

# Watching brief at The Green, Green Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



December 2008

**Client: AJB Consulting Engineers**

OA East Report No: 1071

OASIS No: 51568

NGR: TL 4076 7044

**Watching brief at The Green, Green Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire**

*Watching Brief*

*Site Code: WIL VGR 08*

*CHER No. ECB 3068*

*Date of Works: 27th – 29th October*

*Report No: 1071*

*Excavator: Rob Atkins*

*Client: AJB Consulting Engineers on behalf of Willingham Parish Council*

*Report Date: December 2008*

## Table of Contents

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 Geology and Topography.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2 Archaeological Background.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3 Methodology.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 Results.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Watching Brief.....	6
<b>5 Discussion and Conclusions.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Conclusions.....	6
<b>6 Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix A. OASIS Report Form .....</b>	<b>8</b>

### List of Figures

- Fig. 1            Location of the watching brief outlined (red)
- Fig. 2            Watching brief area
- Fig. 3            1885 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885

## Summary

*Between the 27th and the 29th October 2008, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Green, Green Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire (TL 4076 7044). The monitoring was carried out during improvement works to The Green.*

*The watching brief found a north to south tarmac road (this road had been recorded on all OS maps between 1885 and 1952). The road had been grassed over about 40 or so years ago. Natural gravel and sands were exposed below this road as well as a late 19th or 20th century ceramic pipe which had run under it. Existing 20th century services running east to west directly to the south of Church Street were uncovered. Only the top part of the present east to west road through The Green was removed in the development and machining stopped at a layer of hardcore.*

## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1 The site overlies first terrace sand and gravel deposits and Ampthill Clays (British Geological Survey Sheets 187 and 188, Huntingdon and Cambridge, 1981). The area lies at approximately 5.00m OD. Work during the watching brief exposed natural sub soil which consisted a bright yellow gravel sands with a few small patches of clay.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located at the eastern edge of the historic core of the village of Willingham. The green has been a focal point of the village for centuries and is surrounded by known archaeological sites while recent fieldwork further south along Green St revealed evidence of medieval occupation along the street frontage (HER MCB16302, ECB1835).
- 2.2 There was a north to south road recorded within the whole area of the watching brief on all the Ordnance Survey maps from 1885 to 1952 (e.g. Fig. 3). Directly to the west of the road there were buildings including a fire station. In modern day maps this road and the buildings directly to the west were not recorded and this area had become part of an expanded green area within The Green. The present east to west road was also recorded on the 1st Edition OS map (Fig. 3).
- 2.3 Improvement works were proposed at the Green by Willingham Parish Council. As a consequence Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Office issued a brief setting out the requirements for archaeological monitoring of the initial stages of construction, to include all ground works (Gore 2008). A specification by Oxford East for archaeological monitoring and recording was produced (Mortimer 2008).
- 2.4 Archaeological work was required to fulfil a condition placed on planning consent (S/0320/08/F) of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The proposed development included the removal of an area of hard standing which will subsequently be grassed over, and the excavation of a new access road.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The objective of this watching brief 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.
- 3.2 The Brief required that soil stripping would take place under archaeological supervision. There would be an inspection of subsoil for archaeological features. These features were to be recorded in plan and investigated. Subsoil stripping would take place under archaeological supervision. Investigation would then take place of the natural substrate for archaeological features, their investigation and recording.
- 3.3 The area of investigation was located at The Green between Church Street and Green Street. The development proposed a new road within a north to south area c.50m long and c.5m wide starting from Church Street. The present ground surface in this area was to be taken down up to a depth of c.0.7m and then the new road hardcore and

tarmac is to be laid. At the same time an existing east to west road (see 2.2 above) is to be removed. This road area was to be taken down to c.0.5m below ground level and the area then grassed over except where this existing road overlaps with the proposed new road. Most of the area of the proposed new road in the scheme (the northern part) is green within The Green area but in the lower southern part was the end of the old east to west road.

- 3.4 In the southern area of the proposed road a 360° tracked machine had to use a toothed bucket to remove the existing road surface on the 27th and 28th October. The tarmac and hardcore was removed from site but in the grassed area, a toothless ditching bucket was used on the 29th October.
- 3.5 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, black and white film and colour slides were used.

