Music Room Extension
Corpus Christi College
Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Corpus Christi College
Oxford

NGR SP 516 060

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF PLATES

SUMMARY

In February 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Rick Mather Associates on behalf of the college in advance of the submission of a planning application for the construction of a new music room. The new facilities would replace the existing music room (currently within a bastion of the medieval city wall) with a larger building extending northwards into the college gardens.

The evaluation revealed a west-east aligned inhumation, potentially associated with an early phase of St Frideswide's Priory.

A mortared stone structure, possibly representing the defensive line of the late-Saxon burh was also revealed, along with evidence for later development of the defensive circuit, including a localised re-build of the City wall in the early 17th century.

Evidence for the partial re-construction of the boundary wall between Christ Church and Corpus Christi colleges was also revealed. The date of this re-build is unclear.

Some evidence for 13th-14th century occupation was recovered from a possible refuse pit which may have been associated with properties fronting onto the former Shidyerd Street. No evidence for the street itself was encountered within the trenches, although this may have been as a result of later truncation, particularly by two post-medieval cess pits which had been excavated up against the boundary wall between Christ Church and Corpus Christi. One of these was stone-lined and may date to the 18th century, although the final phase of backfilling occurred in the mid-late 19th century. The second cess pit showed no evidence of stone lining, and the artefactual evidence suggested that it pre-dated the stone lined feature and originated in the 16th-17th century.

The remainder of the archaeological data recovered appeared to relate to the various configurations of the college gardens from the 16th century onwards. This included a substantial robber trench which corresponds with a wall shown on a number of cartographic sources, and a number of landscaping deposits which probably originate from later phases of construction of college buildings.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 It is proposed to modify and extend the existing music room at Corpus Christi College, Merton Street, Oxford (SP 516 060 - Fig. 1). The modification to the existing building will involve the lowering of the floor level, and the replacement of the existing roof with a roof terrace. The proposal also extends the existing building to the north and west.

1.1.2 The existing music room was constructed in 1986 within a surviving bastion of Oxford's medieval defensive wall. This section of the wall is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. OX26 (Bastion Number 21)). Additionally, the extension to the existing building lies partially within an area recognised by the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (Site Reference Number 2096).

1.1.3 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Rick Mather Architects to carry out an Archaeological Impact Assessment (OA, 2006), following which a Draft Scoping for Field Evaluation (OCC 2006) was prepared by Brian Durham, archaeologist at Oxford City Council. This required the evaluation trenches to be excavated to a maximum depth of 58.32 m OD which encompassed the proposed base of the structural slab level (58.52 m OD), to which was added a 200mm archaeological 'buffer' (58.32 m OD).

1.1.4 Following further discussion with Chris Welch at English Heritage the scope of the evaluation was slightly revised. OA were subsequently commissioned to carry out the evaluation and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared which detailed how OA would implement the requirements of both English Heritage and Oxfordshire City Council (as the planning authority). Scheduled Monument Consent was subsequently granted by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

1.1.5 This was in line with PPG16, the City Council Adopted Local Plan 1991-2001, Policy EN 40 and Second Draft Local Plan 2001-16 HE 2. These refer to Areas of Archaeological Interest which require an archaeological evaluation where development may have significant impact.

1.2 Topography and geology

The following two sections are largely reproduced from the Archaeological Impact Assessment (OA, 2006) - references can be found there. However, a number of amendments have been made to Section 1.3 in light of the results of the evaluation

1.2.1 Corpus Christi College is situated in central Oxford, on the south side of Merton Street. It is bounded on the west by Christ Church and on the east by Merton College. The college extends southwards to the city wall, which separates it from the Christ Church gardens.

1.2.2 The college lies on the southern edge of the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace and the underlying geology is Oxford Clay. The majority of the area of proposed development is at c 60 m OD, but the southern end of the gardens slope upwards to c 61 m OD. The interior of the existing Music Room lies at 60.73 m OD.

1.2.3 The principal building currently within the area of proposed development is the Music Room, built into a bastion of the medieval city wall. The path to the Music Room, which comes from the south-west corner of the Fellows' Garden, also gives access to the gardener's storage area, which adjoins the south wall of the President's Garden. A greenhouse stands on the north side of the path, fixed to the wall.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Previous Archaeological Work

1.3.1 A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out within the area of proposed development and its immediate environs since 1958 when the President's Lodging was rebuilt. In that year a section under the boundary wall with Christ Church was viewed and evidence for the medieval Shidyerd Street and the houses along it seen. This work was on the opposite side of the President's Lodging from the area of proposed development.

1.3.2 In 1963 a single trench was dug by David Sturdy on the south side of the bastion, where it adjoins the south-running wall. This revealed part of an earlier wall below the bastion. The same feature was identified in trenches south of the bastion during fieldwork by OA in 1981 before the Music Room was constructed. This feature may have been part of a wall along Shidyerd Street or possibly part of a road. The 1981 work included a measured survey of the bastion and limited excavations within it, which failed to uncover medieval floor levels.

1.3.3 Further observations were made during a watching brief by OA in 1986 when contractors cleared rubble from the bastion and the adjoining President's Shed, now the Green Room. Partition walls were removed and some of the present walls erected. Little was found except what were interpreted as the offset foundations of the boundary wall with the cemetery to the west and remains of post-medieval college walls (Dodd 2003, 198).

1.3.4 The Bastion and President's Shed was covered by a late 16th or early 17th century roof. Its timbers were recorded, but were largely renewed in 1986.

Historical and Archaeological Background

Prehistoric and Roman Periods

1.3.5 Although there is evidence for activity dating from the prehistoric or Roman periods in Oxford no occupation or burial evidence has been identified in the area of Corpus Christi College.

Early Medieval Period

1.3.6 The town of Oxford is believed to have its origins in the early 8th century about the time that St Frideswide's Priory was founded on the site of Christ Church. The city was certainly developed as a fortified Burh in the Reign of King Alfred or his son Edward the Elder. By the 10th century a network of streets had been established and a defensive circuit constructed. Some evidence for a turf rampart has been found and wherever the early medieval rampart has been observed it has been on or close to the line of the later medieval wall (Dodd 2003, 23). It has been argued that the early medieval defences originally only enclosed an area from Oriel Street westwards and that the eastern part of the town was enclosed later. If so, the original eastern rampart would have coincided with the western boundary of Corpus Christi, and a rampart for the eastern extension, as seen at New College (Booth in Dodd, 2003, pp183-186), would have started at this point. Evidence for a rampart with an associated retaining wall defining the southern limit of the Saxon burh was revealed during recent excavations at Oxford Castle (OA, 2006(2)).

1.3.7 Observations of the early medieval defences along the southern circuit are very uncertain. A possible section of turf rampart has been observed in the grounds of Pembroke College immediately to the north of the later medieval town wall (CBA 1974). A large ditch was found crossing the front quadrangle of Corpus Christi during excavations in 1972, but there was no dating evidence (Hassall 1973, 274-5).

Medieval Period

1.3.8 Where excavation has occurred (e.g. New College, Dodd ibid.), the early medieval defences of Oxford seem to have continued in use until the 13th century when the stone walls were constructed. At present, the southern boundary of Corpus Christi is scheduled as a surviving section of this defensive circuit (SAM OX26). The existing Music Room is built into one of the bastions, also thought to date to the 13th century. The location of this bastion appears to mark a change in the direction of the wall from its east-west alignment to a southerly direction. It has also been suggested that the bastion was part of a gate, situated at the bottom of the original length of Oriel Street, then called Shidyerd Street (Dodd 2003, 190). Unfortunately, the wall west of the bastion was removed when the priory of St Frideswide, which lay on the west side of Shidyerd Street, was adapted to form Christ Church.

1.3.9 Merton College to the east was founded in 1266 and the land between it and Shidyerd Street, being the future site of Corpus Christi College, was occupied by a number of tenements and their gardens by the beginning of the 16th century. Bachelor's Garden, Corner Hall and Nevill's Inn were all the property of Merton College. Urban Hall and Beke's Inn belonged to the priory of St Frideswide and Godstow Abbey owned Nun's Hall. It is possible that these properties were separated from the city wall by an intramural road, although there is some evidence for properties occupying the plots between Beke's Inn and the city wall (see 8.2.10 and 8.2.11).

Bishop Fox and Corpus Christi

1.3.10 Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, decided in 1511 to found a new college in Oxford. He acquired the properties listed in the previous section, only buying that owned by Godstow Abbey and obtaining perpetual leases on the others. Construction work on began in 1512 and the first students were admitted in 1517, by which time the buildings of the front quadrangle were complete and work had begun on the cloister building. The kitchen block is the earliest surviving building on the site. At that stage the President's Lodgings were over the main gate on Merton Street.

1.3.11 Behind the college buildings were gardens. The earliest surviving map of the college is an Agas map of 1578. At that time Shidyerd Street continued to the city wall, although gates had been erected across it at the junction with Merton Street and c two thirds of the way to the city wall. The wall as shown indicates the presence of the bastion and there is no sign of the present mound along its north side. In front of the bastion was a small building which is in the corner of an orchard, labelled as 'gardaine'. To the west of the gardens is an area of formal beds.

The President's Lodgings

1.3.12 It appears from the college accounts that a new President's House was built in 1607 on the southern section of the former Shidyerd Street. This new building is shown on an engraving by Loggan from 1675. To its south the only change is the addition of a stable block.

1.3.13 The garden to the east has changed considerably. The mound and walkway along the inside of the city wall has been constructed with steps up at either end. At the west end there is a summerhouse. The separate walled orchard has been removed and the new garden area looks more landscaped. A door in the President's Garden west wall is thought to have been built to allow Charles I easy access from Christ Church.

1.3.14 The date and chronology of the alterations to the garden is uncertain. A study of the college accounts by J.C. Bramble (Bramble, 1979-80) shows a considerable expenditure during 1623-4, specifically: "£10 To Francis Wells for making the stayres in the garden" and "£3 7s.4d To Leake for carrying of rubbage to ye President's garden". Bramble interprets this as the origin of the mound against the city wall and, together with further entries detailing expenditure throughout the 1620s, suggests a wholesale remodeling of the garden facilitating the "metamorphosis and unification of the original piecemeal layout" shown on Agas.

1.3.15 However, research carried out by the College archivist, Julian Reid, during the evaluation has revealed some significant entries in the accounts which suggest an earlier origin for the mound (Appendix 2). These are particularly relevant to the characterisation of a number of the features and deposits encountered during the evaluation, and will be discussed in greater detail when considering the interpretation of the archaeological evidence (Section 8).

1.3.16 The new lodging was not deemed adequate by President Turner, who was wealthy enough to finance extensions to it after his election in 1688. As well as remodelling the existing building he added wings to the south and east. An engraving from the Oxford Almanac in 1726 shows the new buildings, a rebuilt Fellows' Building, a remodeled summerhouse roof and more formal arrangements in the Fellows' Garden.

1.3.17 William Williams' engraving of 1733 is accompanied by a plan, which does not show the curve of the bastion at all, but a rectangular block across the end of the President's Garden. On the engraving this garden is divided by a north-south wall, but the south end is not included in the illustration. Another engraving of 1758 does not show the detail of the President's Garden, but does illustrate the remodeled summerhouse roof.

1.3.18 In the late 18th century the fashion for formal gardens had given way to the lusher, romantic style. A plate from 1814 shows that the formal beds had been replaced by lawn and the shrubbery along the south terrace has become more luxuriant. The eastern part of the city wall had in fact been lowered to provide better views across what was then Christ Church Meadow, through a claire voyée. These plates do not show the President's Garden and it is not possible to determine when the summerhouse was removed. The Lodgings had also undergone extensive improvements.

1.3.19 The best idea of the layout of the area of proposed development during the 19th century is gained from a model constructed in 1855 by the President's butler. The southern end of the President's Garden and the site of the bastion are not included, but, together with a ground plan from 1883, it is possible to see that the layout within the area of proposed development. The wall line between the President's and Fellows' Gardens has been moved further east and follows an irregular course at the southern end around the area formerly occupied by the summerhouse.

1.3.20 The President's Lodging experienced another major redevelopment phase in 1904 under President Case. The present drawing room with its outlook south across the President's Garden dates from this period and the garden was redeveloped for it. The present curved terraces were part of this work. Even more radical changes were carried out in 1958, although the southern aspect of the building is essentially unchanged. However, the garden was extended eastwards with the wall between it and the Fellows' Garden rebuilt. The present layout of the President's Garden is mainly a combination of these two 20th century projects. At some stage the level of the south end was raised.

The Music Room

1.3.21 The existing Music Room, utilising the bastion and the President's Shed, was built in 1986. A new boundary wall was constructed altering the shape of the south end of the President's Garden. The Music Room is accessed from a path along the west edge of the Fellows' Garden, running west between the line of the city wall and the wall of

the President's Garden. The space at the end is walled off for used by the gardener who also has a greenhouse on the wall opposite the Music Room. East of the greenhouse is a magnolia, planted as a memorial. A memorial plaque to a college cat (Tom), is set in the wall not far from the bastion. A photograph of Tom survives and is currently in the possession of the College gardener, David Leake.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2.1.1 Thanks to all at the college for their patience and assistance during the works, particularly Colin Holmes, Stuart Dutson, Julian Reid and David Leake.

2.1.2 Thanks also to Brian Durham (OCC) and Chris Welch (EH) for their advice and assistance prior to and during the fieldwork.

2.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out over 3 weeks by Robin Bashford (Site Supervisor), Alan Marshall (Assistant Supervisor), Illya Sparkes-Santos and Anna Hodgkinson (Archaeologists). The project manager was Dan Poore.

3 EVALUATION AIMS

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the proposal area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may affect further need for mitigation during or ahead of the construction process.

3.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features and to make available the results of the investigation.

3.2 Specific aims

3.2.1 To establish the level of natural geology (bedded terrace gravel).

3.2.2 To identify any surfaces of the documented 'Shidyerd Street'.

3.2.3 To distinguish the fill material of the 1620s garden bank from any pre-existing defensive rampart surviving within impact depth.

3.2.4 To confirm metalling of any 'intramural road'.

3.2.5 To confirm profile of city wall; the wall may have been substantially thicker than its existing parapet, with a paved wall walk.

