

Jack's Lane Bagthorpe Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



September 2015

**Client: The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

OA East Report No: 1834

OASIS No: oxfordar3-223997

NGR: TF 80103 33806

Jack's Lane, Bagthorpe, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

By Kathryn Nicholls BA

Editor: Richard Mortimer MCIfA

Illustrator: Charlotte Davies MPhil

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Planning Ref: -
Grid Ref: TF 80103 33806
Site Code: ENF138842
Finance Code: XNFJAL15
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Prepared by: Kathryn Nicholls
Position: Supervisor
Date: September 2015

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: September 2015
Signed:



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Oxford Archaeology East,

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

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

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Summary

On the 15th and 16th of September 2015 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising six 50m trenches at Jacks Lane, Bagthorpe, Norfolk (TF 80103 33806). Geophysical survey was carried out prior to the evaluation and trenches were positioned over anomalies and known field boundaries. A boundary ditch and a post-hole; most likely part of a fence line, were excavated in trench four. A ditch relating to a medieval/post-medieval road was located in trench two although there was no evidence of the road remaining. Historically, much of this land was forested, evidence for this was seen in many of the trenches where tree throws were observed. No finds were recovered from the evaluation trenches or from the field surface.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Jacks Lane, Bagthorpe, Norfolk (Fig. 1)
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in consultation with Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council (NCC) Historic Environment Service, 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NCC, 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 located to the north of the hamlet Bagthorpe at a height of around 59m OD. The geology consists of bedrock of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of Briton's Lane sand and gravel and Sheringham Cliffs Formation Clay, silt, sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed 17/9/15).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

- 1.3.1 A palaeolithic scraper or flake was recovered close to Barmer Common (MHER 1988). A Neolithic Axehead has also been found made from grey stone and measuring 10 inches in length (NHER 1712). Immediately north of the site a single sherd of pottery from the rim of a Bronze Age cordoned beaker bearing an incised and comb decoration has been recovered.

Roman

- 1.3.2 A Roman coin of the emperor Constantine dating to the 4th century is recorded as having been recovered in the field immediately north-east of the site. Land surrounding Barwick Hall farm, 1.5km to the north-east has undergone fieldwalking where Roman pottery has been recovered along with a number of coins.
- 1.3.3 It is possible that the route of the B1454 north of the site may follow the line of a Roman road branching off from a junction with the Peddars Way Roman Road (NHER 55471).

Saxon and Medieval

- 1.3.4 Fieldwalking and metal detecting over the site of the deserted medieval village of Great Barwick (1.5km to the north-east) has recovered a variety of finds ranging in date from Early Saxon to post-medieval. Largely this comprises pottery sherds, and metal objects.
- 1.3.5 Scattered surface finds of medieval pottery, together with a handful of Late Saxon Thetford type ware sherds, were also recovered in various locations immediately

surrounding the isolated church of All Saints, Barmer (1km east) (NHER 6075). The location of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval village of Barmer is unknown. There are no surviving earthworks or cropmarks in the area.

Post-medieval and Modern

- 1.3.6 Located 1.5km north-west of the site is Bircham Airfield. It was built in 1918 as a Royal Flying Corps training station and then became a base for RAF bomber squadrons. After the Second World War it became a RAF training school before its closure in 1962. Much of the airfield and many of the airfield buildings still survive today. It is now used as a training centre for the construction industry.
- 1.3.7 A post-medieval trackway is known (through historic maps) to have run broadly north to south through the site and originally the parish boundary followed this line.

Geophysical Survey

- 1.3.8 A geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the evaluation where magnetic disturbances of natural and recent origin were detected. Magnetic anomalies were also detected which correspond with former field boundaries. A few isolated ditch-like anomalies were detected, none of which could be interpreted as distinctive or unambiguous archaeological features (Bartlett: 2015). The results of the survey are presented on Figure 2.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Matthew Morgan along with The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Ken Hamilton for overseeing the work and to Richard Mortimer for managing the project. The plant was supplied by Middleton Aggregates and Dave Brown surveyed the trench locations.

