

Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2019



Oxford City Council, Urban Design and Heritage
Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2019



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Cover photographs- Above: Early Iron Age pits near Armstrong Road, Littlemore. Below left: Unveiling of plaque marking the line of the Royalist Civil War Ramparts. Below right: Roman mortarium kiln excavated at the Swan School site in New Marston

Executive summary

The following report provides an overview of the impact of development on archaeological assets in the Oxford Local Authority Area in 2019.

The year saw a number of modest scale central and suburban excavations covering a wider range of historic periods and site types than has been the norm over the last several years. Prehistoric settlement remains were examined at Littlemore and New Marston, and Roman remains at Littlemore, New Marston, Cowley and Headington. The excavations at New Marston involved the full excavation of a 3rd century Roman mortarium kiln, the first excavation of its kind in Oxford since the mid-1990s. Within the historic core of Oxford, a number of well-studied medieval sites saw further limited investigation, notably Osney abbey and the hospital of St John the Baptist.

Our understanding of the extent and character of the medieval town was also enhanced by the investigation of extra-mural suburban remains on Parks Road and at Paradise Square. Other notable sites include the former medieval and post-medieval barn at Holywell, the Royalist Civil War rampart on Mansfield Road, and the remains of an eighteenth-century formal garden at Trinity College.

The larger recording projects in the hinterland of Oxford took place as the result of housing developments (Land adjacent to Littlemore Hospital and Armstrong Road, Littlemore) and school improvement schemes (the building of the new Swan School and new facilities at Headington School). Significant building developments within the medieval suburbs of the city resulted from hotel construction at Paradise Square (11th-13th century buildings) and the creation college student residences Balliol Master Field (periphery of the medieval suburb of Holywell) and at Trinity College (18th century formal garden). The Trinity development resulted in the excavation of a significant new basement and has resulted in the reduction of the distinctive 'wilderness' wooded area within expansive historic college grounds. The historic core of the city was also subject to a number of evaluations and small recording projects including a distinctive spike in historic building recording projects.

This report highlights the development pressure being faced by assets across Oxford, notably ongoing pressure on assets within the historic core through college and commercial development and pressure for infilling development on the periphery of the city. The report also summarises the public outreach work undertaken this year.

Introduction

The National Planning Policy Framework requires that local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment, gathered as part the development management process, publicly accessible. The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan (2013-2018)* established the objective of producing an annual monitoring statement for archaeological heritage assets and this is the fifth such report. The aim being to capture data about the patterns of development impacts across the years and also monitor the effectiveness of heritage management processes.

The following report provides a short overview of the scope and impact of development led archaeology in Oxford in 2019. It records the number of planning applications submitted over the calendar year and the number assessed to have likely archaeological implications. It records the types of archaeological fieldwork undertaken and summarises how development and archaeological mitigation have impacted on known archaeological heritage assets. Furthermore it relates the year's archaeological discoveries to an evolving research agenda to show how our knowledge and understanding of Oxford and its people is developing and expanding over time. The annual statement also provides a basis for monitoring the on-going cumulative impact of both development and asset management on the city's archaeological resource.

(*[Link to Oxford Archaeological Plan](#))

The asset base

The designated assets within the Oxford City local authority area comprise:

- Over 1,500 listed buildings (this number relates to the number of buildings rather than designations as these can encompass multiple buildings. At the end of 2019 the National Heritage List recorded 1185 listed building designations for Oxford) The list includes:
 - 12% grade I listed buildings (the national average is 2%)
 - 8% grade II* listed buildings (the national average is 4%)
- 18 Conservation Areas – representing 20% of the city area
- 10 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (NB The National Heritage List now records ten monuments rather than the previously stated 12 because the Bridge West of Godstow Abbey (County No 173) and the extension to Port Meadow (County No 120003) are amalgamated with Godstow Abbey (County Number 35542) and Port Meadow (County Number 143) respectively.
- 15 Registered Parks and Gardens

In addition to these designated assets further archaeological monuments are recorded on archaeological databases covering the city. The monument database includes extant and documented monuments (i.e. those which may no longer survive).

At present two complementary archaeological data sets are maintained for Oxford: the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) which covers the historic core of Oxford and the Oxford Historic Environment Record (HER) which covers the area outside the UAD. These two sets of data are both now maintained by the City Council and have been recently combined into the City of Oxford Urban Historic Environment Record (COUHER).

The combined monument database (which includes a number of duplicate records that need revision) totals 3241 records (Oxford District Search). This number is likely to decline in the short term as duplicates are removed.

Planning advice and fieldwork statistics

The tables below provide data about the number of applications assessed and commented on by the City Council Archaeologist and the number of archaeological recording events undertaken by archaeological contractors in Oxford in 2018. Additional data is provided on the number of Scheduled Monument Consent notices issued by Historic England over the course of the year.

