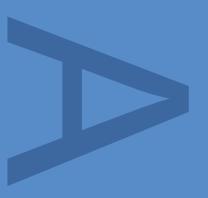
LAND AT CAMPKIN ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 2ND



ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION



SEPTEMBER 2014



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY R11843

LAND AT CAMPKIN ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 2ND

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Quality Control

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited The Granary Rectory Farm Brewery Road Pampisford Cambridgeshire CB22 3EN

Land at Campkin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 2ND:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Cambridgeshire County Council

Central National Grid Reference: NGR TL 4585 6119

Site Code: CCPC14

HER No. ECB 4149

Report No. R11843

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PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 1 of 28

CONTENTS

| CO | NTENTS | 2 |
|-----|---------------------------|----|
| ΑB | STRACT | 3 |
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| 2 | GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY | 6 |
| 3 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND | 7 |
| 4 | METHODOLOGY | 13 |
| 5 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE | 15 |
| 6 | THE FINDS | 16 |
| 7 | DISCUSSION | 17 |
| 8 | CONCLUSIONS | 18 |
| 9 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 19 |
| 10 | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 20 |
| 11 | APPENDIX 1: PLATES | 24 |
| 12 | APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX | 26 |
| 13 | APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM | 27 |
| EIC | SURE 1 SITE LOCATION | 21 |
| | SURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION | |
| | NUDE O TREMOU DI ANO | 22 |
| -10 | | 14 |

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a three trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Campkin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 2ND (NGR TL 4585 6119) on the 1st September 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to a planning condition attached to residential development of the site. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.

No archaeological features were revealed in the evaluation trenches. Significant ground disturbance associated with the 20th century residential development of the site was noted in all trenches, in particular to the south-eastern limit of site, where Trench 2 was located. Thick deposits of made ground and modern backfilling were encountered in Trenches 1-3. The depth of this disturbance, which often impacted upon the natural substrate, has likely removed any archaeological remains which may have been present, however a pocket of undisturbed ground was noted in Trench 1 where a thin lens of an agricultural soil was encountered. Although no finds were recovered from this soil, it likely derived during the medieval use of the area as agricultural land, as suggested by the presence of furrows recorded at the nearby site of Atkins Close (see PCA report R11837).

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Campkin Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 2ND (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4585 6119) on the 1st September 2014 (Figure 1; Plate 1).
- 1.2 The site is located in the parish of Chesterton, in the Kings Hedges Ward, to the north of Cambridge City Centre. The site is currently a residential area of modern/post war council housing, comprising a series of modern detached multiple occupancy dwellings set back from, but fronting onto Campkin Road with large areas of communal open green space to the road side. The general character of the area is urban residential, although commercial development has been created nearby with the construction of Orchard Park and the Cambridge Science Park. To the north, over the A14 trunk road the landscape retains its previous character of open farmland.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of new residential dwellings with associated services (Planning Reference TBD).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation from Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Thomas 2014).
- 1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.6 Three trial trenches of varying lengths, totalling 71m were excavated and recorded on 1st September 2014.

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 4 of 28

1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

PCA Report Number: R11843

Page 5 of 28

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The geological deposits that underlay Cambridgeshire predominantly date from the Cretaceous Period of geological history (65 to 140 million years ago) and are therefore relatively young. The geology is divided into a series of strata that outcrop in bands running roughly north-east to south-west across the district. These formations were laid down as successive marine deposits that have since been raised and tilted to slope south-eastwards by earth movements in Tertiary times (BGS 2014).
- 2.2 The area is underlain by Mudstone of the Gault Formation and overlain by superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The soils of the general area are of the Milton association, this consists of deep permeable calcareous fine loamy soils, often affected by groundwater.
- 2.3 No geotechnical work has been undertaken on the site.
- 2.4 The site lies along the upper north-western slopes of the Cam river valley and to the north of Cambridge City Centre. The site resides close to the 15m contour, the topography being generally flat.