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 A total of six 50m trenches were excavated across the proposed development area of 11ha. All trenches were placed to locate known field boundaries and/or other anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey.
- 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 using a Leica GS08.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. No metal-detected or hand-collected finds were forthcoming.
- 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 sampling would take place if necessary.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of six trenches were excavated on site each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m wide (Fig. 2). The trenches were positioned over anomalies and known field boundaries uncovered during the geophysical survey carried out on the site prior to excavation.

3.2 Trenches 1, 3 and 5

3.2.1 Three of the trenches were completely devoid of archaeological finds, features or deposits. Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east and located at the northern end of the field close to an area of woodland. The topsoil here measured 0.30m in depth and the subsoil 0.10m in depth. Large patches of natural gravel were observed in this trench.

3.2.2 Trench 3 was located centrally within the field on a north-west to south-east alignment. Topsoil here measured 0.30m in depth and overlay subsoil measuring 0.10m in depth.

3.2.3 At the southern end of the field Trench 5 was on a north-west to south-east alignment. This trench contained topsoil measuring 0.35m in depth directly overlying a natural of brown yellow sand and gravel (Plate 1). Within this trench there was evidence for small and modern tree throws which still contained tree roots, these were not recorded.

3.3 Trenches 2, 4 and 6

3.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the centre of the field on a north-east to south-west alignment. At the northern end of this trench was ditch **8**. This ditch had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 1.2m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 3). Its fill (9) comprised yellow brown silty sand and contained no finds. This ditch lay in the location of, and on alignment with, an old road recorded on maps in the 19th century, and is most likely contemporary with it. There was no further evidence for the road however, some staining was present at the north-east end of the trench (Plate. 2).

3.3.2 Towards the western end of the field was trench 4 on a north-east to south-west alignment. This trench contained ditch **4** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and formed part of an old field boundary. This ditch measured 0.95m wide and 0.60m in depth (Fig. 3), its fill (5) comprised yellow brown silty sand and contained no finds. This trench also contained a single post-hole, **6** just lying to the north of Ditch **4**. This post-hole is 0.35m in width and had a depth of 0.26m. Its single fill (7) was similar to that of the topsoil in this trench suggesting it to be modern in date. No finds were recovered.

3.3.3 Trench 6 was located at the eastern end of the field on a north-east to south-west alignment. This trench contained topsoil measuring 0.30m in depth overlying subsoil measuring 0.10m deep. This trench contained tree throw **10** which measured 1.5m in width and 0.20m deep. Its single fill (11) contained no finds. At the northern end of the trench was a possible linear feature **12**. This feature measured 2.5m wide but only 0.20m in depth. This feature may represent a natural hollow, its fill (13) was mid reddish brown in colour and contained frequent gravel inclusions with no finds. It is possible that it represented a hollowed-out section of the old road recorded on maps and in the geophysical survey.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The ditches recorded in Trenches 2 and 4 (**8** and **4**) can both be seen on an OS map (Fig. 4) from 1885/6 as the western and eastern boundaries of a parcel of woodland. There is no road on the eastern boundary. Both boundaries remain on Ordnance Survey maps until 1952 when the westernmost disappears, along with the woodland. By 1975 the eastern boundary too has been removed. Trench 5 and 6 support the evidence for an area of trees across the site in the form of tree throws (**10**).
- 4.1.2 Post-hole **6** was topsoil-filled and potentially broadly contemporary with the latter years of ditch **4**; it may be part of a fence line marking out the field boundary during the 20th century.
- 4.1.3 The road that lay on the same alignment as ditch **8** in Trench 2, was recorded on the 1815 Old Series map but not on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. There was no evidence for this road within the trenches, other than the slightly hollow recorded in Trench 6, most likely due to extensive and deep ploughing across the field.