Table 1: Planning applications to Oxford City Council

Number of applications assessed for heritage interest (excluding renewals and amended schemes):	1907 (including full, outline, pre-applications including major applications, listed building applications)
Number of applications with archaeological implications in 2019:	69
Number of applications with archaeological implications as a % of planning applications	2014 (for comparison) 5.3% 2015 3.3% 2016 4% 2017 4.5% 2018 3.1% 2019 3.6%

Table 2: Archaeological Fieldwork undertaken in 2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Evaluation trenching	12	8	15	8	13
Trial trenching (key hole investigation secured through a planning condition, usually because of pre-existing site constraints)	6	8	6	8	7
Archaeological excavations	7	8	5	6	9
Archaeological watching briefs (observation of ground works by a qualified archaeologist)	23	26	17	19	21
Historic building recording	10	11	4	11	9
Geophysical survey	3	2	2	1	4
Salvage record (reactive recording of an asset either because of non-compliance with a condition or because activity is outside planning control)	2	0	0	1	0

Table 3 Impacts on Scheduled Monuments within the Local Authority Area	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases requiring Scheduled Monument Consent in 2019	2	1	4	0	5
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for complete or partial loss of fabric or character requiring mitigation of damage	0	0	0	0	1
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for minor works without significant implications	2	1	1	0	4
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for repair and restoration of monuments	0	0	3	0	1

Outcomes from previous planning advice

The tables below provide data on the outcomes of development on archaeological assets and an assessment of impact based on definitions provided by the National Planning Policy Framework.

Table 4 Monitoring outcomes from previous planning advice	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of significant breaches of planning condition or damage cases recorded over the year	1	0	0	2	0
Non-compliance with an archaeological condition with unknown impact on asset/s	1	1	0	2	0
Non-compliance with archaeological condition with subsequent mitigation undertaken	0	0	0	0	0
Number of appeals allowed where archaeological policies are cited as a reason for refusal	0	0	0	0	0
Number of developments in 2019 within the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required a full excavation more than 25m ²	5	4	2	3	4
Number of developments in 2019 outside the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required an excavation more than 100m ²	1	3	2	0	4
Number of major archaeological excavations awaiting publication more than two years after the completion of fieldwork	7	6	10	13	13
Number of fieldwork events that did not encounter archaeologically significant assets (these may include sites where archaeological monitoring has been required to ensure that consented development does not impact on significant remains)	14	10	16	7	11
Number of cases in City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) where design was agreed, or design changes made, to avoid or achieve significant reduction in harm to or achieve significant preservation in situ of archaeological assets	3	2	3	2	2

Table 4 Monitoring outcomes from previous planning advice	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases outside City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) where design was agreed, or design changes made, to avoid or achieve significant reduction in harm/significant preservation in situ to archaeological assets	0	0	1	1	1

Table 5: Summary of archaeological assets impacted by development in 2019

Site Name	Type of Asset	Loss of asset without	Loss of asset with mitigation	Substantial loss of asset without mitigation	Substantial loss of asset with mitigation	Less than substantial loss of asset without mitigation	Less than substantial loss of asset with mitigation	Further characterisation of asset with limited intervention	New asset identified with limited intervention	Notes
The Perch Binsey	Medieval pits and ditches (settlement evidence).							●		Trial trench and watching brief on strip foundations revealed medieval features.
Armstrong Road, Littlemore Park	Early Iron Age and Roman settlement						●			Pits and ditches subject to open area excavation prior to housing development.
The Mitre	17 th century Inn and Medieval urban deposits							●		Building survey and watching brief during refit and rationalisation of service runs recorded medieval tenement remains (including an oven).
Eastgate Hotel	Medieval town wall bastion							●		Exposure of reworked town wall bastion prior to sensitive location of walkway foundation.
84 St Aldates	Post-medieval urban remains						●			Excavation of post-medieval made ground located below now reconstructed 17 th century range.
Eagle and Child/Green's Café	17 th -18 th town houses							●		Trial pit revealed medieval wall of earlier structure below the floor of the post-medieval building, belonging to an earlier structure.
Osney Power Station	Osney Abbey							●		Trial trenching revealed medieval pits and ditches contemporary with Osney Abbey.
Magdalen College Kitchen Yard	Hospital of St John the Baptist							●		Geotechnical pits revealed medieval walls likely belonging to the former Hospital of St John the Baptist.
Wadham College Crane Base	Burial ground of the Austin Friary							●		Targeted excavation for crane base pads managed to avoid friary burials.