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 6 of 28

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk based assessment (Garwood 2013).
- The lighter soils and river gravel deposits along the Cam river valley were 3.2 favourable for prehistoric settlement; the archaeological investigations and chance finds in the general area of the site have revealed significant remains from the later prehistoric period. Arbury Camp, an Iron Age ringwork (8479) is located at a short distance to the west of the planned development area (PDA) and outside the search area, as is significant Iron Age settlement activity unearthed between Huntingdon and Histon Roads (Cambridge Historic Environment Record Reference 8479; MCB 17820) and an Iron Age burial ground which lies to the north-east of Chesterton Village. Together they indicate the presence of a substantial later prehistoric landscape which once extended across this part of Cambridge. This evidence is further compounded by the data from the 3.3 search area.
 - Despite the discovery of a single small ovate palaeolithic handaxe found in the garden of No. 377 Milton Road (MCB19188), little evidence of early prehistoric activity has been discovered within the search area. The wealth of the evidence points toward later Iron Age activity, though some evidence of later Bronze Age activity has been unearthed. Most significantly was a Late Bronze Age hoard (5452) recovered from Browns gravel pit c. 800m to the south-east. This was a typical founders hoard, recovered from where it had evidently been buried in a bag. Another hoard consisting of 17 socketed axes, and fragments, 1 socketed spear-head, 1 gouge, 1 ring, and 14 metal lumps, was also found in the same gravel pit. The only other evidence of Later Bronze Age activity takes the form of a single ditch unearthed at Harris Road (MCB19296) during an excavation in 2010.
- 3.4 While c. 350m to the north-west of the site a series of excavations at the Arbury Road site (Manor Farm) in 1968-69 including sites (5419A site 9, 5416A, 5415A, 5414A & 5413A) all uncovered evidence of later prehistoric, Iron Age activity. The excavations revealed evidence of settlement with examples of earthworks, wells, an oven and a timber built structure, pits and

an array of late prehistoric artefacts. It is notable that the site, like that at Histon Road (MCB17820), also continued as a settlement into the Roman period. Further, but less extensive evidence of Iron Age activity was unearthed near to the Arbury Road sites at King Hedges School with the remains of a Iron Age ditch and post hole (5421B) and a probable prehistoric ditch (MCB 16897) and a series of Iron Age pits discovered at Browns Gravel pits (5452a) c. 800m to the south-east.

- 3.5 Roman occupation in the wider area was on a considerable scale. The substantial town of Dvroliponte (later known as Cambridge), focused around Castle Hill, lies only c.1.5km to the south of the site while important Roman settlements have been recorded in the wider area at Godmanchester, St Neots and Great Chesterford.
- 3.6 The route of the former Roman Road (5352) of Akeman Street, which runs north from Cambridge to Ely, crosses the area at a short distance (c. 450m) to the west of the site while a number of Roman buildings (5411, 5421 & 5424) were unearthed during excavations in 1951-2, 1965-66 and 1995) at the former Manor Farm site, Arbury Road, close to the road at c. 450m to the west of the PDA. Excavations in 1951 - 1952 revealed structural remains and debris extending over an area about 120ft by 50ft some 200yds southeast of the Roman road . The area yielded fragments of roofing and flue tiles, coarse red and white tesserae, painted wall-plaster and traces of robbed chalk foundations. Pottery of the 3rd and 4th century was found. Excavation revealed a substantial settlement, occupied from Iron Age to Roman periods. On site II (5420), occupation did not begin until the 1st century AD and several ditches contained debris from buildings over a period from the 1st to the 4th century. In the second occupation phase a rectangular building with aisles formed by square columns was constructed, partly in stone. In the centre of the south wall was an entrance porch to which a road led from the south-east. Debris from the building included tesserae, floor-tiles, wall-plaster, flue tiles and limestone blocks re-used in a later building, some of which were carved. It appears that the building, which was destroyed by fire, was occupied in the 2nd and 3rd century. Its function

remains obscure but the sculptured blocks may indicate a religious use. In the late 3rd or 4th century the derelict building was adapted for use as a house with two suites of rooms flanking a large hall or court. Three or four of the rooms on the south were heated and had tessellated floors, plastered walls and glazed windows. North of the tessellated court was a kitchen block. The debris of an associated well include blocks of carved limestone besides six human skulls. Remains from other sites (IV, VI and VII, 5419 site 17, 5417 and 5416) consisted largely of pits, wells, enclosure ditches and earthworks.

