



**Archaeological desk-based heritage assessment
of land at A14 Cambridge Services
Boxworth Road
Cambridgeshire**

November 2021

Report No. 21/104

Author: Mary Ellen Crothers

Illustrator: Carla Ardis



Archaeological desk-based heritage assessment of land adjacent to A14 Cambridge Services

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Author: Mary Ellen Crothers BA MA

Illustrator: Carla Ardis BA MA PhD

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MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 800 809
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Camilla Collins BA PGDip

Research and text: Mary Ellen Crothers BA MA

Illustration: Carla Ardis BA MA PhD

OASIS REPORT FORM

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ACTIVITY TYPE			
Project/ Activity type	Desk-based assessment		
Reason for investigation	Planning application – Land allocation		
Development type	Warehousing/commercial		
Planning reference ID	N/A		
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National grid ref	TL 35793 65314		
Site name	A14 Cambridge Services, Boxworth Road		
REVIEWERS/ ADMIN			
HER for project	Cambridgeshire		
National organisation	Historic England (MoRPHE)		
WORK UNDERTAKEN			
Methodological summary	<p>MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) conducted an archaeological desk-based heritage assessment for land adjacent to A14 Cambridge Services, Boxworth Road, Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>A walkover survey of the site was undertaken to examine the current character of the site and to identify visible historic features and factors that could affect the survival of potential archaeological remains. A visit was also made to Cambridgeshire Archives. The Cambridgeshire HER was consulted for sites and monuments within 1km of the site boundary. All available relevant sources, including LiDAR data, aerial photographic data, historic maps, online sources, grey literature and journals were collated in order to provide as accurately as possible, a realistic assessment of the significance of the archaeological remains and likelihood of their survival on the site.</p>		
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Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
 - 1.1 Background**
 - 1.2 Location, topography and geology**
 - 1.3 Objectives**
 - 1.4 Sources consulted**

- 2 HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT**
 - 2.1 Designated heritage assets**
 - 2.2 Previous archaeological work**
 - 2.3 Summary and significance of heritage assets**
 - 2.4 Cartographic evidence**
 - 2.5 Walkover survey**

- 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**
 - 3.1 The proposed development**
 - 3.2 Buried archaeological potential**
 - 3.3 Archaeological significance**

- 4 CONCLUSIONS**
 - BIBLIOGRAPHY**
 - APPENDICES**
 - 1 Planning policy**

Figures

- Front cover: View across the site looking north from the southern boundary
- Fig 1: Site location
- Fig 2: Historic Environment Record (HER) data Monuments
- Fig 3: Kip's map of Cambridgeshire, 1607
- Fig 4: Plan of Boxworth, 1650
- Fig 5: Eman Bowen's map of Cambridgeshire, 1751
- Fig 6: Boxworth inclosure map, 1841
- Fig 7: Plan of an estate in the parish of Boxworth, Cambs, belonging to George Thornhill Esq., 1853
- Fig 8: First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1887
- Fig 9: The western corner of the site, looking north-west
- Fig 10: View from the western corner of the site, looking north-east towards Cambridge Services
- Fig 11: View looking south-east along the southern boundary
- Fig 12: View from spoil heap in the central section, looking north-west towards Boxworth Road
- Fig 13: View of the stripped area in the central section, looking south-east towards Boxworth
- Fig 14: View of the works underway in the north-western area, looking north-west
- Fig 15: View looking along western boundary of eastern field, looking north-east towards the A14
- Fig 16: View across eastern field, looking north from the south-eastern corner
- Fig 17: View down eastern field, looking south-west from the northern boundary

Tables

- Table 1: Historic Environment Record (HER) data
- Table 2: Summary of archaeological potential by period
- Table 3: Criteria for assessing the relative importance of cultural heritage sites
- Table 4: Summary of archaeological significance by period

Archaeological desk-based heritage assessment of land adjacent to A14 Cambridge Services Boxworth Road Cambridgeshire November 2021

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) conducted an archaeological desk-based heritage assessment of land adjacent to A14 Cambridge Services, Boxworth Road, Cambridgeshire.

The proposed development site lies on the south side of the A14 Cambridge Services, adjacent to Boxworth Road, Cambridgeshire. There is one Grade II and one Grade II Listed Building within 1km of the site within the village of Boxworth. The development proposals will have no impact on the Listed Buildings, their settings, the significance of those settings or the ability to appreciate them.*

A realistic assessment of the buried archaeological potential of the site can be made, owing to the large volume of archaeological work that has been undertaken within the site and across the adjacent landscape in the course of the construction of the new A14. Archaeological remains of all periods from the Neolithic onwards are known from within 1km of the site.

Residual flint tools were found 600m to the north and 880m to the south of the site but no features of the period are known from the area. The site lies on the periphery of a Bronze Age landscape with a field system 1km to the west. A bone tool was found within Boxworth but no associated settlement has been found. The site lies within a wide Iron Age landscape which includes a complex middle Iron Age settlement 350m to the east and may extend towards the south-east corner of the site. Settlement evidence was also discovered 800m and 900m to the west, represented by a rectangular enclosure and evidence of burning and animal processing. Iron Age pottery has been found within Boxworth. A Roman ladder enclosure system also survives within Boxworth and a further field system lies 300m to the south-west. Boxworth developed from a late Saxon settlement which is likely to lie in proximity to the church. An extensive system of furlong boundary banks lies within the wider landscape around the site and patches of ridge and furrow survive in the locality. Substantial areas of ridge and furrow survived into the 20th century but much of it has since been denuded through modern farming practices. However, traces of post-medieval ridge and furrow survive within the western part of the site, suggesting that if further archaeological remains existed in areas beyond the current compound, they will have survived.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the majority of the field boundaries were established before 1650 and that the site remained as open ground as either pasture or cultivated land until the construction of the construction compound.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by [REDACTED] to conduct an archaeological desk-based heritage assessment of land adjacent to A14 Cambridge Services, Boxworth Road, Cambridgeshire (Fig 1; NGR TL 35793 65314).

The assessment may be used to inform a future planning application and was carried out to assess the nature, extent and significance of the known and potential heritage resource within the proposed development site.

All works were carried out in accordance with best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019) and *Standard and Guidance for desk based assessment* (CIfA 2020) as well as the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

The proposed development site lies within two fields adjacent to the A14 Cambridge Services to the north-east of Boxworth, Cambridgeshire. The western triangular field comprises a former compound connected with the construction of the new A14 and the eastern field is currently under agricultural rotation. The site is bounded by Cambridge Services and the A14 to the north with a business park and open fields beyond. Boxworth Road and a second construction compound bounds the site to the north-west and open fields lie to the west, south and south-east.

The land is predominantly flat and level. The site lies at between c.16m and 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) (FMT2021). The solid geology comprises mudstone of West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation which is overlain by silt and clay with chalk and flint gravel (BGS2021). The overlying soils are lime-rich loam and clay with impeded drainage (CSAI 2021).