Swan School	Iron Age Settlement and Roman Kiln				●					Open area excavation of Iron Age settlement and full excavation of Roman kiln compound which was unexpected and sat within area of consented attenuation tank.
Littlemore Hospital Land Adj	Iron Age field system and likely Roman cremations						●			Targeted excavation of Iron Age field system and preservation in situ of banjo enclosure.
Simon House	Castle Bailey Ditch							●		Borehole survey of the castle bailey ditch.
Gibbs Crescent	Osney Abbey							●		Evaluation trenching revealed pits, floor and hearth contemporary with Osney Abbey.
Headington School Extension	Roman settlement						●			Open area excavation of Roman settlement prior to construction of school building.
126 High Street	Medieval building							●		A large timber beam was exposed in a secondary location and re-used, originally a ceiling/floor beam, The size and nature of the beam was consistent with surviving in-situ-timberwork and a 15th- 16th century date is likely.
Land adjacent to Barton Manor	Medieval building and boundary ditch					●	●			Medieval and post medieval wall in poor repair recorded and rebuilt with significant loss of fabric. A medieval boundary ditch recorded (some loss from failure of applicant to undertake second stage works through miscommunication with contractors).
Christ Church Barn	19 th century barn							●		Building features recording during refit and extension work.
Corpus Christi New Service Main	Medieval buildings							●		Medieval walls exposed (close to the current ground surface) in service trenches.
Trinity College Garden	18 th century garden features and medieval				●					Open area excavation of medieval settlement remains and remnants of designed 18 th century garden including stone lined water feature. Works

	settlement remains									undertaken prior to sizable basement construction
Land north of Paradise Square	Sequence of Late-Saxon through to 13 th century structures and lane outside the Westgate						●	●		Evaluation and targeted excavation (with redesign of foundations to secure substantive preservation in situ).
The Toll House, Folly Bridge, Oxford	19 th century Toll House							●		Building record of Toll House made prior to minor works.
Jesus College, Northgate House	Post-medieval tenement							●		Trial trench revealed a pit containing horn cores and waste related to post-med/early modern tenement use (Further substantial excavation followed in 2020)
No 4 Beaumont Buildings	Post-medieval features? (tile and a stone well, cistern or ice house)							●		Small scale trial trench revealed features relating to a possible farm or town house shown on historic maps.
New College School	Well-preserved Roman settlement features and part of Civil War defences				●					Excavation spanning 2019-2020. Involved full excavation of the footprint of the school and removal of loam bank thought to be either part of the Civil War defences or predate them, also Roman oven, ditches and burials associated.
Between Towns Road (former petrol station site)	Roman features, possibly part of wider Roman							●		Trial trenching on Petrol Station site revealed Roman pits and ditches.

	manufacture- g compound									
Christ Church, Peckwater Quad, Staircase 9	Late-Saxon landscape							●		An archaeological watching brief during minor works in the basement floor revealed a number of likely Saxo-Norman pits containing pottery and animal bone and a probable rotary quern fragment.
Rhodes House	Civil War activity behind the Royalist Rampart							●		Evaluation trenching recorded a buried horizon that might be linked to the Civil War period (inconclusive)
TOTAL				0	3	1	6	19		

An overview of the patterns of archaeological fieldwork in 2019

The sites assessed in table 5 are mapped below in order to show the broad pattern of investigation.



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Fig 1. The historic core of Oxford with sites mentioned in table 5 marked in red.



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Fig 2. The wider Oxford area with sites mentioned in table 5 marked in red

Current archaeological planning policy and the preservation of archaeological remains

The new Oxford Local Plan Policy DH4 is reproduced below, it introduces a new emphasis on assessment of cumulative impacts on specific heritage asset types and community involvement (where feasible).

Within the City Centre Archaeological Area, on allocated sites where identified, or elsewhere where archaeological deposits and features are suspected to be present (including upstanding remains), applications should include sufficient information to define the character, significance and extent of such deposits so far as reasonably practical. This information should generally include:

a) a Heritage Assessment that includes a description of the impacted archaeological deposit or feature (including where relevant its setting), an assessment of its significance and the impact of the proposed development on its significance, in all cases using a proportionate level of detail that is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal. The Statement should reference appropriate records (including the information held on the Oxford Historic Environment Record); and

b) If appropriate, a full archaeological desk-based assessment and the results of evaluation by fieldwork (produced by an appropriately qualified contractor. Pre- application discussion is encouraged to establish requirements). In the City Centre Archaeological Area where significant archaeological asset types can be shown to be subject to cumulative impact from development, the desk-based assessment should contain appropriate contextual assessment of this impact.

Development proposals that affect archaeological features and deposits will be supported where they are designed to enhance or to better reveal the significance of the asset and will help secure a sustainable future for it.

