.5.1 Located in the proposed position of the central foundation pad, Test Pit 2 measured 1m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of c 1m.

- 3.5.2 The probable natural geology was immediately exposed upon excavation within the east of the test pit and comprised a yellowish orange sandy gravel (207). A large probable pit (204) cut into the natural, occupying the majority of Test Pit 2. The exposed extent of pit 204 measured 0.74m wide and over 1m deep, and it had near vertical sides; its base was not reached as it exceeded the excavated depth of the test pit. A sequence of three fills of mid brown silty sand were exposed within pit 204. All three fills contained small quantities of medieval pottery, with sherds dating to c 1150–1350 recovered from lower fills 202 (three sherds) and 203 (two sherds), and a single sherd dating to c 1200–1400 from upper fill 201. The latter also contained a single piece of animal bone.
- 3.5.3 Located in the south-west corner of Test Pit 2, a small oval pit/posthole (206) cut into fills 201 and 202 of pit 204. Measuring 0.16m wide and 0.13m deep, it had near vertical sides and a flat base. No finds were retrieved from its dark brown silty sand fill (205).
- 3.5.4 Both pit 204 and pit/posthole 205 were cut by a later post-medieval/modern ceramic land drain (201), 0.18m in diameter. It crossed the south-west corner of the test pit on a NW–SE alignment.

### **3.6 Test Pit 3 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 4)**

- 3.6.1 Positioned in the proposed location of the southern foundation pad, Test Pit 3 measured 1m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 1m. Excavation revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence of a single mixed deposit of gravel and sandy silt (300). It contained fragments of modern ceramic building material (CBM), concrete and plastic, suggesting that the deposit represents the dumping of later post-medieval/modern material/rubbish or a levelling deposit probably associated with the current use of the site.
- 3.6.2 The natural geology was not exposed in the test pit, and no archaeological deposits or finds of pre-modern date were identified.

### **3.7 Test Pit 4 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 5)**

- 3.7.1 Test Pit 4 measured 1.5m by 1.5m and was excavated to a depth of 0.58m. It was positioned in the north of the site to the rear of Nos 2 and 4 Sackville Street.
- 3.7.2 Extending across the test pit and sealing underlying deposits was a layer of construction/demolition debris (400), measuring 0.02–0.14m thick.
- 3.7.3 Underlying deposit 400 in the south-west of the test pit was a loose, dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions (403), up to 0.56m thick. Deposit 403 contained modern waste material, including CBM and rubble, suggesting that it may have constituted a dumping/levelling deposit associated with the later post-medieval/modern use of the site. This directly overlay the natural yellowish brown silty sand and gravel (404), which was exposed in the south-west of Test Pit 4 at a depth of 0.58m.
- 3.7.4 Occupying the majority of the test pit was a probable construction cut (402) perhaps for a former building foundation, which cut into deposit 403 and the natural geology (404). Measuring more than 1.36m wide and continuing beyond the limits of the test pit, it exhibited moderately sloping to steep sides; the base of the feature was not

reached as it exceeded the excavated depth of the test pit. Feature 402 contained a modern backfill (401).

### **3.8 Finds summary**

- 3.8.1 A small number of pottery sherds was recovered during the test pit evaluation, all of which date to the medieval period. A single fragment of animal bone and cooper alloy lace tag were also recovered during the evaluation.
- 3.8.2 Later post-medieval/modern debris, including CBM, rubble, concrete and plastic, was observed in a number of deposits revealed within the test pits. Given its recent date, this material was not retained for specialist recording and analysis.
- 3.8.3 No bulk soil samples were collected for environmental analysis or small artefact recovery, as no deposits with the potential for ecofacts were revealed and the majority of deposits were later post-medieval/modern in date.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The ground and site conditions were generally good, and visibility of the stratigraphic sequences within the test pits was good despite the size restrictions of the test pits.
- 4.1.2 The test pit evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a limited quantity and range of archaeological remains associated with medieval and later post-medieval/modern activity on site. Therefore, the results of the evaluation are considered to be a true reflection of the archaeological potential of the site highlighted by the DBA (OA 2018).

