

Archaeological Monitoring of extension to existing production building at BSS Ltd, Foundry Way, March



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



July 2009

Client: Beam Structural Services (BSS) Ltd

OA East Report No: 1110

OASIS No: oxfordar3_62382

NGR: TL 4146 9225

**Archaeological monitoring of extension to existing production building at BSS
Ltd, Foundry Way, March**

Site Code: MARFOW09

CHER No. ECB 3191

Date of Works: May 2009

Report No: 1110

Excavator: Graeme Clarke

Client: Beam Structural Services (BSS) Ltd

Report Date: June 2009

Report Number: 1110

Site Name: Archaeological monitoring of extension to existing production building at BSS Ltd, Foundry Way, March

HER Event No: ECB 3191

Date of Works: May 2009

Client Name: Beam Structural Services (BSS) Ltd

Client Ref:

Planning Ref: F/YR09/0223/F

Grid Ref: TL 414 992

Site Code: MARFOW09

Finance Code: MARFOW09

Receiving Body: N/A

Accession No:

Prepared by: Graeme Clarke
Position: Assistant Supervisor
Date: June 2009
Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date: June 2009
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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Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Summary..... | 4 |
| 1 Geology and Topography..... | 5 |
| 2 Archaeological Background..... | 5 |
| 3 Methodology..... | 5 |
| 4 Results..... | 6 |
| 5 Discussion and Conclusions..... | 6 |
| 6 Acknowledgements..... | 6 |
| Appendix A. OASIS Report Form | 7 |

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Location of area of investigation (red)
- Plate. 1 Working Shot
- Plate. 2 Working Shot

Summary

On the 18th and 27th May 2009, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at BSS Ltd, Foundry Way, March, Cambridgeshire (NGR 4146 9925). The monitoring was carried out during the extension of the existing production building and the extension and refurbishment to an area of hardstanding. An area of approximately 90m by 12m was reduced in ground level in preparation for the laying of hardstanding. No archaeological features were exposed or any artefacts recovered during the works.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The site is to the north of the historic town of March, close to the fen edge and the former Whitemoor marshalling yard (NGR 4146 9925). The site is situated on Kimmeridge Clay overlain with Boulder Clay with pockets of March Gravels. The land is low-lying, at (or below) 4m above sea level

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 An evaluation on the current site in 2003 revealed extensive evidence for Roman salt making and associated settlement (ECB1437 – Atkins 2003). The watching brief was in the area of evaluation Trench 11, located immediately to the south, which revealed a dense concentration of Roman features.

Prehistoric remains are recorded in the vicinity, including mesolithic and neolithic flint scatters. The site, in the early prehistoric periods, was on the northern edge of March island, close to the fen. A concentration of Bronze Age flints is recorded (Site 38, Hall 1985,40) along the route of the March-Wisbech branch line to the east.

Bronze Age activity was revealed in an evaluation and subsequent monitoring at Whitemoor Sidings (ECB2014 – Hall 2004). Further Bronze Age occupation was revealed to the west at Hundred Road by an evaluation (ECB 2965 – Hutton 2008) and subsequent excavation (Thatcher *in prep*). This work also revealed part of a Roman field system.

Further evidence of Roman Activity was uncovered on the east side of Foundry way, including a pond and a human burial (CAU *in prep*).

There is little evidence of post-Roman or medieval activity in the northern part of March island and it is assumed that occupation of the island in this period was limited and has been masked by the modern settlement.

From the nineteenth century the land is reported to have been affected by extraction related to the building of the railway line and marshalling yards. Early twentieth century maps show a pond in part of the development area.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief 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.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that archaeological monitoring of the initial stages of construction be carried out, including all ground works, to fulfil the archaeological condition placed on planning consent (Planning Application No. F/YR09/0223/F).

- 3.1.3 The area of investigation comprised of a small strip of undeveloped land, approximately 90m x 12m in size, located immediately to the south of the existing production building and hardstanding. The watching brief took place in the weeks of 18th and 25th May.
- 3.1.4 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered as the depth of ground reduction was not sufficient to penetrate beneath modern made ground. The made ground was excavated between the depths of 0.15m and 0.30m below ground level.
- 3.1.5 The site conditions ranged from sunny to overcast with showers.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were exposed or artefacts recovered during the archaeological monitoring. The excavated material comprised of made ground: compact dark brown clayey sand with gravel and frequent brick, drain, modern pottery, plastic and metal fragments.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Conclusions

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features were exposed in the investigation area. However, due to the concentration of archaeological features encountered during the previous phase of works immediately to the south and east of the investigation area (ECB1437 – Atkins 2003), archaeological features are likely to be present at a greater depth beneath the investigation area.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank BSS Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. The watching brief was carried out by Graeme Clarke and Crane Begg supplied the illustrations.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|---------|------------|
| OASIS Number | oxfordar3_62382 | | | |
| Project Name | Archaeological monitoring of extension to existing production building at BSS Ltd, Foundry Way, March | | | |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) | Start | 18-05-2009 | Finish | 27-05-2009 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | Yes | Future Work | Unknown | |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Site Code | MARFOW09 | Planning App. No. | F/YR09/0233/F |
| HER No. | ECB 3191 | Related HER/OASIS No. | ECB1437 |