Proposals which would or may affect archaeological remains or features which are designated as heritage assets will be considered against the policy approach as set out in policy DH4 DH3 above.

Archaeological remains or features which are equivalent in terms of their significance as to a scheduled monument are given the same policy protection as designated heritage assets. Proposals which affect the significance of such assets will be considered against the policy test for designated heritage assets set out in policy DH4 above.

Subject to the above, proposals that will lead to harm to the significance of non-designed archaeological remains or features will be resisted unless a clear and convincing justification through public benefit can be demonstrated to outweigh that harm, having regard to the significance of the remains or feature and the extent of harm.

Where harm to an archaeological asset has been convincingly justified and is unavoidable, mitigation should be agreed with Oxford City Council and should be proportionate to the significance of the asset and impact. The aim of mitigation should be where possible to preserve archaeological remains in situ, to promote public enjoyment of heritage and to record and advance knowledge. Appropriate provision should be made for investigation, recording, analysis, publication, archive deposition and community involvement.

Overview of 2019

Previously established development trends continued into 2019, these can be summarised as 1) pressure on historic college precincts from basement construction (Trinity College), 2) a pattern of hotel development to meet identified shortfalls in this sector (Paradise Square), 3) the development of new school facilities (Headington School and Swan School), 4) new infill housing development to meet extremely high local demand resulting in the infilling of green space (Land Adj Littlemore Hospital and Armstrong Road, Littlemore) 5) the further provision of student accommodation by redevelopment of brownfield suburban site (Balliol College Master's Field).

The year saw a number of modest scale central and suburban excavations covering a wider range of historic periods and site types than has been the norm over the last several years. Prehistoric settlement remains were examined at Littlemore and New Marston, and Roman remains at Littlemore, New Marston, Cowley and Headington. The excavations at New Marston involved the full excavation of a 3rd century Roman mortarium kiln, the first excavation of its kind in Oxford since the mid-1990s. Within the historic core of Oxford, a number of well-studied medieval sites saw further limited investigation, notably Osney abbey and the hospital of St John the Baptist.

Our understanding of the extent and character of the medieval town was also enhanced by the investigation of extra-mural suburban remains on Parks Road and at Paradise Square. Other notable sites include the former medieval and post-medieval barn at

Holywell, the Royalist Civil War rampart on Mansfield Road, and the remains of an eighteenth-century formal garden at Trinity College.

The larger recording projects in the hinterland of Oxford took place as the result of housing developments (Land adjacent to Littlemore Hospital and Armstrong Road, Littlemore) and school improvement schemes (the building of the new Swan School and new facilities at Headington School). Significant building developments within the medieval suburbs of the city resulted from hotel construction at Paradise Square (11th-13th century buildings) and the creation college student residences Balliol Master Field (periphery of the medieval suburb of Holywell) and at Trinity College (18th century formal garden). The Trinity development resulted in the excavation of a significant new basement and has resulted in the reduction of the distinctive 'wilderness' wooded area within expansive historic college grounds. The historic core of the city was also subject to a number of evaluations and small recording projects including a distinctive spike in historic building recording projects.

Public engagement with archaeological heritage

The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan 2013-2018 sets out the aspiration of the Urban Design and Heritage a Team to maintain a programme of public outreach including talks, walks and media engagement. Below a selection of outcomes related to archaeological outreach work in 2019 are highlighted:

- Outreach activities of The City Council Archaeologist (CCA) included a talk on Vikings for Beckley School and a talk at the annual OXPAST event organised by Oxford Architectural and Historical Society.
- The CCA released a video diary that was shared on social media on the excavations at the Swan School site: [Link to video diary of Swan School excavation on Facebook](#)
- A plaque highlighting the Civil War defences was unveiled by the Lord Mayor and the Warden of New College on Mansfield Road following the completion of the new music school which was designed to better reveal the surviving ramparts.

Further information on the results of archaeological fieldwork in the City can be found in the regularly produced Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum reports which are posted onto the archaeological page of the council website: [Link to City Council archaeology webpage](#)

Developing an archaeological research agenda for Oxford

In 2012 the City Council completed an English Heritage funded project to produce a synthesis of the available archaeological information for Oxford and set out a research agenda to inform future investigations. These reports formed part of the Oxford Archaeological Plan and can be viewed on the council website: [Link to Oxford Archaeological Plan webpage](#).

The archaeological investigations undertaken in 2019 have produced significant new data relevant to the 2012 research agenda and the table below seeks to illustrate how the various investigations fit into the agenda. It should be noted that many of the larger sites investigated in 2019 have not yet been subject to a detailed post-excavation study and therefore the full results are not yet known. The statements below are therefore provisional.

