187 High Street
Bottisham

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Client: First Copy

August 2009
187 High Street Bottisham

Archaeological Evaluation

By Jonathan House BA

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Report Date: August, 2009
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Prepared by: Jonathan House  
Position: Supervisor  
Date: August 2009

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Position: Project Manager  
Date: August 2009  
Signed: [Signature]

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Summary

An Evaluation was carried out at 187, High Street, Bottisham, Grid ref TL 5509 6016. The evaluation consisted of three trenches located within the proposed development area. Structural remains were uncovered, as well as a small number of pits and a ditch, all of which is highly likely to be contemporary with the current standing building, formerly known as the Swan Inn. The structural elements can be seen in cartographic evidence, and seem to result from the modifications and adaptations of the building over the course of time. Evidence for a quarry pit was also seen at the northern end of the development area.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 187, High Street, Bottisham at grid reference TL 5509 6016.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application E/09/00078/FUL), 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 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 site is located towards the South East of Bottisham village, at a height 13.50m AOD, the surrounding area is relatively flat. The site is currently on the outskirts of the village surrounded by agricultural farm land. Just to the South of the site the A1303 (Newmarket Road) runs East to West.

1.2.2 The site geology is West Melbury Marl y Chalk, although sand, gravel, and clay bands were observed within the trenches.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Palaeolithic axes have been made in the south-west of the parish and at another unspecified location (HER 07912). Two Mesolithic trancheet axes and a number of flint flakes were found just west of the church (HER 06595).

1.3.2 Numerous neolithic axes have been found: several were uncovered near Lode, in the north-west (HER 06520, 06573, 06575, 06610) the east (HER 06556) and the south (HER 06580). Flint flakes were found just to the east of the village (HER 06531). Neolithic ditches are noted to the north of the village (HER 06605).

1.3.3 In the parish there are numerous barrows and ring ditches, but these are almost all to the south-west. Three more barrows are closer to the village to the north-east (HER 06609), to the north-west (HER 06553) and to the south-east (HER 06626). Bronze Age flints were found at the same location as the neolithic ones mentioned above (HER 06531). A barbed and tanged arrowhead was found to the south-east of the development area (HER 06591). Further Bronze Age flints were found close to the church (HER 06598).

1.3.4 The site lies to the south of a Roman villa/high status farmstead revealed through various archaeological investigations (eg Macdonald, 2000 – ECB1234, Wills 2003 - ECB2560). Features included a number of structures and a metalled yard, dated between the second and fourth centuries. Roman coins and pottery have been found to the north (HER nos. 04133 and 06586). Another excavation (Kenny, 2002 - ECB707)
revealed remains that are peripheral to the villa estate, these include boundary ditches, demolition rubble and a corn-dryer. The main phase of activity on this site appears to date from the first and second centuries AD.

1.3.5 Several Anglo-Saxon artefacts have been found but none from within the village itself. There is also a single pagan Saxon barrow amongst the Bronze Age ones to the southwest (HER 06762a).

1.3.6 A number of medieval manor houses are recorded in the parish and two are marked by moats, including Tunbridge (HER 0112,a,b,c,d,e,f,g, - SAM 71). The medieval church, Holy Trinity, is built on the highest part of the chalk ridge (HER 06730). Nothing remains of the Norman church that preceded the present thirteenth/fourteenth century structure. Numerous medieval coins have been found by metal detectorists (eg HER 06534-06548, 08131-08140) around the village.

1.3.7 The name Bottisham is first recorded in 1060 as Bodekesham and as Bodichessham in the Domesday Book of 1086. An interpretation of the name is ‘Boduc’s farm’. The village originated as at least three hamlets, and more may have sprung up before they all merged into its modern shape. Common fields were enclosed in 1808. The population of the parish at Domesday was 49; it had risen to 701 by 1891 and to 1920 in 2000.

1.3.8 Cartographic evidence shows the site to be occupied by an Inn, named the Swan, shown to exist at least in the later part of the 19th century. It is this building that forms the property fronting the road, the maps show there to be structures at the back of the property on the area of the proposed development.

