

# Medieval Activity on Ramsey Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2009

**Client: Amesview Developments**

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## **Medieval Activity on Ramsey Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Nick Gilmour MA PIFA*

*With contributions by Chris Faine, Carole Fletcher and Rachel Fosberry*

*Editor: James Drummond-Murray*

*Illustrator: Nick Gilmour MA PIFA*

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Prepared by: Nick Gilmour  
Position: Supervisor  
Date: October 2009

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray  
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Signed: .....

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**Oxford Archaeology East,**

15 Trafalgar Way,  
Bar Hill,  
Cambridge,  
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500  
f: 01223 850599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

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### **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology East at Red Barn Farm, Warboys between 23rd and 25th September 2009. This revealed evidence of Medieval activity in the form of postholes, pits and a ditch. A near complete bone sledge runner was recovered from the ditch. In addition a large Post-Medieval to Modern pond was recorded.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Red House Farm, Ramsey Road, Warboys.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 090075FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 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 and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). 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 underlying geology of the site consists of Till, a chalky boulder clay (BGS 172). Warboys sits on an area of upland which falls away sharply to the east into the Fen, the site itself is at a height of c.29 mOD. The site was previously occupied by various farm buildings, all of which had been cleared before arrival on site.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Very little archaeological work has taken place in Warboys area, however, finds of varying date have been made, and a large number of listed buildings are present in the village. The known finds are discussed by period below.

#### ***Prehistoric and Roman***

- 1.3.2 In spite of numerous excavations in the wider region around Warboys producing evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity, only one prehistoric object has been reported from Warboys. A bronze chape from an Iron Age scabbard was recovered from somewhere in Warboys, although the exact location is unknown (HER 03657).

#### ***Saxon and Medieval***

- 1.3.3 The parish of Warboys was first recorded as the gift of Archbishop Dunstan to the Abbey of St. Benedict of Ramsey, and was confirmed by King Edgar in 974 AD (Page et. al. 1932, 243). Warboys is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, among the lands of St. Benedict of Ramsey and it was stated then that the abbot had 10 hides in the manor which paid geld. There were a priest and a church and 3 acres of meadow, along with a wood (Page et. al. 1932, 243). By 1279 the Abbot of Ramsey held the manor of Warboys cum Caldecote of the king, including a windmill, and a messuage with a garden of 2½ acres, and gallows and tumbrel (Page et. al. 1932, 244)



- 1.3.4 No Saxon finds have been recorded in Warboys, in spite of the historical sources, but several Medieval earthworks and a church are known around the village. Perhaps the most visible of these is the church of St Mary Magdalene, c.300m to the south of the site. The earliest parts of the current church date to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, while there have been 13<sup>th</sup> century and later additions (HER 03540).
- 1.3.5 Just to the east of the church is a large medieval fish-pond (HER 03586) with slight earthworks to the south of this perhaps representing Medieval cultivation strips (HER 10058). Further Medieval agricultural activity is represented by the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation seen to the north of the village (HER 11639) and just to the south of the current site (HER 11638).
- 1.3.6 The previous archaeological excavations in Warboys have both been off Pope's Lane in the south of the village, c. 300m from the current development area. The first of these revealed a probable filled boundary ditch containing 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a possible extension of the Medieval fish pond mentioned above (ECB 407). The more recent excavation a number of undated features, probably related to water management , the remnants of a ridge and furrow system and three posthole, one containing c.13<sup>th</sup> to mid15<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Hatton and Wall 1999).

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Amesview Developments who commissioned the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. All on-site surveying was carried out by Rachel Clarke and excavation was undertaken by Nick Gilmour and Adrian Woolmer.
- 1.4.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Dan McConnell who visited the site and monitored the excavation.

## 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 four trenches, totalling 85m in length, be excavated. After the trenches were dug, an additional area was opened around the intersection of trenches 1 and 2 in order to further investigate possible structural features.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Rachel Clarke using Leica 1200 GPS rover using smartnet™.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from features which were seen to contain charcoal and so may contain charred plant macrofossils. In addition samples were taken where metalworking activity was suspected.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were good, being generally dry and sunny.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Details of each trench are given in appendix A, while the archaeological features recorded across the site are described below.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

##### *Layer 118*

3.2.1 Layer 118 ran for c.8m from the southeast end of trench 1. It was a dark brownish grey silty clay which contained moderate amounts of flint gravel, post medieval pottery and clay pipe fragments. Most of this layer was removed by machine, which revealed pit **121** sealed below it. Layer 118 had partly sunk into the fills of pit **121** (S.7, Fig. 3).

##### *Pit 121*

3.2.2 Pit 121 was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. It had a diameter greater than 1.5m and was 0.56m deep. It was filled by 119, a dark brownish grey silty clay which contained pottery, below which was 120, a mid brownish grey silty clay which also contained pottery.

##### *Ditch 124*

3.2.3 Two slots were dug through ditch **124** and both showed the feature to have steep sides and a flat base. It was oriented north-south and ran for c.3m before continuing out of the trench at both ends. The upper fill of this ditch was a dark brownish grey silty clay which contained pottery, animal bone, metalworking slag, lava quern and a near complete bone sledge runner (SF 1). The lower fill was a mid brownish grey silty clay which contained no finds.

##### *Postholes 107 and 109*

3.2.4 Posthole **107** was circular in plan steep sides and a flattish base, it had a diameter of 0.36m and was 0.17m deep. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay which contained no finds.

3.2.5 Posthole **109** was almost certainly related to pothole **107**. Posthole **109** was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.37m and a depth of 0.08m. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay which contained a single piece of animal bone.

##### *Spread 128*

3.2.6 Spread 128 was a dark brownish grey silty clay which contained modern pottery. It was cut by a modern drain.

##### *Feature 126*

3.2.7 Feature **126** was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 2.8m long and continued out of the area of excavation. It was 0.60m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled by a dark brownish grey silty clay which contained modern pottery. Feature **126** may originally have been a continuation of spread 128.

### 3.3 Trench 2

#### ***Posthole 111***

- 3.3.1 Posthole **111** was sub-circular in plan with a width of 0.20m and a length of 0.33m. It was 0.10m deep and filled by a mid brownish grey silty clay which contained pottery. This may have been related to postholes **107** and **109** in trench 1, however, posthole **111** had a more uneven base and may represent tree root activity.

