Land at Fulbourn Road, Cherry
Hinton, Cambridgeshire, CB1

9GD: An Archaeological

Evaluation





August 2016



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY R 12580

## LAND AT FULBOURN ROAD, CHERRY HINTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB1 9GD

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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#### Land at Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire, CB1 9GD:

#### An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Cambridge City Council

Planning Reference: 15/0430/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4890 5617

Site Code: ECB 4623

Report No. R12580

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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 Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4890 5617) on the 8th August 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of eight new residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation identified no archaeological features or deposits with only a minor made ground deposit identified in the southern end of Trench 1 and eastern end of Trench 2. This deposit was associated with the sites former land use. No truncation was present on the site which would have impacted on the archaeological horizon.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire, CB1 9JL (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4890 5617) on the 8th August 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of eight new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference 15/0430/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 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Andy Thomas (Thomas 2015) 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 Two 20m long trenches, totalling 40m, were excavated and recorded.
- 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.

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#### 2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### 2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is Zig Zag Chalk Formation Chalk (BGS; Website 1). A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by warm chalk seas.
- 2.1.2 There are no superficial deposits recorded in this area.

#### 2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies along the eastern reaches of the Cam river valley and to the east of the Cherry Hinton or Coldhams Brook, a tributary river of the Cam which flows northward from the Gog Magog hills down to the river flood plain to the north-east. The site resides close to the 15m contour, the topography being generally flat.

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#### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the Archaeological Brief (Thomas 2015), the Desk Based Assessment (Garwood 2015) for the site and a search of the Cambridgeshire HER.
- 3.1.2 The proposed development site at Fulbourn Road is located within the parish of Cherry Hinton and to the east of the High Street. The proposed site at Fulbourn Road presently comprises three blocks of modern single storey bungalow style dwellings. The area also includes small gardens to the front and rear of blocks 1-4 and small front gardens for blocks 5-8. There are also areas for car parking associated with each block.

#### 3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 The site lies within an area which due to its geology of lighter soils and free draining river gravel deposits along the Cam river valley and its tributary valley of the Coldhams/Cherry Hinton Brook was likely to have been conducive to settlement during the prehistoric periods. The archaeological investigations and chance finds in the general area of the site have revealed significant remains from the mid and later prehistoric periods but little evidence of early prehistoric activity along the valley. In the general area the scheduled monument of Wandlebury Camp, a large late Iron Age univallate and later bivallate hillfort, overlying earlier settlement, is located at a distance of c. 2.6km to the south of the site, evidence of extensive Iron Age settlement has been recorded to the north of site and within the present grounds of Marshall Aerospace (CHER 5151, 5155, 5156 and CB15298) and an area of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity located just east of the City Cemetery along Newmarket Road (MCB19818). These findings present the potential for one of the largest Iron Age settlements in the region, covering at least 6ha in area.
- 3.2.2 During the prehistoric and Roman times habitation in the immediate area had been concentrated on Limekiln hill. In 1894 archaeologists excavated the area, which they called the 'War Ditches' hill fort (CHER 4963). The

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enclosed area measured 55m in diameter with a ditch up to 8m wide and 3.5m deep. Early Iron-Age pottery sherds were discovered in the lower levels of the earthworks and evidence of round huts was present within the enclosure. It is thought that the Iron-Age hill fort was probably built in order to control a prehistoric trackway which ran north-westwards between Haverhill and Cambridge (British History Online 2015).

