

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

MAGDALEN COLLEGE CLOISTER ALTERATIONS,

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

SP 452 206

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD OF STRUCTURE

On behalf of

Magdalen Development Company

APRIL 2003

REPORT FOR Magdalen Development Company
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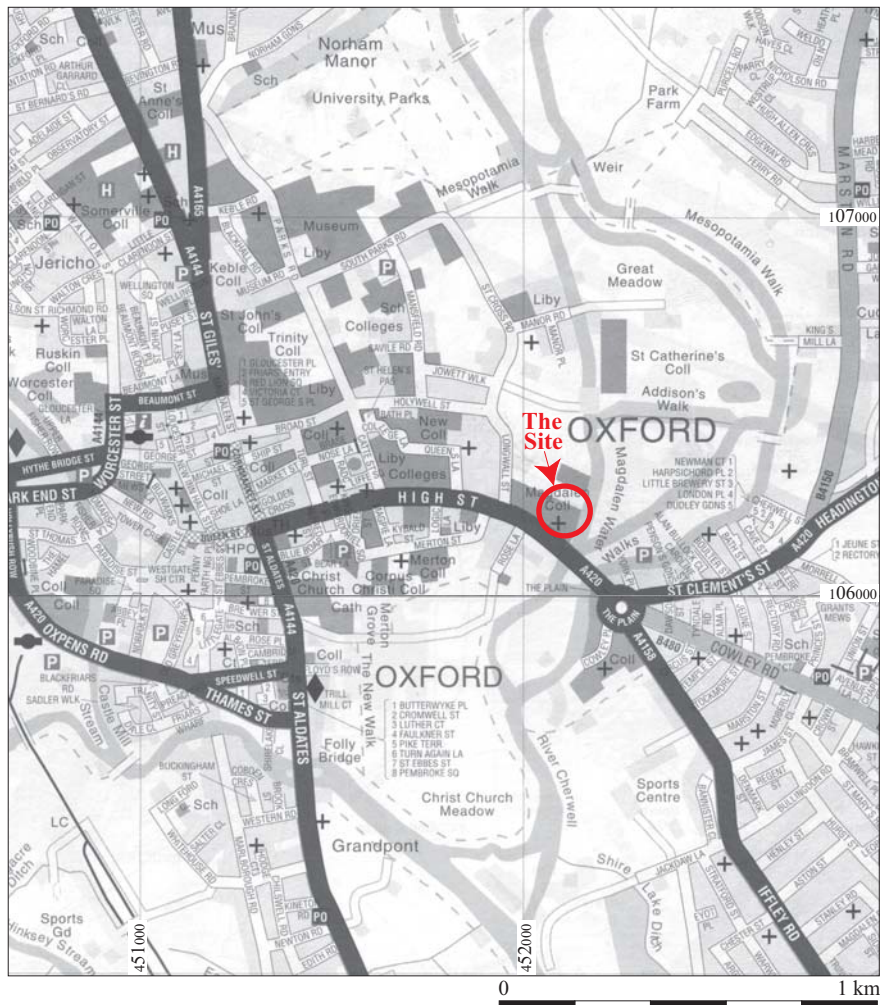


Figure 1: Site Location

Summary

An Archaeological Record of Structure took place during the alterations at Magdalen College Cloister, Oxford. No archaeological deposits or features were disturbed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located in the north eastern corner of Magdalen College Cloister, Oxford (NGR SP 452 206). The cloister is situated on the north side of the High Street and is bounded to the west by Longwall Street and to the east by the River Cherwell.

1.2 Planning Background

Listed building consent had been obtained to carry out alterations to guest suite A of the cloisters at Magdalen College, Oxford (02/00804/LBC). Due to the potential presence of significant medieval remains in the form of a garderobe relating to the 13th century hospital of ST John, condition 15 of the Listed Building consent required the implementation of archaeological mitigation of the engineering impact of the development, to preserve *in situ* significant remains, or preserve by record any medieval fabric that would have been affected by the development.

John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with the City Archaeologist for Oxford, on behalf of the local planning authority, carried out the work.

1.3 Historical Background

Magdalen College, Oxford was founded in 1458 by Bishop Wayneflete on a site that included St John's Hospital. William Orchard was the master mason for the cloister in 1475 which included sets and other accommodation. The original college buildings incorporated some of the earlier fabric of the hospital but there has been much modification over time. A third storey was added to the cloister in the 16th century and the buttressing between the cloister openings were also 'mostly renewed' at this time (Sherwood and Pevsner 1974). The 19th century saw more extensive modifications to the north and east ranges of the cloister, resulting in a more regular plan to the building.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* were as follows:

- For the historic buildings officer of John Moore Heritage Services to work closely with the engineer in order to minimise the potential impact on any medieval structural remains found.
- To make a record of any medieval structural remains that may have been exposed during the works.
- To make public the results of the investigations.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the City Archaeologist for Oxford, on behalf of the local planning authority. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout.

The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

Two site visits were made. The first visit took place prior to any stripping out of internal features in guest suite A on the first floor. The purpose of this visit was to examine the features that might have been affected by the proposed development. At this point, an internal partition wall was marked for stripping out. As this wall bisected the lights of the window, and was obviously not an original feature of the historic building fabric, it was agreed that it could be removed.

The second visit took place after the removal of the internal partition. The wood paneling at the window was exposed as was internal plumbing fixtures and fittings. No medieval features were revealed. The area uncovered was photographed for archive purposes and the rest of the alterations allowed to continue, as they did not affect the current building fabric.

4 RESULTS

No medieval features associated with the 13th century were revealed or affected by the cloister alterations.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sherwood and Pevsner, 1996: *The Buildings of England Oxfordshire*, London,

Moore, J, 2003: *Magdalen College, Cloister V Alterations. Archaeological Record of Structure: Written Scheme of Investigation*, John Moore Heritage Services