

Archaeological Evaluation
at the Former Moules
Garage Cambridge Road
Sawston



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



September 2011

Client: KWA Architects

OA East Report No: 1301

OASIS No: oxfordar3-109631

NGR: TL 4849 4996

Report Title

*Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Moules Garage,
Cambridge Road, Sawston*

By Anthony Haskins MSc BSc PIFA

Editor: Richard Mortimer MfA

Illustrator: Nick Gilmour MA AlfA

Report Date: September 2011

Report Number: 1301
Site Name: Former Moules Garage Sawston
HER Event No: ECB3658
Date of Works: September 2011
Client Name: KWA Architects
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: S/1244/11
Grid Ref: NGR TL 4849 4996
Site Code: SAWFMG11
Finance Code: SAWFMG11
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No:

Prepared by: Anthony Haskins
Position: Supervisor
Date: September 2011

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Project Manager
Date: September 2011
Signed:



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Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQt: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599

e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net

w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast> © Oxford Archaeology East 2011
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site of the former Moules Garage, Sawston (TL 4849 4996). Two trenches were located within the plot totalling 35m in length. A single ditch of probable middle Bronze age date was excavated and recorded. No further archaeological features were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the former Moules garage in Sawston, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/1244/11), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 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 British Geological Survey Sheet 205 indicates the geology of the site is of Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation. The soils within the parish are generally light and chalky.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Sawston lies approximately 10km south of Cambridge on the east bank of the River Cam. It is located on two principal Prehistoric routeways; the east-west Icknield Way, which continued in use during the Romano-British period as Ashwell Street/Street Way, and the north-south London – Cambridge Romano-British road.

1.3.2 Prehistoric

To the immediate south of the development area an evaluation and excavation revealed elements of a middle Bronze Age field or enclosure system (Mortimer 2006). It consisted of three interconnected 'V' shaped ditches on a northwest to southeast alignment. The ditches were found to contain very large quantities of struck flint in their upper fills, possibly emanating from a knapping site on or close to a clearance cairn. The material dates to the second half of the 2nd millennium BC and appears to be the result of deliberate deposition (Mortimer 2006). The field system continues to the south west and was identified during excavations in 2003, which also recovered Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (Cessford and Mortimer 2004).

Further prehistoric finds have been made in Sawston including a collection of Neolithic flint tools (HER 04113) and a Late Bronze Age hoard (HER 04110). Borough Hill, an Iron Age contour fort, occupies a spur of land overlooking the Cam 1500m to the west of the village at the site of Spicer's paper factory. The banks of the fort overlie deep, stratified buried soils dating to the Mesolithic - Late Bronze Age, and undated (probable Bronze Age) enclosure ditches aligned northwest to southeast (Mortimer 2006).

1.3.3 Romano-British

The possible junction of two Roman roads and a scatter of pottery were identified during the excavations to the southwest at Sawston Police Station (Cessford and Mortimer 2004) (HER ECB1464). The closest extensive Romano-British remains are c. 2km to the east on the east bank of the River Granta at Babraham.

1.3.4 Medieval and Post-Medieval

The village of Sawston is Anglo-Saxon in origin and is first mentioned in the 10th century as *Salsingetune*, either 'farm of *Salse*' or 'of *Salses* people', and later in Domesday (1086) as *Salsiton(e)*. An early Anglo-Saxon burial was found on Huckeridge Hill, on the Cambridge road approximately 500m to the northwest of the garage site (HER 04537). It is unclear whether the burial relates to settlement at Sawston itself, to an Anglo-Saxon settlement at Dernford Farm to the northwest, (HER 10958) or to Early Saxon occupation of the Iron Age fort.

Historical maps indicate that the site was undeveloped until a building, suspected to be part of the existing garage, was constructed between 1924 and 1938. Further buildings were added between 1981 and 1984.

Records from regulatory authorities indicate that there are 6 No. UST's (Underground Storage Tanks) on site used for petrol storage. Two have been decommissioned by filling with a sand/cement slurry. A diesel AST (Above-ground Storage Tank) is also present on site and there is evidence of a second, removed AST. Hardstanding, Made Ground and archaeological deposits to depths of up to 1m below ground level were present in a series of boreholes across the site.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Meghan and Keith Warth of KWA Architects and Planning Consultants who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.
- 1.4.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.
- 1.4.3 The author would also like to thank Steve Graham for his hard work on site.

