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OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2017

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Oxford City Council, Urban Design and Heritage
Annual Monitoring Statement for Archaeological Assets 2017

Contents

Cover photograph- View of a large Roman ditch being excavated by Southampton Archaeology in 2017 at the Swan Motors site, Between Towns Road, Cowley (Reproduced courtesy of Southampton Archaeology).

Executive summary

The following report provides an overview of the impact of development on archaeological assets in the Oxford Local Authority Area in 2017.

This year saw a distinctive break from the established pattern of previous years which has been that of small, medium and large development schemes taking place within the historic core of the city. Instead the new Oxford Road Sports ground and brownfield residential redevelopment at the Swan Motors site on Between Towns Road, both located on the suburban periphery, saw rural Romano-British remains excavated, producing the first significant Roman archaeology in the city for over a decade.

Furthermore the extensive evaluation of the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme channel route resulted in detailed geo-archaeological, geophysical and trenched investigation of a previously unexplored landscape across a significant area of the Thames floodplain within Oxford City and the Vale of the White Horse. It should also be noted that heritage concerns, primarily the desirability of protecting the Norman fabric of the stone flood arches/causeway at Old Abingdon Road, were central in determining the proposed route of the new channel in this location.

The historic core of the city was subject to a number of evaluations and small recording projects that have produced significant new information. The trend highlighted in previous reports of cumulative impact on archaeological remains (relating to domestic tenements and institutional plots) belonging to the Late Saxon and medieval town looks set to continue in future years. There has also been a steady trend of small scale development impacts on parts of the infilled Royalist Civil War defensive ditch.

This report highlights the development pressure being faced by assets across Oxford, notably 1) ongoing pressure on assets within the historic core through college and commercial development 2) development on allocated brownfield and greenfield sites located on the fringe of the city, a process that may gather in momentum over the next few years and 3) development in the previously undisturbed floodplain related to the proposed flood alleviation channel.

This report also summarises the public outreach work undertaken this year, notably public display of the medieval tiled pavement from the Franciscan Friary within the newly opened shopping centre.

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 established a 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 2017. 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 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)

2) 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 2017 the National Heritage List recorded 1182 listed building designations for Oxford) The list is includes:
    - 12% grade I listed buildings (the national average is 2%)
    - 8% grade II* listed buildings (the national average is 4%)
    - 11 new listed buildings have been designated in Oxford in 2017
- 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 God stow Abbey (County No 173) and the extension to Port Meadow (County No 120003) are amalgamated with God stow 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 3150 records (Oxford District Search). This number is likely to decline in the short term as duplicates are removed.

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 2017. 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):	1810 (including full, outline, pre-applications including major applications, listed building applications)
Number of applications with archaeological implications in 2017:	81
Number of applications with archaeological implications as a % of planning applications	2014 (for comparison) 5.3% 2015 3.3% 2016 4% 2017 4.5%

Table 2: Archaeological fieldwork undertaken in 2017 by type				
	2014 (for comparison)	2015	2016	2017
Evaluation trenching	4	12	8	15
Trial trenching (key hole investigation secured through a planning condition, usually because of pre-existing site constraints)	6	6	8	6
Archaeological excavations	4	7	8	5
Archaeological watching briefs (observation of ground works by a qualified archaeologist)	14	23	26	17
Historic building recording	9	10	11	4
Geophysical survey	3	3	2	2
Salvage record (reactive recording of an asset either because of non-compliance with a condition or because activity is outside planning control)	0	2	0	0

Table 3 Impacts on Scheduled Monuments within the Local Authority Area				
	2014 (for comparison)	2015	2016	2017
Number of cases requiring Scheduled Monument Consent in 2017	1	2	1	4
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for complete or partial loss of fabric or character requiring mitigation of damage	0	0	0	0
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for minor works without significant implications	1	2	1	1
Number of Scheduled Monument consents for repair and restoration of monuments	0	0	0	3

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.