4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 No finds or features were present from pre-Medieval periods. The only features recorded were of late Medieval or post-Medieval date. Finds have been recovered in neighbouring villages with the possibility of a Medieval village being present at Barmer indicating settlement within reasonably close proximity to the site. However, the complete lack of archaeological finds or features present at Jack's Lane indicates that the land was not even being manured in the medieval/post-medieval period, and that it may therefore have been under heath, pasture or woodland throughout the period.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand and gravels				Avg. depth (m)		0.40
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained Topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand and gravels. A single Ditch was present running roughly north-west to south-east.				Avg. depth (m)		0.60
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
8	Cut	1.20	0.38	Ditch	-	-
9	Fill	1.20	0.38	Fill of Ditch	-	-
Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench is devoid of archaeology. It contains Topsoil and Subsoil overlying a natural of sand and gravels.				Avg. depth (m)		0.40
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains Topsoil overlying a natural of sand and gravels. A boundary ditch and a single post-hole is also present.	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4	Cut	0.95	0.60	Cut of Ditch	-	-
5	Fill	0.95	0.60	Fill of Ditch	-	-
6	Cut	0.35	0.28	Cut of Post-hole	-	-
7	Fill	0.35	0.28	Fill of Post-hole	-	-

Trench 5

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology and consists of topsoil overlying a natural of sand and gravels	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand and gravels. This trench also contains a tree throw and a possible linear feature	Avg. depth (m)	0.40
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
10	Cut	1.50		Tree throw	-	-
11	Fill	1.50		Fill of Tree throw	-	-
12	Cut	2.50	0.20	Possible Linear Feature	-	-
13	Fill	2.50	0.20	Fill of Linear Feature	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bartlett, A.D.H. 2015. Jack's Lane Solar Farm, Bagthorpe, Norfolk: Archaeological Geophysical Survey. Bartlett-Clark Consultancy.

Bush, L & Mortimer, R. 2015. Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Evaluation, Jack's Lane, Bagthorpe, Norfolk. Oxford Archaeology East

Online resources

Geology of Britain: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed 17/9/15)

Heritage Gateway: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> (Accessed 17/9/15)

Old Maps: <http://maps.nls.uk/view/101580956> (Accessed 17/9/15)

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-223997		
Project Name	Jack's Lane, Bagthorpe, Norfolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	15-09-2015	Finish	16-09-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF138842	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ENF138842	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Other

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
boundary ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
posthole	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	Jack's Lane, Bagthorpe, Norfolk, PE31 8PY
Parish	Barwick	
HER	Norfolk	
Study Area	11ha	National Grid Reference TF 80103 33806

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Ken Hamilton
Project Design Originator	Matt Morgan
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Kathryn Nicholls

