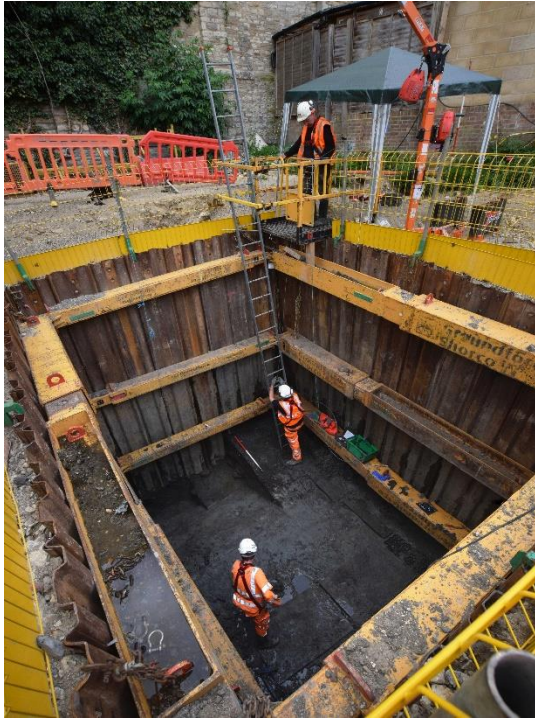


# Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2021



Oxford City Council, Urban Design and Heritage Team  
Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2021

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*Cover photographs-. Top left: Excavation of the Castle Bailey Ditch at Paradise Street (Courtesy of Oxford Archaeology), top right: Trench investigating the line of Shidyerd Street at Corpus Christi College, bottom left: Medieval floor tile from the Oxford Blackfriars, bottom right: A medieval door uncovered in the Old Library, Christ Church (Courtesy of Graham Keevill).*

## Executive summary

The following report provides an overview of the impact of development on archaeological assets in the Oxford Local Authority Area in 2021.

The year saw a number of small and medium scale archaeological excavations take place as developments put on hold because of Covid were brought forward. A number of these involved targeted excavated of important medieval assets located within the historic core of the city. Notable heritage assets that were impacted include the Dominican Friary, Osney Abbey, the Castle Bailey ditch, the medieval town ditch and medieval Shidyerd Street. All these interventions representing relatively small but cumulative impacts on important assets.

A notable pattern this year, as with pre-Covid years, has been the upgrading of University and College facilities, notably a major redevelopment of the garden at Rhodes House and rebuilding of the University's Tinbergen Building on South Parks Road leading to the further identification and recording of prehistoric and Civil War remains to the north of the town. Within the historic core work to upgrade the Old Library at Christ Church led to remarkable discovery of previously unrecorded medieval fabric (i.e. remains of the former Augustinian Priory).

Alongside these targeted excavations and building recording projects the year saw a moderate amount of evaluation work around the periphery of the city relating to infill housing developments, revealing previously unknown Roman sites in Iffley and Cowley.

Over the year Outreach work continued to be well received with increased social media interest in archaeological discoveries in addition to the usual well attended public talks by the City Council archaeologist and project related outreach.

## *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 2021. 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 2021 the National Heritage List recorded 1186 listed building designations for Oxford, this is an increase of one since the following year) 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 3254 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 2021. 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):	1649 (including full, outline, pre-applications, major applications, listed building applications)
Number of applications with archaeological implications in 2021:	55
Number of applications with archaeological implications as a % of planning applications	2015 (for comparison) 3.3% 2016 4% 2017 4.5% 2018 3.1% 2019 3.6% 2020 2.6% 2021 3.4%

<b>Table 2: Archaeological Fieldwork undertaken in 2019</b>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Evaluation trenching	8	15	8	13	9	11
Trial trenching (key hole investigation secured through a planning condition, usually because of pre-existing site constraints)	8	6	8	7	2	5
Archaeological excavations	8	5	6	9	2	10
Archaeological watching briefs (observation of ground works by a qualified archaeologist)	26	17	19	21	23	17
Historic building recording	11	4	11	9	9	5
Geophysical survey	2	2	1	4	8	3
Salvage record (reactive recording of an asset either because of non-compliance with a condition or because activity is outside planning control)	0	0	1	0	2	0

<b>Table 3 Impacts on Scheduled Monuments within the Local Authority Area</b>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of cases requiring Scheduled Monument Consent	1	4	0	5	1	1
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for complete or partial loss of fabric or character requiring mitigation of damage	0	0	0	1	0	0
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for minor works without significant implications	1	1	0	4	1	1
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for repair and restoration of monuments	0	3	0	1	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.