- 3.7 Evidence of associated Roman inhumation cemeteries have been uncovered nearby at the Arbury Road (5425), the Arbury Road allotment site (5288) and on the Kings Hedges Estate (5213). Roman burials discovered during the laying of a water main along Arbury Road in the area of the line of the Roman Road (5425 site 20) comprised two high status burials within masonry coffins, a burial in a timber coffin and many articulated and disturbed inhumations. Glassware of the late 3rd or 4th century AD and many inurned cremations were also unearthed. Roman inhumations and pottery were found during gardening/digging in Arbury Road allotments 1937 (5288) while a number of Roman inhumations were found near to the line of the Roman Road at the King's Hedges Estate in 1970 (5213 site 22). It is clear that the cemetery area was considerable as the burials extend further to the south and along the eastern side of the Roman Road with burials occurring sites at Humphreys Road (5430), c 340m SE of the PDA, Fortesque Road (5427) c. 250m east of the site, Brimley Road (5429) c. 430m to the SE and at Kings Hedges Farm, Impington, (CB 15697) where excavations revealed a Roman cremation dating from the 1st to mid 2nd century AD.
- 3.8 A section of Roman road (Akeman Street) metalling and associated roadside features were found during an archaeological investigation at the Gypsy Ditches site (10087) to the north-west, while a Roman pit (5428) was unearthed to the north of Alex Wood Road and a possible Roman ditch and palisade trench with associated postholes were identified during a small

evaluation at the Manor Community College (MCB 16487) situated c. 550m south-west.

- 3.9 Cropmark evidence from aerial photography taken prior to the construction of the present estates show evidence of considerable Roman field systems on land north of Arbury Road (5435) and in the area of Neptune Close (5432). Both broadly correlate with the Manor Farm sites and associated evidence, such as the field system, enclosures and gravel workings at unearthed at Apollo Way (MCB15936).
- 3.10 From the 11th century Chesterton hundred consisted of three separate blocks of land, intermingled with Northstowe hundred and by 1066 was assessed at exactly 120 hides. In the south-east was the royal demesne vill of Chesterton (30 hides), in the north Histon (30 hides) and Cottenham with Westwick (30 hides), in the west Dry Drayton and the two Childerleys (30 hides). Chesterton, situated north of the Roman ceastre north of the river Cam, perhaps represented a quarter of the territory of an Anglo-Saxon royal vill spanning the river, from which the other three quarters were detached when a burgh was established at the river crossing, probably in the 8th century. Chesterton continued as a rural vill, bounded south-east by the river, south-west mostly by the Cambridge-Huntingdon road, following the line of a Roman road. At the south-east corner the boundary of Chesterton circles north from the river to enclose the Roman and Saxon settlement that became Cambridge's northern suburb. (British History on Line).
- 3.11 1.21. In a wider context the site also lies close to Fen Ditton meaning " tun or the village by the ditch", a reference derived from its position beside the northern section of the Fleam Dyke, a Saxon or possibly earlier dyke that passes east to west through that village and runs for 3 km. (1½ miles) from the Cam in the east to the edge of the fens at stow-cum-quy, in the west.
- 3.12 In comparison to the evidence of Roman and Iron Age activity in the area, the case for Anglo-Saxon activity close to the site is less convincing. The search uncovered only two sites of Saxon date, both were located to the north and east of the PDA and comprised features or pits. A series of

features of probable Saxon date were uncovered during an evaluation at Kings Hedges School in 1994-5 (5421b) while a single pit containing late Saxon pottery (which may have been intrusive) was uncovered at the Arbury Road Roman Settlement (5424a).

- 3.13 During the medieval period the general area of the site came under the influence of the Barnwell Priory and the Augustinian monks (or Black Canons). Although the priory site lies outside the study area Barnwell Priory would have had a considerable influence on the political, social and agricultural landscape at the time. The house of Canons Regular at Cambridge became the Priory of Barnwell. It was established by the time of the Domesday survey and the construction of the church of St. Giles by Cambridge Castle in 1092. Barnwell Priory, moved from near Cambridge Castle, to its present site in 1112. It was surrendered during the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII in 1538 and much of its stone was robbed out and re- used for the new chapel of Corpus Christi College. The parish area includes the 5-acre site of the royal castle, built in 1068 as one of three castles built across the east of England during the aftermath of the northern campaign to capture York.
- It is thought that this area of Cambridge outside the city centre was primarily in agricultural use during the medieval period up until its inclosure in the 19th century. The archaeological evidence correlates with this assumption, as the majority of the medieval activity within the study area is takes the form of medieval agriculture, with extant earthworks and evidence relating to use of ridge and furrow agriculture. Evidence of ridge and furrow has been identified to the north-west at the Neptune Close site (5435a), between Milton Rd and Hawkins Rd and behind the Dunn Nutrition Unit (10106). Outside the search area, evidence of, and remnant ridge and furrow was uncovered during an evaluation at the Cambridge Business Park (MCB 15918).
- 3.15 Other remains include a medieval pit or well recorded prior to buildings works at Humphreys Road in 1952 (5430a), a medieval headland found along the line of the Roman Road in the garden of No. 19 Mere Way