Table 4: Monitoring outcomes from previous planning advice				
	2014 (for comparison)	2015	2016	2017
Number of significant breaches of planning condition or damage cases recorded over the year	0	1	0	0
Non-compliance with an archaeological condition with unknown impact on asset/s	1	1	1	0
Non-compliance with archaeological condition with subsequent mitigation undertaken	0	0	0	0
Number of appeals allowed where archaeological policies are cited as a reason for refusal	0	0	0	0
Number of developments in 2017 within the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required a full excavation more than 25m^2	3	5	4	2
Number of developments in 2017 outside the City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) that required an excavation more than 100m^2	3	1	3	2
Number of major archaeological excavations awaiting publication more than two years after the completion of fieldwork	7	7	6	10
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	14	10	16
Number of cases in City Centre Archaeological Area (defined in the Local Plan) where design	2	3	2	3

was agreed, or design changes made, to avoid or achieve significant reduction in harm to or achieve significant preservation in situ of archaeological assets				
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	0	0	1

Table 5: Summary of archaeological assets impacted by development in 2017.										
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**
Oxford Flood Alleviation Channel Route	Multiple prehistoric activity areas, Norman causeway and smaller medieval causeway							●		Extensive archaeological trenching was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology along the route of the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Channel as part of a comprehensive programme of evaluation. A total of 189 trenches were excavated in the floodplain within the City of Oxford and the Vale of the White Horse. An extensive programme of soil and sediment sampling from archaeological features, paleo channels and alluvial sequences was completed. A full summary of the results of this large project is beyond the scope of this note, but however one evocative discovery was a previously unknown metalled stone causeway encountered to the south of Willow Walk complete with cart ruts and with a late- medieval horseshoe recovered from its surface. A previous pre-determination evaluation of the Norman Causeway along the the Old Abingdon Road (not previously reported) revealed the northern boundary ditch of the causeway route containing rich environmental remains and also traces of the repaired causeway dating to the post-medieval period. The project also provided gave the Research Laboratory for Archaeology

										and the History of Art University of Oxford Science Research Laboratory a chance to test a new refined approach to optically stimulated luminescence OSL dating on ridge and furrow earthworks.
New College, School Saville Road and Saville House, Mansfield Road	Late Saxon earthwork? Civil War defensive rampart							●		Previous work at this site had established the presence of a multi-phase earthwork of possible late-Saxon and Civil War date. Further targeted work has established that at least parts of the loam bank feature had been redeposited over features containing post-Conquest material A post-medieval well was also identified south of the school buildings.
31 Cowley Road	Post-medieval outbuildings.							●		An archaeological investigation recorded three post-medieval pits, an open well and associated floor surface belonging to a former post-medieval coach house.
Oxford Road Sports Centre	Prehistoric and early Roman settlement						●			Further to previous investigations at this site a late Iron- Age through to second-2nd century AD settlement and associated enclosures and field boundaries were investigated. The features recorded included post holes, pits, enclosure ditches, field boundaries, and a single crouched inhumation.
Oxford Business Centre Student Castle	Oseney Abbey Precinct							●		Fragmentary medieval remains were recorded at considerable depth, sealed by modern made ground; these are likely to be associated with the precinct of Oseney Abbey.
St Ebbe's Church	Site of Late Saxon Church and later rebuild.						●			A small scale investigation undertaken under faculty revealed features and deposits associated with the church and also a possible curvilinear feature