<b>Table 4 Monitoring outcomes from previous planning advice</b>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of significant breaches of planning condition or damage cases recorded over the year	0	0	2	0	0	1
Non-compliance with an archaeological condition with unknown impact on asset/s	1	0	2	0	0	0
Non-compliance with archaeological condition with subsequent mitigation undertaken	0	0	0	0	2	1
Number of appeals allowed where archaeological policies are cited as a reason for refusal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of developments in 2021 within the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required a full excavation more than 25m <sup>2</sup>	4	2	3	4	2	3
Number of developments in 2021 outside the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required an excavation more than 100m <sup>2</sup>	3	2	0	4	0	2
Number of major archaeological excavations awaiting publication more than two years after the completion of fieldwork	6	10	13	13	9	8
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)	10	16	7	11	14	15



<b>Table 4 Monitoring outcomes from previous planning advice</b>	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
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	3	2	2	3	3
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	1	1	1	0	0

**Table 5: Summary of archaeological assets impacted by development in 2020 (blank page below)**

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
<i>Murco Service Station site Between Towns Road</i>	Fringe of Roman pottery manufacturing area	•								Work undertaken in non-compliance with condition. Under investigation.
<i>Rhodes House, South Parks Road</i>	Civil War Royalist defences						•			Excavations undertaken prior to the construction of new basements east and west of Rhodes House revealed a small sections of Civil War ditch.
<i>Rhodes House, South Parks Road</i>	Iron Age roundhouse forming part of settlement						•			Excavations undertaken prior to constructions of new basements east and west of Rhodes House revealed a small area of Iron Age settlement.
<i>Herford College</i>	Hertford Hall and Black Hall (Academic Halls)							•		An evaluation recovered a medieval drain, waste pit and miscellaneous demolition levels.
<i>No 12 Crick Road</i>	Iron Age settlement remains							•		An Iron Age pit and a post-medieval pit were identified in a soakaway in the garden along with other undated features.
<i>Christ Church Brew House (Archives building)</i>	Brewhouse of likely 16th century date. The site is of further interest as the							•		Buried walls comprising of high-quality ashlar blocks were noted running below the standing structure, it was observed that the north wall of the brewhouse is notably thick and an identified cross-wall could be a broad offset

	approximate location of the first site of the Oxford Blackfriars									footing. The evidence suggests that remnants of an earlier building (perhaps the medieval Canon Law School) survive here.
<i>No 74 Walton Street</i>	Post medieval settlement boundary on Walton Street							•		Trial trenching and watching brief observed 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> finds and a boundary ditch.
<i>Armstrong Road, Littlemore</i>	Early to Middle Iron Age settlement							•		Excavations revealed a series of steep sided flat based storage pits along with pottery, bone and a single crouched inhumation of Middle Iron Age date.
<i>Armstrong Road, Littlemore</i>	Roman ditches, pit and kiln lining.							•		Excavations revealed ditches and pits either forming part of a field system or settlement fringe.
Castle Hill House, New Road (Bulwarks Lane)	Mid-19th century town house.		•							Historic building recording was undertaken prior to demolition of a Victorian townhouse.
<i>The Life and Mind Building (Tinbergen Building), South Parks Road</i>	Civil War Royalist defensive line							•		An evaluation identified the line of the Royalist Civil War defences and allowed preservation in situ below the temporary compound. A subsequent strip of the basement extension revealed a small number of possible late Iron Age or Roman features.

