

# Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay

## An Archaeological Evaluation



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**Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay**  
*An Archaeological Evaluation*

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### ***Non-Technical Summary***

*Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation at Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay, between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. No archaeological activity was identified within any of the three excavated trenches and four test-pits, although there was evidence of significant truncation across parts of the site.*

## **Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 at Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire prior to the submission of a planning application. Commissioned by Mr N. Wright of Green End Trading Co. the evaluation aimed to establish the presence, date, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains. The evaluation was carried out and this report written in accordance with an archaeological specification written by the CAU (Beadsmoore 2010) in response to a brief by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET). It was approved and monitored by an Archaeological Officer from HET.

### *Location, Topography and Geology*

The proposed development area (PDA) is within the village of Gamlingay, in southwest Cambridgeshire (see Figure 1) and centred on TL 2339 5242. Originally the area was on a slight hill but during the construction of the industrial estate, part of the area was terraced. The estate's height varies from 54.6m OD along the northern edge to 51.8m OD along the southern edge.

The underlying geology is Lower Green Sand consisting of reddish brown sand and sandstones (British Geological Survey 1976).

### *Archaeological Background*

Very little archaeology has been identified within the western half of Gamlingay, although a Bronze Age arrowhead and flint blade were recovered some 50m south of the PDA (CHER 02395). Prehistoric remains, including an enclosure, have been identified in the eastern half of the village approximately 1km from the PDA (CHER 11980) and an Early-Middle Saxon settlement and cemetery was also excavated at this location (CHER 11980A). Medieval buildings and other remains are also present within this half of the village including a moated site at Merton Manor Farm (CHER 01139), a 12-13<sup>th</sup> century chapel (CHER 00253) and a late medieval Almshouse (CHER 02313).

Prehistoric activity has also been found just outside the village including a flint arrowhead and other lithic material recovered some 800m southeast of the PDA (00105) and Neolithic flint tools 800m to the southwest (CHER 02393).

### *Methodology*

The PDA was evaluated by three trenches totalling 23.2m in length and four 2m x 2m test-pits, which were specifically located outside of the area known to have been terraced, as it is unlikely any archaeology would have survived within this area. Both the trenches and test-pits were excavated within accessible areas of the estate, including car-parks or hard-standing that consisted either of tarmac overlaying hardcore or reinforced concrete upto 0.30cm thick. Both of these surfaces required cutting by a floor saw with a water immersed blade, and the concrete required additional mechanical breaking. After the surface had been removed the exposed

underlying deposits were excavated with a tracked 360° machine with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches and test-pits were planned digitally and no archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health & Safety legislation and with the recommendations of FAME (Allen & Holt 2010) and in accordance with a site specific risk assessment and the CAU Health & Safety policy. The CAU assigned site code is GEG 10 and CHER number is ECB3513.

### *Archive*

No features were recorded and no finds recovered. A data sheet recording the general information of each trench and test-pit was generated and a digital photographic archive was compiled. These records have been assembled into a catalogued archive in line with Appendix 1 of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and are being stored at the CAU offices.

## **Results**

No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds were recovered from any of the trenches or test-pits. Trenches 1-3 were all located towards the western half of the PDA within an area of hard standing, whilst the four test-pits were located in various locations around the PDA (see Figure 1). Tables 1 and 2 give brief summaries of each trench and test-pit and Figure 2 comprises photos of each test-pit.

### *Trench 1*

Measuring 6m in length on a southwest-northeast orientation, T.1 was cut through reinforced concrete and hardcore measuring 0.5m deep. Underlying this was a partially preserved subsoil 0.35m deep which was scanned by eye and metal detected for finds but none were recovered; no archaeological features were present.

### *Trench 2*

Measuring 7.5m in length on a southeast-northwest orientation, T.2 was cut through a layer of hardcore 0.37m deep. Underlying this, was a partially preserved subsoil 0.19m deep which was scanned by eye and metal detected for finds but none were recovered; no archaeological features were present.

### *Trench 3*

Measuring 9.7m in length on a southwest-northeast orientation, T.3 was cut through a layer of hardcore 0.25m deep. Underlying this was a subsoil 0.30m deep which was scanned by eye and metal detected for finds but none were recovered; no archaeological features were present.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Tarmac/Concrete Avr (m)	Hardcore Avr (m)	Subsoil/Other Deposits Avr (m)	Ground surface (m OD)
1	SW-NE	6	0.4	0.1	0.35	54.2
2	SE-NW	7.5	-	0.37	0.19	54.1
3	SW-NE	9.7	-	0.25	0.32	53.7

**Table 1: Trench Summary**

#### *Test-pit 1*

TP.1, located at the northern end of the PDA, cut through reinforced concrete and hardcore 0.56m deep. This overlay a partially preserved subsoil 0.35m deep which was scanned by eye and metal detected for finds but none were recovered; no archaeological features or layers were present.