1.3.9 The nearest work to the current site took place on the adjacent site to the east where an evaluation at the Hilton Park Care Centre encountered no archaeological features (ECB 2733 – Gill & Fell 2007). Further to the north, on the east side of the High Street probable medieval features were recorded (ECB 3173 – Pozorski and Higgs 2009). Apart from the above and the work at work at Tunbridge Lane, undated linear features were found in an evaluation at Bell Road (Ashworth and Bray 2001 - ECB 372), a Saxo-Norman well and refuse pit were uncovered at Beechwood Avenue (Atkins 2003 - ECB1436) and monitoring at Queens Court, Downing Close revealed no archaeological features because of later disturbance (Kaye 2007 - ECB2134).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like thank Bird and Tyler Associates who commissioned the works and First Copy who funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and the illustrator was Lucy Offord, with Jonathan House and Steve Graham as the on-site staff.
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 all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.
2.2.2 Machine excavation of three trenches was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Lucy Offord using a Leica GPS.
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 digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
2.2.5 No environmental samples were taken from the site, as no appropriate features were identified during the investigations.
2.2.6 The site conditions and the weather did not inhibit the archaeological work.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Three trenches were excavated, the results are presented and described by trench.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was cut into the car park, and measured 1.8m wide, and 14m in length; the car park materials ranged in section from 0.32m to 0.40m, and was of very solid construction. Below the car park was a layer of made ground or destruction material, measuring 0.20m. The layer was cut by modern features, but also contained modern material.

3.2.2 The trench contained various Post-Medieval and undated features, three slots were excavated to investigate the features. Two slots were excavated at the North East end of the trench, pit (101) measuring 0.70m wide and 0.14m depth, containing no datable evidence, and two intercutting features. The inter cutting features consisted of two ditches (103) 0.66m wide and 0.09m in depth, and a pit (105) 0.52m wide and 0.12m deep; both features were undated, they were both running on the same alignment, NE-SW.

3.2.3 In the middle of the trench was a feature which appeared to have been remains of a structure, cut by a 19th century drain pipe. The structural remains consisted of a clunch foundation material or floor surface (116), a tiny amount of surviving brickwork could be seen in section above the clunch, see section 7, fig 3. At the base of the clunch was a stony sandy deposit, seemingly a bedding material (118). These deposits sat in a shallow construction cut (115) full extent not seen, the cut also contained a construction cut fill (117), a dirty fill which contained a lot of finds, brick, tile, glass, pottery, nails and a coin, the dating suggests late 18th century.

3.2.4 Directly beneath the structural deposits in the middle of the trench was a group of stake holes and small pits, grouped under one number (119), filled with (120) which appeared to be the same material as (117). All three stake holes appeared to have been driven stakes. It is possible that these features may relate to the stratigraphically later construction, a single earlier pot sherd was recovered from one of the stake holes, however contemporary pot was found in (117).

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was 1.8m wide and 8.5m in length, and was also cut into the modern existing car park. Post Medieval features including a robbed out wall and a small pit, both had 19th century finds on the surface, the features were not excavated. Two features within the trench were investigated (107) and (110), the two features had a relationship, with (110) cutting (107), however the only datable finds came from (110) in the form of some glass fragments (not retained). The features had similar fills and were likely to be relatively contemporaneous, their function was unclear, but they appear to respect the 19th century wall within the same trench.

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 was dug into a lawn area in the Northern part of the development area, and measured 1.8m in width and 13m in length. The trench was excavated onto an extremely compacted re-deposited natural (113), with some very modern features
cutting into the deposit. At the South East end of the trench a machine excavated test pit was dug to the natural terra-forma, below (113) a darker silty deposit was observed (112), see section 5, fig 3. Finds from these layers consisted of small amounts of brick fragments. Due to the depth of the deposits in relation to the natural at the North west end of the trench, it is likely they are within a cut rather than just made ground, or built up layers.

3.5 Finds Summary
3.5.1 Trenches 1 and 2 contained a lot of brick, tile and roof slate, none of which was retained. The bricks were unfrogged, and no complete bricks were observed; all the building materials appeared to be post medieval in date. All the pottery found coincided with the period, a coin was also found, the condition of which was very poor, but appeared to be either a George III or George IV half penny. A lot of glass was seen in the trenches, with the majority from trenches 1 and 2, only a small sample of which was retained.

