

# Ashwell Road Steeple Morden



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2012

**Client: Hill Partnerships Ltd.**

OA East Report No: 1342

OASIS No: oxfordar3-120244

NGR: TL 2833 4188

**Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Report Date: March 2012*

**Report Number:** 1342  
**Site Name:** Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden  
**HER Event No:** ECB 3724  
**Date of Works:** 27th February 2012  
**Client Name:** Hill Partnerships Ltd  
**Client Ref:** 14185  
**Planning Ref:** S/1490/107  
**Grid Ref:** TL 2833 4188  
**Site Code:** STEASR12  
**Finance Code:** STEASR12  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach

**Accession No:**

Prepared by: Rob Atkins  
Position: Project Officer  
Date: March 2012

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Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: March 2012

Signed: .....

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## **Summary**

*On 27th February 2010 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation on land off Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden (TL 2833 4188) prior to construction of four residential houses. The archaeological work comprised four evaluation trenches targeted within the footprint of the proposed new buildings. No archaeological features or artefacts were found in any of the trenches.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land off Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden on 27th February 2012. The work took place in advance of proposed development on the 2700m<sup>2</sup> area, which will consist of the construction of four semi-detached properties.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Hill Partnerships, in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (McConnell 2010). The work was in accordance of conditions imposed on the Planning Application (S/1490/107), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2012).
- 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 on the Cenomanian Chalk beds (British Geological Survey (BGS) 2002). It is located on the south-western edge of the village of Steeple Morden more than 0.5km to the south of the church. The development area is situated on relatively flat ground between 50 and 51m OD. The current land use is open ground (grass).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development sites lies more than 0.5km to the south of the medieval parish church of St Peter and St Paul and is located on the southern edge of the medieval historic core of the village. Steeple Morden is a village with medieval origins and there has been a manor known in the village since 1015. The village is referred to as *Alia Mordune* 'the other Morden' in the Domesday book, Steeple being added in the 13th century.
- 1.3.2 The Cambridge Historic Environment Record records a number of known archaeological sites/find spots close to the application area. Directly to the west is a large linear feature, dated to the Bronze Age (2000-700BC) that has a barrow (burial mound) associated with it (MCB19196). A square enclosure (MCB18302) is visible as a cropmark to the south-east of the site.
- 1.3.3 Steeple Morden lies on the route of The Icknield Way in a landscape of known Bronze Age barrows and prehistoric remains, with at least 30 visible as cropmarks/soilmarks in the parish. A ring-ditch was found at Ashwell Station chalk quarry and this site also produced Anglo-Saxon jewellery, perhaps indicating that there has been later Saxon re-use of these prehistoric burial mounds.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Hill Partnerships for funding the project. Stephen Macaulay managed the project on behalf of OA East and the fieldwork was carried out by Rob Atkins and Julian Newman. The site was surveyed by Taleyna Fletcher.

## **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 a programme of trial trenching within the footprint of the four proposed houses. Each of the four trenches were to be 10m long providing a 5% sample of the total area. The work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.2 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS 1200 system with SmartNet. All trenches were photographed with colour slide and digital cameras. The work took place during dry and overcast conditions.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Overview**

- 3.1.1 All four trenches were excavated onto natural subsoil. This was a mixture of sands, gravels and chalk. The sterile topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.3m deep.

## **4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **4.1 Overview**

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were found in the evaluation.

### **4.2 Significance**

- 4.2.1 The site is of no archaeological significance

### **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. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2002 *sheet 205 Solid and Drift edition*. England and Wales 1:50,000 provisional series

Macaulay, S., 2012 *Specification for archaeological evaluation Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden* OA East report (unpublished)

McConnell, D., 2010 *Brief for archaeological evaluation Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden* CCC report dated 18th August 2010 (unpublished)

## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-120244		
Project Name	Evaluation at land off Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	27-02-2012	Finish	27-02-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STEASR12	Planning App. No.	S/1490/107
HER No.	ECB 3724	Related HER/OASIS No.	No

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

### 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
None	Select period...	None	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambridgeshire DC	Land of Ashwell Road, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Steeple Morden		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	2700m <sup>2</sup>	National Grid Reference	TL 2833 4188

