

The Woodyard Complex, Wimpole Hall Estate, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Monitoring Report



February 2011

Client: The National Trust

OA East Report No: 1238

OASIS No: oxfordar3-91049

NGR:

**Archaeological Monitoring at The Woodyard Complex, Wimpole Hall Estate,
Cambridgeshire, SG8 0BW**

Site Code: WPLWOC10

CHER No. Not applicable (na)

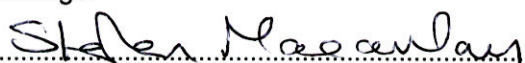
Date of Works: December 2010 to January 2011

Report No: 1238

Excavators: James Fairbairn, Chris Thatcher, Graeme Clarke

Client: The National Trust

Report Date: January 2011

Report Number: 1238
Site Name: The Woodyard Complex, Wimpole Hall Estate, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0BW
HER Event No: na
Date of Works: December 2010 to January 2011
Client Name: The National Trust
Client Ref: TW289784
Planning Ref: na
Grid Ref: TL 346 516
Site Code: WPLWOC10
Finance Code: WPLWOC10
Receiving Body: na
Accession No: na
Prepared by: Graeme Clarke
Position: Assistant Supervisor
Date: January 2011
Checked by: Steve Macaulay
Position: Acting Regional Manager
Date: January 2011
Signed: 

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 East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2010
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Summary.....	7
1 Geology and Topography.....	9
2 Archaeological Background	9
3 Methodology.....	9
4 Results.....	10
5 Discussion and Conclusions.....	10
6 Acknowledgements.....	10
Bibliography	11
Appendix A. OASIS Report Form	12