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
Armstrong Road, Littlemore Park	Spread of neatly cut Early Iron Age pits identified adding to our knowledge of the period which is poorly represented locally.	3.5.1 Evidence for early Iron Age settlement is sparse and remains a high priority for investigation 3.4/9. Lambrick (2010) has suggested that in the Thames Valley the transition from earlier Bronze Age hunter-gatherer groups to settled farms may have been a gradual trend from recurrent but dispersed occupation (both within and separate from enclosure) to more compact, organised settlement. By the early to middle Iron Age compact tightly constrained settlements, often indicative of more permanent year-round settlement, were typically located on topographical and/or land-use divisions. To what extent can this model be confirmed within the LAA?	Iron Age
Swan School	Middle to Late Iron Age settlement subject to open area investigation extending our knowledge regarding the scope and character of settlement along the Cherwell Valley	3.4.2 To what extent might changes in overall rural settlement density and hydrology explain the changing patterns of land-use on the 1st and 2nd gravel terrace? How do patterns of activity compare with similar Upper Thames complexes? 3.5.4 A general model for MIA settlement in the Upper Thames would be intensified occupation of the gravel terraces by the early 3rd century BC followed by a shift or abandonment in the 1st century BC possibly coinciding with the onset of clay alluviation. Can this model be confirmed and developed? How does this model for the gravel terraces contrast with activity on the Corallian Ridge?	
Littlemore Hospital Land Adj	Late Iron Age field system investigated	3.5.4 A general model for MIA settlement in the Upper Thames would be intensified occupation of the gravel terraces by the	

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
		early 3rd century BC followed by a shift or abandonment in the 1st century BC possibly coinciding with the onset of clay alluviation. Can this model be confirmed and developed? How does this model for the gravel terraces contrast with activity on the Corallian Ridge?	
Swan School	3 rd century Roman mortaria kiln excavated along with surrounding compound and waste tips. Significant excavation of an Oxford industry kiln suite that extends the known spread of the Alchester-Dorchester Road kiln sites further to the west to the east bank of the Cherwell river valley.	<p>4.4.3. Can the size and shape of identified Roman fields be related to agricultural regimes?</p> <p>4.5.3 What was the character of domestic settlement in the vicinity of the kilns?</p> <p>4.5.6 Can patterns of landscape re-organisation, migration of boundaries and patterns of disuse be further characterised?</p> <p>4.5.7 To what extent is the general regional pattern of 2nd century relocation and re-organisation of settlement patterns reflected within the LAA? There is some suggestion that Oxford was not as significantly affected as other areas. Why might this be?</p> <p>4.5.9 Is there a distinction between the material culture of settlements on the Dorchester-Alchester Road and rural settlement on the gravels?</p> <p>4.6.1 What is the full character and extent of manufacturing infrastructure within the LAA? Can well preserved kiln sites be identified and conserved?</p> <p>4.6.2 Of particular importance is the question of how the pottery industry organised in relation to the Roman economy; did potters form part of a larger cooperative or were they independent operatives? How, when and why was a greater uniformity of production achieved towards the height of the industry?</p> <p>4.6.3 What is the relationship between kilns, workshops, settlements, quarries, water sources and woodland?</p> <p>4.6.8 Does the appearance of technological knowledge from <i>Verulamium</i> and non-literate stamps indicate an influx of 'apprentice-potters' from <i>Verulamium</i>? Can the material culture of both areas provide any further insights?</p> <p>4.6.9 How can we explain the increasing uniformity of production in the late Roman period? Is there evidence for greater</p>	Roman

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
		<p>centralised control on the landscape, supply of materials etc.?</p> <p>4.6.10 Did the success of the industry feed into the material wealth of the LAA? If so how did this manifest itself and what does this tell us about the status of potter communities and local landowners?</p> <p>4.6.11 How do pottery production areas compare? Is there further evidence for formal layouts (like at Lower Farm), or for clean and well-ordered sites (i.e. Churchill Hospital), sites with mixed quality production (quantities of wasters etc.), or less well ordered sites?</p> <p>4.6.12 The fabric series of Roman pottery for the Oxford area was developed in the 1970s by Young and has remained the framework by which more recent pottery has been dated; however significant quantities of pottery from recent investigations such as at Headington, Blackbird Leys and Minchery Farm could contribute to a more detailed fabric series.</p> <p>4.6.13 Can further domestic settlement or burial evidence (e.g. like those close to kilns at Rose Hill) tell us more about the consumption, status and cultural identity of the potters?</p> <p>4.6.14 Can further workshop areas and manufacturing infrastructure and material culture be identified?</p>	
Headington School	Roman settlement and related enclosures investigated.	<p>4.5.6 Can patterns of landscape re-organisation, migration of boundaries and patterns of disuse be further characterised?</p> <p>4.5.7 To what extent is the general regional pattern of 2nd century relocation and re-organisation of settlement patterns reflected within the LAA? There is some suggestion that Oxford was not as significantly affected as other areas. Why might this be?</p>	
Littlemore Hospital Land Adj	Early Roman field system and cremation burials investigated.	<p>4.5.6 Can patterns of landscape re-organisation, migration of boundaries and patterns of disuse be further characterised?</p> <p>4.5.7 To what extent is the general regional pattern of 2nd century relocation and re-organisation of settlement patterns reflected within the LAA? There is some suggestion</p>	