- 3.2.3 More significantly stratified evidence of a prehistoric land surface dating from the Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age was identified during an evaluation to the rear of No. 1 the High Street (MCB 17899) c.250m to the west of the site.
- 3.2.4 A series of barrows and ring ditches have identified across the area close to the War Ditches site and on a site to the south of the Fulbourn Road. This includes two Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age disc or bell-disc barrows (CHER 4964/4965) lying c. 150m and 200m north-east of the War Ditches monument. Investigations revealed that the primary burials had been destroyed but excavated features within the monuments produced ceramic evidence of the Grooved Ware of the Rinyo-Clacton tradition and sherds of early Bronze Age pottery.
- 3.2.5 Three ring ditches (CHER 8880) initially identified from aerial photography and located close by at c.200m south-east of the site, were investigated in 1997. This revealed that the monuments were all approximately the same size, with the backfilling sequences being almost identical and none retained any evidence of burial. Residual early-late Neolithic flint artefacts and pottery of early-middle Bronze Age to middle-late Bronze Age were recovered from features that may predate construction of the monuments, suggesting the three ring ditches were more likely to be Bronze Age in date.
- 3.2.6 A further pair of ring ditches (CHER 2763) identified by aerial photography have been identified c. 700m south of the site. A possible barrow (CHER 9593), also identified by aerial photography, lies c. 600m to the north-east of the SITE and the site of a barrow ring ditch and two associated parallel linear (CHER 2692) features were recorded prior to a housing development at Teasel Way c. 500m east of the site.

- 3.2.7 Excavations c.600m to the east of the site at the Fulbourn Hospital site (CHER 11076) uncovered a middle to late Bronze Age ditched enclosure and a series of posthole fence-lines and possible structures that may have been livestock enclosures.
- 3.2.8 To the east, c. 850m, of the site investigations at Fulbourn Park (CB15632) uncovered two small clusters of late Iron Age/early Roman remains. A field system, consisting of a number of small square fields dating to the Iron age or Roman periods were discovered c. 825m south-west of the site, these demonstrate evidence of continued settlement into the later prehistoric period and beyond (CHER 4830).

#### 3.3 Roman

- 3.3.1 Roman occupation in the wider area was on a considerable scale. The substantial Roman town of Dvroliponte (later known as Cambridge) centred around Castle Hill, lies c.5km to the north-west of the site. In the wider area important Roman settlements have been discovered at Godmanchester, St Neots and Great Chesterford.
- 3.3.2 Whilst Roman activity in the general area, particularly to the north and west toward the Roman town and Akeman Street is known to be considerable, the evidence for Roman activity within the search area is mainly focused to the south of the site and in the area of War Ditches. Investigations of the site and immediate area around the prehistoric War Ditches hill fort have uncovered evidence of Roman settlement and industry (CHER 4963A). In 1949 two phases of Romano-British post-hole buildings (one aisled), along with a large quarry pit, a well and several drainage ditches were interpreted as a 2nd-4th century farmstead. Several kilns have been discovered on or in the vicinity of this site; at least four were identified by Hughes in 1902, one was excavated by Lethbridge in 1948 and one by White in 1963.
- 3.3.3 Outside the search area to the north, two sites in the area of Coldhams Lane (CB 15329) and Neaths Farm (MCB19635) both produced evidence of Roman settlement. To the east of the site an archaeological evaluation at Fulbourne Park, within the former hospital grounds uncovered two small

clusters of late Iron Age/early Roman remains thought to be associated with a cropmark complex which lies to the north (CB 15575), while a series of six post holes containing Roman pottery and traces of a small ditch were discovered c. 400m west of the site during the construction of a car park and extension to the Church of the Latter Day Saints, Cherry Hinton Road (CB15743).

