



Manor House
Church Lane
Barford St John
Oxfordshire

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Report**

February 2012

Client: Tom and Joanna Purton



Issue: 1
OA Job No: 5256
NGR: SP 438 331



Client Name: Tom and Joanna Purton
Client Ref No:
Document Title: Manor House, Church Lane, Barford St John, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: SP 438 331
Planning Reference: 10/00622/F
Invoice Code: BASJMH WB
OA Job Number 5256
Site Code: BASJMH 12
Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum Service
Museum Accession No.: OXCMS:2012.15

| Issue | Prepared by | Checked by | Approved by | Signature |
|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Dan Sykes Project Officer | Katrina Anker Project Officer | Edward Biddulph Senior Project Manager | |

Document File Location: X:\Barford St. John, Manor House\Reports
Graphics File Location: \\Samba-2\invoice codes a thru h\B_invoice codes\BASJMHWB
Illustrated by: Conan Parsons

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 Archaeological Unit Ltd 2012

Janus House
Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Manor House, Church Lane, Barford St John, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Dan Sykes

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| Summary | 2 |
| 1 Introduction | 2 |
| 1.1 Scope of work..... | 2 |
| 1.2 Location, geology and topography..... | 2 |
| 1.3 Archaeological and historical background..... | 2 |
| 2 Project Aims and Methodology | 3 |
| 2.1 Aims..... | 3 |
| 2.2 Methodology..... | 3 |
| 3 Results | 4 |
| 3.1 Description of deposits..... | 4 |
| 3.2 Finds..... | 4 |
| 3.3 Environmental remains..... | 4 |
| 4 Conclusion | 4 |
| 4.1 Discussion and Conclusions..... | 4 |
| Appendix A. Archaeological Context Inventory | 5 |
| Appendix B. Bibliography and References | 5 |
| Appendix C. Summary of Site Details | 6 |

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of new swimming pool

Plates

Plate 1 Swimming pool location looking west

Plate 2 Footprint of swimming pool fully excavated to natural geology

Summary

On the 18th January 2012, Oxford Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the construction of a new swimming pool at Manor House, Church Lane, Barford St. John, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 4383 3319). No archaeological features were observed during the work.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Tom and Jo Purton to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed new outdoor swimming pool at Manor House, Church Lane, Barford St John, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 Due to the potential for disturbance of below-ground archaeological deposits during groundwork for the proposed development, a condition was attached to the planning consent requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the period of groundwork (planning ref: 10/00622/F). This was in line with PPS 5 and the local policy plan.
- 1.1.3 A brief was set by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS 2012) detailing the local authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition, and OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) showing how it would meet these requirements (OA 2012).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The village of Barford St John is situated approximately 6.5 km south of Banbury. Manor House is located on the northern edge of the village, immediately west of the Church of St John at National Grid Reference SP 4383 3319. The new swimming pool was positioned to the rear of existing barns south of the house, approximately 35m west of the church (Fig. 2).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is Clay and Marlstone (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet no. 218).
- 1.2.3 The proposed development area is currently in residential use and lies at approximately 104 m above Ordnance Datum.



Plate 1: Swimming pool location looking west

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background contained within the brief (OCAS 2012) states:

The site of the proposed swimming pool and associated pool house is located in an area of archaeological potential just 35 m south of the 12th and 13th century medieval church (PRN 4119). Immediately to the south of the barn are the remains



of a medieval shrunken village consisting of a series of earthworks representing house platforms and trackways (PRN 4120). It is likely that medieval archaeological deposits also survive below ground. A medieval fishpond and a moated site also survive as earthworks further south of these house platforms. A plot of the earthworks drawn in the 1970s shows a rectangular house enclosure immediately south of the current road opposite the proposed pool house. Another enclosure is shown on the north side of the road, immediately east of the proposal site.