3.2.6 To investigate any continuation of the ditch exposed in Corpus Christi front quad in 1972 (Dodd, 2003, p23) as candidate for a primary burh ditch enclosing the early St Frideswide's Priory.

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Scope and method of fieldwork

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised 4 trenches and 3 engineering test pits (2 of which were incorporated into the archaeological trenches), the locations of which are shown on Figure 2.

4.1.2 Trench 1A was an east-west aligned trench c. 1.5 m wide x 3 m long and was excavated against the eastern face of the Christ Church wall to the south of the President's Lodgings. The trench incorporated a hand excavated engineering test pit to test the foundations of the standing wall.

4.1.3 Trench 1B was an east-west aligned trench c. 1.5 m wide x 3 m long and was excavated within the existing curved terrace to the south of the present drawing room of the President's Lodgings, at the northern extent of the proposed building.

4.1.4 Trench 1C was an east-west aligned trench c. 1.5 m wide x 3 m long and was excavated at the north-eastern extent of the proposed building. This trench lies within the Registered Park and Garden and over the potential location of the 17th century summerhouse.

4.1.5 Trench 2 was a north-south aligned trench c. 1.5 m wide x 3 m long and was excavated against the northern face of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the City Wall. The trench incorporated a hand excavated engineering test pit to test the foundations of the standing wall.

4.1.6 Trench 3 comprised a hand excavated engineering test pit measuring 1.5 m wide x 2 m long which was excavated against the Christ Church wall, within the footprint of the existing music room.

4.1.7 With the exception of the hand excavated test pits, initial excavation was undertaken by a 0.8 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching/grading bucket. Generally, machine excavation ceased at 1 - 1.5 m and a trench support system was installed prior to limited sample hand-excavation below this to achieve the aims stated above. Where necessary, the shoring was 'dropped' to accommodate the increased depth of the trench. Where this was not feasible, a narrower 'sondage' was excavated in the base of the trench. Where sensitive archaeological remains negated the excavation of the trenches to the required depth, or the natural geology was not reached at 58.32 m OD (ref. 1.1.3), a hand augur was used to attempt to establish the surface of the gravel terrace and to characterise the overlying deposits.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

4.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

4.3.1 Bulk soil samples were taken from suitable contexts from a range of dated deposits to establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the site and for the retrieval of finds.

4.4 Presentation of results

4.4.1 The various deposits and structures encountered during the evaluation are described below in Section 5. Detailed soil descriptions are presented in the context inventory (Appendix 1), except where they are considered integral to the interpretation of specific deposits or features. The descriptive text in Section 5 is followed by the finds and environmental reports - Sections 6 and 7 respectively, and a discussion and interpretation of this evidence can be found in Section 8. Cartographic sources referred to in the text are reproduced in the Archaeological Impact Assessment (OA, 2006).

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1A *- Figs 3 and 5; Plates I and II*

5.1.1 Machine excavation within Trench 1A was halted at 1.4 m below ground level (60.44 m OD) to allow for the safe installation of shoring, although a 0.7 m wide step was left at the eastern end of the trench (at 60.61 m OD) due to the presence of potentially live services. A 0.6 m wide sondage was then excavated within the deeper part of the trench.

5.1.2 Terrace gravel (100) was encountered at c 59.09 m OD and was truncated by a west-east aligned grave cut (101), partially revealed within the sondage. At 58.69 m OD, at the western extent of the grave cut, was a human skull (116) of indeterminate age and sex. Assuming that the burial was supine, the skull appeared to have rolled to the north, as the exposed portion of skull comprised the occipital bone at the back of the skull and the foramen magnum (where the spine enters the skull) was visible. Where exposed, the grave backfill (102) was excavated to a maximum depth of 58.62 m OD, at which point excavation was halted and the remainder of the burial left undisturbed. Prior to backfilling, a plastic sheet was placed over the grave, approximately 200 mm of soil was then deposited and covered by a sheet of sterling board.

5.1.3 The gravel through which the grave was cut was clearly banded, and almost certainly represents the bedded gravel deposits of the Summertown-Radley terrace. However, both the gravel and the grave backfill (102) had been discoloured by mineralisation originating from the fills of a later cess pit (see 5.1.5). Consequently, absolute verification of the validity of the natural geology was problematic.

5.1.4 The grave backfill was truncated at c 59.17 m OD by a barely discernable construction trench (115) for a limestone wall footing (103), almost certainly

representing the original construction of the boundary wall between Christ Church and Corpus Christi. This was overlain by a c 0.14 m thick layer of mid yellow brown sandy silt with 10-15% limestone fragments (113) which was then overlain by the below ground element of the existing boundary wall (114). Although there was a 0.2 m offset between the base of wall 114 and the top of footing 103, the lower courses of 114 incline eastward to approximately 62.06 m OD before rising vertically. Consequently, the face of 114 at current ground level coincides with the face of the underlying 'stepped' footing (103).

5.1.5 A 16th - 17th century cess pit (104) had been excavated up against footing 103, and also truncated the grave backfill. The fact that the base of this cess pit coincides with the level of the burial within grave 101 may imply that the original excavation of the cess pit was halted when the burial was encountered. Indeed, a fragment of re-deposited human bone within the lower fill (105) suggests that the burial was partially disturbed by the cess pit, although the assumption that this bone is from the same burial can be no more than conjectural.

5.1.6 A distinct, steep-sided interface (107) between the cessy lower fills (105/106) and more mixed upper fills (108-111) of cut 104 was indicative of at least one re-cut of the cess pit.

5.1.7 The top fill (111) comprised a c 0.20 m thick, mixed deposit of degraded lime mortar and mid orange brown clay with concentrations of roof tile and clay pipe throughout. This was originally thought to be a rudimentary surface, similar in composition to that recorded in Trench 2 (208 - see below). Despite a 0.40 m variance between the top of deposit 111 and surface 208 (60.06 m and 59.68 m OD respectively) it is possible that they form part of a contemporary surface. Although deposit 111 did appear to be localised within cess pit 104, it is possible that it is a remnant of a larger surface which has sunk into the cess pit as the underlying fills have settled. However, this would imply an even greater variance in the relative heights of 111 and 208, and it is possible that deposit 111 is simply be a dump of construction / demolition debris in the top of the cess pit. Indeed, the horizontal interface between deposit 111 and the underlying cess pit fills gave little indication of settling of the underlying deposits. Additionally, the presence of 17th century clay pipe within deposit 111 would suggest that it post-dates surface 208 as the latter is stratigraphically earlier than the bank/mound constructed in the late 16th century (see below).

5.1.8 Overlying deposit 111 was a fairly homogenous, humic soil (112), approximately 0.95 m thick, which may represent 17th-18th century landscaping/garden soils. No obvious variations within this deposit were observed although the majority of the deposit was obscured behind the shoring. This was then overlain by modern deposits associated with the gardeners yard.

Trench 1B *- Fig. 5*

5.1.9 Machine excavation within Trench 1B was halted at c 1.7 m below ground level (59.22 m OD), with a 1.2 m wide step left at the eastern end of the trench (at 59.73 m

OD) to allow for the safe installation of shoring. The deeper part of the trench was then hand excavated to 58.58 m OD and the top of the gravel established by means of hand excavated sondages targeted on specific features, together with a hand augured borehole.

5.1.10 Terrace gravel (400) was encountered at c 57.80 m OD within the borehole and was overlain by fairly homogenous dark brown silty clay (410). A deposit similar in composition (405) had been partially excavated prior to auguring and contained animal bone and 13th - 14th century pottery throughout. Deposit 405 overlay a mid reddish brown silty clay (409), not dissimilar in composition to the glacial loess soil which overlies the gravel terrace in Oxford. However, if the loess soil is the origin of deposit 409, it is certainly re-deposited as it overlay the dark brown silty clay (410) encountered within the borehole. Within a sondage excavated through a later robber trench (407 - see below), the interface between deposit 410 and the underlying gravel was encountered at 58.15 m OD. Given the 0.35 m variance between the top of the gravel in the borehole and that encountered within the sondage c 0.7 m to the east, deposits 405, 409 and 410 have been interpreted as fills of a medieval refuse pit (408). The apparently domestic nature of the artefactual assemblage recovered from 405 also supports this interpretation.

5.1.11 Deposit 405 was overlain by a 0.22 m (max) thick layer of compacted gravel and stone pebbles in a matrix of orange brown clay (406). This was originally interpreted as the remnants of a surface, potentially associated with Shidyerd Street. However, if deposit 406 does represent a surface, it has been heavily truncated, possibly by post medieval landscaping, and only survives as a localised deposit within the projected confines of pit 408. Alternatively, deposit 406 merely represents the final phase of backfilling of the pit, although in composition and compaction it was relatively convincing as a surface.

5.1.12 The pit fill (405) and surface (406) were overlain by a garden soil of uncertain date (404) which was in turn truncated by a north-south aligned cut (407), filled by loose degraded lime mortar with c 40% limestone rubble and 1-2% charcoal (403). A small sondage excavated through this feature revealed a near vertical edge to a depth of 58.08 m OD where it appeared to be bottoming out at the interface between 'pit fill' 410 and the underlying gravel. This is almost certainly the western edge of a robber trench given the nature of the backfill and the verticality of the edge of the feature. The fact that the base of the feature co-incides with the top of the gravel may also be significant, as it implies that the foundations of the potentially robbed wall have been cut through the soft pit fills and constructed off the comparatively solid gravel through which the pit has been cut.

5.1.13 The fill of the robber trench (403) was overlain by a c 0.60 m thick layer of dark grey brown silty clay-loam with brick rubble and mortar throughout (402), which may represent 18th century made ground/landscaping. This was then overlain by a c 0.10 m thick deposit of crushed and degraded lime mortar (411), almost certainly forming a rudimentary surface, possibly a construction horizon associated with the President's

Lodging. Immediately overlying this surface was a 0.08 m thick mid-dark grey silty clay deposit (412) overlying which was a shallow stone wall footing (415) on the same alignment as robber trench 407. Whilst probably a garden wall, the correspondence in the alignment of the robber trench and this wall footing implies that whatever boundary the robbed wall represented has survived following its demolition, and even the deposition of the made ground (402). This will be discussed in greater detail in Section 8.

5.1.14 The wall footing and remainder of surface 411 were overlain by a series of made ground deposits comprising concentrations of brick and stone rubble, degraded lime mortar and ?re-deposited garden soils (413 and 414). It is possible that these are associated with 20th century landscaping of the President's Garden during the alterations to the President's Lodging in 1904.

Trench 1C *- Fig. 5*

5.1.15 Machine excavation within Trench 1C was halted at c 1.45 m below ground level (60.32 m OD) and shoring installed throughout the length of the trench. A hand excavated sondage was then dug to a depth of 58.65 m OD, primarily through the fills of a large post-medieval pit (502 - see below), in an attempt to characterise the deposits through which it was cut.

5.1.16 Terrace gravel was not encountered within Trench 1C as the hand augur could not penetrate the compacted deposit (500) revealed within the base of the hand excavated sondage. Deposit 500 comprised a compacted dark grey silty clay with c 40% gravel inclusions. The origin of this deposit was uncertain although a single sherd of 11th-13th century pottery was recovered and it may represent the top of the medieval horizon. This was overlain by a garden soil (501) of uncertain date which was overlain by a 0.25 m thick deposit of compacted gravel in an orangey brown clay matrix (505), which produced a single sherd of 11th-13th century pottery. This may have represented a surface although it seems likely that the pottery was residual given that the underlying soil (501) appeared to represent post-medieval landscaping. The comparative height of surface 505 in relation to medieval deposits encountered elsewhere also suggested a later date for this deposit (Fig. 5).

5.1.17 The possible surface was in turn overlain by *c* 1m of made ground (509) predominantly comprised of limestone rubble, roof tiles and degraded lime mortar. Deposit 509 may represent a demolition horizon, possibly associated with the dismantling of the summer house and a subsequent phase of landscaping.

5.1.18 However, the interpretation of these deposits is somewhat circumspect as they are all truncated by a large 19th century pit (502, filled by 503 and 511) which is in turn cut by a construction trench for a north-south aligned wall (507 and 508 respectively).

Trench 2 *- Figs 4 and 5; Plates III and IV*

5.1.19 Machine excavation within Trench 2 was halted at a maximum of 1.5 m below ground level (c 60.46 m OD) and shoring installed in the southern end of the trench

to allow for the safe excavation of a c 1.5 m^2 hand excavated sondage against the city wall.

5.1.20 At 2.6 m below ground level (59.48 m OD) the sondage was stepped in to form a 0.50 m wide, north-south aligned slot down the centre of the hand excavated sondage. The slot was excavated to a depth of 3.5 m below ground level (58.51 m OD) where structural remains (213 - see below) negated the possibility of further excavation.

5.1.21 Terrace gravel was not encountered within Trench 2. A mortared limestone structure (213) was encountered at 58.51 m OD and was present throughout the north-south aligned slot. The extent of this structure was uncertain, although an augured borehole was attempted at the northern extent of the slot and encountered no resistance, possibly suggesting that the northern face of the structure lay just beyond the northern end of the slot. Although the confines of the trench and necessity to angle the augur slightly made the results of the borehole unreliable, it appeared that the deposits to the north of the conjectured northern extent of structure 213 comprised a fairly homogenous mid brownish grey clay silt with 20% gravel inclusions (225) to a depth of at least 58.08 m OD.

5.1.22 Structure 213 was overlain by alternating layers of re-deposited gravel (221 and 214) and humic mid-dark grey clay silt (222 and 215). These produced 11th-14th century pottery and were truncated by a possibly east-west aligned cut (216) filled by a mid brownish grey silty clay with c 20% gravel inclusions. The artefactual material also suggested an 11th-14th century date for this feature (this is discussed in greater detail in Section 8).

5.1.23 Deposit 215 and the upper fill of feature 216 (224) were overlain by a layer of mid orangey brown clay silt (218) also containing 11th-13th century pottery and overlain by a 0.04 m thick 'bedding deposit' (219) for a rudimentary surface (208) comprising compacted mortar within a mid orangey brown clay matrix. The surface was overlain by a charcoal rich 'occupation' deposit (207) approximately 0.04 m thick. It is feasible that deposit 218 represents a leveling deposit for the surface, although the dating evidence may imply that it relates to an earlier phase of surfacing. The possible relationship between surface 208 and deposit 111 in Trench 1A is discussed above (4.1.7).

