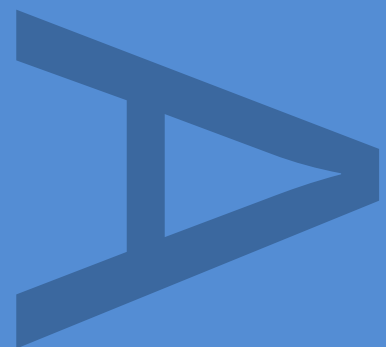


**Land at the former Auckland
Road Clinic Site, Cambridge,
Cambridgeshire, CB5 8DW: An
Archaeological Trial Trench
Evaluation**

December 2014



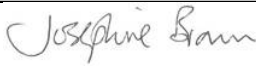
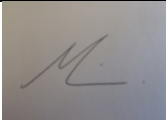
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11922**

LAND AT THE FORMER AUCKLAND ROAD CLINIC SITE, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB5 8DW

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Quality Control

| Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Project Number | K3759 |
| Report Number | R11922 |

| | Name & Title | Signature | Date |
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| Revision No. | Date | Checked | Approved |
|--------------|------|---------|----------|
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**Land at the former Auckland Road Clinic Site, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
CB5 8DW: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation**

Local Planning Authority: Cambridgeshire County Council

Planning Reference: 14/0978/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4582 5890

Site Code: CARC14

CHER No: ECB4335

Report No. R11922

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the former Auckland Road Clinic Site, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL4582 5890) between the 17th and the 18th November 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Cambridge and County Developments Ltd and MPM Properties in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a residential development with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation uncovered a significant amount of modern activity, most likely relating to the former land usage in this period. There was much evidence of made ground, which functioned as levelling deposits created prior to the creation of the car park for the clinic and general garden landscaping. Unfortunately due to the significant depth of these made ground deposits there was no evidence of earlier activity on this site, which is likely to have been truncated by this activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at the former Auckland Road Clinic Site, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (centre on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL4582 5890) from the 17th to the 18th November 2014 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Cambridge and County Ltd and MPM Properties in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of a new residential development, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference 14/0978/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne of PCA (Morgan-Shelbourne 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Dan McConnell (McConnell 2014) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The evaluation originally included 40m of linear trial trenching, however due to site conditions (see below) the program of trenching was limited to 18m.
- 1.6 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.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of Gault Formation Mudstone, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 100 to 112 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2014)

2.1.2 The southern area of the site has superficial deposits of alluvium. This comprises clay, silt, sand and gravel formed by the rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The development area gently slopes towards the River Cam, approximately 130m to the north.

2.2.2 The centre of the site is located at c.14m Over Datum (OD).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The proposed development area is located in the centre of Cambridge, to the north east of the historic core. The Auckland Road site lies within a former industrial area of the city, adjacent to a series of 18th and 19th century breweries that occupied the zone around Napier Street and the eastern end of the end of Newmarket Road. The Auckland Brewery was located on the corner of Auckland Road and Newmarket Road, and seems to have been in operation for a few years around 1875 (MCB17310).
- 3.1.2 An archaeological evaluation in 2012 on land off Auckland Road uncovered a truncated surface of levelled and re-deposited backfilled quarry fill, with traces of cut and re-cut quarry pits within it. This activity was dated to the post-medieval period (MCB19673).
- 3.1.3 Further industrial activity is located to the east, where the Britannia Ironworks was situated (MCB16546), while further east again laid the remains of the medieval Barnwell Priory (MCB12035).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The scheme comprised a planned program of 40m of linear evaluation trenches, which was limited to 18m due to site conditions, detailed below.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using an 8-ton 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 and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 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 as they were encountered/ created.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) 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.

4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).

4.2.3 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 are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.

4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. The evaluation identified significant amounts of made ground and levelling deposits.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features but did identify made ground and levelling deposits relating to the construction of the car park for the clinic previously on the site. These deposits comprised of dark grey brown silty clay (102), and mixed pale grey silty clay and red brown silty sand (104). Both of these deposits contained modern brick and tile and were clearly of modern date.