Manor House itself was constructed in the 1920s on the site of the original manor house, a date stone marked 1598 was reused in the current house (PRN 17604). It is thought likely that the earthwork aspects of the village was cleared at some stage after this date to improve the view from the manor house. The site is also surrounded by a series of 18th century barns and a dovecote associated with the earlier house.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were to:

- (i) preserve by record any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered during the course of ground intrusions;
- (ii) establish the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered within the scope of the ground intrusion;
- (iii) secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site;
- (iv) disseminate results through the production of a unpublished client ('grey literature') report, including making it available online as part of the OA library.
- (v) contribute to an understanding of the medieval and later settlement of the area, and understand the date, nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken as a single site visit conducted during groundworks which had the possibility of impinging upon areas of potential archaeological remains. These works included yard surface and subsoil stripping.

2.2.2 Site specific methodologies were as follows:

- (i) the swimming pool location was scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation;
- (ii) the area of the swimming pool was stripped by mechanical excavator using a wide blade toothless bucket in level spits under constant archaeological supervision until the natural geology was reached;
- (iii) all excavated material was visually examined for archaeological finds.

2.2.3 Colour digital photographs were taken as a general record of the works.

2.2.4 A site plan was drawn at an appropriate scale (1:100) and levels recorded.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 Natural clay (4) was recorded at between 100.97 m OD to the south and 101.24 m OD to the north within the footprint of the excavation, with a seam of ragstone present at the northern end. A 0.3m yellow orange clay subsoil (3) was observed overlying the natural clay in the southern part of the footprint. The subsoil extended 5 m into the excavated area. A levelling deposit 0.3-0.35m thick covered the entire area. This consisted of mid brown grey silt clay containing 20% large ragstone rubble <500mm diameter (2) and was capped with the stone chipped yard surface (1) which was 0.12-0.15m thick.



Plate 2: Footprint of swimming pool fully excavated to natural geology

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

3.3 Environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1.1 Layer (4) is a natural deposit and part of the underlying geology of the area and was seen to follow the southward slope of the surrounding terrain outside of the present levelled yard area.

4.1.2 Layer (3) is also likely to be naturally derived but may also possibly represent an in-situ remnant of a past agricultural regime.

4.1.3 Layer (2) appears to be an imported levelling deposit for the overlying surface (1) which provides a level working area to the east of the existing barn.

4.1.4 No archaeological remains were observed during the course of the watching brief.



APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Context | Type | Depth (m) | Width (m) | Length (m) | Comments | Finds | Date |
|---------|-------|-------------|-----------|------------|--|-------|------|
| 1 | Layer | 0.12 – 0.15 | - | - | Stone chipping yard surface. Sandstone chippings | - | - |
| 2 | Layer | 0.30 – 0.35 | - | - | Made ground/ leveling deposit. Mid brown grey clay with sand and stone rubble. | - | - |
| 3 | Layer | 0.3 | - | - | Subsoil. Yellow orange clay with very occasional rubble. | - | - |
| 4 | Layer | - | - | - | Natural. Mottled grey orange clay. | - | - |