(MCB17405) and an undated but probable medieval moated enclosure (1105) of c. 125 square feet located north of Scotland Road and preserved as part of a childrens playground within the housing estate.

3.16 The evidence from the medieval period strongly suggests that this area to the north of the city centre was primarily agricultural in character comprising either arable or pasture and including areas of common and grazing meadow. The parish therefore remained predominantly arable from the medieval period until its inclosure in 1838. Thereafter the southern two thirds of the parish were steadily overrun by the suburban expansion of Cambridge, while the northern part of the parish toward the A14 was largely occupied (by the 1980s) by the sewage works and industrial estates, apart from some scattered playing and sports fields and an area of 'green belt' along the north-western border. From the 1930s the emphasis changed from private to public building. In about 1930 there followed more council estates around Kendal Way and Ramsden Square each side of the Milton Road beyond the point which ribbon building had then reached. More extensive council building followed the Second World War. In 1947 the city council acquired the unused northern part of the former Hall Farm from St. John's College, and in the 1960s most of the former Manor Farm from the county council. From 1957 it developed North and South Arbury on c. 100 acre site between Gilbert Road and Arbury Road, around a network of side roads, eventually comprising c. 2,400 dwellings. In 1967 building began on the Kings Hedges Estate north-west of Campkin Road, where by 1986 some 1,570 dwellings had been completed on 125 acre site, many in blocks of three and four storeys surrounded by grass. By the mid 1980s building had almost reached the city boundary. Whilst the search did record evidence of post-medieval activity it is of little relevance to the proposed development as the site clearly remained undisturbed (see cartographic) until it was developed as part of the Kings Hedges Estate in the late 1960s.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised three trial trenches measuring between c18m and c30m long, all of which were 1.8m wide (Figure 2).
- 4.2 All archaeological works was undertaken following the demolition of existing buildings within the bounds of the development area. A maximum of 150m of linear trial trenches are to be excavated, to cover the area of the new development.
- 4.3 These shall be positioned outside the footprints of the existing buildings and within less disturbed former garden areas.
- 4.4 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.5 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.6 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 13 of 28

- are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.7 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector. Only objects of modern date, including nails and rebar, were found and were not retained for accession.
- 4.8 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 None of the excavated trenches revealed archaeological features. Trench 1 discovered a possible Roman or Medieval agricultural horizon. This agricultural horizon may be related to field systems, with associated ridge and furrow, discovered nearby at Atkins Close (PCA R11837). All trenches revealed a substantial amount of modern disturbance with a sequence of made-ground and backfilling displayed in all trenches, in particular Trenches 2 and 3.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-east south-west and was located in the north-eastern end of the development area. The trench contained no archaeological features. The trench did contain a deposit of possible Medieval agricultural soil (006) which consisted of a mid to dark greybrown silty clay 0.10m in depth, however the deposit contained no finds to provide an accurate date. This deposit was overlain by a layer of backfill (001) which was 0.38m in depth.

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 This trench was positioned in the south-western corner of the development area and was aligned north-east south-west. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench due to substantial modern truncations, frequently truncating the upper surface of the natural substrate. This trench comprised of layers of modern backfill (004) and made ground (005) associated with the former land use.

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 was excavated through the centre of the development area, between Trench 1 to the north-east and Trench 2 to the south-west. The trench was aligned north-east south-west. There were no archaeological features or deposits identified, with a similar sequence of disturbed deposits to those encountered in Trench 2, with these deposits often truncating the upper surface of the natural substrate.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 No archaeological artefacts were recovered during the excavations at Campkin Road.

