

Mermaid Spinney High Street Boxworth



Archaeological Evaluation Report



July 2011

Client: Sally Marsh

OA East Report No: 1279

OASIS No: oxfordar3-103563

NGR: TL 3471 6425

Mermaid Spinney, High Street, Boxworth

Archaeological Evaluation

By G. Clarke BSc

With contributions by Carole Fletcher BA AIFA and Chris Faine MA Msc

Editor: Aileen Connor BA AIFA

Illustrator: Andrew Corrigan BA

Report Date: July 2011

Report Number: 1279

Site Name: Mermaid Spinney, High Street, Boxworth, Cambs., CB23 4NE

HER Event No: ECB3606

Date of Works: June 2011

Client Name: Sally Marsh

Client Ref:

Planning Ref: S/1218/09/O

Grid Ref: TL34716425

Site Code: BOXMES11

Finance Code: BOXMES11

Receiving Body CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No: BOXMES11

Prepared by: G. Clarke
Position: Acting Supervisor
Date: July 2011

Checked by: A. Connor
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: July 2011
Signed: AA Connor

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 there from. 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: oeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2011
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	7
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography.....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	7
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	8
2 Aims and Methodology.....	9
2.1 Aims.....	9
2.2 Methodology.....	9
3 Results.....	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Test Pit Descriptions.....	10
3.3 Finds Summary.....	10
3.4 Environmental Summary.....	11
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	12
4.2 Significance.....	12
4.3 Recommendations.....	12
Appendix A. Test Pit Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	13
Appendix B. Finds Reports.....	15
B.1 Small Finds.....	15
B.2 Pottery.....	16
B.3 Clay Tobacco Pipes.....	20
B.4 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay.....	20
B.5 Faunal remains.....	21
Online References.....	22
Appendix C. Bibliography	23
Appendix D. OASIS Report Form	24

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location with development area outlined red
Fig. 2 Site plan
Fig. 3 Section drawings

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Medieval belt buckle from test pit 8

Summary

Between 15th and 17th June 2011, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation on Mermaid Spinney, High Street, Boxworth, (TL34716425). This took the form of eight of one metre square test pits across the proposed development area. An early-medieval ditch was revealed in one test pit. Overlying this feature and in the other test pits a buried plough soil was encountered immediately above the natural ground. The plough soil contained medieval artefacts including pottery sherds, a bone comb fragment and a buckle.

The test pits have provided evidence for changing land-use, and nearby domestic occupation of possibly moderately high status between the 11th and 16th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Mermaid Spinney, High Street, Boxworth, Cambridgeshire, (TL34716425).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/1218/09/O), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East. This relates to the proposed development of a new house and garage within the current garden of a private property.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is a private property located on the north side of the High street in the village of Boxworth, Cambridgeshire. The site is comprised of a two storey house towards the High Street with a garden extending to the north. It is relatively level (fig 1).
- 1.2.2 Boxworth is situated on Boulder Clay deposits (BGS Sheet 187, Drift Edition), and the site is approximately 43m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Boxworth is a small village with a historical and archaeological record dating back to the medieval, Saxon, Roman and prehistoric periods.
- 1.3.2 In the Norman period it was referred to as Bocheuuord or Buccs Enclosure in the Domesday book and the land was divided between the Abbot of Ramsey, Count Alan of Brittany (William the Conqueror's son-in-law), Robert Gernon, Gilbert de Ghent and Hardwin de Scales, the largest portion of the village being in the domain of Hardwin de Scales (Connor 2008).
- 1.3.3 The medieval village appears to have developed from more than one focus. The current church (Historic Environment Record (HER) No. 00247) dates back to the 12th century. The Historic Environment Record (HER) No. 03528 postulates that the original nucleus may have been in the area of a four-sided green, close to the church at the north end of the village. This is evidenced by archaeological excavations undertaken in this part of the village and detailed below. Many anomalies were identified by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2004 with a magnetometer survey of the green consistent with existing earthworks on it. These earthworks are described as Saxo-Norman and medieval remains (HER No. 10826). There is also a small triangular green at the south-west end to a point just west of Manor House Farm in the north of the village.