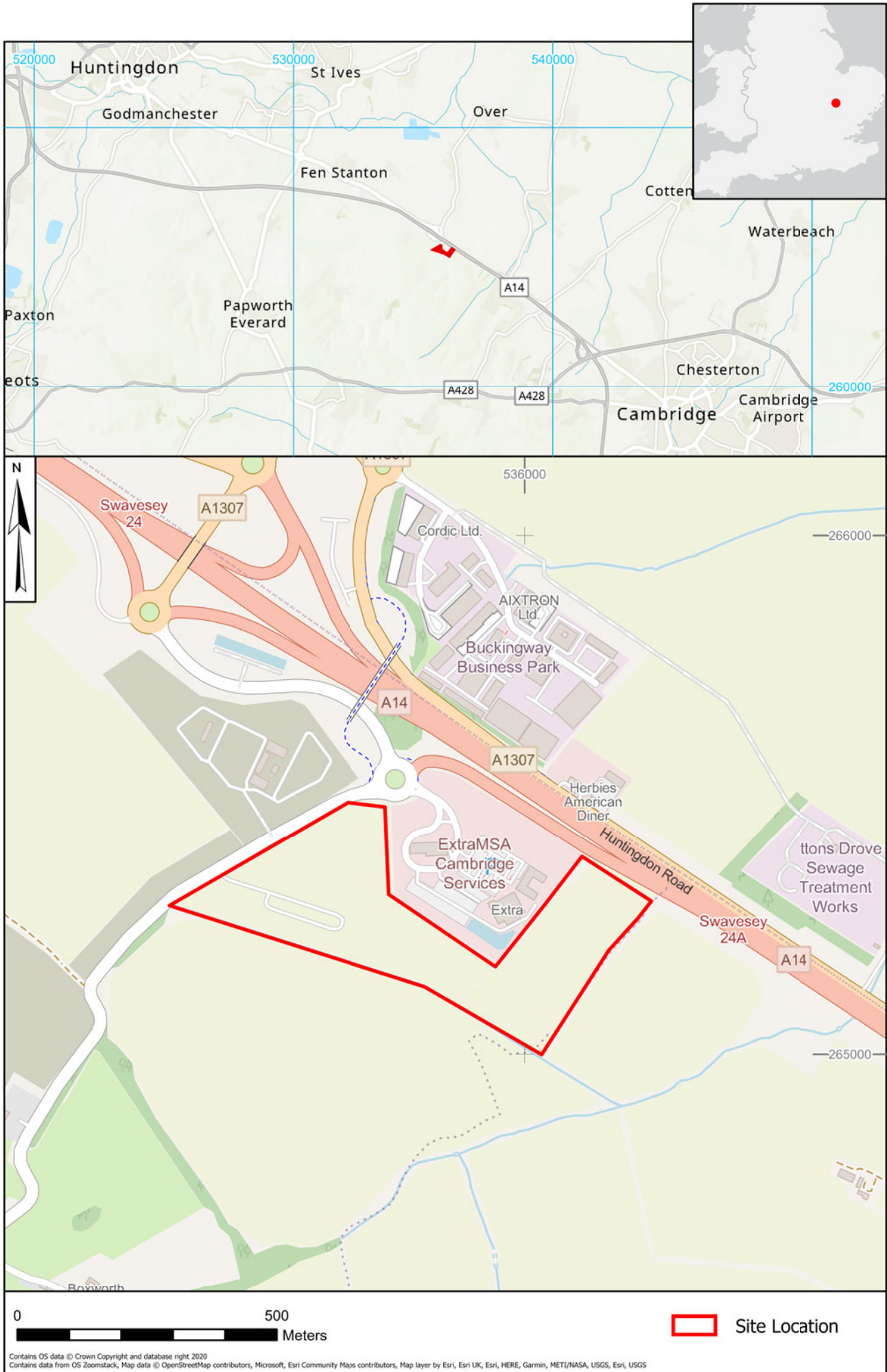
3 LEGISLATION AND PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Planning Policy

There is legislation and government policy on the preservation and management of the historic environment within the planning process, governed by the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in 2021. The key pieces of legislation are the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990). These and the NPPF state that the historic environment is a precious and finite resource that should be conserved and enhanced within the planning process. They require development proposals to adequately assess potential impacts on the historic environment, ensuring that any damage or loss to this resource is permitted only when clear justification is provided.

A summary of the relevant legislation and government policy appropriate to the present development is provided in **Appendix 1**. This should be read in conjunction

with the Planning Policy Guidance, available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment>.



Scale 1:10000

Site location Fig 1

3.2 Local Planning Policy

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018-2031 contains policies relating to archaeology and the protection of the historic environment within the planning process.

A summary of the Local Planning Policy relevant to the present development is provided in **Appendix 1**.

4 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Objectives

The aim of the assessment was to collate information about the known or potential archaeological resource within the development site, including its presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality. The work was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of conduct* (CIfA 2019) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2020). Historic England guidance documents concerning the setting of heritage assets were also consulted (HE 2017).

4.2 Study Area

The study area comprises the site and a 1km buffer surrounding the boundary. All heritage assets, both designated and undesignated, and archaeological events within the study area have been considered to determine the archaeological potential of the site. Potential direct development impacts on heritage assets within the site will be considered. Indirect development impacts such as effects on the setting or significance of heritage assets within the wider search area will also be measured.

4.3 Walkover survey

A walkover survey of the site was conducted on 18th November 2021. The purpose of a walkover survey was to assess the current character of the proposed development site and to identify visible historic features and assess possible factors that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential assets (CIfA 2020).

4.4 Sources consulted

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record was consulted for documented sites and monuments within the study area (Fig 2). The search returned a total of 56 records for analysis. A visit was made to Cambridgeshire Archives on 18th November 2021 to view historic maps of the area.

The online Historic England resource *National Heritage List for England* was consulted in order to identify designated heritage assets within the proposed development area (historicengland.org). The Historic England document *The setting of heritage assets: historic environment good practice advice in planning note 3 (second edition)* (HE 2017) provides a basis upon which the assessment of impact upon the setting of heritage assets can be evaluated.

LiDAR data was also analysed as part of the report, to examine visual signs of the presence of archaeological features on or adjacent to the site.

2 HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT

2.1 Designated Heritage Assets

There is one Grade II* and one Grade II Listed Building within 1km of the boundary of the site.

2.2 Previous archaeological work

A significant body of archaeological work has been carried out along the route of the new A14 adjacent to the north-east of the site, including four schemes of trial trench evaluation (ECB4267, ECB4732, ECB4800, ECB5158), two geophysical surveys (ECB3194, ECB5514), fieldwalking with evaluation (ECB3079) and a watching brief (ECB3053).

Two stages of the A14 works (a geophysical survey (ECB5514) and a trial trench evaluation (ECB4732)) took place both within the former compound of the central and north-western parts of the site and on land immediately to the north-west. The geophysical survey identified a few linear anomalies of potential archaeological origin. A trial trench evaluation designed to target these features proved them to be former field boundaries of either post-medieval or modern date. A fieldwalking survey and trial trench evaluation (ECB3059) was undertaken adjacent to the south-east of the site and revealed a Middle Iron Age settlement (MCB20051; Patten *et al* 2009). The scheme of geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation carried out in 2014 (ECB4267) was conducted over a wide area over many separate plots of land, including areas c.270m to the south-west, c.240m and c.520m to the north-west of the site although no significant remains were encountered (Jones and Panes 2014).

