

# EXETER COLLEGE OXFORD

A New Quad at Walton Street  
**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment**

March 2013

**Oxford Archaeological**

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford

OX2 0ES

tel: 01865 980 700

[www.oxfordarchaeological.com](http://www.oxfordarchaeological.com)

**Client Name:** Northcroft

**Client Ref No:**

**Document Title:** Exeter College  
Walton Street Quad

**Document Type:** Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

**Issue Number:** 3

National Grid Reference: SP 509 066

Planning Reference:

OA Job Number: 4965

Site Code:

Invoice Code: OXRUCOCO

Receiving Museum:

Museum Accession No:

Prepared by: Ianto Wain  
Position: Head of HMS  
Date: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Document File Location projects on server 1/ OXRUCOCO\_Ruskin College  
Graphics File Location Server1\invoice codes  
Illustrated by Sarah Lucas

***Disclaimer:***

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology**  
**© Oxford Archaeology Ltd 2013**

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

**EXETER COLLEGE**  
**WALTON STREET QUAD**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT  
FOR  
NORTHCROFT

---

***Summary***

*Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Malcolm Reading Consultants in January 2011 to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment examining the potential re-development by Exeter College of part of the grounds of the former Ruskin College in Walton St, Oxford. OA produced a report in February 2011. OA have now (February 2013) been approached by Northcroft to provide an updated report examining detailed design proposals for the site.*

*No remains of pre-post-medieval date are known within the Site, and documentary and historic map research suggests that the site was meadow until the development of the area in the 19th century.*

*The majority of archaeological deposits present within the footprint of the development are likely to have been totally removed during the construction of the former college buildings (in particular the excavation of basements) during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

*There is one known archaeological feature possibly although not certainly within the development site. The remains of part of the Oxford Civil War defensive ditch, which may survive beneath the present ground surface is shown on DeGomme's map of 1642, and may run from north to across the development site. This ditch has been demonstrated, from observations elsewhere in the city, to survive to 5m and (dependent upon the depth of the current basements) may at least partially survive beneath the existing buildings. Any such deposits will be damaged by any further reduction in the level of basements planned for the new development.*

**LIST OF CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	<i>Introduction</i> .....	1
1.2	<i>Location and Topography</i> .....	1
1.3	<i>Sources Consulted</i> .....	2
<b>2</b>	<b><i>Archaeological Background</i></b> .....	<b>2</b>
2.1	<i>Previous Excavations</i> .....	2
2.2	<i>Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP – 43 AD)</i> .....	3
2.3	<i>Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)</i> .....	4
2.4	<i>Early Medieval Period (AD 410 – 1066)</i> .....	4
2.5	<i>Later Medieval Period (AD 1066 – 1550)</i> .....	4
2.6	<i>Post-medieval period (AD 1550-1800)</i> .....	5
2.6.7	<i>Modern period</i> .....	6
<b>3</b>	<b><i>Archaeological Potential of the site</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1	<i>Assessment of Previous Impacts</i> .....	7
3.2	<i>Archaeological Potential</i> .....	7
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Assessment of Proposed Impacts</i></b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Potential Further work</i></b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>6</b>	<b><i>Conclusion</i></b> .....	<b>9</b>

---

**APPENDICES**

---

- Appendix 1.** Gazetteer of Study Area.  
**Appendix 2.** Bibliography and List of Sources Consulted.
- 

**LIST OF FIGURES**

---

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Figure 1.  | Site Location Map  |
| Figure 2   | Site Plan showing current buildings                        |
| Figure 3.  | Archaeological Features Map                                |
| Figure 4   | Hollar's Map of Oxford 1643                                |
| Figure 5.  | Loggan's Map of Oxford 167                                 |
| 5Figure 6. | Ordnance Survey First edition 1878                         |
| Figure 7   | Ordnance Survey Second edition 1900                        |
| Figure 8   | Ordnance Survey 1922                                       |
| Figure 9   | Ordnance Survey 1939                                       |
| Figure 10  | De Gomme's Map of the Civil War defences of Oxford, 1642-4 |

---

**EXETER COLLEGE**  
**WALTON STREET QUAD**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT  
FOR  
NORTHCROFT

---

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Malcolm Reading Consultants in January 2011 to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment examining the potential re-development by Exeter College of part of the grounds of the former Ruskin College in Walton St, Oxford. OA produced a report in February 2011. OA have now (February 2013) been approached by Northcroft to provide an updated report examining detailed design proposals for the site. The assessment has been based upon the following design drawings as received in February 2013: 2344A002, A102-4, A 201-203.
- 1.1.2 The development will involve the demolition of all the buildings on the site although it is understood that the facades of the buildings facing onto Walton Street and Worcester Place will be retained and the new building constructed onto these facades. A new basement level will be established through a combination of deepening existing basements by between 0.2m and 1.2m across the site and the excavation of new basements to a maximum depth of 2.5m below ground level. The site currently contains two courtyard areas (eastern and western) The eastern (smaller) courtyard will remain largely unaffected, the western courtyard will be mostly redeveloped.
- 1.1.3 This desk-based assessment provides a summary of the archaeological potential of the area of proposed development. It also provides an assessment of whether below-ground archaeology is likely to have survived across the site and the potential impacts of the proposed development on any surviving features.
- 1.1.4 For the purposes of the report a variety of archaeological sources were consulted for an area of radius *c* 300m around the site (the study area). The sources were used to assess the archaeological potential of the area or proposed development and to assess the impact of past developments on the survival of below-ground archaeology.

### **1.2 Location and Topography**

- 1.2.1 Ruskin College occupies a site on the west side of Walton Street. The site was previously occupied by a timber yard and Victorian houses, which over the years have been replaced by purpose built college structures. The main frontage building was completed in 1912 with additional buildings on the site being added in 1939 and during the 1960s and 1980s. The location of the site, centred on SP 509 066, is marked on Figure 1.
- 1.2.2 The site lies on the north side of Oxford, *c* 500 m from the city's central point at Carfax, and *c* 350m outside the medieval city walls (Figure 1). The site lies within the historic parish of St Mary Magdalen, but was historically within the parish of St Thomas' with the boundary between the two along the line of Walton Street. .

### 1.3 *Sources Consulted*

- 1.3.1 Archaeological information, as held by the Oxford City Archaeologist was the primary source of information for the original study. Additional information examined included archaeological information, historic maps and documentary sources as held by OA and the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. A full list of sources consulted is listed in Appendix 2.
- 1.3.2 Appendix 1 is a gazetteer of the principal known archaeological sites, monuments and finds within the study area. Each entry has been allocated an OA number, referred to in the text, and marked on Figure 3.
- 1.3.3 The Oxford City Archaeologist was contacted in February 2013 to enquire whether any additional (significant) sites had been added to the record in the period between January 2011 and February 2013. Two sites (OA 85 and 96) were identified and these have been added to the Appendix 1, to Figure 2 and are further discussed as necessary in the text below.
- 1.3.4 The site has been the focus of two recent Ground Investigation (Borehole and Test Pit) Surveys carried out in April and August/September 2012. OA have been supplied with copies of the reports of these two surveys (GEA 2012a & b) and the results of these surveys have been considered in this report.
- 1.3.5 The area of proposed development was visited on 21st January 2011 in order to assess the information obtained, to assess the topography of the site and obtain any additional information on the archaeological potential and survival of the area.

## 2 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### 2.1 *Previous Excavations*

- 2.1.1 One archaeological event (**OA1**) has taken place within the site boundary. In 1980, OA (then OAU) undertook a watching brief on the site during building work that had opened up the frontage cellars of the houses situated at the west end of the area of proposed development. These had been backfilled with gravel. Some stone walls were found in the south western corner of what had been No.9, the westernmost property that existed on the site (numbers 6 to 9 were extant in 1876). These remains may represent an earlier building. Samples from a pile cap suggested the presence of a silted linear feature.
- 2.1.2 A field evaluation (**OA2**) just to the west of the site (behind Nos 10-16a Worcester Place) in 2006 revealed a Victorian pit and a probable drainage ditches.
- 2.1.3 There have been numerous investigations within the study area, close to the site, discussed in full in later chapters. These include an evaluation at Worcester Place *c.* 140 m north west of the site (**OA3**) which exposed the fill of a possible palaeochannel and a number of investigations along Walton Street, which runs along the eastern side of the site (**OA4, OA5, OA6, OA7**). The results included a find in 1884 of a Roman coin (**OA4**), and a number of pits (**OA5**). Medieval pottery was found during building work at number 18 in 1976-7 (**OA6**).
- 2.1.4 Investigations have also taken place in Little Clarendon Street, which lies *c.* 200 m north-east of the site. These uncovered a variety of post-medieval finds and a Roman coin (**OA8**).

- 2.1.5 An excavation and a watching brief undertaken at Rewley House, *c* 205 m north east of the site by OA (**OA 12**, **OA 13**) in 1994 and 1983 respectively uncovered post-medieval burials and possible evidence of 18th century quarrying.
- 2.1.6 Work by OA in 2005 on land to the rear of 65-67 St. Giles (**OA 20**) *c* 260 m to the east of the area of proposed development, revealed numerous pits, and other features of medieval date and a stone foundation pad that may have been associated with Beaumont Palace, or with tenements fronting St.Giles. Post-medieval walls and pits relating to properties fronting St.Giles and footings of a cottage were revealed.
- 2.1.7 Excavations and a Watching Brief conducted by OA at Worcester College in 2011/12 (**OA 95**) revealed the presence of undated features of possible prehistoric or early medieval date as well as garden soils and features of probable medieval and early post-medieval date.
- 2.1.8 Although outside of the study area, a recent excavation at the Radcliffe Infirmary has provided significant information on the prehistoric landscape of the north of Oxford. Full analysis is still under way, but it is known that the evidence included three large ring ditches of probable Bronze Age date.

## **2.2 Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP – 43 AD)**

- 2.2.1 No archaeological finds or sites of prehistoric date have been identified from within the area of proposed development.
- 2.2.2 The site of Oxford, on a gravel spur at the confluence of a river and tributary was an ideal site for settlement. The well drained soils of the gravel terrace, and the low lying flood plain provided a good variety of soils for agriculture, and in the prehistoric period, the floodplain was drier, and more suitable for occupation (Hassall, 1987). Neolithic evidence has been found in the area around Christ Church, and there is evidence for a possible late Neolithic-early Bronze Age settlement near to St Thomas' Street. Port Meadow, to the west of the city has produced evidence of Iron Age settlement.
- 2.2.3 Within, and just outside of the study area a significant amount of evidence of prehistoric date has been recovered. Stone implements have been found during work in Walton Street (**OA5**), *c* 100 m north east of the site and a mammoth tusk was found on the natural gravel during work at the Ashmolean Museum (**OA92**), *c* 260 m south east of the site. Work at the Sackler library, *c* 210 m south east of the site revealed parts of two possible Bronze Age barrows (**OA7**), although no central burials or pits were found. Bronze Age barrows have been identified by cropmarks within central Oxford, notably to the north east of the study area within the University Parks and on the site of the Radcliffe Infirmary.
- 2.2.4 Work at the site of the Radcliffe Infirmary in 2009, *c* 470 m to the north-east of the site, has revealed significant prehistoric remains, including a middle Neolithic enclosure and four late Neolithic to early Bronze Age barrows (David Radford, pers comm). Nearby work at St John's College has revealed part of a huge circular monument, *c* 150 m in diameter. The defining ditch measured *c* 8 m in width and 2.5m deep. This ditch appears to have stabilised by the late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age, when a hearth within the ditch was used. Analysis and interpretation of the evidence is still under way for both these sites, but the evidence so far demonstrates the significance of the prehistoric landscape in the vicinity of the site.

