

Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum Oxford City Report October 2017 – Feb 2018

National Planning Policy Framework related field work in Oxford

Flood Alleviation Scheme Evaluation trenching update

As reported widely in the local [press](#) the trenching undertaken by Oxford Archaeology between August and October 2017 as part of the extensive evaluation of the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Channel route revealed part of a metaled trackway running across the floodplain. The metaling, which was sealed by later alluvium, was investigated in two locations and one exposure preserved cart ruts and a horseshoe. Elsewhere prehistoric features and flints were encountered and the paleo channels of the floodplain were investigated and modelled. The results of the evaluation are currently being processed.

Right: The medieval trackway discovered south of Willow Walk. Image by Oxford Archaeology.



The Old Bank Hotel car park, Magpie Lane

In October an evaluation trench was excavated within the car park of the Old Bank Hotel on Magpie Lane by John Moore Heritage Services. The trench revealed 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.

Right: The trench excavated within the Old Bank Hotel Car Park, Magpie Lane. Image by John Moore Heritage Services.



Osney Student Castle Phase 2

Between September and November trial trenching was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at the proposed 'Student Castle' development on the site of the former business units at Osney Lane. The site is adjacent to the railway and the site of the (now demolished) GWR Goods Transfer Shed. Fragmentary medieval remains were recorded at considerable depth, sealed by modern made ground; these are likely to be associated with the precinct of Osney Abbey.

Somerville College, Catherine Hughes Building, Phase 1, Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street

Between October and November targeted excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology to explore the projected line of the Royalist Civil War defences and examine waste pits belonging to late post-medieval and early 19th century buildings located on Little Clarendon Street and Walton Street. 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 and early-modern period. Sizable early-modern ceramic and faunal assemblages were recovered from associated waste and quarry pits.

Seacourt Park and Ride

In November an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services at the site of the proposed extension of the Seacourt Park and Ride car park on Botley Road. A single likely natural feature was recorded containing a piece of burnt flint and a single piece of prehistoric pottery.

Wolvercote Paper Mill

In November a photographic survey was undertaken by the Design and Heritage Team on the surviving 20th century Wolvercote Paper Mill buildings in Lower Wolvercote. The main office, warehouse, entrance lodge and miscellaneous features within the grounds were recorded.



Above: Images of the gate house at the Wolvercote Paper Mill site. The sign to the right says 'IT IS ILLEGAL FOR ANY EMPLOYEE TO STAMP ANOTHERS CARD'.

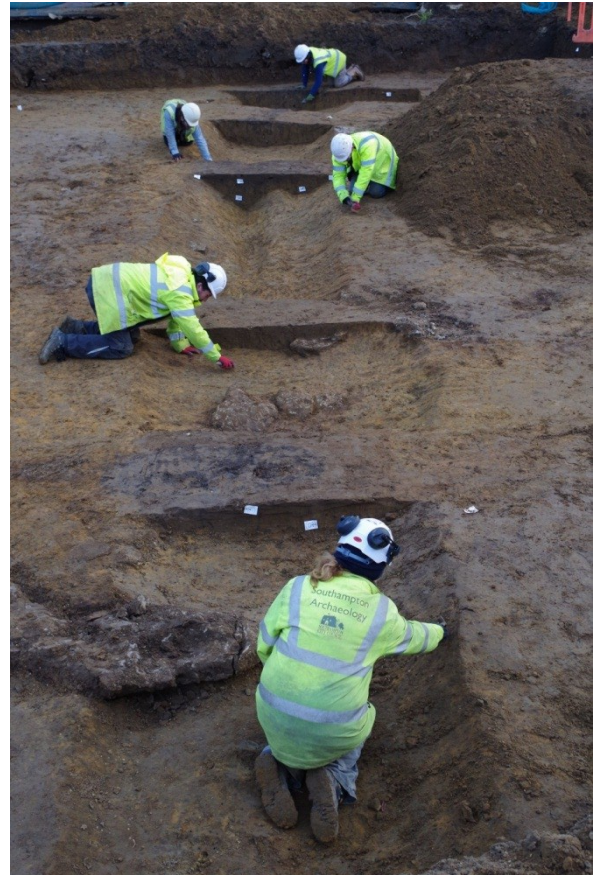
University Parks, New Gates on Parks Road

In November a watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology during the construction of new gates in the University Parks. The works were required because the location sits over the projected route of the Late Neolithic-early Bronze Age linear

barrow cemetery, however no significant features were recorded in the localised works.

Swan Motors, Between Towns Road

In December a watching brief during demolition works and trial trenching was undertaken by the Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit at the former Swan Motors site on Between Towns Road. A number of ditches containing significant amounts of Roman pottery were recorded. A subsequent open area excavation took place in December revealing further, possible enclosure, ditches containing dumps of pottery, some bearing distinctive impressed designs of likely 4th century date. Pupils from The neighbouring Our Lady's Catholic Primary School undertook a site visit to see the Roman remains.



Right: Excavations at the former Swan Motors site on Between Towns Road, image by the Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit.



Above: Pottery recovered from the former Swan Motors site on Between Towns Road, image by the Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit.

Balliol College Masters Field

In January a phased strip and record excavation and watching brief was undertaken at Balliol College Masters Field by Oxford Archaeology. The excavations recorded medieval and post-medieval waste and quarry pits and a large ditch that formed part of the Royalist Civil War defences. The work is ongoing.

The excavation of a new basement footprint (right) and the Royalist Civil War ditch (below) at Balliol College Master's Field. Images by Oxford Archaeology.



Not previously reported

Wadham College, Undergraduate and Aspiration Centre

In September 2017 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology at Wadham College next to the college Junior Common Room and the Goddard building, within the proposed footprint of the new Undergraduate and 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 12th -13th century were also present, although it was unclear whether these pre-dated the friary or were contemporary with its foundation. The pits were tentatively interpreted as evidence for quarrying. There were also several large indeterminate features that likely related to activity to the rear of the properties laid out along Holywell Street in the early-mid 17th century.



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Above right: Trench revealing burial (sondage right) at Wadham College. Image by Oxford Archaeology.