A geophysical survey (ECB3194) was carried out along the route of the new road, adjacent to the north-east side of the site towards Bar Hill to the south-east. Archaeological remains were identified along the entire route, including enclosures, a ring ditch, postholes and ridge and furrow. However, no features were found in proximity to the current site, owing to a service trench lying in that part of the survey route (Bunn 2008). The excavation at TEA 35 (ECB5158), c.430m to the east of the site did not reveal any significant finds or features (MHI 2018). The trial trench evaluation (ECB4800) c.300m to the south-west of the site revealed Iron Age activity, early Roman field systems and a post-medieval barn (Jeffery 2016).

An evaluation of the Boxworth Windfarm site (ECB1615) was carried out over a large area adjacent to the west of the site which revealed a possible Bronze Age enclosure.

A fieldwalking survey (ECB1746) was undertaken along the route of the A14 adjacent to the site in advance of a gas pipeline, although no finds were recovered from areas close by (Flood 1908). A watching brief (ECB3053) was also carried out along the route on a series of test pits which revealed very few archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site (Patenall 2008).

A trial trench evaluation (ECB3817) was carried out at Trinity Foot, c.400m to the north of the site, although no significant archaeological finds or features were identified (Boardman 2012).

A geophysical survey (ECB2883) and an excavation (ECB2882) were undertaken at Spring Close in Boxworth c.850m to the south-west of the site and a test pit was dug in Boxworth as part of *The Big Dig* (ECB1324) c.930m to the south-west.

2.3 Summary and significance of heritage assets (Fig 2)

Neolithic

A flint flake of Neolithic to Bronze Age date was found within a test pit during a watching brief (ECB3053) along the route of the new A14, c.600m to the north of the site (Patenall 2008).

A residual assemblage of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age finds were recovered from the village green in Boxworth, c.880m to the south-west of the site, during an excavation (ECB2882). The finds consisted of flint tools such as scrapers, knife blades and an axe fragment (Connor and Taylor 2007).

Bronze Age

A ditch containing an assemblage of eight flints (MCB15934) and two further ditches containing pottery were discovered during a trial trench evaluation at Boxworth Wind Farm (ECB1615), c.1km to the west of the site. The ditches are thought to represent an enclosure (Evans 2004). A single sherd of pottery with horizontal bands of cord-impressed chevrons was found c.800m to the west of the site during a trial trench evaluation (ECB4800; Jeffery 2016), relatively close to the wind farm site.

A bone awl was recovered during an excavation on the village green at Boxworth (ECB2882), c.880m to the south-west of the site (Connor and Taylor 2007).

Iron Age

A Middle Iron Age settlement (MCB20051) was discovered c.350m to the south-east of the site during a fieldwalking survey and trial trench evaluation (ECB3079) on land adjacent to the south-east. The settlement was situated along the southern edge of an ancient river channel, known as the Boxworth Stream and demonstrates that two distinct phases of activity took place. The first phase comprised a series of four circular enclosures of differing sizes and function, following the contour of the river terrace. The second phase was represented by a minimum of seven rectilinear enclosures arranged off a central boundary line which had no discernible relationship with the first. Both phases contained evidence of occupation with a range of differing activities including crop processing and finds of middle Iron Age pottery and a buried quern stone (Patten *et al* 2009).

A concentration of late Iron Age activity was identified during a trial trench evaluation (ECB4800) c.800m to the west of the site. The evidence comprised a large pit, four smaller pits, three postholes and a gully. The large pit contained large amounts of charcoal and ovicaprid bones. The majority of the pottery within the pits dated from the late Iron Age to the 1st century AD (Jeffery 2016).

A rectangular enclosure (MCB23136) lies c.900m to the west of the site. The feature was identified through aerial photography, visible on photographs of 2013 and is thought to date from the early Iron Age or Roman periods, based on its characteristic form. The enclosure is orientated east to west with an entrance on the eastern side and internal measurements of 58m by 43m.

Evidence of prehistoric activity was discovered within Boxworth, c.880m to the south-west of the site on the village green. A test pit was dug as part of Time Team's *Big Dig project* in 2003 (ECB1324) which revealed mid Iron Age pottery (Taylor 2003). Further evidence was found during a subsequent geophysical survey (ECB2883) and excavation (ECB2882). A curvilinear ditch and a linear ditch were

found which contained small quantities of prehistoric pottery and residual flints (Connor and Taylor, 2007).

Roman

The line of the former A14 close to the north of the site follows the route of a Roman Road, known as the Via Devana or Worstead Street (07970).

An early Roman field system was discovered c.300m to the south-west of the site during a trial trench evaluation (ECB4880) in advance of the construction of the new A14. The field system comprised a series of gullies on a slight ridge above the low-lying surrounding land and appeared to have silted naturally. The gullies contained fragments of animal bone, glass and pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Jeffery 2016).

A dense area of Roman activity (CB15635) was discovered within Boxworth on the village green, c.880m to the south-west of the site, during Time Team's 'Big Dig' (ECB1324) and subsequent geophysical survey (ECB2883) and excavation (ECB2882). The evidence comprises a rectilinear field system in the form of ladder enclosures (MCB17880), the shape of which responds to the natural topography of the area. Direct evidence for an associated settlement was not found, although the discovery of a pottery kiln (MCB18143), a cow burial, several finds of a bone gaming counter, a shale armlet, roof tile, floor tiles and lava quern suggest that occupation lay within the immediate vicinity (Taylor 2003, Connor and Taylor 2007, Butler 2007). In 2005, an experimental pottery kiln (MCB17691) was constructed in the grounds of Boxworth Manor adjacent to the south-east, based on the evidence found within the excavated area.

A coin of Vespasian (MCB28645) was found in the area around the site, although the exact findspot is unknown. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) holds records for a nummus of Constans (LEIC-29665C), although this findspot is also unknown.

Saxon

The Roman site on the village green in Boxworth (ECB15635) was probably occupied into the Saxon period. A significant quantity of Saxon coarseware pottery was recovered and the rectilinear field system also appears to have continued into the period (Taylor 2003, Connor and Taylor 2007, Butler 2007). A settlement has not yet been discovered but this is likely to have been located closer to the church within an historic village nucleus. There was no evidence of further Saxon remains until the end of the period, prior to the Norman Conquest when the complex system of ownership was recorded within the Domesday Book.

Medieval

The Domesday Book of 1086 records Boxworth within Papworth Hundred as *Bochesworde* but ownership was split between five people: Count Alan, Leofsiges Earl Waltheof's man, Ulf, the Abbot of Ramsey and a thegn of Edward. The total land amounted to land for 13 ½ ploughs, meadow for 9 ½ ploughs with eight freemen, 11 villans, six cottars, 6 bordars and four slaves. After the Norman Conquest, Leofsiges' land passed to Robert Gernon and was held by Picot, Ulf's land passed to Gilbert, the thegn's properties passed to Hardwin but were held by Payne but the Abbott of Ramsey's portion remained under ownership of the Church (Powell-Smith 2021, Williams 2002).

