

# Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2014



**Oxford City Council  
Design, Heritage and Specialist Services Team  
Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2014**

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*Left: Central cist burial at Littlemore Nunnery Church. Above right: Excavations at Barns Road, Cowley. Below right: An early Saxon Sunken Featured Building at East Minchery Farm Allotments.*

# Contents

Page

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## Executive summary

1) Introduction	3
2) The asset base	4
3) Planning advice and fieldwork statistics	5
4) Outcomes from previous planning advice	6
5) An overview of the patterns of archaeological fieldwork in 2014	13
6) Public engagement	16
7) Developing the archaeological research agenda	17
8) Other available monitoring data on the historic environment	20

Glossary and definitions	21
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Table 1: Planning applications to Oxford City Council 2014 and the number with archaeological implications	5
Table 2: Archaeological fieldwork undertaken in 2014	5
Table 3 Impacts on Scheduled Monuments within the Local Authority Area	5
Table 4 Monitoring outcomes from previous planning advice	6
Table 5: Summary of the types of impact on archaeological assets arising from development in 2014	7

## **Executive summary**

*The following report provides a short overview of the impact of development on archaeological assets in the Oxford Local Authority Area in 2014.*

*The report highlights the strong pressure on asset sustainability resulting from development within the City Centre Archaeological Area (as defined in the Local Plan) and the need to monitor the cumulative impact of these developments on significant Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval asset types.*

*Important in-situ medieval street frontage remains were excavated at Magdalen College New Library. These are likely to represent a rare survival of in-situ floor deposits and boundaries features in a main street frontage location of the type that elsewhere have often impacted by later cellars. The overall assessment of the cumulative impact of such investigations remains difficult because of the limited truncation and deposit model information available for such remains.*

*A number of other small scale interventions into medieval tenement plots represent small scale cumulative impact of these types of deposits. Elsewhere further investigations at New College Kitchen and Kitchen yard represent a continuing trend in investigating medieval college kitchen sites.*

*This year a number of suburban commercial developments were also progressed, one notably leading to a substantial excavation of the medieval cemetery at Littlemore Nunnery. There has therefore been some cumulative impact on medieval cemetery assemblages in recent years, with part of the medieval cemetery of the Hospital of St John the Baptist excavated in 2013.*

*Whilst infill development continues to be a notable trend in the suburban part of the City no other distinctive cumulative impacts on significant archaeological asset types have been identified.*

*This year's report also highlights the public benefit derived from developer funded archaeology in Oxford and links these investigations to the questions about our past that are being answered and refined by the availability of new data. The scope of public outreach over the year and the wider dissemination of archaeological information to the general public is also summarised.*

## **1) 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. This theme was anticipated by the Oxford Core Strategy (2011-2026) which sets a 2015 target for the production of a Heritage Plan for Oxford. One component part of the Heritage Plan that has already been completed is a six year Archaeological Action Plan (2013-2018)\* that establishes the objective of producing an annual monitoring statement for archaeological heritage assets. The aim being to capture data about the patterns of development impacts 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 2014. 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. The annual statement will provide a basis for monitoring the on-going cumulative impact of both development and asset management on the city's archaeological resource.

(\*[www.oxford.gov.uk/oap](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/oap) )

## 2) The asset base

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

- Over 1,500 listed buildings (this number includes individual listings and group listings). New buildings are being added to the list yearly. 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
- 12 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- 15 Registered Parks and Gardens

In addition to these designated assets 1,537 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 databases store complementary archaeological information about Oxford: the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) which covers the historic core of Oxford and the County Historic Environment Record (HER) which has historically covered the area outside the UAD.

### 3) 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 2013. Additional data is provided on the number of Scheduled Monument Consent notices issued by English Heritage over the course of the year.