#### 3.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 3.4.1 In 1066 Hinton manor was held by Eddeva the fair or Edith Swan neck, reputedly the mistress of King Harold II, but by 1086 Hinton or 'Hintone' had been given with her lands to Count Alan Rufus (Rufus the Red, one of the Counts of Brittany) and later lord of Richmond. In a wider context the site lies south of 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 from the Cam in the east to the edge of the fens at Stow-Cum-Quy, in the west.
- 3.4.2 Despite the sites relatively close location to Church End and the parish church of St Andrew, the evidence for Anglo-Saxon/Saxo-Norman activity close to the site is not very convincing. Excavations, at distance, to the north of the site and outside the search area have uncovered evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement activity on the former Neath Farm site (MCB 19550 & MCB19635). This comprised evidence of transitional burial activity, an early Saxon inhumation cemetery and a small Middle and later Saxon/ Saxo-Norman settlement.
- 3.4.3 Closer to the Church of St Andrew at Church End, an evaluation at the Fulbourn Old Drift site (MCB16703) unearthed several 10th and 11th century features indicative of occupation and/or farming activity, including a series of ditches, a possible post-pit and four postholes.
- 3.4.4 The War Ditches site appears to continue as a focus for burial activity, evidenced by the discovery of eight or more Saxon burials, re-using a prehistoric Bronze Age burial mound (CHER 4965A).

#### 3.5 Medieval

- 3.5.1 The name Sterebriggefeld and Sterebriggegren (Stourbridge field/green) (MCB10176) appears on a field map of Cambridge dated around 1300. King John granted a charter to the town's leper hospital to hold a market/fair on this common land on the south side of the river, where navigable access for heavy goods was possible. The common became the site of the famous Stourbridge Fair, the largest medieval fair in Europe, first held on this site in 1211.
- 3.5.2 Coldhams Common (MCB19521) is an area of common land to the north of the site which dates from at least the 14th century. Coldhams Green is shown on the 1300 Field Map of Cambridge and was designated a Green Common by 1700.
- 3.5.3 Until the early 19th century the ancient village of Hinton comprised two centres, one at Church End, focused around the 12th century Church of St Andrew to the north and one in the area of the High Street and Mill End Road to the south. It is thought that Hinton, lying outside the city boundary was primarily in agricultural use during the medieval period up until its inclosure and subsequent development in the 19th and 20th centuries. Evidence suggests that the area around and to the north of the 12th century St Andrews Church was a focus for medieval occupation during the this period with little other activity apart from agriculture, outside the limits of the two historic centres of Mill and Church Ends. Archaeological investigations outside the search area to the north at the Neath Business Park (formerly Neath Farm) (MCB 17153) revealed 12-14th century settlement features adjacent to Church End Road and earlier Saxon occupation (MCB 19550) on the same site. Documentary records suggest the foundation of a Brigettine Priory at Cherry Hinton Hall (CHER 9927) though this has never been proven.
- 3.5.4 To the south of St Andrews Church an excavation at the Fulbourn Old Drift site (MCB 16703) in Church End uncovered at least four phases of activity, comprising a series of ditches which represent phases of 12th-14th century medieval boundary activity, associated with the back plots of enclosed areas

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which may have fronted onto the High Street.

3.5.5 An evaluation on land to the rear of No. 1 High Street (MCB 17899) at Mill End revealed further evidence of medieval settlement along the High Street, with an area of land reclamation overlying marsh and a number of small 13th century medieval refuse pits set back from the street frontage.

#### 3.6 Post-Medieval

- 3.6.1 The documentary and cartographic evidence shows that this area of Cherry Hinton, to the east of the centres at Church End and Mill End and outside the boundary of the City, remained as agricultural land either arable or pasture land, including areas of common and marsh. The qualifier, Cherry, first recorded in 1576, may have arisen from the former abundance of cherry trees in the area and the prevalence of horticulture, with a particular emphasis on the cultivation of saffron. The fields in the immediacy of the village were typically old enclosures and those further afield open arable.
- 3.6.2 Until the early 19th century marshland separated the two mains areas of settlement in Cherry Hinton, with Church End to the north and Mill End to the south. Land to the east of the site, to the south of Fulborn Road, was common land until its drainage after inclosure in 1810.
- 3.6.3 After inclosure settlement Cherry Hinton village expanded between Church End and Mill End to form its present continuous linear shape. Houses and shops were established along the road to form the village's High Street. The junction of Mill End Road and the High Street became the new heart of the village, leaving the parish church isolated at the north end of the High Street. By 1851 houses extended along both sides of the High Street, and eastwards along Fishers Lane. Expansion of housing from Cambridge into the south-west of the parish, initially prompted by the railway, was the most important cause of growth in the late 19th century. The land between the railway line and Hills Road was too marshy for building, so developers moved beyond Hills Road into the area between Hills and Cherry Hinton Roads in the 1880s, creating new Cherry Hinton (British History Online). Cherry Hinton Hall and its landscaped gardens, sited to the west of the