5.2.2 A layer of redeposited natural was investigated in the centre of the trench (105). It contained a single fill of mottled mid brown and yellow brown clay silt. It contained modern brick and tile, and was most likely a levelling deposit associated with the construction of the car park.

| TRENCH 1 | Figures 2-3 | | Plate 1 | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NE-SW | Length: 9.8m | Level of Natural (m OD): 9.62m | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | SW End | NE End | |
| Tarmac | (101) | 0.2m | 0.15m | |
| Levelling deposit | (102) | 0.25m | 0.2m | |
| Redeposited natural | (104) | N/A | 0.25m | |
| Natural | (103) | 0.3m+ | 0.55m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 1 was located close to the south-east boundary of the site. The trench contained evidence for made ground and levelling deposits relating to the car park for the clinic. | | | | |

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained evidence of modern truncations relating to landscaping for the gardens of Midsummer Limes house. These consisted of layers of redeposited natural (104) and of levelling deposits (102).

5.3.2 This trench contained a cut for a modern electricity cable. Due to the presence of this cable Trench 2 was cut short.

| TRENCH 2 | Figures 2-3 | | Plate 4 | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 7.8m | Level of Natural (m OD): 9.96m | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Tarmac | (101) | 0.12m | 0.10m | |
| Levelling deposit | (102) | 0.20m | 0.12m | |
| Redeposited natural | (104) | 0.14m | N/A | |
| Natural | (103) | 0.46m+ | 0.7m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 2 was located in the north-east part of the site. | | | | |
| There were no archaeological features in the trench: however a modern electricity cable was identified in this trench and as a result it was cut short. | | | | |

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Modern Activity

6.1.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified deposits of levelling and made ground relating to the construction of the car park for the clinic and garden landscaping.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 Although the densest concentration of activity is in the south-east part of the site, this is likely to be modern and has removed any evidence for earlier activity. There is unlikely to be any earlier activity present on this site due to the presence of modern buildings and other truncating features of this period.

6.2.2 The fieldwork has enhanced our understanding of the area, as we now are able to say that evidence relating to the 18th and 19th century breweries and other industrial activities are not present on the site. Although it is possible that the surrounding area outside of the car park has not been as affected by modern activity truncating the archaeological horizon, the evidence from the site is unable to posit answers as to the survival of archaeological deposits outside the locations of the trenches.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Cambridge and County Developments Ltd and MPM properties for commissioning the work and Anthill Plant Hire for operating the excavator. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project, as well as the project team: Matthew Jones, Clare Jackson and Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne for their hard work, and finally Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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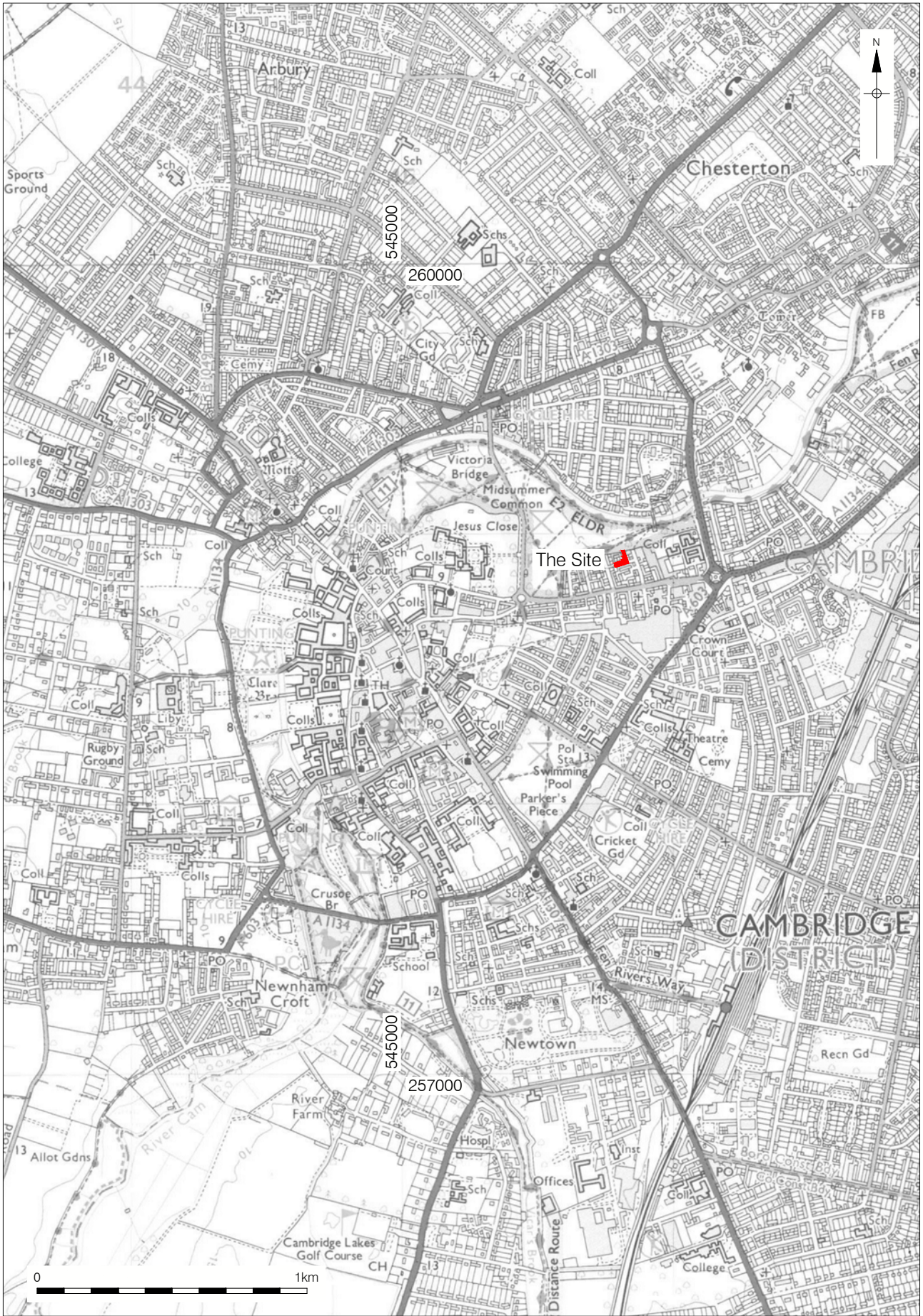
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8.2 Websites