<b>Table 1: 2014 Planning applications to Oxford City Council</b>	
Number of applications assessed for heritage interest (excluding renewals and amended schemes):	1247 (last calendar year figure was 1684 including renewals and amendments)
Number of applications with archaeological implications in 2014:	66 (5.3%) (last year's figure was 55 not including renewals and amended schemes)

<b>Table 2: Archaeological fieldwork undertaken in 2014 by type</b>	
Evaluation trenching	4
Trial trenching (key hole investigation secured through a planning condition, usually because of pre-existing site constraints)	6
Archaeological excavations	4
Archaeological watching briefs (observation of ground works by a qualified archaeologist)	14
Historic building recording	9
Geophysical survey	3
Salvage record (reactive recording of an asset either because of non-compliance with a condition or because activity is outside planning control)	0

<b>Table 3 Impacts on Scheduled Monuments within the Local Authority Area</b>	
Number of cases requiring Scheduled Monument Consent in 2014	1
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for complete or partial loss of fabric or character requiring mitigation of damage	0
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for minor works without significant implications	1
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for repair and restoration of monuments	0

#### 4) 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.

<b>Table 4: Monitoring outcomes from previous planning advice</b>	
Number of significant breaches of planning condition or damage cases recorded over the year	0
Non-compliance with an archaeological condition with unknown impact on asset/s	1
Non-compliance with archaeological condition with subsequent mitigation undertaken	0
Number of appeals allowed where archaeological policies are cited as a reason for refusal	0
Number of developments in 2014 within the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required a full excavation more than 25m <sup>2</sup>	3
Number of developments in 2013 outside the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required an excavation more than 100m <sup>2</sup>	3
Number of major archaeological excavations awaiting publication more than two years after the completion of fieldwork	7
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)	9
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	2
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	1





**Table 5: Summary of archaeological assets impacted by development in 2014.**

Site Name	Type of Asset	Loss of asset without mitigation	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
New College Kitchen	14 <sup>th</sup> century kitchen (Grade I listed)							●		Between January and May recording work continued at New College with further investigations into the medieval kitchen floor, service routes and exposed building fabric.
The Malt Barn, Iffley (Grade II)	Medieval and post-medieval building							●		Building appraisal and archaeological test pitting was undertaken. An earlier floor surface and a substantial floor timber bedded in a clay layer, which contained pottery of a 16th century date was recorded. The building recording suggests that the building had at least seven phases. The earliest phase is suggested by the remains of the probable medieval wall and a possible buttress exposed in a test pit. The next phase was the construction of a rectangular building in the 16th century, with subsequent phases of alteration continuing until the 1960s.
107 St Aldates	Post medieval town house							●		Building recording was undertaken prior to works to convert the structure from commercial to residential use. Productive discussions with the new owner have resulted in significant amendments to the proposed scope of works and the retention in situ of a number of significant internal historic features.

St Giles Church	Medieval church							●		Exploratory test pits near the porch of St Giles Church revealed a likely earlier foundation for the rebuilt medieval porch.
Headington School	Iron Age Settlement								●	A cluster of early Iron Age pits were recorded, suggesting the presence of previously unrecorded domestic activity in the vicinity.
St John's College The Presidents Garden	St Giles medieval occupation (rear of plot)							●		A field evaluation revealed a series of pits cut through the natural gravel. Pit digging activity was evident from the late 12th century onwards, with the majority of medieval finds dated to the later centuries of the medieval period (c. 1250 - 1500). The pits were possibly of a domestic nature, with the larger ones likely indicating quarrying for sands and gravels from perhaps as early as the 13th – 14th century.
St Peter's College. New Inn Hall Street	Medieval settlement							●		A trial pit revealed cut features of likely medieval or post-medieval date.
Luther Court, Thames Street	The Shirelake Stream (Holocene Channel)							●		Trial trenching and bore hole survey within the extent of the now in-filled Shire lake channel. Pits were recorded containing a large numbers of horn cores, suggesting that hide preparation, glue-making or some other process connected with leather-working was carried out in the vicinity in 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Channel fills containing finds of late medieval date were also noted. A Mesolithic radio-carbon date was recovered from the channel fill.
25 Broad Street	Post-medieval town house (grade II)							●		Building recording and a watching brief was undertaken during refurbishment works. Six phases of development from the 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century onwards