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- village was built in 1834 for Mr John Oakes, a surgeon operating at Addenbrookes (CHER 4907).
- 3.6.4 Excavations investigating a possible watermill within the grounds of Cherry Hinton hall revealed several chalk floor surfaces thought to relate to buildings shown on the 1806 enclosure map (MCB16332).
- 3.6.5 This period saw the excavation of large quarries (MCB17719) supplying clunch for construction works. These quarries were excavated along limekiln Road, the site of War Ditches and to the north-west between Cherry Hinton Brook and Coldham's Lane.
- 3.6.6 In the 1960s the character of development changed significantly from a gradual eastwards encroachment along roads and on agricultural land, to the construction around the village of a series of council estates, intermixed with schools, playing fields, and recreational areas.

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of two trial trenches, distributed across the site, totalling 40m (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 8-ton tracked 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 spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 The artefact contents of the ploughsoil was examined as part of the evaluation using a programme of bucket sampling. 90 litres of topsoil and 90 litres of subsoil were hand sorted at one end of each of the two trenches. No artefacts were recovered during this exercise.
- 4.1.5 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) 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 deposits were drawn at an appropriate

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scale (1:10, 1:20).

- 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.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.

#### 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated.

#### 5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 1	Figures 2-3			Plate 2	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 20m Level		vel of Natural (m OD): 15.97m		
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				S End	N End
Topsoil		(1)		0.1m	0.1m
Made Ground		(5)		-	0.35m
Subsoil		(2)		0.31m	0.2m
Subsoil		(4)		0.07m	0.05m
Natural		(3)		0.47m+	0.65m+

#### Summary

Trench 1 was located close to the northern boundary of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### 5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2-3			Plate 3	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 20m Level		Level	of Natural (m OD): 15.91m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				W End	E End
Topsoil		(1)		0.06m	0.1m
Made Ground		(5)		0.22m	-
Subsoil		(2)		0.24m	0.31m
Subsoil		(4)		0.08m	0.06m
Natural		(3)		0.46m+	0.44m+

#### Summary

Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the site.

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The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

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#### 6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

#### 6.1 Discussion

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified on the site. A number of modern service trenches were identified in the trenches, as well as a deposit of modern made ground (5).
- 6.1.2 Although there are truncations present on the site these, by and large, did not impact on the archaeological horizon.

#### 6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified no archaeological features or deposits, with only a layer of modern made ground present in the southern part of Trench 1 and eastern part of Trench 2. These deposits relate to the former land use of the site.

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#### 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Keepmoat for commissioning the work and LK Construction for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for their advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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#### 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Morgan-Shelbourne, L. 2015 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation at Fulbourn Road, Cambridge (Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished)

Thomas, A. 2015 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge (Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, unpublished)