#### ***Pit 115***

- 3.3.2 Pit **115** was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, it has a diameter greater than 1.5m and was 0.90m deep. It was filled by a mid brownish grey silty clay which contained pottery and animal bone. It is possible that pit **115** cut a second pit, which was visible in plan but not in section.

### 3.4 Trench 3

#### ***Pit 113***

- 3.4.1 Pit **113** was sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides, it had a diameter of 1.50m and a depth of 0.66m. Pit **113** was filled by a dark greyish-brown silty clay, which contained a small amount of animal bone.

#### ***Pond 103***

- 3.4.2 A large feature containing substantial amounts of late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century material was identified across most of trench 3. This can be seen on the 1888 OS map (figure 4) as a pond, however, it does not appear on OS maps after 1927. One machine sondage was dug to the base, which proved to be around 2.5m below ground level. There was no evidence that this feature has origins earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.5 Trench 4

- 3.5.1 The only feature identified in trench 4 was the same large pond **103** as that in trench 3. Towards the southwest end of trench 4 the soil profile varied from the rest of the site in that both a topsoil and a subsoil were present (S.5, Fig 3).

### 3.6 Finds Summary

#### ***Pottery (Carol Fletcher)***

- 3.6.1 A relatively small assemblage of pottery 95 sherds weighing 1.255kg was recovered from a variety of features and deposits. Although the assemblage has limited potential given its small size, its relative importance is enhanced as very little archaeological work has taken place in Warboys. The excavation at Pope's Lane (Hatton and Wall, 1999.) produced a small number of sherds of late Saxon St Neots (NEOT), medieval Ely ware (MEL) and late medieval ware (LMR). The excavation at Ramsey Road produced a similar assemblage indicating Late Saxon and medieval occupation on the west side of the modern village.

#### ***CBM and Fired Clay (Carol Fletcher)***

- 3.6.2 Two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 0.125kg and three fragments of fired clay weighing 0.033kg. were recovered from a variety of features and deposits.

- 3.6.3 The CBM assemblage contains the remains of two bricks for which dimensions cannot be established. The fired clay assemblage is not large and all are relatively formless fragments. The quantities of material present are not sufficient to indicate the presence of a fired clay or brick building on the site.

***Metalworking Residues (Rachel Fosberry)***

- 3.6.4 A total of 0.273Kg of industrial residues were recovered from gully **105**, ditch **124**. Gully **105** was later found to be the same ditch as **124**. Slag was recovered during hand-excavation and bulk samples were taken from each of the deposits within the features for retrieval of additional industrial residues.
- 3.6.5 The industrial residues are comprised of small non-magnetic fragments of metalworking slag, non-metallurgical vesicular, glassy fuel ash slag and magnetic residues including microscopic hammerslag, flake hammerscale and spheroidal hammerslag.

***Worked stone***

- 3.6.6 A single piece of Niedermendig lava (SF 2) was recovered from context 122, a fill of ditch **124**. This represents a fragment of a quern stone, it still retains a single flat grinding surface which has been pecked.

***Worked Bone (Chris Faine)***

- 3.6.7 SF1 (Context 122) Sledge runner (plate 2). Length: 296mm. Greatest width: 56mm. Worked from a left hand adult horse radius, with two holes 17mm in diameter drilled from top to bottom, 35mm from the distal end and 40mm from the proximal end. Both ends have been trimmed to flat upturned points, although the proximal end is partially shattered. The fusion point for the ulna has also been smoothed down. There is a small amount of wear (including longitudinal striations and marks caused during butchery) on the caudal surface, suggesting limited use; perhaps due to the shattering at the proximal end. Horse radii and cattle tibiae were commonly used as runners both in Britain and the continent, with a number of similar items being recovered from Ramsey and Mildenhall fen (MacGregor, 2001), although these cannot be securely dated. The use of such technology persisted well into the 19th century in the fens, with sledges being used in wild-fowling as well as simple children's toys (Goodman & Goodman, 1882). Figure 5 shows a similar example in use, although made from mandibles.

**3.7 Environmental Summary**

***Plant Macrofossils (Rachel Fosberry)***

- 3.7.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- 3.7.2 The plant remains recovered from these samples are dominated by cereal grains. Although they are present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised, although possibly not to any great extent. These grains, along with other dietary remains namely animal bone, fish scale and mussels, are probably derived from low-density deposits of domestic refuse and/or hearth waste.

***Faunal Remains (Chris Faine)***

- 3.7.3 Thirteen fragments of animal bone were recovered with 7 identifiable to species (53.8% of the total sample). All fragments recovered were from adult animals. Context **106**

contained a portion of butchered cattle tibia. Cattle remains were also recovered from contexts **114** and **125** in the form of butchered rib fragments and an adult 1<sup>st</sup> molar respectively. A single fragment of sheep/goat humerus was also recovered from **114**. Pig remains were also recovered from context **112** in the form of butchered fragments of pelvis and thoracic vertebra. Context **119** contained a single adult pig canine (most likely female). Material from environmental samples was limited to a fragment of domestic duck pelvis from context **106** and frog tibia from context **122**.

***Shell (Rachel Fosberry)***

- 3.7.4 A total weight of 0.027Kg shell was recovered. Two species are present; mussels (*Mytilus* sp.) and a single oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). Mussels and Oysters are both common in medieval times. The assemblage would not have represented a single meal but the presence of marine shell does show that these species are a food resource that was exploited.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Medieval Activity

- 4.1.1 The three pits, **113**, **115** and **121**, are probably all roughly contemporary early medieval to medieval features, as are ditch **125** and postholes **109** and **107**. While these features do show Medieval activity on the site, this does not appear to have been that intensive. It is possible that these features represent activity on the edge of the village, outside of the main settlement area.
- 4.1.2 The presence of metalworking residues in ditch **124**, suggests some small scale craft industry. If the main focus of the Medieval settlement was the church, then this site could have been a location alongside the main road to Ramsey, where craft industry was practiced.

### 4.2 Post-Medieval and Modern Activity

- 4.2.1 The site had been occupied by farm buildings for some considerable time. The first edition OS map (Fig. 4) shows a farmhouse, a barn and a large pond. The barn was demolished just prior to the archaeological excavation and was a thatched building with a brick floor, it is likely to have been 18th or 19th century in date. The large pond was partially excavated and shown to have been filled in during the mid 20th century.