- 1.3.4 There was also a large medieval manorial moated site in the south of the village (located at Grange Wood to the development area's south) (HER No. 01088, TL 3481 6377). This was the site of Tilty Abbey Grange and dates from at least 1300 when it was first documented (Taylor 1997).
- 1.3.5 A medieval moated site is also located at Boxworth Experimental Farm to the east of the development area (HER No. 01089, TL 3488 6415). This was the manor house of Huntingfields (Taylor 1997). This manor had Saxon origins and taken over by sheriff Picot by 1086 AD (Wright 1989). The high street, where the proposed development site is located, would have linked these focal points developing into the medieval core of the village.
- 1.3.6 A shrinking of the medieval village appears to have occurred and is indicated by several earthworks located to the north of the proposed development area and by further remains in and around the village (HER No. 03528). Furthermore, evidence of contemporary agriculture (ridge & furrow) can be found throughout the village (HER No. CB14581 for example). It is thought that similar evidence may be found within the proposed area of the developments site bounds (McConnell 2011). This decline is further illustrated by a poll tax record of the period. In 1377 AD there were 299 adults paying the tax but in 1524 AD this was only being paid by 18 people (Wright 1989).
- 1.3.7 The adjacent property to the west of Mermaid Spinney contains earthworks including a shallow bank and some possible ditches running from east to west (HER No. 10377, TL 347 642).
- 1.3.8 Boxworth has been the location of only limited excavation to date, mainly in Spring Close and Church Farm at the north end of the village (Time Team Big Dig no. 1846075 and Connor, A. 2008).
- 1.3.9 The Time Team Big Dig project is detailed in HER No. CB15635. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fragments had been recovered from rabbit holes on the green at the north end of the village (TL 3497 6447). A test pit excavated at this location recovered more artefacts dating from the mid-Iron Age to Roman periods. A possible post hole and beam slot of late Iron date was identified at the base of the pit.
- 1.3.10 Connor excavated trenches to the east of the parish church and green in the northern part of the village. Surviving earthworks were demonstrated to be of the late Saxon to Norman periods. A possible windmill, circular dovecote or hay stack stand was evidenced by concentric curvilinear ditches of Saxo-Norman date in the western part of the green at Spring Close (HER No. 10826, centred on TL 3497 6453). Evidence for late Roman/ early Saxon transitional settlement was also encountered through artefacts and the presence of a rectilinear field system. It was postulated that they may have followed the alignment of earlier ditch systems. Prehistoric features and artefacts were excavated in this part of the village. One of the two prehistoric ditches excavated yielded a bone awl of Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Artefacts recovered from the trenches north of the stream including flint tools dating to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age periods. A saddle quern was recovered from topsoil to the southeast of the stream (Connor 2008).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Sally Marsh for her hospitality during the site works and Mike Green for his hard work excavating the test pits. Thanks must also be extended to Hazel White of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for the HER records. Dan McConnell wrote the Brief for archaeological investigation and

monitored the work. Aileen Connor managed the project, Rachel Clarke undertook the site survey.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation 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.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that a programme of linear trial trenching and/ or test pitting to adequately sample the threatened available area and excavate sufficient archaeological features to conform with the aims of the investigation. All features must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the Historic Environment Team (HET). Investigation slots, at least 1m in width, must be excavated through all linear features. Discrete features must be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants.
- 2.2.2 No machine excavation was carried out on site due to the lack of a suitable access to the investigation area. Therefore, a total of eight, one meter square test pits were excavated by hand on a standard grid array within the footprint of the proposed new development giving a 5% sample (fig 2).
- 2.2.3 The adjacent proposed garage as part of the new development was not sampled due to the presence of Japanese knotweed (a notifiable weed) in this area. This is currently receiving treatment and must not be disturbed.
- 2.2.4 The site survey was carried out with a Leica total station (TCR 705)
- 2.2.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.7 No features or layers were encountered that had potential for environmental sampling.
- 2.2.8 The site conditions were good. The test pits were placed on a grass lawn. The weather was sunny with occasional showers.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section, full descriptions with dimensions are given in appendix A.

3.2 Test Pit Descriptions

- 3.2.1 Test pits 1 to 8 were all located on the rear garden lawn of Mermaid Spinney at a height of 41.2m OD. Excavation of these pits revealed consistent deposits across the proposed development area.
- 3.2.2 The natural boulder clay (19) was encountered in all the test pits at a depth of between 0.5m and 0.8m below ground level. This comprised a compact orange brown clayey silt with much chalk and occasional flint gravel.
- 3.2.3 One ditch (10) was revealed cutting the natural at the base of test pit 7 (fig 3). This was a small linear feature (0.5m wide by 0.13m deep), on an ENE to WSW alignment. This ditch contained one fill (9) comprising a compact greyish brown sandy silt with a little clay and some gravel. Three pottery fragments were recovered from the ditch fill, two from the rim of a St Neots type ware jar and an early medieval type ware dating from the mid 11th to the mid 12th century.
- 3.2.4 The ditch in test pit 7 was sealed by a compact layer of olive brown sandy silt with a little clay and much gravel (17). This layer, a possible plough soil, was between 0.2m and 0.45m thick. Finds from this layer included ten sherds of pottery dating to the mid 14th-end of the 15th century and fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.5 The plough soil (contexts 11-18) was present in all of the remaining test pits, where it overlaid natural and was the same as context 17 in test pit 7. Pottery was recovered from the plough soil in all of the test pits with a date range of Mid 12th to Mid 14th century in test pits 2 (12), 3 (13), 4 (14), 13th to Mid 14th century in test pits 1 (11), 5 (15), 6 (16) and Mid 14th to Late 15th century in test pits 7 (17) and 8 (18). A fragment of roof tile was found in context 13. Animal bone was also present in the plough soil in all of the test pits. The plough soil from test pit 4 (14) also contained a small fragment of a medieval bone comb (SF3) and an incomplete 14th to 15th century copper alloy buckle from test pit 5 (SF1; plate 1).
- 3.2.6 Overlying the plough soil in all of the test pits was a layer of modern made ground (1 to 8) with a maximum thickness of 0.4m. This layer consisted of compact mixed lenses of yellow brown clayey silt and dark grey sandy silt with much gravel. Finds included a sawn cattle scapula from test pit 6 indicative of small scale bone working, medieval pottery from test pits 4, 6, 7, and 8, post-medieval pottery from test pit 8, ceramic building material (fired clay and roof tile) from test pits 6 and 7, a tobacco pipe stem from test pit 4, two pewter spoon handle fragments (SF2 and SF4; AD1300-1650) and an assortment of modern buttons, glass, brick, pottery, metal and plastic.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 Full descriptions of the finds recovered from the test pits are given in appendix B.
- 3.3.2 Eight small finds dated as medieval or post-medieval were recovered from the test-pits, of particular interest was a medieval bone comb fragment (SF3), a 14th to 15th century copper alloy buckle (SF1) and fragments of two pewter spoons (SF2 and SF4).