										in the centre of the western end of the nave. The fills of the feature were derived from the post-glacial brickearth which overlies the second gravel and it therefore potentially prehistoric or Saxon in date.
Former Morris Garage, New College	Former William Morris Garage						●			Cobbled floors, concrete supports, pump and brick/bitumen lined car pits from the early 20th century William Morris Car garage were examined.
Somerville College	Post medieval and Early modern domestic land management and waste and Royalist Civil War defensive line.							●		The line of the Civil War defences was confirmed in this area and waste assemblages of post medieval and early modern domestic character were retrieved.
Swan Motors	Roman pottery production site						●			Ditches and pottery dumps were recorded associated with the previously recorded pottery manufacturing site at Between Towns Road.
Balliol College Sports Ground	Medieval waste pits from the suburb of Holywell and Royalist Civil War defences						●			Waste pits recorded from the medieval suburb of Holywell which has not been extensively studied archaeologically. The project also established the line of the Civil War defences in this location.
Wadham College Aspiration Centre	Medieval Austin Friary							●		Burial likely associated with the Austin friary and further medieval rubbish pits.
Eagle and Child Nos 50 and 51 St	Two 17th century town houses							●		Likely upstanding but buried medieval walls and post medieval; walls identified in small intervention.

Giles	occupying tenement plots likely dating back to the 12th century									
St Hilda's College	Post medieval settlement next to crossing point over the Cherwell							●		Constrained evaluation that revealed limited information in the form of a large 17th century pit near the post-medieval Cherwell River crossing and a series of undated features.;.
No 1 Fisher Row	Post medieval town house							●		Earlier floors and a hearth were recorded in test pits excavated within the Grade II listed 18th century town house. The scheme was subsequently amended to preserve the brick floor and hearth in-situ.
Folly Bridge	Victorian bridge inserted into ancient crossing						●			Repair work on bridge arch for structural reasons revealed the remains of stone supports likely for tram lines. During the works scrub clearance adjacent to the south western stanchion uncovered the western end of a flood arch (presumably a later widening of the arch known as BNC1 (Brasenose College 1) from the 16th century Brasenose College map of the Grandpont medieval causeway) which was recorded for inclusion in the site report.
Old Bank Car Park	Medieval tenement remains							●		An evaluation trench was excavated within the car park of the Old Bank Hotel on Magpie Lane revealing modern deposits overlying two post-medieval robber trenches cut into the northern wall of the now demolished

										Grimsted Hall. Residual evidence for occupation was recovered dating from the Medieval to the post-medieval periods.
Oriel College	Medieval tenements/ putative burh defence							●		Following on from pre-application trenching in 2015 a borehole survey was completed in the second quad and a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of two small test pits within the existing cellar below Staircase 8 at Oriel College. Terrace gravel was encountered in both test pits at approximately the same elevation as the top of the gravel observed during the borehole transect and the earlier trenching, which suggests that the putative primary burh ditch does not run on a north-south alignment through the college as previously suggested.
Christ Church Thatched Barn	Post-medieval barn and site of demolished post medieval coach house							●		Recording work on the barn undertaken and watching brief during ground reduction works. No significant features recorded.
Worcester College Staircases 1 & 2	Medieval monastic college							●		A building assessment identified a likely remaining primary partition with the northern range of medieval buildings surviving from the former monastic college..
No 12 Crick Road	Iron Age Settlement							●		An evaluation was undertaken to the rear of No. 12 Crick Road revealing a large pit, the excavated sample of which contained 19 sherds of Middle Iron- Age pottery.
TOTAL							**6**	**14**		

5) An overview of the patterns of archaeological fieldwork in 2016

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.