#### *Test-pit 2*

TP.2 was located within a tarmac car park in the southern half of the PDA. It cut through 0.33m of tarmac and hardcore which overlay a thin layer of disturbed natural 0.10m deep. No subsoil was present and no archaeological features or layers were identified.

#### *Test-pit 3*

TP.3 was located within a tarmac area towards the southern edge of the PDA. It cut through 0.27m of tarmac and hardcore, which overlay a substantial deposit of made-ground 1.1m deep which consisted of dark sandy soil mixed with large quantities of building rubble and modern (post 1950's) rubbish.

#### *Test-pit 4*

TP.4 was located within an area of hard standing in the northeast corner of the PDA. It cut through 0.68m of reinforced concrete and hardcore, which overlay a thin band of disturbed natural 0.09m deep. No subsoil was present and no archaeological features or layers were identified.

Test-pit	Tarmac/Concrete (m)	Hardcore (m)	Subsoil/other deposits (m)	Ground Surface (m OD)	Notes
1	0.4	0.16	0.35	54.6	No archaeology
2	0.1	0.23	0.1	52.2	No archaeology
3	0.15	0.2	1.1	51.8	Deep layer of made ground. No archaeology
4	0.4	0.28	0.09	53.77	No archaeology

**Table 2: Test-pit Summary**

## **Discussion**

The area of the PDA where the three trenches and TP.1 were located has a partially preserved subsoil layer beneath the concrete/tarmac and hardcore suggesting that if there was any archaeological activity in the PDA, it could be preserved, although nothing was found during the course of this evaluation. Within TP.'s 2 and 4 however, no subsoil layer was encountered and the hardcore and tarmac/concrete had been laid directly onto the underlying geology. This suggests these parts of the PDA have been truncated to some extent and potentially any archaeology within these areas could have either been removed or damaged. The deep layer of made-ground within TP.3 suggests this part of the PDA has been severely truncated and that any archaeology here would have been removed, although it is unclear how far this layer extends.

The evaluation has shown that parts of the PDA have been truncated; suggesting that if there had been archaeology here it may not have survived. Although, the lack of archaeology within the less truncated trenches suggests this area was not densely utilised prior to the construction of the industrial estate.

## **Acknowledgements**

The work was commissioned by Mr N. Wright on behalf of Green End Trading Co. and the site was monitored by Dan McConnell (HET). Emma Beadsmore was the project manager and thanks go to Will Punchard for assisting the author on site and Bryan Crossan for surveying the trenches and test-pits.