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
		that Oxford was not as significantly affected as other areas. Why might this be?	
New College School	Roman settlement remains including well preserved oven, possible round house drip gullies and unusual combined prone and upward facing burials in same grave cut.	4.5.6 Can patterns of landscape re-organisation, migration of boundaries and patterns of disuse be further characterised? 4.5.7 To what extent is the general regional pattern of 2nd century relocation and re-organisation of settlement patterns reflected within the LAA? There is some suggestion that Oxford was not as significantly affected as other areas. Why might this be?	
Petrol Station site Between Towns Road	Roman pits and ditches likely forming edges of pottery manufacturing compound zone	4.5.3 What was the character of domestic settlement in the vicinity of the kilns? 4.5.6 Can patterns of landscape re-organisation, migration of boundaries and patterns of disuse be further characterised? 4.6.7 What is the full character and extent of manufacturing infrastructure within the LAA? Can well preserved kiln sites be identified and conserved? Of particular importance is the question of how the pottery industry organised in relation to the Roman economy; did potters form part of a larger cooperative or were they independent operatives? How, when and why was a greater uniformity of production achieved towards the height of the industry? What is the relationship between kilns, workshops, settlements, quarries, water sources and woodland? How do pottery production areas compare? Is there further evidence for formal layouts (like at Lower Farm), or for clean and well-ordered sites (i.e. Churchill Hospital), sites with mixed quality production (quantities of wasters etc.), or less well ordered sites?	
Christ Church, Peckwater Quad, Staircase 9	Saxo-Norman pits	5.5.19 19. Can we learn more about the laying out and development of early property division within the town?	Late Saxon
Land north of Paradise Square	Sequence of wooden and stone buildings of 11 th -13 th century date with evidence of industrial processes and finally a n-s trackway	6.4.1 The evidence currently points to economic expansion during this period, with new streets being laid out and suburban growth (at least by the end of the period). To what extent can the intra- and extra-mural growth be further characterised and understood?	Medieval

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
		<p>6.4.11 The spread of stone houses in the late 12th century suggests a period of economic prosperity. What can the distribution of stone houses and cellars tell us about commercial and domestic activity in the centre of the town? Can we establish how interior spaces were utilised?</p> <p>6.4.19 Can the examination of structures and material culture provide further insights into the character of the apparent 12th century revival of the town?</p> <p>6.5.1. The location and study of workshop spaces has great potential to enhance our understanding of craft industries, the social relations of production, social practices and production techniques.</p> <p>6.5.2. What can further investigation of charcoal deposits tell us about how fuel was sourced for the town? Can further field survey and investigation shed light on woodland management practices in the hinterland?</p> <p>6.5.4. Can continuity of Late Saxon manufacturing and commercial patterns be demonstrated? How did these change in character? Can areas of specialised production or commerce be identified?</p>	
Balliol College Masters Field	Large Medieval tithe barn excavated revealing information on layout and usage.	7.5.1 The archaeology of medieval Oxford has exceptional potential to clarify apparent patterns of economic expansion of the town in the 12th-early 13th century and the subsequent contraction and decline in the later 13th-15th centuries. To what extent can this pattern be refined with relation to geographical areas, trades and specific communities and institutions?	
The Perch, Binsey	Medieval pits and ditches (settlement evidence).	<p>7.5.1 The archaeology of medieval Oxford has exceptional potential to clarify apparent patterns of economic expansion of the town in the 12th-early 13th century and the subsequent contraction and decline in the later 13th-15th centuries. To what extent can this pattern be refined with relation to geographical areas, trades and specific communities and institutions? Can the assumed drivers of wealth creation in the wool and cloth trades be archaeologically identified? Can the subsequent apparent shift to service industries supplying the collegiate market be likewise identified? Are these proposed patterns of change reflected in the hinterland villages?</p> <p>7.5.2 The development of hinterland villages around Oxford is poorly understood. Less well-developed village cores may provide the best opportunities to study patterns of</p>	

