



Cambridgeshire's archaeological archives – a solution

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Cambridgeshire Archaeological Stores

- ◆ We are not a museum
- ◆ Solely archaeological store opened in 1992
- ◆ Acts as a repository for the county as part of the Historic Environment Record
- ◆ Supports local museums by storing material from developer funded excavations: main focus is collection of archives
- ◆ The whole archaeological archive is taken in and material is loaned out for display





CCC
WHITE
FARM
BARN



Previous plans

- ◆ 1992: Landbeach store opened in response to PPG16 pressures
- ◆ 1990s: CCC funded heritage centre (combined with County Records Office)
- ◆ 2001: PFI funded cultural centre
- ◆ 2006: CCC funded independent store
- ◆ 2007: CCC funded joint services store
- ◆ 2008: Cross-border museums and archaeology store
- ◆ 2010: Time to develop our own solution



Our adopted solution

- ◆ Vacate premises in Landbeach
- ◆ Move bulk material that does not require active monitoring to an 'off site' store
- ◆ Move material that requires active monitoring, is fragile and regularly used items to a converted 'on site' store in the Castle Court bunker
- ◆ Catalogue to be made available through HER
- ◆ Storage must be cost effective and provide for rapid record retrieval

Procurement and contract

- CCC procurement process adhered to (contract advertised globally)
- 11 tenders submitted
- The two highest scoring bids were followed up with visits to the intended stores and detailed negotiations
- Contract awarded to DeepStore

The cataloguing challenge...

To re-catalogue over 13,000 boxes

- ◆ quickly
- ◆ reliably
- ◆ in an standardised but flexible format
- ◆ that would allow us to pinpoint and retrieve individual items without having to lift box lids!



DEEPSTORE

B000001503680

Cambridgeshire County Council HER

Sources & Archives SCB22704 Filtered

Details

Type: Material archive (MA) Year(s) of Origination: 2011

Title: Mermaid Spinney, Boxworth

Originator: Oxford Archaeology East

Unused: [] Unused: []

Abstract or Summary: []

Description, publication details etc: []

ForADS?: []

References:

▶ BOXS	20797	X	▲
DSBC	B000001517860	X	
COTX	1-18	X	
SITC	BOX MES 11	X	▼

Collection

Organisation: [] Location: Off-site store

Monuments Events HLC Designations Archives

ID	Specific Ref	Name	Event Type	View/Del
▶ ECB3606	=	Evaluation at Mermaid Spinney, Boxwo	Event - Intervention	▶ X
		1. Archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to development at Mermaid Spinney, High Street, Boxworth in		X
*	=			▶ X

LibraryLink: [] Associated Files: []

- ◆ Example record: Pottery from contexts 1-18 from an evaluation excavation carried out in 2011 by Oxford Archaeology East at Mermaid Spinney, Boxworth. If we wished to examine this pottery we would recall the box barcoded B000001517860



Cambridgeshire County Council HER

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	SITC	BOX MES 11	X	▼

Collection

Organisation: Location: Off-site store

Monuments Events HLC Designations Archives

Material: Pottery

Loan history

Location	Date from	Date to
▶ <input type="button" value="Unused:"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

LibraryLink: 0 Associated Files: 0

Grand Arcade

- ◆ Request by the Museum of Cambridge for 20 sherds of stamped pottery (stamped with the names of cooks employed by Cambridge colleges during the 18th-19th centuries)
- ◆ Over 800kg of pottery (43,876 sherds) across hundreds of bulk archive boxes
- ◆ Quick and easy process to retrieve individual sherds (based on the quality of the report, the accuracy of the cataloguing procedure and the ease of retrieval process from DeepStore)

Deepstore Ltd

- ◆ Established in 1998 to use underground void that was created by mining at Salt Union's rock salt mine
- ◆ 150 metres underground, has consistent temperature and humidity levels (13 degrees and 58% RH); no danger of ultraviolet light, vermin or flooding
- ◆ Current space over 200 million m³ over the area of 700 football pitches and growing (1 million tonnes salt p/a)
- ◆ PD5454 compliant or non-compliant, or bespoke options
- ◆ Art works, historical records and architectural models are among the items currently stored underground.
- ◆ Archives are maintained for financial institutions, police departments, universities, architects and hospitals.
- ◆ Some small scale museum use already