The parish church of St Peter (1331352) lies 1km to the south-west within Boxworth. The church is a Grade II* Listed Building, built in the 12th and 14th centuries and rebuilt in 1640 after a storm. The church underwent restoration in 1868-9 and the north and south porches were added.

The medieval village of Boxworth (03528, 10826) was considerably larger than the current settlement. LiDAR data suggests that it developed from a nucleated settlement around a four-sided green, north-east of the church where the remains of house sites, small enclosures, a possible fishpond and closes remain visible as extant earthworks (23144). Field boundaries and hollow ways are also visible, which are respected by the medieval ridge and furrow (Taylor 1973). Further earthworks are visible on the south-east side of the village (MCB25512) and are represented by a hollow way, field boundaries and a platform.

A pair of concentric curvilinear ditches were discovered during an excavation (ECB2882) and geophysical survey (ECB2883) on the green in Boxworth, c.880m to the south-west of the site. Although they are undated, the ditches have been interpreted as either an early medieval windmill mound, a circular dovecote or a rick stand. Late Saxon and early medieval pottery was also found in features which coincided with extant earthworks on the green. Later medieval pottery was also recovered from the area, suggesting that there had been a low level of activity there throughout the medieval period (Connor and Taylor 2007).

An area of ridge and furrow (00286a) is recorded adjacent to the west side of the medieval village, although this is no longer extant on LiDAR. Ridge and furrow does, however, survive on the north-eastern side of the village (00287, 09642) and former ridge and furrow (00290) lies between the extant remains and the south-western boundaries of the site although this has since been destroyed. Earthworks of former field boundaries (MCB25515) survive c.960m to the south of the site at Yarmouth Farm although they are not clearly defined on LiDAR.

Ridge and furrow also survives around Lolworth (01277, 03525, 03526, MCB28584, MCB28585), 1km to the south and south-east of the site, as small pockets of the medieval landscape within larger areas of former ridge and furrow (09669) which have also since been destroyed. Several irregular patches of ridge and furrow are also said to survive within Swavesey on the north side of the A14 (11437, MCB20971), although much of this is also no longer extant on LiDAR.

Ridge and furrow was noted along the route of the new A14, during a geophysical survey (ECB3194) between the north-east boundary of the site and Bar Hill to the south-east (Bunn 2008).

An extensive early medieval field system lies within the landscape around the site (MCB27320, MCB27322, MCB27325, MCB27326). The system comprises long linear and sinuous furlong boundary banks which respect the route of the Roman Road in the areas where they lie adjacent, lying perpendicular and parallel to it. Some of the earlier surviving ridge and furrow also respects the layout of the boundaries which have since become fossilised under modern hedgerows or incorporated into some of the modern fields. Many of the medieval boundaries were extant and visible on aerial photography until 2013, although some have since been removed during the construction of the A14.

Post-medieval

Church Farmhouse (1127250) lies 1km to the south-west of the site and is a Grade II Listed Building, standing close to the church in Boxworth. The building was constructed as a farmhouse during the mid-18th century but has since become a

private dwelling and is included in group value with the church. Boxworth also has other historic buildings which are not Listed but nonetheless form part of the historic fabric and landscape of the village. Parts of Manor House Farm (03509) date to the 17th century and Boxworth House, formerly The Rectory (MCB28648) lies on the south-west side of the village within extensive grounds (12029) which are illustrated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888, showing a kitchen garden, plunge pool and canal with boat house.

The manor house lay on the north-eastern side of Boxworth but is no longer extant. The house also had substantial associated gardens (MCB19346), which were created during the 19th century when the property was taken over by Captain Edmund Thornhill and his son. The Thornhills designed the gardens based on those at their family home in Diddington and included a maze which was removed after the Second World War. The gardens also contain remains associated with the shrunken medieval village, consisting of field boundaries and mounds.

Evidence of ridge and furrow and a former field boundary (MCB23127) was identified across the former compound within the site through geophysical survey (ECB5514; Davies 2016) and trial trench evaluation (ECB4732; Clarke *et al* 2016). A further field boundary (MCB28638) was identified c.600m to the west of the site through aerial photographs taken in 1999.

Post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified during a trial trench evaluation at Trinity Foot (ECB3817), c.400m to the north of the site (Boardman 2012).

The foundations of a barn were found during a trial trench evaluation (ECB4800), c.800m to the west of the site. The building is not illustrated on Ordnance Survey mapping but is assumed to date to the post-medieval period (Jeffery 2016).

A brickworks (MCB25510) lies c.500m to the west of the site and is visible on LiDAR but are currently overgrown with woodland.

The route of the former A14 close to the north of the site was turnpiked in 1744 (MCB31244) by the Godmanchester to Cambridge Turnpike Trust in 1744 but was disbanded in 1874

The PAS holds records for a pewter or lead alloy spoon (PUBLIC-F5ED56) and a strap fitting (LEIC-937A26) that were discovered within Boxworth parish, although the findspots are unknown.

Undated

An undated archaeological feature was found within a test pit during a watching brief along the route of the new A14 (ECB3053), c.680m to the east of the site. Two ditch termini were found c.520m to the north-west of the site and a group of subcircular features resembling tree throws were found c.270m to the south-west during a trial trench evaluation (ECB4267; Jones and Panes 2014).

Several new archaeological sites were identified during the course of a geophysical survey along the route of the new A14 (ECB3194), between the north-east boundary of the site towards Bar Hill to the south-east. The features included several enclosures, a ring ditch, further ditches and potential pits (Bunn 2008), although there is no available information detailing their locations or relative proximity to the site.

