# Land at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2014

Client: CgMs on behalf of Lightsource

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NGR: TL 377 426



# Land at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn

Archaeological Evaluation

By Stuart Ladd BA MA PIfA
With contributions by Rachel Fosberry

Editor: Richard Mortimer MIfA

Illustrator: Stuart Ladd BA MA PIfA

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Report Number: 1677

Site Name: Land at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn

HER Event No: ECB4298

Date of Works: September 2014

Client Name: CgMs on behalf of Lightsource

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Prepared by: Stuart Ladd
Position: Supervisor
Date: October 2014

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Senior Project Manager

Date: October 2014

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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#### 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on Land at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Spoerry 2014).
- 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 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 lies on geology of Chalk of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2014). The majority of the site is undulating fields up to 51.mOD in the centre, dropping down to 46 47mOD in the west and north.
- 1.2.2 No springs are known in the immediate area (being associated with the Melbourn Rock formation 1.5km to the northeast). The water table is some 10m below the surface in the land owner's well (Swannell, pers. comm.).

# 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Detailed archaeological and historical background is provided in a recent desk-based assessment (Smalley 2014). This identified a high potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, a low potential for the Roman period while for the Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods, agricultural activity of limited significance was expected (*ibid.*).

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The work was commissioned by Will Bedford of CgMs on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd. with the permission of the land owners, Mr & Mrs. Swannell. Machine excavation and backfilling was performed by Darren Hubbard of Anthill Plant Hire. Site excavation and recording was undertaken by Andy Greef, Katherine Hamilton, Emily Abrehart, Bronagh Quinn, Rebecca Pridmore, Petra Weschenfelder and the author.



### 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

# 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological 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 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type excavator using a 2m toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.2 The site survey was carried out using Leica 1200 RTK GPS.
- 2.2.3 Ploughsoils were bucket sampled for finds. 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. Prehistoric pottery was dated by Sarah Percival, and the Roman pottery by Alice Lyons.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 Three environmental samples were taken.
- 2.2.6 Conditions were dry, varying from sunny to thick fog.



### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 As several Trenches crossed the same landscape features, targeted by Geophysical survey (Stratascan), results are discussed by date of features, beginning with natural features and through prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval features. Archaeological features are given cut numbers in bold. Natural features are generally un-numbered but have a cut number where they were tested by excavation. Trench plans are shown in Figures 2-5.
- 3.1.2 Trenches 10, 11 & 12 were not excavated due to *in situ* crop on that part of the field.

# 3.2 Trenches with no archaeology

3.2.1 Trenches 5, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 25, 23 and 29 revealed no archaeological features. Trench 13 had been moved 5m west to avoid the crop.

#### 3.3 Natural Hollows

3.3.1 A number of natural hollows were identified on the higher ground on site. Only one produced archaeological finds but also showed extensive evidence of rabbit burrowing.

#### Trench 6

- 3.3.2 A natural hollow (**56**) was excavated here, partially by machine, then by hand. It measured 9m across and 0.8m deep (below plough soil) with gently sloping irregular sides. It was filled (57) with a mid-brown sandy silt which contained no finds.
- 3.3.3 Two metres to the north, of this was a natural linear feature with irregular sides, 0.75m across and 0.1m deep. Further north a small tree throw was excavated (**54**), producing no finds.
- 3.3.4 From the geophysical survey this larger hollow and linear feature resembled (potentially) a watering hole in the corner of a rectilinear enclosure. However, the features here appeared to be natural. Furthermore, the eastern continuation of the putative northern boundary into Trench 7 had a very different form, also appearing to be natural. The western boundary would continue into Trench 5, however this trench contained no archaeological features, so it is likely the north-south feature on the geophysical survey is just part of the plough soil trends nothing was apparent in the sub soil in section.

#### Trench 7

3.3.5 A broad natural hollow (8) was excavated here. It had been identified by geophysical survey as a potential linear feature continuing from Trench 6. However, its gentle edges and shallow profile (0.4m deep by approximately 4m wide), absence of finds and uniform mid grey-reddish brown fill (10) suggest it was a natural feature. Furthermore it bears little resemblance to the small, irregular linear feature it would have aligned with in Trench 6.

#### Trench 23

3.3.6 Trench 23 was moved approximately 5m south of its planned position due to the sugarbeet crop. A small natural hollow at least 6m across and 0.4m deep was excavated. This contained a fine mid brown sandy silt, similar to the subsoil. Small sherds of abraded Roman pottery of 2nd century date were retrieved from the surface of this but these appeared to be intrusive from the subsoil above.



#### Trench 24

- 3.3.7 A sub-rectangular feature (**91**) was revealed at 8m by at least 2m in plan with sides sloping gently to a flat base. Two 1m test pits were excavated by hand through its fill (92-93) which consisted of a mid-dark greyish brown friable silt. Pieces of Roman pottery of 2nd to 4th-century date, some heavily abraded, were retrieved from both test pits (one at the western edge, one near the centre).
- 3.3.8 The friable fill resembled the fills of larger natural hollows excavated 1.5km to the northeast on a recent evaluation at new Road, Melbourn. Those are thought to be of peri-glacial origin, containing early prehistoric buried soils (Ladd 2014). However, in this instance there were no prehistoric finds, and no prehistoric buried soils. The base of the feature was irregular but generally flat with gently curving sides. There has been considerable burrowing throughout the fill, potentially introducing later finds.

### 3.4 Colluvium

3.4.1 The western part of the evaluation area formed a slight valley, causing some superficial geological effects. It is possible that a slight channel had resulted from rain run-off along the lower contour, filled with dark friable silts (73) up to 0.4m thick and 15m across. The line of this would run from southeast down to the northwest. Colluvial silts coming down from the northeast have contributed to this infill.

#### Trenches 17, 20, 21, 30

3.4.2 Four trenches were targeted across this feature as it had been identified by geophysical survey. No archaeological features cut across the colluvium so it was excavated by machine. It was bucket sampled to test for finds as well as hand test pitted at the eastern end of Trench 17 but it produced no finds in any trench.

#### Trenches 20, 20a, 20b

- 3.4.3 Associated with this natural feature, two sub-rectangular pits (85, 87) were excavated in Trench 20. These gave the appearance of being potentially part of a causewayed ditch, although no finds were recovered. The trench was subsequently extended around these with two additional double-width trenches excavated either side across the expected line of any extension.
- 3.4.4 The pit-like features appeared less regular as a greater area was exposed. Pit **87** was excavated fully, measuring 1.8m x 0.6m x 0.2m deep. A section of pit **85** was excavated showing it to be 0.22m deep and 1m wide, however its full extent in plan was much less regular to the west. Two more approximately sub-rectangular features were revealed either side of **85** which were much shallower. The fills of all were reddish brown sandy silts with frequent chalk pieces (upto ~20mm), very much like the transition between the subsoil (2) and the clean natural chalk. These pits therefore are most likely to be of natural origin, perhaps caused by vegetation or periglacial in nature.
- 3.4.5 The additional trenches (20a to the west, 20b to the east) were completely devoid of archaeology.