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 16 of 28

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The below-ground deposits at Campkin Road have clearly been impacted upon by modern ground disturbance resulting from the development of 20th century residential housing. Subsequently, any archaeological remains which may have been present may have been completely removed by this activity. A discrete lens of a probable agricultural soil survived in Trench 1 (006). Unfortunately no dateable material was found within this deposit, although the presence of furrows found during an evaluation at the nearby site of Atkins Close suggests this soil may have developed during the medieval period when this area of Cambridge was dominated by agricultural activity.

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 17 of 28

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The evaluation carried out at Campkin Road revealed limited evidence of archaeological activity, of the type identified in the desk based assessment (Garwood 2013) but this was severely truncated by groundworks associated with the former use. Only a discrete deposit of a potential medieval agricultural soil was identified during the evaluation but contained no artefacts to provide a precise date. It is likely this soil relates to medieval agricultural activity in the area, as highlighted by both the DBA (Garwood 2013) and by the presence of furrows in the nearby Atkin Close evaluation (PCA report R11837).

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 18 of 28

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Keepmoat for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department.

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 19 of 28

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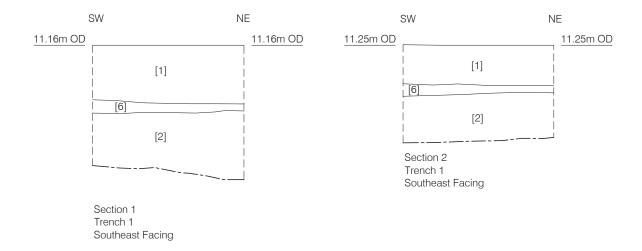
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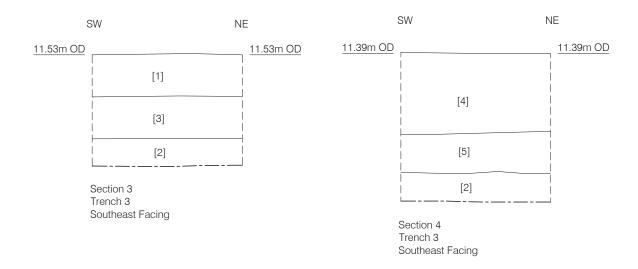
PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 20 of 28

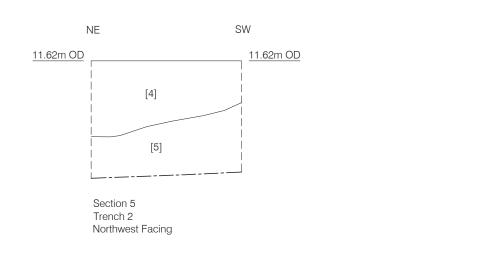


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Figure 2 Trench Location 1:800 at A4







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11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south-west



Plate 2: Trench 1 Agricultural horizon (006)

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 24 of 28



Plate 3: Modern building footings (004) within Trench 2



Plate 4: Trench 3 showing modern truncation

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context | Cut | Туре | Category | Period | Trench Number |
|---------|-----|-------|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| 1 | - | Layer | Made ground | Modern | 1-3 |
| 2 | - | Layer | | N/A | 1-3 |
| 3 | - | Layer | Made ground | Modern | 2 |
| 4 | - | Layer | Backfill | Modern | 2-3 |
| 5 | - | Layer | Made ground | Modern | 2-3 |
| 6 | - | Layer | Agricultural soil | Medieval | 1 |

PCA Report Number: R11843 Page 26 of 28

13 **APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM**

14

OASIS ID: preconst1-188935

Project details

Project name Land at Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2ND

Short description of the

project

An archaeological evaluation comprising 3 linear trial trenches

undertaken at Campkin road in september 2014.

Project dates Start: 01-09-2014 End: 01-09-2014

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project

reference codes

CCPC14 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential Monument type AGRICULTURAL SOIL Uncertain

Significant Finds **NONE None**

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Campkin Road

Postcode CB4 2ND

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 4585 6119 52.2291432498 0.13577883036 52 13 44 N 000 08

08 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 10.20m Max: 11.60m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Cambridge HET

Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project director/manager Mark Hinman **Matthew Jones** Project supervisor

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Name of sponsor/funding

body

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Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?

No

Digital Archive recipient

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

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Digital Archive ID CCPC14
Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Paper Archive ID CCPC14
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