<i>Northgate House, Cornmarket</i>	Medieval tenement remains							•		An excavation of the proposed sub-station extension footprint revealed a series of medieval (and potentially late-Saxon) pits cut into the natural gravel, revealing pottery, bone and fragments of daub.
<i>St Peter's College, Castle Hill House</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century canal basin office							•		A trial trench revealed the well preserved partially demolished remains of a building associated with the 18th-19th century canal basin.
<i>Nos 1-3 George Street</i>	Medieval town ditch							•		A watching brief recorded information on the post-medieval fill of the town ditch.
<i>North Bailey House, New Inn Hall Street</i>	Medieval settlement remains							•		A watching brief during geotechnical investigations revealed medieval pits and finds below the basement slab.
<i>Boswells Department Store Broad Street</i>	Late Saxon and medieval town ditch sequence.							•		The excavation of late 15th-early 16th century fills from the town ditch, produced moderate amounts of bone and pottery along with cessy fills suggestive of soil /night soil dumping into the ditch close to the North Gate. Borehole profiles across the two phase of Late Saxon and Norman ditch were recorded with scientific dating forthcoming
<i>Lucy Faithfull House,</i>	Oxford Blackfriars							•		Excavations targeted the footprints of new stair cores,

<p><i>Speedwell Street</i></p>	<p>(west range of main cloister, church and galilee?)</p>									<p>ground beams, pile caps and service routes revealing part surfaces belonging to the possible galilee (a porch area where penitents could wait outside the friary church before confession), fragments of painted glass from the west end of the church and floors and walls from the interior of the west range of the main cloister. Other features included waste pits from the friary garden, monumentally large bedding trenches for the primary walls of the main cloister (these were found to be deep stone filled trenches reaching 1.6m through the water table down to or just above the natural gravel) and a stone coffin lid (carefully covered over and left in situ).</p>
<p><i>The Old Library, Christ Church</i></p>	<p>Medieval southern cloister of the former St Frideswide's Priory with multiple rebuilds.</p>							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		<p>The Old Library at Christ Church originated as part of the southern cloistral range of the medieval Priory of St Frideswide's, forming the <i>Frater</i> (or refectory), however it was substantively rebuilt in the 17th century and has undergone multiple later rebuilds and refits. Plasterboard surrounds were removed from the third floor revealing datable 13th century colonettes. Other remarkable discoveries include the survival of 15th century arcading on the north, south and east interior wall of the</p>

										building that had been cut back and covered over by later building phases. Also of great interest is the painted medieval pulpit that survives within the range and is to be subject to conservation work by Cliveden Conservation.
<i>Simon House, Paradise Street</i>									•	A targeted small but deep excavation of the Castle Bailey ditch was undertaken at Simon House. This is the first time the ditch has been bottomed by controlled excavation. The excavation and adjacent water monitoring established that whilst the ditch remains periodically wet and preserves organic material the water table sits below the base of the ditch, which becomes energised after rainfall. The dig revealed a barrel with cessy fill (possibly used as a toilet by the occupants of housing established in the edge of the ditch by the 17th century) and a central post medieval recut revetted with wooden stakes. Below this tips of pottery, bone and shoe leather were recorded, with the unlined base of the ditch formed by the Oxford Clay. Two distinctive pieces of moulded stone were found dumped into the ditch could conceivably be from the former church of St Budoc's that was demolished to make way for the

										castle barbican in the early 13th century. A previously unrecorded 15th century recut of the ditch was identified.
<i>Corpus Christi College, New Archive Building</i>	Late Saxon and medieval street surfaces.						•			A small excavation on the line of Oriel Street (formerly Shidyerd Street) recorded road surface sequences down to an early compacted gravel layer that was covered by a thin organic silt and pierced by a wooden stake. Later medieval pits were found cut into the edge of the road. The hope is that scientific dating may help to establish the date of this early sequence.
<i>No 1 Acer Walk</i>	Late 19th or early 20th century electricity sub-station.							•		Historic building recording was undertaken prior to the conversion of a 19th or early 20th century electricity sub-station into a residential dwelling. Few internal fixtures and fittings survived, however two phases of building development were recorded and internal details were noted such as the staircase supplied by George Wright & Co London.
<i>Osney Power Station, Arthur Street</i>	Building associated with medieval precinct of Osney Abbey						•			Excavation at Osney Power Station prior to conversion of the structure into an accommodation block for the Said Business School. The site is located just within the projected northern extent of the former medieval precinct of Osney Abbey. A series of medieval makeup layers, roofing debris and