- 3.3.3 A small assemblage of 86 pottery sherds (0.374kg) was recovered from the test pits. The pottery is abraded with an average weight of 4g. The majority of the pottery is medieval in date (no later than AD1500) with only one context (8) producing post-medieval pottery (2 sherds).
- 3.3.4 Three fragments of roof tile and 3 fragments of fired clay (0.051kg) were recovered, all abraded and none closely datable.
- 3.3.5 A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered (36 fragments). Ten fragments are identifiable to species; roughly equal numbers of butchered cattle and sheep/goat ribs/long bones from adult animals. A single male pig canine was recovered from context 16. The remainder of the unidentifiable fragments were from large and medium mammals.
- 3.3.6 Post-medieval and modern finds included: tobacco pipe stem, buttons, glass, brick, metal and plastic.

3.4 Environmental Summary

- 3.4.1 No deposits were identified with potential for environmental sampling.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The single feature, a ditch was stratigraphically the earliest in the sequence and also contained the earliest pottery suggesting a backfilling date of Mid 11th to Mid 12th century. This may be the remnant of a field or property boundary. It does not appear to be quite aligned with the modern High Street, but fits better with the medieval streets (Taylor 1997, 23) and may be a back boundary for a property fronting the medieval precursor to the High Street. It may be associated with the ditches and bank located in the adjacent property to the west (see section 1.3.6).
- 4.1.2 The boundary ditch appears to mark a change in land use; pottery from the overlying plough soil to the south of the ditch is of a slightly later (Mid 14th-Late 15th century) than that to the north (Mid 12th-Mid 14th century). This suggests that the boundary may have continued after the 12th century, perhaps as a hedge or fence and that the area to the south of the boundary was either not ploughed or not manured until the Mid 14th century, whilst the area to the north was ploughed and manured at an earlier date, but manuring/ploughing apparently ceased after the middle of the 14th century.
- 4.1.3 Pottery fragments, animal bone, bone comb fragment and copper alloy buckle found within the plough soil attest to nearby occupation, possibly of moderately high status, but deposited here through middening and manuring. The desk study identified evidence of agriculture, contemporary with the medieval manors, throughout the village (see section 1.3.6 above). The identification of a plough soil beneath Mermaid Spinney and overlying an early medieval boundary ditch would appear to be further evidence for the shrinking of medieval Boxworth and the encroachment of agriculture at the core of the village as postulated by HER No. 03528.
- 1.1.1 By the early post-medieval period the land may have converted to pasture or possibly woodland (*cf Spinney*) as no pottery later than 1500 was recovered from the buried plough soil. This is further significant evidence for a permanent change in land use in this part of the village at this time.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The excavation at Mermaid Spinney has shown that medieval archaeological remains are present at this locality. This has been an important opportunity to record the deposits beneath this part of Boxworth and has provided evidence of changing land-use from the 11th to the 16th century.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 1						
Consists of plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
01	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	Bone, modern finds	modern
11	Layer	-	0.2	Plough soil	pot	medieval
Test Pit 2						
Consists of plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.75
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
02	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	Bone, pewter, modern finds	modern
12	Layer	-	0.45	Plough soil	Pot, bone	medieval
Test Pit 3						
Consists of plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
03	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	Modern finds	modern
13	Layer	-	0.3	Plough soil	Pot, bone, tile	medieval
Test Pit 4						
Consists of plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.55
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
04	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	Pewter, pot, bone, pipe stem, modern finds	modern
14	Layer	-	0.25	Plough soil	Pot, bone, bone comb	medieval
Test Pit 5						
Consists of plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.6

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
05	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	Modern finds	Modern
15	Layer	-	0.3	Plough soil	Pot, bone, belt buckle	-
Test Pit 6						
Consists of plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.7
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
06	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	Pot, bone, cbm, modern finds	modern
16	Layer	-	0.4	Plough soil	Pot, bone	medieval
Test Pit 7						
Consists of a linear ditch cutting the natural overlain by a plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.8
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
07	Layer	-	0.4	Made ground	Pot, bone, cbm, modern finds	modern
17	Layer	-	0.4	Plough soil	Pot, bone	medieval
09	Ditch fill	0.5	0.13	silting	Pot	Late Saxon-early medieval
10	Ditch cut	0.5	0.13	Linear Boundary		medieval
Test Pit 8						
Consists of plough soil overlain by made ground					depth (m)	0.7
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
08	Layer	-	0.35	Made ground	Pot, bone, tile, modern finds	modern
18	Layer	-	0.35	Plough soil	Pot, bone	medieval

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Small Finds

By Carole Fletcher with contributions by Chris Faine

Introduction

- B.1.1 Archaeological evaluation at Mermaid Spinney, Boxworth, produced a small assemblage of artefacts.

Condition

- B.1.2 Metal objects are in a relatively stable condition and the non-metal objects are in good condition.
- B.1.3 All objects are packaged in crystal boxes or polythene bags with foam support. All bags or boxes are stored in Stewart boxes with silica gel.

The assemblage by material

- B.1.4 The minimum number of objects by material is shown in Table 1.