5.1.24 The majority of the trench was excavated through a series of mid-brownish grey clayey silts (202, 204, 220) interspersed with thin layers of gravel rich material (209, 203, 205). These deposits are associated with the original construction of the bank up against the city wall, with the gravel rich deposits possibly indicating construction horizons within same.

5.1.25 The bank material, probable surface (with associated deposits) and the underlying medieval feature (216) were all cut by a construction trench (210) for the standing city wall (223). The face of the wall had a slight batter with the base being c 0.50 m north of the face of the above ground portion of the wall. The base of the wall lay

directly over the mortared stone footing 213. The fact that the construction trench for the supposedly 13th century city wall truncated post-medieval deposits is discussed in further detail in Section 7.

Trench 3 *- Fig. 5; Plates V and VI*

5.1.26 Trench 3 was hand excavated to 59.35 m OD. The trench lay within the north-west corner of a post-medieval stone lined cess pit (306) which had been constructed against the foundation of the boundary wall between Christ Church and Corpus Christi which now marks the western wall of the existing music room. Both the north-south (305) and east-west (304) walls of this structure had a c 20° batter from just below the existing floor deposits (60.30 m OD) to the bottom of the trench (see also 5.1.28).

5.1.27 The majority of the fills removed during the hand excavation of cess pit 306 were mid-late 19th century (303 and 307) suggesting that this probably equates to one of two sub-square structures shown on the 1876 1st edition OS map (OA, 2006, Fig.9) to the west of the curved wall of the bastion. The vertical nature of the interface between deposit 303 and the 'cessy' material (301) adhering to the face of structures 304 and 305 was indicative of at least one cleaning phase within the cess pit. An augured borehole suggested that the base of the feature was c 4.25 m below floor level (56.70 m OD, although it was unclear if the stone lining extended to this depth) and cut through the gravel into the underlying Oxford clay. This would imply some longevity to the feature given the substantial nature of the structure.

5.1.28 In order to establish the nature of the foundation of the Christ Church wall (313) against which structure 306 had been constructed, it was agreed with Brian Durham (OCC) and Chris Welch (EH) to deconstruct part of wall 305. This revealed the near vertical footing of 313 to a depth of 1.40 m below floor level (59.33 m OD). As the top of the stepped footing in Trench 1A (103) was revealed at c 60.19 m OD and a similar step was not seen within Trench 3, it seems likely that the re-built section of wall seen in Trench 1A was localised, and does not apply to the whole of the wall. Additionally, if the stepped footing in Trench 1A equates to the standing wall in Trench 3, the base of the latter should also lie at c 59.17 m OD, approximately 0.25 m below the exposed section of the wall in Trench 3. The top of wall 305 stepped out c 0.50 m from the face of wall 313. The thickness of wall 305 at the base of the removed section (e.g. 1.40 m below ground level) was c 0.70 m, reflecting the batter on the interior faces of structure 306 (Plate VI).

6 FINDS

6.1 Assessment of the pottery

by John Cotter (Table A4, Appendix 3)

Introduction and Methodology

6.1.1 A total of 181 sherds of pottery weighing 4913g were recovered. Most of this is of medieval and post-medieval date. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994).

Date and Nature of the Assemblage

6.1.2 Although the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, many sherds - particularly the post-medieval and Victorian ones - are fairly large and quite fresh. One or two post-medieval vessel profiles exist. In general, ordinary domestic pottery types are represented but there is one example of a possible industrial vessel, possibly a crucible, from a 16th-century context.

6.1.3 The composition of the assemblage is typical of this part of Oxford (St Aldates) with a range of wares from the late Saxon through to the 19th century. All the late Saxon sherds (10th-11th century) are residual in their contexts. These include a couple of cooking pot rims in St Neots-type ware (OXR) and a cooking pot rim in Oxford late Saxon shelly ware (OXB). Local and regional coarsewares and glazed pitcher sherds of the 11th to earlier 13th century are present in greater quantities (OXAC, OXY) but these appear to be residual too. A single possible sherd of Developed Stamford ware (*c* 1150-1250), probably from a jug, is a fairly rare type from Oxford (context 406).

6.1.4 The quantities of high medieval (13th-14th century) wares on the site suggest occupation by this time. Pottery types represented are typical of sites in Oxford. Jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM), from central Buckinghamshire, are well represented, though mostly very fragmentary. There is also a sherd from a highly decorated Kingston-type whiteware jug of *c* 1250-1350. These wares are associated with coarseware cooking vessels in East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ) of the period *c* 1175-1400. The largest context assemblage (38 sherds, context 405) comprises a mix of these high medieval wares but mostly as fairly small sherds. These include the Kingston jug sherd and, amongst the Brill/Boarstall ware, a sherd from a small bottle of a type possibly used to contain sauces or culinary oil.

6.1.5 There is a fairly high presence of 16th- and early 17th-century wares from the site. These include German stoneware drinking jugs from Frechen or Cologne and one or

two from Raeren. A concentration of large fresh sherds from at least six Frechen stoneware jugs in context (220) is suggestive of a drinking area such as a tavern or similar social area. Context (212), which probably dates to the later 16th century, also produced the rim of grey near-stoneware vessel which could well be a crucible - at this date quite possibly a Hessian crucible imported from Germany. These were used for a variety of purposes including chemical preparations or for metallurgy. This example, however, shows no obvious metallurgical residues although it does appear to have been subjected to extreme heat. Late Brill/Boarstall ware vessels of 16th- and early 17th-century date are also common.

6.1.6 A range of common post-medieval types is present but little of particular note. Contexts (303) and (307) produced 16 sherds (1481g) from the same Victorian water closet with blue transfer-printed decoration showing classical temples and colonnades. This would have been a fairly costly water closet for its day.

6.2 Assessment of the clay tobacco pipes

by John Cotter (Table A1, Appendix 3)

Introduction

6.2.1 The excavation produced a total of 35 fragments of clay pipe weighing 234g. These have been catalogued and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. The catalogue records, per context, the spot-date, the quantity of stem, bowl and mouth fragments, the overall sherd count, weight, and comments on condition and any makers' marks or decoration present.

Date and nature of the assemblage

6.2.2 The assemblage is generally in a fresh condition with only slight wear visible on a few pieces. Nine pipe bowls are present, all of them complete. Of these a very high proportion (8 bowls) date to the 17th century and of these the majority date to the early and middle part of the century (3 pipe bowls each of *c* 1600-1640 and *c* 1630-1660). There are two bowls of *c* 1640-1670 but only one bowl dating to the 18th century (*c* 1700-1750). No later pipe bowls are present but a decorated 19th-century stem fragment from context (307) was recovered and other plain stems of this date are indicated by stems with a very narrow bore. The decorated stem bears part of a maker's mark NORWO(OD?). Apart from milling around the rim, all the 17th-century bowls are plain and unmarked. A small piece of 17th-century pipe stem shows traces of Dutch-style milled bands around the stem.

6.2.3 The pipe assemblage can, for the most part, be paralleled from other sites in Oxford, particularly St. Ebbe's (Oswald 1984) and more generally elsewhere in southern England (Oswald 1975).

Summary

6.2.4 Apart from the very marked predominance of 17th-century pipes from the site - some of which are residual in their contexts - and their generally fresh condition, the pipe

assemblage is not particularly remarkable. Furthermore, the assemblage is quite small and provides information on only one ?local Victorian pipemaker.

6.3 Ceramic building material

by John Cotter (Table A5, Appendix 3)

Introduction and Methodology

6.3.1 A total of 158 pieces of ceramic building materials (CBM) weighing 12.712kg were recovered. A further 6 pieces of stone roofing slate weighing 1.990kg is also considered here. Most of this material is apparently of medieval date with a few post-medieval pieces also present. The CBM was recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in a similar way to the pottery (see elsewhere) but divided into functional types (e.g. floor tile, flat roof tile etc.). Measurable dimensions were recorded for some of the more complete pieces and an approximate spot-date was assigned to the latest material in each context. A separate spreadsheet was constructed for the stone roofing slates.

Date and Nature of the Assemblage

6.3.2 The CBM assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but consists of a mixture of fairly fresh and abraded pieces. The bulk of the assemblage comprises fragments of flat roofing tile with smaller quantities of other CBM as detailed below.

Flat roof tile: 103 pieces (5194g)

6.3.3 Also known as peg tile. These are of typical rectangular shape and fairly crude manufacture with a pair of circular nail holes at one end. None preserves its complete dimensions. These appear to be of medieval date (13th to 16th century) but are not closely datable. Most occur in an orange-red sandy fabric (Fabric IIIB) typical of medieval sites in Oxford. However this site also produced significant numbers of thicker tile pieces in a rarer pink-buff fabric (Fabric VIIB) and an even rarer cream or off-white fabric (Fabric VIIA), some of which have a partial clear glaze. Both these types are thought to have a more restricted 13th-14th century dating. Their association in quantity with pottery of this date in context (405) supports this dating suggestion. Some of the orange-red tiles also show evidence of glaze which is suggestive of a medieval date. There are no obvious post-medieval roof tiles present.

Ridge tile: 6 pieces (432g)

6.3.4 These are very fragmentary and not always easy to distinguish from some of the thicker flat roof tiles. They occur in similar fabrics to the roof tiles but show evidence of curvature and usually fairly extensive glaze coverage. Only corner, edge and body fragments were recovered. No crested fragments were noted. A medieval date is likely in all cases.

Floor tiles: 36 pieces (4022g)

6.3.5 The majority of these are very fragmentary and extremely worn from lifetime usage. The highest proportion of these are 'Flemish-type' with a consistently fine sandy orange-red fabric and a thickness of around 22-23mm. Nearly all of these have been pre-scored before firing so that they can be broken into smaller square or triangular tiles although it is clear from these examples that some, at least, were left unbroken. The square design tiles are glazed black or dark brown and have been cut (?quartered) to produce small squares measuring 58-62mm square. The triangular design tiles are covered in a white slip showing yellow under a clear glaze and have been cut to produce triangles with a base of around 80mm with sides of 58mm. These smaller tiles could have been used, in combination, either as in-filling in larger designs employing larger tiles or to produce a variety of 'black and white' designs including chequerboard and repeating geometric designs. These were very popular in the late medieval period and well into the 16th century. A 15th- to 16th-century date is suggested here. Other types of tile include at least two tile fragments with 'printed' designs in white slip on an orange-red background. One of these with a 'gyronny' design (context 208) is recognisable as a Penn/Chiltern product and dates to *c* 1330-1380. Another fragment has a more complex design containing an arc and probably comes from a four-tile decorative scheme making a circle with complex in-filling (context 109). One or two very worn apparently plain fragments may be products of the 'stabbed Wessex' tradition dating to *c* 1280-1330, although this identification is largely based on fabric. All these types of floor tiles have been found previously on the site of the Dominican Priory (Blackfriars) (Lambrick and Mellor 1985) which lies close to St Aldates and may have been the source of the tiles found on the present evaluation.

Brick: 11 pieces (3022g)

6.3.6 These occur as fragments, mostly quite worn. Thicknesses suggest bricks dating from the Tudor period through to the 18th century.

Wall tile:1 piece (15g)

6.3.7 A single piece of plain white tin-glazed ('delftware') wall tile was recovered from context (112). This probably dates from the late 17th to the 18th century.

Unidentified: 1 piece (27g)

6.3.8 A small shapeless lump of fired clay was recovered from context (405). This is either from a brick or more likely (given its medieval context) a piece of fired daub.

The stone slates

6.3.9 A total of 6 pieces of stone slate weighing 1.990kg were recovered from five contexts (see Excel table). These are in pale grey limestone although there is some variation in texture suggesting differences in source. They are generally fairly rough products and

not, by themselves, very datable. Stone roofing tiles or stone slates were utilized in Oxford from the later 12th century through to the 19th century. Traditionally much of this stone is ascribed to the Stonesfield quarries in north-west Oxfordshire although other sources in the Cotswolds were also exploited. Some examples from this site have bored circular nail holes. Most examples are fragmentary but one from context (402) appears to be complete. This is quite small and of sub-circular shape with a length of 180mm and width of 170mm with a single circular nail hole near the top edge.

6.4 Animal bones

by Lena Strid (Tables A2 and A3, Appendix 3)

6.4.1 A total of 256 animal bones were recovered from this site. Most bones were in a good condition (see Lyman 1994:355 for definitions). One bone was burnt, and eight bones displayed gnaw marks.

6.4.2 The predominance of sheep/goat, cattle and pig in the assemblage (see table 2) is to be considered normal, regardless of time period. Of the eleven sheep/goat bones, only one horn core could be determined to be sheep. The majority of the birds were domestic fowl. However, two bones derived from unidentified wild bird species.

6.4.3 Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, the cattle bones derived mainly from sub-adult animals, whereas the sheep bones derived mainly from adult animals. It's not possible to discern a pattern from the pig bones. The fowl bones contained both adult and juvenile birds.

6.4.4 Butchering marks were found on 28 bones. A cattle metacarpal had been split longitudinally, as if to extract marrow. Longitudinal splitting of vertebrae and sacrum of medium and large mammals indicate suspension of the carcasses during butchery. Cut marks mid-bone on a pig calcaneus points to disarticulation of the hock joint. Evidence of portioning of carcasses were found on the mid-parts of ribs, pelves and long bones of sheep/goat, pig and unidentified medium and large mammals. Cut marks suggesting filleting occurred on the shaft of two sheep/goat humeri. Use of a saw to portion two tibiae and a pelvis, all from context 307, dates these bones to the post-medieval period.

6.4.5 Pathologies were found on two bones. A rib from a large mammal displayed woven bone growth medially, which suggests an infection. A dog ulna had a spot of eburnation at the humerus joint and some extra bone growth around the joint. The aetiology for this is uncertain, but may derive from a degenerative joint disease.

6.4.6 No further information can be gained from such a small sample of bones.

6.5 Human bone

6.5.1 A single human vertebra was recovered from context 105.

6.6 Worked bone

by Rose Grant

6.6.1 A fragment of a worked bone ice skate was recovered from context 112 weighing 52 grams. It is made from a horse metatarsal. The underside has been flattened and polished. Not closely datable but common in the Late Saxon and Medieval period (MacGregor, p.143, Fig. 76).

