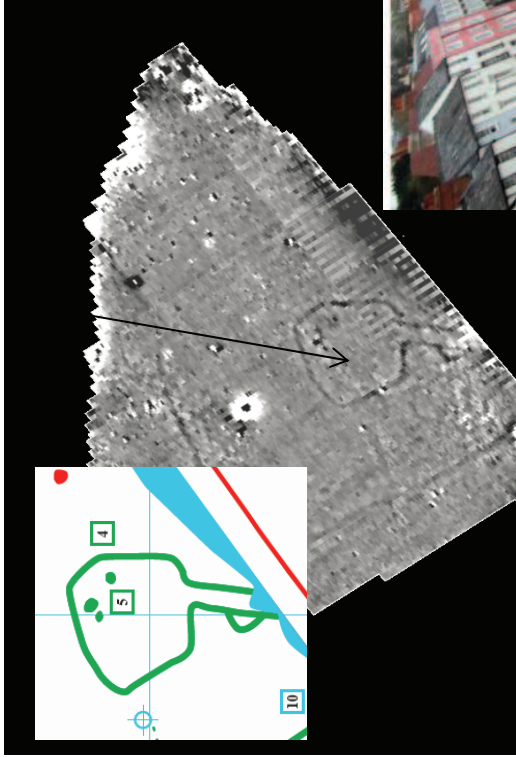


Archaeological Investigation in Oxford: Opportunities and Challenges

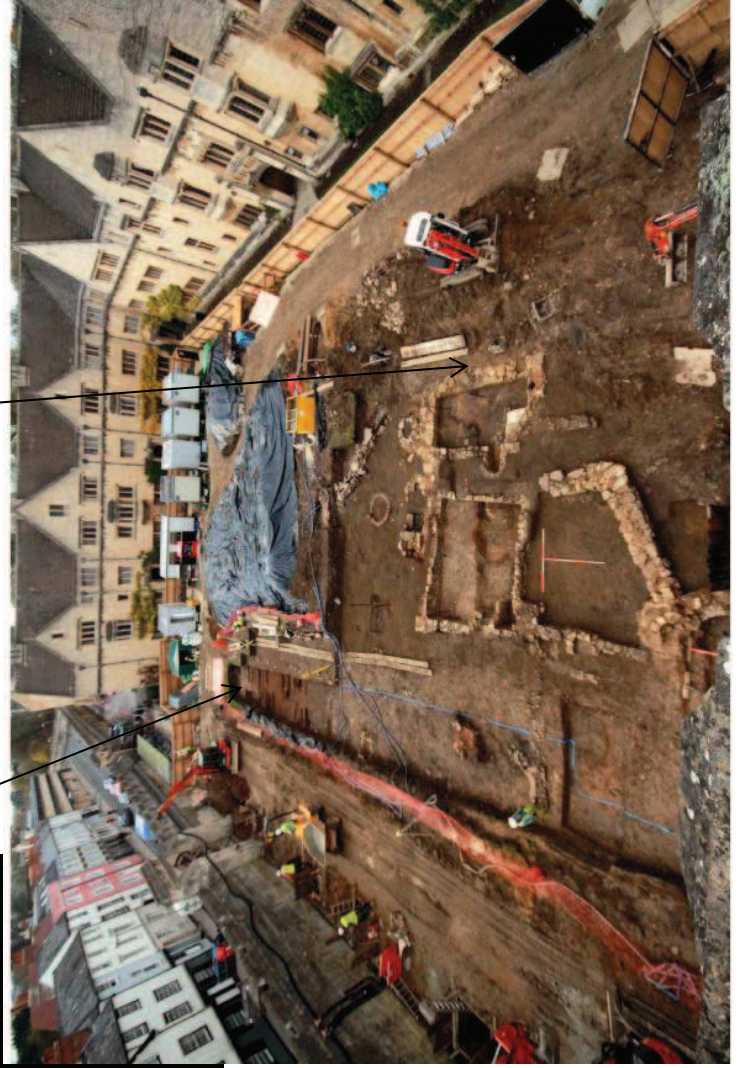
Geophysics results from land adjacent to Littlemore hospital showing an Iron Age 'banjo' enclosure



- Advance understanding
- Sustain significance



Excavations at Magdalen College Longwall Quad
Burial ground of the medieval hospital of St John
Tenement associated with 18th century barber and wigmaker



Excavations of medieval settlement
remains at Church Lane Marston,
this February

The developing evidence base



Work in progress- a reconstruction drawing of part of the monumental prehistoric landscape of north Oxford by Museum of London Archaeology for a popular hand out on the ROQ excavation

What makes Oxford special?



Central Oxford has excellent medieval documentary coverage and good preservation because of the extent of college gardens and quads.

Wooden floors, plastered walls and blocked doorways- the well preserved remains of 13-14th century buildings below Peckwater Quad. An assemblage of glass alembics, heated pottery and clay fragments from a gaderobe may be rare evidence of alchemical activity.

Challenges for the 21st Century- a pattern emerges

The need for the higher education and retail sectors to upgrade and evolve whilst at the same time preserving the setting and integrity of surrounding listed structures has created a strong trend towards basement construction which can be seen in these two illustrations. They show a selection of developments with new basements across central Oxford that have received planning permission since the year 2000. A challenge for the future will be to support the development of new educational and commercial facilities whilst avoiding the significant cumulative loss of important buried remains.