### 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 This excavation has shown that the site was utilised during the 12th to 14th Century. With so little archaeology previously carried out in Warboys the small assemblage of material recovered from this site has added importance for studying the development of this village.

### 4.4 Recommendations

- 4.4.1 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						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE	
				<b>Max. depth (m)</b>	0.52	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.5	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	20.4	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
104	Fill	0.46	0.08	Fill of Ditch	pot	12th -14th century
105	Cut	0.46	0.15	Ditch	-	12th -14th century
118	Layer		0.32	Surface?	pot, clay pipe, CBM	17th century
119	Fill	>1.5	0.26	Fill of Pit	pot	13th -14th century
120	Fill	>1.5	0.32	Fill of Pit	pot	13th -14th century
121	Cut	>1.5	0.56	Pit	-	13th -14th century
127	Layer		0.21	Modern disturbance	-	
128	Layer		0.2	Modern	-	

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
				<b>Max. depth (m)</b>	0.5	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.5	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	26.2	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer		0.22	topsoil	-	
106	Fill	0.36	0.17	Fill of post hole	bone	
107	Cut	0.36	0.17	Post hole	-	
108	Fill	0.37	0.08	Fill of post hole	-	
109	Cut	0.37	0.08	Post hole	-	
110	Fill	0.33	0.1	Fill of natural feature	pottery	
111	Cut	0.33	0.1	Natural feature	-	
122	Fill	0.35	0.06	Ditch fill	Pottery, slag, lava quern, worked bone	12th -14th century



123	Fill	0.6	0.15	Ditch fill	-	12th -14th century
124	Cut	0.6	0.15	Ditch cut	-	12th -14th century
125	Fill	0.6	0.12	Pit fill	Pottery, bone	modern
126	Cut	0.6	0.12	Pit cut	-	modern
127	Layer		0.26	Modern disturbance	-	

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench contained a modern pond and a possible Medieval pit.				<b>Max. depth (m)</b>		0.68
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		18.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
102	Fill	11.5	c.2.5	Fill of pond 103	Glass and pottery	Late C19 <sup>th</sup> – Mid C20 <sup>th</sup>
103	Cut	11.5	c.2.5	Cut of pond	-	Late C19 <sup>th</sup> – Mid C20 <sup>th</sup>
112	Fill	1.5	0.66	Fill of pit 113	-	-
113	Cut	1.5	0.66	Cut of pit	-	-
127	Layer	-	0.38	Modern disturbance	-	modern

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		
Trench contained only a modern pond				<b>Max. depth (m)</b>		0.68
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20.4
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.28	topsoil	-	-
102	Fill	11.5	c.2.5	Fill of pond	Glass, pottery	Late C19 <sup>th</sup> – Mid C20 <sup>th</sup>
103	Cut	11.5	c.2.5	Cut of pond	-	Late C19 <sup>th</sup> – Mid C20 <sup>th</sup>
117	Layer	-	0.2	subsoil	-	-
127	Layer	-	0.12	Modern disturbance	-	-

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### **Introduction**

- B.1.1 The site produced a small assemblage of 95 sherds weighing 1.255kg from 10 contexts including unstratified material. Although the assemblage has limited potential given its small size, its relative importance is enhanced as very little archaeological work has taken place in Warboys. The excavation at Pope's Lane (Hatton and Wall, 1999.) produced a small number of sherds of late Saxon St Neots (NEOT), medieval Ely ware (MEL) and late medieval ware (LMR). The excavation at Ramsey Road produced a similar assemblage indicating Late Saxon and medieval occupation on the west side of the modern village.
- B.1.2 Material recovered is mainly mid 12th to late 14th century and mid-15th to late 16th or mid 17th century with some sherds earlier or later than this period; a small number of 19th century sherds were also recovered.
- B.1.3 Pottery recovered is domestic in nature and includes a number of jars in local and non-local fabrics. The pre-13th century fabrics are NEOT and a single abraded sherd has tentatively been identified as Late Saxon Thetford ware (THET). In addition post hole 107 produced a single sherd from a Stamford ware (STAM) jar.
- B.1.4 Huntingdon early medieval ware (HUNEMW) was recovered from various features and mid 12th-14th century Huntingdon Fen sandy ware (HUNFSW) is also present. Late medieval Colne and post-medieval black glazed wares and factory produced white earthenwares (RFWE) were also found.
- B.1.5 The overall condition of the assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd weight is small at approximately 13g.
- B.1.6 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text and the summary catalogue by context are:
- BCHIN Bone China
  - BOND Bourne D
  - COLN-LMR Colne type La
  - HUNEMW Huntingdon Early Medieval ware
  - HUNFSW Huntingdon Fen Sandy ware
  - LYST/LYSTT Lyveden-Stanion/ Lyveden-Stanion type ware
  - MELT Medieval Ely/medieval Ely type ware
  - NEOT St Neots
  - PMBL Post Medieval Black glazed ware
  - RFWE Refined white earthenwares
  - SW Sandy ware
  - SHW Shelly ware
  - STAM Stamford ware
  - THET Thetford ware
  - UGBB Unglazed Grimston Blackborough End type
  - UNK Unknown

#### **Methodology**

- B.1.7 The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group

(MPRG) documents Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations (Blake and Davey, 1983), 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.1.8 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 types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed with the data entered into an MS Access database. All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis.
- B.1.9 The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

### ***Sampling Bias***

- B.1.10 The excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery. These are small quantities of abraded sherds and have not been commented on in this report except for contexts where no other pottery was recovered. Serious bias is not likely to occur.

### ***The Assemblage: Pottery by Period***

#### ***Late Saxon***

- B.1.11 Post hole 107 produced single sherds of NEOT, STAM and THET and a further sherd of NEOT was recorded in the unstratified material. A rim sherd of what has tentatively been identified as Huntingdon type Thetford ware was recovered from **115** unfortunately this sherd is residual within a later feature.

#### ***Early Medieval***

- B.1.12 HUNEMW was recovered from seven contexts and comprises 16% of the assemblage by weight.