List of Figures

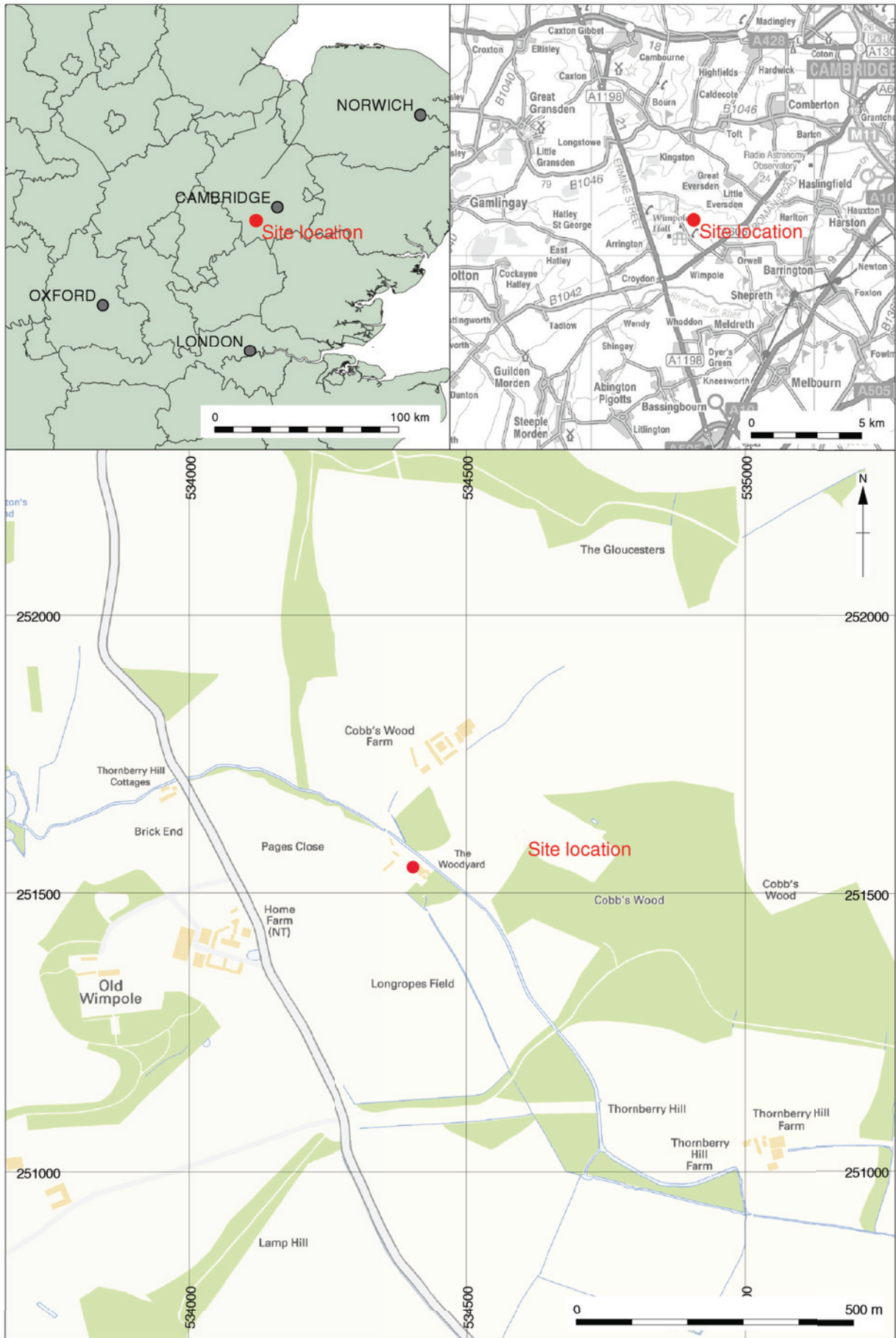
Fig. 1 Site location map

Fig. 2 Layout of the monitored soil investigation works

List of Plates

Plate 1. Machine digging area WS14

Plate 2 Overburden of the trackway

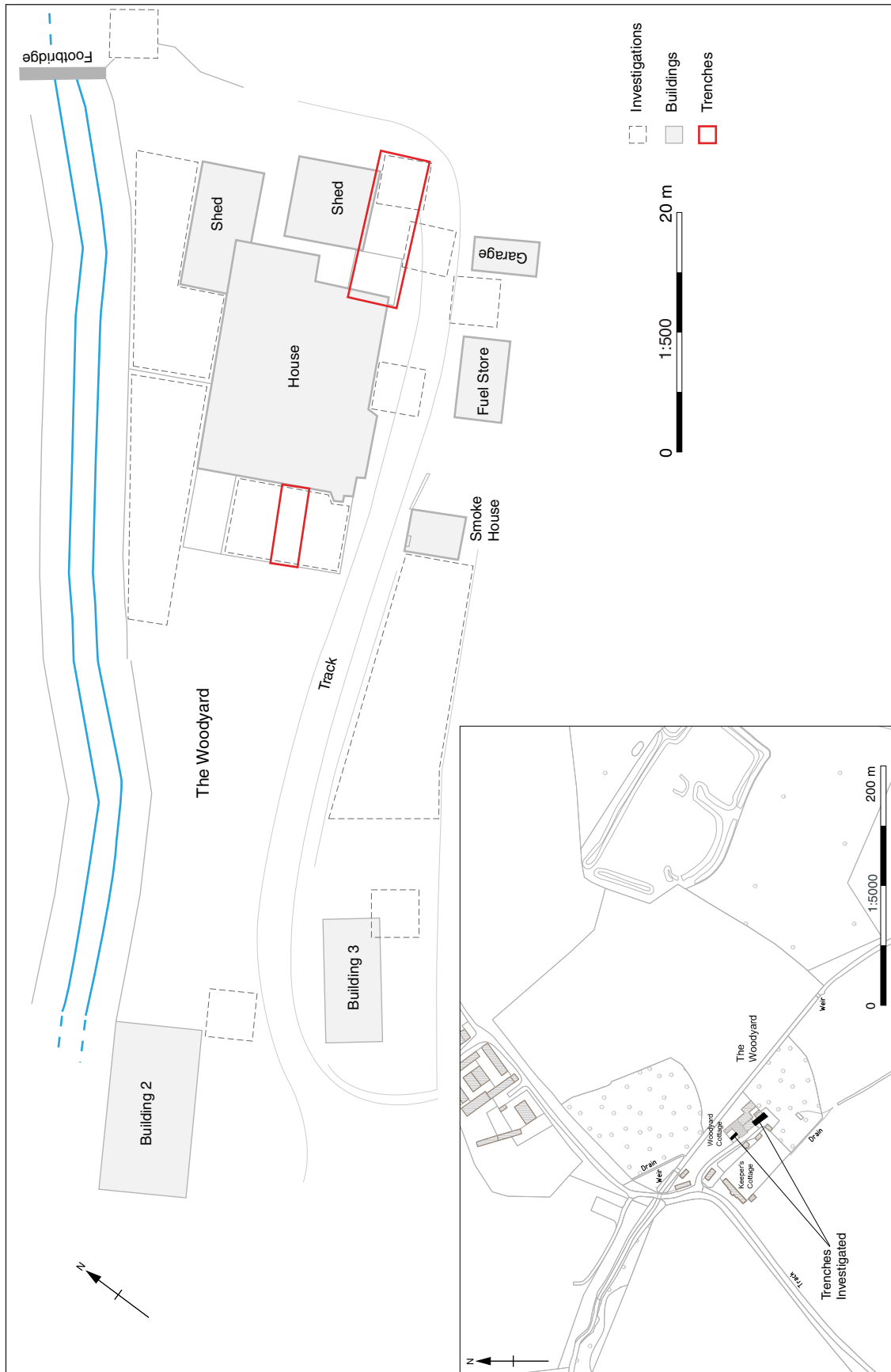


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010

Figure 1: Site location

Summary

During December 2010 and January 2011, OA East carried out archaeological monitoring at The Woodyard Complex, Wimpole Hall Estate, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0BW (TL 344 515). The monitoring was carried out during environmental soil investigation works at the site. These works were a remedial measure associated with the redevelopment of the existing buildings on the site by The National Trust. The site has previously been used as a gasworks. The soil investigation was monitored for any archaeological remains that may have been affected. No archaeological remains were exposed or any artefacts recovered during these works and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological monitoring be required for the subsequent phases of this redevelopment.



© Crown Copyright 2010. All rights reserved. License No. AL100023974

Figure 2: Trenches investigated. Scale 1:500, Map Scale 1:5000



Plate 1: Machine digging area WS14



Plate 2: Overburden of the trackway

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The underlying geology is comprised of Gault Clay overlain by alluvium (British Geological Survey 2001). The site lies in a rural setting at approximately 35m above ordnance datum on flat land adjacent to a stream which bounds the east of the site (see Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The site is property of The National Trust comprising approximately 0.84 hectares. The site is occupied by a disused house with several outbuildings. Additional above ground structures associated with the sites previous use as a gasworks have been removed.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The parish of Wimpole was part of the Wetherley Hundred in the Late Saxon period. Wimpole was one of three settlements in the parish and was recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) with twelve people enumerated and by 1563 there were 36 families (Elrington 1973, 264). In 1801 there were 56 families recorded in the parish consisting of a total of 202 people, and by 1831 the population had more than doubled to 583. After this high point the population of Wimpole slowly declined to 155 people in 1961.
- 2.1.2 The principal manor in the parish was held successively by several families before passing in 1436 to Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury. Sir Thomas Chicheley began building the present Wimpole Hall in c.1640 with additions made from 1660 onwards. By the later 17th century the Chicheley's removed the remaining village for the creation of a park and gardens. Sir Thomas Chicheley sold Wimpole and Arrington in 1686 to Sir Thomas Cutler, a rich London merchant. The manor passed quickly through three successive families: the Holles, the Harleys and then to the Yorke family (Earls of Hardwicke) in 1739 who held the manor for a further 150 years.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological monitoring of the environmental soil investigation works were carried out to fulfil the requirements set by The National Trust. The monitoring was voluntarily requested by The National Trust who own the site.