Bone Objects	1
Copper Alloy Objects	1
Lead Alloy Objects	2
Total	4

Table 1: small finds by material

The assemblage by functional category

- B.1.5 The functional category used is that defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988. Categories present in the assemblage are 1 personal adornment or dress, 2 toilet, surgical or pharmaceutical instruments and 4 household equipment.

Category 1, personal adornment or dress

- B.1.6 **Buckles:** SF1, context 15, Plate 1, an incomplete late medieval-post medieval (1350-1650) copper alloy double-oval framed buckle. A similar example is illustrated by Egan and Pritchard (2002, p84, Fig 51 No. 343). The frame, as in Egan and Pritchard's example, has a series of knops along the perimeter each drilled with a blind hole, decorated with crude engraved lines (Egan and Pritchard, 2002 p83).
- B.1.7 The example from Mermaid Spinney is crudely engraved with lines that follow the curvature of the buckle and in-filled with three groups of lines engraved at an oblique angle. Two groups are made up of four lines, while the third group is possibly three

lines. The reverse of the buckle is undecorated and the knops un-drilled unlike Egan's example. The central bar of the buckle survives and the start of the second loop can be seen, the remainder having been lost in antiquity along with the pin and plate. The surviving loop was split and the upper surface damaged during excavation with bare metal left exposed. There is some corrosion on the upper surface and reverse of the buckle, where the patina has been lost. The example in Whitehead is described as tinned (Whitehead 2003, p59 No.346), there is no obvious evidence of tinning on the Mermaid Spinney example.

Length 26.4, width 48.6mm (including knops), thickness 2.3-2.5mm. Internal loop 12.3x35.8mm.

Category 2, Toilet, surgical or pharmaceutical instruments

by Chris Fane

- B.1.8 **Combs:** SF3, context 14. A toothplate fragment from a bone comb, broken on three sides with two teeth surviving. Length 29 mm, width 10.3mm. Although extremely fragmentary the dimensions of the individual teeth suggests a broadly medieval date, possibly from a one piece comb (Macgregor, 2001).

Category 4, household equipment

- B.1.9 **Spoons:** SF2, context 4. An incomplete cast lead alloy handle, the partial shaft or stem from a spoon. It was broken in antiquity at both ends thus is missing the bowl and terminal or knob. The handle is flat backed, D-shaped with chamfered edges and central ridge on upper surface. One end is flattened and flares out possibly towards the bowl, while the other end is bent near the break and slightly flared. Medieval-post medieval 1300-1650.

Length 56mm, width 6.3mm at centre, 3.7-4.4mm thick

- B.1.10 SF4, context 2. An incomplete cast lead alloy handle, the partial shaft or stem from a spoon. Broken at both ends, flat backed, D-shaped stem with narrow possibly decorated central ridge. Medieval-post medieval 1300-1650.

Length 23mm, width 4.1mm at centre, 2.8-3.1mm thick

Further Work and Methods Statement

- B.1.11 No further work is required at this stage unless further excavation is undertaken at which point this material should be incorporated in to the archive.

B.2 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- B.2.1 The evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of 86 sherds, weighing 0.374kg, from 13 contexts. Overall the condition of the assemblage is abraded and the average sherd weight from individual contexts is low at approximately 4g.

B.2.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the text are:

EAR	East Anglian Redware
EMWT	Early Medieval Type Ware
ENGs	English Stoneware
GRIM	Grimston ware
HUNCAL	Huntingdonshire Calcareous Ware
HUNFSW	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy Ware
LMRT	Late Medieval Type Ware
LYST	Lyveden-Stanion
MEL	Medieval Ely Ware
MSGW	Medieval Sandy Grey Ware
MSW	Medieval Sandy Ware
NEOT	St Neots Type Ware
SGW	Sandy Grey ware
SHW	Shelly Ware
UNPROV	Unprovenanced
UPG	Unprovenanced Glazed Ware

Methodology

- B.2.3 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- B.2.4 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis.
- B.2.5 The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

- B.2.6 Test pit 1, context 11, produced 5 sherds (0.022kg) of post-Roman pottery including sherds from LYST and MEL jugs alongside medieval SHW and MSGW.
- B.2.7 Test Pit 2 produced 23 sherds (0.095kg) of Late Saxon-early medieval pottery, including a relatively unabraded NEOT bowl rim and medieval fabrics similar to those in Test pit1.
- B.2.8 Test pit 3 produced only five sherds of pottery of which included SGW sherds and two unprovenanced sherds none of which are closely datable.
- B.2.9 Test Pit 4 produced pottery from the made ground, context 4 (5 sherds, 0.022kg) which contained a mix of Late Saxon-early medieval, medieval and late medieval pottery. Six abraded sherds including NEOT, EMWT MSW and MEL were recovered from the buried plough soil (context 14).
- B.2.10 Test pit 5 produced 3 sherd of pottery weighing 0.027kg, including a small body sherd from a GRIM jug and a sherd of MEL.