Project Archives

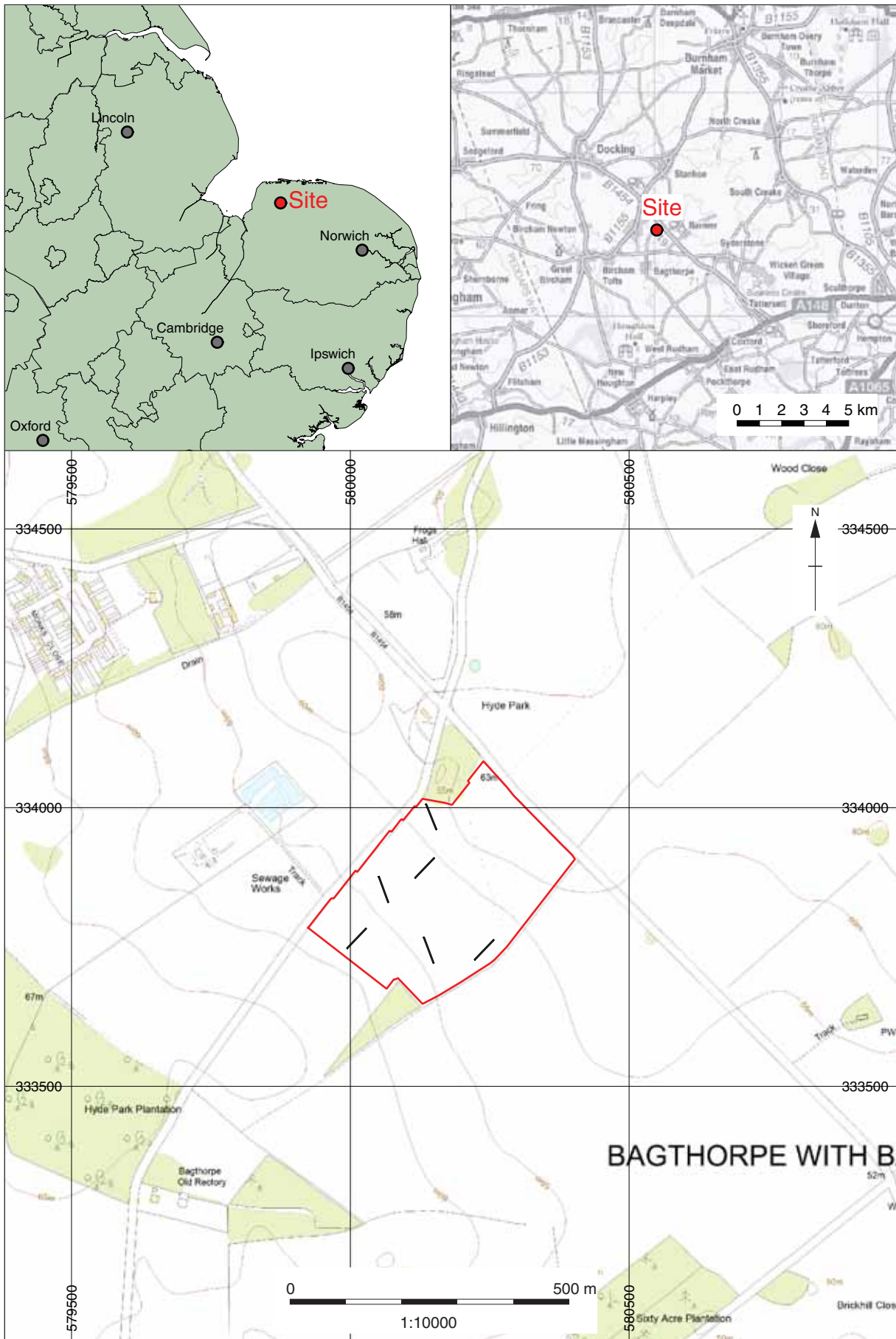
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
ENF138842	ENF138842	ENF138842