# 3.5 Bronze Age Ring Ditch

#### Trench 27

3.5.1 A ring ditch is listed by the HER (CHER 08601) in this area. This is located on a 100m grid line so in fact probably refers to the ring ditch identified on geophysics and excavated in Trench 27 (Fig 5).



3.5.2 Both sides of the ring ditch were excavated in the trench, proving to be 1.8m (eastern side: **98**) to 3.2m wide (western side: **102**). The western side had two recognisable fills (104, 108, Section 37), the later fill containing sherds of a single vessel of Later Iron Age date (Sarah Percival pers. comm.). The diameter of the ring ditch is 18m.

# 3.6 Roman Hollow Way

#### Trenches 31 & 32

- 3.6.1 Both these trenches were targeted over a faint linear feature identified by geophysical survey. Excavation in Trench 32 revealed these to be a narrow ditch (48 0.6m wide, 0.2m deep) and a wide, shallow hollow way (50; 6m across and 0.4m deep with a wheel rut in the base) running west-southwest to east-northeast.
- 3.6.2 The ditch fill (49) was a mid-brown firm silt. The hollow way was filled with a mid-dark brown very soft silt (51). Pottery from the hollow way was all Romano-British, quite heavily abraded but with several fragments sometimes coming from the same vessel. Spot dating has several fabrics, including some fine wares, overlapping in the 2nd century (Alice Lyons pers. comm.). Sherds of a red ware vessel may well be from Harston and as such would be significantly later with a 4th-century date (*ibid*, Pullinjer 1982).
- 3.6.3 In Trench 31, the hollow way and ditch were the same widths but crossed at an oblique angle. They were not excavated here.
- 3.6.4 The ditch would appear to function as a boundary for a trackway which then developed into a hollow way.

#### 3.7 Roman/Medieval Field Ditches

#### Trenches 3, 4, 17, 28

- 3.7.1 Several trenches contained small ditches, one of which produced sherds of Roman pottery. Most are aligned just off north-south, parallel with agricultural trends detected by geophysical survey (but almost perpendicular to the modern plough lines and the medieval trends).
- 3.7.2 Ditch **40** in Trench 3 is likely part of this system. It was 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep but produced no finds.
- 3.7.3 Ditch **58/60** in Trench 4 produced no pottery but sits on this alignment. It was 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep running from the southern end of the trench and terminating after 9.5m. Its fill (59/61) was a mid brown sandy silt.
- 3.7.4 In Trench 17, a similarly filled ditch (63) followed a different alignment, closer to north-south. Again the fill (64) produced no finds, so dating is unclear. This was accompanied by an undated possible post hole 0.3m across (67), again with a similar fill (68)
- 3.7.5 Trench 28 revealed a second ditch terminus on the same alignment as **58/60**, Ditch **89**, 0.5m wide and 0.45m deep with steep sides and a flat but irregular base. The trench had been extended 2m south, revealing a 2.4m length of the ditch and terminus. The fill was also a mid brown sandy silt and produced Roman pot sherds dating from variously: the late 1st-4th century; the 3rd-mid-4th century; and late 2nd-4th century.
- 3.7.6 The abraded condition of this pottery does not preclude a medieval date for these ditches. However, the medieval system appears to be aligned on an east-west ploughing scheme, so a Roman date seems more likely.



# 3.8 Medieval – Post-medieval Headland and Trackway:

- 3.8.1 The geophysical survey identified a pair of parallel ditches 7-8m apart close to the eastern boundary of the site (and the modern gravel trackway). Four trenches were targeted across these, although one could not be excavated due to crop on the field. At its northern end it turns closer to north (Trench 1) but is otherwise straight.
- 3.8.2 The ditches clearly bound a trackway. On the ground this feature was evidently associated with a broad earthwork running its entire length. Some plough trends from the geophysical survey are aligned perpendicular to the earthwork so it is assumed to be a headland of medieval date (although no trenches revealed furrows). The headland material (62), a dark grey sandy silt was overlain by subsoil (2) and topsoil (1) which were also noticably thicker across the bank than elsewhere, at 0.3m and 0.2m respectively.

#### Trench 1

- 3.8.3 In addition to a tree throw (**30**) with no finds, Trench 1 revealed two (west: **12** & east: **14**) ditches on the lines expected from the geophysics. These were both 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep through the natural chalk. There was no clear relationship with the headland material which was hard to distinguish from the subsoil.
- 3.8.4 In addition, two other ditches lay to the west, one diverging from the headland alignment (**16**) and another nearly perpendicular to that (**20**). On the raw geophysical survey plot, Ditch **16** may may represent a divergence of the trackway, although it takes a different form from the trackway ditches: 1.4m wide and 0.3m deep. Ditch **20** was 1m wide and 0.1m deep.

#### Trench 9

- 3.8.5 In this trench, a smaller ditch (28) aligned with the trackway appeared to lie below the headland material (62). The ditch was 0.6m wide and only 0.1m deep. Predating the headland material, this may be a relict Roman field ditch or an earlier Medieval field boundary prior to the build up of the headland.
- 3.8.6 Three further ditches were recorded cutting through the headland material. The outer two correspond with the trackway ditches in Trench 1 (26=14 and 22=12) although both appear wider here at 2.2m (26) and 3.6m across (22). The third ditch, lying between these two is 1.4m wide (24). The wider outer ditches here could possibly represent the erosion of hollow ways along the track line, although the geophysical survey does indicate that the side ditches continue straight without crossing each other.

#### Trench 26

- 3.8.7 Further south in Trench 26, the two ditches were recorded. The western one (**94=12**) was 1.4m wide with a flat base while the eastern one (**96=14**) was 0.7m wide by 0.1m deep also with a flat base. The headland material (62) was cut byDitch **94** but could not be clearly seen over Ditch **96** with only slightly thicket subsoil here.
- 3.8.8 There were no finds from these track ditches but their close association with the headland places them in the Medieval period. In most cases it appears the two main track ditches cut the headland material; so the track was established on top of the extant headland, with only the bases of the ditches cutting into the chalk, possibly making them post-medieval. This landscape system was abandoned with (or before) the establishment of the modern system by enclosure in the 1830s.