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The test pit evaluation is considered to have achieved its general and site-specific aims (see above). It has established and recorded the presence and nature of a small number of archaeological features and deposits within the four test pits investigated.
- 4.2.2 A large probable pit recorded in Test Pit 2 contained a few sherds of medieval pottery and a piece of animal bone, which comprise the only finds of pre-modern date recovered during the evaluation. The large pit was cut by an otherwise undated pit/posthole. Although limited by the extent of the excavated test pits, these features provide possible evidence of medieval activity associated with the Franciscan friary, though the nature of this activity is unclear. A potentially buried subsoil was also revealed in Test Pit 1, overlain by later post-medieval/modern construction/demolition layers and cut by a modern construction cut. No finds were recovered from this deposit to suggest its date.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features, deposits or residual finds clearly relating to the Civil War defences or other associated activity were identified within the test pits. The majority of features and deposits encountered during the evaluation comprised probable construction cuts and construction/demolition and levelling deposits of later post-medieval/modern date. Fragments of brick and CBM, concrete, plastic and other waste material were observed within these deposits, though this material was not retained given its recent date. The natural deposits were exposed at varying depths within three of the test pits, while it was not revealed within the fourth.

### 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 Archaeological remains encountered during the test pit evaluation comprised a single large pit of possible medieval date, an undated but potentially medieval pit/posthole, and two construction cuts and a number of construction/demolition debris and levelling deposits all of similar later post-medieval/modern date.
- 4.3.2 Despite the site being located with the precinct of the former Franciscan friary, only a single large pit containing a small quantity of medieval pottery dating to c 1150–1350 and c 1200–1400, as well as a piece of animal bone, was recorded in Test Pit 2. No residual medieval material was recovered from later features or deposits revealed within the investigated test pits.



- 4.3.3 The probable construction cuts identified within two of the test pits perhaps related to foundations of former structural elements of the 20th-century church, while the construction/demolition and levelling deposits identified were probably related to the later post-medieval/modern development of the site, such as the removal of the school on site in 1971 and the construction of the western apse in 1972 and the Greyfriars Centre in 1981–3.
- 4.3.4 The varying depths at which the underlying natural geology was revealed within the test pits, together with the nature of the overlying stratigraphic deposits, is indicative of the level of truncation that the site has undergone during its history.

#### **4.4 Significance**

- 4.4.1 Given the dating and character of the archaeological remains uncovered on site, the results of the test pit evaluation provide limited evidence of medieval and later post-medieval/modern activity.
- 4.4.2 Although restricted by the extent of the excavated test pits, the possible medieval pit and undated pit/posthole are suggestive of activity relating to the medieval religious house. These features also demonstrate the potential for the survival of further medieval remains on site, despite its redevelopment during the post-medieval and modern periods.
- 4.4.3 The later post-medieval/modern construction/demolition and levelling deposits, together with probable construction cuts relating to former building foundations of similar date, provide evidence of the continued use and redevelopment of the site during the 19th and 20th centuries, and are of little archaeological significance.

## APPENDIX A TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 1						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit contained a modern construction cut. Consists of construction/demolition deposits and a possible subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	1
					Width (m)	1
					Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.15-0.20	Construction/demolition debris	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.22	Construction/demolition debris	-	-
102	Cut	0.35	0.38	Construction cut	-	-
103	Fill	0.35	0.38	Secondary fill of 102	-	-
104	Layer	-	0.21	Layer	-	-
105	Layer	-	0.62	Possible subsoil	-	-
106	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Test Pit 2						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit contained a large pit, a possible pit/posthole and a later post-medieval/modern drain pipe cutting into natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	1
					Width (m)	1
					Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Structure	0.18	0.18	Drain pipe	-	-
201	Fill	0.74	0.27	Secondary fill of 204	Pottery, animal bone	AD 1200-1400
202	Fill	0.74	0.60	Secondary fill of 204	Pottery	AD 1150-1350?
203	Fill	0.51	0.18	Secondary fill of 204	Pottery	AD 1150-1350?
204	Cut	0.74	1.06	Pit	-	-
205	Fill	0.16	0.13	Secondary fill of 206	-	-
206	Cut	0.16	0.13	Possible pit/posthole	-	-
207	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Test Pit 3						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern dumping/levelling deposit. Natural geology not exposed.					Length (m)	1
					Width (m)	1
					Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	1	Dumping/levelling deposit	CBM, concrete, plastic (not retained)	Post-medieval/modern