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell, CCC
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay, OA East
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay, OA East
Supervisor	Rob Atkins, OA East

## Project Archives

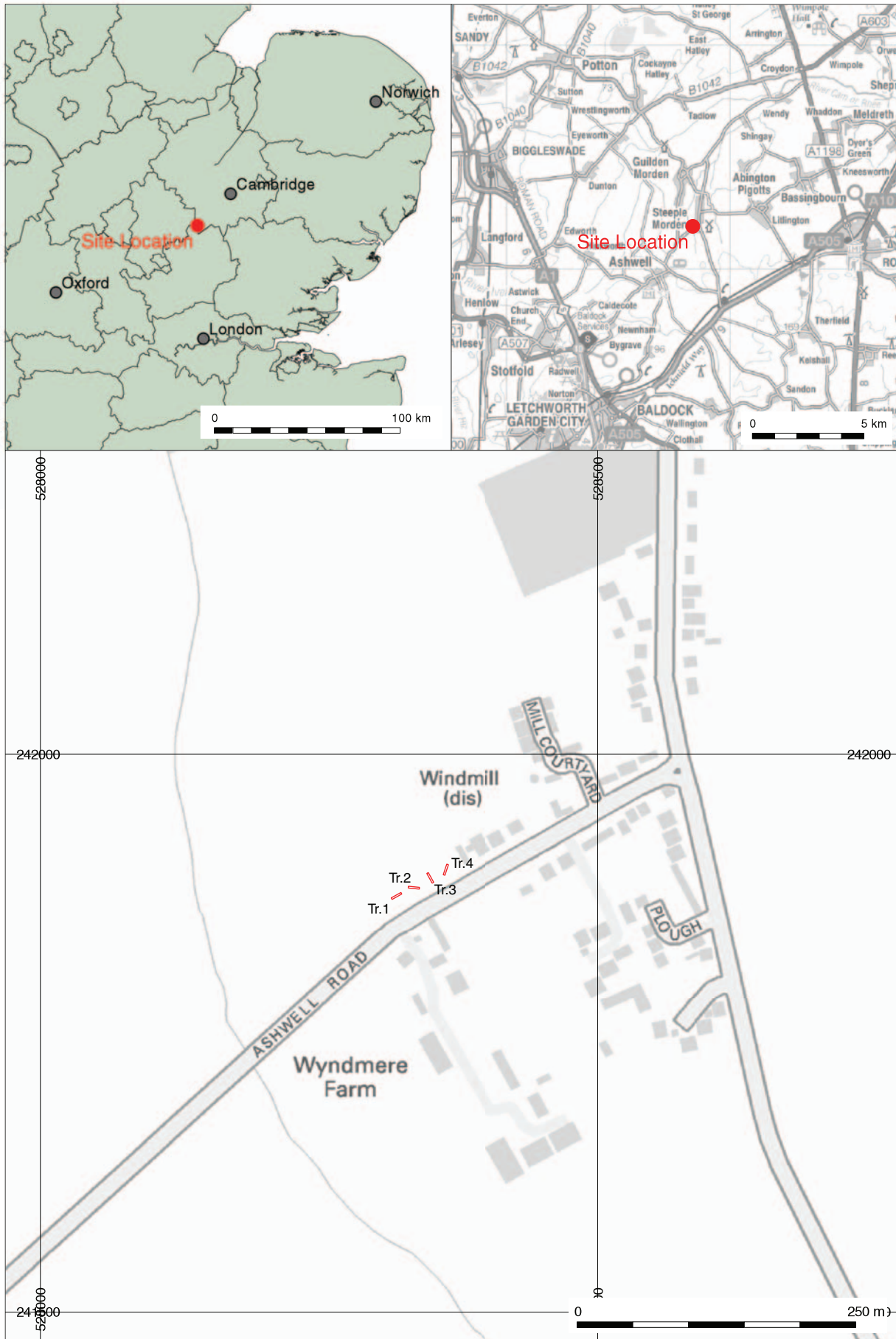
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
-	OA East	OA East
-	STEASR12	STEASR12

## 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"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



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