

Oxford

An Introduction

Anu Dudhia
Dept. of Physics
University of Oxford







Carfax Tower



Origins

- ❖ Probably settled around 8th century, but first mentioned in 912
- ❖ Convenient crossing point of the River Thames
 - “ox” cow or bull
 - “ford” shallow river crossing
- ❖ Originally frontier town between ancient kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex
- ❖ Current population around 140 000



The University

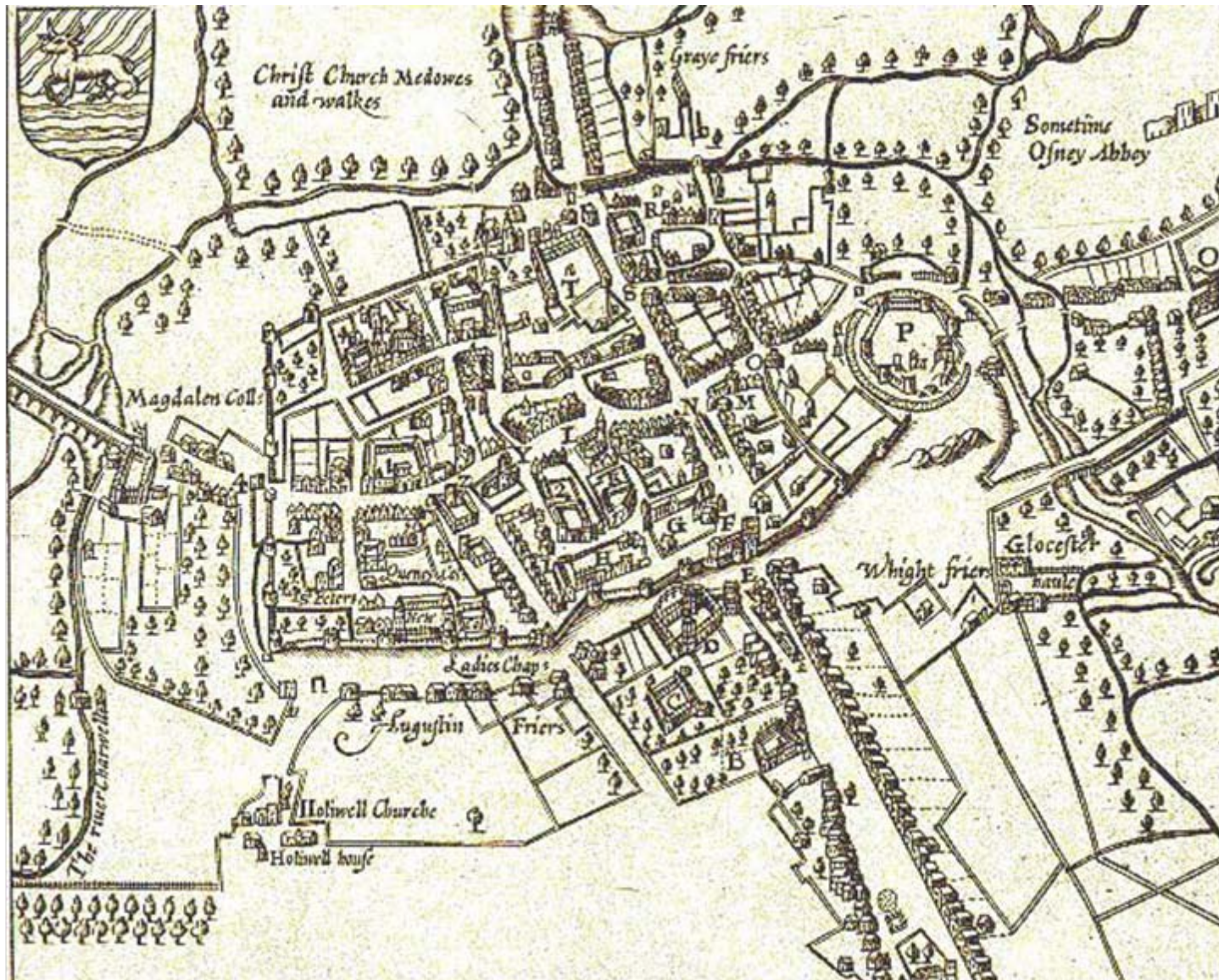


- ❖ Oldest University in the English speaking world
- ❖ Lectures given as early as 1096
- ❖ Influx of scholars expelled (with all foreigners) from University of Paris in 1167
- ❖ First college founded 1249 (“University College”)
- ❖ Now 39 Colleges, 20 000 students

Town v Gown

- **Gown**: members of the University
 - **Town**: other residents of Oxford
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- ❖ Many older colleges are built like fortresses
 - ❖ 1209: dispute between town and gown caused some academics to flee, and found Cambridge University
 - ❖ 1355: St Scholastica Day Riot - started in a tavern at Carfax - 93 dead

Oxford 1605



English Civil War 1642-1649

- ❖ War between King Charles I and Parliament.
- ❖ Parliament established control of London, forcing King to establish his royal court in Oxford
- ❖ King based in Christ Church, Queen in Corpus Christi
- ❖ Large amount of college silver melted down to pay King's army
- ❖ Oxford besieged several times (not too violently)
- ❖ Parliament won, Charles executed, but Oxford survived