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W2BA AB-03-3-01

W2BA AB-03-3-02

W2BA AB-03-3-03

W2BA AB-03-3-04

W2BA AB-03-3-05

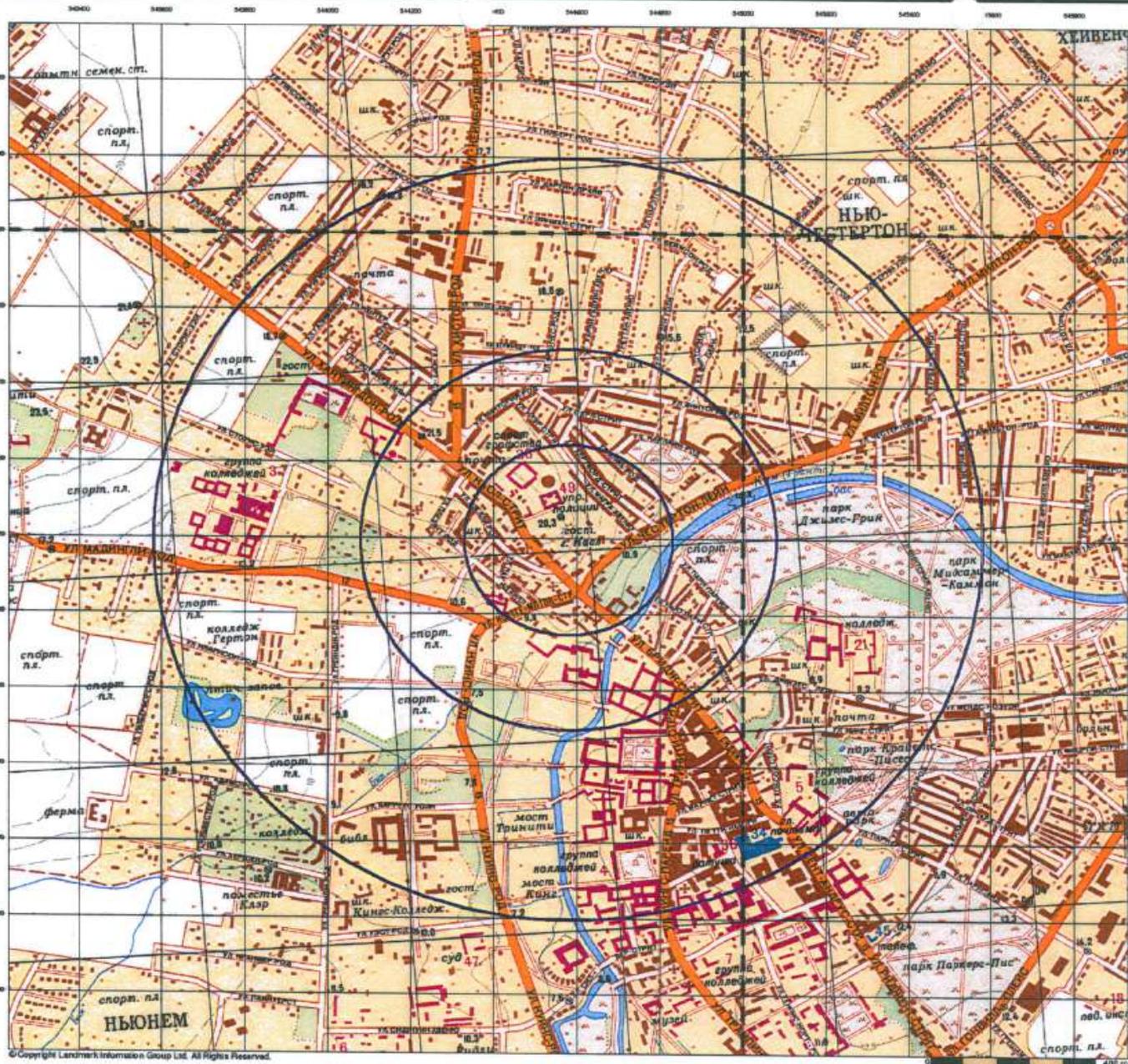
DEEPSTORE
XXXXXXXXXXXX
R00000151968

HSR



Cambridge Nuclear Bunker

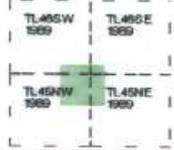
- ◆ Built 1987 as local government control centre; now redundant
- ◆ Secure and on site; a very hard building to use but readily upgradeable
- ◆ Now has secure, environmentally controlled storage that holds fragile material, anything that requires active conservation PLUS our handling and display packs



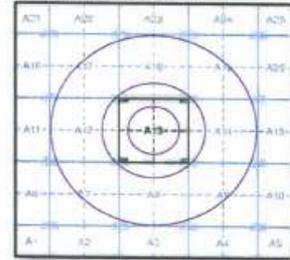
Cambridge
Published 1989
Source map scale - 1:10,000

These maps were produced by the Russian military during the Cold War between 1959 and 1997, and cover 103 towns and cities throughout the U.K. The maps are produced at 1:25,000, 1:10,000 and 1:5,000 scale, and show detailed land use, with colour-coded areas for development, green areas, and non-developed areas. Buildings are coloured black and important building uses (such as hospitals, post offices, factories etc.) are numbered, with a numbered key describing their use. They were produced by the Russians for the benefit of navigation, as well as strategic military sites and transport hubs, for use if they were to have invaded the U.K. The detailed information provided indicates that the areas were surveyed using land-based personnel, on the ground, in the cities that are mapped.

Map Name(s) and Date(s)



Russian Map - Slice A



Order Details

Order Number: 26500624_1_1
 Customer Ref: 5051197, 1595,020
 National Grid Reference: 544580, 259190
 Slice: A
 Site Area (Ha): 0.01
 Search Buffer (m): 1000

Site Details

Cambridgeshire County Council, Shire Hall, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 0AP



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Repackaging archive

- ◆ We repackaged archive to ensure its safety during transit both to and from Deepstore
- ◆ We use plastazote chippings in finds bags to fill the empty space in bulk boxes.



Cambridgeshire
County Council



FOR PEANUTS ONLY



B000001545181

DEEPSTORE



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Guidelines

◆ Available from our website:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology

◆ Rewritten and consulted on with sector to reflect changes in requirements for newly created incoming archive.

Administration of archive

- ◆ Conservation needs and ongoing requirements are more easily obtainable
- ◆ Itemising objects for display and outreach initiatives is more efficient
- ◆ Organising access for research and sampling is quicker



Next steps

- ◆ Changes to PXA requirements in (summer 2015)
- ◆ Greater online availability of catalogue (2015-16)
- ◆ Improved condition checking at bunker
(autumn 2015)
- ◆ Salt monitoring at DeepStore (2015-16)
- ◆ Offering process to other institutions as a costed service (2015-16)

Contacts

For more information on the project please contact:

- ◆ Quinton Carroll - Historic Environment Team
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Cambridgeshire, a great place to call home



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DEEPSTORE
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
A Compass Minerals Company



ARCHAEOLOGY
DATA SERVICE



Cambridge Archaeological Unit
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

 **exeGesls**
Spatial Data Management

oxfordarchaeology



easteasteast