Table 1: Historic Environment Record (HER) data

HER ref	Description		Location	
Designations				
1331352	St Peter's Church, Boxworth, 12th century	II*	534810	264480
1127250	Church Farmhouse, 18th century	II	534850	264450
Monuments				
00286a	Cropmark remains of ridge and furrow, Boxworth		534000	264300
00287	Ridge and furrow N of Manor House Farm		535100	264600
00290	Former evidence for ridge and furrow		534400	262800
01277	Ridge and furrow, Lolworth		535000	264000
03509	Manor House Farm		535160	264520
03525	Ridge and furrow N of Roger's Wood, Lolworth		536800	264400
03526	Ridge and furrow, E of College Farm, Lolworth		536800	264600
03528	Boxworth shrunken village		534800	264400
07970	Worstead Street (Via Devana) Roman Road		547700	256800
09642	Earthwork remains of ridge and furrow		534600	262700
09669	Former ridge and furrow		536000	263000
10826	Saxon and medieval remains, Spring Close		534970	264520
11437	Ridge and furrow, Swavesey		536420	267090
12029	Gardens of Boxworth house, formerly the Rectory		534700	264600
CB15635	Late Roman/Saxon site of High Street		534970	264460
MCB15934	Bronze Age flints, Boxworth Wind Farm		534679	265282
MCB17691	Experimental pottery kiln, 2005		535269	264572
MCB17880	Ladder enclosures, Spring Close		535040	264450
MCB18143	Roman Pottery kiln, Spring Close		535022	264537
MCB19346	Gardens of the Manor House		535210	264750
MCB20051	Middle Iron Age settlement, Lolworth		536530	264870
MCB20971	Ridge and furrow, north of A14		535300	266320
MCB23127	Field Boundary		535490	265310
MCB23136	Rectangular enclosure		534450	265050
MCB23144	Earthworks		534970	264620
MCB25510	Brickworks		534790	265290
MCB25512	Medieval and post-medieval earthworks at Alice Grove		535080	264380
MCB25515	Earthworks of medieval field boundaries west of Yarmouth Farm		535510	264240
MCB27320	Furlong boundaries in Dry Drayton, Childerley and Lolworth		537000	262400
MCB27322	Furlong boundaries in Conington and Boxworth		533730	264910
MCB27325	Furlong boundaries in Swavesey		536140	266940
MCB27326	Furlong boundaries in Longstanton and Swavesey		538130	265800
MCB28584	Earthwork remains of ridge and furrow, Lolworth		537050	264130
MCB28585	Cropmark remains of ridge and furrow, Lolworth		535950	263520
MCB28638	Post-medieval field boundary		534930	265620
MCB28645	Roman coin		535000	265000
MCB28648	The Rectory, Boxworth, 1840		534800	264560
MCB31244	Godmanchester to Cambridge turnpike		534530	264840
Events				
ECB1324	Boxworth Big Dig, 2003		534968	264469
ECB1615	Boxworth Wind Farm site, Trial trenching, 2004		534324	266070
ECB1746	Gas pipe between Bar Hill and Fenstanton, fieldwalking, 1978-9 (negative)		531815	268343
ECB2883	Land at Boxworth, Geo survey, 2004		535068	264487
ECB2882	Spring Close, Boxworth, Excavation, 2004		535086	264487
ECB3053	A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvements Scheme, watching brief, 2008 (little arch in this stretch)		524418	267399
ECB3079	A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton, fieldwalking, 2009		530134	266547
ECB3194	A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvements Scheme, Geo survey, 2008		530161	266560
ECB3817	Trinity Foot, Swavesey, trial trenching, 2012		535510	266000
ECB4267	A14 Huntingdon to Cambridge Improvement Scheme, trial trenching, 2014		527180	268330
ECB4732	A14 Improvement Scheme, trial trenching, 2016		528950	269120

A14 CAMBRIDGE SERVICES, BOXWORTH ROAD

ECB4800	A14 Improvement Scheme, trial trenching, 2016 (overlap with ECB4732)	529610	267950
ECB5158	TEA 35, A14 Improvement Scheme, trial trenching	536520	265000
ECB5514	A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon, geo survey, 2016	529620	267950

2.4 Cartographic evidence

Several cartographic sources were consulted for this report. The following images are extracts from historic maps held at Cambridgeshire Archives and by the author.

Until the Ordnance Survey maps were produced from the early 19th century, maps were created for a number of purposes and were not always aligned north, accurate or drawn to scale, although concerted efforts were often made on the part of the cartographers to do so. For this reason, it is not always possible to show the site outline with precision and the following images are for illustrative guidance only.

Kip's map of Cambridgeshire, 1607 (Fig 3)

The earliest available cartographic evidence is Kip's 1607 map of Cambridgeshire, which shows Boxworth as one of several small villages within Papworth Hundred. The map does not show any detail about the site but demonstrates the status of the settlements in relation to towns such as Huntingdon and St Ives to the west and south-west. Roads are rarely marked on county maps of this period but rivers are exaggerated. Boxworth lay within open countryside at this time but a wood lay to the south-west.



Kip's map of Cambridgeshire, 1607 Fig 3

Plan of Boxworth, 1650 (Fig 4)

This estate map demonstrates that the main site boundaries were established by the mid-17th century and that the site lay within an area known as Boxworth Meadow adjacent to the former A14. These larger fields were probably used for seasonal grazing if the area was prone to flooding whereas many of the smaller, hedged fields to the west and south-west lay on the higher ground and are marked on the map with individual strip plots for cultivation. The fields surrounding the village were concentrically smaller in proximity to the houses and included orchards and small paddocks. The settlement was spread out over three nuclei; the church stood roughly in the centre with cottages on the north and south sides, a row of houses stood along Manor Lane to the east and a more dispersed group stood around High Street to the south-west.



Plan of Boxworth, 1650 Fig 4

Eman Bowen's map of Cambridgeshire, 1751 (Fig 5)

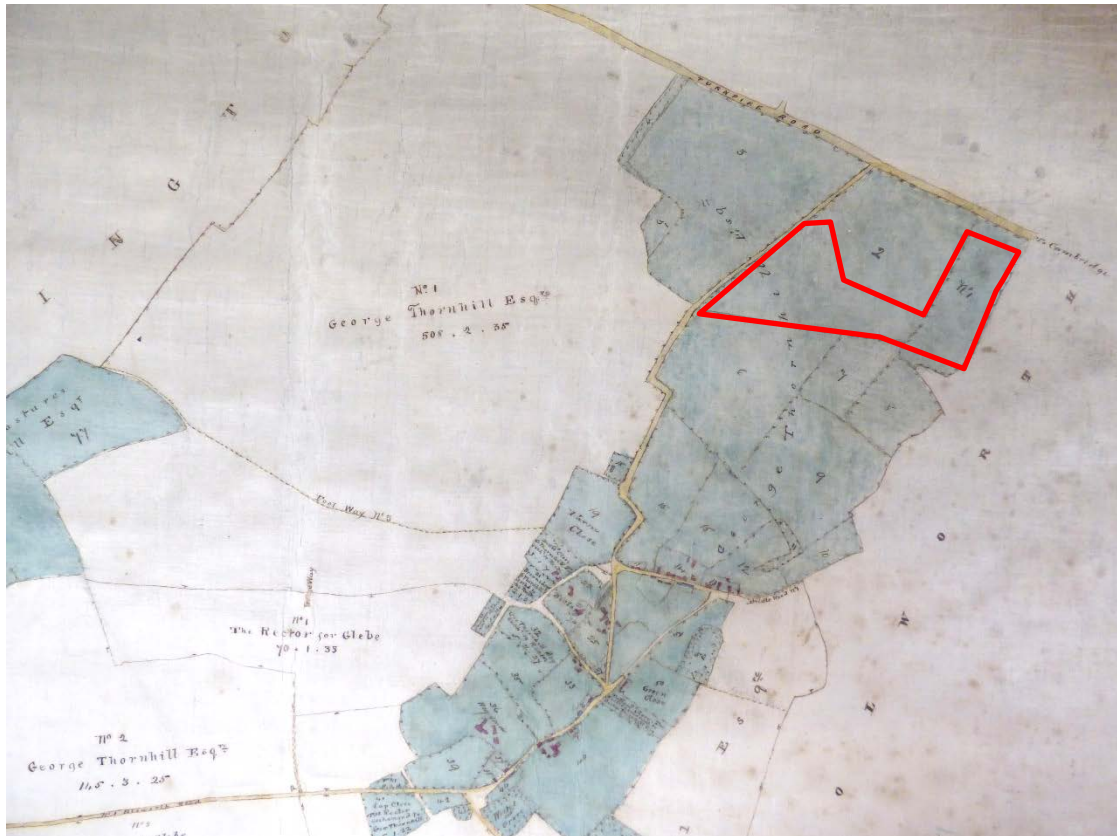
This map is the earliest county map to show the road network in the area and depicts both arterial and minor routes through the landscape. The Roman road and former A14 is marked at a significant distance to the north-east of Boxworth because there is an error on the map. Boxworth and Knapwell have been exchanged and many other villages are shown in inaccurate locations. Bowen's concern was to show the major towns, the links between them and the village churches in the intervening landscape. Like many cartographers of his time, Bowen had patrons or subscribers whose names and properties would appear on the maps with greater or lesser prominence, depending on the nature of the patronage. The Duke of Bedford is mentioned in Dry Drayton to the north-east of Boxworth village but few others are noted in the area.