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

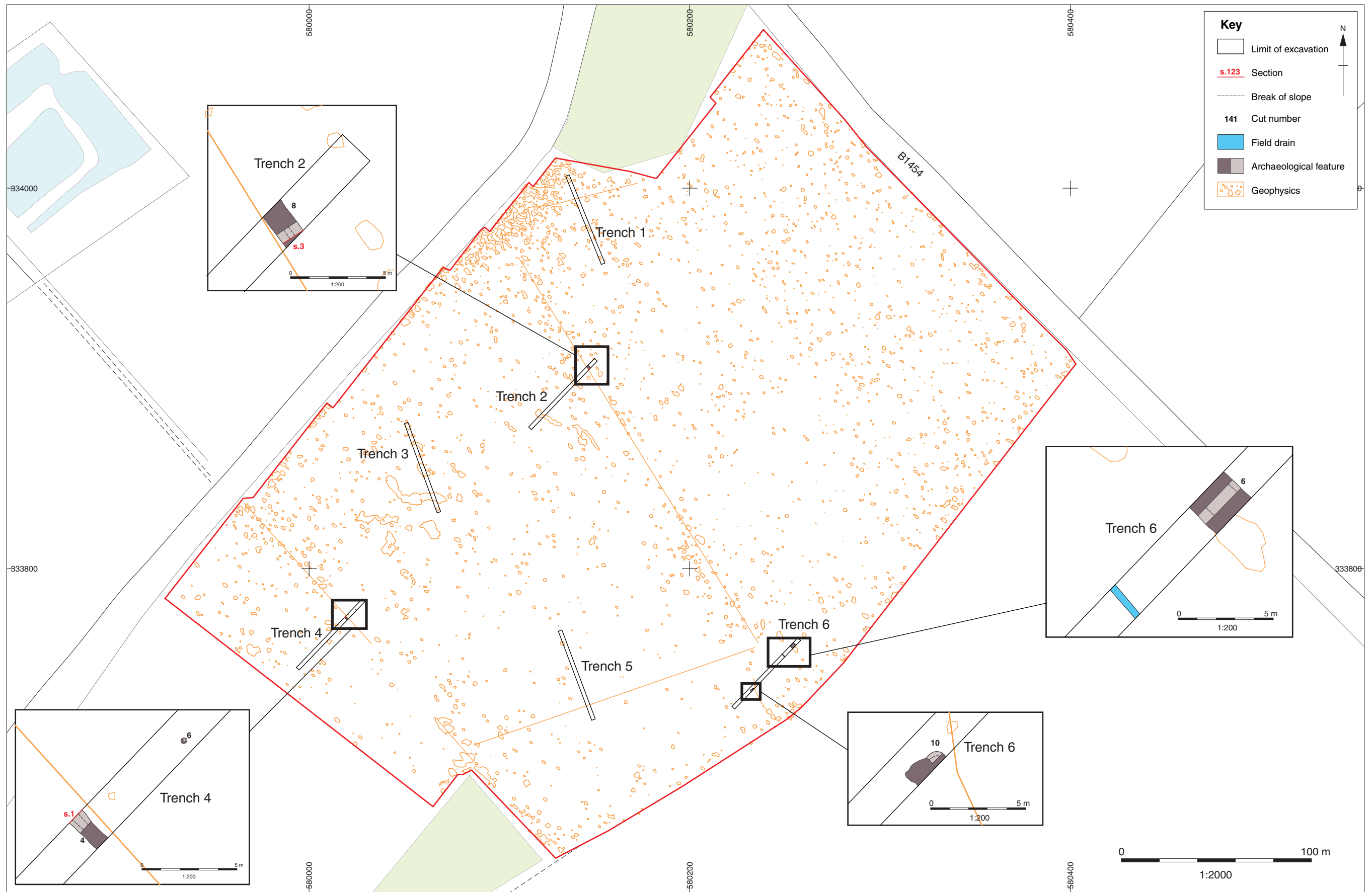


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches.

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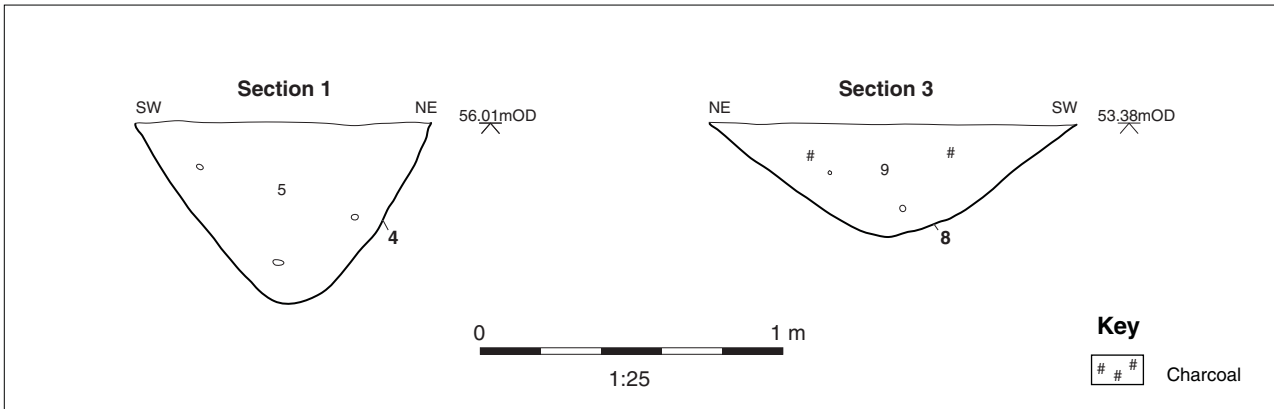