Test Pit 4						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	-
Test pit contained a modern construction cut. Consists of construction/demolition debris and levelling deposit overlying natural geology of silty sand and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.58
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Date</b>
400	Layer	-	0.02-0.14	Construction/demolition debris	-	-
401	Fill	-	0.36	Backfill of 402	-	-
402	Cut	1.36	0.36	Construction cut	-	-
403	Layer	-	0.56	Levelling deposit	CBM, rubble (not retained)	Post-medieval/modern
404	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

## APPENDIX B FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By John Cotter*

#### *Introduction and methodology*

- B.1.1 A total of six sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 38g, was recovered from three 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).

#### *Description*

- B.1.2 **Context (201) Spot-date: c 1200–1400.** Description: 1 sherd (weight 15g). Fresh body sherd from the shoulder area of a jug in Ashampstead-type ware (Fabric code: OXAG). Part of a neck cordon survives above the shoulder. The latter is decorated with multiple thin vertical lines of white slip, which are bordered above and below by a horizontal border of one or more slip lines. The jug has a bright orange external glaze.
- B.1.3 **Context (202) Spot-date: c 1150–1350?** Description: 3 sherds (weight 12g). A coarse reduced dark grey sandy fabric (texturally like OXAG) with sparse-moderate inclusions of coarse angular flint and rounded algal limestone. Probably a local variant of Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ). 1 vessel: basal sherds from a cooking pot with external sooting and a thick black carbonised food residue internally.
- B.1.4 **Context (203) Spot-date: c 1150–1350?** Description: 2 sherds (weight 11g). 1 vessel. Fresh joining sherds from the shoulder of a cooking pot or jug in a local coarse sandy ware (similar to OXAQ above) with abundant rounded to sub-angular quartz, sparse coarse ironstone and sparse organic inclusions. Light grey-brown surfaces with a light grey core. Possibly an early OXAG fabric? Or possibly a product of the Camley Gardens kilns at Maidenhead (CAM)?

#### *Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material*

- B.1.5 The pottery here has some potential for further analysis and should be retained.

### B.2 Cooper Alloy

*By Leigh Allen*

- B.2.1 A single copper-alloy object was recovered from the evaluation: a lace tag from context 201. The lace tag is 60mm long and is made from sheet metal that has been rolled into a tube that tapers very slightly towards the tip. The edges meet along the length of the tag; there is no overlap nor is there a rivet at the top. The tip is flat; a section of the metal has been bent over, flattened and well finished. The tag is undecorated.
- B.2.2 Lace tags were used on the end of laces to prevent them from fraying and to aid threading. They were used on a variety of garments such as doublet and hose, girdles

and bodices from the 14th century onwards (Egan and Pritchard 2002, 281). In the later 16th century they became purely ornamental, and examples are often found in large numbers in medieval and post-medieval contexts.

B.2.3 This tag is larger than the standard tags, which generally measure 25–32mm. Its size and robust form would have made it more suitable for more heavy-duty use.

B.2.4 ***Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material***

B.2.5 The lace tag is in good condition and is an excellent example of the form. It should therefore be retained and deposited with the archive.

### **B.3 Animal Bone**

*By Rebecca Nicholson*

B.3.1 A single fragment of bone was recovered from this evaluation: a piece of large mammal rib weighing 5g from context 201.

B.3.2 The bone is in fairly good condition and so the scarcity of bone recovered is likely to reflect the kinds of deposits excavated rather than adverse conditions for bone survival at this site.

***Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material***

B.3.3 The fragment has no research value and retention in the archive is not required.

## APPENDIX C      BIBLIOGRAPHY

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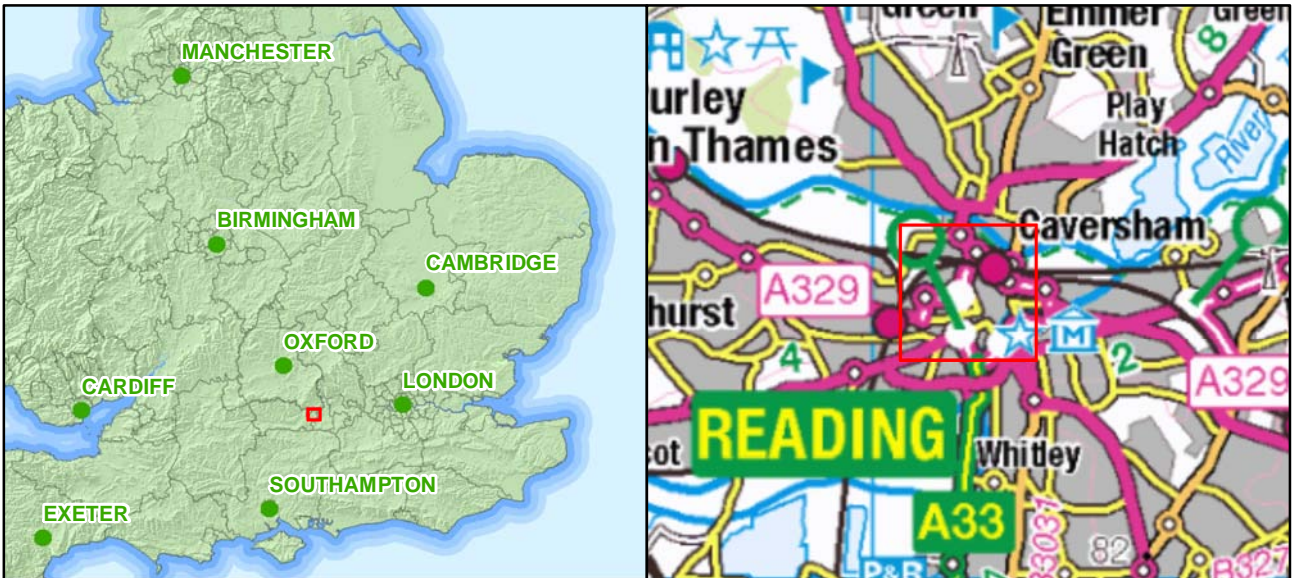
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## APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Greyfriars Church, Reading
<b>Site code:</b>	REGC20
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SU 7120 7353
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	August 2020
<b>Area of Site</b>	1,774m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course, under an accession number to be confirmed.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	<p>Following the demolition of the existing foyer, three test pits were excavated in the proposed position of three foundation pads for the new foyer and a fourth was positioned in the north of the site to the rear of Nos 2 and 4 Sackville Street.</p> <p>A single large pit containing small quantities of medieval pottery dating to c 1150–1400 and animal bone was revealed in the centre of the site. Together with an inter-cutting but otherwise undated pit/posthole, this feature provides limited evidence of medieval activity that may have been related to the Franciscan friary.</p> <p>Probable construction cuts perhaps associated with former structural foundations relating to the 20th-century church and a number of construction/demolition and levelling deposits attest to the redevelopment of the site in the 19th and 20th centuries. The varied levels at which the underlying natural geology of sand and gravel were encountered within the test pits also demonstrate the degree of truncation that has occurred on site.</p>