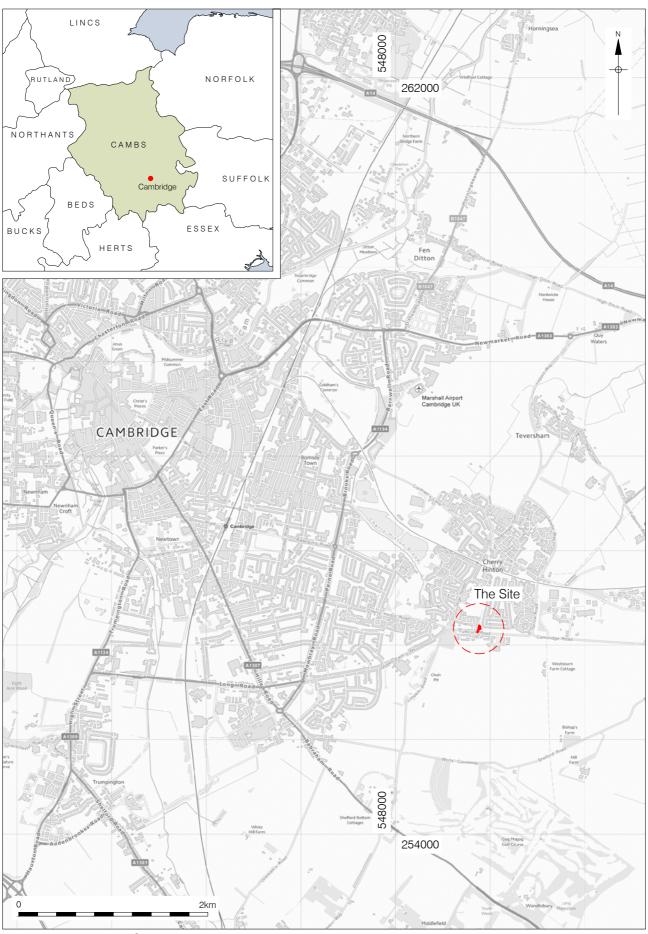
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1) British Geological Survey (Date accessed 09/08/16)

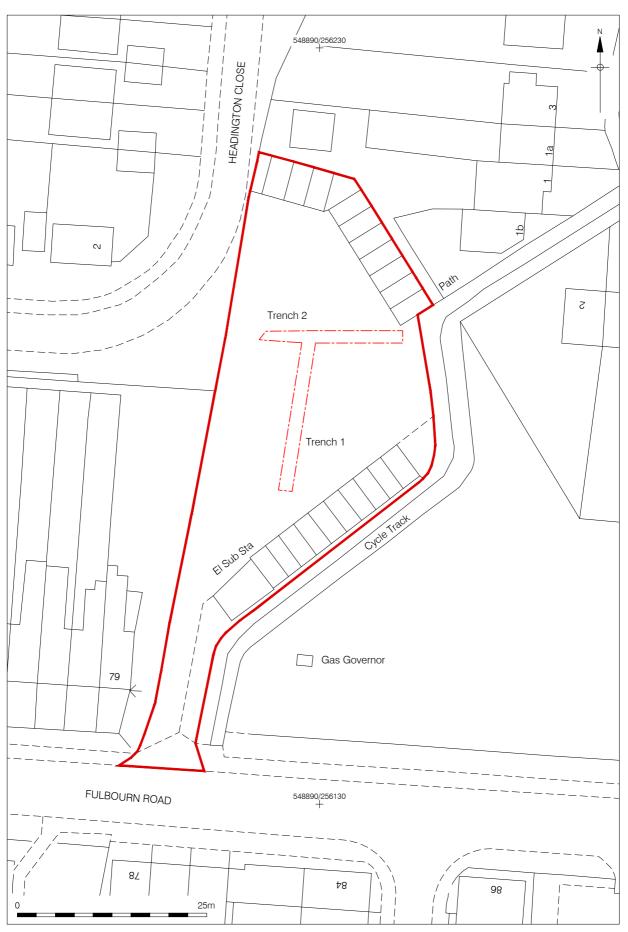
www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain

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www.british-history.ac.uk

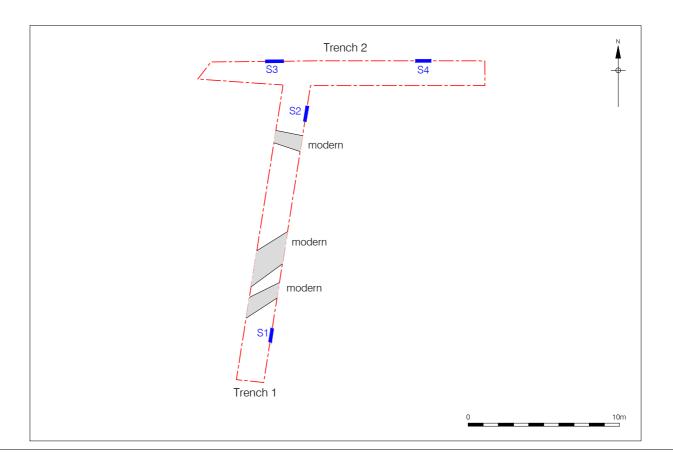


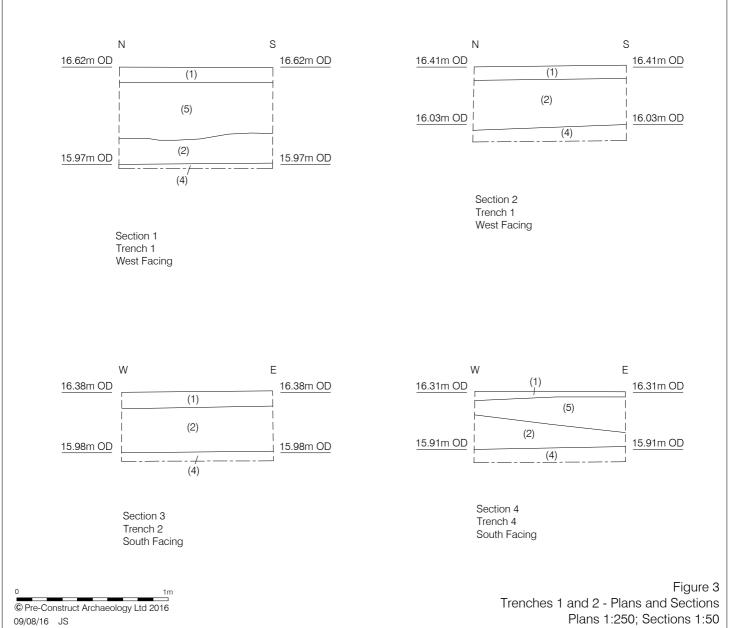
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09/08/16 JS





#### 9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view south showing modern truncation



Plate 2: Trench 2, view east

#### 10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
1	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	1-2
2	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1-2
3	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geology	1-2
4	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1-2
5	-	Layer	Made Ground	Made Ground	1-2

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#### 11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-259686

Project details

Project name Land at Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire, CB1 9GD: An

Archaeological Evaluation

of the project

Short description This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4890 5617) on the 8th August 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Keepmoat in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of eight new residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The evaluation identified no archaeological features or deposits with only a minor made ground deposit identified in the southern end of Trench 1 and eastern end of Trench 2. This deposit was associated with the sites former land use. No truncation was present on the site which would have impacted on the archaeological horizon.

Project dates Start: 08-08-2016 End: 08-08-2016

Previous/future Yes / Not known

work

associated ECB4623 - Sitecode Any

project reference

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Methods & "Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

**Prompt** Planning condition

Position in the Not known / Not recorded

planning process

**Project location** 

Country England

PCA Report Number: R12580 Page 25 of 27 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Land at Fulbourn

Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire, CB1 9GD

Postcode CB1 9JL

Study area 0.13 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 4890 5617 52.183220624472 0.178199669572 52 10 59 N 000 10

41 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 15.91m Max: 15.97m

Project creators

Name of PCA

Organisation

Project brief CCC Historic Environment Team

originator

Project design Taleyna Fletcher

originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher

director/manager

Project supervisor Matthew Jones

Type of Keepmoat

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Digital Archive CCC County Archaeology Store

recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB4623

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital

available photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive CCC County Archaeology Store

recipient

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Paper Archive ID ECB4623

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Paper Media "Context

available sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished

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