3.6 Environmental Summary
3.6.1 No environmental samples were processed.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Post-Medieval

4.1.1 The archaeological remains uncovered in this evaluation fit very well with the documentary evidence that can be seen on the 1885 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. The structural remains in both trenches 1 and 2, are likely to be associated with the former out buildings connected to the inn fronting onto the road. The function of these buildings is unclear they might have been out buildings such as stables, or they may have been more integral to the Inn with more of a domestic use, such as accommodation or kitchens.

4.1.2 The finds seem to suggest that the construction of the buildings at the rear of the inn was carried out in the early part of the 19th century. The buildings at the rear of the inn are still present on the 1926 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map.

4.1.3 The activity in Trench 3 is difficult to analyse in a small evaluation trench, it is likely to be a large wide feature. There is no evidence to suggest that it may be a pond, so it is far more likely to derive from quarrying.

4.2 Undated Features

4.2.1 The undated features in Trench 1 by appearance are likely to be relatively contemporaneous, the two linear features (103) and (105), are either a boundary ditch or a drainage ditch for the nearby structures, in either case the ditch was re-established at least once resulting in the two cuts. The nearby pit (101) has no obvious function, but it is likely that all the undated features in trench 1 are Post-Medieval, especially considering the alignment of the ditches with the existing building.

4.2.2 The undated feature in trench 2, pit (107) although cut by pit (110) is likely to be Post-Medieval as well, the pit itself is rectangular in shape, and its alignment and position respects the nearby wall feature, as well as the existing buildings. It is highly probable that all the undated features observed are Post-Medieval in date, and relate to the road side structure to the South.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The results showed evidence for the previous structures associated with the Swan inn, and provided some dating evidence for their construction. The results also provided insight into the development of Bottisham, while also providing an overall picture of the presence, or lack of presence in the this case, of the earlier known periods of Bottisham.

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

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<td>0.09</td>
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<td>0.09</td>
<td>Fill of Ditch 103</td>
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<td>0.12</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>108</td>
<td>Fill</td>
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<td>Fill of Pit 107</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>≥0.62</td>
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<td>Pit</td>
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<td>Fill of Pit 110</td>
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<td>0.29</td>
<td>Fill of Pit 107</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Fill of Pit 107</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.49</td>
<td>Pit</td>
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<td>19C</td>
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<td>0.38</td>
<td>Fill/subsoil.</td>
<td>C.B.M*</td>
<td>19C</td>
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*Finds not retained
APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Finds Assessment

187 High Street Bottisham, Cambridgeshire

Finds Assessment

By Carole Fletcher BA AIFA

Report Date: August 2009
Finds Summary

The evaluation at 187 High Street Bottisham, Cambridgeshire produced a small pottery assemblage of nine sherds, weighing 0.068kg, from two contexts.

The finds are post medieval, three of the pottery sherds are early-mid 19th century, alongside which were recovered a fragment of clay pipe stem and five fragments of late 18th or early 19th century bottle glass.

Four nails and a nail like artefact were recovered alongside a coin tentatively identified as a half penny of George III or George IV.
POTTERY

5 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The evaluation at 187 High Street Bottisham, Cambridgeshire produced a small pottery assemblage of nine sherds, weighing 0.068kg, from two contexts.

5.1.2 The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd from individual contexts is small at approximately 8g.

5.1.3 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the text are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric Type</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cream ware</td>
<td>CREA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan type slipware</td>
<td>METS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post medieval Red earthenware</td>
<td>PMR</td>
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6 METHODOLOGY

6.1.1 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.

6.1.2 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. All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis.

6.1.3 The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

7 ASSEMBLAGE

7.1.1 The assemblage indicates 19th century rubbish deposition reworking earlier deposits. CREA sherds are from table wares and the abraded PMR sherds from bowls and a jar. A single METS bowl sherd, dating to the 17th century suggests a similar date for the PMR vessels.