#### ***Medieval***

- B.1.13 Over 36% of the assemblage by weight is medieval, the majority of the medieval fabrics are coarse wares most notably HUNFSW which comprises almost 24% of the assemblage by weight. Unglazed MEL sherds were recovered from pits **115** and **121** and both pits also produced SHW and UGBB sherds. Pit **115** also produced the only medieval glazed ware, a single sherd from a LYST jug. Glazed wares are under represented in this domestic assemblage suggesting a poorer assemblage of kitchen rather than serving vessels.

#### ***Late Medieval***

- B.1.14 Late medieval pottery was not common in the assemblage, Colne type LMR or oxidised late medieval ware is present in small numbers in pit **121**.

#### ***Post Medieval***

- B.1.15 Little post medieval pottery was identified, a single large PMBL bowl sherd was recovered from pit 115 and BOND is also present in the assemblage from this pit.

**19th and 20th Century**

- B.1.16 A small number of 19th and 20th century sherds were recovered, representing the last datable phase of activity on the site before the current redevelopment. The material recovered included BCHIN, transfer printed RFWE and black glazed redwares
- B.1.17 The infilled pond **103** produced sherds of RFWE some of which was decorated with transfer printed designs, including willow pattern. Also present were fragments of utilitarian crockery of the 1940's and 50's. In addition an embossed camp coffee bottle and a Bovril jar from the 1940's were also noted. The material from this feature was not retained.
- B.1.18 The hexagonal base of a late 19th-mid 20th century RFWE jug or vase, with an overall flower pattern in brown transfer print was recovered from Pit **126**.

**Fabrics**

19.A simplified fabric profile for the assemblage is as follows

Fabric	Sherd Count (%)	Weight in kg (%)
BOND	2.1	3.4
COLN-LMR type	3.2	3.2
DNEOT	4.2	3.9
HUNEMW	34.7	16.7
HUNEMW/HUNFSW	1.1	1.4
HUNFSW	23.2	23.7
HUN-THETT	1.1	1.8
LYST/LYSTT	3.2	1.7
MEL	2.1	2.9
NEOT	2.1	0.6
PMBL	2.1	7.8
PMBL (late)	2.1	12.1
RFWE	1.1	9.1
SHW	5.3	3.2
STAM	1.1	0.4

SW	2.1	1.4
THET	1.1	0.1
UGBB	5.3	2.8
UNK	3.2	3.7

Table 1: Pottery fabric profile

**Provenance**

B.1.19 Fabrics present are a mixture of wares of local and non local origin. The majority of the assemblage is comprised of early medieval and medieval locally produced wares from Cambridgeshire most notably from Huntingdon and some small number from Ely. UGBB is from Norfolk and the post medieval wares are from Bourne in Lincolnshire and Colne in Cambridgeshire. The PMBL and later black glazed ware may be from Ely or Essex and the RFWE is most likely a product of Staffordshire.

**Assemblage in relation to excavated features**

- B.1.20 Layer 118 Produced a single sherd of BOND or post medieval Colne, two fragments of post medieval brick and two clay pipe stems and may date to the 17th century.
- B.1.21 Pit **121**, filled by 119, which contained late medieval Colne, and residual HUNFSW, MEL, SHW and UGBB pottery, below which was 120, which produced HUNFSW and two sherds of unglazed medieval LYSTT, dating the context to the 13th-mid 14th century. Overall the feature dates to the mid 14th-late 15th century.
- B.1.22 Ditch **124** and **105** are slots through the same feature, **105** produced only two sherds of HUNEMW and 124 two sherds of SHW alongside 13 sherds of HUNEMW and a sherds of transitional HUNEMW/HUNFSW suggesting a mid 12th to mid 13th century date for the feature.
- B.1.23 Postholes **107** and **109**. A sample from context 106, fill of **107**, produced small sherds of NEOT, HUNEMW and THET suggesting a date for the post hole of mid 11th to late 12th century. Unfortunately posthole **109** produced no datable finds. Post hole 111 also contained only early medieval pottery. These post holes may represent the earliest datable features and relate to an post conquest-early medieval phase of building activity.
- B.1.24 Feature **126** contained residual sherds of HUNFSW and a large sherd of RFWE dating from the late 19th to the mid 20th century.
- B.1.25 Pit **115** produced 0.225kg of early medieval or medieval pottery.
- B.1.26 A reasonably large amount of pottery was recovered during machining of trenches 1 and 2. This totalled 20 sherds (0.587kg), the weight of sherds is high due to the presence of three large sherds of black glazed ware, one is standard PMBL however two sherds represent a later development of the redware tradition and date the context to the 19th or early 20th century. The remaining sherds were all early medieval or medieval in date and some were quite large and unabraded.

B.1.27 Pond 103 contained substantial amounts of late 19th to mid 20th century pottery including transfer printed RFWE, including willow pattern. Also present were fragments of utilitarian crockery of the 1940's and 50's. Glass vessels were also noted and of note was an embossed camp coffee bottle and a Bovril jar from the 1940's. The material from this feature was not retained.

### ***Discussion***

B.1.28 The presence of both Late Saxon, early medieval, and medieval pottery within a relatively small area suggests use of the area from the Late Saxon period onward, although not necessarily continuously. The relatively low density of finds suggests that the focus of occupation was away from the site most probably to the west closer to the church.

B.1.29 All the pottery recovered was domestic in character despite the non-domestic nature of the site. The scarcity of glazed vessels is due in part to the early nature of much of the pottery.

## **B.2 CBM and Fired Clay**

*By Carole Fletcher*

### ***Introduction***

B.2.1 The excavation produced a small assemblage of two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 0.125kg from context 118 and three fragments of fired clay weighing 0.033kg.

B.2.2 The CBM assemblage contains the remains of two bricks for which dimensions cannot be established. The overall condition of the assemblage is moderately abraded and the average size of brick fragments is moderate at 62.5g. The quantities of material present, combined with the absence of mortar, are not sufficient to indicate the presence of a brick building on the site.

B.2.3 Fired clay comprises small fragments for which the average weight is 11g. These fragments of hardened clay were produced from local materials.

### ***Methodology***

B.2.4 For this assessment the CBM and fired clay was counted, weighed and classified by form. Fabric type has been initially recorded for the CBM and fired clay by an alphanumeric indicator. Levels of abrasion, any evidence of re-use or burning were also recorded following the guidelines laid down by Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2002). All the CBM and Fired Clay has been quantified on a context by context basis.