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 02/12/14 JS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:400 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view north-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, view south-west showing Trench 1 location



Plate 3: Trench 2, view north-west



Plate 4: Location for Trench 2 showing Midsummer Limes

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

| Site Code | Context Number | Trench | Type | Category | Period | Section |
|-----------|----------------|--------|-------|-------------|--------|---------|
| CARC14 | 101 | 1,2 | Layer | Modern | Modern | 1,2,3 |
| CARC14 | 102 | 1,2 | Layer | Levelling | Modern | 1,2,3 |
| CARC14 | 103 | 1,2 | Layer | Natural | Modern | 1,2,3 |
| CARC14 | 104 | 1,2 | Layer | Redeposited | Modern | 1,2,3 |
| CARC14 | 105 | 1,2 | Layer | Redeposited | Modern | 1,2,3 |

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

11.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-194009

Project details

Project name Land at the former Auckland Road Clinic Site, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
CB5 8DW: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the former Auckland Road Clinic Site, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL4582 5890) between the 17th and the 18th November 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by MPM Properties (AR) Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a residential development with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The evaluation uncovered a significant amount of modern activity, most likely relating to the former land usage in this period. There was much evidence of made ground, which functioned as levelling deposits created prior to the creation of the car park for the clinic and general garden landscaping. Unfortunately due to the significant depth of these made ground deposits there was no evidence of earlier activity on this site, which is likely to have been truncated by this activity.

Project dates Start: 17-11-2014 End: 18-11-2014

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CARC14 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Project location

Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE land at the former
Auckland Road Clinic Site, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Postcode CB5 8DW
Study area 0.08 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 4582 5890 52.208575257 0.134352828035 52 12 30 N 000 08 03 E
Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Project creators

Name of PCA
Organisation

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originator

Project design Mark Hinman
originator

Project Mark Hinman
director/manager

Project supervisor Matthew Jones

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of MPM Properties (AR) Ltd.
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive ID None

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID CARC14

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
available

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
recipient

Paper Archive ID CARC14

Paper Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report","Section","Survey "
available

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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