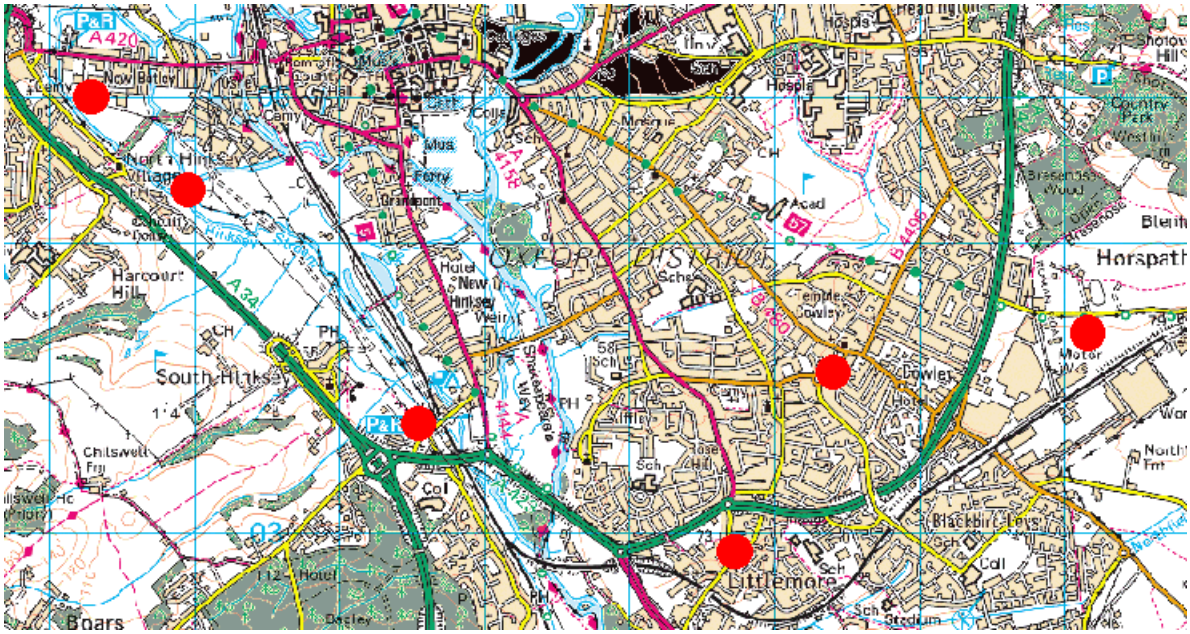

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Fig 2. The wider Oxford area with sites mentioned in table 5 marked in red

Current archaeological policy and the preservation of archaeological remains

The current Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016 states that "*Archaeological remains provide valuable evidence that contributes to the understanding of important elements in the development of Oxford – a Bronze Age barrow cemetery; a Roman pottery industry; an early Christian centre; an academic community; and the capital of Royalist England in the 17th century. Such remains are a finite and non-renewable resource that requires appropriate management to ensure they survive in good condition*" (Section 5.2.1).

Policy HE1 states that Planning permission will not be granted for any development that would have an unacceptable effect on a nationally important monument (whether or not it is scheduled) or its setting and Policy HE.2 states that planning applications should, where appropriate, make provision to preserve the archaeological remains in situ, so far as reasonably practicable, by sensitive layout and design (particularly foundations, drainage and hard landscaping).

Overview of 2017

The following report provides an overview of the impact of development on archaeological assets in the Oxford Local Authority Area in 2017.

This year saw a distinctive break from the established pattern of previous years which has been that of small, medium and large development schemes taking place within the historic core of the city. Instead the new Oxford Road Sports ground and brownfield residential redevelopment at the Swan Motors site on Between Towns Road, both located on the suburban periphery, saw rural Romano-British remains excavated producing the first significant Roman archaeology in the city for over a decade.

Furthermore the extensive evaluation of the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme resulted in detailed geo-archaeological, geophysical and trenched investigation of a previously unexplored landscape across a significant area of the Thames floodplain within Oxford City and the Vale of the White Horse. It should also be noted that heritage concerns, primarily the desirability of protecting the Norman fabric of the stone flood arches/causeway at Old Abingdon Road, were central in determining the proposed route of the new channel in this location.

The historic core of the city was subject to a number of evaluations and small recording projects that have produced significant new information, notably evaluation work at Oriel College that has demonstrated that the projected primary burh defences do not appear to run north-south through the college grounds as previously hypothesised.

Elsewhere target test pits at Savile House on Mansfield Road to showed that the putative Late-Saxon loam bank or rampart that had been tentatively identified in recent years sealed post-Conquest material therefore raising a significant question mark over its origins.

Furthermore the release of four scientific dates from the buried remains of the late Anglo-Saxon town rampart at New College, using material obtained by previous investigations, appear to be consistent with an eighth-century date for at least part of the earthwork here, which will no doubt cause much debate.