### **2.3 Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)**

- 2.3.1 No archaeological finds or sites of Roman date have been identified from within the area of proposed development.
- 2.3.2 Evidence from the study area from the Roman period is limited to find spots, including a coin of Constantine or Magentius from Walton Street (**OA4**), c 70 m north east of the site, a coin of Gallienus from Little Clarendon Street (**OA8**), c 240 m north east of the site, a coin of Constantine from the area of Beaumont Street, c 180 m south east of the site (**OA35**). The area has also produced the findspot of a clay figurine of possible Roman date from Gloucester Green, c 270 m to the south east of the site (**OA51**). A small amount of Roman pottery was recovered from excavations at the Ashmolean Museum, c 260 m to the south east of the site (**OA92**).
- 2.3.3 The area of the modern city centre is lacking in evidence for Roman occupation, but a Roman settlement has been identified to the north of Oxford, across a substantial area, probably focused along a Roman Road along the line of Banbury Road, the southern end of which is c 400m north east of the site. This road ran southwards across the floodplain at North Hinksey. A second Roman road crossed the floodplain just south of Donnington Bridge, to the south of the modern city.
- 2.3.4 East Oxford was the focus of a large and important late Roman pottery industry evidenced by kilns and other evidence from the east of the city, around the area of the Churchill Hospital and further afield at modern Blackbird Leys.

### **2.4 Early Medieval Period (AD 410 – 1066)**

- 2.4.1 No archaeological finds or sites of early medieval date have been identified from within the area of proposed development.
- 2.4.2 Within the study area, evidence is limited to two find spots, a late Saxon key from the canal near Hythe Bridge Street, c 300 m to the south of the site (**OA59**) and a late Saxon spearhead from Paradise Street c 280 m to the south west of the site (**OA82**).
- 2.4.3 A defended burh was laid out at Oxford by King Alfred in the 9<sup>th</sup> century onwards. After this a substantial town developed, but this did not extend as far north as the area of proposed development or the study area. In that period the land may have belonged to the manor of Walton in Northgate Hundred. It is likely that in this late Saxon period the area of proposed development was arable land or meadow.
- 2.4.4 A number of the city's churches are known to be pre-conquest, including the church of St Mary Magdalen, the church for the parish in which the development site now lies.
- 2.4.5 Later, the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Walton is known to have been located at the north end of Walton Street as was identified during work at 75 Walton Street (Inskeep, 1998), where work revealed the first material evidence (including pottery, tile, bones and a quern fragment) of the substantial settlement. Although the site is c 600 m from the site, its influence may have extended to the site, which may have existed within a Saxon field system around the settlement. Evidence of possible Saxon settlement has been found at the Radcliffe Infirmary site, as well as a mass grave during work at St John's College, both just outside the north eastern extent of the study area.

### **2.5 Later Medieval Period (AD 1066 – 1550)**

- 2.5.1 No archaeological finds or sites dating to the later medieval period have been identified within the area of proposed development.
- 2.5.2 St Mary Magdalen church and parish, in which the area of proposed development now lies, were established in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century (although on the site of a late Saxon church) and in the 12<sup>th</sup> century passed into the endowment of Osney Abbey (Hibbert et al 1988).
- 2.5.3 To the south of the development area, at the southern end of Walton Street is the site of Gloucester College, established on the site for the Benedictines (OA78), which was on the site of the later Worcester College.
- 2.5.4 Six archaeological events undertaken in Beaumont Street have revealed human remains (OA40, OA41, OA42, OA43, OA44, OA45, OA48, OA90). These may be the remains of plague victims or part of the burial ground of the Carmelites or White Friars.
- 2.5.5 Rewley Abbey was situated just outside the western extent of the study area. The Abbey was founded in the 13th century and was a *studium* for Cistercian monks. The Abbey was demolished during the dissolution in the 16th century, and only a wall and gate adjacent to the Oxford canal now remain (OA83).
- 2.5.6 The area of proposed development almost certainly lay within open fields in the medieval period. Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, cultivated soils and field boundaries have been found at some sites just outside the study area supporting this. A survey of west Oxford, undertaken by Julian Munby and Tony Dodd (2006) covers the area of proposed development and records the history of the ownership and use of the site. The first record, from the Hundred rolls, dates from 1279 and records the land as meadow, leased from Osney Abbey. The land then remained meadow, under various owners until 1573 when it was sold to St John's College. It then remained meadow until the development of Walton Street and Worcester place in the 19th century (Munby and Dodd, 2006).
- 2.5.7 Excavations have taken place in the grounds of Worcester College, c 120 m to the south of the site (OA37, OA46, OA54, OA57, OA89, OA 95), when medieval finds and structural remains were recovered, almost certainly relating to the 13th century Gloucester College that previously occupied the site.

## 2.6 *Post-medieval period (AD 1550-1800)*

- 2.6.1 During the English Civil War, Oxford was Charles I's capital and was besieged by the Royalists. Extensive defences were constructed by Dutch military engineer Bernard De Gomme, and his design for the earthworks and associated features are shown on his contemporary map (Figure 10).
- 2.6.2 The map (1662-64), has been superimposed onto a 1930s Ordnance Survey map (Lattey et al 1936). The line of one of the internal defences probably runs along Walton Street, just to the east of the site and is shown as extant on Loggan's map of 1675. According to De Gomme's map (and the 1936 plotting of it), the main outer ditch appears to be located just within the site boundary in the west of the area of proposed development. However it isn't shown on Loggan's map, suggesting that it was either never constructed (De Gomme's map shows the *planned* rather than *actual* line of the defences, although in most cases these were the same), or that they had been backfilled by the time of Loggan's survey. Therefore there is potential for this ditch to be present on the site. If found, this would be of a significant width and depth and an important find with potential to confirm or refute reliability of De Gomme's

map in relation to modern Oxford, particularly on this western side of Oxford, where the ditch has been little investigated.

- 2.6.3 Other elements of the Civil War defences lie within the study area, including a guard post, mapped by De Gomme, just north of Rewley Abbey (**OA84**), c 300 m south west of the site. Booms were also constructed at strategic points on the waterways around the city, and one is shown on Castle Mill Stream (**OA85**), c 270 m south west of the site, adjacent to the guard post near Rewley Abbey on De Gomme's map.
- 2.6.4 The area north of Worcester College (**OA79**), just south of the area of proposed development is shown as a market garden on Loggan's map (1678) with a row of cottages (probably 17<sup>th</sup> century) fronting the street, that still survive. Hollar's map (1643) shows the gardens extending further north into the meadows (Figure 5). To the north and west were meadows crossed by streams.
- 2.6.5 Worcester College is situated to the immediate south of the development area and was established in 1714 (**OA86**) and incorporated the 16<sup>th</sup> century Gloucester Hall. (**OA 89, OA38**). By 1751 when Taylor's map was published the gardens shown on Loggan's and Hollar's maps had been incorporated into the college grounds.
- 2.6.6 The earliest map that shows buildings within the area of proposed development is the Ordnance Survey first edition of 1878 (Figure 6), which shows frontage properties in the western half of the site, and a timber yard occupying the eastern half. This timber yard appears to have occupied the site until the construction of the present Ruskin College building in 1912.
- 2.6.7 *Modern period*
- 2.6.8 A watching brief undertaken within the area of proposed development (**OA1**) at 6-9 Gloucester Place recorded frontage cellars of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings and some stone walls in the south-west corner of No.9 (the westernmost tenement that existed on the plot), which suggest an earlier building here. A Victorian pit was found just outside the area of proposed development, within the grounds of Worcester College, c 80 m to the south of the site (**OA2**).
- 2.6.9 The eastern part of the study area was developed from 1850 between Walton Manor and Summertown as a residential suburb of large detached and semi-detached houses. The development of Beaumont Street, c 170 m to the south east of the site resulted in the destruction of the remains of Beaumont Palace. The remains of the palace were found during excavations in 1713 (**OA35**) and 1830 (**OA34**) and much of the masonry remains were relocated to Woodstock Road. Excavations in 1890 in Beaumont Street (**OA39**) revealed a bed of limestone rubble and a watercourse.
- 2.6.10 Following the construction of the Oxford Canal in 1790, and Lucy's Iron and Brass foundry in 1825, workers cottages were constructed in the area around the development site, marking one of the first 'suburbs' of Oxford, known as Jericho. Oxford University Press (**OA63**) moved to its current location in Walton Street in 1830.
- 2.6.11 The area of proposed development is shown on the Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1876 (Figure 6) as being occupied by a timber yard in the eastern part of the site, partially surrounded by buildings, and by nine tenement plots in the western part. By the time the second edition map was made in 1900 the building on the north side of

the timber yard had been extended eastwards to meet the frontage of Walton Street, but otherwise, the site was little changed.

- 2.6.12 Ruskin College was moved to the site from its location in St. Giles in 1912. The current frontage building dates from this time. A map of 1922 shows that the frontage properties in the western part of the site were still present. An extension was added to the main building in 1939, almost identical to the original building, and several of the properties fronting Worcester Place were demolished, except for those on the four westernmost plots. In the 1960s a building was inserted between the main building and the remaining tenements, and in the 1980s the western end of the site was redeveloped and a library and new accommodation was constructed after the demolition of the frontage tenement properties.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE SITE**

#### **3.1 *Assessment of Previous Impacts***

- 3.1.1 The northern and eastern sides of the site are occupied by buildings of 20th century date and these are likely to have impacted significantly on any existing below ground archaeological remains, if present, removing all but the very deepest features within their footprint.
- 3.1.2 The current building occupying the western end of the site is 1980s in date and houses Ruskin College Library and student accommodation above, and this level is partially constructed below ground level, with the floor of the building c 1.5 - 2m below the present ground level. The construction of this building is also likely to have removed all but the very deepest archaeological remains within its footprint.
- 3.1.3 The only areas of the site potentially unaffected by previous construction are the two quads/courtyard areas located on the southern side of the development site. These comprise a small paved area towards the eastern end of the college site and a larger garden area towards the west. Analysis of Boreholes and Test Pits conducted during Ground Investigation surveys carried out on the site in 2012 suggests that these sites, although potentially undeveloped, are both covered with a layer of modern Made Ground of between 0.9 and 1.1.m thickness.