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
		expansion and contraction and obtain representative rural assemblages	
Wadham College	Cemetery and other likely associated with the friary further investigated. The results were generally ephemeral information but adds to our understanding of a poorly understood site.	6.7.5 The character and extent of the early religious precincts are of considerable interest. 7.7.1. Can the material culture and architecture of the friaries and abbeys tell us more about the relative wealth and functions of rival orders?	
Proposed Garden Building, Trinity College	Medieval close boundary and oven provide evidence for poorly understood medieval expansion along Beaumont Road (Parks Road)	7.5.1 The archaeology of medieval Oxford has exceptional potential to clarify apparent patterns of economic expansion of the town in the 12th-early 13th century and the subsequent contraction and decline in the later 13th-15th centuries. To what extent can this pattern be refined with relation to geographical areas, trades and specific communities and institutions?	
Osney Abbey (Osney Power Station)	Walls, pits surfaces and timbers within the Abbey precinct, providing further information on character and extent of the Abbey layout.	7.7.1 The plan-form of a number of friaries and abbeys have been archaeologically investigated; can we learn more about the daily life within religious institutions – the diet and health, daily routine?	
Osney Abbey (Gibbs Crescent)	Pits and hearth within the Abbey precinct, providing further information on character and extent of the Abbey layout.	7.7.1 The plan-form of a number of friaries and abbeys have been archaeologically investigated; can we learn more about the daily life within religious institutions – the diet and health, daily routine?	
126 High Street	Reused timber identified of likely medieval date proving further information on the evolution and character of the building.	7.6.2 Can we further record patterns of changing building techniques in timber, stone and brick; chronology and distribution of different materials (Roof tiles, floor tiles, earliest use of brick)? What can the quality of building materials (e.g. cobb, wattle and daub, stone), framing/roof types etc. tell us about class/status in medieval Oxford (Munby 2008)?	
The Mitre	Medieval occupation layers and oven providing evidence for activity on this tenement prior to current 17 th century building.	7.5.7 Within the urban and suburban area can further urban patterns of tenement subdivision or alteration be identified?	
Eastgate Hotel	Bastion of medieval town wall exposed, providing clarification of position and character.	7.8.3 Can we further identify patterns of rebuilding and repair in the extant and buried fabric of the medieval town wall and its bastions?	
Magdalen College Yard	Evidence for reuse of medieval hospital walls for later college structures.	7.5.9 The Hospitals of St John and St Bartlemas are of great interest for studying the development of such institutions and their relationship with urban populations.	
Simon House	Further clarification of size and character of the castle bailey ditch retrieved from an	7.5.2 The potential of cess pits, Thames channels and the Castle precinct to preserve further evidence for	

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
	archaeological borehole transect.	leatherworking, woodworking and cordwainery should be highlighted.	
Land adjacent to Barton Manor	Extant walls of likely medieval date identified.	7.5.3 The development of hinterland villages around Oxford is poorly understood. Less well-developed village cores may provide the best opportunities to study patterns of expansion and contraction and obtain representative rural assemblages.	
Corpus Christi	Walls belonging to medieval structures predating the college identified.	7.6.2 Can we further record patterns of changing building techniques in timber, stone and brick; chronology and distribution of different materials (Roof tiles, floor tiles, earliest use of brick)?	
Jesus College	Walls, ovens and floors belonging to possible Tudor artisan's workshop.	7.9.2 2. The location and study of workshop spaces has great potential to enhance our understanding of craft industries, the social relations of production, social practices and production techniques.	
Proposed Garden Building, Trinity College	Water feature featured in William William's 1732 drawing of the Dutch garden at Trinity.	8.9.3 The archaeology of post medieval college gardens is an area that has been subject to only limited study. Can non-intrusive surveys within the quads and gardens contribute to our understanding of the evolution of the colleges?	Post medieval
No 84 St Aldates	Made ground forming the base of renovated rear 17 th century wing investigated.	8.7.11 What pattern of suburban growth and redevelopment in the late post medieval period can be identified in the archaeological record?	
Balliol College Master's Field	Likely Civil War contexts recorded (containing Charles ~I coin, musket balls, pottery) also layout of tithe barn that was demolished in the 19 th century.	8.12.1 Can the line, phasing and character of the Royalist defences and Parliamentarian siege works be further established? 8.7.12 Despite dating from Domesday Book and known to have been protected by earthworks during the Civil War, Holywell has not been subject to significant archaeological or documentary investigation so far. What would this contribute to our understanding of the settlement immediately to the north of the city? How far was the liberty of Holywell independent of the city?	
Christ Church Barn	Building features recording during refit and extension work.	8.9.3 The archaeology of post medieval college gardens is an area that has been subject to only limited study. Can non-intrusive surveys within the quads and gardens contribute to our understanding of the evolution of the colleges?	
Jesus College, Northgate House	Evidence for Horn core working	8.10.1 Can we more accurately plot and understand commercial and manufacturing areas within the town (e.g., tanning, brewing etc.). What evidence remains of specialised production related to academic life (e.g. bookbinding printing and paper-making?	