- B.2.11 Test pit 6, like Test Pit 4, also produced pottery from the made ground: a rim sherd from a NEOT jar and a small sherd from an EAR vessel. The buried soil, context 16, produced ten sherds of pottery (0.029kg) including a fragment of handle from a small GRIM jug and SHW sherds.
- B.2.12 Test Pit 7 contained the only archaeological feature, a small ditch 10, the fill of which contained two small sherds from the rim of a HNEOT jar and a small sherd of EMW. The plough soil, context 17, which overlay and truncated the ditch, contained ten sherds of pottery (0.061kg) including MSW, SHW and sherds of what has tentatively been identified as a HUNCAL vessel dating to the mid 14th century-end of the 15th century. The made ground above the plough soil also contained small sherds of pottery, a small sherd of NEOT and an unprovenanced jug sherd.
- B.2.13 The made ground excavated in Test Pit 8 produced the most recent fragment of pottery recovered from the site, a small sherd of ENGS (1670-1900). Below this the plough soil contained ten sherd of pottery, including a rim sherd from a NEOT jar, sherds of MSGW, MSW, SHW and a rim sherd from a late medieval jar.
- B.2.14 The assemblage is a mix of local fabrics and pottery from the surrounding counties, with few forms identifiable due to the abraded nature of many of the sherds. Those forms recognised are jars and jugs and a small number of bowls, while no pottery related to heating and lighting was recovered.
- B.2.15 A small amount of NEOT and EMW alongside the medieval sherds and small amounts of late medieval material suggests domestic activity in the vicinity of the site from the mid 11th century until the mid 14th century, when activity was much curtailed and fell away entirely by the end of the 15th century.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

- B.2.16 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. The pottery is all domestic in origin. The Late Saxon-early medieval and medieval material is abraded and has been disturbed by activity on the site. Little of the pottery is likely to be located in its place of primary deposition.
- B.2.17 The amount of pottery recovered from the test pitting suggests the buried plough soil represents medieval agricultural activity, with the pottery having derived from nearby occupation and deposited through middening and manuring. By the early post-medieval period the area may have become pasture as no pottery later than 1500 was recovered from the buried plough soil.
- B.2.18 No further work is required on the assemblage at this time.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Context Date Range for Pottery
4	NEOT		1	0.005	Mid 14th century-end of 16th century
	HUNCAL		1	0.004	
	MSW	Jar (Rim)	1	0.005	
	SHW		1	0.002	
	UNPROV		1	0.006	
6	NEOT	Jar (Rim)	1	0.004	Mid 12th-15th century
	EAR		1	0.002	
7	NEOT		1	0.002	Mid 12th mid 14th century
	UNPROV	Jar	1	0.002	

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Context Date Range for Pottery
8	NEOT		1	0.002	Late 17th-end of 19th century
	ENGs		1	0.005	
9	NEOT	Jar (Rim)	2	0.003	Mid 11th-mid 12th century
	EMW		1	0.001	
11	LYST	Jug	1	0.003	13th-mid 14th century
	MEL	Jug	1	0.002	
	SHW		1	0.007	
	UNPROV	Jar (Rim)	1	0.006	
	MSW (Oxidised)		1	0.004	
12	NEOT	Bowl (Rim)	1	0.026	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
			2	0.005	
	SHW	Bowl (Rim)	1	0.009	
			3	0.006	
	MSW (Oxidised)		4	0.009	
	MEL	Jar	1	0.002	
	MSGW		5	0.014	
	HUNFSWT		3	0.015	
	LYST	Jar	1	0.007	
	EAR	Jug	2	0.002	
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.012	
	SGW		1	0.005	
	SGW		1	0.004	
13	UNPROV		1	0.004	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	UNPROV (flint)		1	0.003	
	NEOT		1	0.001	
	EMWT		1	0.002	
	MEL		1	0.002	
14	MSW (Oxidised)		2	0.002	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	MSW		1	0.005	
	MEL		1	0.011	
	GRIM	Jug	1	0.004	
	UPG	Jug	1	0.012	
15	GRIM	Jug	1	0.010	13th-mid 14th century
	SHW		2	0.005	
	MEL		2	0.005	
	HUNFSW		1	0.003	

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Context Date Range for Pottery
	MSW		2	0.004	
	EMWT		2	0.002	
17	SHW		1	0.004	Mid 14th century-end of 15th century
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.002	
	HUNCAL	Jug	3	0.030	
	MSW (Oxidised)		1	0.004	
	SGW		1	0.005	
	MSW		3	0.016	
18	NEOT	Jar	1	0.009	Mid 14th century-end of 15th century
	SHW		1	0.012	
	MSGW		1	0.007	
	UNPROV		1	0.007	
	LMRT	Jar	1	0.009	
	MSW	Jar	1	0.006	
	MSW		4	0.007	

Table 2: Pottery dating

B.3 Clay Tobacco Pipes

By Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

- B.3.1 Two short fragments of white ball clay pipe stem weighing 0.003kg, were recovered from context 4. The stem is not closely datable and no further work is required on this assemblage.

B.4 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

- B.4.1 A small assemblage of three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 0.051kg, were recovered from contexts 8 and 13. Three small fragments of fired clay were recovered from context 6 and a single larger fragment from context 7. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded.

- B.4.2 The CBM and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

- B.4.3 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. No further work is required on this assemblage.