### ***Assemblage***

B.2.5 CBM and fired clay was recovered from a variety of features across the excavated area. The small nature of the fragments of fired clay suggest that their deposition may be due to reworking and later infilling of features rather than deliberate disposal after they were broken.

	Ditch	Pit	Layer
CBM			100
Fired Clay	33.3	66.7	

Table 2: CBM and Fired Clay percentage by weight and by feature type.

### ***Fired Clay***

B.2.6 The fired clay assemblage is not large and all are relatively formless fragments, however two fired clay fabrics, and one fabric variant, were identified and recorded. There appears to be no obvious relationship between the fired clay fabrics and the the date of the context it was retrieved from. The fired clay unfortunately is not closely datable

Fabric	Fragment Count	Weight (kg)
B1	1	0.072
B2	1	0.053
FC1	1	0.009
FC1b	1	0.013
FC2	1	0.011

Table 3: Quantity and weight of CBM and fired clay by fabric type.

### ***CBM***

B.2.7 Within the smaller CBM assemblage, two brick fabrics were identified and recorded. Both fragments were recovered from layer 118 from which two clay tobacco pipe stems were also recovered; these are common from the 17th to mid 19th century. A single sherd of post medieval pottery (mid 15th-mid 17th century ) was also recovered suggesting a 17th century date for the context. The brick fragments are unfortunately not closely datable.

### ***Discussion***

B.2.8 This is a relatively small assemblage and the small amount of fired clay recovered argues against there being any substantial structure built in this material. The brick fragments are few in number and may reflect building demolition close to the site and the incorporation of some material into features.

**Sampling Bias**

B.2.9 The excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature-by-feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of fired clay. These are small quantities of abraded sherds and have not been commented on in this report except where no other material was recovered. Serious bias is not likely to occur.

Fired Clay	Fabric Description
FC1          FC1b	Fine silt matrix with common clear quartz and some milky quartz, occasional calcareous material and organic material such as straw or reeds/rushes. Moderately well fired oxidised dull orange-brown with a brown-black core. FC1b as for FC1 with less organic material
FC2	Fine silt matrix with common clear quartz and some milky quartz, occasional calcareous material and flint. Moderately well fired, dull orange and black.

Table 4: Fired Clay fabrics

Brick/Tile	Fabric Description
B1	Hard fired dull red fabric completely oxidised, rough fracture. Occasional moderate quartz, occasional moderate ? Grog and iron stone.
B2	Moderately hard fired pink and dull red swirly fabric with occasional yellow-cream lenses. Fabric completely oxidised, rough fracture. Quartz and clay pellets or grog.

Table 5: Brick fabrics



### B.3 Industrial residues

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction and methodology**

- B.3.1 A total of 0.273Kg of industrial residues were recovered from gully **105**, ditch **124**. Gully **105** was later found to be the same ditch as **124**. Slag was recovered during hand-excavation and bulk samples were taken from each of the deposits within the features for retrieval of additional industrial residues.
- B.3.2 The industrial residues are comprised of small non-magnetic fragments of metalworking slag, non-metallurgical vesicular, glassy fuel ash slag and magnetic residues including microscopic hammerslag, flake hammerscale and spheroidal hammerslag.
- B.3.3 Magnetic residues were recovered from the samples by running a magnet through the washed residues and examination under a binocular microscope at x8 magnification.
- B.3.4 Two small iron fragments and an iron nail had a total weight of 11g and were retrieved from sample 1, fill 104, ditch **105**.

#### **Results**

Context No.	Cut No.	Metalworking slag (g)	Fuel Ash slag (g)	Magnetic residues (g)
104	105	8	6	11
122	124	230	-	4

Table 6. Quantification of Industrial residues

#### **Discussion**

- B.3.5 The metalworking slags recovered probably derived from secondary smithing, which is the term used to describe the manufacture, recycling or repair of iron objects.
- B.3.6 Fuel ash slag forms during the reaction between siliceous materials such as clay and sand and alkalis in the ash produced from the furnace fuel.
- B.3.7 A small fragment of coke recovered from fill 104 suggests that the fuel used in the smithing process was coal although far greater quantities would be expected.
- B.3.8 Hammerscale is indicative of the smithing process and has been recovered in both its forms as flake hammerscale which is produced when iron is forged and as spheroidal hammerscale which results from the primary smithing of iron bloom and also during the welding process (Starley, D 1995). Both types have been recovered from samples.

#### **Statement of Research Potential**

- B.3.9 This small assemblage of metalworking debris is of limited potential and can probably be described as a typical background spread of slag associated with many sites where blacksmithing has occurred in the near vicinity.

#### **Further Work and Methods Statement**

- B.3.10 No further work is required at this stage.
- B.3.11 If further excavation is planned, detailed sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of the metallurgical activities taking place at this site.

## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction and Methods**

- C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- C.1.2 Features sampled were ditch **105**, pit **115** and ditch **124**.
- C.1.3 Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 7.

#### **Results**

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
1	104	105	Charcoal, cereal grains, weed seeds, fish scale	Animal bone, small bones, mussel shell, pottery, slag
2	114	115	Charcoal, cereal grains, weed seeds	Animal bone, small bones, pottery
3	122	124	Charcoal, cereal grains, fish scale, small bones	Animal bone, small bones, mussel shell, pottery.

Table 7. summary of environmental sample results

#### **Preservation**

- C.1.4 All of the samples contain plant remains preserved by carbonisation.

#### **Plant Remains**

##### **Cereals**

- C.1.5 Charred cereal grains of both wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) are present in all of the samples in low quantities (less than 10 specimens per sample). No chaff elements occur.

##### **Weed seeds**

- C.1.6 Single specimens of charred weed seeds include sedge (*Carex* sp.), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Fig-leaved Goosefoot (*Chenopodium ficifolium*) and a nutlet of saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*)

### ***Ecofacts and Artefacts***

- C.1.7 All of the samples contain occasional sherds of pottery, fragments of animal bone and small mammal bones.
- C.1.8 Sample 1 contains a piece of slag.
- C.1.9 Mussel shells were recovered from Samples 1 and 3.

