

**Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum**  
**Oxford City Report January - May 2014**

National Planning Policy Framework related field work in Oxford  
*NB this list does not include pre-planning application fieldwork*

*New College Kitchen*

Between January and May recording work has continued at New College with further investigations into the medieval kitchen floor and service routes by Oxford Archaeology and detailed recording of exposed building fabric by Dr Roland Harris. As noted in the last OCCAF report the removal of the modern concrete floor of the kitchen revealed in-situ medieval floor deposits. The January OCCAF report showed the floor pre-investigation, the picture below shows the floor after the excavation of the new service trench arrangement.

The works have allowed investigation of Hugh Herland's primary roof, with wall plates and rafter feet recorded along with an intact arch-braced principal truss previously hidden behind the nineteenth-century east wall of the kitchen. In the buttery, surviving fourteenth-century floorboards were noted below layers of more recent flooring. A programme of dendrochronological sampling coordinated with Dr Dan Miles has provided felling dates of winter 1382/3 for the timbers of the buttery roof, floor and east wall. Floor joists, reused in later repairs to the buttery roof, very probably derive from the hall floor, which was replaced in 1722; these timbers were felled in the winter of 1387/8. The hall door was also shown to be late fourteenth century in date.



*The floor of the 14<sup>th</sup> century kitchen after the completion of recording work (image by Dr Roland Harris)*

*Colthorn Barn, Oxford Road, Old Marston*

Between January and April John Moore Heritage Services undertook a photographic survey of outbuildings at Colthorn Barn, Old Marston, prior to demolition work. The structures included a probable cow shed pre-dating c1850 and a c1860-76 cart shed.

*East Minchery Farm Allotments, Littlemore*

Between February and March Thames Valley Archaeological Services undertook trial trenching and a strip and record excavation at the former site of the East Minchery Farm Allotments. A single small early-Saxon Sunken Featured Building was identified. The report is forthcoming.



*A small early Saxon sunken featured building at East Minchery Farm Allotments*

*Stanford House, High Street*

In March a watching brief was undertaken at Stanford House by Oxford Archaeology during the excavation of geo-technical pits. No significant archaeological remains were noted. The site lies within the extent of a historic High Street (Bridge Street) tenement and in the vicinity of the medieval precinct of a Trinitarian Friary. Further work is to follow.

*Christ Church Glasshouses*

In March the Graham Keevill Consultancy undertook a watching brief during the excavation of geo-technical pits at the site of the Christ Church glasshouses and Nursery Gardens. The site is located in the vicinity of the south-east town defences. Only garden soil and 19th century finds were recovered. Further work is planned.

### *The Perch, Binsey*

In March a building appraisal was produced for the Perch Pub, Binsey, by John Moore Heritage Services.

### *Christ Church Porters Lodge*

In March building recording and a watching brief was undertaken by the Graham Keevill Consultancy during building works within the 16<sup>th</sup> century Porter's Lodge at Christ Church. The north side of the partition between the Lodge and the two small bedrooms in Tom 6.1G was exposed (photo below). Dan Miles undertook dendrochronology sampling from three of the posts (one in the southern partition), the ground beam and the secondary beam. The report is forthcoming.



*The exposed north side of the partition between the Lodge and the two small bedrooms in Tom 6.1G (Image by Graham Keevill)*

### *No 25 Broad Street*

Between March and April John Moore Heritage Services undertook historic building recording and a watching brief during service installation work at 25 Broad Street. Blocked alcoves within the cellar of the 18<sup>th</sup> century building were exposed. The new service route did not impact on any significant archaeology. The work was required because of the vicinity of the medieval town ditch. The report is forthcoming.

### *The Malt Barn, Iffley*

Between March and April John Moore Heritage Services undertook a building appraisal and archaeological test pitting at The Malt Barn, Iffley. A test pit on the west side of the building identified part of a substantial wall footing, with possible buttress and external cobbled surface. An internal test pit identified an earlier floor surface and a substantial floor timber bedded in a clay layer, which contained pottery of a 16<sup>th</sup> century date. The pottery had evidence of a dried out water clay or slip internally and smudged on the outside.