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 Trenches, totalling 35m, were excavated across the site (a c. 5% sample of the entire site area). For health and safety reasons the trenches were located away from the known location of the petrol and diesel storage tanks. Due to access constraints these trenches were machined within the middle of the plot.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a mechanical 360 excavator. Due to the concrete slab comprising the yard of the garage the initial excavation was carried out using a concrete breaker and a 1m toothed bucket. Once the concrete slab had been removed a 2m ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches to archaeological levels.
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 The site conditions were generally good. The weather was generally dry with good light. The ground was dry.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Two trenches were excavated across the site. The results are therefore presented by trench.

3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was located towards the north-east end of the plot. The trench was 15m long. The upper deposits within the trench were a series of modern made ground, primarily hardcore, overlying the original plough soil, and subsoil layers. The trench contained four features that were investigated (fig. 2 and plate 2). The modern make up had a maximum depth of 0.47m. It was a mix of concrete and compacted builders rubble and hardcore. The medieval plough soil had a maximum depth of 0.20m and was a mid grey-brown silty-sand. The sub soil was a dark red-brown silty-sand which was between 0.20 and 0.40m deep. The trench had a maximum depth of 0.90m.
- 3.2.2 Three of these features proved to be natural depressions in the chalk containing a mid red-brown sandy clay similar in form to the subsoil.
- 3.2.3 The fourth feature was a ditch (**008**). **008** was a 'V' shaped ditch 1.9m wide by 0.76m deep. A single large section of the ditch was excavated. The ditch contained two fills. The lower fill (007) was light grey-brown silty-sand. This fill was derived from a natural accumulation of material within the base of the ditch, infilling from the western edge, which may suggest that a bank was located on this side; no further evidence was seen to support this.
- 3.2.4 The main fill (006) was a light grey-brown silty-sand. The upper level of this context appeared to represent a tertiary accumulation derived from the overlying plough soil (fig. 4 and plate 1).

3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 was 20m long and was devoid of archaeological features. Trench 2 contained a large deposit of modern made ground and concrete approximately 0.40m deep that was placed directly on the earlier plough soil. It contained two natural depressions similar in form to those investigated in trench 1. The natural features both contained a red-brown sandy-clay deposit (fig. 2 and plate 3). The trench was a maximum depth of 0.80m. The modern made ground was 0.40m deep and was composed of a layer of concrete c.0.20m deep on top of compressed hardcore. The medieval plough soil was a mid grey-brown sandy-silt with a maximum depth of 0.20m. The subsoil was a mid red-brown sandy-clay with a maximum depth of 0.20m.

3.4 Finds Summary

- 3.4.1 Three struck flints were recovered from the excavations. Two of these were found within the lower fill of ditch **008** in trench 1. Both of these were secondary flakes, most likely struck using a soft hammer. Both of the flakes exhibited some patina.
- 3.4.2 A single struck flint was recovered from within the top of one of the natural features in trench 2. The flake is likely to be a core rejuvenation flake potentially from a blade core and of early neolithic date. The flake had developed a much stronger patina than those derived from the ditch.

3.5 Environmental Summary

- 3.5.1 Two fragments of very poorly preserved animal bone were recovered from **008**. The fragments were unidentifiable mammalian shaft fragments which had undergone severe diagenesis, due to the alkaline conditions. This has resulted in the loss of all but the mineral content and making them unsuitable for carbon dating.
- 3.5.2 Following consultation with OA East's environmental officer, and with reference to the environmental results obtained from similar ditches in the two evaluations/excavations to the south, it was decided that bulk sampling of the ditch fill would not be advantageous.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 The single archaeological feature recorded was a relatively large V shaped ditch within trench 1. .
- 4.1.2 The size and form of the ditch is very similar to those found by Cessford and Mortimer and Mortimer (2004, 2006) and may reflect part of the same sequence. In particular the ditch is on the same orientation as one located by Cessford and Mortimer beneath the current police station (2004).
- 4.1.3 The location, the form and fills, the dearth of finds material and the association with the previously located and dated field systems to the south of the site suggest that ditch **008** is part of the same middle Bronze Age field and enclosure system. However, the ditch is undated and no direct link with the previous excavation can be made (fig. 3).

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The results suggest that part of the middle Bronze Age field system identified within earlier excavations (Cessford and Mortimer, Mortimer 2004, 2006) was uncovered and that the system is likely to extend to the north of the earlier sites, behind the police station, into the area of Moules Garage and potentially beyond this to the north.