### ***Discussion***

- C.1.10 The plant remains recovered from these samples are dominated by cereal grains. Although they are present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised, although possibly not to any great extent. These grains, along with other dietary remains namely animal bone, fish scale and mussels, are probably derived from low-density deposits of domestic refuse and/or hearth waste.
- C.1.11 Both wheat and barley are present. Wheat grains are difficult to identify on the basis of morphology alone although the rounded form suggests bread wheat and would have been used as flour for baking. Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, soup and was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities.
- C.1.12 The weed seeds occur as single specimens which precludes detailed interpretation other than that wet-land resources may have been exploited in the form of reeds and rushes for flooring/thatching or fuel.

### ***Statement of Research Potential***

- C.1.13 This small assemblage is of limited potential.

### ***Further Work and Methods Statement***

- C.1.14 The low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage limits interpretation of the features sampled. It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this and further work is not recommended at this stage.
- C.1.15 If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and possible weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

## **C.2 Shell**

*By Rachel Fosberry*

### ***Introduction and Methods***

- C.2.1 Shells of both marine molluscs were quantified and examined in order to assess the diversity and quantity of these ecofacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- C.2.2 A total weight of 0.027Kg shell was recovered. Two species are present; mussels (*Mytilus* sp.) and a single oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)

**Results**

Species	Common name	Habitat	Weight (g)	Total number of contexts
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	estuarine and shallow coastal water	11	1
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Mussel	Intertidal, salt water	16	4

Table 8: Shell quantification

**Discussion**

- C.2.3 All of the species in this assemblage are bivalves although none of the specimens are preserved hinged. The majority of the shells are moderately preserved and do not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed.
- C.2.4 Mussels and Oysters are both common in medieval times. The assemblage would not have represented a single meal but the presence of marine shell does show that these species are a food resource that was exploited.

**Statement of Research Potential**

- C.2.5 This small assemblage is of limited potential.

**Further Work and Methods Statement**

- C.2.6 No further work is recommended at this stage. If further excavations are planned for this site, a detailed sampling strategy should be considered to investigate the degree of exploitation of marine resources.

## APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |   |      |  |
|---|------|--|
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## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-64740		
Project Name	Medieval activity on Ramsey road, Warboys, cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	23-09-2009	Finish	25-09-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WARREF09	Planning App. No.	0900752FUL
HER No.	ECB 3271	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Housing Estate

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	Medieval 1066 to 1540
pit	Medieval 1066 to 1540	slag	Medieval 1066 to 1540
	Select period...	bone	Medieval 1066 to 1540

### Project Location

County	cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Huntingdon	Former Red House Farm, Ramsey road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire PE28 2RW	
Parish	Warboys		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	2,500sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 3022 8028

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	CAPCA
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Nick gilmour

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC stores Landbeach	OA East	CCC stores Landbeach
WARREF09	WARREF09	WARREF09

### Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**





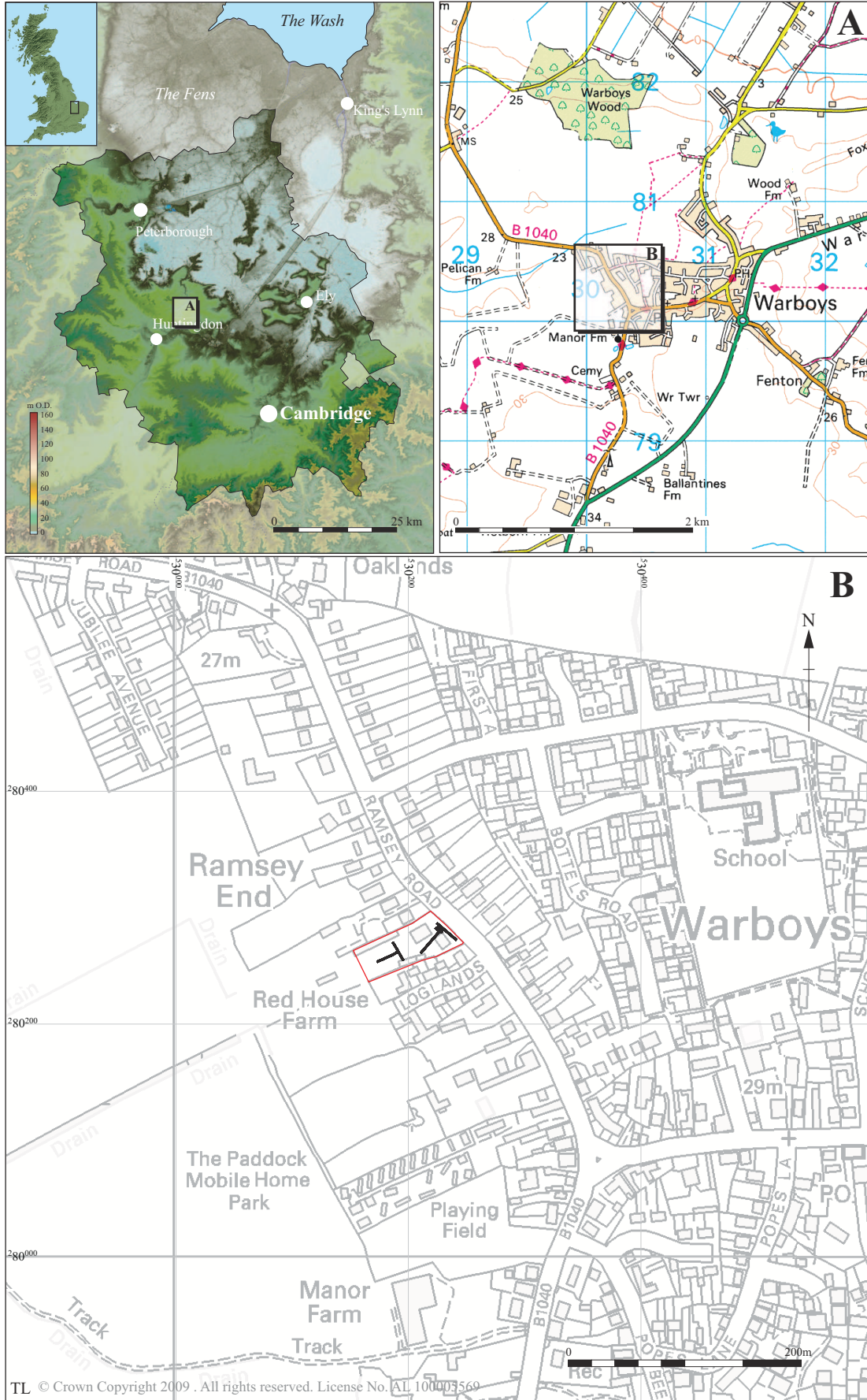


Figure 1 Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

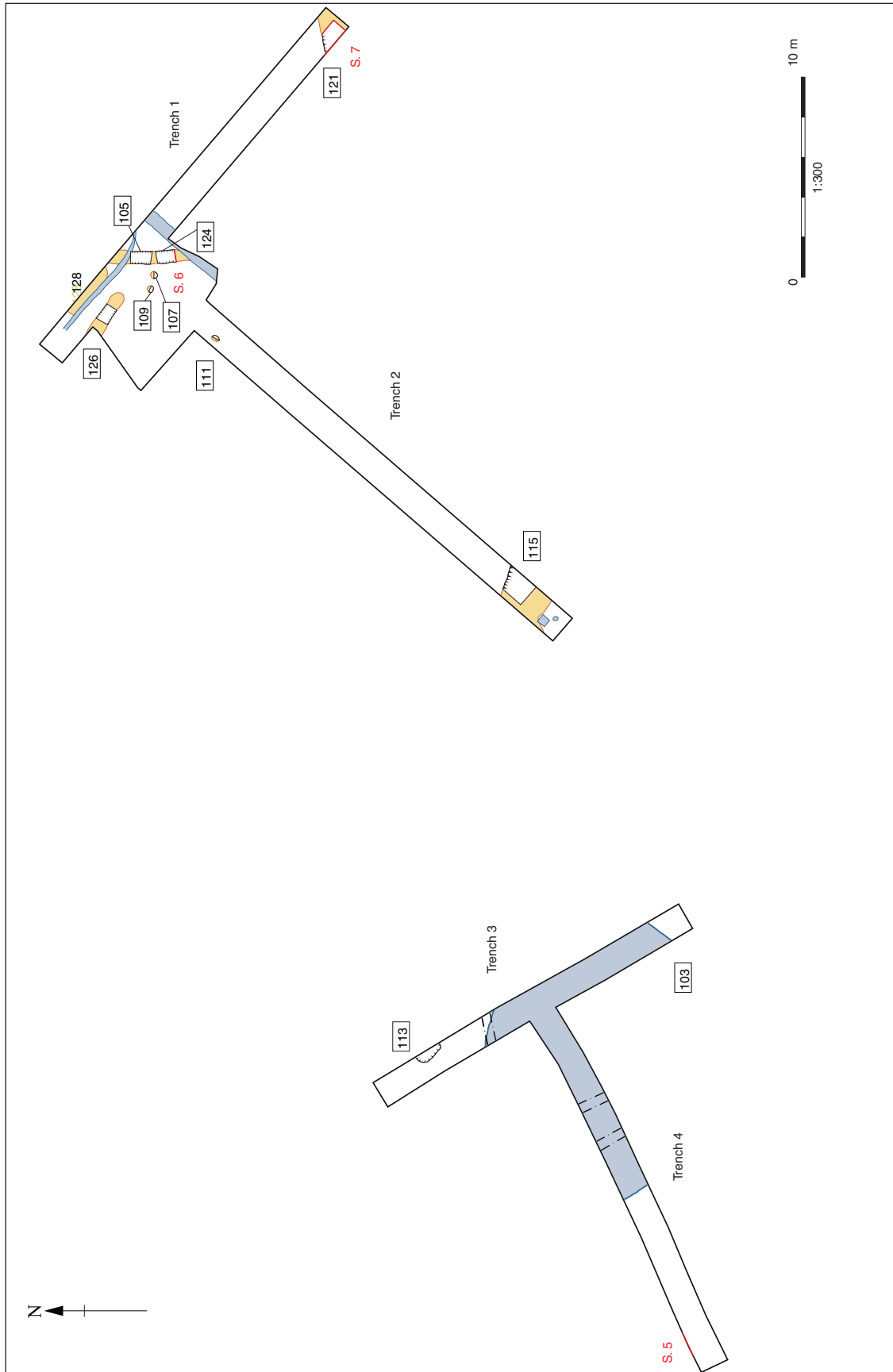


Figure 2: Trench plan

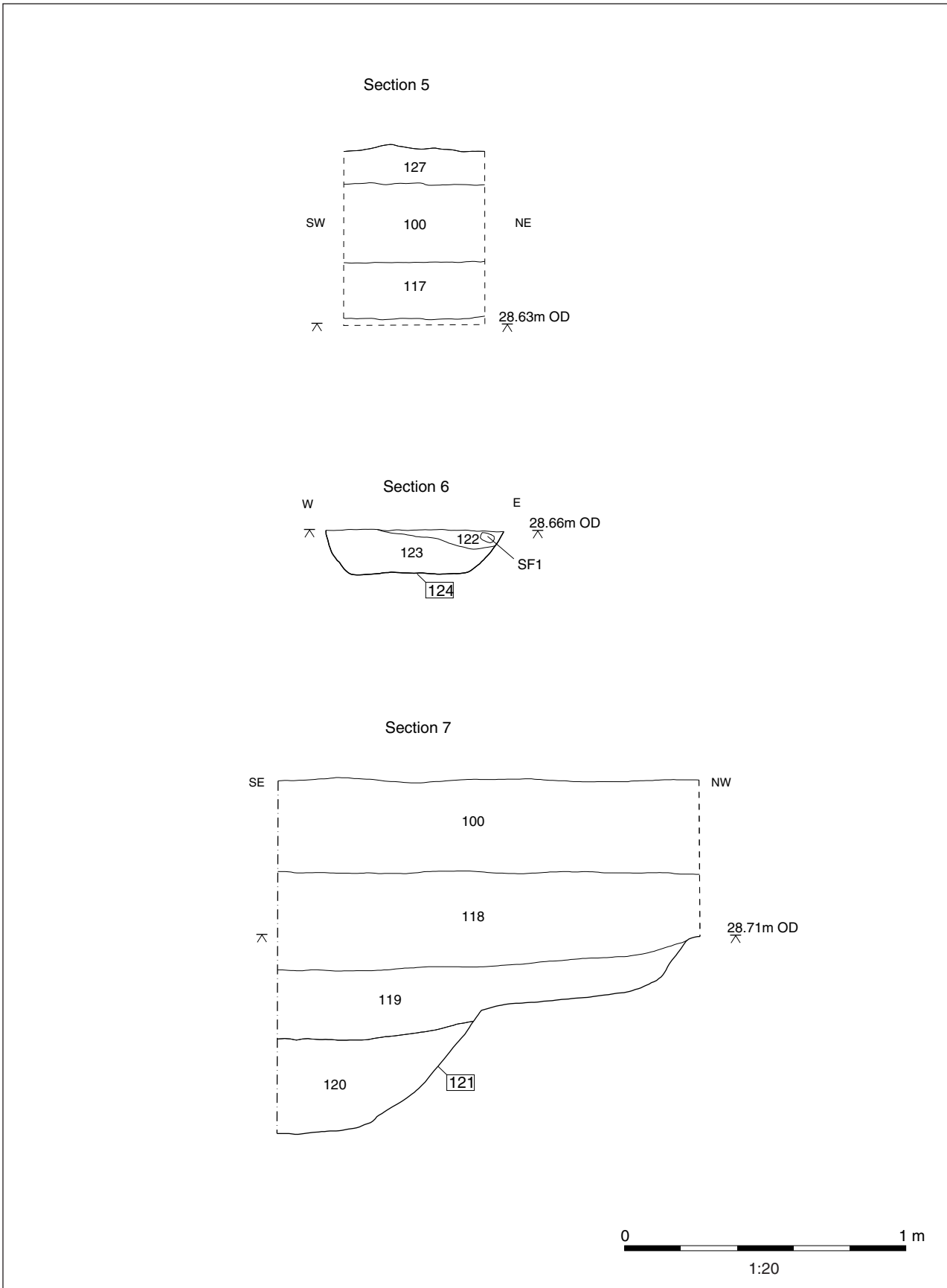


Figure 3: Sections

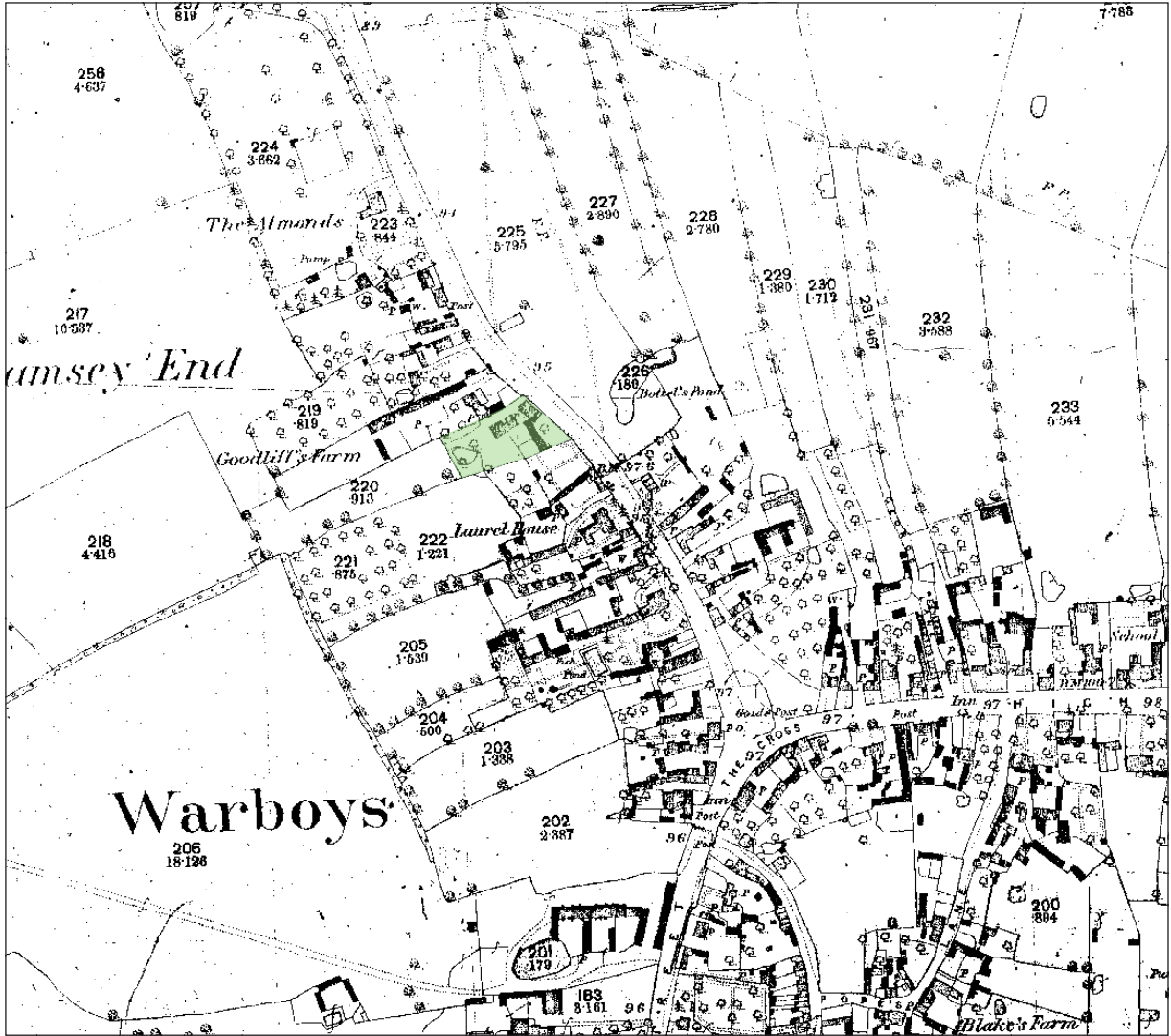


Figure 4: First Edition OS map 1887



Figure 5: Child on a bone sledge, taken from dutch engraving, 1594. (After Sheperd Popescu forthcoming)



Plate 1: Area at Intersection of Trench 1 and 2



Plate 2: Bone Sledge Runner (SF 1)



#### **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: [oeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:oeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oeast>

#### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Maugeio  
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

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