## 4 RESULTS

### Watching Brief

- 4.1 The watching brief did uncover a previous north to south tarmac road (this road had been recorded on all OS maps between 1885 and 1952 before it had been grassed over about 40 or so years ago). Natural gravel and sands were exposed below this road as well as a late 19th or 20th century ceramic pipe. Existing 20th century water services running east to west directly to the south of Church Street were uncovered. This 5m wide area included an existing man hole. This manhole led to a large modern brick vault more than 1.5m deep which the water pipes fed into.
- 4.2 The excavation for the removal of the present east to west road through The Green did not reach natural subsoils with only the underlying hardcore of this modern road exposed .

## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### Conclusions

- 5.1 No pre-modern archaeological remains were found. Modern activity has removed any possible archaeology within the watching brief area.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 The author would like to thank AJB Consulting Engineers on behalf of Willingham Parish Council who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer
- 6.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Eliza Gore .

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gore, E., 2008 Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording The Green, Green Street, Willingham Cambridgeshire County Council (Unpublished)

Mortimer, R., 2008 Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording The Green, Green St, Willingham Oxford East (unpublished)



## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-51568			
Project Name	Watching brief at The Green, Green Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	27-10-2008	Finish	29-10-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WIL VGR 08	Planning App. No.	S/0320/08/F
HER No.	ECB 3068	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input 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
Road	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	N/A	Select period...
Road	Modern 1901 to Present		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambridgeshire		
Parish	Willingham		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	c.0.25ha	National Grid Reference	TL 4076 7044

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Eliza Gore, Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer, Oxford East
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Rob Atkins

### Project Archives

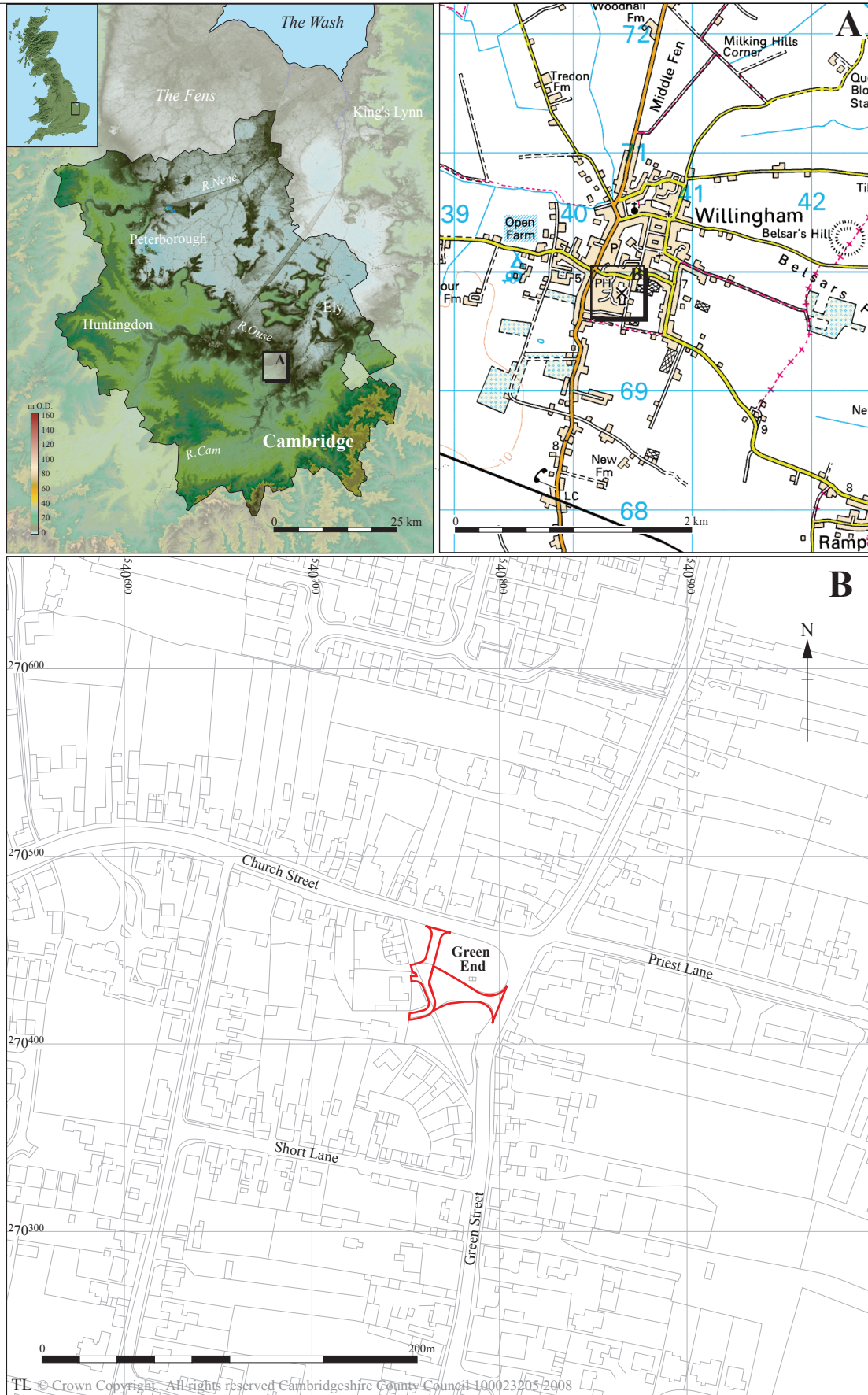
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Store, Landbeach	Oxford East	CCC Store, Landbeach
WIL VGR 08	WILVGR 08	WILVGR 08