										pits were recorded along with horn cores suggesting medieval leather working activity. To date no clear structures or particularly artefact rich assemblages have been encountered suggesting that this part of the precinct had a utilitarian function.
<i>Land to rear of No 1 Fisher Row (former soap factory)</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> century utilitarian building associated with Morrell's Brewery.									Historic building recording was undertaken by on the brick built curtilage structure behind No 1 Fisher row prior to its conversion for residential use. The building is believed to be linked to the operation of the Morrell Brewery.
<i>Land at Northfield Hostel, Littlemore</i>	Roman settlement							•		Evaluation trenching on land at Northfield Hostel, Littlemore, revealed evidence for a previously unrecorded area of Roman settlement activity. This comprised of a number of ditches and post holes associated with large sherds of domestic Roman pottery. The evidence suggests a mid-2nd to the 4th century date range for the site. No evidence for industrial activity was recovered. The molluscan evidence suggested an open landscape in the immediate vicinity of the ditches.
<i>Court Place Gardens, Iffley</i>	Roman settlement							•		An archaeological evaluation of identified an early Roman ditch along with two undated ditches of similar character. The ditches were of different alignments and may represent sequences of agricultural

											field systems or agricultural/domestic enclosures located near the high ground at Iffley Church. One ditch produced animal bone and large pieces of Roman pottery suggesting domestic activity in the immediate vicinity
<i>TOTAL</i>		1	1	0	0	0	5	17	0		

## An overview of the patterns of archaeological fieldwork in 2021

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 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-designated 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 2021

The year saw a number of excavations take place as developments put on hold because of Covid were brought forward. A number of these involved targeted excavated of important medieval assets located within the historic core of the city. At Lucy Faithfull House poor evaluation results and an overestimation regarding the level of modern truncation led to an expanded excavation programme in advance of redevelopment. That investigated parts of the western cloister, church and galilee of the Dominican Friary, a nationally significant site that has been subject to extensive previous development and overall fragmentation from piecemeal development. A strong focus was placed on the preservation in situ of buried human remains within and west of the friary church which was achieved by bridging ground beams over sensitive areas.

The re development of the southern yard of the former Osney Power Station led to a small area excavation of buildings associated with the medieval Osney Abbey. Elsewhere the Castle Bailey ditch, the medieval town ditch and medieval Shidyerd Street were investigated. All these interventions representing relatively small but cumulative impacts on important assets.

The year saw further progress in identifying and characterising parts of the Royalist Civil War defences, the exact sequence and location of which remain poorly understood and have previously mapped onto the Urban Archaeological Database based on an extrapolation of the 1644 De Gomme plan.

A notable pattern this year has been the upgrading of University and College facilities in the leading to prehistoric and Civil War discoveries to the north of the town and remarkable discoveries of previously unrecorded medieval fabric at Christ Church (remains of the former Augustinian Priory).

Alongside these targeted excavations the year saw a moderate amount of evaluation work around the periphery of the city relating to infill housing developments, revealing previously unknown Roman sites in Iffley and Cowley.

## Public engagement with archaeological heritage

Outreach work continued to be well received with increased social media interest in local archaeological discoveries in addition to the usual well attended public talks by the City Council archaeologist.

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 2021 are highlighted:

- Outreach activities of The City Council Archaeologist (CCA) included a talk on recent archaeological work in Oxford for the Festival of Archaeology (Organised by Oxford Archaeological Trust).
- An oral history project, required when the Ruskin College Walton Street building was converted/rebuilt for use by Exeter College, is now online. The project captures personal memories of people connected to the college to record the important role it played in people's lives: [Link to Chronicle Storytelling Ruskin page](#).
- A grand opening was held for the Swan School in New Marston in September with Dame Sarah Gilbert, and provided an opportunity to display some of the Roman handling collection from the site and hand out leaflets about the Cotswold Archaeology

excavation that took place before building work for the school began. The dig revealed a series of Iron Age enclosures and a Roman mortaria kiln. *For more information on the dig see:* <https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/the-iron-age-and-roman-settlements-at-swan-school/>

- In December 2021 the annual 'Oxford top 10 archaeological digs of the year' tweet series was expanded this year and reached a record audience with 78,408 organic impressions and 5,217 engagements. [https://twitter.com/davidradford\\_ox](https://twitter.com/davidradford_ox)