#### **3.2 *Archaeological Potential***

- 3.2.1 In general (and as discussed above) the area within which the site sits has a low to moderate potential to contain sites or deposits from the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods. During the later medieval period, when settlement foci had been clearly established in the area, the area of proposed development lay within open fields and there is therefore a low potential for the site to contain evidence of settlement or other non-agricultural activity.
- 3.2.2 The site may contain deposits associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century Civil War defence of Oxford. A substantial defensive earthwork and ditch is shown on a contemporary map as running through or close to the area of proposed development. The ditch has been revealed in other locations around Oxford, and has been shown to be very wide and deep. During excavations at the Chemistry Research Laboratory in South Parks Road to the north-east of the city the ditch was recorded as being at least 10 m wide and 5m deep (Bradley, 2005). It is possible that the channel fill recorded during the previous work within the site (**OA1**) and adjacent to the site (**OA3**) may have actually been the fill of what would have been a very substantial feature however this would need to be confirmed by further work. It should be noted that no such feature was recorded

immediately to the west of the site during an evaluation (**OA 2**) in 2006. As noted above the feature does not appear on Loggan's Map (1675) which would suggest that if it was present on the site in the 1640's that it had been backfilled by the 1670's.

- 3.2.3 The results of the Ground Investigation works conducted on the site in April and August/September 2012 (GEA 2012a and b) are inconclusive. A series of 4 Boreholes and 25 Test Pits dug on the site all demonstrate the presence of a substantial (up to 2m deep) layer of what appears to be fairly modern Made Ground (containing brick and concrete) fragments across much of the site (including within the area of the two courtyard gardens which, it has been suggested, have the greatest potential to contain potentially undisturbed deposits) but there is no clear indication of the presence of a large feature of possible 17<sup>th</sup> century date. The most interesting results come from the eastern side of the site, adjacent to Walton St, where the results of number of test pits dug in the existing basements all show substantial depths of a relatively clean (ie with no obvious modern inclusions) Made Ground extending to an uncertain depth (it was not bottomed in any of the pits) below the floor of the basement. This may represent evidence for the Civil War ditch but equally it may represent evidence of ground disturbance and build up associated with the construction of the college or the buildings that pre-dated the college on the Walton Street frontage.

#### **4 ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED IMPACTS**

- 4.1.1 Detailed plans for the development have now been produced. These indicate that the site will be largely redeveloped within the footprint of the existing buildings. . The existing buildings on the site will be demolished although their facades will be retained or (in some cases) removed and then reinstated. It is understood that a new basement level will be established on the new site through a combination of deepening existing basements by between 0.2m and 1.2m across the site and the excavation of new basements to a maximum depth of 2.5m below ground level.
- 4.1.2 As discussed above it is likely that the vast majority of archaeological deposits within the footprint of the existing buildings will have been substantially damaged or removed during the construction of the buildings, in particular the construction of the basements which occupy much of the site. The site does however have the potential to contain deposits associated with the (possibly substantial) ditch associated with the defences constructed around Oxford during the Civil War. Observations and excavations elsewhere within the city have suggested that this ditch may survive to a depth of 5m and may therefore survive beneath the floors of the current basements on the site. Relatively clean Made Ground deposits of uncertain depth have been identified beneath the current basement floors during the Ground Investigation survey carried out for this project.
- 4.1.3 If the feature is present within this section of the site it may be affected by the construction of new basements/lowering of the existing basement levels associated with proposed development.
- 4.1.4 The eastern (smaller) courtyard will remain largely unaffected, the western (larger) courtyard will be mostly redeveloped. It has been suggested in this report that the area of the western courtyard is likely to have suffered the least truncation from previous modern activity and have the highest potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits. This is not clearly supported by the results of the Ground Investigation survey conducted within this area of the site which suggests that the courtyard site contains a layer of Made Ground (with brick, concrete and ash inclusions) of roughly 1m thickness overlying sandy gravel Gravel Terrace deposits.

## 5 POTENTIAL FURTHER WORK

- 5.1.1 This report has suggested that the site generally low potential to contain significant archaeological deposits although there is a possibility that it may contain deposits associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century Civil War Ditch which may cross the site. The upper levels of any such deposits are likely to have been disturbed by the construction of the college buildings in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and also have been damaged by the various 19<sup>th</sup> century structures located on the site prior to the construction of the college. No clear evidence for the presence of such a feature has been identified during analysis of the results of the Ground Investigation surveys carried out for this project, although remains of what might be this feature have been identified as surviving below the basement levels close to the Walton Street frontage at the eastern end of the site.
- 5.1.2 The presence of this feature could be further investigated during the construction of the proposed development through the implementation of an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the construction of new basements or the lowering of existing basements.

## 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1.1 The area of proposed development covers the current buildings and garden area at Ruskin College. When the college was moved to the site in 1912 the main frontage building occupying the north east corner of the site was constructed. This was built over a timber yard and surrounding buildings of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. An extension was added to the west of the 1912 building in 1939. The houses in the west of the site were replaced by a building in the 1960s and the library and above accommodation in the 1980s.
- 6.1.2 The general environs of the site have been identified as having a low to moderate potential to contain archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric to early medieval periods and a generally low potential to contain medieval or post-medieval deposits. The site was located within open fields until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is shown as such on maps back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.1.3 The majority of archaeological deposits present within the footprint of the development are likely to have been totally removed during the construction of the former college buildings (in particular the excavation of basements) during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.1.4 However, there is the potential for the remains of a possibly substantial ditch, associated with the defence of Oxford during the Civil War, to cross the site. This ditch has been demonstrated, from observations elsewhere in the city, to survive to 5m and may at least partially survive beneath the existing buildings. Any such deposits will be damaged by any further reduction in the level of basements planned for the new development. It has been suggested that the presence of this feature could be further investigated through the implementation of an archaeological Watching Brief during ground intrusive works associated with the lowering of the existing basements or construction of new basements associated with the scheme.

**Oxford Archaeology**

**March 2013**

**Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets**

<i>OA Ref. No</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>OA 1</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at 6-9 Worcester Place in 1980. Building work had opened up the frontage cellars. These had been backfilled with gravel. Some stone walls were found in the SW corner of No 9, possibly remains of an earlier building. Samples from a pile cap suggested a possible former water channel.
<b>OA 2</b>	Archaeological Event	A field evaluation comprising three trenches was carried out by John Moore Heritage Services for Worcester College behind Nos 10 - 16A Worcester Place in September 2006. Beneath 1.5 m of modern landfill was a horizon with one Victoria pit (Trench 2) and a silted channel (Trench 1). The later was investigated in an attempt to relate it to the lake only 45 m to SW of this point, or to a channel recorded 60 m to NW in 2005 (UAD 1674). Considering the shape of the lake in relation to the line of the back lane to these properties, it might be conjectured that these trenches were seeing a series of E-W drainage ditches designed to render this low-lying ground useful for cultivation.
<b>OA 3</b>	Archaeological Event	Field evaluation at former garage site, Worcester Place. Three trenches were dug following demolition and ahead of construction by John Moore Heritage Services. Trenches 1 and 2 exposed the fills of a palaeochannel with deposits of alluvial clays. This contrasted with Trench 3 where a natural gravel subsoil was found capped with a layer of red-brown loam typical of the loessic soil known from the 2nd gravel terrace, but in this case at flood plain level.
<b>OA 4</b>	Archaeological Event	Find from Walton Street in 1884. A bronze coin of Constantine or possibly Magentius was recovered.
<b>OA 5</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Walton Street. Trenches and pits containing stone implements were recorded.
<b>OA 6</b>	Archaeological Event	Building work at 18 Walton Street in 1976-7. During work in the front garden medieval pottery was found, thought to be the first find of that date in the area. A large storage jar, subsequently broken, was among the finds. Sherds were dated to mid 13th to mid 15th century.
<b>OA 7</b>	Archaeological Event	Observations at 122-4 Walton Street in 1898. Hurst recorded the houses before demolition.
<b>OA 8</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Little Clarendon Street in 1890. A small bronze coin of Gallienus (AD 260-7) and a 17th century brass token were found.
<b>OA 9</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at 43 Little Clarendon Street in 1950. When the buildings of Symm's Yard were demolished a 17th century key and a 19th century doorknocker were recovered. Under the plaster on one wall was a lead plaque from 1756, denoting church property.
<b>OA 10</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at 13-24 Little Clarendon Street in 1962. Work was carried out for the new Graduate House for Somerville College. No further details are available.
<b>OA 11</b>	Archaeological Event	Find from 10 Wellington Square in 1950. A 19th century medicine bottle was found in the garden.
<b>OA 12</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations by OAU and OUDCE at Rewley House in 1994. Work was carried out when builders constructing a staircase into the garden uncovered post medieval burials. These are probably connected with the former Workhouse in Wellington Square. Seven layers of burials were identified within two vaults built into the north south wall of the cemetery. Some evidence for coffins and shrouds was seen, but the burials were disturbed by collapsing coffins and earlier work on the site.
<b>OA 13</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at Rewley House, Wellington Square, in 1983. Work was carried out when the basement for the new library was constructed. Natural gravel was reached, but this had been dug away to a uniform level. The hole had been infilled with early 18th century rubbish. It has been suggested from map evidence that the area was ploughland until about 1675 after which it was quarried and then partly infilled.
<b>OA 14</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, in 1938-400. Work was carried out for construction of college buildings. An early 18th century wine bottle was found.
<b>OA 15</b>	Archaeological Event	Building work in Pusey Lane in 1951. Work was carried out for a petrol pump at Crapper's garage. An undated well was found.