	listed)									were identified.
East Minchery Farm Allotments	Dispersed Early Saxon Settlement						●			Trial trenching and subsequent excavation recorded a small early Saxon sunken featured building. A small amount of pottery was recovered dating broadly to the 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> century and a radio carbon date was obtained from a charcoal deposit (Cal AD 546–638 (UBA-25532)).
Minchery Farm, Priory Hotel Site	Medieval Nunnery Church						●			The robbed out remains of the nunnery church foundations were recorded, providing a plan of the structure. The pile design was amended to secure the preservation in situ of the church plan.
Minchery Farm. Priory Hotel Site	Medieval cemetery				●					This was a historic planning consent that had a higher impact on significant assets than anticipated. Over 100 burials were excavated. The results have produced a data set of potentially high value. A wide variety of burial types (high status, prone, male, female and child) were recorded inside and external to the church.
Jesus College First Quad Water Tank	Intra mural Medieval occupation (back plot activity)						●			The construction of a water attenuation tank at this site led to a small excavation. The recorded a brushed mortar surface which may have been the original 17 <sup>th</sup> century surface of the first quadrangle. Below this the remains of post-medieval pits and a back-filled cellar, belonging to a 14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century hall. Further pits were recorded below.
University College Goodhart Building	Post-medieval coaching inn							●		A small scale excavation and watching brief was undertaken during new building works. A small part of the post-medieval Angel Inn was identified, the Angel was coaching inn

										demolished prior to the construction of the Examination Schools in the 1870s.
Brasenose College Old Cloister	Post-medieval floor layers						●			Excavation of 17 <sup>th</sup> century floors that survive as islands truncated by late 17 <sup>th</sup> century grave cuts (to be filled with inert material and left undisturbed). The work was to continue into 2015.
Barns Road	Medieval enclosures, quarry pits						●			Open area excavation on the edge of a rural settlement core. An initial phase of 11th to 13th century field or enclosure ditches were followed during the late medieval to very early post-medieval period by the digging of a series of quarry pits, probably to obtain the local sand-silt natural for construction purposes. Later activity during the later 18th century included the construction of a series of large wall foundations for agricultural buildings that are shown on the site in the early 19th century.
New College Cellar Link	Medieval college kitchen yard waste pits						●			An excavation was undertaken prior to the creation of an underground link between two wine cellars. The excavation revealed intercutting pits of medieval to post-medieval date containing kitchen waste. The assemblages from these waste pits, which included larger animal bones, are likely to complement the assemblage of smaller animal bones recovered during the recent excavation of the nearby 14th century kitchen floor.
Magdalen College, Longwall Quad.	High Street (Bridge Street) medieval						●			Full excavation within footprint of Library of in-situ floors, hearths and channels associated with a least three Bridge Street properties. Work will

	occupation									continue here into 2015. Tenement and street frontage deposits of this quality are rare and often disturbed by later cellars. The judgement of 'less than substantial loss' of this kind of asset is a difficult one as the survival of comparative deposits elsewhere along the street frontage is not well understood.
Canterbury Quadrangle, St John's College,	Post medieval college building (Grade I Listed)							●		Opening up work at C4.1, Canturbury Quadrangle, St John's College, revealed three sequences of work; 1630s construction of the floor by laying the joists on the bare ground and infilling with soil to act as support; the addition of a partition and relocation of a fireplace after 1888 and further partition work in the 1980s.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	



## 5) An overview of the patterns of archaeological fieldwork in 2014

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 pink..





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

The year saw the excavation of another significant burial assemblage at Littlemore Nunnery continuing a recent pattern of impacts on burial grounds and cemeteries in and around Oxford (In recent years part of the medieval cemetery belonging to St John's Hospital and the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century Radcliffe Infirmary Burial ground have been excavated). The excavation recovered a sizable assemblage of medieval burials and contact was made with Reading University regarding the potential to undertake additional isotopic analysis of the excavated remains. The substantive removal of the medieval cemetery in the vicinity of the nunnery church represents the biggest clear loss of a significant asset in the city this year.