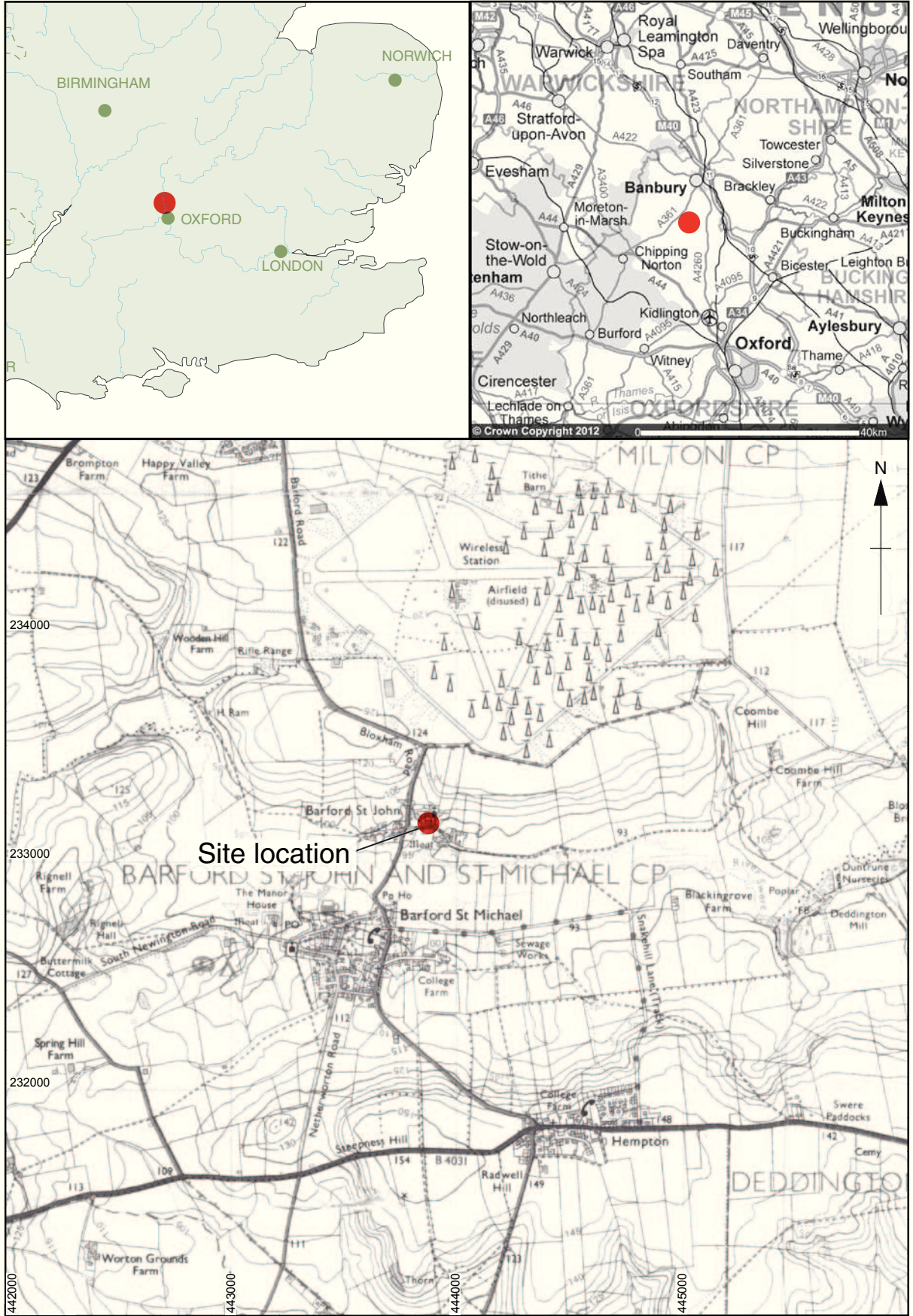
APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- OA 2012 New Swimming Pool, Manor House, Church Lane, Barford St. John, Oxfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation
- OCAS 2012 Manor House, Church Lane, Barford St. John. Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Site name: | Manor House, Church Lane, Barford St. John, Oxfordshire |
| Site code: | BASJMH 12 |
| Grid reference: | SP 4383 3319 |
| Type of watching brief: | Watching brief on the machine excavation of an outdoor swimming pool |
| Date and duration of project: | January 18th 2012, one site visit |
| Area of site: | Approximately 60 m ² |
| Summary of results: | The watching brief found no archaeological remains |
| Location of archive: | The archive will be lodged with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service under the accession number OXCMS:2012.15 |



Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location

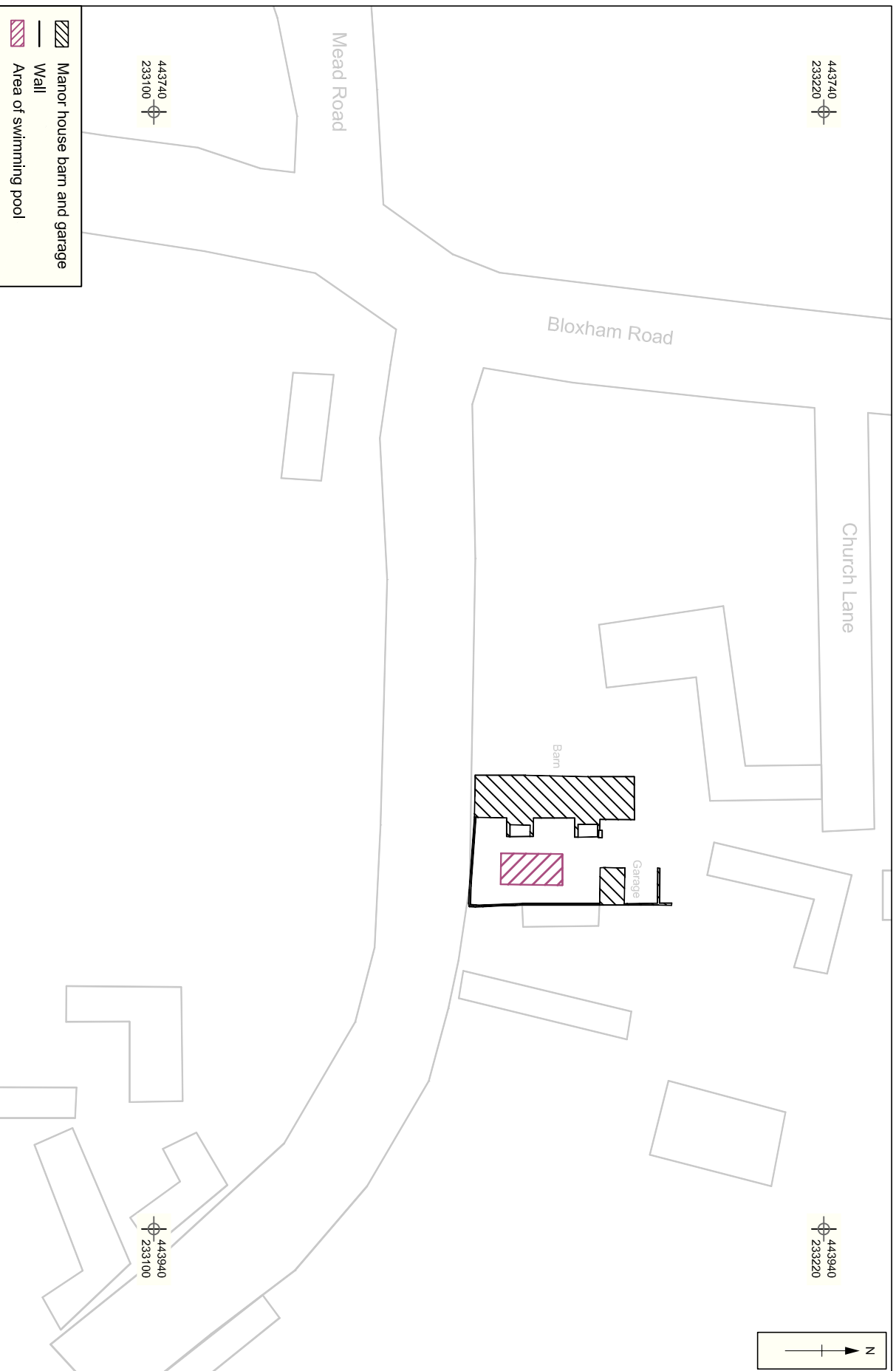


Figure 2: Location of new swimming pool



**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>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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