

**Park Farm, Madingley, Cambridgeshire:  
Archaeological Recording of Ground Works**

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October 2011/Report No. 1052

## Introduction

An archaeological recording programme was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on works at Park Farm, Madingley, Cambridgeshire from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011 (Figure 1). Four areas were machine stripped and prepared for the construction of new farm buildings, totalling 5645.45 square meters; New Silage Clamps (Area 1 Lower), Grain Store (Area 1 Upper), Young Stock Building (Area 2) and Calf and Lambing Sheds (Area 3); see Figure 2. The site consisted of existing buildings with associated concrete and hardcore surfaces and was bounded to the east, south and west by cultivated fields and to the north by Madingley Park.

Archaeology is known both within the immediate landscape and wider environs. The site is bordered to the north by Madingley Hall house, park and gardens, constructed during the 16<sup>th</sup> century and enlarged and redeveloped in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Capability Brown. During previous archaeological investigations at Madingley Hall, Saxo-Norman features were uncovered (Gdaniec 1991 *et al.*), and to the east, Iron Age and Roman activity was uncovered during the construction of the Coton to Longstanton Pipeline (Tipper 1993). More recently, investigations undertaken by the CAU on the Coton Booster to Bourne Pipeline investigations, uncovered four features that were probably post-Medieval in date (Murrell 2010). Aerial photographs of the site and surrounding area highlight Medieval ridge-and-furrow orientated north-northeast and west-northwest within small enclosed field.

## *Recording Method*

The four areas of ground workings have been divided into three parts for this report; Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3 (see Figure 2), with Area 1 divided into two parts (Lower and Upper) differentiating between the two levels in height. The sequential deposits of natural geology and re-deposited material were measured and recorded for each area and are presented in the attached appendix, with a brief description below. The areas had been machined stripped preceding the site visit after which 0.20m thickness of hardcore and gravel material was placed directly onto the exposed surface.

## Results

### *Area 1 (Lower) - New Silage Clamps*

The area had been stripped down into the natural geology and subsequently had approximately 0.20m of hardcore placed directly on top. To the western edge of the area, a strip of natural was left exposed and the section running along this edge of the area highlights the sequence of deposits. There was a change in natural geology approximately 15.00m from the northern edge, becoming more orange/grey and markedly less blue/grey. The depths of the deposits were taken in three places: A, B and C (Figure 2).

### *Area 1 (Upper) - Grain Store*

There was a height difference of 1.33m between the two areas; (Area 1 Upper was higher) indicating that the ground rises towards the south. This area had not been truncated as much and was covered by gravel and hardcore at an approximate depth of 0.20m. The re-deposited natural layer continued from the lower area and terminated approximately 37.00m from the northern edge. Only two locations were recorded: A and B (see Appendix).

### *Area 2 - Young Stock*

This area was quite large and the south facing section suggested that the natural geology and any potential archaeology have been truncated. The area has been stripped with a layer of gravel and hardcore placed on top of the natural. Four places were chosen to record the depths of depositional sequences. Where measurement 'D' was taken, there was an area of dumped re-deposited natural which was placed on top of the original topsoil. There was tentative evidence of ridge-and-furrow in the south and west facing sections; the depth of the subsoil undulated across the site, indicating the presence of furrows, although any potential 'cut lines' were diffuse.

### *Area 3 - Lambing and Calf Shed*

This area was greatly disturbed; the site had been previously stripped before hardcore was added to the surface. Later, trenches were cut through this and the natural below for the installation of ground services and foundation pads for the sheds.

A drainage ditch was orientated east-west alongside the northern edge of the area, possibly existing before the ground works started, and measurements were taken from this. The level of truncation in this area was less than the other areas; however, all traces, if any, of archaeological features has been lost. The depth of the topsoil was thicker than the rest of the site; probably associated with the adjacent trackway.

## **Conclusion**

The evidence from the three areas investigated highlighted a landscape with little, if no archaeology, although there was tentative evidence of ridge-and-furrow activity within the subsoil. The site is surrounded by ridge-and-furrow; orientated both north-south and east-west, and therefore it is likely that the investigation area also had the same past agricultural activity. There were no artefacts recovered during this recording programme as the subsoil and topsoil appeared to be sterile of any material culture.



Figure 1. Location plan.