Context	Form	Count	Weight (kg)	Fabric	Range
6	Undiagnostic fired clay	1	0.004	Poorly fired dull red surfaces and margins, dark grey core. Some sand and occasional calc.	Not closely datable
	Undiagnostic fired clay	1	0.001	Hard fired orange slightly sandy fabric with occasional calc. inclusions. May be a small fragment of tile.	Not closely datable
7	Undiagnostic fired clay	1	0.032	Well fired dull red surfaces and margins, dark grey core. Some quartz and moderate amounts of calc. May be a fragment of brick.	Not closely datable
8	Roof Tile	1	0.015	Hard fired dull pale cream-yellow fabric completely oxidised. Common small voids	Not closely datable
8	Roof Tile	1	0.016	Hard fired dull pink fabric with pale cream-yellow and dull red swirls. Fabric completely oxidised.	Not closely datable
13	Roof Tile	1	0.020	Hard fired orange-red sandy fabric with sanded base.	Not closely datable

Table 3: Ceramic building material

B.5 Faunal remains

By Chris Faine MA Msc

Assemblage

- B.5.1 Fourteen contexts from the excavations yielded 36 fragments of animal bone of which 10 were identifiable to species (see Table 4). The assemblage consists of roughly equal numbers of butchered cattle and sheep/goat ribs/long bones from adult animals. A single male pig canine was recovered from context 16. The remainder of the unidentifiable fragments were from large and medium mammals. A sawn cattle scapula was also recovered from context 6 possibly indicating small scale bone working in the immediate area

	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	4	40	4	44.4
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	5	50	4	44.4
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	1	10	1	11.2
Total	10	100	9	100

NISP:Number of Individual Fragments, **MNI:** Minimum Number of Individuals

Table 4: Species distribution for the assemblage

References

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|--|
| Crummy, N. | 1983 | <i>The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 3 (Colchester) |
| Crummy, N. | 1988 | <i>The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 5 (Colchester) |
| Davis, S. J. M. | 1992 | <i>A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites</i> . Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92. London |
| Dobney, K & Reilly, K. | 1988 | <i>A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones</i> . Circaea 5(2): 79-96 |
| Egan, G. and Pritchard, F. | 2002 | <i>Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: 3 Dress Accessories c.1150-c1450</i> . Museum Of London |
| MacGregor, A | 2001 | <i>Bone, Antler, Ivory & Horn</i> . London |
| Medieval Pottery Research Group | 1998 | <i>A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms</i> . Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I |
| Medieval Pottery Research Group | 2001 | <i>Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics</i> Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2 |
| Whitehead, R. | 2003 | <i>Buckles 1250-1800</i> Greenlight |

ONLINE REFERENCES

<http://www.tegula.freemove.co.uk/acbm/CBMGDE3.htm>
 Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group, 2002, Draft Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS) 1975 England and Wales Sheet No.187 Huntingdon drift geology map

Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), Search centred on Mermaid Spinney, Boxworth, dated 22nd June 2011

Conner, A., 2008 *A Romano-Saxon Farmstead and possible 12th-century Dovecote or Windmill: Community excavations at Spring Close, Boxworth, TL 350 645*, Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society Volume XCVII

Conner, A., 2011 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Mermaid Spinney, Boxworth*, Oxford Archaeology East, dated 8th June 2011 (unpublished)

Egan, G., and Pritchard, F., 2002 *Dress Accessories 1150 – 1450*, Museum of London, The Boydell Press

McConnell, D., 2011 *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, dated June 1st 2011 (unpublished)

Taylor, A., 1997 *Archaeology of Cambridgeshire Volume I: South West Cambridgeshire*, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge

Taylor, I., 2003 *Evaluation Report for Time Team's 'Big Dig' Test Pit Registration Number 1846075 at Boxworth, Cambridgeshire*, Unpublished

Wright, A.P.M. And Lewis C.P.A., 1989 *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely Vol. IX*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-103563		
Project Name	Evaluation at Mermaid Spinney, High Street, Boxworth		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	15-06-2011	Finish 17-06-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	BOXMES11	Planning App. No.	S/1218/09/O
HER No.	ECB3606	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Small Scale (e.g. single house)

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

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
ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery, bone	Medieval 1066 to 1540
plough soil	Medieval 1066 to 1540	comb fragment	Medieval 1066 to 1540
	Select period...	belt buckle	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible) Mermaid Spinney, High Street, Boxworth, Cambridgeshire, CB23 4NE	
District	South Cambridgeshire		
Parish	Boxworth		
HER	Cambridgeshire HER		
Study Area	10 x 10m	National Grid Reference	TL34716425

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell, Historic Environment Team, CCC
Project Design Originator	Aileen Conner, OA East
Project Manager	Aileen Conner, OA East
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke, OA East