Elsewhere at the former William Morris Car Garage site at New College detailed recording of the yard and brick and bitumen lined car pits associated with this iconic garage (after which the MG mark is named) was undertaken prior to partial preservation-in-situ.

The trend highlighted in previous reports of cumulative impact on archaeological remains (relating to domestic tenements and institutional plots) belonging to the Late Saxon and medieval urban centre looks set to continue in future years. There has also been a steady trend of small scale investigations removing parts of the infilled Royalist Civil War defensive ditch.

In general whilst a pattern of infill development of various types (extensions, small scale housing sites, basement extensions) continued in suburban parts of the City no other distinctive cumulative impacts on significant archaeological asset types have been identified.

This report highlights the development pressure being faced by assets across Oxford, notably 1) ongoing pressure on assets within the historic core through college and commercial development 2) development on allocated brownfield and greenfield sites located on the fringe of the city, a process that may gather in momentum over the next few years and 3) development in the previously undisturbed floodplain related to the proposed flood alleviation channel.

Whilst there is a need to monitor the impact of development on important assets and asset types both within the historic core and on suburban brown and green field sites the latter projects can be seen in context of a very extensive asset base and a wider County wide trend of urban expansion projects that are producing large amounts of prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology. The one obvious sensitivity that Oxford has in relation to this trend is its potential for remains related to the important regional Roman pottery industry, however no significant kiln sites have been impacted in Oxford in recent years.

6) 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 2017 are highlighted:

- Talks on recent archaeological discoveries were given to the Wootton and Dry Sandford History Society, at the annual OAHS Oxpast event and at the Festival of Archaeology event organised by Oxford Preservation Trust.

- A number of articles on archaeology appeared in the Oxford Mail covering archaeological investigations including: 1, 2, 3.

- A grant was secured from Historic England to combine with Land Securities funding in order to redisplay the 13rth century tiled pavement from the Franciscan Friary Cloister within the newly opened Westgate Shopping Centre.

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.

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.

The archaeological investigations undertaken in 2016 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 2016 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
Flood Alleviation Corridor	Late Mesolithic – Early Neolithic hunter-gatherer activity areas identified in the valley floor. The Geoarchaeological results also identified paleochannels with organic silts and peat deposits from the Mesolithic through to the Modern periods allowing for the broad temporal range of human activity listed above to be placed within the context of contemporaneous evolving and shifting riverine environments and the wider valley landscape.	1.4.7. The heavy braiding of the river channels in the Palaeolithic to Mesolithic created a number of islands or islets. Is the evidence that these were these utilised as temporary camps, working areas within this section of the Upper Thames? Can targeted sieving of floodplain sites produce flint assemblages? E.g. as at Denham Area 4 in Buckinghamshire. 1.5.2 Can occupation/utilisation sites be identified; how do these vary across topographies and geologies? Was the Corallian Ridge a preferred location for activity areas in the Mesolithic; if so what factors influenced this?	Mesolithic
St John's College (post ex)	Neolithic OSL dates recovered from sedimented fill of large V shaped ditch, later recut and re-used in the medieval period.	2.3.2 The identification and scientific dating of further Neolithic monuments on the 2nd gravel terrace would contribute to the existing data set from a wide range of earlier Neolithic funerary monuments in the region.	Neolithic
Flood Alleviation Route	A ditch located south of Osney Mead in the floodplain contained a small segment of worked wood that was broadly dated, by tool marks, to the Iron Age	3.5.9 9. The potential for well-preserved waterlogged deposits associated with Iron Age settlement should be noted (e.g. at Port Meadow).	Iron Age
Oxford Road Sports Complex	Iron Age ditches and pottery.	3.5.7 Can we further identify and characterise defended sites within the LAA (both hill and valley)?	
No 12 Crick Road	A large pit containing 19 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery was recorded. Two main ware types are present: calcareous with fossil shell and Jurassic limestone (LISH) and sandy (SA).	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?	
Oxford Road Sports Complex	1st-2nd century Roman settlement, field system and burial.	4.4.3. Can the size and shape of identified Roman fields be related to agricultural regimes? 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? 4.5.7 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
Swan Motors	Large Roman ditches and large pottery dumps associated with nearby pottery manufacturing compound at Between Towns Road, Cowley.	4.4.6 It has been suggested that pottery production sites utilised soils unfavourable to agriculture where woodland cover could be expected and certainly is present in the Late Saxon period (Shotover Forest). However sites like Eastfield House, Brasenose Driftway suggest that stock enclosures and domestic settlement not obviously associated with manufacturing were also present in this zone close to the Dorchester-Alchester road. Also there is some evidence that pottery production expanded into pre-existing bounded agricultural fields (e.g. Blackbird Leys). What was the relationship between the manufacturing and agricultural landscape in East Oxford? 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? 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. 4.6.14. Can further workshop areas and manufacturing infrastructure and material culture be identified?	
Saville House, Mansfield Road (New College)	Further work investigating possible the large cross terrace earthwork of late-Saxon date. Most recent work has thrown doubt over a late-Saxon date as post-	5.3.2 Refining our understanding of the chronology and character of Mid-Saxon activity Oxford and subsequently the date and phasing of the Late Saxon burh and its extensions remain of great importance to our understanding of the	Late Saxon