<b>OA Ref. No</b>	<b>Feature Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>OA 16</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by D Sturdy at 63-4 St Giles in 1959. Work was carried out when the 1688 Quaker Meeting House behind 63-4 St Giles was demolished prior to construction of the Oriental Institute in Pusey lane. Burials were found.
<b>OA 17</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by OAU at St Cross College in 1991. Work was carried out prior to building of an extension. Subsequently, in 1992, a Watching Brief was maintained. Part of a medieval strip property was investigated and a possible ploughsoil uncovered. Pits from that period were found, possibly from quarrying. Three boundary walls were excavated. Above these lay the remains of a Friend's Meeting House, built in 1854. Parts were excavated and a cess pit found to the east.
<b>OA 18</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Pusey Lane in 1952. Work was carried out for foundation trenches in the garden of Blackfriars Priory. Drainage and rubbish pits were found containing post medieval pottery and wine bottles.
<b>OA 19</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at Pusey House, St Giles, in 1981. During building work holes were dug below the modern floor. A good collection of 17th century pottery was found.
<b>OA 20</b>	Archaeological Event	Oxford Archaeology carried out an excavation Sep-Oct 2005 on land to rear of 65-67 St Giles, Oxford (A watching brief followed during construction work Jan 2006). The earliest archaeological evidence revealed by the investigations was five 11th-13th century pits, to the west of the site the pits were sealed by disturbed brickearth which may have represented cultivation of the yard areas. From 13th-15th century increase of activity noted including cellar floor, well, soakaway, stone foundation pad (It is possible that this was associated with the Beaumont Palace to the west although more likely associated with tenements fronting St Giles). A higher density of pits (c25) included gravel extraction pits, cess pits and rubbish pits. A garden soil overlay the features. Similar activity was observed from the 16th-18th centuries Walls representing the rear of properties fronting St Giles were revealed and c35 pits apparently similar function to earlier ones. Footings of 17th-18th cottage revealed.
<b>OA 21</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by D Sturdy and R E Linington in Pusey Lane in 1959. Work was carried out for the building of the Ashmolean Museum Cast Gallery. Pits were found with pottery dating from the 13th to the 19th century. The area had probably provided yards for the properties along St Giles.
<b>OA 22</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at the Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, in 1961. Work was carried out for construction of the library on the ground floor and basement. Pottery was recovered, at least some of which was post medieval.
<b>OA 23</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at the Ashmolean Museum in 1960. Work was carried out on the foundations in the Welden basement. Pottery dating from the 13th to 19th centuries and a clawhammer were found in the stanchion pits.
<b>OA 24</b>	Archaeological Event	During the internal stripping-out of the Evans' buildings prior to demolition, Oxford Archaeology excavated a trench 18 m x 2.5 m down the midline of the former Chinese Gallery. The gravel terrace survived in one location at around OD 62.6 m.
<b>OA 25</b>	Archaeological Event	In Dec 2004 and Jan 2005 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of contractors test pits at the Ashmolean Museum Oxford. The work was commissioned by Mace Ltd in advance of an extension with basements.
<b>OA 26</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at the Ashmolean Museum in 1925. A small extension was built to the NW on Pusey Lane. Ointment jars, one with a lid, were found, probably of post medieval date.
<b>OA 27</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at the Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, in 1894. When foundations for the new museum were dug an Abbey token was found.
<b>OA 28</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at the Electric Light Company in 1890. When an engine bed was dug at the Russell Street works an old floor was found. Manning recorded a section. A layer of clayey gravel lay on the natural. Above this was the floor, gravel with bits of brick and tile. This was covered with clay and then a layer of peat with bone and trees in. Above this was loam and then made ground.
<b>OA 29</b>	Archaeological Event	An archaeological watching brief was carried out in advance of construction of a new extension with basement at the rear of the property. The watching brief revealed early 19th century construction relating to the building overlying cultivated soils.

<i>OA Ref. No</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>OA 30</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at 3 Beaumont Buildings in 1984. Work was carried out when a sunken garden was excavated. The fill was fairly uniform to about 2 m and contained medieval and post medieval pottery. The most likely explanation is that the area had been quarried and then backfilled.
<b>OA 31</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at 172 Walton Street in 1993. Work was carried out at the rear of Worcester Cottage. A well was found.
<b>OA 32</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at 63 St John Street in 1992. Observations were made during building work. Brick vaults extending under the house, were found with a staircase leading down from a brick building behind. The site is said to have been that of a smoke house for hams etc. A stone pier and a stone faced wall were found to the north, suggesting a stone lined passage. In places stone looked as if it had been used for relieving arches for an earlier building, incorporating the passage.
<b>OA 33</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at 1 Beaumont Buildings in 1980. Work was carried out when a rear extension was built. A stone lined cess pit with a recent brick vault was seen. A single sherd of pottery suggested a Victorian date.
<b>OA 34</b>	Archaeological Event	Relocation of masonry remains of Beaumont Palace to 302 Woodstock Road around 1830. The remains of Beaumont Palace were destroyed around 1830 to allow the development of Beaumont Street. A piece of walling set with an archway was re-erected in the grounds of The Avenue, 302 Woodstock Road. Above the arch is a circular opening, possibly the framework of a rose window.
<b>OA 35</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at Beaumont Palace c1713. When the remains of the palace were dug up many burials were found. Painted glass, stone and brick were also uncovered. A coin of Constantine was also found.
<b>OA36</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in St John Street in 1960. A trench in the pavement outside 35 Beaumont Street contained a 14th century ridge tile.
<b>OA37</b>	Archaeological Event	RCHME 26. Worcester College has walls of local Oxfordshire stone and slate-covered roofs. Gloucester College was established on the site in 1298 for the Benedictines. After the dissolution the buildings were sold and Gloucester Hall opened in 1560. Worcester College replaced it in 1714 under the will of Sir Thomas Cookes.
<b>OA38</b>	Archaeological Event	Find from Worcester College in the 19th century. A coin came from Gloucester Hall, Walton Street, (now Worcester College). It was an undated example from Smyrna.
<b>OA39</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Beaumont Street c1890. Hurst records that a bed of limestone rubble was seen about 4 m E of where the road widens. It was c0.4 m thick, but probably not thick enough to be the remains of Beaumont Palace. A watercourse was seen running along the street.
<b>OA40</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Beaumont Street in 1893-5. Work was carried out between St John's Street and Walton Street. A number of burials were found, possibly from the 14th century plague. Foundations of a wall were uncovered in the centre of the road, due north of the bend in Gloucester Lane. Burials had been found in the area on many previous occasions.
<b>OA41</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Beaumont Street in 1822-5. The new street was constructed for St John's College on the former site of Beaumont Palace. A medieval copper container was found. 22 skeletons were also found, possibly victims of the 1349 plague.
<b>OA42</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Beaumont Street in 1848. A skull and a sword were found near to No 15 Beaumont Street. A skeleton had been found behind No 15 in 1826.
<b>OA43</b>	Archaeological Event	Finds from Beaumont Street in 1876. Professor Rolleston collected the remains of 7 individuals from this area. The burials may be the result of the 1349 plague or Whitefriars cemetery.
<b>OA44</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Beaumont Street in 1958. The work was carried out for Post Office Telephones. A grave was found under the north side of the road, immediately west of the Playhouse. The skeleton lay on its back, with its feet to the NW. Probably part of the Carmelite cemetery.
<b>OA45</b>	Archaeological Event	Building work at 8-10 Beaumont Street in the early part of 1938. Work was carried out for the Oxford Repertory Theatre. At least 15 skeletons were found, 7 in a common grave. The site was the burial-ground of the Carmelites or White Friars. The burials have been dated to the 14th century from a number of bronze brooches found with them.
<b>OA46</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations at Worcester College in 1824. Work was carried out to build new rooms. A stone figurine of St Michael and the dragon was found, probably medieval.
<b>OA47</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Gloucester Lane in the 1890s. Hurst records that the foundations of a wall and a Tudor vessel were found under the E side of the road. The lane linked Gloucester Green with the workhouse in St Giles.

<i>OA Ref. No</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>OA48</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations recorded by the Oaec at the Playhouse in 1973. Work was carried out behind Nos 11 and 12 Beaumont Street for construction of an extension to the Playhouse to house the Richard Burton Oxford University Drama Centre. Burials were cut into the natural gravel. This area was probably part of the cemetery of Whitefriars Priory. The south wall of the Gloucester Arms in Friars Entry was seen to incorporate some moulded stone, probably also from the priory.
<b>OA49</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU in Gloucester Street in 1982. Work was carried out after the road subsided. Excavation found a 5 m square cellar. The 4 m deep hole contained a 3 m deep well. Both may have belonged to the late 17th century house which had occupied the site.
<b>OA50</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations in Gloucester Green in 1879. When the City Gaol was demolished an undated horn or wood spoon was found. Attached to a hole in the handle was a length of chain, ending in a knob. Pottery was recovered dating to the medieval and post medieval periods, including an earthenware vase, probably post medieval.
<b>OA51</b>	Archaeological Event	Building work at Gloucester Green in 1841. Work was carried out for construction of the City Gaol. A clay figurine, probably Roman, and possibly representing a syrinx was found.
<b>OA52</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at Gloucester Green in 1987. Work was carried out while the area was redeveloped, including construction of the bus station and underground carpark. Most of the area had been quarried to considerable depth for gravel during the medieval period. However there was a distinct northern boundary to the quarried area, which might suggest that Beaumont Palace and the Carmelite Friary had influenced the extent of work. A few deeper features, possibly cesspits, were seen. These would have been close to the south wall of the palace. Within Gloucester Green the massive curtain wall of the City Jail, built in the late 18th century, was found. Some interior walls were uncovered, but the octagonal building had not had underground cells.
<b>OA53</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by OAU at Gloucester Green in 1985. Work was carried out at the junction of Worcester Street and George Street when Gloucester Green was redeveloped. About 1 m of fill from 1947 and a WWII air raid shelter had to be removed first. Below these a large brick building with concrete strip foundations was found. When the layers of archaeological interest were reached the lowest level contained 14th century pits which appeared to be gravel quarries. Above these were remains of a 17th century stone building, demolished around 1926.
<b>OA54</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations on Worcester College corner of Gloucester Green in 1945. Work was carried out for construction of a shelter. Medieval pottery was found. The area, anciently Brokenhays, was occupied in the 12th century according to charters, but not by the end of the 13th century.
<b>OA55</b>	Archaeological Event	Observations at Worcester Street/Hythe Bridge Street in the 19th century. A paved way c3 m down was apparently seen in this area.
<b>OA56</b>	Archaeological Event	According to Hibbert, Plato's Well, also called Cornwell, stood at the corner of Worcester Street and Hythe Bridge Street. The name Plato dates to the 16th century.
<b>OA57</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by OAU at Worcester College in 1987-9. Work was carried out in advance of building work. The edge of the gravel terrace where it shelved into the river was identified. Layers of peat had built up, but no dating evidence was found. An early medieval land reclamation platform in the river was exposed and on it were remains of a 13th century building, its location recorded during work in 1945.
<b>OA58</b>	Archaeological Event	Building Survey by AOC at Worcester Street carpark in 1998. Prior to widening of Hythe Bridge Street an archaeological assessment of the affected areas at the Old LMS Station and the carpark was carried out. This included detailed recording of the northern carpark wall. At the western end there is a 21 m length of brick wall, with a maximum height of 4 m on the S face. Some remains of the canal revetment wall and a fragment of the basin arch are visible. The stone wall is 53 m long and its relationship with the brickwork is unclear. There are some blocked recesses probably connected with the canal basin and remains of a structure up against the wall.
<b>OA59</b>	Archaeological Event	Find from Hythe Bridge Street. A late Saxon iron key with a pear-shaped handle was found in the river.
<b>OA60</b>	Archaeological Event	Finds from Hythe Bridge in 1865. From the river three post medieval iron spurs were recovered while a George I spur was found in the weir.
<b>OA61</b>	Archaeological Event	Finds from the canal at Hythe Bridge Street in 1982. Conservation work was carried out on the canal wall at the weir. As part of the process pieces of stone were recovered from the canal and restored to the structure.