6.7 Selected glass

by Ian Scott

6.7.1 Context 109: Window glass, two sherds, very pale green, weathered with flaking opaque iridescent deposits. The larger sherd has two grozed edges, one curved and one straight. Not closely datable.

6.7.2 Context 208: Window glass, one sherd, weathered, with badly preserved surfaces. Colour uncertain. Not datable.

6.7.3 Context 301: Pharmaceutical bottles, three complete. Pale olive green glass. Hand blown cylindrical bottles with broad flat rims, short cylindrical necks, flat shoulders and indented bases. 18th century. Heights 113 mm, 112 mm, 88 mm.

6.7.4 Context 303: Possible pharmaceutical bottle fragment, comprising long neck slightly flared with fire-finished lip. Slightly constricted at junction with shoulders. The shoulders are rounded, but insufficient of the body survives to be certain of its form. Hand blown bottle. Dating uncertain.

6.7.5 Context 402: Wine bottle base, olive green glass. Broad globular bodied bottle with indented base. Characteristically of late 17th- or early 18th-century date.

6.8 Selected metal

personal comments by Ian Scott

6.8.1 Context 224 (finds reference) - Nuremburg jetton. Probably 16th century.

6.8.2 Context 211 - Book clasp or buckle. Not closely datable but likely to be post-medieval.

7 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

7.1 Environmental assessment

7.1.1 Environmental samples were taken from cess rich deposits within cess pits 306 and 104. These have not been processed as sufficient artefactual and stratigraphic evidence was recovered to fully characterise these features.

8 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

8.1 Reliability of field investigation

8.1.1 Generally the finds recovered during the evaluation were from well-defined contexts. The dating they provided is considered secure. There was very little residual material recovered from the earlier (medieval) deposits. Residual material within the later (post-medieval) deposits could generally be eliminated on the grounds of securely dated stratigraphic relationships.

8.1.2 The considerable depth of the trenches occasionally made interpretation problematic, particularly where deposits were obscured behind shoring. However, this was primarily confined to post-medieval deposits associated with various phases of landscaping within the college garden.

8.2 Overall interpretation

8.2.1 The following interpretative discussion is broadly divided into 3 phases of activity:

- Phase A: 7th-11th century - the foundation of St Frideswides Priory to the conquest
- Phase B: 11th-16th century - the medieval town to the foundation of the college
- Phase C: 16th century onwards - the college garden

8.2.2 There are numerous sub-divisions within each of these phases as indicated on the stratigraphic matrix (Fig. 6).

Phase A: 7th-11th century

Trench 1A

8.2.3 Although no dating evidence was recovered from the burial within Trench 1A (101, 116, 102), the fact that it pre-dates the boundary wall between Christ Church and Corpus Christi (103) implies that at the very least it pre-dates the foundation of the college. If, as is supposed, the boundary wall lies on the course of the former Shidyerd Street, this would also imply that the burial pre-dates the medieval street grid and is therefore likely to be associated with an early phase of the cemetery of St Frideswides Minster. This would also suggest that the early cemetery extends further eastwards than its later counterpart, as the boundary wall is also thought to correspond to the eastern boundary of the cemetery (see 7.2.14).

8.2.4 However, if the wall does follow the line of the western edge of the street, no evidence for the street surfaces had survived truncation by the wall's construction (115) and the subsequent excavation of the 16th-17th century cess pit (104). Consequently, any relationship between the burial and the street, and the street and the wall is purely conjectural.

Trench 2

8.2.5 It is feasible that the mortared stone structure (213) in the base of the sondage in Trench 2 represents the footing of the 13th century wall, which has been subsequently re-built in the early 17th century (see below). However, the fact that the overlying deposits (221, 222, 214, 215) produced 11th-13th century pottery and were in turn cut by an 11th-13th century feature (216), would imply that this structure pre-dates the postulated 13th century re-construction of the city wall. Additionally, if 213 was the 13th century wall, its southern face could be expected to correspond to that of the later re-build (223). This would make it considerably wider (at 2.4 m+) than any other observed section of the 13th century structure.

8.2.6 It is possible therefore that this structure represents a late Saxon stone revetment, similar to that observed during the recent excavations at Oxford Castle (OA, 2006(2)), and known to have fortified the burh in the 11th century. However, the augured borehole to the north of the structure was inconclusive in providing any definitive evidence for an associated rampart (the origin of deposit 225 being unclear).

Phase B: 11th-16th century

Trench 2

8.2.7 As the dating evidence from the deposits overlying the mortared stone structure (213) suggests that they date to the 11th-13th century, it is possible that they represent an earthen rampart associated with the post-conquest defensive circuit. Although these deposits clearly post-date structure 213, the condition and stature of the earlier structure at the time of deposition is unclear. Consequently it is difficult to say whether the potential 11th-13th century rampart was intended to enhance or replace the pre-existing defensive structure (assuming that these rather tentative interpretations are correct).

8.2.8 The nature of the 11th-13th century feature (216) truncating these deposits was unclear. Given that it appeared to be an east-west aligned cut corresponding with the alignment of the existing city wall, it is not unreasonable to suppose that it represents the construction trench or robber cut associated with a 13th century wall which has subsequently been re-built in the 17th century (see below). However, the fills (217 and 224) did not appear to be particularly characteristic of either construction trench or robber cut backfill and, given the confines of the sondage in which this feature was observed, this interpretation is necessarily circumspect.

Trench 1B

8.2.9 The 13th-14th century feature in Trench 1B was initially thought to be associated with a property fronting on to Shidyerd Street. However, if the boundary wall between Corpus Christi and Christ Church corresponds to the line of the medieval street, this would place the trench very close to the street frontage, which may suggest that the feature is unlikely to be a pit to the rear of these properties.

8.2.10 The tenement plots which existed between Merton College and Shidyerd Street before the foundation of the Corpus Christi, show the area between Beke's Inn and the City Wall as 'Fellows (Bachelors') Garden' (OA, 2006, Fig. 3 - Plot 91 is Beke's Inn). This had previously been occupied by two tenements which were granted to Merton by John de Grenville in 1321 (Salter, 1967, p.212), although it would seem that the properties which stood on these plots had already been demolished as "Two houses between Beke's Inn and the Town Wall were acquired by Merton in 1318, pulled down, and the site thrown into the garden" (Salter, ibid.).

8.2.11 It is possible that the potential refuse pit in Trench 1B reflects the use of these former tenements between the demolition of the properties in 1318 and the foundation of the Bachelors' Garden, or that it is associated with the use of the Bachelors' Garden.

8.2.12 The origin of the possible surface (406) in the top of this feature is unclear. It is not inconceivable that this relates to Shidyerd Street, although its relationship with the pit fills would seem to make this unlikely. Alternatively it is possible that it represents the remnants of a courtyard surface or path associated with the use of the Bachelor's Garden or the early phase of the Corpus Christi garden.

Trench 1C

8.2.13 The origin of the possible medieval deposit in Trench 1C is also unclear and the dating of this deposit is based on the recovery of a single sherd of 11th-13th century pottery. It is possible that this deposit relates to the occupation of the tenement plots prior to their acquisition by Merton in 1318/1321. The lack of gravel at a similar depth to that observed within Trench 1B possibly suggesting that deposit 500 represents pit fill.

Phase C: 16th century onwards

Trenches 1A and 3: ?16th century Christ Church wall

8.2.14 The boundary wall between Corpus Christi and Christ Church was thought to have been built as the eastern wall of St Frideswides cemetery, possibly in the 16th century but potentially as early as the 12th century (OA, 2006). Whilst it is still feasible that it marks the limit of the 16th century cemetery, the burial in Trench 1A would suggest that an earlier phase of the cemetery extended further eastwards. Whilst the date of the wall is uncertain, the structure revealed within Trench 3 (313) and the stepped footing overlying the grave backfill in Trench 1A (103) almost certainly represent the earliest construction phase associated with this wall. In both cases, later cess pits have removed any stratified deposits which may have given an indication of the construction date of the wall. The date of the probable re-build (114) of this wall in Trench 1A is also uncertain, although the fact that the base of the re-build roughly corresponds with the upper fill of cess pit 104 may indicate a 16th-17th century date for the re-build.

Trench 2: early 16th century College garden

8.2.15 The deposits associated with the probable surface (208) in Trench 2 are possibly associated with the earliest phase of the college garden, given that they pre-date the late 16th century bank/mound (see below). It is possible that these deposits represent a path along the inside of the city wall to the south of the line of trees shown on Agas' map of 1578 (OA, 2006, Fig.4), perhaps a version of the intramural road suggested in Oxford Before the University (Dodd, 2003, p.191). However, the fact that they overlie the fills of the possible 13th century construction cut (216), and that the dating evidence suggests an 11th-13th century origin for the lowest of these deposits (218), may indicate that this surface originated considerably earlier. The relationship between the possible surfaces (218, 208) and the fills of the construction cut (216) a wide construction cut for the 13th century wall which has then been backfilled prior to the deposition of the possible primary surface 218 and subsequent re-surfacing 208.

8.2.16 The clay pipe stem retrieved from surface 208 is slightly anomalous, although it is possibly intrusive as this deposit is cut by the 17th century construction trench (210). Alternatively, its unusual form may imply that it is not a pipe stem, or that it is an early form of pipe (John Cotter, pers. comm.).

Trench 2: late 16th century

8.2.17 JC Bramble's research into the College archives has suggested that the mound against the city wall was largely constructed in the mid 17th (Bramble, 1980). However, the results of the evaluation, together with further documentary evidence researched by Julian Reid suggests an alternative date for the origin of the mound.

8.2.18 The references to the raising of the mound in 1596-7 with spoil from the creation of a new cellar (Appendix 2, C/1/1/6) have already been recognised (Dodd, 2003, p.191), as has the concern of the City in 1596 regarding the "mound made in the College adjoining the Town wall, which will be an injury to the wall and an annoyance to Christ Church" (Dodd, ibid.). The inference has been that this related to a build up of soil against the wall which was subsequently incorporated into the formal garden in the mid 17th century.

8.2.19 However, the reference in 1601-2 (Appendix 2, C/1/1/7) to "Mr President's garden house" would imply that the summer house has already been constructed by this date, suggesting that some formalisation of the garden has already occurred.

8.2.20 Perhaps more significantly, the City's concerns were obviously well founded as the wall has certainly been re-built following the construction of the mound. The construction trench (210) in Trench 2 had truncated all other deposits in the trench, with the exception of the modern garden soil. This implies that no further raising of the mound occurred following the re-build of the wall.

8.2.21 The quantity of materials and manpower involved in the building of the new wall in 1603 (Appendix 2, C/1/1/7) implies a fairly major construction. This is unlikely to

relate to either the boundary wall with Christ Church or Merton as the maintenance of these walls was the responsibility of the respective Colleges (Julian Reid, pers. comm.). It seems likely that this account refers to the re-build of the City wall seen in Trench 2. The lack of clay pipe within both the mound deposits and the construction trench for the re-build would also suggest a pre-1620 origin for both. Consequently, the landscaping of the mound must have occurred before 1603 as the re-build clearly post-dates it.

8.2.22 Further evidence for the location of the "Novi Muri" can be inferred from the reference to the "carriage away of the rubbish out of the Vice-chancellor's garden". Originally, the Vice-Chancellor was the temporary commissary or deputy of the Chancellor, exercising the Chancellor's powers in his absence. From the early 16th century, the Vice-Chancellor became the chief officer of the University. He was usually a Fellow of one of the colleges or a Canon of Christ Church, and was elected by Convocation, although from 1569 onwards he was nominated by the Chancellor. The Laudian Code of 1636 decreed that the Vice-Chancellor must be a head of a college and by convention Heads of House were nominated in order of seniority.

8.2.23 The Vice-Chancellor in 1603 was George Abbott (1562-1633), who was a Master at University College and later became Archbishop of Canterbury (1611-?1633), (Prest, 1993, p.49). However, his immediate predecessor in 1602 was John Howson (?1557-1632), described as "formerly a student at Christ Church" (Oxford Diocesan website) upon his accession to the Bishopric of Oxford (1619-1628), and who subsequently became Bishop of Durham (1628-1632). Given that the expenses listed in the Corpus Christi accounts are from March and April 1603, it is possible that this pre-dates George Abbott's second term as Vice-Chancellor (he also held the position in 1600 and 1604), and that the garden from which the rubbish was removed is that immediately to the south of the City wall (now the Master's garden) and that its title reflects Howson's tenure as Vice-Chancellor.

Trenches 1A, 1B, IC and 3: 17th-20th century landscaping and cess pits

8.2.24 Whilst the results of the evaluation establish a late 16th century origin for the mound and an early 17th century date for the re-build, the artefactual evidence from the garden soils and made ground in Trenches 1A, 1B and 1C suggests numerous later phases of landscaping. However, correlation between these deposits is difficult to establish with any degree of certainty and the following interpretation is necessarily tentative.

8.2.25 It is feasible that the garden soil (501) in Trench 1C represents an early-mid 17th century northward extension of the mound, and is possibly the destination of the 'rubbage' for which Leake was paid in 1623-4 (see 1.3.14). However, no securely stratified dating evidence was recovered from this deposit. One sherd of 16th-early 17th century pottery was recovered from deposit 503 (the lower fill of the 19th century pit 502), although this was initially thought to be part of the same deposit as

501 and it is possible that this sherd originated from the garden soil rather than the pit.

8.2.26 The top of deposit 501 may also be the horizon from which cess pit 104 has been cut. Although no indication of the stratigraphy through which the cess pit was cut was revealed within the trench, there was a similarity in height between the top of the pit (60.05 m OD) and the top of deposit 501 (60.25 m OD). However, if deposit 501 does represent the northward extension of the mound, the cartographic sources (e.g. Loggan, OA, 2006, Fig. 5) indicate that this did not extend west of the boundary wall between the gardens and is therefore unlikely to be present in the location of Trench 1A.

8.2.27 Additionally, this similarity also exists between the top of the pit (104) and the top of the mid-late 18th century deposit 402 in Trench 1B. It is possible that the similarity in the height of these deposits represents the mid 17th century deposition of garden soil both at the base of the late 16th century mound (501) and within the Presidents Garden (the stratigraphy through which the cess pit was cut and deposit 404), with the latter being truncated by the late 18th century southward development of the President's Lodging shown on the 1855 model and the 1st edition OS map (OA, 2006, Figs 8 and 9 respectively). At some point after Williams' plan of 1733, the north-south wall marking the possible eastern extent of the former Shidyerd Street has been robbed (407), prior to the deposition of made ground deposits (402) and this may reflect the alterations to the lodgings and garden which have occurred between Williams' plan and the 19th century.