Project Archives

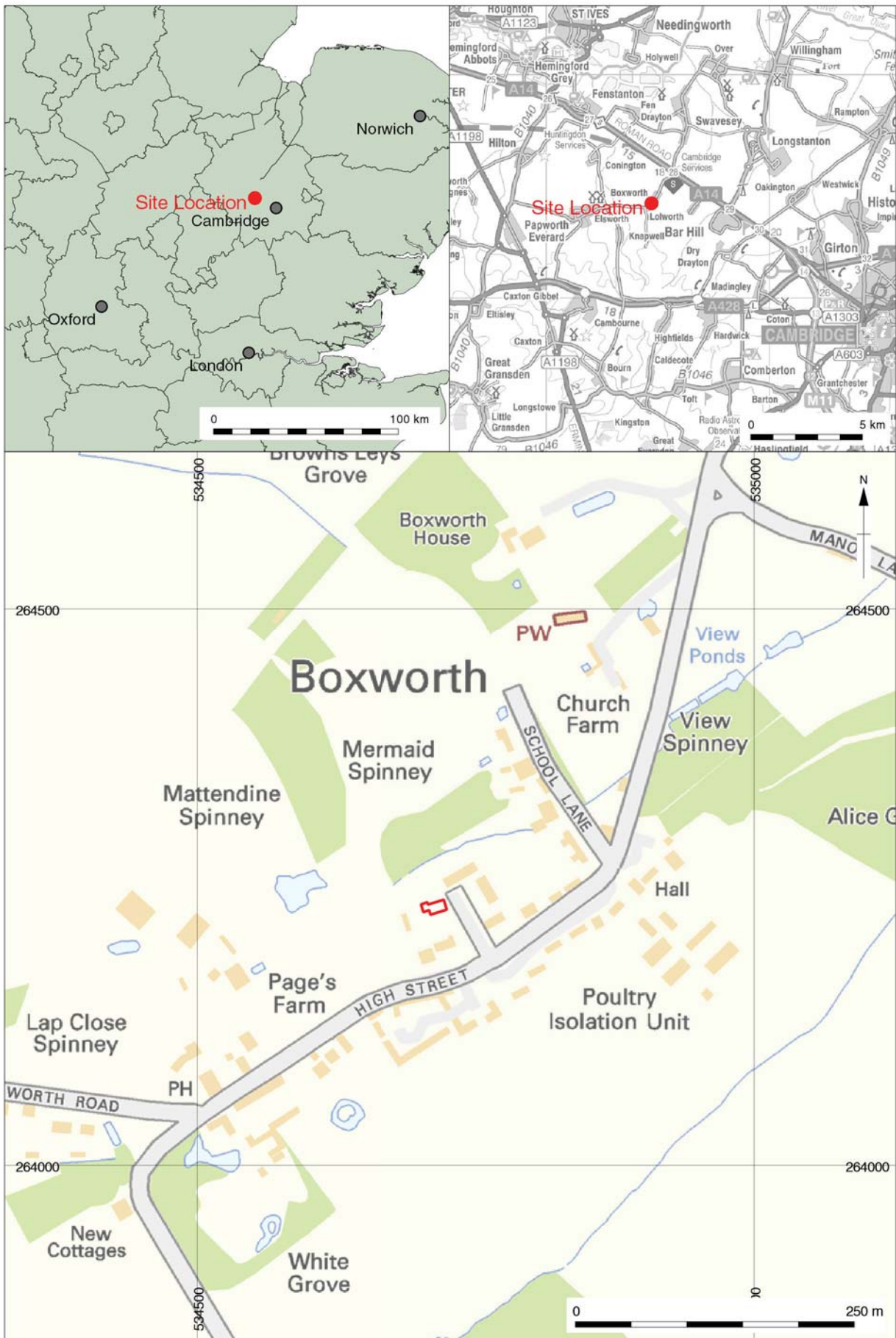
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs. County Store	OA East	Cambs. County Store
BOXMES11	BOXMES11	BOXMES11

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Notes:



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011

Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined red

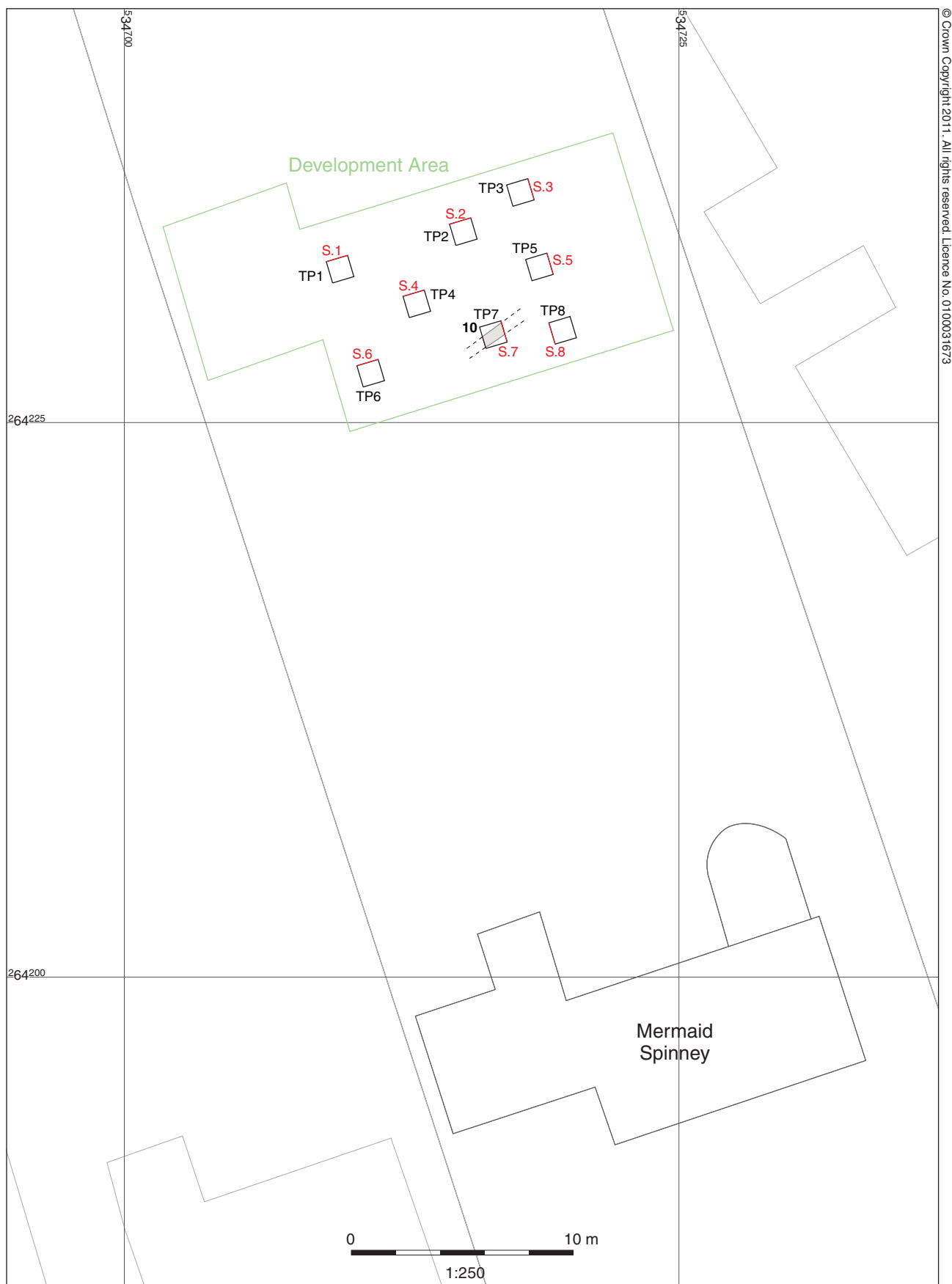


Figure 2: Site plan

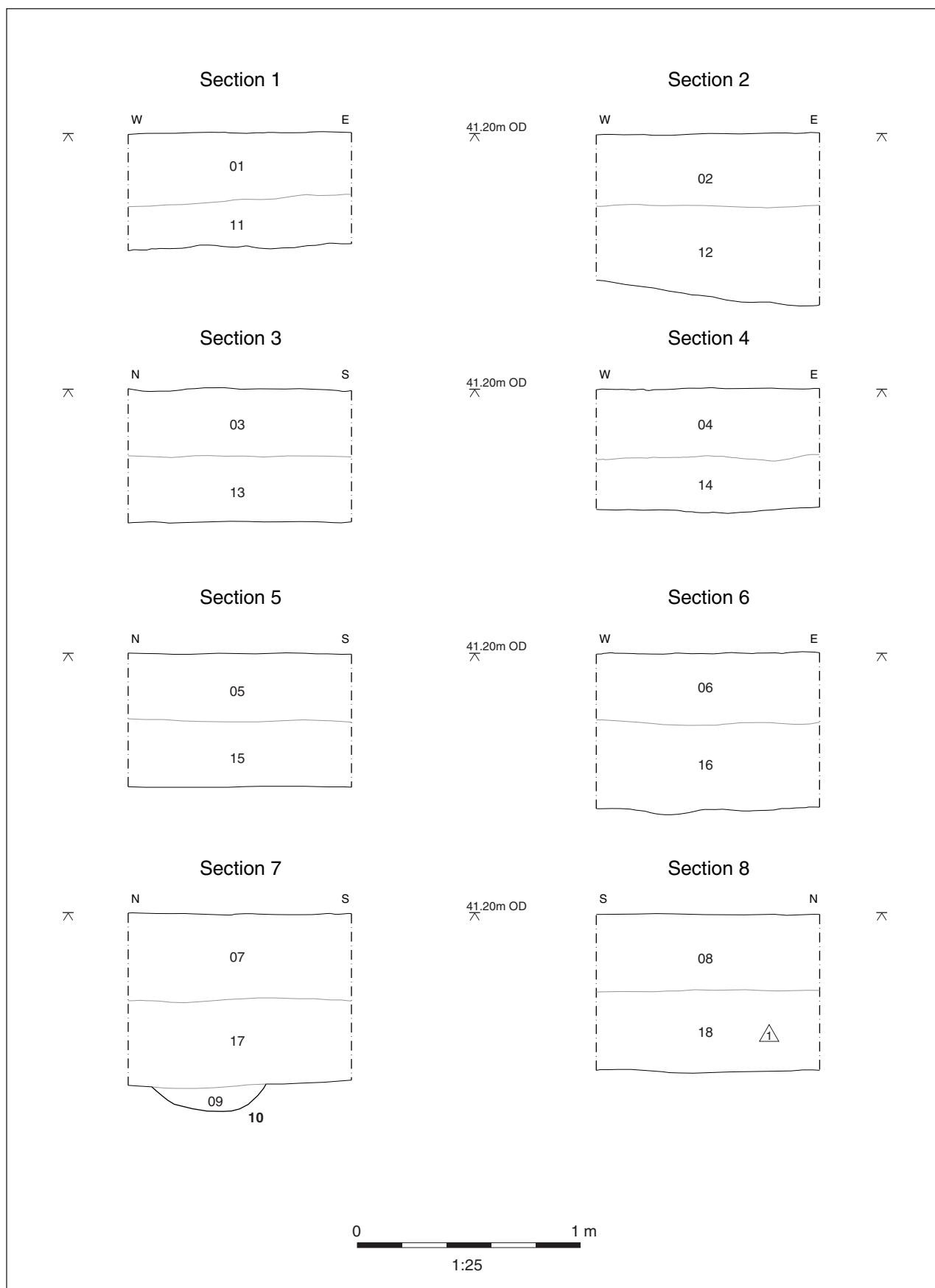


Figure 3: Section drawings



Plate 1: Medieval belt buckle from test pit 8



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 850 500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Manguio
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*