<i>OA Ref. No</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>OA62</b>	Archaeological Event	A watching brief was carried out in October 2001 during construction of a footpath adjacent to the scheduled waterside wall of medieval Rewley Abbey. The project recorded the remains of a 19th-century brick building at the SE end of the footpath.
<b>OA63</b>	Monument	The Oxford University Press moved to its present site in Walton Street in 1830 (RE 1360). Previously it had been housed in the Sheldonian Theatre and then the Clarendon Building. (S 60). There have been several subsequent alterations and extensions.
<b>OA64</b>	Monument	122-4 Walton Street, on the east side just north of Little Clarendon Street (RE 1360), were demolished in 1898. Hurst recorded the buildings (RE 1377).
<b>OA65</b>	Monument	A two-storey workhouse was constructed in Wellington Square, then known as Rats and Mice Hill, in 1772 (RE 1461). Intended for 200 inmates, the buildings were usually overcrowded and the facilities much criticised (S 60). It closed in 1864 when a new site in Cowley opened. The graveyard lay in the south east corner of the square and was found in excavations in 1994 (RE 513). Its extent is shown on Faden's map and appears to be accurate as no remains were found in other excavations close by (RE 480).
<b>OA66</b>	Monument	RCHME 176. No 53 St Giles is of two storeys with attics; the walls are ashlar-faced and the roofs are slate-covered. It was built in the early 17th century.
<b>OA67</b>	Monument	St Cross is a graduate college, founded in 1965. It began in the former Holywell School, with a wooden hut for additional accommodation. In 1981 St Cross took over Pusey House in St Giles and extended behind it (RE 359, 557).
<b>OA68</b>	Monument	St John Street was laid out between 1825 and 1835 between the new Beaumont Street and the Workhouse (RE 1360). The southern part lies on the former Beaumont Palace site, while Loggan's map shows fields on the northern part (RE 1358). The 19th century developments have been investigated during building work (RE 547, 574, 601).
<b>OA69</b>	Monument	The Carmelite or White Friars came to Oxford in 1256. Initially they had a site in modern Walton Street, but in 1318 they were granted the Beaumont Palace site, where they adapted the existing buildings for their use. The site was ruinous by the Dissolution and the buildings were slowly dismantled. The final remnants were demolished when Beaumont Street was built in 1825. The layout of some buildings is shown on Agas' map (RE 1356) and some wall foundations have been found during excavations (RE 395, 1334). A number of burials have been found, the largest concentration from the Playhouse site (RE 122, 167, 363, 528). This suggests that the cemetery lay in the SE part of the precinct. It has also been suggested that there was a plague pit from the Black Death in 1349 in the area (RE 1299).
<b>OA70</b>	Monument	During excavations on the site of the Sackler Library in St John Street, parts of two curvilinear U-shaped ditches were found. These were interpreted as probably barrow ditches, dating from the Bronze Age. About half of the northern ditch was exposed, showing it exposed an area 28 m in diameter. A much smaller part of the other ditch was seen. No central pits or cremations were found (RE 395).
<b>OA71</b>	Monument	Beaumont Street was constructed between 1822 and 1833 between St Giles and Worcester College for St John's College. It crosses the former site of Beaumont Palace and caused the removal of the last fragments of the palace buildings (RE 116). During this work and construction of later buildings, burials were found which either came from Whitefriars cemetery or a plague pit (RE 122, 925, 1299, 1334, 1335).
<b>OA72</b>	Monument	Gloucester Green was an open recreation area surrounded by trees from the 16th to the late 18th century (RE 1356, 1358) when the City Gaol was built. Some medieval building had taken place as excavation revealed (RE 138, 1451). The central area was also used for the cattle market (RE 1360). During the 18th and 19th century houses and other buildings were erected around the north, west and east sides, including 5 inns associated with the market. Change continued throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, a bus station replacing the cattle market in 1935 (S 891). In the late 1980s a major redevelopment took place, during which many of the earlier buildings were demolished and excavation revealed some of the history (RE 485, 496). A cellar was found in 1982 (RE 565).
<b>OA73</b>	Monument	Salter North 5 (RE 1532) suggests that the area around Stockwell Street, modern Worcester Street, was not occupied during the medieval period. The land was divided between Gloucester College, Whitefriars and Brokenhays waste ground. There is some charter evidence for occupation on Brokenhays in the 12th century, ceasing by the late 13th century (RE 138). Some pottery (RE 138, 1170) and part of a wall (RE 1451) have been found, but the archaeological evidence points to quarrying south of the monastic enclosure (RE 485, 496).

<i>OA Ref. No</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>OA74</b>	Monument	The City Gaol was constructed in Gloucester Green around 1789 (RE 1461) with various improvements at a later date (RE 690). The buildings were demolished (RE 1170) after it closed in 1878 (S 60). There was a wall c6 m high around the prison, the remains of which were seen in excavations in 1987 (RE 496).
<b>OA75</b>	Monument	Gloucester Green was an open recreation area surrounded by trees from the 16th to the late 18th century (RE 1356, 1358) when the City Gaol was built. Some medieval building had taken place as excavation revealed (RE 138, 1451). The central area was also used for the cattle market (RE 1360). During the 18th and 19th century houses and other buildings were erected around the north, west and east sides, including 5 inns associated with the market. Change continued throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, a bus station replacing the cattle market in 1935 (S 891). In the late 1980s a major redevelopment took place, during which many of the earlier buildings were demolished and excavation revealed some of the history (RE 485, 496). A cellar was found in 1982 (RE 565).
<b>OA76</b>	Monument	Worcester Street was called Stockwell Street until at least the end of the 18th century (S 60). Until the 20th century the southern end ran further west and medieval surfaces were found in excavations in 1989 (RE 353).
<b>OA77</b>	Monument	Plato's Well, also called Cornwell, stood at the corner of Worcester Street and Hythe Bridge Street (RE 1582). The name Plato dates to the 16th century.
<b>OA78</b>	Monument	RCHME 26. Worcester College has walls of local Oxfordshire stone and slate-covered roofs. Gloucester College was established on the site in 1298 for the Benedictines. After the dissolution the buildings were sold and Gloucester Hall opened in 1560. Worcester College replaced it in 1714 under the will of Sir Thomas Cookes. A building programme took place from 1720 -90 during which the Walton Street entrance and the north wing were constructed. No further major building took place until the 20th century, although some alterations to the south range were carried out in 1824 (RE 1275). In 1939 the Nuffield Block was built and Hugh Casson's New Building constructed in 1961. The Worcester Street/Hythe Bridge Street corner was developed in 1987-9 (RE 350).
<b>OA79</b>	Monument	The area north of Worcester College is shown as a market garden on Loggan's map (RE 1358) with a row of cottages fronting the street. Hollar's map shows the gardens extending further north into the meadows (RE 1357). To the north and west were meadows crossed by streams. The line of one was seen in excavation in 1980 (RE 554). By 1751 when Taylor's map was published the gardens had been incorporated into the college grounds (RE 1359). The cottages, probably 17th century, still survive.
<b>OA80</b>	Monument	A bridge was first built by Osney Abbey in 1200-10. It was rebuilt in stone in 1383 (R1358). When the canal was constructed it too was bridged and the new iron bridge over both watercourses was built in 1861 (R1360). The name 'Hythe Bridge' probably arises from the wharves built just north of the bridge, which marked the closest approach to the city for boats, other than barges. (S60)
<b>OA81</b>	Monument	A wharf or hithe was established at Hythe Bridge in the 16th century (RE 1358). In 1861 it was known as Timber Wharf. In addition to timber, the dock was used for hay, slate and Cotswold stone (S 891). By 1876 the wharf had closed, with carriage transferred to the canal (RE 1360).
<b>OA82</b>	Monument	Castle Mill was established on the most easterly channel of the Thames by the 11th century, giving rise to the name. Above the mill, Castle Mill Stream was an important route for boats and wharves developed in the area of Hythe Bridge in the 16th and 17th centuries (S 60). The stream is still in existence, but not used for commerce. A late Saxon spearhead was recovered from it by Paradise street in 1962-3 (RE 643).
<b>OA83</b>	Monument	The only parts of Rewley Abbey remaining are a stretch of the riverside wall and a 15th century gate in it (RE 849). The wall stands about 2 m high.
<b>OA84</b>	Monument	When Oxford was fortified during the Civil War a number of outer guard posts were constructed. One lay just north of the site of Rewley Abbey (S 747). It appears on De Gomme's map (RE 1361), but no other evidence has been found.
<b>OA85</b>	Monument	During the Civil War a number of booms were constructed at strategic points on the waterways around the city (S 747). De Gomme's map (RE 1361) shows one on the Castle Mill Stream by the guard post north of Rewley Abbey. Nothing remains.
<b>OA86</b>	Monument	The grounds of Worcester College are a Registered Park and Garden Grade II*. In the 16th century the former Gloucester Hall had groves of trees to its north, and a small one on its west side. The area to the north west by the river was meadow (RE 1356). Although the gardens extended in the 17th century (RE 1358), it was the opening of the Canal in 1788 which prompted the creation of the lake and landscaping of the