# 3.9 1830s Enclosure Ditches and Trackway

3.9.1 The enclosure map is examined in the desk-based assessment for the site (Smalley 2014). This shows a rectilinear system with a main north-south boundary and east-west field allotments. These boundaries have been traced as green lines on the trench plans. Although offset by around 50m to the west, these lines correspond with linear features traced in red from the geophyiscal survey (Figures 2 & 3).

#### Trench 2

3.9.2 Three ditches were recorded in this trench, varying in size (from west: **34** 0.6m by 0.2m; **36** 1m by 0.15m; **38** 0.9m by 0.3m). They are all on the alignment of the enclosure boundary. The western two form a pair 2m apart, 10m from the third.

#### Trench 8

3.9.3 Again, three ditches were recorded here. Their sizes differ from Trench 2 but not their spacing. The western pair are small (77 0.8m by 0.2m and 79 1.8m by 0.3m with an irregular base. The eastern ditch (81)was very broad, funneling out to around 4m wide with its deeper portion being v-shaped, 1.4m wide and was 0.9m deep (Section 23). Its lower fill (82) of reddish brown sandy silt with frequent chalk pieces appeared to be slump from a possible bank to the east.

## 3.10 Finds Summary

3.10.1 Sherds of a single Late Iron Age vessel (Sarah Percival, pers. comm.) were retrieved from the fill of the ring ditch in Trench 26. Roman pottery was found in features across the site. These sherds were abraded but some were of fine wares and likely came from a variety of sources in the region and potentially from a broad date range (Alice Lyons, pers. comm.).

# 3.11 Environmental Summary

- 3.11.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- 3.11.2 All of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets. Molluscs present are typical of chalk grassland and do not show differentiation between samples. The lack of preservation of plant remains is likely to indicate that this area was not occupied.



### 4 Discussion and Conclusions

#### 4.1 Prehistoric

- 4.1.1 The prehistoric activity on site appears to be confined to the ring ditch, likely a barrow of Bronze Age date, and the Later Iron Age vessel deposited within its upper fills. The limited surviving ploughsoil here suggests little chance of the preservation of secondary cremations other than within the ditch itself. Trench 26 crossed just south of the centre of the ring so would not have exposed central features.
- 4.1.2 There was a complete lack of prehistoric finds across the rest of the site, including from probable buried soils in natural features.

#### 4.2 Roman

4.2.1 The evaluation provided some evidence for Roman agriculture in the form of small ditches aligned close to north-south. The variety as well as quality (though abraded) of pottery retrieved from these features point to a settlement of some status and longevity nearby (Alice Lyons, pers. comm.), although not within the evaluation area. The track way crossing the south of the area is visible on aerial images continuing west to Royston where it likely joined Ermine St. It would continue east to a point just south or east of Muncey's Farm, although nothing is visible on Google Earth's APs.

#### 4.3 Medieval

4.3.1 The headland of a medieval ploughing system survives as an earthwork on the site. This is cut by ditches delineating a track way. The earthwork has likely been flattened and widened by post-medieval ploughing.

#### 4.4 Post-medieval

4.4.1 The 1830s enclosure map shows the establishment of the modern field boundaries, although it appears to be inaccurate in portraying sub-divisions. The north-south boundary through the northern field at some point became a track way whose ditches were visible in two trenches.

#### 4.5 Recommendations

4.5.1 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						
General d	escription		Orientation	E-W		
Northernm			Avg. depth (m)	0.4		
ditches, lik			Width (m)	2.10		
the north-f			Length (m)	59		
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
12	Cut	0.9	0.1	Ditch	-	-
13	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>12</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
14	Cut	0.82	0.08	Ditch	-	-
15	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>14</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
16	Cut	1.4	0.32	Ditch	-	-
17	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>16</b> , light greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
18	Cut	-	0.22	Natural Hollow	-	-
19	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>18</b> , light greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
20	Cut	0.92	0.1	Ditch	-	-
21	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>21</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
		-	-	Natural - Chalk	-	-

Trench 2										
General de	scription		Orientation		NE-SW					
				Contains two N-S ditches	Avg. depth	(m)	0.36			
				y, one of which has an small pit-like feature is	Width (m) 2.1					
				eatures are undated.	Length (m) 50		50			
Contexts										
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date				
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-		-			
2	Layer	-	0.8	Subsoil – only apparent at SW end	-		-			
32	Cut	0.42	0.16	Post hole/Pit	-		-			
33	Fill	-	-	Fill of 32, mid brown sandy	-		-			



				silt		
34	Cut	0.66	0.12	Gully	-	-
35	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>34</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
36	Cut	0.7	0.18	Ditch	-	-
37	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>36</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
38	Cut	0.9	0.26	Ditch	-	-
39	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>38</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
		-	-	Natural – Chalk with flint	-	-
Trench 3	•	•	•			

Trench 3		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench located at west side of north field. Single large boundary	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
ditch aligned NW-SE across trench visible towards SW end of trench. Two small post-hole like features also present. Modern	Width (m)	2.1
plough-scarring evident. All features contained no dating evidence.	Length (m)	48

# Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
40	Cut	1.1	0.24	Ditch	-	-
41	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>40</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
42	Cut	0.25	0.06	Post-hole	-	-
43	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>42</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
44	Cut	0.3	0.17	Pit/Post-hole	-	-
45	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>44</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
		-	-	Natural - Chalk	-	-

Trench 4								
General d	lescription	Orientation		NW-SE				
Trench loc	ated at wes	Avg. depth	Avg. depth (m)					
in from the	e SE end w			2.1				
evident.					Length (m)		52	
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds		date	
1	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-		-	
2	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil – only evident at	-		-	



				SE end		
58	Cut	0.65	0.04	Terminal end of Ditch	-	-
59	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>58</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
60	Cut	0.58	0.14	Ditch	-	-
61	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>60</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-
		-	-	Natural - Chalk	-	-

Trench 5						
General o	description	ı	Orientation	E-W approx.		
			Avg. depth (m	0.32		
	cated in SE ove chalk n		Width (m)	2.1		
topoon ab	ove onanch	atarai. W	odem plot	agii ooaio eviderit.	Length (m)	50.4
Contexts						'
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
		-	-	Natural - Chalk	-	-

Trench 6							
General de	escription		Orientation	Orientation			
Trench loca	ated towar	ds SW en	Avg. depth	0.56			
in centre of	trench ex	tending to	east and	west beyond trench edges.	Width (m)		2.1
Single sma	III pit at no	rth end of	trench.		Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	nte
1	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-		-
54	Cut	1	2.7	Pit	-		-
55	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>54</b> , mid brown sandy silt	-	-	
56	Cut	-	0.46	Natural Hollow	-	-	
57	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>56</b> , mid brown sandy silt	Pottery	Ror	man
		-	-	Natural Chalk and flint	-		-