The type of archaeological fieldwork undertaken in 2014 followed a similar pattern to that of recent years. Infrastructure projects by individual University Colleges have led to a number of medium and small scale excavations in central Oxford, some continuing on from last year and others started in 2014 and due for completion in 2015. The excavation begun at Magdalen College, which will continue into 2015, will result in the removal of significant medieval street frontage remains (floors, hearths, walls) preserved below the foundations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century school house later converted into the 'New Library'. Such street frontage deposits tend to be rare because of the amount of cellar construction that has taken place along the main street frontages. However the overall assessment of the cumulative impact of such investigations remains difficult because of the limited truncation and deposit model information available for such remains.

Small scale developments, extensions and building renovation projects have led to a steady flow of excavations, watching briefs and historic building recording work across the city. Whilst both broad and localised patterns can be identified in terms of the type and scale of these developments no further discernible cumulative impact on specific asset types can be identified from this year's results.



## 6) Public engagement with archaeological heritage

The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan 2013-2018 sets out the aspiration of the Design, Heritage and Specialist Services 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 2014 are highlighted:

- Public talks were undertaken by the City Council Archaeologist at the County OxPast and Festival of Archaeology events in June and July.
- Site visits were arranged for Archeox and OCCAF members to the Littlemore Nunnery Excavation.
- All meetings of the Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum (OCCAF) were attended by the City Council Archaeologist and OCCAF City reports summarizing recent archaeological work in the town have been made available through the council website.
- An annual summary of archaeological work in Oxford has been provided to the journal of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society (*Oxoniensia*) and to *South Midlands Archaeology* by the City Council Archaeologist.

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: [www.oxford.gov.uk/archaeology](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/archaeology).

## 7) 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: [www.oxford.gov.uk/oap](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/oap). The archaeological investigations undertaken in 2014 have created a great deal of data relevant to the research agenda. A full assessment of this contribution will be undertaken when the research agenda is subject to periodic review. Many of the larger sites investigated in 2014 have not yet been subject to a detailed post-excavation study and therefore the full results are not yet reported. However it is possible to provisionally relate a number of 2014 investigations to specific research questions identified in the research agenda.

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
Luther Court	Mesolithic radio carbon date obtained from peat sample. First clear date form this period for the St Aldates area. Contributes to research agenda question 1.3.3	There is considerable potential for the investigation of peat deposits within the Local Authority Area to contribute towards our understanding of climatic and environmental change during these periods.	Mesolithic
Headington School	Identification of a previously unknown focus of Early Iron Age activity. Contributes to research agenda question 3.5.1	Evidence for early Iron Age settlement is sparse and remains a high priority for investigation.	Iron Age
East Minchery Farm Allotments	The identification of a small sunken featured building. Likely to be part of an extensive and dispersed pattern of settlement north of the brook. Contributes to research agenda question 5.5.4	5.5.4 What was the extent and longevity of early settlement on the Corallian Ridge?	Early Saxon
Littlemore Nunnery (Minchery Farm)	Excavation of the robbed out church and associated cemetery containing a wide variety of burials (women, children, high and lower status) will contribute the following research questions 6.7.1 and 7.7.1 and 7.7.5	<p>Cemeteries are playing an increasingly important role in identifying population movement, health, and ethnicity; scientific investigation of skeletal material, in particular dating, stable isotope and DNA investigation should be prioritised for previously excavated and new skeletal material. The status and health of children, adolescents and women within such populations is of particular interest.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Can the material culture and architecture of the friaries and abbeys tell us more about the relative wealth and functions of rival orders?</p>	Norman and Medieval
Magdalen College Longwall Quad	Investigation begun on in situ floors, hearths and walls belonging to medieval properties fronting onto Bridge Street. Contributes to research questions 7.5.1, 7.5.7 ,7.6.5, 7.9.2	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	Medieval