Eman Bowen's map of Cambridgeshire, 1751 Fig 5

Boxworth inclosure map, 1841 (Fig 6)

The layout of Boxworth had not significantly changed in the previous 189 years since the last detailed map (Fig 4) had been produced. The three nuclei of the village remained intact and new houses had been constructed as infill development rather than encroaching onto open spaces. George Thornhill owned the vast majority of the available land within the parish but only the areas in green were subject to inclosure. The site lay within Plots 1 and 2 of the inclosed portion although no information is available pertaining to land use. The map suggests that the field boundaries were planted with sparse trees but no further changes within the site are evident.

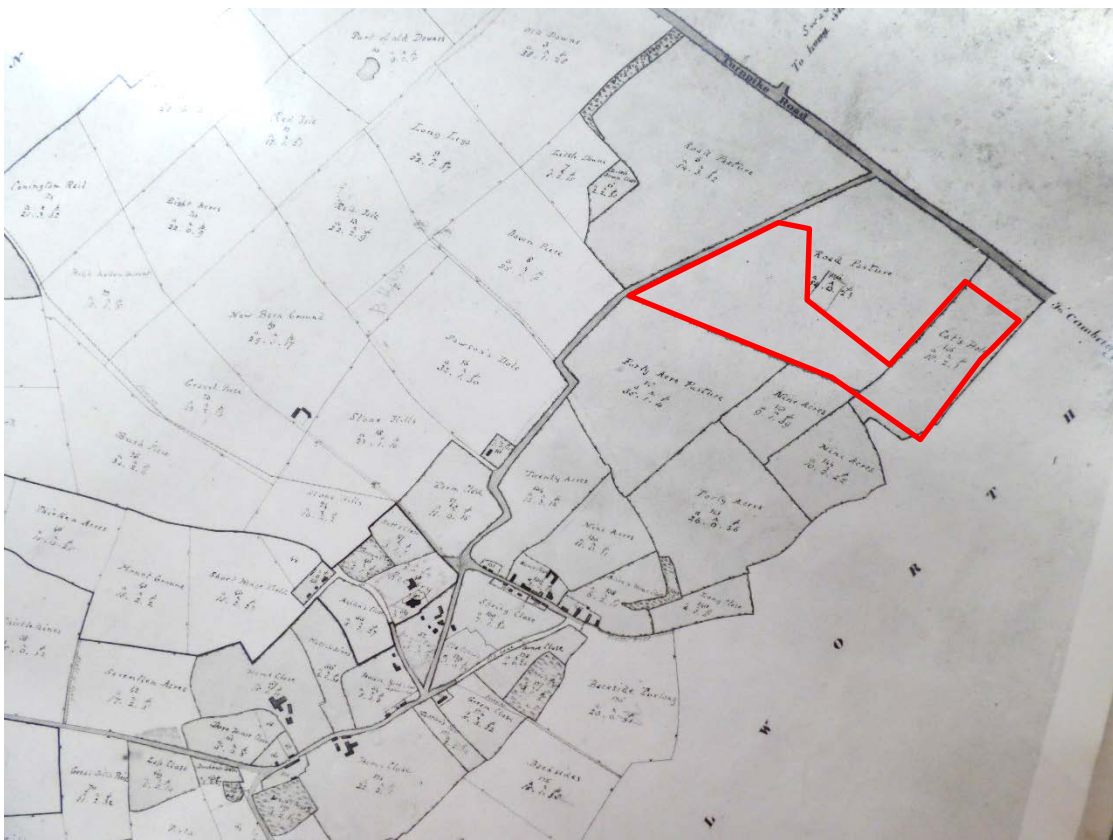


Boxworth inclosure map, 1841 (Fig 6)

Plan of an estate in the parish of Boxworth, Cambs, belonging to George Thornhill Esq., 1853 (Fig 7)

Shortly after inclosure, the Thornhill estate had been significantly reduced in size. The majority of the field names referred simply to their acreage or to topographic features, such as 'Nine Acres' and 'Farm Close', which was a common way of naming separate plots under single ownership. The site occupied part of 'Road Pasture' which refers to its historic use as seasonal grazing but the eastern side of the site lay within a field known as 'Cat's Hole', which does not conform to the naming pattern. Although this is the first map to annotate the field names, it is not clear whether the names are historic or contemporary with the map.

A small unnamed plot is marked within Road Pasture, adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. Most of the site boundaries were established before 1650 but this is the first feature to define the northern periphery.