Trench 7		
General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench contains two tree throws and two truncated ditches on the	Avg. depth (m)	

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sama aliar	amont Lac	natad in th	o contro	of north field	Width (m)	2.3
same aligi	iiileiii. Loc	zateu III tr	ie centre (	of north field.	Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
3	Cut			Tree throw	-	-
4	Fill	-	-	Fill of 3, mid yellowish brown sandy silt	-	-
5	Cut			Tree throw	-	-
6	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>5</b> , mid yellowish brown sandy silt	-	-
7	Cut	3.2	0.2	Ditch	-	-
8	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch	-	-
9	Fill	-	-	Lower fill of <b>7</b> and <b>8</b> , mid yellowish brown sandy silt	Pottery	Roman
10	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of <b>7</b> and <b>8</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
11	Layer	-		Subsoil – given second number by accident	-	-
<del></del>		-	-	Natural - chalk		

Trench 8						
General de	escription	l	Orientation	NE-SW		
Two ditche	s one with	n a gully a	Avg. depth	<b>(m)</b> 0.4		
trench. All	three feat	ures are ι	Width (m)	2.1		
ones in Tre	ench 2. Tre	ench is lo	Length (m)	50.5		
Contexts						·
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
77	Cut	0.7	0.14	Gully	-	-
78	Fill	-	-	Fill of 77, mid reddish brown sandy silt	-	-
79	Cut	1.3	0.25	Ditch	-	-
80	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>79</b> , mid reddish brown sandy silt	-	-
81	Cut	1.6	0.7	Ditch	-	-
82	Fill	-	-	Lower fill of <b>81</b> , mid reddish brown sandy silt	-	-
84	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of <b>81</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-



		Natural - chalk	-	-
--	--	-----------------	---	---

Trench 9							
General de	scription				Orientation	NE-SW	
				h 1, are present. These,	Avg. depth	<b>(m)</b> 0.41	
though und the trackwa			Width (m)	2.1			
these ditche Trench loca	es cut thro	ugh a hea	Length (m)	50			
Contexts							
context	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-	
22	Cut	3.7	0.12	Ditch - trackway	-	-	
23	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>22</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	
24	Cut	1.4	0.14	Ditch	-	-	
25	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>24</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	
26	Cut	2.5	0.3	Ditch	-	-	
27	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>26</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	
28	Cut	0.68	0.1	Ditch - boundary	-	-	
29	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>28</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	
62	Layer	-	0.15	Headland	-	-	
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-	

Trench 13	3					
General d	escription	1	Orientation	NW-SE		
			Avg. depth (	<b>m)</b> 0.31		
	archaeolog ated to nor		Width (m)	2.1		
TTETION IOC	ateu to noi	11 01 3001		Length (m)	49.3	
Contexts						,
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
		-		Natural - Chalk	-	-

Trench 14		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW

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	archaeolog cated to nor		oil above chalk natural.	Avg. depth (m) Width (m) Length (m)	0.35 2.1 49.5	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-

Trench 15							
General de	scription		Orientation	ı	NW-SE		
Devoid of a	rchaeolog	v topsoil	Avg. depth	(m)	0.36		
Natural feat	tures obse	Width (m) 2.		2.1			
of south fiel	ld.				Length (m)		47.7
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	d	late
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-		-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-		-

Trench 16	;							
General d	escription	1			Orientation		NW-SE	
			Avg. depth	(m)	0.27			
	archaeolog ated to the		oil above chalk natural.	Width (m) 2		2.1		
TTCTTCTT TOC	ated to the	Tilladic o	300011110	u.	Length (m) 48			
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	d	ate	
1	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-		-	
2	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil – only visible at NW end of trench	-		-	
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-		-	

Trench 17		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Single ditch aligned approximately N-S across trench with two post-	Avg. depth (m)	0.37
holes directly to the east and a single post-hole directly to the west. These are cut by modern plough scars. Colluvium also present.	Width (m)	2.1
Trench located to SW of south field.	Length (m)	48.5
Contexts		·

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context	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
63	Cut	0.5	0.14	Ditch	-	
64	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>63</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	CBM, flint	
65	Cut	0.18	0.03	Post-hole	-	-
66	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>65</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
67	Cut	0.34	0.13	Post-hole	-	-
68	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>67</b> , mid brownish grey sandy silt	-	-
69	Cut	0.08	0.06	Plough scar	-	-
70	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>69</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	Pottery/CB M	Roman
71	Cut	0.34	0.14	Post-hole	-	-
72	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>71</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
73	Layer	-	0.35	Colluvium	-	-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-

Trench 18								
General d	escription			Orientation		NE-SW		
			Avg. depth (m)		0.35			
Devoid of a present. T			alk natural. No subsoil	Width (m) 2.		2.1		
procent: 1	10110111000	tou to the	Juli Hold.	Length (m)		50		
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate	
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-		
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-		-	

Trench 19							
General d	escription				Orientation		NW-SE
					Avg. depth (m) 0.4		0.4
	archaeolog rench loca		Width (m)		2.1		
prosent. 1	TOTION 1000	ica to the	dui noid.	Length (m)		50	
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-		-



	_	_	Natural - chalk	_	_
	_	_	Ivaturar - Criaik	_	_

Trench 20	)					
General d	lescription	l			Orientation	N-S
				in trench at SW end, also a	Avg. depth	<b>(m)</b> 0.42
				this on the same alignment. ch located to SW of south	Width (m)	2.1
field.	present at	nor a lettr	ona. mon	on located to ovv or south	Length (m)	49
Contexts						,
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
85	Cut	0.95	0.22	Ditch terminus	-	-
86	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>85</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
87	Cut	0.6	0.19	Natural feature	-	-
88	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>87</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
73	Layer	-	0.3	Colluvium		-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-

Trench 20	a							
General d	escription				Orientation		N-S	
					Avg. depth (m)			
			f archaeology, topsoil and ted to the SW of south field.	Width (m)		4		
Caboon ab	ovo onanci	iatarai. Ti	Length (m)		10			
Contexts						·		
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	dat	date	
1	Layer	-	-	Topsoil – dimensions not recorded	-	-		
2	Layer	-	-	Subsoil – dimensions not recorded	-	-		
		-	_	Natural - chalk	-	-		

Trench 20b	
General description	Orientation
	Avg. depth (m)
Extension of trench 20 to west. Devoid of archaeology, topsoil and subsoil above chalk natural. Trench located to the SW of south field.	Width (m)
Subsection above chair material. Trotter todated to the GVV of could hold.	Length (m)
Contexts	