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Figure 1: Site location

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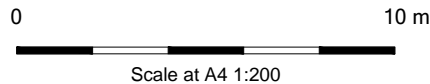
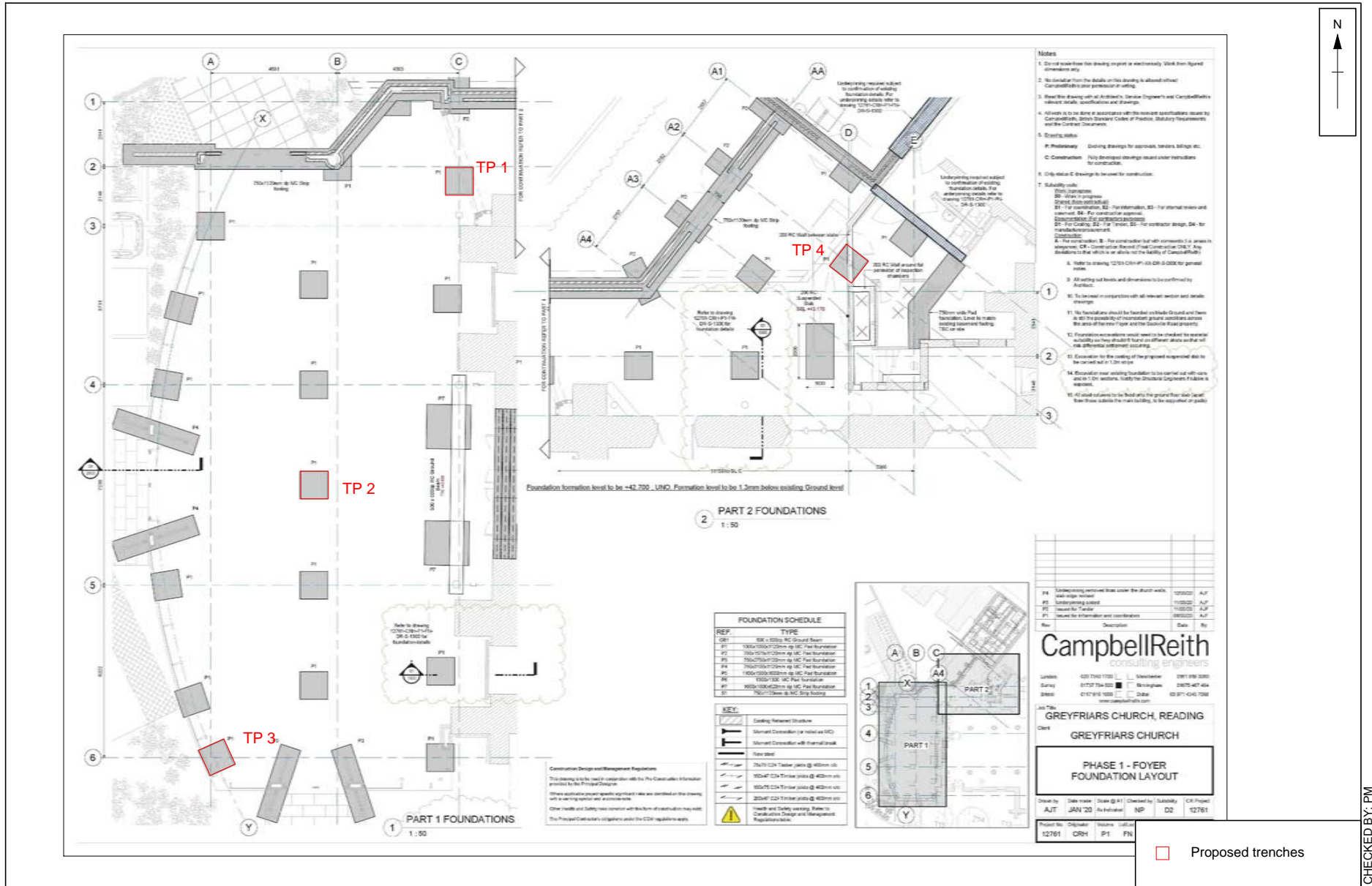