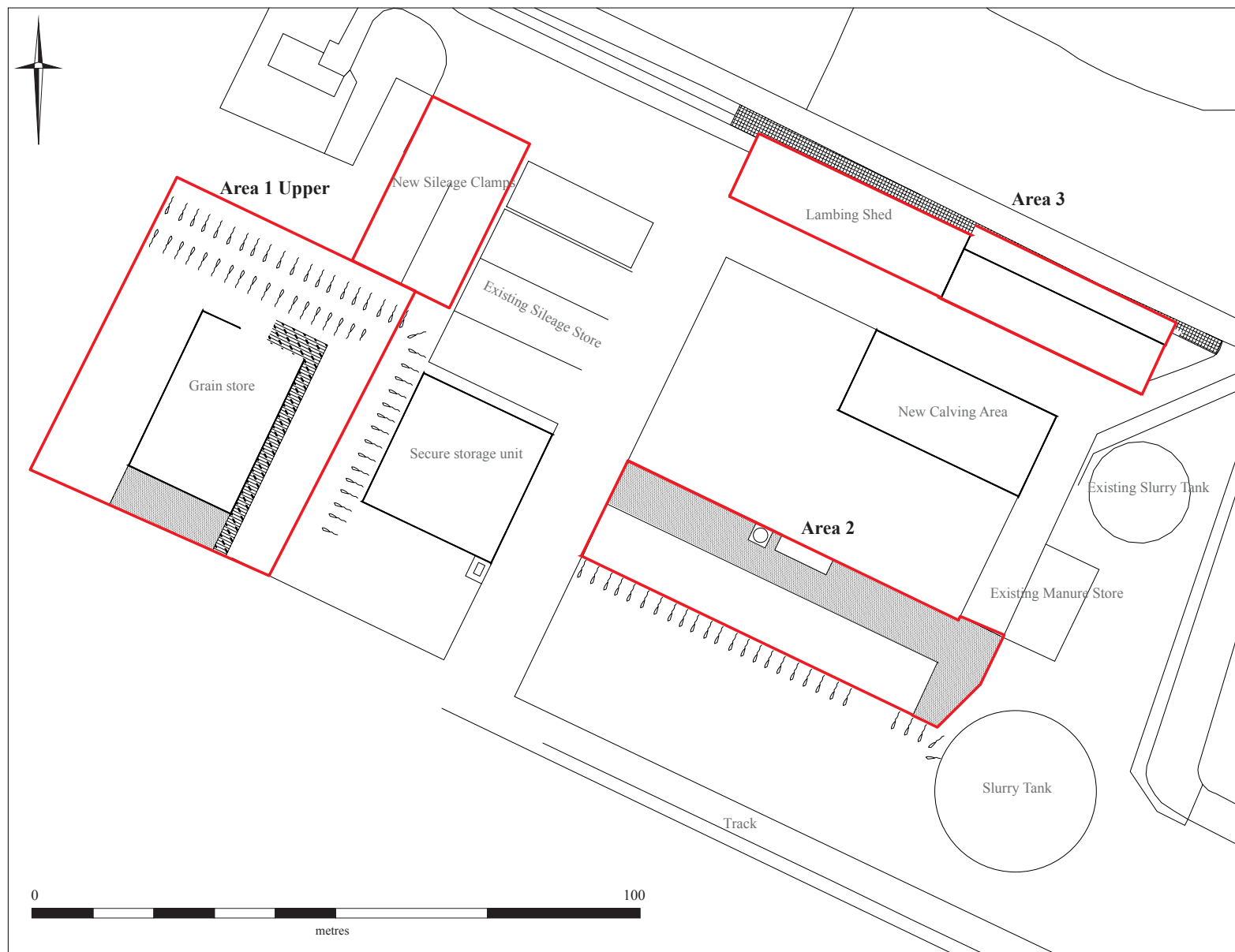


Figure 2. Proposed Development Area

## Appendix

Area 1 Lower		
General Description	Point A	
<p>The natural was blue/grey clay with patches of orange gravelly sand with gravel, flint and chalk nodules. This was overlain by subsoil; mid grey/orange/brown clayey silt with flecks of chalk and gravel inclusions. The interface between the natural and subsoil was diffuse. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil; mid to dark grey/brown clayey silt with gravel and chalk inclusions. A layer of re-deposited natural with fragments of rubble was dumped on top of the topsoil which was subsequently overlain by further topsoil.</p>	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.13
	Re-deposited Depth (m)	0.70
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.23
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.13
	Total Depth (m)	1.49
	Point B	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.06
	Overburden Depth (m)	0.73
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.31
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.31
	Total Depth (m)	1.41
	Point C	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.18
	Overburden Depth (m)	1.02
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.18
	Total Depth (m)	1.62
	Width of Area (m)	24.00
	Length of Area (m)	37.30
	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	895.20

Area 1 Upper		
General Description	Point A	
<p>The extent of the layer of re-deposited natural (blue/grey clay with patches of orange gravelly sand) containing fragments or building rubble terminated approximately 37.00m from the northern edge. This was overlain by topsoil; mid to dark grey/brown clayey silt with gravel and chalk inclusions.</p>	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.10
	Total Depth (m)	0.22
	Point B	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.12
	Total Depth (m)	0.25
	Width of Area (m)	29.75
	Length of Area (m)	55.00
	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	1636.25

Area 2		
General Description	Point A	
<p>The natural was blue/grey clay with patches of orange gravelly sand with gravel, flint and chalk nodules. This was overlain by subsoil; mid grey/orange/brown clayey silt with flecks of chalk and gravel inclusions. The interface between the natural and subsoil was diffuse. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil; mid to dark grey/brown clayey silt with gravel and chalk inclusions.</p>	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.51
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.49
	Total Depth (m)	1.30
	Point B	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.46
	Total Depth (m)	1.18
	Point C	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.23
	Total Depth (m)	1.36
	Point D	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.26
	Overburden Depth (m)	0.41
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.23
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.22
	Total Depth (m)	1.67
	Width of Area (m)	25.00
	Length of Area (m)	75.00
	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	1875.00

Area 3		
General Description	Point A	
<p>The natural was blue/grey clay with patches of orange gravelly sand with gravel, flint and chalk nodules. This was overlain by subsoil; mid grey/orange/brown clayey silt with flecks of chalk and gravel inclusions. The interface between the natural and subsoil was diffuse. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil; mid to dark grey/brown clayey silt with gravel and chalk inclusions.</p>	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.40
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Total Depth (m)	0.90
	Point B	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.40
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.29
	Total Depth (m)	0.88
	Point C	
	Topsoil Depth (m)	0.40
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.31
	Total Depth (m)	0.86
	Width of Area (m)	14.00
	Length of Area (m)	88.50
	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	1239.00

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