<i>OA Ref. No</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>OA87</b>	Archaeological Event	meadows (RE 1360). In Main Quad there are two passages in the south range. The west passage goes under the 'hanging garden' where a raised lawn can be accessed from the first floor (GD1434). Watching Brief by OAU on geotechnical investigation by Laing Technology Group Ltd at Said Business School, Rewley Road, in 1998-9. In April 1999 17 trial pits and 3 boreholes were dug, two of the boreholes within the footprint of the proposed building. The pits went through a layer of alluvial clay and river terrace gravel, but did not reach the Oxford Clay below. The top of the natural was found at between 0.8 and 3.1 m below the ground surface. It was overlain by post medieval made ground, heavily contaminated by the railway and coal yards. Modern tarmac lay on the surface.
<b>OA88</b>	Archaeological Event	Watching Brief by OAU at Rewley Road Fire Station in 1998. Service trenches and external installations were put in at the rear of the building. No signs of Rewley Abbey were uncovered. Post 1850 deposits for the railway construction were the only finds.
<b>OA89</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by OAU at Worcester College in 1987-9. Work was carried out in advance of building work. The edge of the gravel terrace where it shelved into the river was identified. Layers of peat had built up, but no dating evidence was found. An early medieval land reclamation platform in the river was exposed and on it were remains of a 13th century building, its location recorded during work in 1945.
<b>OA90</b>	Archaeological Event	Excavations recorded by the OAE at the Playhouse in 1973. Work was carried out behind Nos 11 and 12 Beaumont Street for construction of an extension to the Playhouse to house the Richard Burton Oxford University Drama Centre. Burials were cut into the natural gravel. This area was probably part of the cemetery of Whitefriars Priory. The south wall of the Gloucester Arms in Friars Entry was seen to incorporate some moulded stone, probably also from the priory.
<b>OA91</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological evaluation by OAU at the Sackler Library in 1997-9. Work was carried out in connection with the planning application for the library. Artefacts of middle Saxon date were recovered, but no features were located. A circular ditch was excavated, thought to be a Bronze Age barrow ditch. Part of a second similar ditch was found. Many robber trenches were uncovered. Remains of a number of high quality limestone walls were found, in association with painted window glass, roof and floor tiles, dating from before the 14th century. These are remains of Beaumont Palace which existed from the 12th to 14th centuries. Some later carved masonry and walls probably belong to the Carmelite Friary which replaced the palace in the 14th century. In one part of the site were a series of regular pits arranged in rows, containing some 11th-12th century pottery. It has been suggested that these holes were made for tree planting. Above the medieval deposits stone lined features such as cellars, privies and cisterns, from the early 19th century terraces of Beaumont Street and St John Street were seen.
<b>OA92</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by Wessex Archaeology in the Ashmolean Museum Forecourt in 1994. The work was carried out prior to construction of new basement visitor facilities. The whole forecourt was taken down more than 2 m. Excavations were carried out and then a Watching Brief took place. The earliest find from the site was a mammoth tusk lying on the natural gravel. The only other pre-medieval finds were two sherds of Roman pottery. A large number of early medieval pits were uncovered, probably situated in the rear yards of properties along St Giles. A property boundary ran east west across the site from the mid 13th century. In the late 13th and 14th centuries a sunken floored timber structure existed south of this boundary while to the north were more pits and gullies. By the 15th century the structure had been replaced by a more substantial stone built building. Two ovens appeared in the northern area where there were more pits. The stone building survived into the eighteenth century. Pits were still dug on the sites in the post medieval period and a well was dug near to the building. 19th century rubble covers the area, associated with clearance of the site for the construction of the Museum. One stone lined pit, possibly a cess pit, contained 19th century finds and an unusual group of worked human bones. These cannot be dated and were found with unworked human and animal bone. Pottery and metal objects were the main finds and dated from the 12th century to the 19th.
<b>OA93</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological evaluation by OAU at Rewley Abbey in 1993-4. The eastern part was explored in November 1993 and the western part in 1994. The likely location of the east end of the church and evidence for a north range were found. The site is surrounded by a moat and the reredorter foundations were found to span it. No traces

<i>OA Ref. No</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>OA 94</b>	Archaeological Event	of a south range were seen. A riverside wall appeared to be 15th century and associated with land reclamation.
<b>OA 95</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations by OAU in Worcester Street in 1989. Work was carried out in the carpark NW of the castle prior to redevelopment. The site lay on the infill of the 13th century moats. On the extreme S edge medieval Worcester Street was exposed. This appeared to have been a direct causeway from the castle to Beaumont Palace. A gateway and possibly a drawbridge might have been expected at that point
<b>OA 96</b>	Archaeological Event	Archaeological excavations and a Watching Brief conducted by Oxford Archaeology at Worcester College in 2012 revealed a number of undated features of possible prehistoric or early medieval date.
		Archaeological Watching Brief during redevelopment on corner of Little Clarendon Street and Walton Street revealed no evidence of significant archaeology.

## Appendix 2. Bibliography and List of Sources Consulted.

### *Published sources*

- Bradley, P *et al*, 2005 Prehistoric and Roman activity and a Civil War Ditch: Excavations at the Chemistry Research laboratory, 2-4 South Parks Road, Oxford. *Oxoniensia* **70** pp 141-202
- Crossley, A (ed), 1979 *The Victoria County History of the County of Oxford. Volume IV*
- Dodd, A (ed), 2003 *Oxford before the University* Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Monograph **No. 17**
- GEA 2012 (a). *Desk Study and Ground Investigation Report: Ruskin College Oxford*. May 2012.
- GEA 2012 (b) *Ruskin Colleg, Walton Street, Oxford. Ground Investigation Letter report*. November 2012.
- Hassall, T 1987 *Oxford: The Buried City* Oxford Archaeological Unit
- Hibbert, C (ed) 1988 *The Encyclopedia of Oxford*  
. Macmillan, London
- Inskeep, R,R, 1998 Medieval Finds on Walton Street, Oxford and the Settlement and Farmhouse of Walton. *Oxoniensia* **63** pp 43-50
- Lathey, R. T *et al* 1936, A Contemporary Map of the Defenses of Oxford in 1644. *Oxoniensia* **1** p. 161
- Munby, J and Dodd, T, 2006 A Survey of West Oxford. *Oxoniensia* **71** p461
- Sturdy, D 2004 *Historic Oxford Tempus*

### *Map sources*

- Hollar's Map of Oxford, 1643
- Loggan's Map of Oxford 1675
- 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Map, 1878
- 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Map, 1900
- Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Map, 1922
- Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1939



Scale 1:12,500

Reproduced from the Pathfinder 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10005569