The building recording work, undertaken by Dr Steven Yeates, suggests that the building had at least seven phases. The earliest phase is suggested by the remains of the probable medieval wall and possible buttress exposed in the first test pit. The next phase was the construction of a rectangular building in the 16th century. At this time the building is described as having a 'parlour'. The barn was raised in height in the 17th century and a new Baltic Pine Roof inserted. In 1640 there is a description of a hearth in the loft space. The south part of the building was probably reconstructed in the 18th century, and the barn rebuilt at this time. By c. 1800 the malt barn had had its use altered to that of a tannery, and in c. 1810 the walls of the south part of the structure were reworked with the insertion of the medieval and post-medieval sculptural fragments. Extensions were added at the south end and on the west side of the building in the later 19th century. The final phase has seen modern alterations to the building from 1960 onwards.

#### *107 St Aldate's*

In April Oxford Archaeology undertook building recording at No 107 St Aldates 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. The watching brief is on-going.

#### *Minchery Farm, Littlemore*

In April John Moore Heritage Services undertook as photographic record of the ruined 19th-20th century farm buildings at this site prior to their demolition. The report is forthcoming.

#### *Christ Church Jubilee Bridge*

In April a watching brief was undertaken by the Graham Keevill Consultancy at the site of the former rope crossing over the River Cherwell in Christ Church Meadow on the site of the new Jubilee Bridge. Fixtures and fittings belonging to the rope crossing were recorded. The report is forthcoming.

#### *St Giles Church, St Giles*

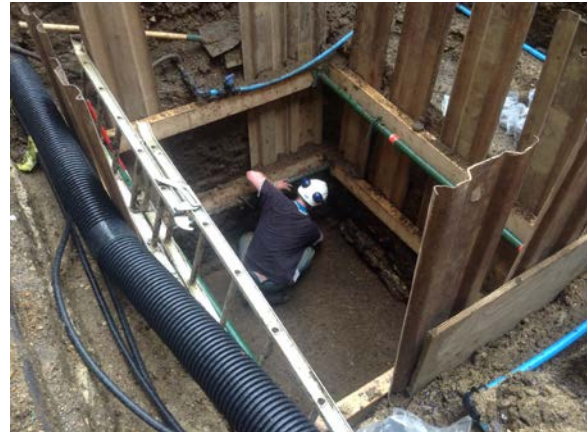
In April exploratory test pits were excavated by the Graham Keevill Consultancy near the porch of St Giles Church. A likely earlier foundation to the rebuilt medieval porch was identified.

#### *No 84 St Aldates*

In April a watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology during the excavation of geo-technical pits to the rear of 84 St Aldates on the site of the now dismantled 17<sup>th</sup> century rear wing. The report is forthcoming.

### *Jesus College First Quad*

Between April and May a small excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology within the First Quad of Jesus College prior to the insertion of a water attenuation tank. The excavation revealed a brushed mortar surface which may have been the original 17<sup>th</sup> century surface of the quadrangle. Below this were a series of tipped layers of soil cut by post-medieval pits. A robber trench and wall footing was recorded to one side of the tipped layers, aligned on Market Street. The tipped soil and robbed wall have been interpreted as the remains of a back-filled cellar, belonging to a 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century hall. Further pits were recorded below the tip layers associated with activity pre-dating the cellar. At the base of the sequence a charcoal layer was sampled and patches of wind-blow loess natural was observed. The report is forthcoming.



*An excavation within Jesus College First Quad. The base of a robbed wall is visible bottom right.*

### *The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan 2013-18*

Further to the completion of the Oxford Archaeological Action plan a number of action points have been progressed. The Urban Archaeological Database has now been migrated into the County Historic Environment Record, held on HBSMR software, for which the City Council now operate a licence. The City Council Archaeologist can now provide HER data for the City Council area and is in the process of addressing the HER backlog of Oxford sites. In order to harmonise arrangements for commercial searches between the two authorities the City Council has now introduced a charging policy in line with the County's. Furthermore the first of a series of planned annual monitoring statements for archaeological assets has been produced and is available on the council website:

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Planning/Archaeological%20Annual%20Monitoring%20Statement%202013.pdf>