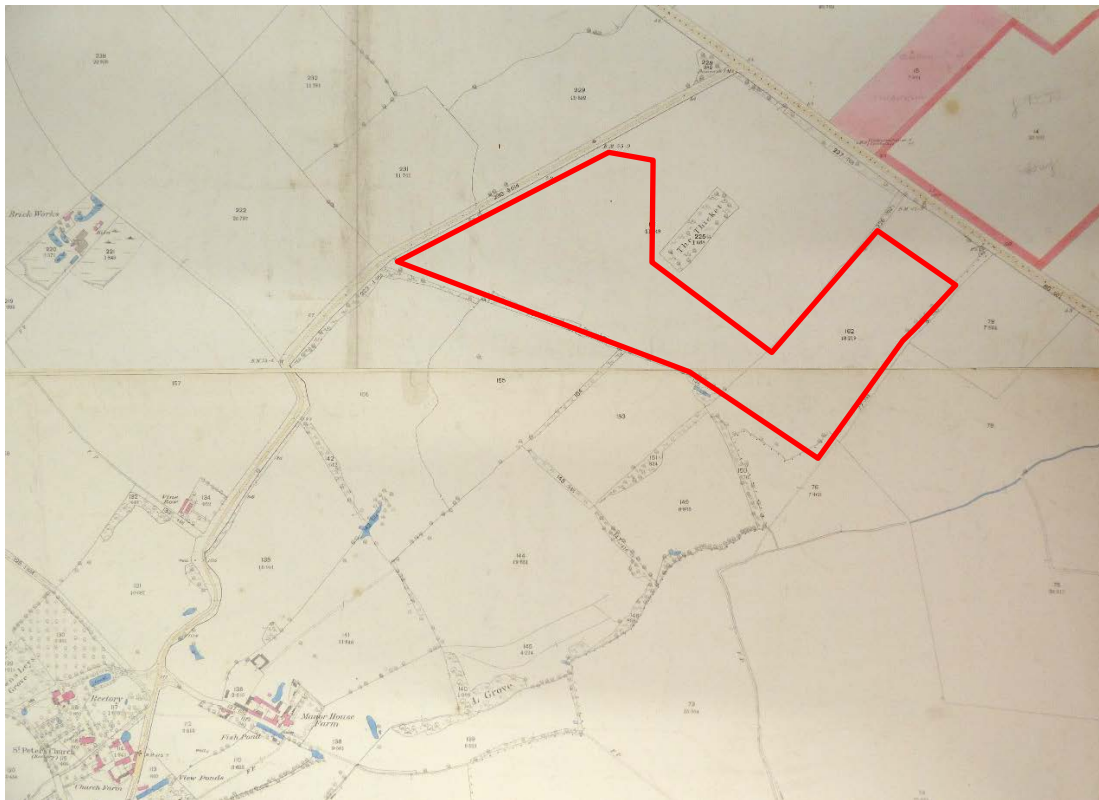


Plan of an estate in the parish of Boxworth, Cambs, belonging to George Thornhill Esq., 1853 (Fig 7)

First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1887 (Fig 8)

The small isolated plot marked on the Thornhill estate map (Fig 7) had been extended, planted with trees and labelled 'The Thicket'. Narrow wooded areas are also shown along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site.

Boxworth had remained a farming community at the end of the 19th century as the nucleated areas began to expand solely as agricultural premises with large barns surrounding farmyards. The village had a school and public house by this time but very few additional houses had been constructed. A brickworks (MCB25510) is clearly marked to the west of the site with kilns, water-filled clay pits and former areas of extraction which had reverted to rough grassland.



First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1887 Fig 8

Ordnance Survey maps 1903-1950 (not illustrated)

By 1903, the 'thicket' had been extended to the south-west and by 1924, it almost reached the southern boundary of the site. A spring is also marked on the southern boundary, at the first field junction east of the south-western corner of the site. No further changes had taken place on the site by 1950, although the small triangular plot adjacent to the eastern end of the southern boundary had adopted the name 'Cat's Hole Spinney' as the only historic field name in the area to have been retained into the 20th century.

2.5 Walkover survey

The purpose of a walkover survey was to assess the current character of the proposed development site and to identify visible historic features and assess possible factors that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential assets (CiFA 2020).

Methodology

Permission to access the southern section and eastern field of the site for the purpose of the walkover survey was granted by the client and the landowner prior to the site visit as the land is not publicly accessible. Permission to access the north-western area was not granted for reasons of health and safety due to the movement of heavy plant. The majority of the site visit was conducted unaccompanied and no other persons or plant were within the southern and central areas or within the eastern field. The walkover survey was undertaken on the 18th November 2021 and was completed in under two hours.

Photographs were taken of the site to include clear views from within and across the site from all relevant directions (Figs 9-17). A visit was made to St Peter's Church and Church Farmhouse in Boxworth to assess whether these designated heritage assets could be affected by the proposed development. The site forms no part of the settings of the Listed Buildings and there is no intervisibility between the site and the Listed Buildings or their settings. The proposed development is not expected to have any impact upon the Listed Buildings, their settings, the significance of those settings or the ability to appreciate them.

Observations

The site is currently managed by Highways England for the purposes of reinstatement of farmland following its use as a compound during the construction of the new A14. The western and central sections of the site are near the end of the process of being stripped of all facilities, services and infrastructure which had been constructed for the former compound. The tarmac, concrete and made ground have been removed from the southern section, which now contains spoil heaps, concrete rubble and small amounts of debris. There are open trenches as a result of drainage systems having been removed.

The eastern field is currently under a winter crop and was not incorporated into the former compound. There is a drainage ditch along the southern boundary of the whole site and along the north-eastern boundary of the eastern field.

The western side of the site has two access points on the north-western boundary from Boxworth Road. There is an access point through to the eastern field and direct access to the field via a farm track adjacent to the westbound A14.

The weather conditions were cold, clear, dry and predominantly sunny with good visibility.



The western corner of the site, looking north-west Fig 9



View from the western corner of the site, looking north-east towards Cambridge Services Fig 10



View looking south-east along the southern boundary Fig 11



View from spoil heap in the central section, looking north-west towards Boxworth Road Fig 12



View of the stripped area in the central section, looking south-east towards Boxworth
Fig 13



View of the works underway in the north-western area, looking north-west Fig 14



View looking along western boundary of eastern field, looking north-east towards the A14 Fig 15



View across eastern field, looking north from the south-eastern corner Fig 16



View down eastern field, looking south-west from the northern boundary Fig 17

3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1 The proposed development

The proposed development is for industrial/warehousing and associated infrastructure.

3.3 Buried archaeological potential

Potential refers to the likelihood of archaeological remains to have ever existed on a site, according to available sources of information. It is not considered in isolation as this can be offset by other factors such as severe truncation, (e.g. past redevelopment or deep ploughing), good ground preservation (e.g. permanent pasture, waterlogged sites, undeveloped areas) or if there is a definite/negative archaeological record on neighbouring sites. All of these factors are considered with professional judgement.

A realistic assessment of the buried archaeological potential of the site can be made, owing to the large volume of archaeological work that has been undertaken within the site and across the adjacent landscape in the course of the construction of the new A14 over several years. The western corner and part of the southern section of the site has been subject to a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. The geophysical survey identified a possible enclosure but the trial trench evaluation demonstrated that no archaeology was present in these areas apart from trace ridge and furrow. A further geophysical survey took place along a strip at the northern end of the eastern field, showing that an underground service has removed any potential archaeology adjacent to the A14.

A Neolithic flint flake was discovered c.600m to the north and an assemblage of scrapers, knife blades and an axe fragment were discovered c.880m to the south-west of the site. These finds are residual and no features dating to the period are known in the area. The potential for further Neolithic material is low.

The evidence for Bronze Age occupation in the area suggests that a field system lies c.1km to the west of the site. Decorated pottery was found at the field system and a bone awl was found c.880m to the south-west of the proposed development which implies that a settlement site may also lie in the vicinity. However, no Bronze Age remains were found on the site itself.

A complex middle Iron Age settlement lies c.350m to the south-east and the pattern of the settlement suggests that the remains extend towards the southern end of the eastern field of the proposed development. Further settlement evidence was found c.800m and c.900m to the west with a rectangular enclosure and indications of burning and animal processing. Iron Age pottery and ditches were also found within Boxworth c.880m to the south-west. Although no evidence of this nature has been found within the site, it is clear that the area contains a wide Iron Age landscape, the limits of which have not yet been defined. The archaeological potential for Iron Age remains to survive within the site is moderate.

A Roman field system lies c.300m to the south-west and a dense area of activity was discovered within Boxworth, c.880m to the south-west, comprising ladder enclosures. No associated settlements have been found but they are not expected to survive on the site due to the lower topography.

The Roman ladder enclosures in Boxworth appear to have been used into the Saxon period, demonstrated through finds of significant quantities of Saxon pottery within the Roman ditches. The area was abandoned but repopulated at the end of the period, prior to the Norman Conquest. It is likely that a Saxon settlement lies in

the area around the church and less likely to have been positioned on the lower ground around the site.