The University Today

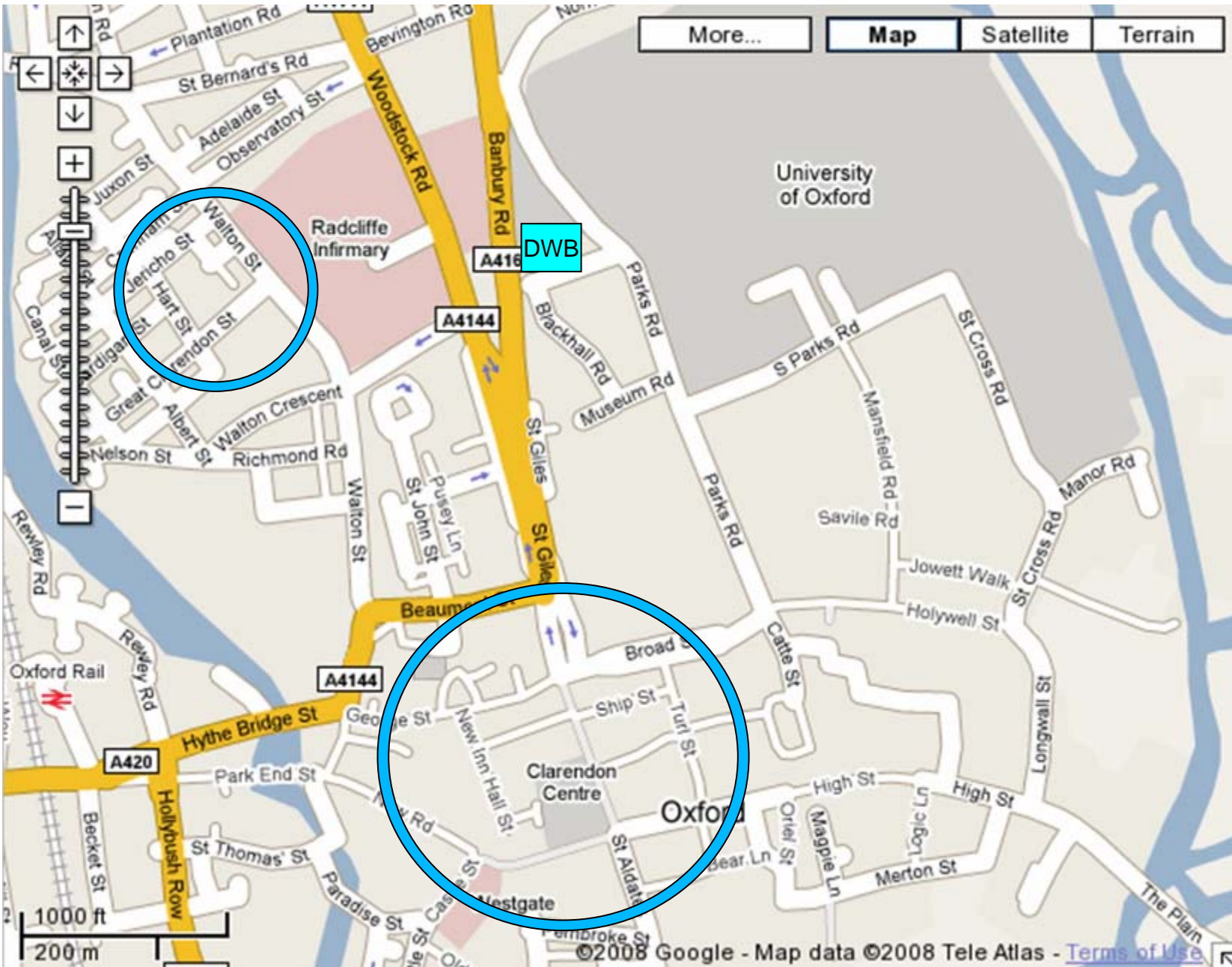
- ❖ Approximately 12000 undergraduates, 7000 graduates - one of the larger UK universities
- ❖ Split into 39 Colleges - all students and lecturers are members of a college
- ❖ Each college is a cross-section of the University
- ❖ Colleges responsible for accommodation, tutorials, meals, and social life
- ❖ University responsible for lectures, laboratories, and examinations

Lady Margaret Hall

- ❖ Founded 1878
- ❖ Originally a women's college but, like most Oxford colleges, mixed since 1979.
- ❖ 400 undergraduates, of which 20 study physics
- ❖ 4 physics professors/lecturers

Physics at Oxford

- ❖ One of the largest physics departments in the UK
- ❖ Single physics course for ~600 undergraduates
- ❖ Research (and ~200 post-graduates) split into 6 sub-departments
 - Astrophysics
 - Atmospheric, Oceanic & Planetary Physics
 - Atomic & Laser Physics
 - Condensed Matter Physics
 - Particle Physics
 - Theoretical Physics



More...

Map

Satellite

Terrain



DWB



Job Advert !

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Fellowship (3 years)*

Post-Doc working with IASI (&MIPAS) Data
Teaching physics at St Hugh's College

See www.atm.ox.ac.uk