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context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	Topsoil – dimensions not recorded	-	-
2	Layer	-	-	Subsoil – dimensions not recorded	-	-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-

Trench 21						
General de	scription		Orientation	E-W		
Devoid of a	ırchaeolog	v tonsoil	and subse	oil above chalk natural.	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Colluvium a			Width (m)	2.1		
field.			Length (m)	50		
Contexts						
context	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
73	Layer	-	0.1	Colluvium	-	-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-

Trench 22	2						
General d	escription	1			Orientation		NE-SW
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.32
	archaeolog		oil above chalk natural.	Width (m)		2.1	
TTCTION IOC		madic o	Length (m)		59.6		
Contexts					,		
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-		-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-		-

Trench 23							
General de	escriptio	n	Orientation	1	NE-SW		
Devoid of a	archaeolo	av tonsoil	Avg. depth (m)		0.3		
Natural fea	itures app	arent but	ed. Trench located in the	Width (m)		2.1	
middle of s	outh field				Length (m)		51.4
Contexts					'		
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	

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1	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-

Trench 24							
General d	escription				Orientation		NE-SW
				quarry but most likely a	Avg. depth	0.4	
				atural feature to SW cated in middle of south	Width (m)		2.1
field.	a bat not i	ccoraca.	TICHOITIO	cated in middle of 30din	Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-		-
91	Cut	8	1.2	Natural hollow	-		
92	Fill	-	-	Lower fill of <b>91</b> , dark greyish brown silt	pottery	Roman	
93	Fill	_	-	Upper fill of <b>91</b> , dark greyish brown silt, disturbed by rabbits	pottery	Ro	man
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-		-

Trench 25	5						
General d	escription	l			Orientation	N	E-SW
					Avg. depth (m) 0		0.35
	archaeolog ated to the		Width (m)		2.1		
11011011100		cust of s	Length (m)		0.5		
Contexts						,	
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	)
1	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.7	Subsoil	-	-	
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-	

Trench 26									
General d	escription	1	Orientation	1	E-W				
Two tracky	vav/bound:	arv ditches	nrough a headland horizon	Avg. depth	(m)	0.32			
visible out				d at south east side of south	Width (m)		2.1		
field.					Length (m)		48.5		
Contexts									
context	type	Width	Depth	comment	finds date		ite		

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no		(m)	(m)			
1	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
94	Cut	1.4	0.4	Ditch	-	-
95	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>94</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
96	Cut	0.7	0.14	Ditch	-	-
97	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>96</b> , mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-

Trench 27									
General de	escription	1			Orientation	E-W			
					Avg. depth	<b>(m)</b> 0.4			
One Bronz posthole. T			Width (m)	2.1					
poot.ioioi i			Length (m)	49.4					
Contexts									
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date			
1	Layer	_	0.35	Topsoil	-	-			
2	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-			
98	Cut	1.8	0.18	Ring ditch	-	-			
99	Fill	-	-	Fill of 98, mid brown silt	-	-			
100	Cut	0.35	0.08	Posthole	-	-			
101	Fill	-	-	Fill of 100, mid brown silt	-	-			
102	Cut	3.2	0.38	Ring ditch	-	Bronze Age			
103	Fill	2.4	0.28	Upper fill of <b>102</b> , dark brown silt	Pottery	Late Iron Age			
104	Fill	-	0.17	Lower fill of <b>102</b> , mid brown silt	Burnt stone	-			
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-	-			

Trench 28								
General de	escription	n	Orientation	S-W				
			Avg. depth	<b>(m)</b> 0.34				
Ditch terming Trench location			ry faint plough scaring.	Width (m)	2.1			
110110111000	aica ai so	atii olae o	i Journ Hon	u	Length (m)	52		
Contexts					<u> </u>			
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date		



1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
89	Cut	0.5	0.2	Ditch	-	-
90	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>89</b> , mid brown sandy silt	Pottery	Roman
		-	-	Natural – chalk	-	-

Trench 29										
General d	lescription		Orientation	1	E-W					
Devoid of	archaeolog	v topsoil :	Avg. depth	(m)	0.3					
apparent b			d at south west side of north	Width (m)		2				
field.					Length (m)		50			
Contexts										
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date				
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-		-			
		-	-	Natural – chalk	-		-			

Trench 30							
General d	escription		Orientation	1	SW-NE 0.4 2		
Devoid of a	archaeolog	v topsoil	Avg. depth	(m)			
Natural ho	llow filled b		Width (m)				
south field.				Length (m)		50	
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-	
73	Layer	3	0.4	Colluvium	-		-
		-	-	Natural - chalk	-		-

Trench 31										
General d	lescription	Orientation		SW-NE						
			Avg. depth	(m)	0.4					
Small ditch perpendicular to hollow way, already excavated in Trench 32 along as parallel ditch. Trench located on west side of south field.										
JZ along a	is parallel c	ilicii. Tiei	ich locatet	d on west side of sodin field.	Length (m)		49			
Contexts					,					
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	C	date			
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-		-			
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-		-			



46	Cut	0.3	0.03	Ditch	-	-
47	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>46</b> , mid brownish grey sandy silt	-	-
		-	-	Natural – chalk	-	-

Trench 32									
General d	escription	Orientation	1	N-S					
Narrow bo	nundary dit	ch along a	a trackway	which then developed into	Avg. depth	(m)	0.45		
a hollow w	ay. A natur	Width (m)		2					
west side	of south fie		Length (m)		49				
Contexts									
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date			
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-		-		
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-		-		
48	Cut	0.8	0.1	Ditch	-	Roi	man		
49	Fill	-	-	Fill of 48, mid brown silt	Pottery	Roi	man		
50	Cut	6	0.4	Hollow way	-	Roi	man		
51	Fill	-	-	Fill of <b>50</b> , mid to dark brown silt	Pottery	Roi	man		
		-	-	Natural – chalk	-		_		

APPENDIX B.

Environmental Reports

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# **B.1 Environmental samples**

By Rachel Fosberry

#### **B.2 Introduction**

- B.2.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- B.2.2 The features sampled include two parts of a ring-ditch, one of which contains Iron Age pottery and a feature that was possibly a ditch or pit alignment but later proved to be natural.

### **B.3 Methodology**

B.3.1 The total volume (up to 20 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

#### Results

Sample Number	Context Number	Feature Number	Flot contents	Residue contents
3	99	98	Molluscs only	No finds
4	103	102	Molluscs only	No finds
5	88	97	Molluscs only	No finds

*Table 1: Environmental Samples* 

B.3.1 All of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets. Molluscs present are typical of chalk grassland and do not show differentiation between samples. The lack of preservation of plant remains is likely to indicate that this area was not occupied.