8.2.28 It is possible that the stone-lined cess pit in Trench 3 was a direct replacement for cess pit 104. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the primary fills, the fragment of brick recovered from the fabric of wall 305 suggests an 18th-19th century date for its construction. This structure is likely to be part of the northernmost of two sub-square structures shown on the 1876 OS Map (OA, 2006, Fig. 9). This would suggest that the 'battered foundation' to the Christ Church wall observed during the 1986 watching brief is likely to be the southern continuation of wall 305, and that the N-S wall in the watching brief trench may represent the eastern limit of structure 306, c 2 m to the east of the vertical face of the Christ Church wall (ref. Dodd, 2003, p.193 and 198).

8.2.29 A series of square structures within the bastion are also shown on Williams' 1733 plan which may also suggest an early 18th century origin for the construction of structure 306. Although these structures are aligned east to west, and the curve of the bastion wall is omitted, it is feasible that cess pit 306 represents the westernmost of these structures. The segmented wall removed in 1986 is shown on both Williams' plan and the 1st edition OS map. It is possible that this represented an internal division within the bastion, which has been converted into a garderobe block in the early 18th century and retained that function until the introduction of mains sewerage to the city in the later part of the 19th century, when the final phase of backfilling has occurred within structure 306.

8.2.30 It is possible that the garden soil (112) in Trench 1A is contemporary with the 18th-19th century phase of landscaping described above (7.2.26). However, it may represent more than one phase of deposition, despite no discernable variation being observed during machine excavation, or following the removal of the shoring during backfilling.

8.2.31 A phase of 19th century landscaping is reflected by a series of demolition deposits (509) overlying the possible early 17th century deposit (501) in Trench 1C, which may represent the demolition of the summer house. The insubstantial wall (415) in Trench 1B may also relate to this phase and is possibly that shown on the 1st edition OS map running southward from the south-west corner of the greenhouse south of the President's Lodgings, before turning to the east to meet the wall between the Fellow's and President's Gardens (OA, 2006, Fig. 9).

8.2.32 The function of the pit (502) in Trench 1C is unclear, although the later wall footing (508) is likely to be the wall dividing the Fellow's and President's Gardens shown on the early 20th century photograph of the President's Lodgings (OA, 2006, Fig.10). This, together with the remaining made ground deposits in Trench 1B, are likely to originate from the 1904 re-modeling of the Lodgings. The variation in the nature and date of the later made ground deposits in Trenches 1B and 1C are likely to reflect the location of the Trenches in relation to the dividing wall (i.e. prior to the redevelopment in 1958, Trench 1B would lie within the President's Garden and Trench 1C within the Fellow's Garden).

Summary of results

8.2.33 The following summarises how the results of the evaluation have addressed the specific aims outlined in 3.2 (above):

8.2.34 Natural geology was encountered at 58.02 m OD (Trench 1B) and 59.01 m OD (Trench 1A) although in both cases appeared to have been subject to a degree of truncation. No indication of the overlying loessic soils (the 'supernatural') was present, except the possible re-deposition of same within pit 408 (409). The conjectured model for the top of the gravel shown on Figure 5 (Profile A-AA) is based on the results of the evaluation, together with sightings of the gravel to the south (57.52 m OD: Dodd, 2006, p.1999), to the north east (57.96 m OD - 58.50 m OD: Ground Explorations Ltd, 1966) and to the west (Boyle, 2001). The latter identified gravel at between 57.88 m OD and 58.40 m OD, although noted that gravel had previously been located under the cloister at 59.40 m OD and under the Latin Chapel and eastern end of the north choir aisle at 58.90 m OD.

8.2.35 Allowing for truncation, the overall trend appears to imply a level of around 59.00 m OD for the southern edge of the Summertown-Radley terrace before it drops away to the floodplain. The gravel in Trench 3 has been completely truncated by cess pit 306. In Trench 1C, it is possible that the lack of gravel at the base of the trench (58.65 m OD) reflects a medieval pit underlying the later landscaping. In Trench 2 the lack of gravel at the base of the trench (58.51 m OD) is potentially more significant,

particularly as the augured borehole suggested a further 0.50 m + of stratigraphy below this level, to the north of structure 213. This implies that either the gravel drops away to the east, or that some truncation has occurred prior to the construction of structure 213. Although highly conjectural, given that it is based on a single inconclusive borehole, one possibility is that this section of the east-west wall footing (213) is constructed over the fills of the primary burh ditch.

8.2.36 In Trenches 1A and 3, any extant surfaces that may have been associated with Shidyerd Street had been truncated by the boundary wall between Christ Church and Corpus Christi and the later cess pits dug up against it.

8.2.37 It is reasonably certain that the garden bank originated in the 1590s rather than the 1620s. The base of the bank appeared to overlie a series of earlier surfaces which may represent the intramural road and in turn overlay deposits potentially associated with the 11th-13th century defensive circuit. The origin of structure 213, whilst uncertain, may be associated with the postulated eastward expansion of the burh in the 11th century.

8.2.38 The city wall, where investigated, proved to have been completely rebuilt, probably in 1603.

8.2.39 No evidence for the continuation of the ditch exposed in Corpus Christi quad in 1972 was revealed. However, if the ditch continued on the same NE-SW alignment as noted during the 1972 evaluation (Hassall, 1973, p.275, Fig.3), it would pass to the south of the President's lodgings and not extend into the garden.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Thick. Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
TRENCH 1A									
100	layer				sand and gravel		terrace gravel		
101	cut						grave cut		
102	fill	0.60+	0.52+	predominantly mid-dark grey, some greenish grey staining	clay silt	40% gravel; occasional charcoal	grave backfill		
103	structure	1.50+	1.20m				stepped footing of standing wall		
104	cut						cut of cess pit		
105	fill	0.70+	0.20	mid bluey grey	silty clay	5% gravel	primary cess pit fill		
106	fill	0.30	0.08	mid greenish grey	silty clay		secondary cess pit fill		
107	cut						cleaning cut in cess pit 104		
108	fill	1.10+	0.15+	mid greyish brown	clay silt	15% limestone fragments; 5% gravel	cess pit fill		
109	fill	1.35	0.90	mid greyish brown	clay silt	5% gravel; occasional limestone fragments	cess pit fill		17th century
110	fill	2.20+	0.35	mid grey	clay silt	5-10% gravel	cess pit fill		Late 16th - 17th century
111	fill	1.95	0.20	mixed orangey brown and creamy white	mixed clay and degraded lime mortar	concentrations of roof tile and clay pipe throughout	possible slumped surface / building debris backfill of cess pit		1600-1630
112	deposit	3.00+	0.90	mid-dark grey	clay silt	5-10% gravel	post med garden soil(s)		Late 17th - 18th century

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Thick. Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
113	deposit	1.50+	0.20	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	10-15% limestone fragments	'soil' overlying stepped footing 103 and overlain by standing wall 114		
114	structure	5.00+	5.00+				upstanding element of Christchurch wall (0.90 m below ground level)		
115	cut	0.60+					conjectured construction cut for structure 103		
116	skeleton						skull in grave cut 101		
TRENCH 2									
200	deposit		0.40 max	dark grey	clay loam		topsoil		
201	deposit		0.30		brick and concrete rubble		made ground and paving slabs of existing path		
202	deposit	0.50+	0.30	mid brownish grey	clay silt	10% gravel	humic 'garden soil - part of 16thC bank/mound		
203	deposit	0.50+	0.04	mid orangey brown	silty gravel		possible trample lens within 16thC bank/mound material		
204	deposit	1.10+	0.62	mid brownish grey	clay silt	10% gravel	humic 'garden soil - part of 16thC bank/mound		16th - early 17th century
205	deposit	2.30+	0.06 avg	mid orangey brown	clay		possible trample lens within 16thC bank/mound material		
206	VOID						VOID		
207	deposit	0.50+	0.04	dark grey	clay silt	30% charcoal	occupation deposit overlying surface 208		
208	surface	0.50+	0.14	mixed orangey brown and creamy white	clay and degraded lime mortar		rudimentary surface		late 16th - 18th century (1 sherd from top of deposit at interface with overlying 16th century deposits) 14th century decorated tile

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Thick. Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
209	deposit	0.50+	0.18	mid orangey brown	clay silt	35% gravel	primary bank/mound deposit?		15th - early 16th century
210	cut	1.50+	3.10				construction cut for 17thC re-build of city wall		
211	fill	1.50+	1.70	mid grey	clay silt	concentration of limestone rubble against wall 223	soily lower fill of construction cut		16th-17th century
212	fill	1.50+	1.65	mixed	limestone rubble, mortar etc.		rubble rich upper fill of construction cut		c1550-1600 - some residual late med. grey sandy ware
213	structure	0.60+	1.10+				?limestone in lime mortar matrix - footing of late Saxon revetment??		
214	deposit	1.10+	0.20	mid yellowish brown	sand and gravel		re-deposited gravel - part of 11th-13th C rampart???		
215	deposit	0.30+	0.45	mid-dark grey	clay silt	2% gravel	part of 11-13thC rampart???		13th - 14th century
216	cut	0.60+	0.65				possible construction cut for 13thC wall???		
217	fill	0.60+	0.58	mid brownish grey	clay silt	20% rounded gravel pebbles	fill of possible construction cut for 13thC wall???		11th - 13th century
218	deposit	0.50+	0.18	mid orangey brown	clay silt		possible primary surface replaced by 208???		11th - 13th century
219	deposit	0.50+	0.04	mid greenish grey	snady silt		possible bedding layer for surface 208?		c1475-1550
220	deposit	2.20+	0.80	mid brownish grey	clay silt	10% gravel	humic 'garden soil - part of 16thC bank/mound		late 16th - early 17th century
221	deposit	0.60+	0.04	mid yellowish brown	sand and gravel		re-deposited gravel - part of 11th-13th C rampart???		
222	deposit	0.60+	0.10 max	mid-dark grey	clay silt	2% gravel	part of 11-13thC rampart???		11th - 13th century

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Thick. Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
223	structure	1.50+	3.60				below ground, 17thC re-build of city wall		
224	finds ref.						coin retrieved from Trench 2 spoil heap		
225	deposit			mid brownish grey	clay silt	20% gravel	deposit to north of wall 213 encountered in augur		
TRENCH 3									
301	fill	0.80+	1.70	mid greenish brown	silty sand	1-2% gravel pebbles	cess pit fill		
302	cut	0.80+	1.40				cleaning cut within cess pit 306 - not on matrix		
303	fill	0.80+	0.70	dark grey	silty loam	building debris and domestic refuse throughout	mid-late 19thC backfill of cess pit 306		19th - 20th century
304	structure		2.40+				east-west aligned north wall of cess pit 306		
305	structure		2.40+				north-south aligned west wall of cess pit 306		18th - early 19th century
306	structure		2.40+				stone lining of post-med cess pit constructed against boundary wall between Corpus and Christchurch		
307	fill		0.70	dark brown grey	silty loam	building debris and domestic refuse throughout	mid-late 19thC backfill of cess pit 306		late 19th century
308	fill		0.60	dark brown	silty clay	mortar flecks	cess pit fill encountered in augured borehole		
309	fill		0.40	very dark grey	silty clay	organic material	cess rich lower fill of cess pit encountered in augured borehole		
310	cut		3.80				arbitrary cut number allocated to		

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Thick. Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
							construction cut for stone lined cess pit 306 - not on matrix		
311	deposit/fill	1.60	0.48	dark brown	silty clay	20% charcoal	deposit overlying and adhering to upper courses of north wall of cess pit 306 (304) - final phase of backfilling?		
312	cut	0.80+	0.65+				modern cut through upper fills of cess pit 306, terminates *c* 0.40 m south of north wall 304. filled with concrete/building debris etc. - probably associated with 1986 music room construction		
313	structure						boundary wall between christ church and corpus		
TRENCH 1B									
400	layer				sand and gravel		terrace gravel		
401	deposit		0.20				topsoil/turf		
402	deposit		0.65	dark grey brown	silty clay loam	20% stone and building rubble	garden soil / landscaping		1 sherd 19th century predominantly 18th century
403	fill	1.40+	0.90	creamy yellow	degraded mortar	40% limestone rubble	fill of robber trench 407		
404	deposit			dark grey brown	silty clay	10% gravel	possible 17thC garden soil		
405	fill	1.10+	0.40+	dark brown	silty clay		fill of medieval ?pit 408		13th - 14th century
406	?surface/fill	1.30+	0.18	orange brown	clay	70% compacted gravel	possible surface slumped into top of pit 408		16th - early 17th century? possibly 12th - 14th century
407	cut	1.40+	0.90				robber trench		
408	cut	1.10	c 1.20				medieval ?rubbish pit		

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Thick. Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
409	fill		c 0.20	mid reddish brown	clay silt		?fill of medieval pit 408 - re-deposited loess?		
410	fill		0.60+	dark brown	silty clay		?fill of medieval pit - possibly the same as 405 with 409 representing a localised variation in the fill		
411	surface		c 0.08	creamy white	crushed lime mortar		rudimentary surface		
412	deposit		0.10	dark grey	silty clay		soil horizon between rudimentary surface and base of wall 415		
413	deposit		0.30	mixed	mixed		landscaping deposit comprising concentrations of building rubble, mortar and redeposited garden soil		
414	deposit		0.65	mixed	mixed		landscaping deposit - similar to 413 but contains significantly more soil		
415	structure	1.50+	0.35				?garden wall footing, on same alignment as underlying robber trench		
TRENCH 1C									
500	deposit		0.10+	dark grey	silty clay		possible medieval deposit of uncertain origin		11th - 13th century
501	deposit		0.20	dark brown	silty clay	20% stone	possible post-medieval garden soil / landscaping deposit		
502	cut	1.90+	2.05				19thC pit cut from just below the existing topsoil		
503	fill		0.60	dark brown	silty clay	20% stone and gravel	lower fill of post-med (?19thC) pit		16th - early 17th century
504	fill		0.30	light brownish grey	gravelly silt	50% gravel	fill of post-med (?19thC) pit - slumped 505? - not on matrix		
505	surface?	1.50+	0.25	mid orangey brown	clay with 80% gravel		possible surface		11th - 13th century