Boxworth was a relatively large settlement during the medieval period, surrounded by open fields. An extensive early medieval field system of furlong boundary banks survives in several areas around the site. Ridge and furrow survives in small pockets on the outskirts of the village and in occasional patches in the wider landscape. Larger areas have been recorded from aerial photography of the 20th century but LiDAR data suggests that substantial amounts have since been lost through modern farming and road construction. Although ridge and furrow is not visible on LiDAR on the site, traces of post-medieval furrows were found during a trial trench evaluation in the south-western corner and it is likely to survive across the eastern field in the same way.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the majority of the current field boundaries of the site have been in place since before 1650. The site has remained as open ground as either pasture or cultivated land until the recent construction of the Highways England compound and no buildings are known to have been constructed on the site during the post-medieval or modern periods.

Limitations to archaeological potential

The southern and western areas of the site have been used as a compound for construction works on the new A14 and as such have been subject to surfacing and truncation by buried services. A quantity of soil has been removed during the process of deconstructing the temporary hard surfacing but it is not clear to what extent ground reduction has taken place or the methods that will be employed for the reinstatement of the farmland.

Table 2: Summary of archaeological potential by period

Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age
Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate

Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern
Low	Low	Moderate	High	Low

3.4 Archaeological significance

Significance refers to a standardised measurement system that is used to objectively assess the importance of archaeological and historical remains, including Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets. The level of archaeological sensitivity can only be assessed against the known or likely presence of archaeological remains on or around the site.

Table 3: Criteria for assessing the relative importance of cultural heritage sites

Level of significance	Definition
Very high	Sites of international importance: World Heritage Sites
High	Sites of national importance include those that are designated as Scheduled Monuments or those that are considered to be suitable for scheduling, Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings, Registered Battlefields, Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens
Medium	Sites of regional importance include Grade II Listed Buildings, Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas and those sites which are considered to be significant regional examples with well-preserved evidence of occupation, industry etc.
Low	Sites which are of less-defined extent, nature and date or which are in a poor or fragmentary state, but which are considered to be significant examples in a local context
Negligible	Areas in which investigative techniques have produced negative or minimal evidence of antiquity
None	Sites or areas where large-scale destruction of the archaeological resource has taken place (e.g. by mineral extraction).

Table 4: Summary of archaeological significance by period

Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age
Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern
Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Remains from the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods are not known from the area around the site and so an assessment of the significance of potential remains cannot effectively be made. In the event that such remains were to be discovered, they are likely to be of low significance. Residual finds dating to the Neolithic suggest that the significance of remains from this period is low.

Any remains relating to the Bronze Age field system 1km to the west of the site will be of interest. The low-lying nature of the site at the edge of the fens would normally increase the likelihood of surviving waterlogged remains. However, no deposits of this nature were found during the trial trench evaluation and so the significance of potential Bronze Age remains is unlikely to be greater than important examples in a local context.

Remains dating to the Iron Age have the potential to be of medium importance if they are connected to the nearby settlement to the east and can be tied into the wider Iron Age landscape. However, no remains of this date survive in the western area and any remains are likely to be fragmentary in nature and would be of low significance.

Roman field systems have been found in the vicinity of the site but it is unlikely that a settlement lay within the boundary, due to the local topography. Further evidence of field systems may lie within the eastern field but remains of this type would be of low significance.

Saxon remains are unlikely to have existed on the site as the land is likely to have been seasonally wet at this time. Any Saxon remains are likely to be connected to farming practices and would be of low significance.

The extensive medieval furlong boundary remains within the nearby fields are indicative of the efforts made to control drainage and protect the fields at the fen edge from flooding. However, the earthworks are not thought to extend into the site and medieval ridge and furrow does not survive within the western area. Traces of furrows may be present in the eastern field but no further medieval remains are likely to be present. The significance of medieval remains within the site will be low.

Post-medieval ridge and furrow survives within the western area of the site and is of negligible significance. Cartographic evidence suggests that the site lay within open ground during this time and was used as seasonal pasture before the land was drained for cultivation.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development site lies on the south side of the A14 Cambridge Services, adjacent to Boxworth Road, Cambridgeshire. There is one Grade II* and one Grade II Listed Building within 1km of the site within the village of Boxworth. The development proposals will have no impact on the Listed Buildings, their settings, the significance of those settings or the ability to appreciate them.

A realistic assessment of the buried archaeological potential of the site can be made, owing to the large volume of archaeological work that has been undertaken within the site and across the adjacent landscape in the course of the construction of the new A14. Archaeological remains of all periods from the Neolithic onwards are known from within 1km of the site.

The assessment has identified that there is a low potential for archaeological remains of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon and modern date; moderate potential for remains of Iron Age and medieval date and a high potential for remains of post-medieval date to survive on the site. If present at the site, remains of all periods are expected to be of low significance.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the majority of the field boundaries were established before 1650 and that the site remained as open ground as either pasture or cultivated land until the construction of the construction compound.

The western part of the site has been subject to a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation which revealed traces of post-medieval furrows but no further archaeological evidence has survived in this area. A significant portion of the site has been truncated by the former compound but the extent to which this area of the site has been disturbed is unclear. Archaeological remains may survive within the central and eastern parts of the site.

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MOLA Northampton
November 2021

APPENDIX 1

Policy background

National policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides national guidance on the preservation, management and investigation of the parts of the historic environment that are historically, archaeologically, architecturally or artistically significant and are known as heritage assets (MHCLG 2021).

The framework covers those heritage assets that possess a level of interest sufficient to justify designation as well as those that are not designated but which are of heritage interest and are thus a material planning consideration. Where nationally important archaeological remains are affected by development then there should be a presumption in favour for their conservation.

Paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework recognises that:

Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

Paragraph 194 states that:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant Historic Environment Record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require the developer to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Paragraph 195 states that:

Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Paragraph 199 states that:

When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance).

Paragraph 203 also recognises that:

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Local Policy

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018-2031 contains policies relating to archaeology and heritage:

Policy NH/14: Heritage Assets

1. Development proposals will be supported when:
 - a. They sustain and enhance the special character and distinctiveness of the district's historic environment including its villages and countryside and its building traditions and details;
 - b. They create new high quality environments with a strong sense of place by responding to local heritage character including in innovative ways.
2. Development proposals will be supported when they sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their settings, as appropriate to their significance and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, particularly:
 - c. Designated heritage assets, i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens;
 - d. Non-designated heritage assets including those identified in conservation area appraisals, through the development process and through further supplementary planning documents;
 - e. The wider historic landscape of South Cambridgeshire including landscape and settlement patterns;
 - f. Designed and other landscapes including historic parks and gardens, churchyards, village greens and public parks;
 - g. Historic places;
 - h. Archaeological remains of all periods from the earliest human habitation to modern times (SCDC 2021)

The western arm of the site lies within a minerals consultation area and the northern half of the eastern field falls within a waste water treatment works safeguarding area.

The western and central parts of the site are included within the proposed new allocations of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals 2021, which is currently in consultation from 1st November until 13th December 2021. The eastern field is not currently included within the proposals (OC 2021).