	Conquest pottery was found sealed by redeposited loam of the putative bank. However multiple scientific dates giving wide date range together with range of prehistoric and Roman finds leave a number of potential scenarios open.	origins and development of the town. 5.10.3 Warfare, defences and military installations. Can we learn more about the elements of the Saxon burh defences (Rampart, ditch and intra-mural road) and how these features were altered over time?	
Flood Alleviation Scheme	The former County Boundary was investigated and extensive modelling of the floodplain undertaken using borehole data and scientific dating.	5.4.6. Can the well-studied north-south cross section of the Thames Floodplain at St Aldates be further enhanced? Can geotechnical data be collated across an east-west axis to help model the extent of islands and channels? Can a similar cross section be developed for the western approach?	
Oriel College	Geophysical survey, a borehole transect and targeted excavation investigated the possible routes of a primary late Saxon burh ditch through the college and failed to finds any evidence for such a route, with the depths and location of gravel exposures seemingly ruling out a strictly north0-south line through St Mary's Church, although a more irregular primary line remains possible (lozenge shape etc.).	5.3.2 Refining our understanding of the chronology and character of Mid-Saxon activity Oxford and subsequently the date and phasing of the Late Saxon burh and its extensions remain of great importance to our understanding of the origins and development of the town. 5.10.3 Warfare, defences and military installations. Can we learn more about the elements of the Saxon burh defences (Rampart, ditch and intra-mural road) and how these features were altered over time?	
Flood Alleviation Route	Norman and later causeway, Old Abingdon Road.	7.4.4. The character and extent of water management along the Thames and Cherwell rivers and related meadows is of considerable interest.	Medieval
Flood Alleviation Route	Stone causeway across floodplain (two exposures) with cart ruts and horse shoe on the surface	7.11.2 2. Can we reconstruct the western road into the city? Where should we focus archaeological activity to identify this road and help with potential modelling?	
Oxford business Centre Student Castle Osney Lane	Pits dating from the mid-13th-14th century were recorded within the extent of the precinct of Oseney Abbey	6.7.5 The character and extent of the early religious precincts are of considerable interest.	
Balliol College Sports Ground	A number of medieval pits and ditches were recorded associated with tenements fronting onto St Cross Road belonging to suburban plots of the Holywell suburb.	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?	
Wadham College Aspiration Centre	A single burial was encountered, likely to belong to the medieval Austin friary which occupied this site between 1268 and The Dissolution. Medieval pits dating to the twelfth to thirteenth century were also recorded.	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?	
Eagle and Child Nos 50	Two walls of likely late-medieval date identified	7.5.1 The archaeology of medieval Oxford has exceptional potential to clarify apparent patterns	