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Thick. Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
506	deposit						same as 509 - not on matrix		
507	cut	1.50+	0.90				construction cut for north-south wall 508 - cuts fills of pit 502		
508	structure	1.50	0.50				north-south aligned garden wall - 19thC		
509	deposit		1.00	mixed	mixed		made ground - landscaping deposit(s) comprising significant amounts of loose limestone rubble with roof tiles and nails throughout possibly suggesting that it is associated with the demolition of the summer house		
510	VOID						VOID		
511	fill		0.90	dark brown	silty clay	20% stone	top fill of late post-med. (19thC?) pit		18th - early 19th century

APPENDIX 2 CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE ACCOUNTS

References to building work *transcribed by Julian Reid*

C/1/1/6

1595-6 21 weeks work on building a new cellar under the buttery - £97 12s 7d

1596-7 To eight labourers three days apiece raising the mount - 16s

C/1/1/7

1601-2 To 2 carpenters 8 days apiece about Mr. President's garden house - 16s

1603 **Impensae Novi Muri**

March 19
To Mathewes the mason for 6 days - 6s
to 2 labourers 6 days apiece - 8s
to one labourer - $3^{1/2}$ days - 2s 4d
for 24 loads of stone at 20d - 40s
Summa - 56s 4d

25
To 3 labourers 5 days and 1 labourer for $2^{1/2}$ days - 11s 8d
Tweo loads and 7 bushels of lime - 35s 6d
Summa - 47s 2d

April 2
To 3 masons for 6 days - 18s
To 6 labourers 6 days - 24s
To one mason for 3 days - 3s
To 2 labourers 6 days - 8s
For a load of stone - 20d
Summa - 54s 8d

For 2 load of lime - 32s
Summa - 32s

9
For 2 loads of lime bought of the hucksters[1] - 37s 4d
Fourteen loads of stone and carriage - 23s 4d
To 4 masons 6 days - 24s
To 1 mason $5^{1/2}$ days - 5s 6d
To 7 labourers 6 days - 28s
To 1 labourer 5 days - 3s 4d
To 1 labourer 3 days - 2s
Summa - £6 3s 6d

April 16 For 8 bushels of lime - 4s
One load of lime - 16s
Three load of lime - 48s
Two and twenty load of stone at 20d the load - 36s 8d
One load of Pendle[2] stone - 3s 4d
Sixteen load of gravel at 10s the load - 13s 4d
To the 2 Mahewes, Netheshall, & Gibson for 6 days - 24s
To other mason for 5 days - 5s
To 8 labourers for 6 days - 32s
To 1 labourer for 2 days - 16d
Summa - £9 3s 8d

24 To Mahewe & 3 others for 4 days - 24s
To 5 labourers for 6 days - 20s
To another mason for 3 days - 3s
Six loads of gravel - 5s
For 15 load of stone with carriage - 25s
For 2 load of free stone - 7s 8d
For 2 bushels of hair - 12s
For 1 load of stone - 20d
Summa - £4 7s 4d

To Matthews for carriage away of the rubbish out of the Vice-chancellor's garden - 13s 4d
To Floyde for $1^{1/2}$ days work 12d
Summa 14s 4d

Summa totalis - £29 19s

[1] hucksters probably refers to peddlars or hawkers
[2] Pendle is generally a quarrying term for any fissile rock

Total manpower and materials:

Masons - $114^{1/2}$ days
Labourers - 212 days
Stone - 80 loads
Lime - 10 loads 15 bushels
Gravel - 22 loads

APPENDIX 3 TABLES

Table A1: Clay pipe by context

Context	Spot-date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Tot sherds	Tot Wt	Comments
108	c1630-1660	3	1	1	5	25	Complete bowl with wide oval heel. Stem bores (SB) c3mm. Fairly fresh
109	c1630-1660	1	2	0	3	29	2x complete bowls. 1 of 1630-60 with wide circularl heel. The other poss c1600-1640 as smaller, and with long portion of stem still attached. Stem bores (SB) c3mm. Fairly fresh but the latter bowl coated in limey deposit
111	c1600-1640	0	1	0	1	5	Complete small bowl with broad oval heel
112	c1640-1670	10	3	1	14	101	2x complete bowls c1640-70 with incipient spurs. 1x complete bowl c1600-1640. SBs c3mm. 1 of the stems shows trace of milled band. Fairly fresh
208	?17C	1	0	0	1	4	Slightly odd stem, very tapered over short distance (length 35mm) and highly burnished. Poss from an unusual pipe form? SB c2.8mm
307	19C	2	0	0	2	9	1x 19C stem with oakleaf seams & partial maker's name NORWO(OD)? Stamped on side, crescent filler motifs along side. 1x 17-18C stem frag
402	c1630-1660	1	1	0	2	18	Complete bowl with wide oval heel. Stem bores (SB) c3mm. Fresh
511	L18-19C	6	1	0	7	43	Stems incl narrow prob L18-19C SBs 1.5mm. Also 1x complete bowl c1700-1750 with broad circular heel (SB c2mm).
TOTAL		**24**	**9**	**2**	**35**	**234**	

Table A2. Bone assemblage	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Dog	Cat	Rabbit	Domestic fowl	Bird	Fish	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.
Horncore			1											
Skull				2									1	
Mandible	2	1											1	
Loose teeth	3	2		2	1									
Atlas		1												
Vertebra												10	16	
Sacrum												1		
Rib												33	19	
Scapula	2	3		1										
Humerus	3	7		3			2	1	2	2				
Radius		9		3			2							
Ulna	1	1		1		1	1							
Metacarpal	3	2												
Pelvis		3		3										
Femur	1	2						1				2	1	
Tibia	3	6		1		1				1				1
Tibiotarsus									1	1				
Fibula				1										
Calcaneus	2			2										
Astragalus	1													
Tarsal bones		1												
Metatarsal	3	1		1										
Phalanx 1	2													
Phalanx 2	1				1									
Indet. metapodial	1	1		1	2									
Longbone												8	14	
Indeterminate													1	36
TOTAL	28	41	1	21	4	2	5	2	3	4	1	54	53	37
Weight (g)	1242	599	47	259	142	33	18	5	5	6	2	202	977	181

Table A3: Animal bone by context

Context	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
105	Pig	1	41
	Bird	1	
	Medium mammal	2	
	Indeterminate	1	
109	Sheep/goat	3	241
	Medium mammal	2	
	Large mammal	1	
	Indeterminate	1	
110	Sheep/goat	1	64
	Medium mammal	3	
	Large mammal	2	
	Indeterminate	1	
111	Medium mammal	1	5
112	Cattle	1	269
	Sheep/goat	1	
	Horse	1	
	Dog	1	
	Large mammal	1	
209	Cattle	1	144
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Horse	1	
	Rabbit	1	
	Large mammal	2	
211	Cattle	1	31
	Sheep/goat	1	
212	Cattle	3	125
	Domestic fowl	1	
	Medium mammal	1	
	Large mammal	2	
	Indeterminate	1	
215	Pig	1	41
	Large mammal	1	
	Indeterminate	1	
217	Sheep/goat	2	28
	Medium mammal	1	
	Large mammal	1	
220	Cattle	2	327
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Pig	1	
	Medium mammal	4	
	Large mammal	8	
222	Sheep/goat	1	13

Context	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
303	Cat	5	48
	Rabbit	1	
	Domestic fowl	2	
	Bird	2	
	Medium mammal	4	
	Indeterminate	1	
307	Sheep/goat	1	134
	Pig	2	
	Fowl	1	
	Medium mammal	11	
	Large mammal	1	
402	Large mammal	3	60
403	Sheep/goat	1	35
	Large mammal	2	
	Indeterminate	1	
404	Cattle	1	273
	Sheep/goat	4	
	Large mammal	7	
	Indeterminate	8	
405	Cattle	4	559
	Sheep/goat	6	
	Pig	7	
	Medium mammal	2	
	Large mammal	5	
	Indeterminate	2	
406	Dog	1	21
	Large mammal	1	
500	Large mammal	1	40
503	Cattle	4	252
	Sheep/goat	3	
	Sheep	1	
	Pig	2	
	Medium mammal	4	
	Large mammal	1	
	Indeterminate	3	
511	Cattle	10	996
	Sheep/goat	13	
	Pig	7	
	Horse	2	
	Fish	1	
	Medium mammal	19	
	Large mammal	14	
	Indeterminate	17	

Table A4: Pottery by context

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
105	11-13C	1	7	Bs OXAC
109	17C	7	237	Profile yellow Borderware porringer bowl.Bs early REW chaf dish.(Nice residual 13/14C dec floor tiles)
110	L16-17C	5	68	Borderware green chaf dish frag?. Early REW. OXY
111	c1600-1630	1	4	Date from clay pipe bowl. Also 1x 12-15C OXAQ
112	L17-18C?	4	159	Incl 2x prob early flowerpot rims. Brill pipkin rim
204	16-E17C	2	32	late brill
208	17-18C	1	51	REW. Also lots nice but worn 14C dec floor tile
209	15-E16C	3	36	Tudor green. OXY
211	L16-17C	2	25	pmed Brill. OXY?
212	c1550-1600?	12	620	Mostly 16C incl Frechen bart-type jug. Early REW ?chafing dish base or Surrey redware jug? Odd ?late med grey sandy near-stoneware vess rim w pour lip - poss crucible or other industrial? Poss Hessian but not triangular - round crucible-type profile w grooved constriction 26mm below rim (diam c120mm, 15%. Extracted for fabric ref collection). 1x large bs Raeren mug. Few late Brill. 1x LM whiteware pedestal ?cup base (?Surrey) w frilled base. 1x OXAQ. 1x ?OXB late Saxon Oxford shelly ware cpot rim
215	13-14C?	4	37	Brill. OXAC. OXAQ
217	11-13C	1	9	OXAC
218	11-13C?	1	10	OXY? Or poss late Sax N french WT import?
219	c1475-1550	2	5	V scrappy/small but incl Raeren stoneware bs & poss Brill
220	L16-E17C	13	408	8x bs Frechen stoneware jugs - min 6 jugs represented G&C form, 2 w tall narrow necks (1= 100% rim), 1 w moulded base. Late Brill. ?Minety. (see also worn 14C dec floortiles)
222	11-13C	2	11	OXAC. OXY
303	19C	13	435	5x mod flowerpot. 3x blue transfer-printed water closet (200g) (JOINS 307). 1x WHEW mid 19C. 2x Pearlware. 1x Staffs brown glazed.1x Surrey Coarse Border ware ?cpot bs w int green glaze towards base , heavily sooted ext (15C)
307	c1873+	27	1715	Incl 8x marmalade jar sherds from jar dated '1873', prob an Oxford Marmalade jar with usual black transfer printed inscrip & stamped mark 'MALLING 2 NEWCASTLE' underside on complete base. 13x transfer-printed water closet (1281g) in yellow earthenware with int white slip and blue printed classical temples & colonnades, heavily mortar encrusted (JOINS 303). 1x brown stoneware ink bottle base. 1x WHEW. 1x fine ?English porcelain teacup rim with quality gilding. 3x mod flowerpot

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
402	19C	7	207	1x 19C WHEW. Mainly 18C wares. incl post-med Brill flowerpot rim. Chinese porc. Staffs white salt. Notts brown salt.
405	c1250-1350	38	337	Mix of fresh and worn sherds. Mostly quite small. 15 x Brill (OXAM) incl bottle & jug bss bs. 13x OXAQ incl cpot rims. 5x OXY (mostly 1 cpot rim). 1x bs highly dec Surrey Kingston-type jug. 2x worn OXAC. 1x ?OXBF flinty. 1x worn unident or ?CBM
406	12-13C?	3	23	Uncertain ident but 1x bs prob Developed Stamford ware jug. 1x OXY cpot rim. 1x ?OXAQ or OXBF flinty?
500	L12-E15C	1	12	OXAQ
503	16-E17C	1	7	late Brill unglz
505	11-13C	1	5	OXY
511	18-E19C	29	453	V mixed, 11-E19C wares incl Brill slip-dec flowerpot rim. Frechen stoneware. Large bs/neck sherd OXY jug/pitcher with strip dec. Borderware. Late Brill. OXAC incl rims. 2x cpot rims St Neots ware (10-11C) from 2 vess
TOTAL		**181**	**4913**	

Table A5: Building material by context

Cntxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Form	Description	Spot-date
105	1	54	roof flat	Early pink-buff roof tile edge frag. V worn	13-14C?
108	2	152	ridge	Prob 1 ridge tile. Fine silty orange-brown fab with light grey core. Curved bit w glossy greenish-br glz & unglz side frag	13-16C
109	4	1123	brick	Red unfrogged brick frags incl end Width 105mm, Thickness 56mm. Other side frag 48mm thick	L16-17C?
109	2	419	floor	Printed tile prob 14C Penn/Chiltern, corner 29mm thick, slightly chamfered edges. Prob a quadrant of circle (from 4 tile scheme) with int dec incl daisy in square. ILLUS? Other frag 27mm thick plain pre-cut ?square w worn dk brown glz - Flemish-type prob 15-16C?	n/a
109	4	276	roof flat	roof tile frags, prob early incl pink-buff. 1 w decayed glz specks/splashes	n/a
110	4	615	brick	4 separate bricks. Worn scraps incl 2 w v marl-streaked & lumpy (red & white), 1 w extensive clear ?lead glz on upper surface, thicknesses suggest mostly Tudor, 1 later? Thicknesses 45 & 50mm & 55mm+	16-17C?
110	1	39	floor	Worn edge frag c37mm thick, ?quarry	n/a
110	2	157	roof flat	Prob med incl corner 17mm thick w glz splashes	n/a
112	1	15	wall	Frag plain white tin-glazed wall tile w light yellow fabric	L17-18C
112	1	89	brick	scrap 16C+	n/a
112	1	13	roof flat	scrap poss med?	n/a
204	1	88	floor	Pre-cut quartered tile frag 62mm square, 23mm thick. Upper surface completely worn but traces black glaze on sides. Fine silty red Flemish-type fabric 15/16C?	15-16C?
204	2	230	roof flat	Edge frags 13 & 14mm thick. Prob med	n/a
208	14	1300	floor	Mostly frags fine silty red Flemish-type fabric as in 204, mostly v worn with surfaces completely worn off in most cases but incl 1 fresh frag 22mm thick covered in white slip under clear glaze & pre-cut or scored for breaking into small triangular tiles 80mm along triang base x 58mm sides. Others w traces black glaze. 1 other of this type 23mm thick. 2x frags prob earlier prob 14C printed Penn/Chiltern tiles incl corner frag 32mm thick w gyronny design (cf Merton College 02) & ano corner 28mm thick w traces black glz; these P/C tiles in coarser orange fabric	15-16C?
208	4	134	roof flat	Scraps. Prob med. 1 w circ nailhole	n/a

Cntxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Form	Description	Spot-date
209	2	74	roof flat	scraps. Prob med. Worn. 1 w specks glz	13-16C?
211	3	246	roof flat	Prob med incl edge frags	13-16C?
211	1	302	floor	V worn corner frag. Poss a Stabbed Wessex-type tile c1280-1330? Traces decayed glaze. 25mm thick	n/a
212	6	737	floor	V worn frags Flemish-type mostly 23mm thick & pre-cut into small squares 58-60mm square, traces worn black glaze on some, trace white slip on side of one. 1x thicker coarser tile corner frag 25mm w traces brown glz	15-16C?
212	2	87	roof flat	Scraps. Prob med. 1 w glz splashes	n/a
214	1	5	roof flat	scrap	13-16C?
215	1	133	ridge	Prob ridge tile lower corner av 16mm thick, dense fine sandy w brown-buff surfaces/margins & broad grey core. Extensive greenish-br cover glaze. Poss 13-14C? Otherwise 13-16C?	13-14C?
215	9	513	roof flat	Might include ridge frags? Thick early-looking tile frags - poss 13-14C? Incl pink-buff & 1 cream , mostly quite thick incl 20 & 16mm down to 13mm	13-14C?
218	1	5	roof flat	scrap, prob med	13-16C?
219	1	6	roof flat	scrap, prob med	13-16C?
220	5	651	floor	V worn floor tiles Flemish-style as in 212 etc incl 2 pre-cut black-glazed squares 60mm square 24mm thick. 1 white slipped triangle 22mm thick. 1 max 26mm thick v worn	15-16C?
220	2	40	roof flat	scraps, prob med	n/a
305	1	1167	brick	Red unfrogged brick end Width 110mm, Thickness 55mm. Quite regular w fairly sharp arrises	L17-18C?
403	1	16	ridge	Poss ridge edge. Poss Brill fabric - pale orange-buff w trace of reduc greenish glaze. 11mm thick	14C-16C?
403	1	19	roof flat	Edge scrap. Reduc w dk greenish glz	n/a
404	10	492	roof flat	Might include ridge frags? Thick early-looking tile frags - poss 13-14C? Incl pink-buff & 1 cream , mostly quite thick incl 19mm+ & 15mm down to 13mm. 2 with patches of decayed greenish glz incl pink-buff edge frag w chalky voids. Otherwise 13-16C	13-14C?

Cntxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Form	Description	Spot-date
405	40	1997	roof flat	Mix of worn and fairly fresh frags incl edges, corners and tiles w circular nailholes. High proportion of early-type tile fabrics incl 3x cream edge frags 14-17mm thick (2 w patchy clear glaze - prob in lower part). Many pink-buff frags incl edge frag 20-22m thick.Mostly dense or-br fine sandy incl frags w clear or reduced greenish cover glaze in lower half. Nailhole diams 13-15mm typically. May include ridge frags?	13-14C?
405	1	99	ridge	Flat frag but curvature at end suggests ridge tile, o-br fine sandy w decayed glz in upper part. Medieval	13-14C?
405	1	27	unident	shapeless lump soft coarse oxidised clay. Might be brick but might be fired daub etc	n/a
406	1	32	ridge	frag or-br w reduc greenish cover glaze	13-14C?
503	1	28	brick	Almost shapeless lump. Coarse lumpy dense fabric	16-18C?
503	1	6	roof flat	scrap, prob med	n/a
511	6	486	floor	V worn. Flemish-type as above w black-glazed squares. 1 larger coarser black-glazed 22m thick	15-16C?
511	16	840	roof flat	Early-type fabrics and glazes incl some pink-buff up to 17mm thick. Prob 13-14C?	n/a
TOTAL	**158**	**12712**			

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Corpus Christi College, Oxford
Site code: OXCRIS'07
Grid reference: NGR: SP 516 060
Type of evaluation: Trenched
Date and duration of project: The fieldwork was carried out over 3 weeks in February 2007
Personnel: Project Manager: Dan Poore
Site Supervisor: Robin Bashford
Archaeologists: Illya Sparkes-Santos
Alan Marshall
Anna Hodgkinson
Anya Rardin (student placement)
Area of site: Four 1.5m x 3m and One 1.5 m x 2 m Trench
Summary of results: The evaluation revealed a west-east aligned inhumation, potentially associated with an early phase of St Frideswide's priory.
A mortared stone structure, possibly representing the eastward extension of the late-Saxon burh was also revealed, along with evidence for later development of the defensive circuit, including a wholesale re-build of the City wall in the early 17th century.
Evidence for the partial re-construction of the boundary wall between Christchurch and Corpus Christi was also revealed.
Some evidence for 13th-14th century occupation was recovered from a possible refuse pit which may have been associated with properties fronting onto the former Shidyerd Street. No evidence for the street itself was encountered within the trenches, although this may have been as a result of later truncation, particularly by two post-medieval cess pits which had been excavated up against the boundary wall between Christ Church and Corpus Christi. At least one of these was stone-lined and may date to the 18th century, although the final phase of backfilling occurred in the mid-late 19th century. The second cess pit showed no evidence of stone lining and the artefactual evidence suggested that it pre-dated the stone lined feature and originated in the 16th-17th century.
The remainder of the archaeological data recovered appeared to relate to the various incarnations of the college gardens from the 16th century onwards. This included a substantial robber trench which corresponds with a wall shown on a number of cartographic sources, and a number of landscaping deposits which probably originate from later phases of construction of college buildings.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: **2007.2**

Figure 1: Site location

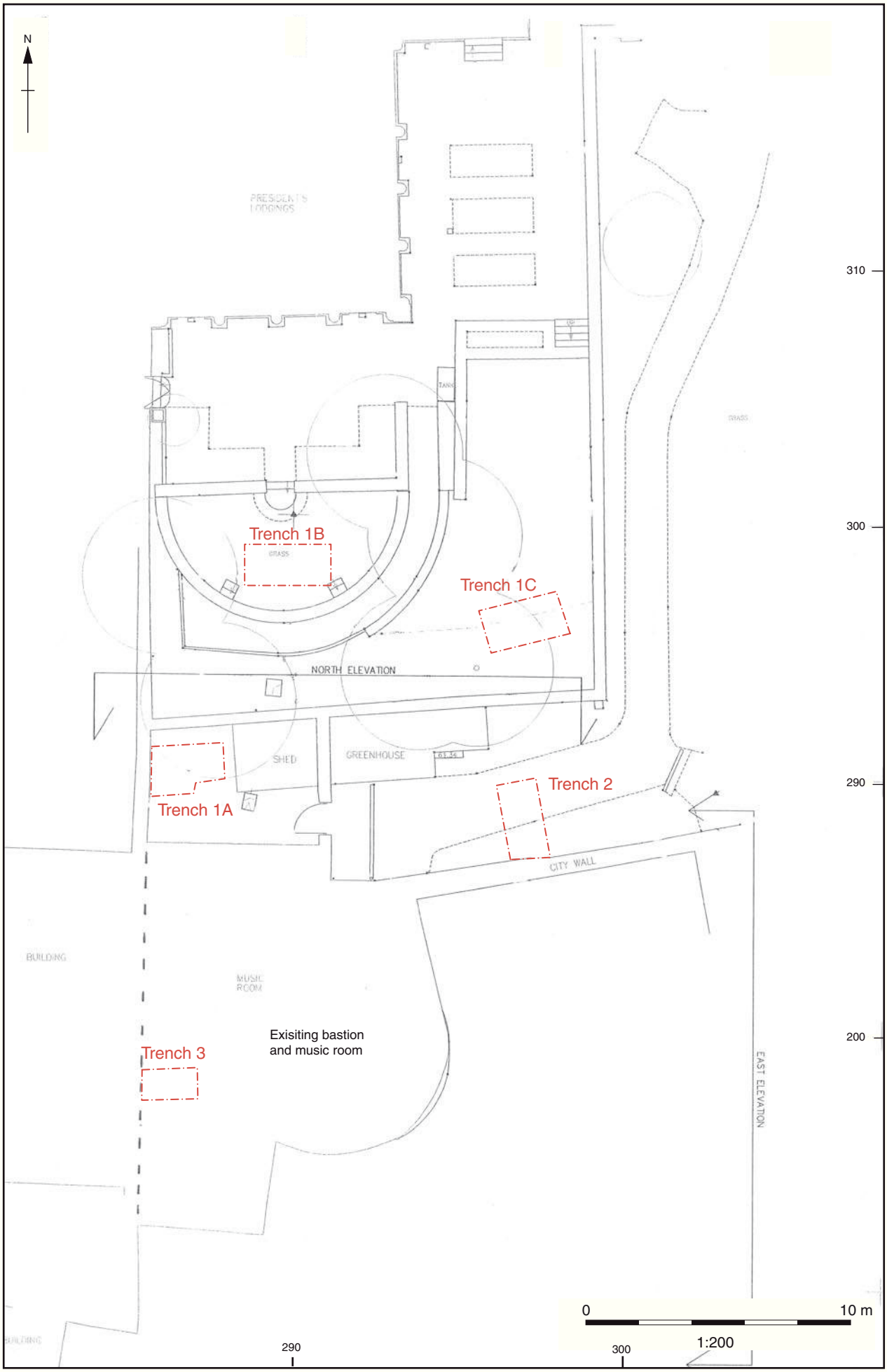


Figure 2: Trench location plan

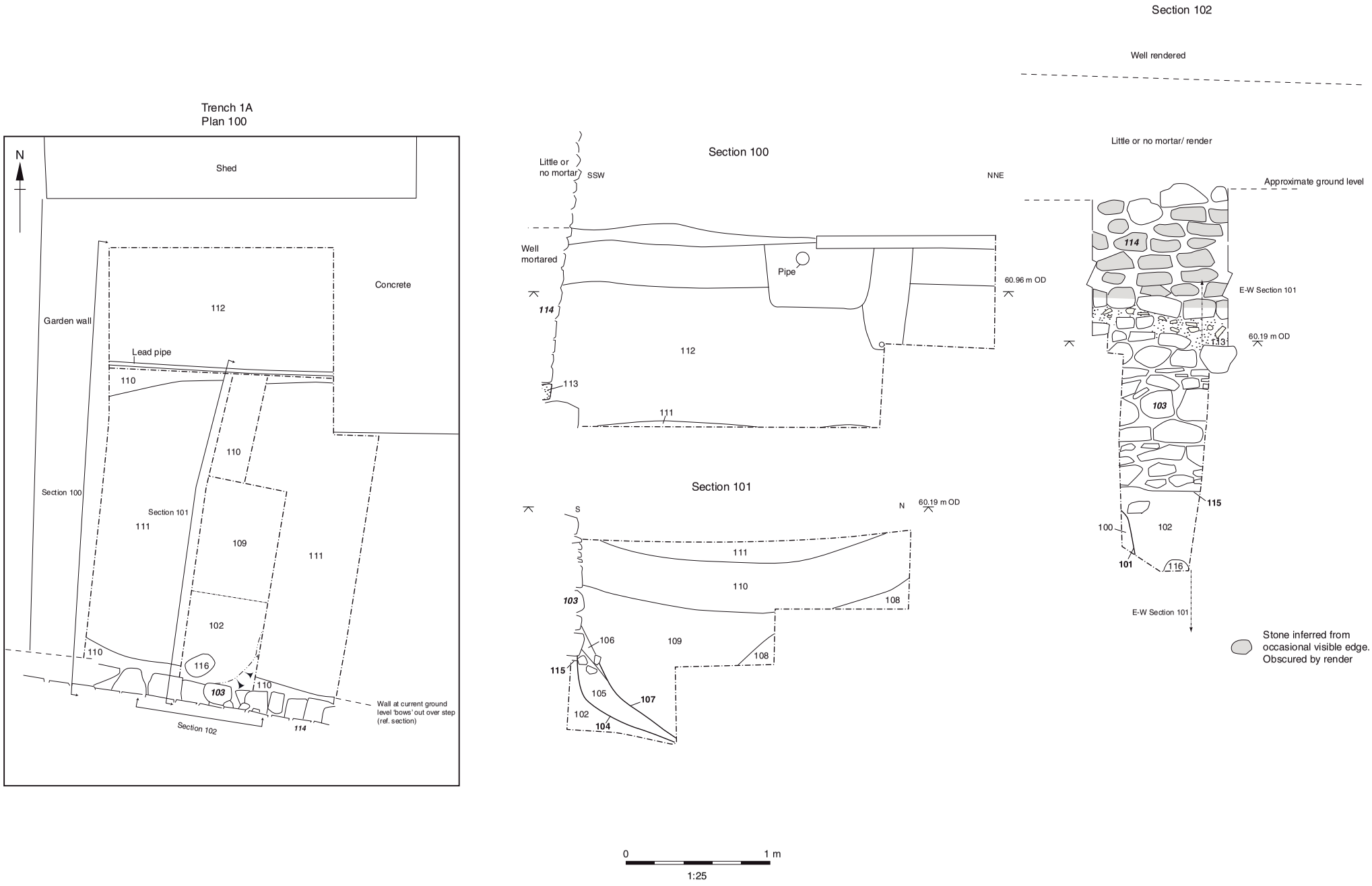
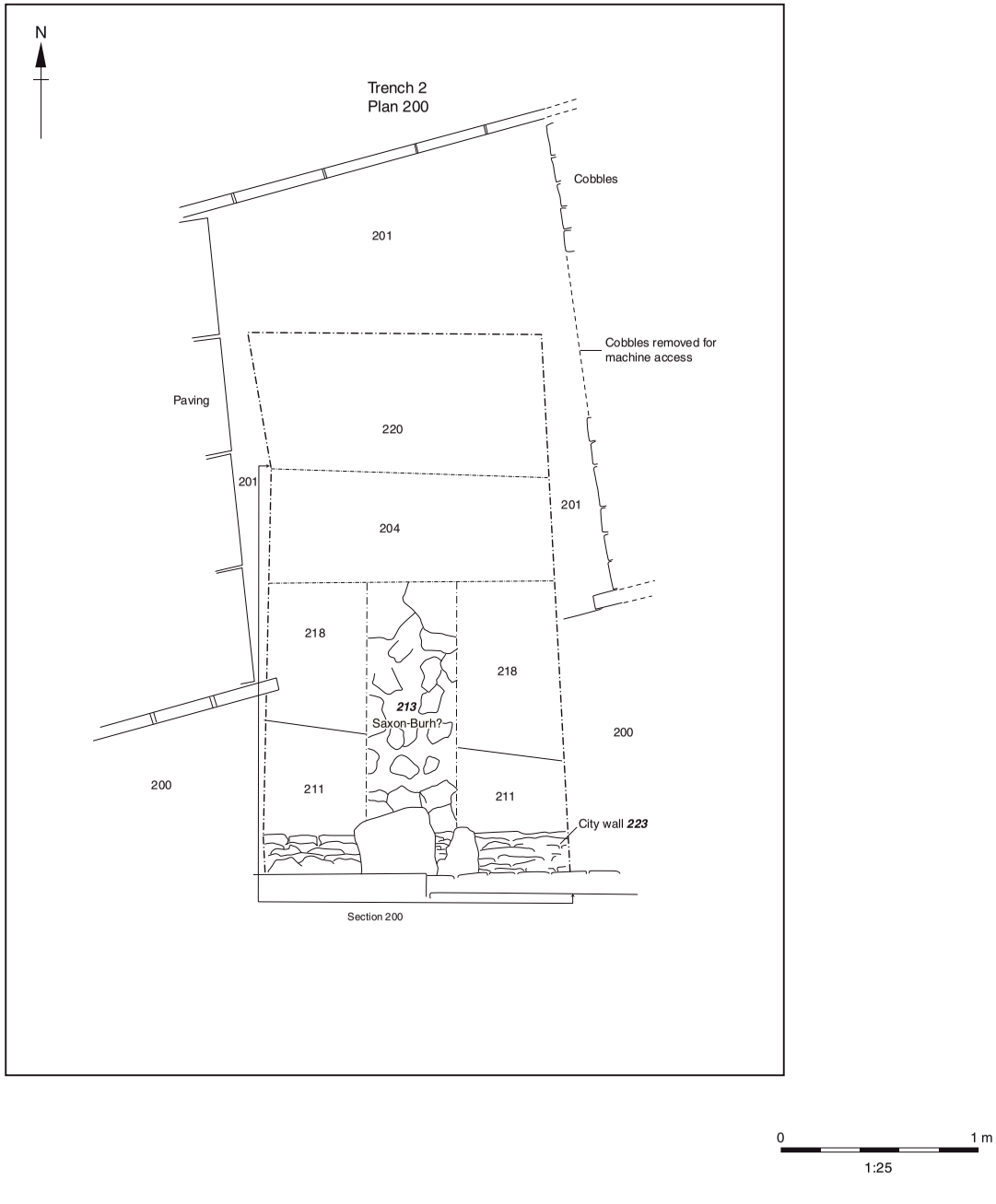