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. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench comprised of layers of modern made ground and hard standing, soil and subsoil overlying chalk natural. A single ditch was cut into the chalk.					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.47	Made ground and hard standing	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.68	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.96	Subsoil	-	-
4	Fill	0.59	0.17	Fill of cut 005	-	-
5	Cut	0.59	0.17	Cut of natural feature	-	-
6	Fill	-	0.5	Upper fill of Ditch 008	-	-
7	Fill	-	0.28	Lower fill of ditch 008	2x struck flint	-
8	Cut	1.9	0.76	Cut of ditch	-	Potentially Bronze age
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeological features. Consisted of layers modern hard standing, soil and subsoil overlying chalk natural					Avg. depth (m)	0.8m
					Width (m)	2m
					Length (m)	20m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Layer	-	0.4	Made ground and hard standing		
10	Layer	-	0.2	Plough Soil		Potentially Medieval
11	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	1x struck flint	

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cessford, C. and Mortimer, R. (2004) Sawston Police Station, Sawston: An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief. CAU Report No. 596

Mortimer, R. (2006) Bronze Age Enclosure on land at rear of 16-20 Cambridge Road, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (the police station site), CCC AFU Report Number 831.

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-109631		
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation of the Former Moules Garage, Sawston, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	06-09-2011	Finish	07-09-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SAWFMG11	Planning App. No.	S/1244/11
HER No.	ECB3658	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Urban Commercial

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input 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 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	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	South Cambridgeshire	28 Cambridge Road, (Moules Garage), Sawston
Parish	Sawston	
HER	CCC Stores Lambridge	
Study Area	0.14 hectares	National Grid Reference TL 4849 4996

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	S. Henley
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores Lambridge	OA East	CCC Stores Lambridge
SAWFMG11	SAWFMG11	SAWFMG11

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey


Notes:

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Sondages/Machine Strip	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Illustrated Section	S.14 —————
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Natural Feature	
Cut Number	118

Sections

Limit of Excavation	-----
Cut	—————
Cut-Conjectured	-----
Deposit Horizon	—————
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Top Surface	—————
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	-----
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD ^
Inclusions	

Convention Key



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench plan, showing development area