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Site plan

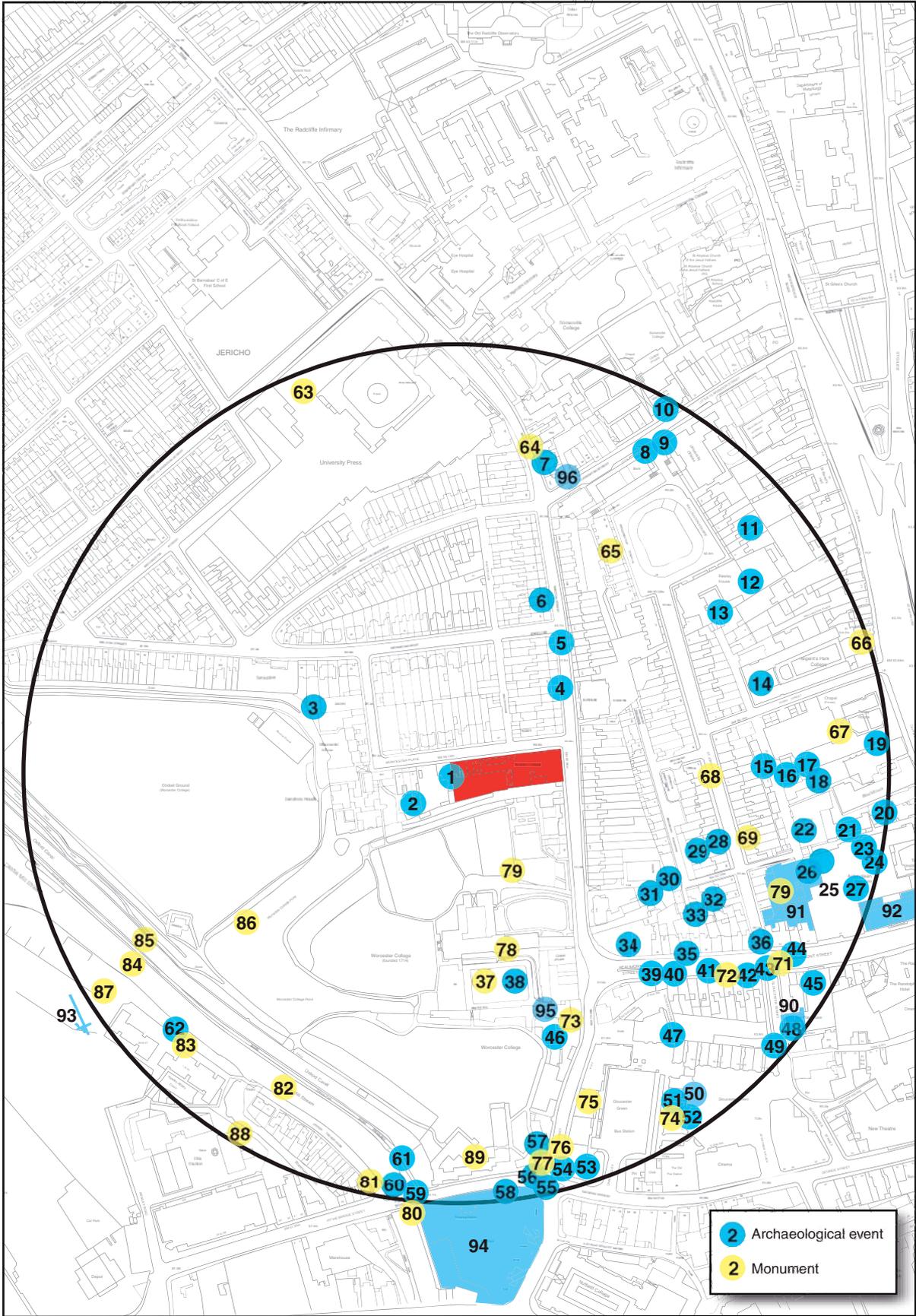


Figure 3: Archaeological features map

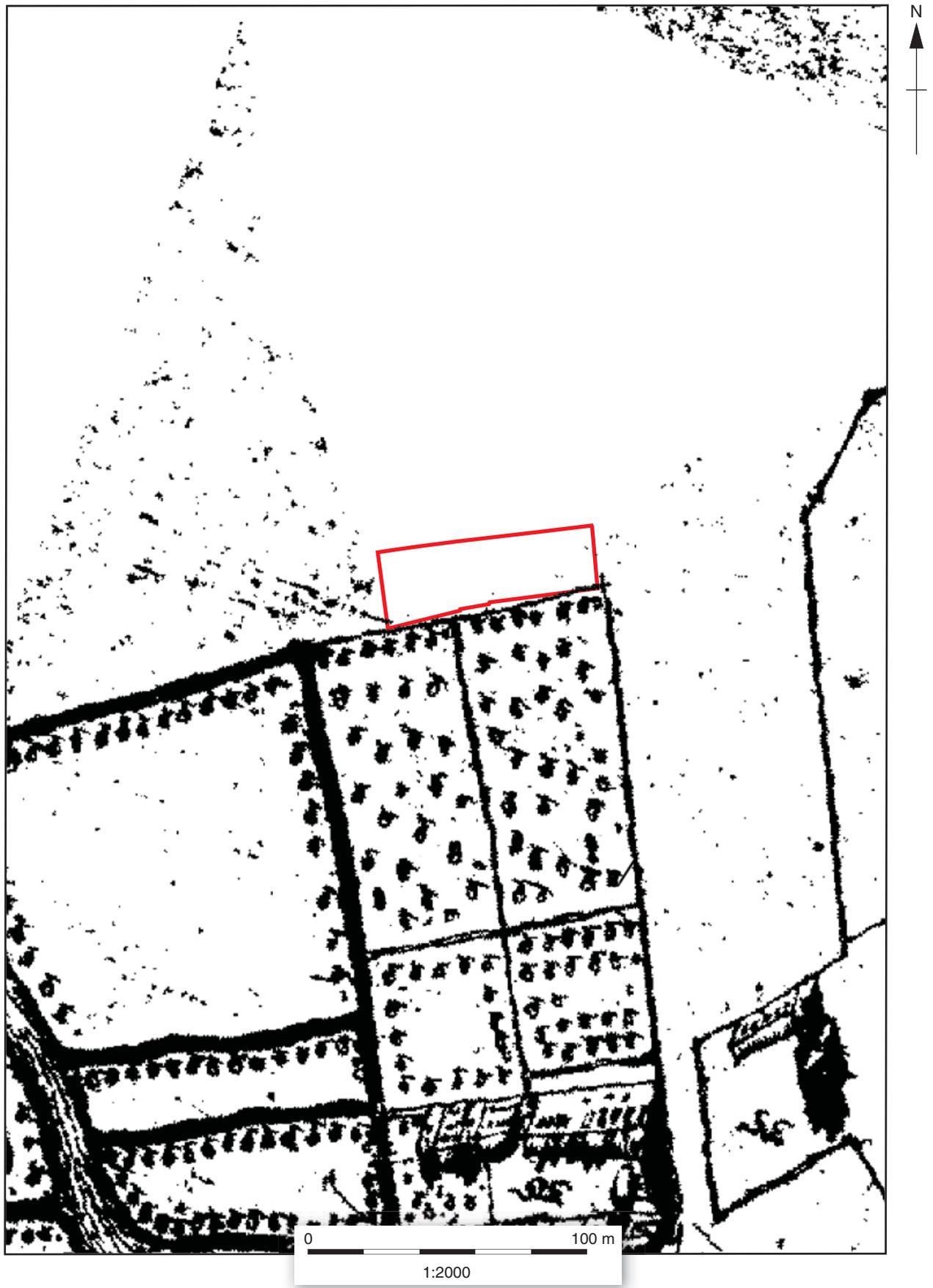


Figure 4: Hollar (1643) map with site outline.

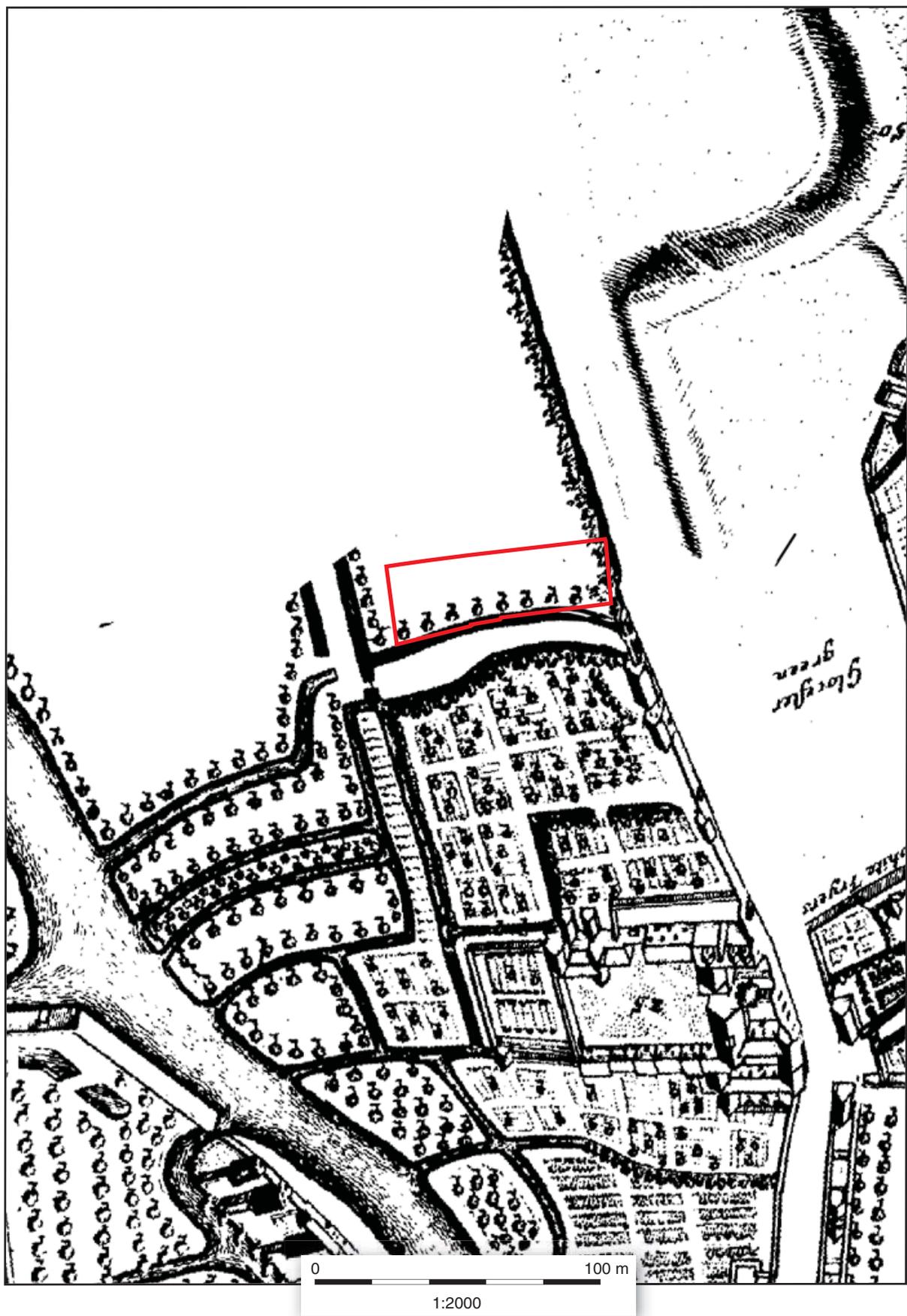


Figure 5: Loggan map (1675) with site outline.

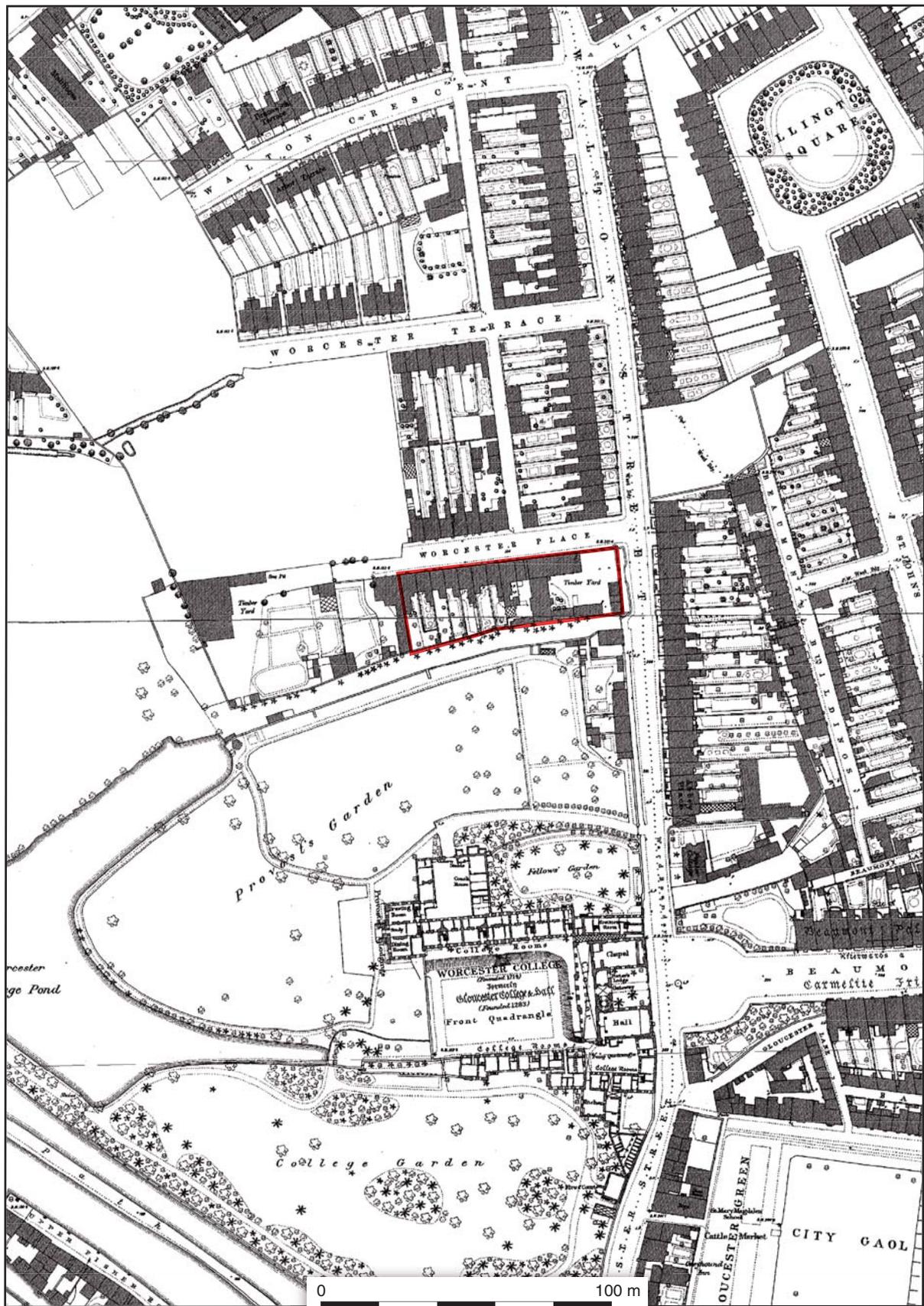


Figure 6: OS 1st Edition map with site outline.



Figure 7: OS 2nd Edition map with site outline.