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
		<p>Can information of industrial processes be identified?</p> <p>8.10.2 The location and study of workshop spaces has great potential to enhance our understanding of craft industries, the social relations of production, social practices and production techniques. Can we identify evidence for small-scale production, for example brewing or manufacturing and servicing workshops for the colleges or other large institutions?</p>	
No 4 Beaumont Buildings	Evidence of townhouse or farm, possible ice house.	8.7.2 From a fairly small start Oxford grew dramatically from about the 1580s to the eighteenth century, largely driven by post-Reformation expansion of the University. This is clearly seen in the difference between the Agas map and the Loggan map of the city. This population growth was largely still confined within the walled town and the immediate suburbs. Can this growth be identified in terms of increased development across former open plots? Is there an increase in material domestic culture (pottery, food debris) over this period to suggest increased population?	
New College School	Royalist Civil War Rampart, including possible use of stacked turves.	8.12.1 Can the line, phasing and character of the Royalist defences and Parliamentary siege works be further established? Earthwork surveys of the extant defences would be of great value. Can geophysics tell us more about the Parliamentary siege works?	
Rhodes House	Layer of possible Civil War date behind Royalist Rampart.	8.12.1 Can the line, phasing and character of the Royalist defences and Parliamentary siege works be further established? Earthwork surveys of the extant defences would be of great value. Can geophysics tell us more about the Parliamentary siege works?	
The Toll House, Folly Bridge, Oxford	Building record of 19 th century Toll House	9.4.11 There is considerable scope for the further cataloguing and recording of public, commercial, leisure and utility buildings from this period (e.g. bakeries, laundries, butchers, brewing and malting structures, market gardening buildings, schools, courtrooms, prisons, police stations, fire stations, warehouses, factories, hospital structures, sports facilities and entertainment structures).	Modern

Other available monitoring data on the historic environment of Oxford

Additional monitoring indicators on the historic environment can be found in the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report available on the council website:

[Link to Oxford City Council annual monitoring report](#)

This records the following:

- The number of heritage assets at risk in the Local Authority Area as assessed by Historic England. Target: a decrease in Heritage Assets at risk or no net increase in Heritage Assets at risk (target derived from the Oxford Core Strategy).
- The number of applications involving the total, substantial or partial demolition of a listed building. Target: 0% Listed Building Consents or planning permissions approved by the City Council (target derived from the Oxford Core Strategy).
- The number of applications involving the demolition of a building that contributes to the character and appearance of a conservation area. Target: 0% Conservation Area Consents approved by the City Council contrary to officers' and Historic England's recommendation (target derived from the Oxford Core Strategy)
- The number of appeals allowed where conservation policies are as a reason for refusal. Target: 80% of appeals dismissed (target derived from the Oxford Core Strategy).

Glossary and definitions

Archaeological interest: There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.*

Conservation (for heritage policy): The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance.

Evaluation: Archaeological trench or trenches excavated before the determination of a planning application in order to characterise and understand any archaeological remains that may be present rather than fully record them.

Evidential value: Value deriving from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.

Geophysical survey: Non-intrusive ground-based physical sensing techniques used for archaeological imaging or mapping.

Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of Significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including through the local heritage asset register).

Historic environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.*

Historic environment record: An information service that seeks to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.*

National Planning Policy Framework: The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF states that Local planning authorities should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.

Mitigation: An archaeological mitigation strategy is a statement of proposals for reducing the overall effect of a development on archaeological remains within the site. The strategy will normally consist of one or more of the following: Preservation in-situ, modifications to the development design proposals and archaeological recording (excavation, watching brief etc.).

Research agenda: Research questions that we would like to answer by investigating archaeological remains.

Resource assessment: A summary of the information produced by previous archaeological fieldwork.

Significance (for heritage policy): The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

Substantial harm: The NPPF practice guidance states that what matters in assessing if a proposal causes substantial harm is the impact on the significance of the asset. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. While the impact of total destruction is obvious, partial destruction is likely to have a considerable impact but, depending on the circumstances, it may still be less than substantial harm or conceivably not harmful at all. Similarly, works that are moderate or minor in scale are likely to cause less than substantial harm or no harm at all. However, even minor works have the potential to cause substantial harm i.e. the scale of the works is not necessarily determinative of whether any harm caused is substantial or less than substantial. A key factor in determining whether the works constitute substantial (i.e. serious) harm is if the adverse impact goes to the heart of why the place is worthy of designation – why it is important enough to justify special protection.

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