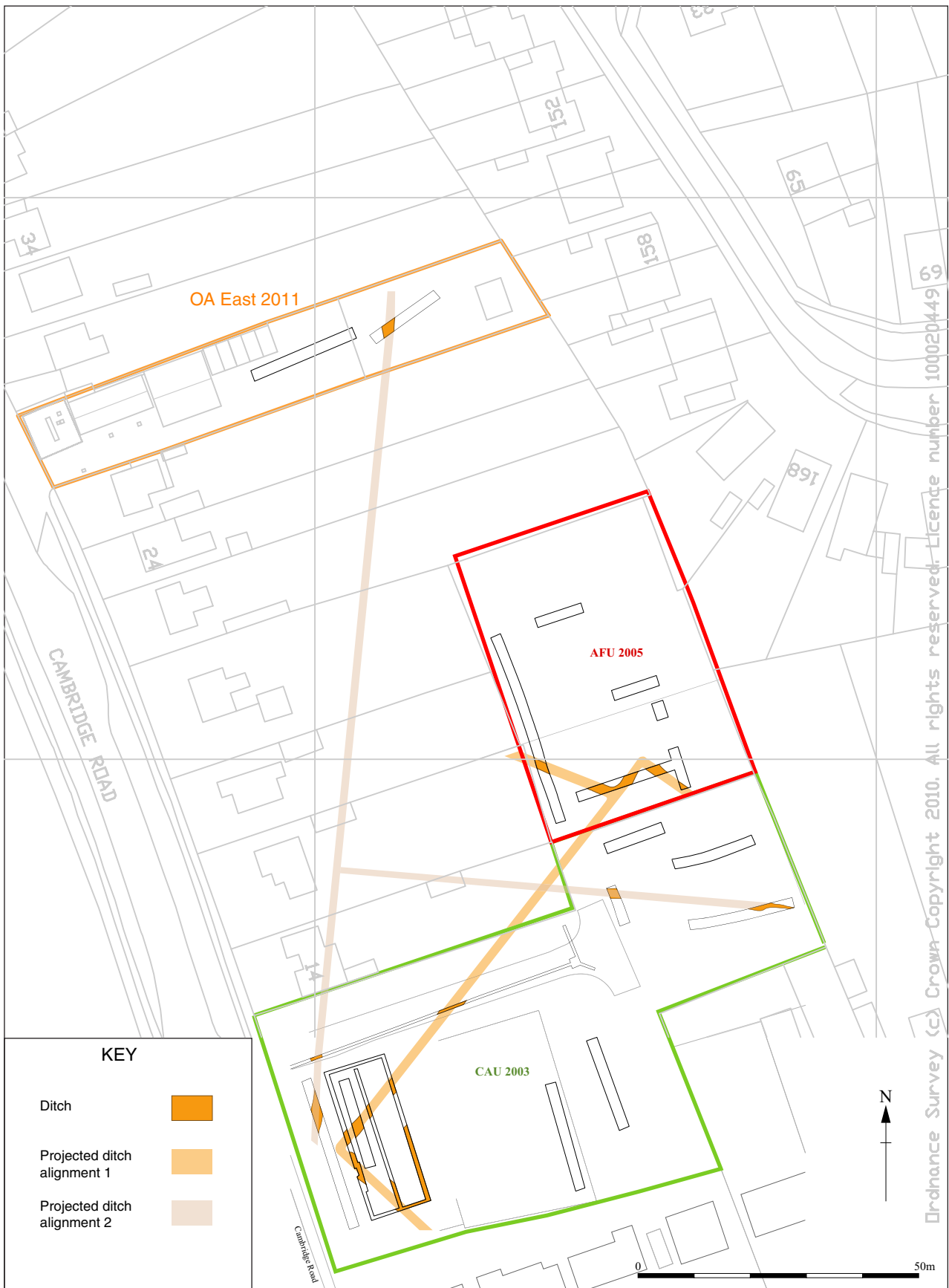


Figure 3: Trench plan with previous excavations and ditch alignments

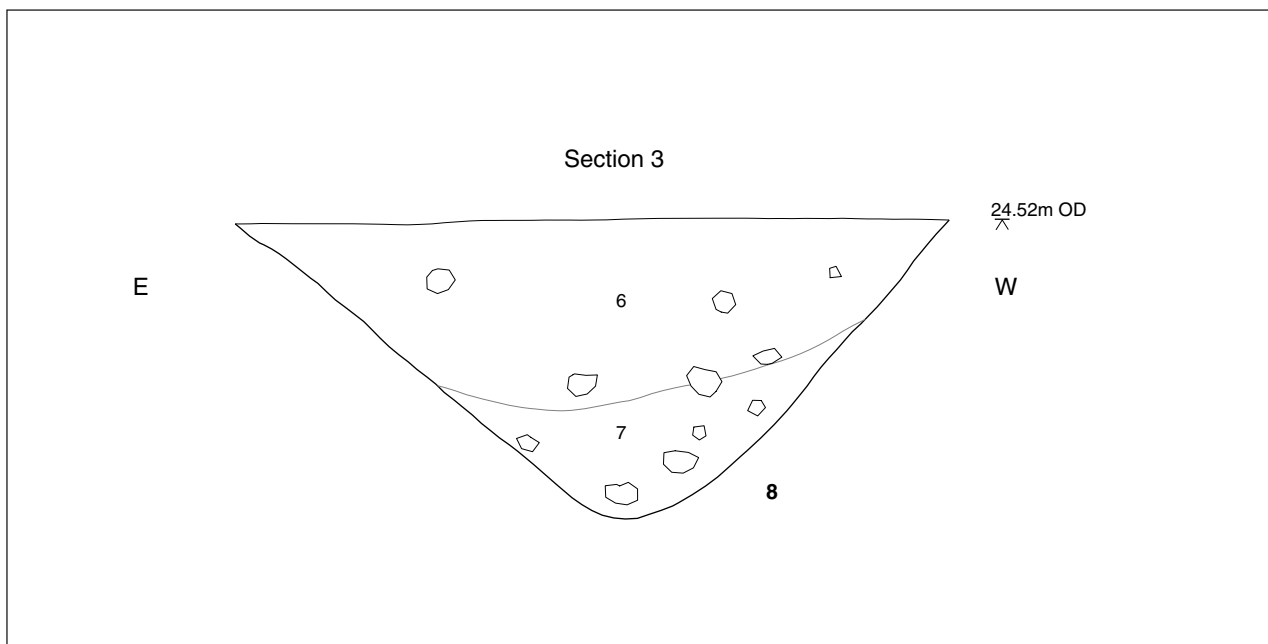


Figure 4: Section of Ditch 008



Plate 1: Section of Ditch 008



Plate 1: Overview of Trench 1



Plate 2: Overview of Trench 2



**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>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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