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 2021 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 2021 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	<p>Early Iron Age settlement.</p> <p>Previously unknown area of activity with distinctive storage pit morphology.</p>	<p>3.5.1 Evidence for early Iron Age settlement is sparse and remains a high priority for investigation</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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?</p>	Iron Age
No 12 Crick Road	<p>Late Iron Age features</p> <p>Further details character of north</p>	3.4.7 Can mixed farming patterns be demonstrated to be reasonably uniform	



Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
	Oxford IA settlement/activity zones	and un-specialised across the floodplain, terrace and ridge?	
Northfield Hostel	Roman domestic settlement  Previously unknown settlement site	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?  4.5.9 Is there a distinction between the material culture of settlements on the Dorchester-Alchester Road and rural settlement on the gravels?	Roman
Court Place Gardens, Iffley	Roman domestic settlement  Previously unknown settlement site	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?	
Castle Hill House	Castle bailey ditch sectioned.  Potential identification of western primary burh ditch (to be subject of further PX work). Major advance in understanding of emerging urban topography. Suggestion (along with the Boswells results) of a major (and previously unknown) pre Conquest reordering of the urban area/defences.	6.11.1 The character and extent of the early Norman Castle precinct and its impact on the west end of the burh require further investigation. How did the Castle precinct develop?	Norman
Simon House	Castle bailey ditch sectioned.	6.11.1 The character and extent of the early Norman Castle precinct and its impact on the west end of the burh	

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
	Previously unrecorded 15 <sup>th</sup> century recut sequence.	require further investigation. How did the Castle precinct develop?	
Northgate House	Norman waste pits excavated.  Early activity on Market Street	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 on the period). To what extent can the intra- and extra-mural growth be further characterised and understood?	
Christ Church, Old Library	New 13 <sup>th</sup> century and other medieval architectural detail revealed.  Details of Augustinian Priory layout and information on the architectural character and detailing revealed	7.7.5 Can the material culture and architecture of the friaries and abbeys tell us more about the relative wealth and functions of rival orders?	Medieval
Boswells	Medieval town ditch investigated	7.12.5. What can the patterning of waste disposal tell us about the wealth and specialisms of different urban and suburban areas?	
Hertford College	Evaluation within Main Quad	7.10.4 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?	
Nos 1-3 George Street	Town ditch investigated  Details of fill and re-cutting sequence recovered including dumped masonry and leather.	7.12.5. What can the patterning of waste disposal tell us about the wealth and specialisms of different urban and suburban areas?	
Osney Power Station	Building within precinct of Osney Abbey excavated.  Details of utilitarian structures and rubbish deposits.	7.7.5 Can the material culture and architecture of the friaries and abbeys tell us more about the relative wealth and functions of rival orders?	
	Medieval pits belonging to settlement within the poorly understood	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	

Site	Notes	Research Question	Period
	historic core of the village.	expansion and contraction and obtain representative rural assemblages.	
Lucy Faithfull House	The Blackfriars (Dominican Studium Generale). Information on building sequence, architectural detail and density and location of burials.	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?  7.7.10 Do the early ecclesiastical sites preserve any material culture or structural elements that can be associated with the development of learning (styli, book clasps, lamps, libraries etc.)? Such features and objects would be of particular interest.	
Corpus Christi	Route of Shidyerd Street examined  Early street surfaces recorded along with dumped waste and peripheral pits and wooden stake.	7.11.1 How and where was the street grid amended and repaired during the medieval period?	
Rhodes House	Royalist Civil War Defences  Construction details and line of defences identified with possible parallel linear features.	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?	Post Med
Tinbergen Building and compound	Royalist Civil War Defences.  Construction details and line of defences identified	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?	
St Paul's House, Walton Street	Post medieval boundary investigated.  Small insight into a poorly understood suburb.	8.7.11 What pattern of suburban growth and redevelopment in the late post medieval period can be identified in the archaeological record?	
1 Acer Walk	19 <sup>th</sup> c electricity substation recorded.  An early example.	9.4.2 There is considerable scope for the survey and cataloguing of Early Modern civic and private street furniture and infrastructure.	

## 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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