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# APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Smalley, R.	2014	Land at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire SG8 6DJ, CgMs Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment WB/RAJS/17574
Spoerry, P.	2014	Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Evaluation, Muncey's Farm, Melbourn

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# APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number		oxfordar3_163594										
Project Name Land		Land at Muncey's	d at Muncey's Farm, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire									
Project Date	es (field	lwork) Start	08-09-2014		Finish	19-08-20	114					
Previous Work (by OA East)			No		Future	Work	nknown					
Project Reference Codes												
Site Code	MELMU	JN14	Planning App. No.			-						
HER No.	ECB42	98	Related HER/OASIS			0						
Type of Pro	ject/Te	chniques Use	d									
Prompt		_	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5									
Development Type		Not Recorded	Not Recorded									
Please select all techniques used:												
Aerial Photography - interpretation			☐ Grab-Sampling			Remo	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey					
Aerial Photo	ography -	new	Gravity-C	Core		☐ Samp	le Trenches					
Annotated S	Sketch		☐ Laser Scanning			Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure						
Augering			☐ Measured Survey			ズ Targeted Trenches						
☐ Dendrochronological Survey			☐ Metal Detectors			☐ Test Pits						
Documenta	h	Phospha	te Survey	☐ Topographic Survey								
	ntal Sam	oling	☐ Photogra	mmetric Surv	ey	☐ Vibro	-core					
Fieldwalking	g		☐ Photogra	phic Survey		☐ Visua	al Inspection (Initial Site Visit)					
Geophysica	l Survey		Rectified	Photography								
		Significant Fi										
	_		0.1		_		ig the MDA Object type					
Thesaurus 1	together	with their respective	e periods. If no	features/finds	s were found, plea	ase state "ı	none".					
Monument		Period	Period		Object		Period					
Ring ditch		Bronze	Age -2.5k to	-700 F	Pottery		Iron Age -800 to 43					
Trackway	vay Roman 4		43 to 410		Pottery		Roman 43 to 410					
Ditch	tch Roman 43			(	СВМ		Roman 43 to 410					
Barrow Bronze A		Age -2.5k to -700				Select period						
Headland		al 1066 to 1540				Select period						
Trackway		Mediev	Medieval 1066 to 1540				Select period					

# Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire		Site Address (including postcode if possible)										
District	South Cambrid	geshire			Muncey's Farm, Melbourn								
Parish	Melbourn				SG8 (	SG8 6DJ							
HER	Cambridgeshire	)											
Study Area	3.1 Ha				National Grid Reference T			TL 37740 42610					
Project Originators													
Organisation		OA EAS	Γ										
Project Brief Originator		Kasia Gdaniec											
Project Design Originator		n/a											
Project Manager		Richard Mortimer											
Supervisor		Stuart La	Stuart Ladd										
Project Ar	chives							,					
Physical Arcl	Digital A	Digital Archive			Paper Archive								
Cambridgeshir	OA East	OA East			Cambridgeshire County Stores								
ECB4298	MELMUN14				ECB4298								
Archive Con	tents/Media												
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents			Digital Media		Paper Media					
Animal Bones Ceramics Environmental Glass Human Bones Industrial Leather Metal Stratigraphic Survey Textiles Wood Worked Bone Worked Stone/L None Other	ithic X					□ GIS     □ Geophysic     □ Images     □ Moving Im     □ Spreadsh     □ Survey     □ Text     □ Virtual Re	ns nage eets	Aerial Photos  X Context Sheet Correspondence Diary Drawing Manuscript Map Matrices Microfilm Misc. Research/Notes Photos X Plans X Report Sections Survey					

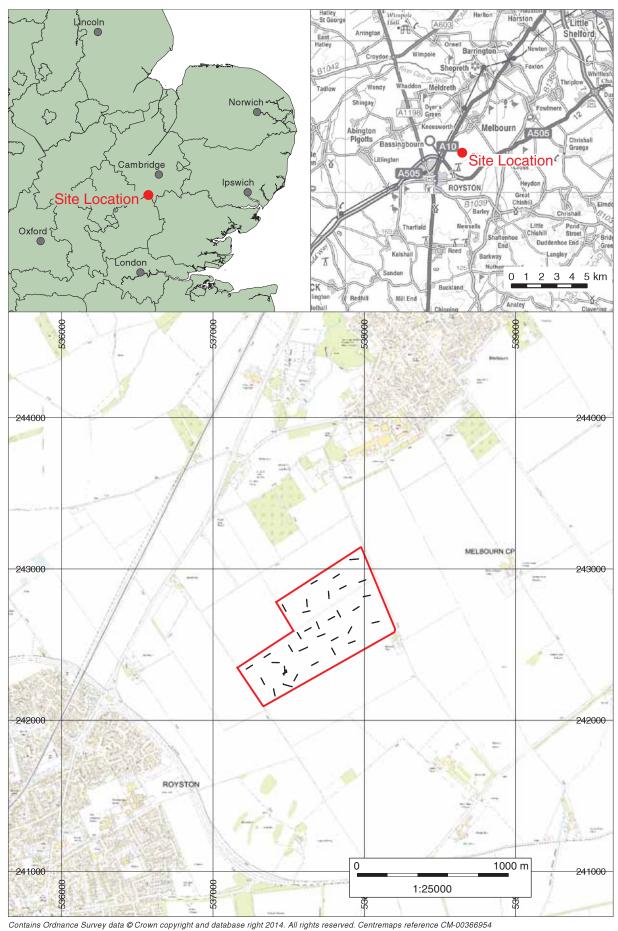


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)