Figure 3 : Trench 1A , Plan 100, Sections 100-103



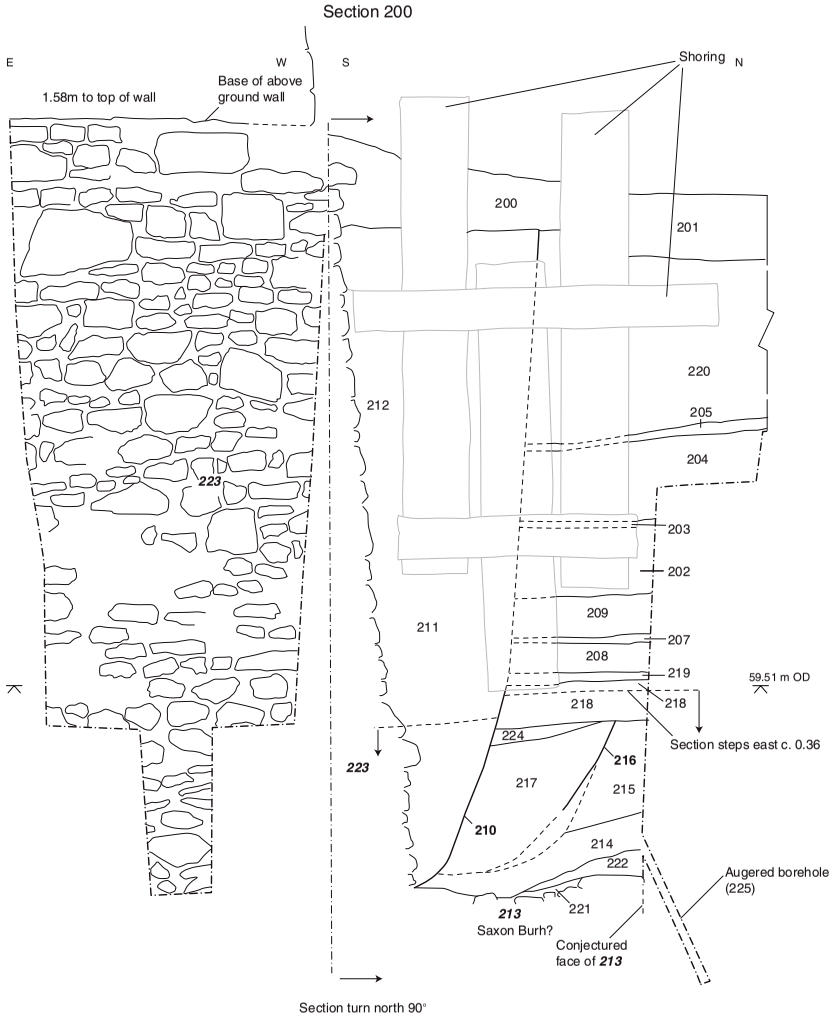


Figure 4 : Trench 2, Plan 200, Section 200

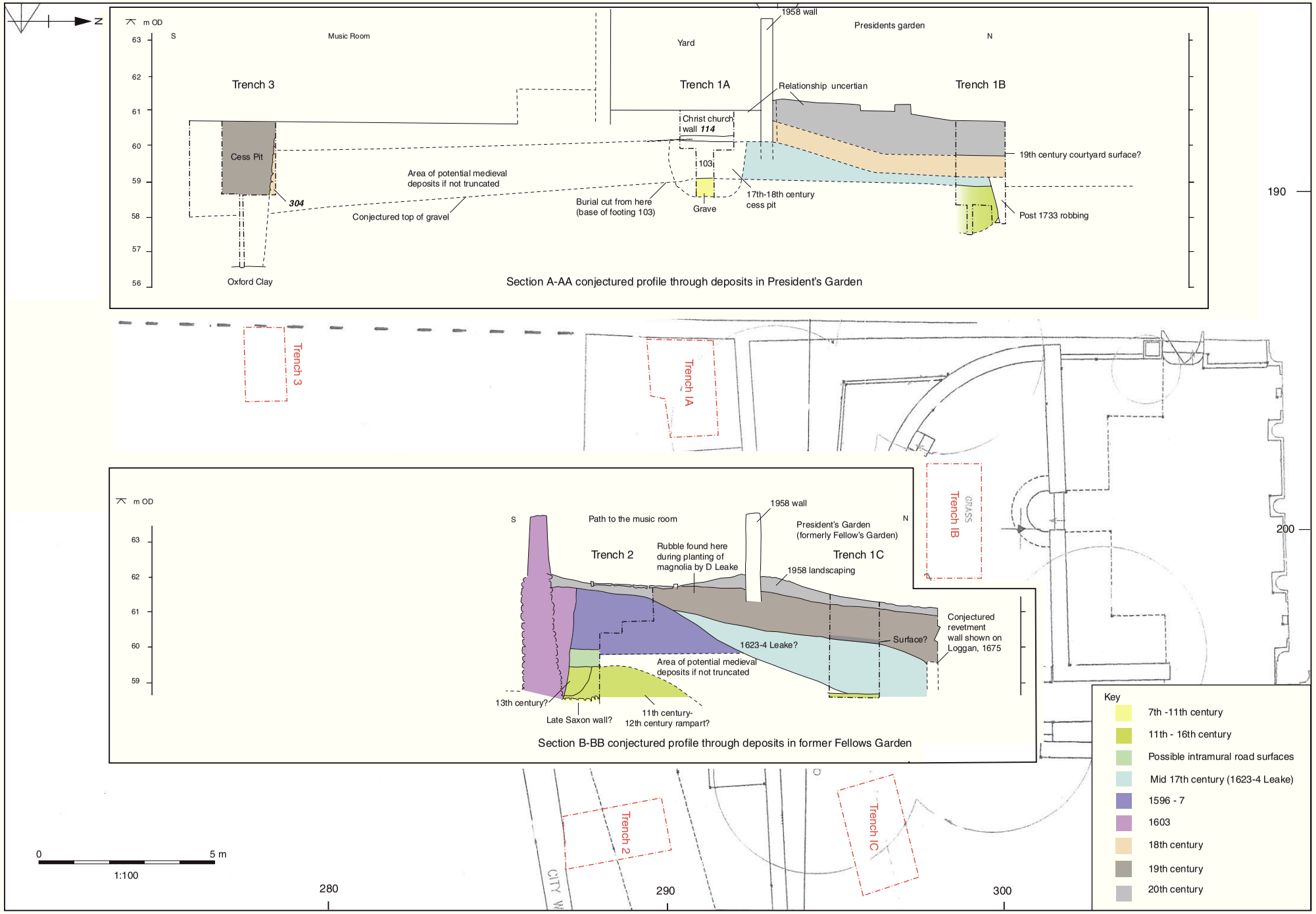


Figure 5: Idealised site profiles, located on Figure 2

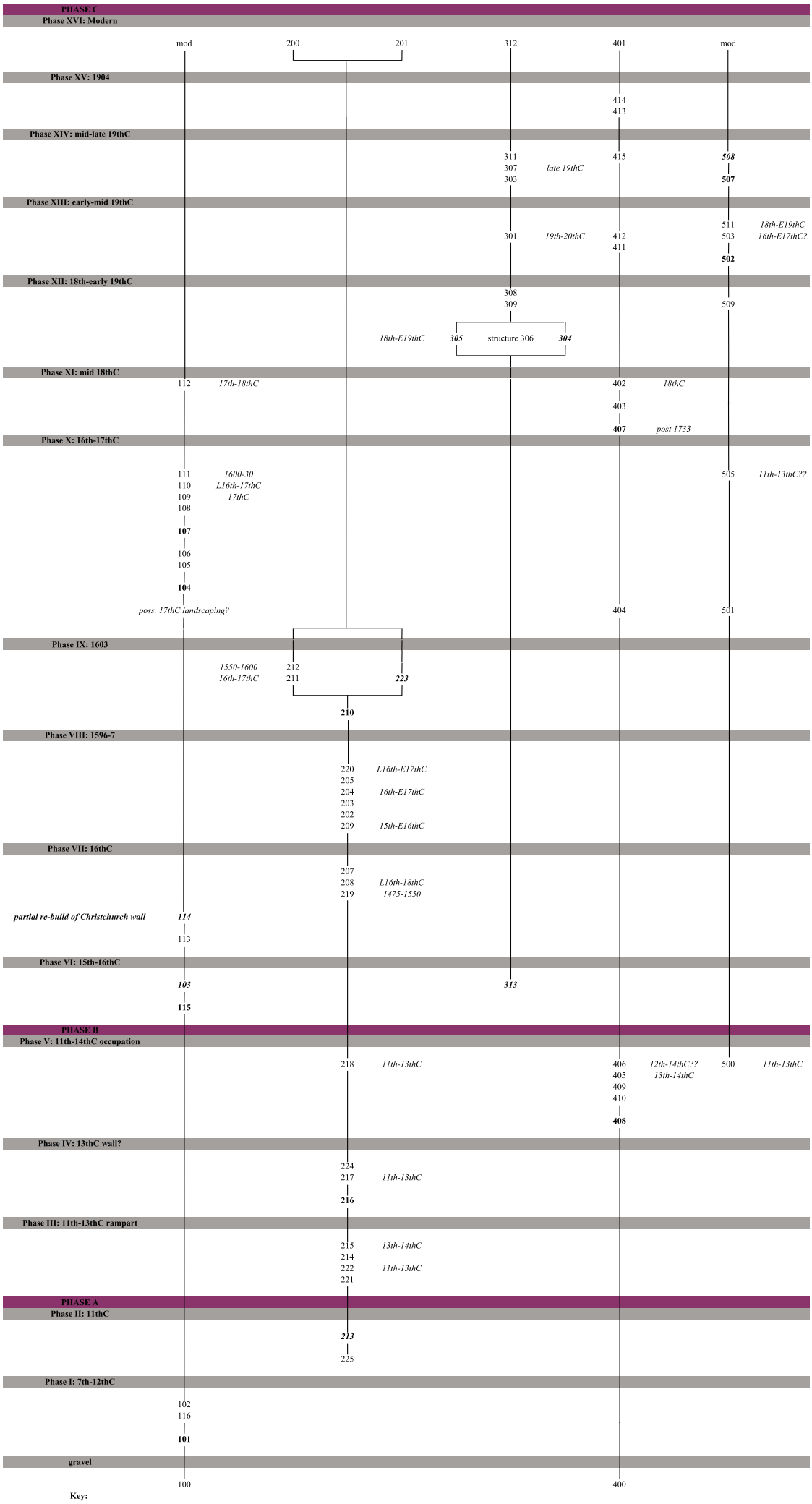


Figure 6: Stratigraphic matrix and conjectured phasing

Plate 1: Trench 1A

Plate 2: Trench 1A, Burial 116

Plate 3: Trench 2

Plate 4: Trench 2, Late Saxon Revetment? 213

Plate 5: Trench 3 Structure 306

Plate 6: Trench 3 Footing 313 following partial dismantling of wall 305