- 3.1.3 The intrusive environmental soil investigation was located in numerous areas surrounding the existing buildings on site to fulfil the remedial requirements for the proposed redevelopment (see Figure 2).
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. However no archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring.
- 3.1.5 Site conditions were good throughout the monitoring.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were exposed or artefacts recovered during the archaeological monitoring.
- 4.1.2 The ground conditions encountered beneath the site broadly comprised of: hard standing underlain by made ground to an approximate depth of 0.6m below ground level (bgl). Beneath this a soft brown clay subsoil was observed to an approximate depth of 1.0m bgl. This was underlain by natural loose flint gravel with some sand and silt extending to an approximate depth of 1.6m bgl. At this depth a firm blue grey clay was observed considered to represent the Gault Clay identified in the desk study as underlying the site.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features were exposed or artefacts retrieved in the investigation area. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological monitoring is required for the further phases of redevelopment of this site.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank The National Trust who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Steve Macaulay. The author would also like to thank RSA Geotechnics Limited who carried out the environmental soil investigation and accommodated the monitoring. Thanks must also be extended to Groupbridge for their hospitality on site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Elrington, C.R. (ed.), 1973. A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely volume V. Oxford University Press

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-91049		
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring at The Woodyard Complex, Wimpole Hall Estate, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0BW		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	07-12-2010	Finish	11-01-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WPLWOC10	Planning App. No.	not applicable
HER No.	not applicable	Related HER/OASIS No.	not applicable

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Voluntary/self-interest

Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
none	None	none	None
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	West Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Wimpole	
HER	not applicable	
Study Area	0.84 hectares	National Grid Reference TL 346 516

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	not applicable
Project Design Originator	not applicable
Project Manager	Steve Macaulay
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke, James Fairbairn, Chris Thatcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
not applicable	OA East	OA East
not applicable	WPLWOC10	WPLWOC10

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oamed@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

OA Grand Ouest

7 Rue des Monderaines
ZI - Ouest
14650 Carpiquet
France

t: +33 (0) 2 49 88 01 01
f: +33 (0) 2 49 88 01 02
e: [info@oago.fr](mailto: info@oago.fr)
w: <http://oago.fr>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*