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief |

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 |
|----------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| N/A | None | N/A | None |
| | Select period... | | Select period... |
| | Select period... | | Select period... |

Project Location

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|------------|
| County | Cambridgeshire | Site Address (including postcode if possible) | |
| District | Fenland | BSS Ltd Foundry Way March Cambridgeshire PE15 0WR | |
| Parish | March | | |
| HER | ECB 3191 | | |
| Study Area | 0.1 hectare | National Grid Reference | TL 414 992 |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Organisation | OA EAST |
| Project Brief Originator | Kasia Gdaniec, Cambridgeshire Archaeology, CCC |
| Project Design Originator | James Drummond-Murray, OA EAST |
| Project Manager | James Drummond-Murray |
| Supervisor | Graeme Clarke |

Project Archives

| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| N/A | OA East | OA East |
| Accession ID ...N/A | Accession ID ...MARFOW09 | Accession ID ...MARFOW09 |

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

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

Notes:

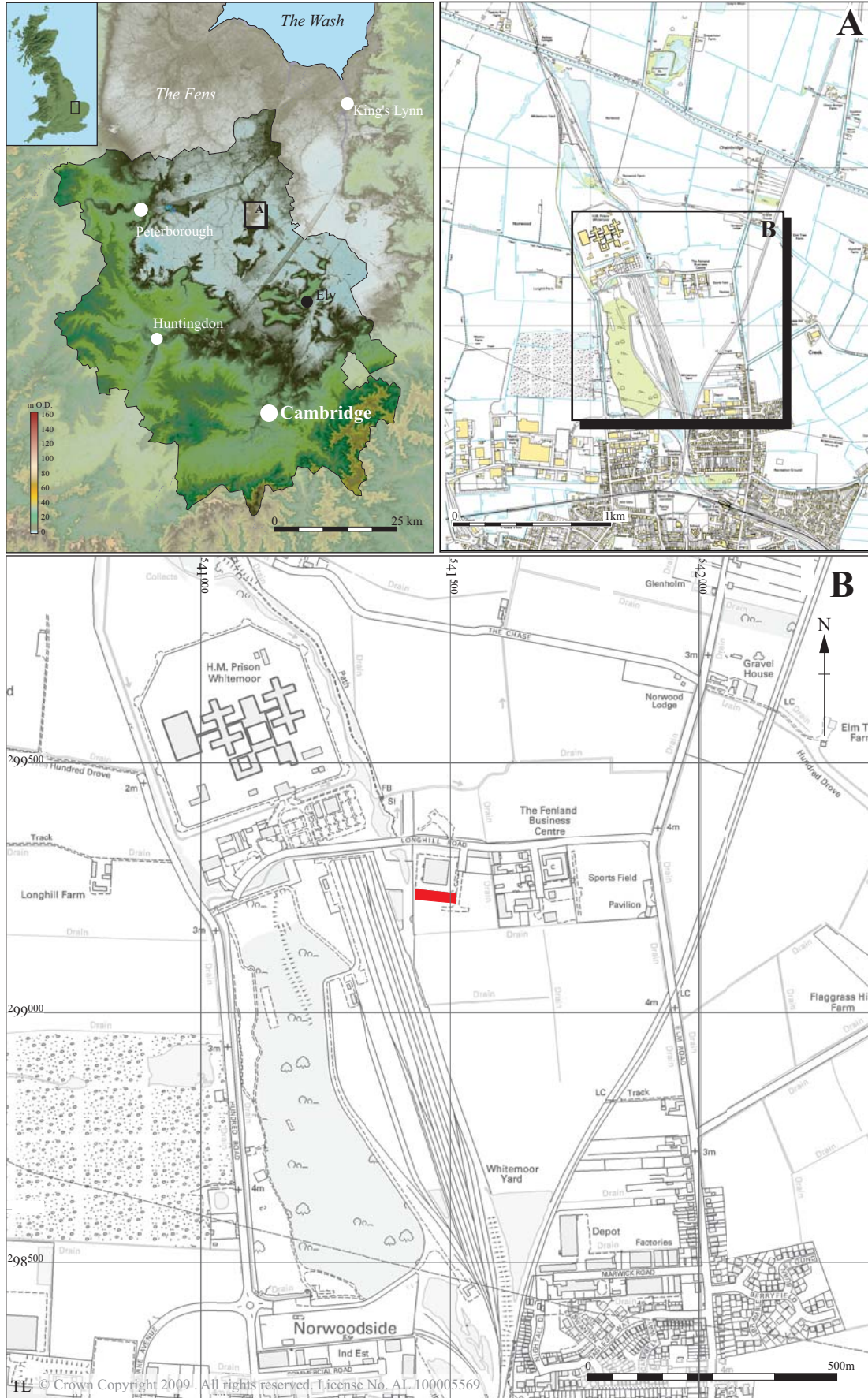


Figure 1: Location of area of investigation (red)



Plate 1: Working shot



Plate 2: Working shot



Head Office/Registered Office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Maugeio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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