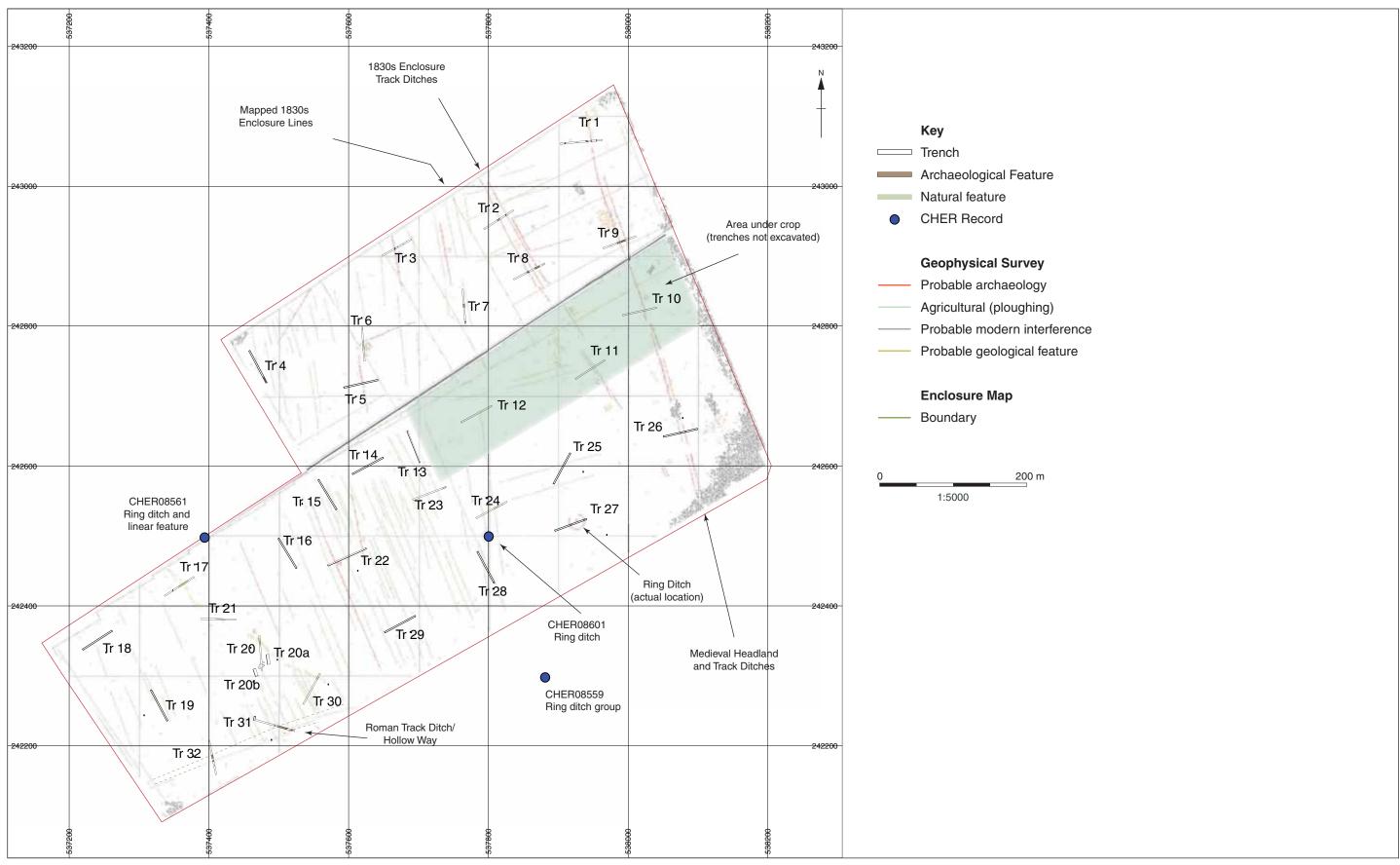


Figure 2: Trench layout showing geophysical survey interpretation and all features

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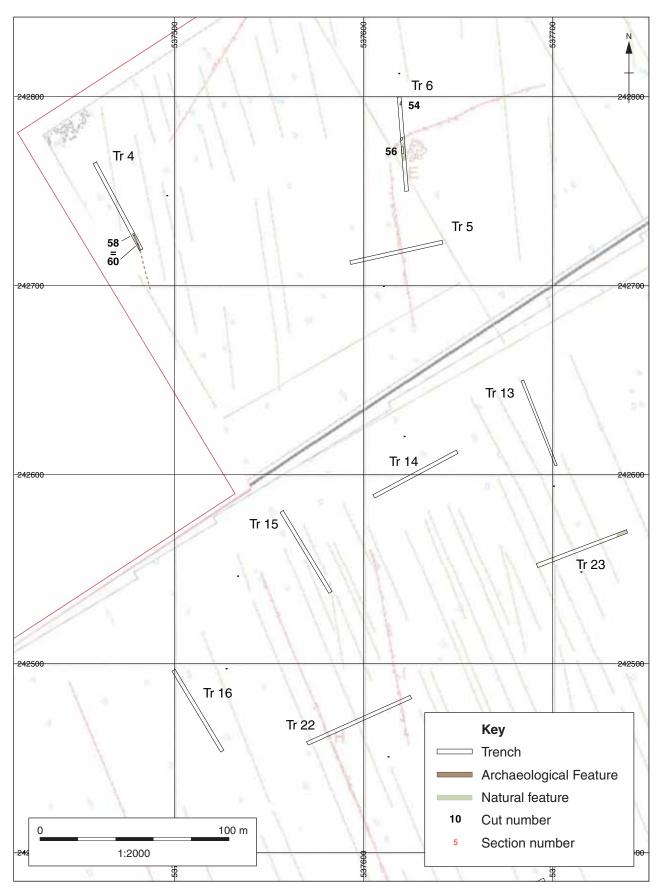