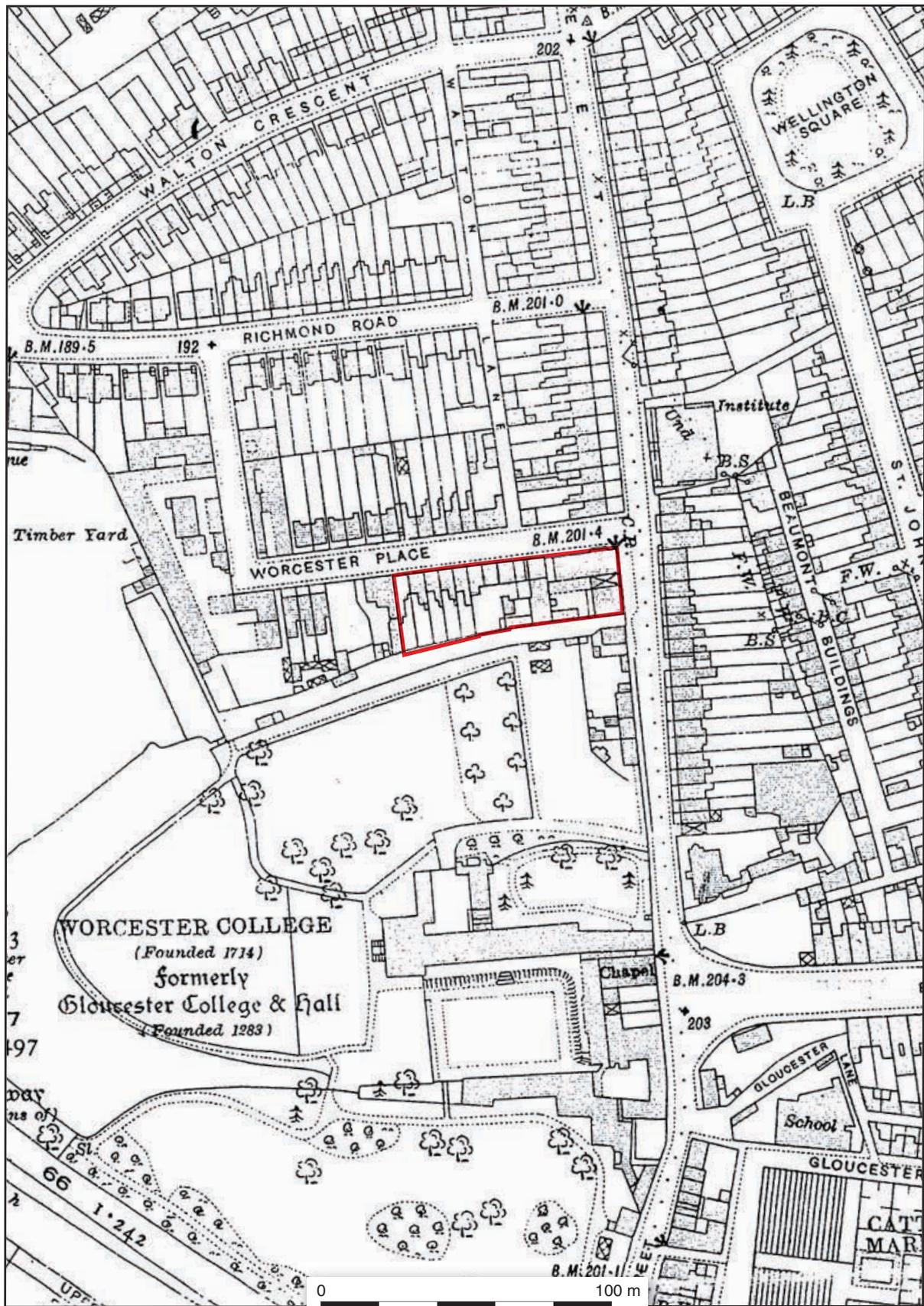


Figure 8: OS 1922 4th Edition map with site outline.

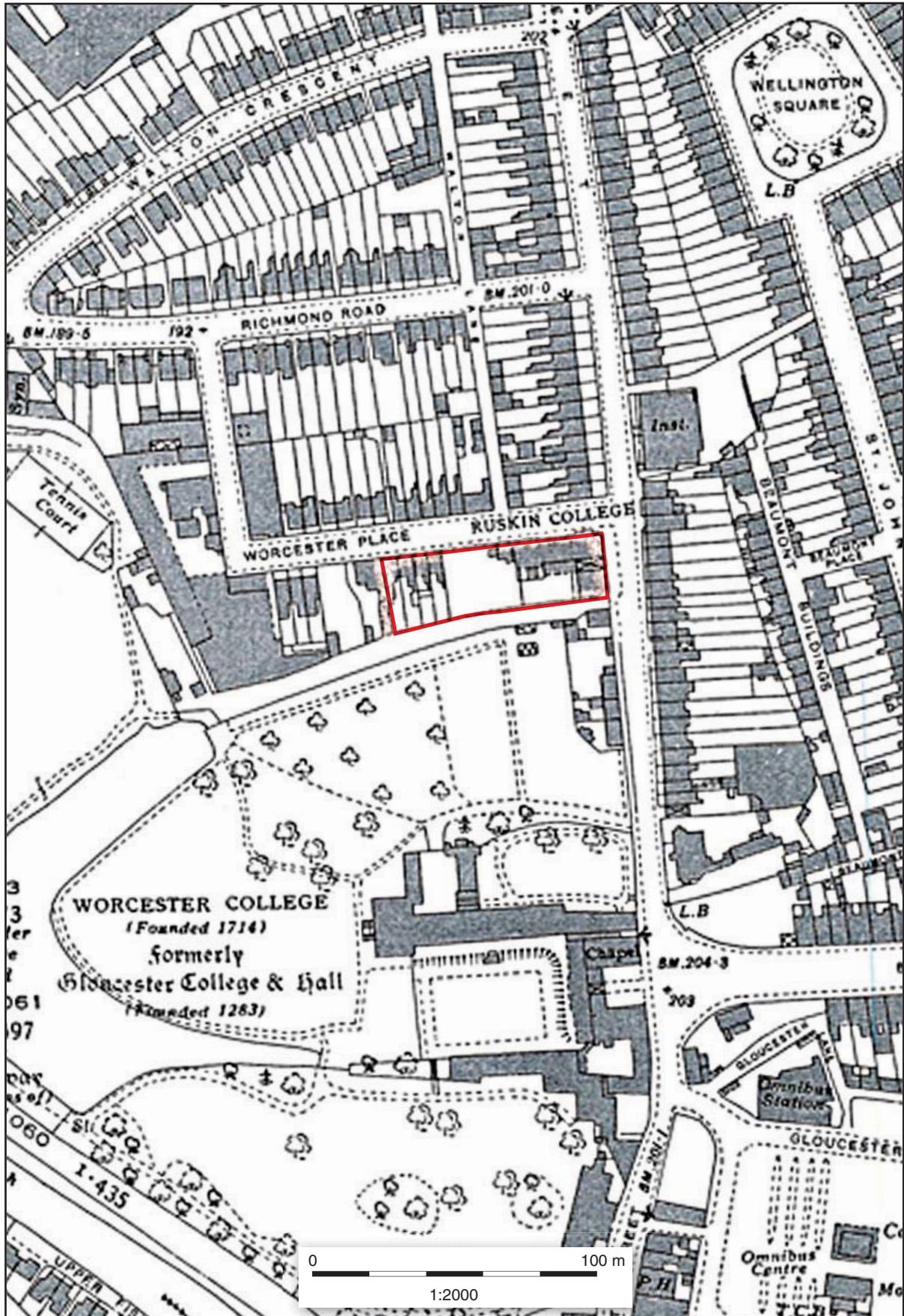


Figure 9: OS 1939 map with site outline.

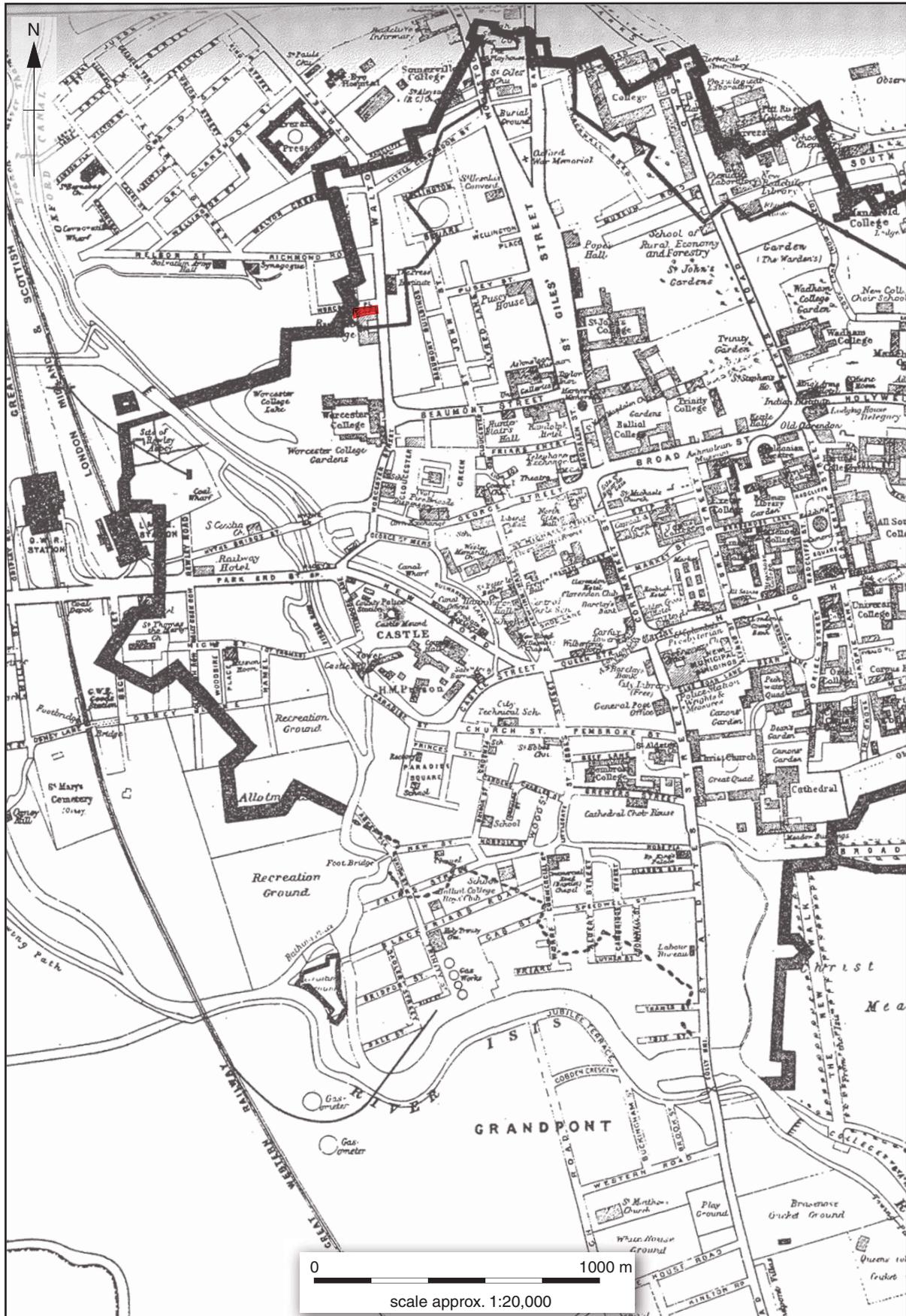


Figure 10: Map from Oxoniensia 1936 showing projected line of 1644 Civil War defences as shown on De Gomme's Map.