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**



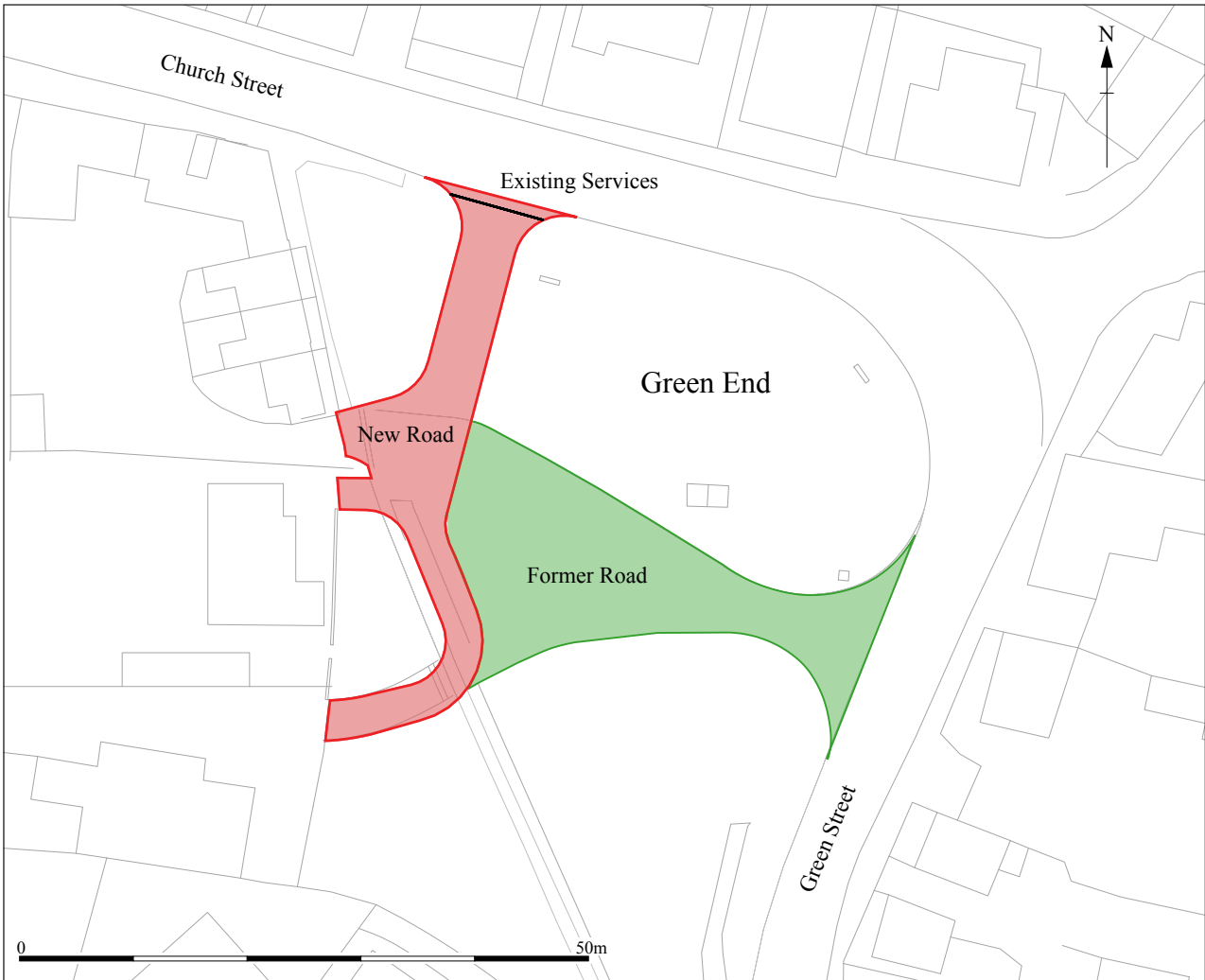


Figure 2: Watching Brief area



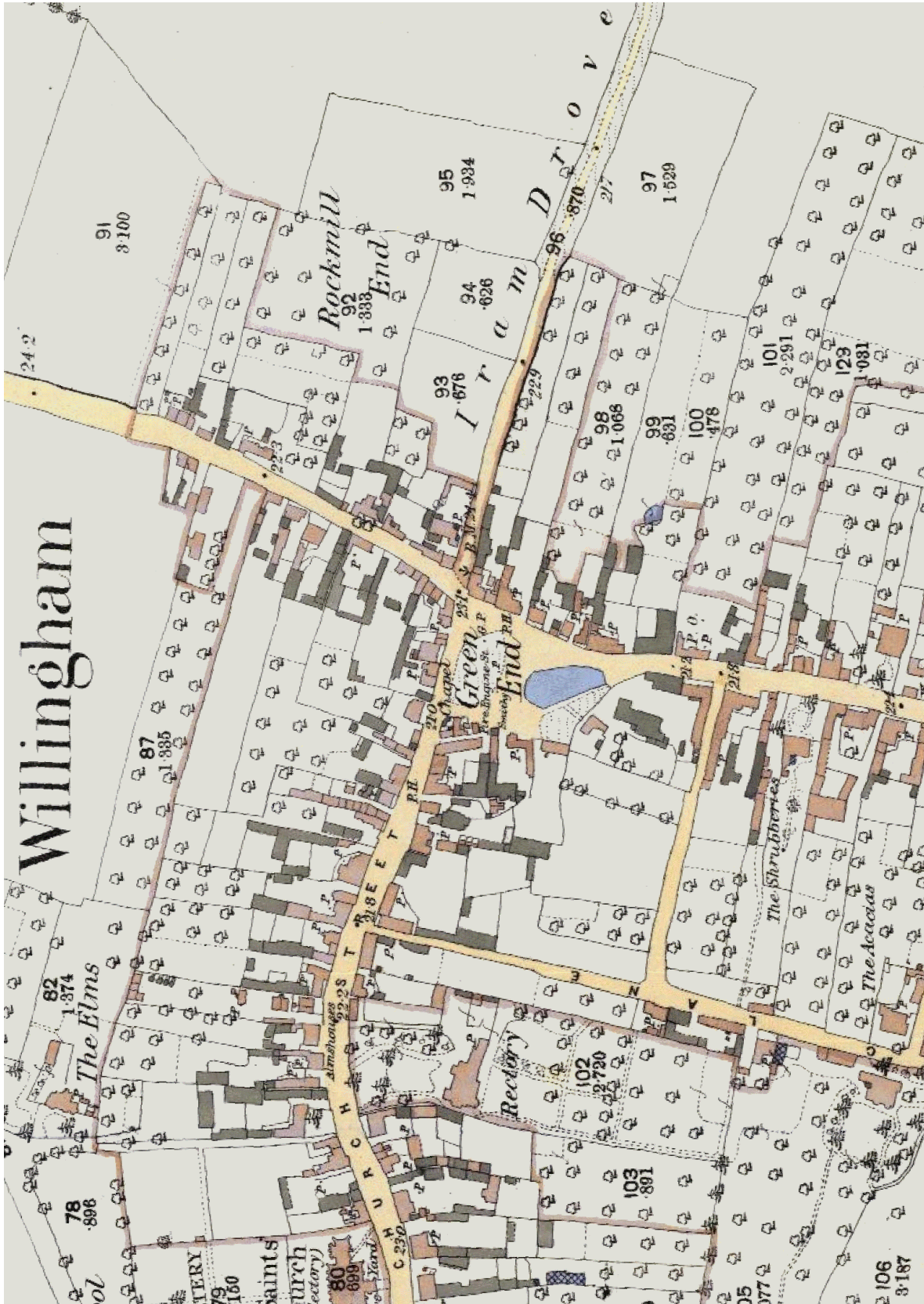


Figure 3: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885



#### **Head Office/Registered Office**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:info@thehumanjourney.net)  
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/oaeast>

#### **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@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*