Figure 4: Trenches 4-6, 13-16, 22 & 23

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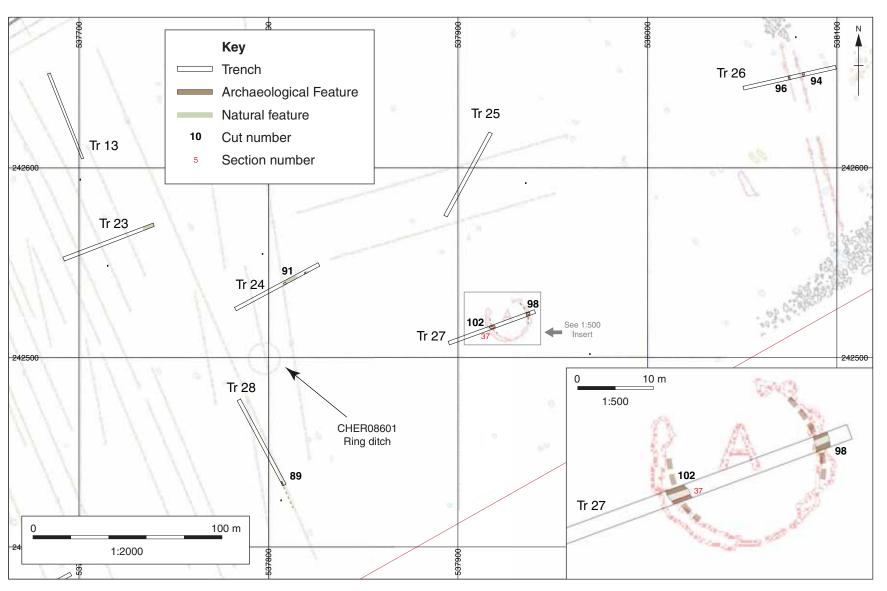
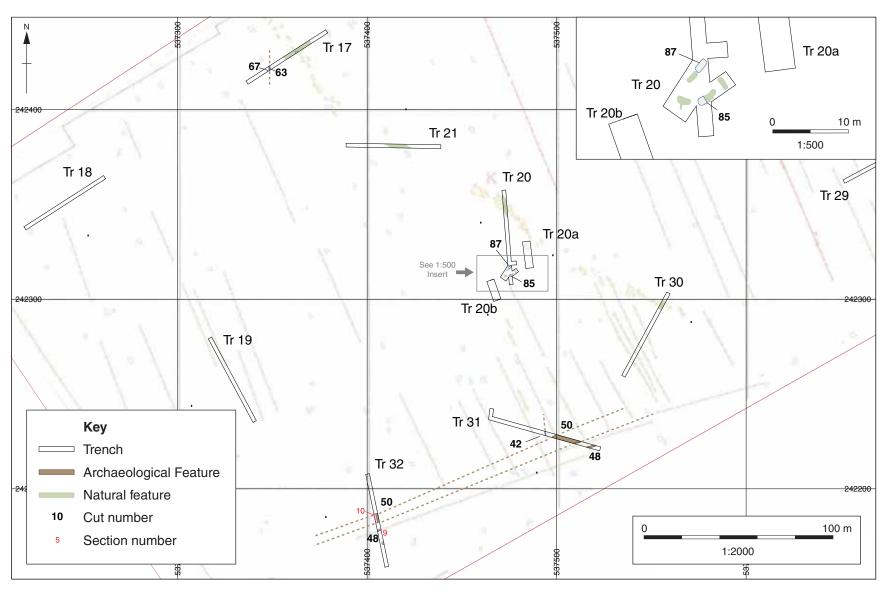
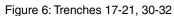


Figure 5: Trenches 24-28









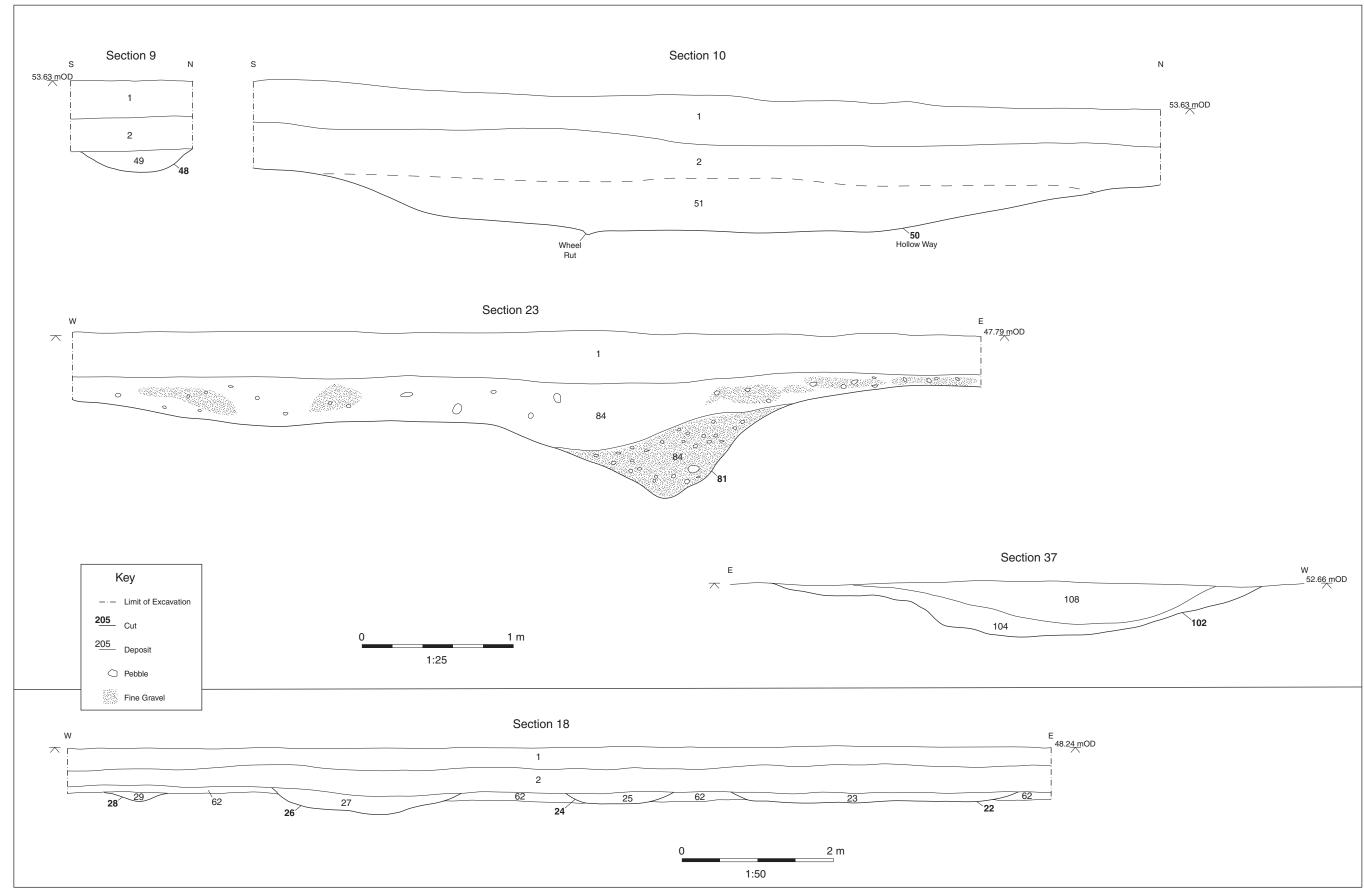


Figure 7: Section drawings

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Plate 1: Extensions to Trench 20 showing natural features **87** and **85** (excavated), looking northeast



Plate 2: Ring ditch 102, Trench 27, looking north

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Plate 3: Possible Roman ditch 63 and possible posthole 67, Trench 17, looking south



Plate 4: Roman ditch 89, Trench 28, looking south





Plate 5: Roman hollow way 50 and boundary ditch 48, Trench 32, looking southwest

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#### Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House Osney Mead Oxford OX20ES

t: +44(0)1865 263800 f: +44(0)1865 793496

e:info@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

#### **OA North**

Mill3 MoorLane LancasterLA11GF

t:+44(0)1524 541000 f:+44(0)1524 848606 e:oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

#### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB238SQ

t:+44(0)1223 850500 e:oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a Private Limited Company, N<sup>O</sup>: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, N<sup>O</sup>: 285627