		<p>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>Within the urban and suburban area can further urban patterns of tenement subdivision or alteration be identified?</p> <p>Can we further establish the character and ranking of town houses (Munby 2008)? What can patterns of rebuilding and growth tell us about patterns of changing wealth, agricultural change, new requirements, comfort, privacy etc (Munby 2008)?</p> <p>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>	
New College Kitchen	<p>Investigations into the medieval kitchen and buttery, including Hugh Herland's primary roof have provided a great deal of information about the construction of this exceptional 14<sup>th</sup> century college kitchen block. Contributes to research questions 7.6.2 and 7.10.2</p>	<p>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)?</p> <p>What evidence is there for the daily lives of the scholars and students? For diet and material culture? Can we further understand the provision of ancillary services to educational establishments?</p>	
New College Kitchen Cellar Link	<p>Investigations at New College Kitchen yard have provided an opportunity to examine deposits of medieval kitchen waste (larger animal bone assemblages that were cleared from the kitchen and dumped in the yard). Contributes to research questions 7.10.2 and 7.10.4</p>	<p>What evidence is there for the daily lives of the scholars and students? For diet and material culture? Can we further understand the provision of ancillary services to educational establishments for example was cooking for students undertaken in academic halls or elsewhere?</p> <p>What can structural evidence, artefacts and ecofacts tell us about the lifestyle and function of early colleges and the comparative wealth and status of institutions?</p>	
St Peter's College, Jesus College, St John's College, Barns Road.	<p>These four sites have provided limited opportunities to examine medieval rubbish pits and their assemblages. Contributes to research questions 7.12.4 and 7.12.5</p>	<p>Mapping of environmental and ecofactual evidence; what can distributions of animal bone tell us about medieval domestic and industrial life?</p> <p>What can the patterning of waste disposal tell us about the wealth and specialisms of different urban and suburban areas?</p>	
Jesus College First Quad Water Tank	<p>Excavation of medieval pits associated with the plot of a former academic hall. Contributes to research questions 7.10.2 and 8.9.2</p>	<p>What evidence is there for the daily lives of the scholars and students? For diet and material culture? Can we further understand the provision of ancillary services to educational establishments.</p> <p>What was the fate of the academic hall in the post medieval period? Where did they survive into the 16th century and how did they compare to the colleges in terms of material culture and diet?</p>	
Barns Road	<p>Investigation of 11th to 13th century field or enclosure ditches and later medieval</p>	<p>The development of hinterland villages around Oxford is poorly understood. Less well-developed village cores may provide the best opportunities</p>	

	quarry pits, Contributes to research question 7.5.3	to study patterns of expansion and contraction and obtain representative rural assemblages	
The Malt Barn, Iffley, 107 St Aldates & 25 Broad Street	Investigation of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Iffley Malt Barn (with medieval origins), 107 St Aldates (an early 17th century Town House- not listed) and 25 Broad Street (a 17th century Town House). Contributes to research question 8.8.1	A greater emphasis on the investigation and recording of post medieval structures within the district is required from domestic to civic to industrial structures because of the greater pressures on these structures. There is an increasing need to document in detail nationally important listed buildings as well as those structures of a more local interest.	Post-medieval
Barns Road	Investigation of 18 <sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings. Contributes to research question 8.6.1	To what extent was the agricultural land around Oxford subject to early private enclosure? Can a cartographic study of the district help to reconstruct the medieval and post medieval agricultural landscape? i.e. patterns and directions of ridge and furrow, early enclosure, drainage, and field systems for each township?	
Magdalen College Longwall Quad	Investigation begun on in situ floors, hearths and walls belonging to post-medieval properties fronting onto Bridge Street. Contributes to research questions 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 (or subdivisions of existing plots)? Is there an increase in material domestic culture (pottery, food debris) over this period to suggest increased population?	
Brasenose College Old Cloister	Investigation begun on floor layers belonging to early 17 <sup>th</sup> century buildings. Contributes to research question 8.9.4	What can structural, artefactual or ecofactual evidence tell us about the lives of fellows and students? How did these differ from the other inhabitants of the town?	
Luther Court	Evidence for early modern industrial working. Contributes to research question 9.5.3	Sites related to specialised local production may warrant targeted recording (e.g. printing, brewing, tanneries, paper and card board production, boat making).	Modern

## **8) 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 April 2013-March 2014 available on the council website: [www.oxford.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/planningpolicy).

This records the following:

- The number of heritage assets at risk in the Local Authority Area as assessed by English Heritage. 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 English Heritage'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.