Figure 2: Test pit locations

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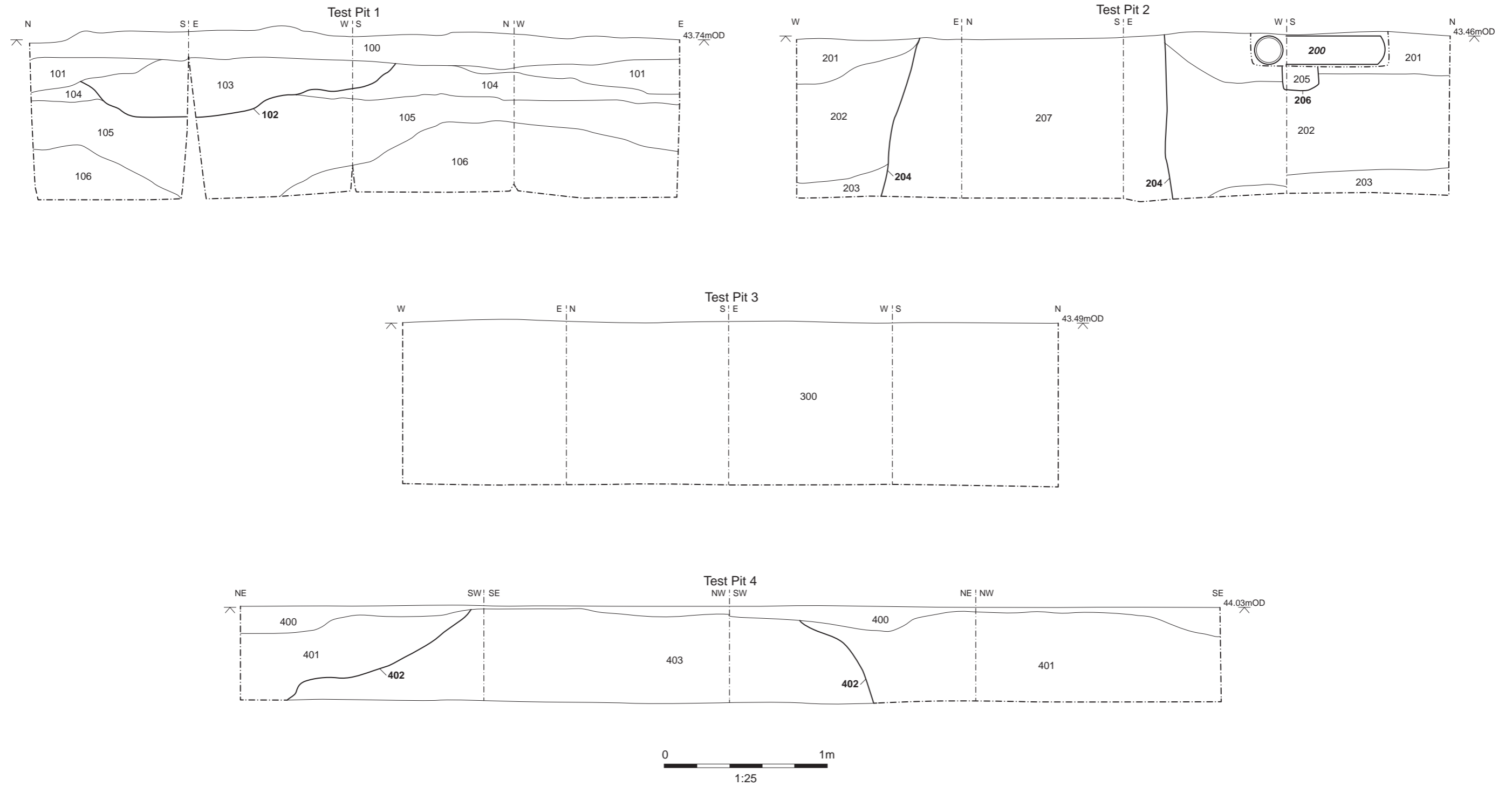


Figure 3: Sections



Plate 1: Overview of site, looking east



Plate 2: Test Pit 1, looking east



Plate 3: Test Pit 2, looking south



Plate 4: Test Pit 3, looking south



Plate 5: Test Pit 4, looking south-east



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