Fig. 62 A selection of basement constructions receiving planning permission since the year 2000.



Fig. 61 Basements consented in the east end of the historic city shown on a 1:500 1876 OS basemap

© Oxford City Council and
 Museum of Oxford
 December 2011
 Drawing: Jeremy Colbourne

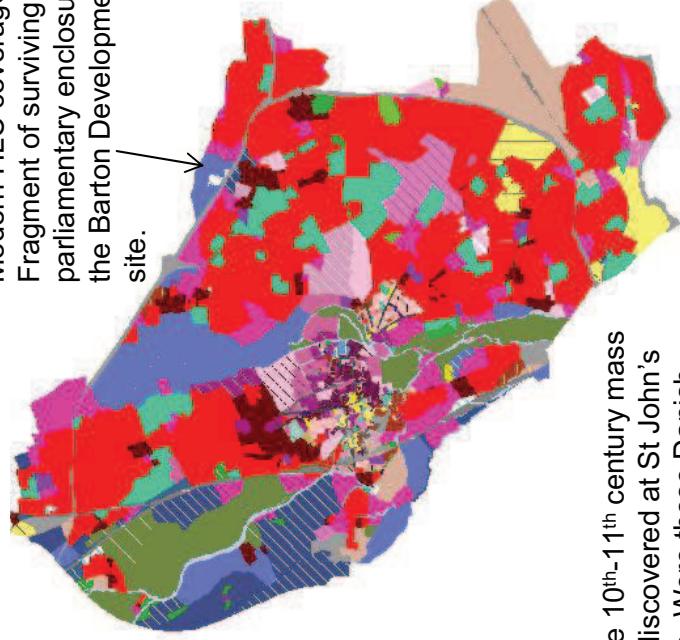
The Oxford Archaeological Plan

- Archaeological Resource Assessment
- Archaeological Research Agenda
- Historic Landscape Characterisation
- Historic Urban Characterisation
- Historic Urban Character Assesmer
- Oxford Archaeological Action Plan



The late 10th-11th century mass grave discovered at St John's College. Were these Danish migrants? Isotope analysis suggests that they ate plenty of fish in later life. Can we find contemporary burials to establish local patterns of fish consumption?

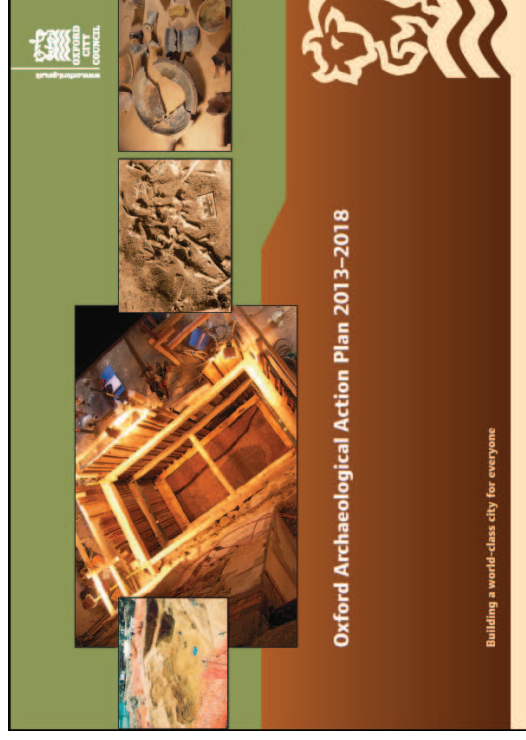
Modern HLC coverage.
Fragment of surviving parliamentary enclosure at the Barton Development site.



The Oxford Archaeological Action Plan

What is it for?:

- To signpost the online results of the Oxford Archaeological Plan.
- To provide a short overview of the city's historical development and highlight some exciting recent discoveries.
- To provide a 'framework of encouragement' for larger developers and land owners.
- To provide an action plan for archaeological development control service delivery.



The Localism Agenda and adding value



Archaeology in the local community



Fig. 33 Community volunteers excavating at Minchery Farm in 2012.

Millions of people regularly watch archaeological programmes on television or visit excavated objects in local museums. The scale of local interest in the subject has been clearly demonstrated by the Archeox (East Oxford Community Archaeology and History Project) begun in 2010. This Heritage Lottery funded project initiated by the University of Oxford Continuing Education Department has attracted over 5000 active participants from east Oxford and beyond. The project has undertaken a comprehensive test-pitting, geophysical survey and archaeological excavations at St Bartholemews Leper hospital and Minchery Farm Nunnery. Public interest has also been demonstrated by the success of open days held during developer funded archaeological investigations in the city. It is hoped that public engagement in the active process of investigation can be further encouraged in order to utilise the educational potential of such work and get greater value out of the process for the developer.



Fig. 34 An aerial shot of the community excavation at Minchery Farm, Littlemore, the site of a 12th century nunnery. This community dig has greatly improved our understanding of the nunnery and its occupants and helped generate information that should help us to manage the site more effectively in the future. ©2012 Adam Stanford/Arenal Com



Fig. 35 Visitors examine an excavated artefact during a site tour at the Clarendon Centre excavation in central Oxford in 2012.

www.oxford.gov.uk

Oxford Archaeological Action Plan 2013–2018

This page is intentionally left blank