## References

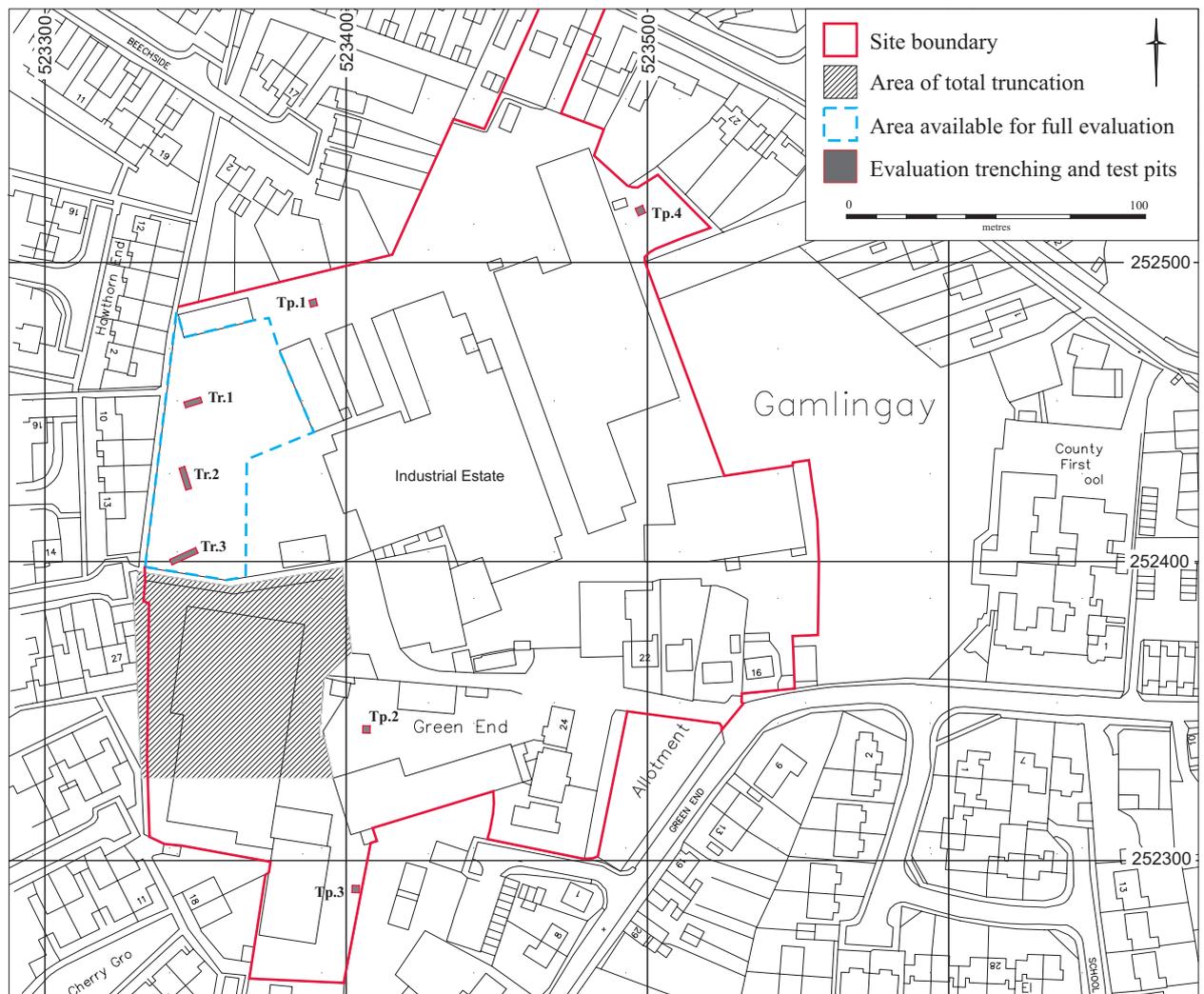
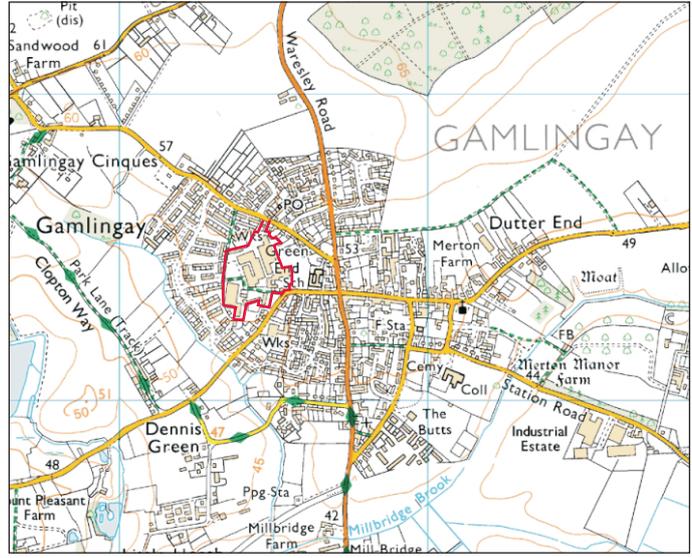
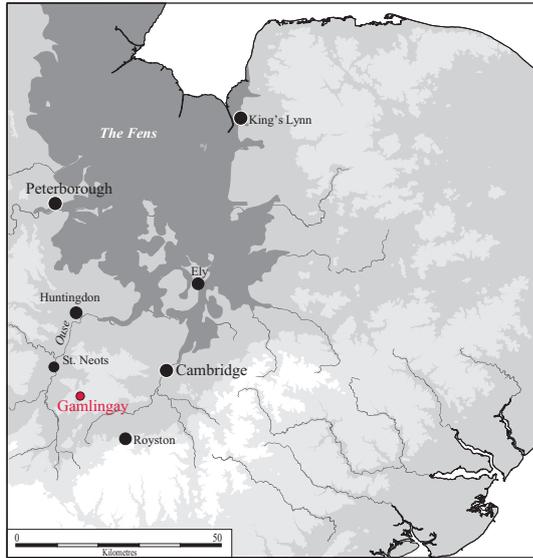
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Figure 1. Site location and trench / test pit location



Test pit 1



Test pit 2



Test pit 3



Test pit 4

Figure 2. Test pits 1-4

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### Project details

Project name	Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation at Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay, between the 8th and 11th of November 2010. No archaeological activity was identified within any of the three excavated trenches and four test-pits, although there was evidence of significant truncation across parts of the site.
Project dates	Start: 08-11-2010 End: 11-11-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE GAMLINGAY Green End Industrial Estate, Gamlingay
Postcode	SG19 3LF
Study area	4.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 2339 5242 52.1558316101 -0.196119003381 52 09 20 N 000 11 46 W Point

Height OD / Depth      Min: 51.80m Max: 54.60m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation      Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Project brief originator      Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator      Emma Beadsmoore

Project director/manager      Emma Beadsmoore

Project supervisor      Matthew Collins

Type of sponsor/funding body      Landowner

Name of sponsor/funding body      Green End Trading Co.

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Digital Archive recipient      Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Digital Archive ID      GEG 10

Digital Contents      'none'

Digital Media available      'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient      Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Paper Archive ID      GEG 10

Paper Contents      'none'

Paper Media available      'Correspondence','Diary','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Survey','Unpublished Text'

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