Figure 3: Selected sections

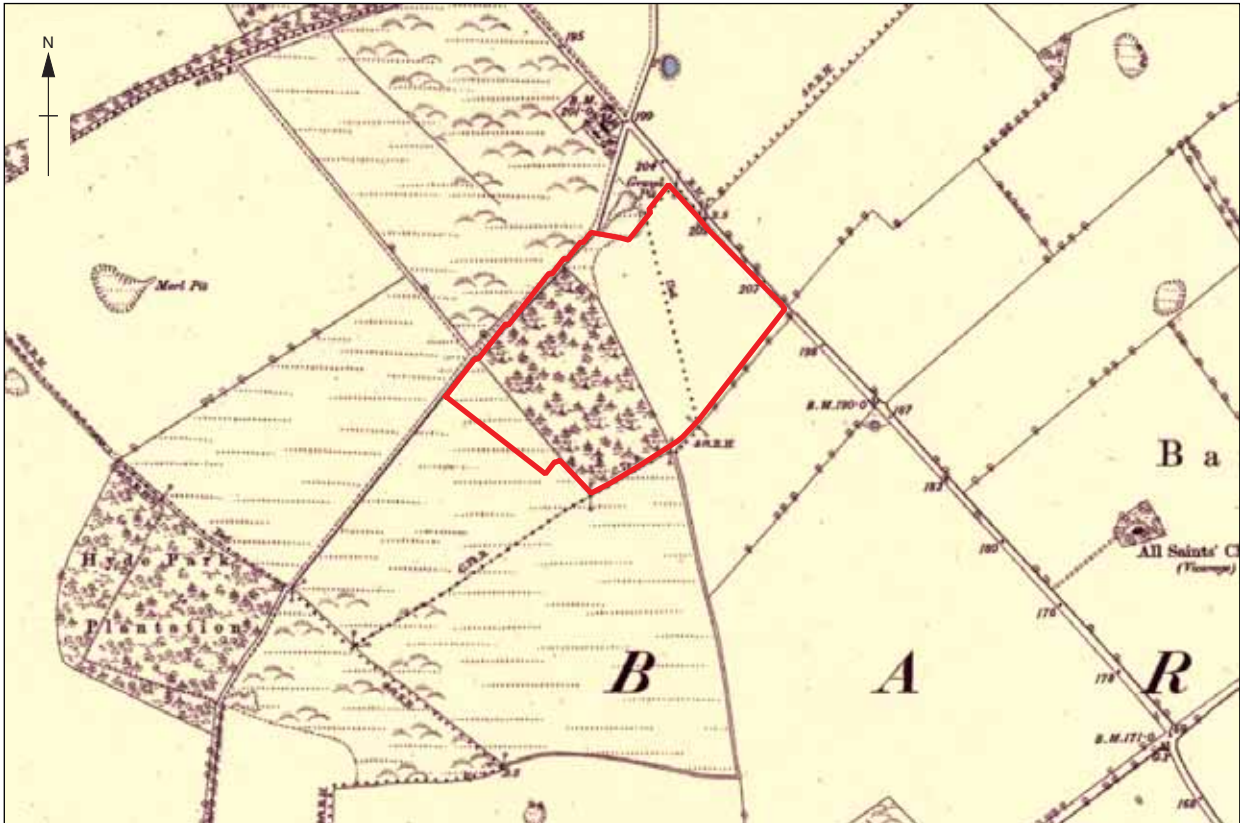


Figure 4: 1885 OS map

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Plate 1: Trench 5, looking north-west showing sand and gravel natural



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking south-west showing Ditch 8



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@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIFA
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