and 51 St Giles	above the level of the natural gravel.	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?	
Somerville College	The projected line of the Civil War Royalist defences and waste pits belonging to former post-medieval buildings on Little Clarendon Street were investigated. Whilst the line of the Civil War ditch was identified by the evaluation trench along the frontage of Walton Street the anticipated return was not identified during the subsequent excavation as the area had been extensively quarried in the post-medieval period.	8.12.1 Warfare and Defence Can the line, phasing and character of the Royalist defences and Parliamentarian siege works be further established? 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? 8.7.11 What pattern of suburban growth and redevelopment in the late post medieval period can be identified in the archaeological record?	Post medieval
Christ Church Thatched Barn	Previous works in the vicinity of the thatched barn in Christ Church meadow have revealed Civil War remains and have sought to identify the location of an 18th century coach house shown on historic maps to the north of the barn. The initial phase 1 works in the compound to the south of the barn revealed only made ground comprising rubble containing 19th-century pottery.	8.12.1 Can the line, phasing and character of the Royalist defences and Parliamentarian siege works be further established?	
Saville House.	Test pitting has further examined the loam bank previously noted below the likely Royalist period gravel up-cast that forms forming the defensive Civil War rampart here. The current evidence would be consistent with the loam bank also being a Royalist feature, perhaps reworking a pre-existing landscape feature although further work is needed to clarify this matter.	8.12.1 Can the line, phasing and character of the Royalist defences and Parliamentarian siege works be further established?	
31 Cowley Road	A total of three pits, an open well and associated floor surface belonging to a former 18th-19th century coach house were recorded.	8.7.5 Is the difference in relative wealth between the centre of the town and the suburbs and between the colleges and the town identifiable in the record? What markers might be identified (e.g. quality pottery, meat consumption etc.)? 8.7.11 What pattern of suburban growth and	

		redevelopment in the late post medieval period can be identified in the archaeological record? 8.7.11	
St Hilda's College	A large deep 17th century pit and several undated features were recorded upslope of the post-medieval Cherwell river crossing point.	8.7.11 What pattern of suburban growth and redevelopment in the late post medieval period can be identified in the archaeological record?	
No 1 Fisher Row	The 18th century town house was subject to test internal pitting revealing earlier floors and hearth	8.7.11 What pattern of suburban growth and redevelopment in the late post medieval period can be identified in the archaeological record?	
Morris Garage, New College	The former Morris Garage building was excavated (demolished workshop building, car pits and yard)	9.5.1 Opportunities to secure information regarding the buried remains of demolished and unrecorded structures related to significant early modern industries (e.g. the car industry, printing, paper manufacturing) would merit careful consideration.	Modern
Folly Bridge	Buried stone supports for tram lines noted within the fill of the Victorian bridge span.	9.5.5 5. Can we further understand the character and extent of railway infrastructure from the second half of the 19th century?	
Somerville College	Sizable early modern ceramic and faunal assemblages were recovered from waste and quarry pits associated with Victorian housing of Little Clarendon Street and Walton Street.	9.8.1. Assemblages from this period have a great deal to tell us about patterns of wealth, importation and cultural preference, for example assemblages linked to college officials and servants, specially commissioned items, specialist shops etc. 9.8.2. The identification of further Early Modern pottery, glassware, tokens and clay pipe assemblages may much to add to our understanding of local trade and consumption patterns, especially where related to specialist activities or distinct communities. 9.8.3. Can we identify patterns of local production (e.g. clay pipes made in back yards) and changing cultural tastes in domestic assemblages (e.g. fish paste jars from the 1840s)? 9.8.4. Is there evidence for the documented importation of drinking tea into Britain in the early 20th century being reflected in actual domestic assemblages at this time? 9.8.5. How does the material culture of Oxford vary from comparable urban centres in the Thames Valley given its service-based university town economy?	

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 2016-March 2017 available on the council website:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/download/420/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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