8 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH POTENTIAL AND FURTHER WORK

8.1.1 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. The PMR and METS suggest 17th century activity on the site, with the material disturbed by 19th century activity.

8.1.2 No further work is required on this assemblage.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Context</th>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Sherd Count</th>
<th>Sherd Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
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<td>117</td>
<td>CREA</td>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Early to Mid 19th century</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>METS</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PMR</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.027</td>
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<td>Jar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.007</td>
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<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>PMR</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>17th-18th century</td>
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</table>

9 Other Finds

9.1 Coin
9.1.1 A single Cu alloy coin was recovered from context 117, both surfaces are heavily corroded and most of the surface detail has been lost. It is the size of an old half penny and its presence alongside the late 18th or early 19th century bottle glass and early to mid 19th century ceramics suggests a half penny of George III or George IV.

9.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe
9.2.1 A single fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from context 117 which was not closely datable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>0.004</td>
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9.3 Metal
9.3.1 Four nails and one nail like artefact were recovered from context 117 all are corroded and encrusted. Their association with 19th century pottery suggests they are of a similar date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Fe Nails</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.038</td>
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9.4 Glass
9.4.1 Five fragments of black vessel glass were recovered from context 117. Four shards of glass are bases from two or more later 18th or early 19th century bottles. Two of the shards have domed or parabolic base profiles, one retains traces of a pontil mark. The single remaining fragment is undiagnostic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
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<td>117</td>
<td>Vessel</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.127</td>
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APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Historic Maps

1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1885.

**APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM**

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OASIS Number</th>
<th>oxfordar3-63017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>187, High Street, Bottisham</td>
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**Project Dates (fieldwork)**

- **Start**: 27-07-2009
- **Finish**: 31-07-2009

**Previous Work (by OA East)**

- **None**

**Future Work**

- **Unknown**

### Project Reference Codes

<table>
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<tr>
<td>HER No.</td>
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**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

**Prompt**

- Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

**Development Type**

- Rural Commercial

### Please select all techniques used:

- Aerial Photography - interpretation
- Aerial Photography - new
- Annotated Sketch
- Augering
- Dendrochronological Survey
- Documentary Search
- Environmental Sampling
- Fieldwalking
- Geophysical Survey
- Grab-Sampling
- Gravity-Core
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Survey
- Metal Detectors
- Photographic Survey
- Photogrammetric Survey
- Photographic Survey
- Rectified Photography
- Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- Sample Trenches
- Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- Targeted Trenches
- Test Pits
- Topographic Survey
- Vibro-core
- Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

### 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”.

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<th>Object</th>
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<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Post Medieval 1540 to 1901</td>
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### Project Location

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<td>District</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish</td>
<td>Bottisham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HER</td>
<td>Cambridge County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Area</td>
<td>1800sq.m</td>
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**Site Address (including postcode if possible)**

- 187, High Street, Bottisham, Cambs, CB25 9BB.

**National Grid Reference**

- TL 5509 6016
## Project Originators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>OA EAST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Andy Thomas, Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>James Drummond Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>James Drummond Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Jonathan House</td>
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## Project Archives

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## Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

## Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey
Drawing Conventions

**Plans**
- Limit of Excavation
- Deposit - Conjectured
- Natural Features
- Sondages/Machine Strip
- Intrusion/Truncation
- Illustrated Section [S.14]

**Archaeological Deposit**

**Excavated Slot**

**Modern Deposit**

**Made Ground**

**Cut Number** [118]

**Sections**
- Limit of Excavation
- Cut
- Deposit Horizon
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured
- Intrusion/Truncation
- Top Surface/Top of Natural
- Break in Section/
- Limit of Section Drawing
- Cut Number [118]
- Deposit Number 117
- Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD
- Brick ✧

---

**Convention Key**
Figure 1: Location of development area (red)
Figure 2: Trench plans (1:200)
Figure 3: Section drawings (1:20)
Figure 4: 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map of Bottisham showing site (green)
Figure 5: 1926 Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of Bottisham showing site (green)
Plate 1: Section 7

Plate 2: Existing structure and trench 1
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e: oamed@oamed.fr
w: http://oamed.fr/

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