

**LAND ADJACENT TO 41 WEST END,  
HADDENHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,  
CB6 3TG:**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

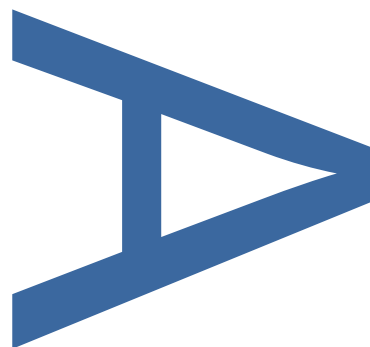
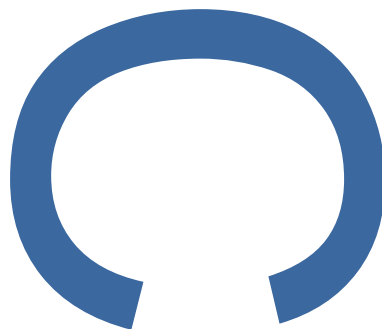
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:  
16/01378/FUL**

**PCA REPORT NO: R.12817**

**SITE CODE: ECB4959**

**APRIL 2017**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

## **Land Adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3TD:**

### **An Archaeological Evaluation**

**Local Planning Authority:** East Cambridgeshire District Council

**Planning Reference:** 16/01378/FUL

**Central National Grid Reference:** TL 4564 7553

**Site Code/Event Number:** ECB 4959

**Report No.** R. 12817

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4564 7553) on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by Kay Richmond and Stephen Sharp in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of two, three bedroom residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were observed in either trench.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land adjacent to No. 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3TD (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4564 7553) on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Kay Richmond and Stephen Sharp in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of two new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference 16/01378/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2017) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2017) 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 A total of two 20.0m trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 1.6 Bucket sampling was carried out at each end of the trenches. This bucket sampling took the form of 90 litres of topsoil and subsoil being separated and subsequently sorted through the recover any artefacts. The quantity of artefacts was poor, with only modern brick, tile and pottery recovered, none of which were retained.
- 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.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The site has bedrock geology of Kimmeridge Clay formation, a mudstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 151 to 156 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Woburn Sands Formation, a sandstone sedimentary bedrock with sediments deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel lie to the east and Ampthill Clay Formation, to the west (British Geographical Survey, 2014). The overlying soils are lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield University 2017).

### **2.2 Topography**

2.3 The village of Haddenham lies on the highest ridge in the Isle of Ely at its western border. Its two spurs lead to the causeways at Aldreth and Earith, which together with Stuntney were once the only routes into the Isle. The site lies at a height of roughly 22m AOD.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General**

3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the Archaeological Brief (Stewart 2017) and an area search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.

3.1.2 The proposed site at West End (becoming Hill Row to the west) lies at a distance (c. 750m) from the historic core of the village, focused along the High Street and in the area of the parish church of the Holy Trinity, and in an area of farmland to the west of the village (Figure 1). The majority of the archaeological discoveries in Haddenham have been found in the area of the parish church, The Green and along the historic High Street. Accordingly it is within this core that the majority of the built heritage assets are located.

#### **3.2 Prehistoric/Roman**

3.2.1 Excavations in Haddenham parish throughout the 1980s have demonstrated the presence of settlement in the area from the Neolithic to the Romano-British period (Evans and Hodder, 1985). This settlement seems to have been concentrated within the surrounding fen, rather than the higher ground of Haddenham village itself.

3.2.2 Investigations to the east of the site, of land to the rear of No. 40 West End uncovered features possible prehistoric date, producing small assemblages of early-middle Iron Age pottery (MCB17792). The results of these investigations appear to predate the findings of earlier excavations to the E and SE of the site, which produced evidence of Late Iron Age to medieval activities. The subsequent excavations of land at West End in 2008 (BUFAU) uncovered further evidence of small scale, temporary encampments which were established during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.

3.2.3 Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains (MCB18421) were also revealed on this site in the form of boundary and enclosure ditches, pits and postholes dating from the Early-Late Iron Age. The evidence suggests a small scale settlement established during the Early Iron Age with expansion during the Mid-Late Iron Age to the east of the site and a change of

settlement focus to the south and/or east during the Romano-British period, with features revealed including boundary ditches and pits forming part of the settlement limits.

3.2.4 The investigations of Land at West End, Haddenham in 2000 (ECB1939) uncovered a number of intercutting enclosure ditches and a few pits, containing a large quantities of Roman pottery and animal bone. Of note was a ditch which contained the remains of over 18 cattle and horses, most of them arranged nose-to-tail, and dating to the late Iron Age/Roman period. The purpose behind these deliberate burials is not known, although a ritual significance is most likely.

3.2.5 An archaeological evaluation undertaken at Acacia House (ECB3290) to the south-west of the site revealed a large build-up of made ground which sealed an Iron Age ditch and a possible Iron Age posthole as well as a later medieval pit.

### **3.3 Saxon**

3.3.1 Historic records of a Saxon ecclesiastical manor suggest Haddenham was a Saxon settlement.

3.3.2 A monk named Ovin or Owine is credited with bringing Christianity to Haddenham. Ovin administered Etheldreda's dowry after the death of her husband, coming to the Isle of Ely from Northumbria in 673 and helping her to found the monastery in Ely. The base and shaft of a 7th century cross, St Ovin's Cross, was found in Haddenham in 1770 and now stands at the Prior's Door at Ely Cathedral (CHER 05721). A find of undated flint debitage is recorded at Grid Reference TL 5487 6042 (MCB 19429).

3.3.3 Archaeological investigations to the south-east of the parish church have revealed Saxon inhumations (09831) with evidence of medieval and post medieval occupation discovered to the west (MCB18183, MCB17958).

3.3.4 Archaeological investigation in the northern part of the Three Kings site in 1990 (HADTK 90) identified an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery dating to the first half of the 6th century (Robinson and Duhig 1992). The remains



included a double burial; the male buried with a spear, knife, shield boss and buckle, the female with 27 amber and 7 glass and silver beads, a bronze brooch, tweezers and a spindle whorl. A further area was investigated but only fragments of human remains were noted, representing nine identifiable individuals (CHER 09831).

- 3.3.5 Another archaeological excavation, undertaken by PCA (House, 2015) at the Three Kings site in 2014, revealed evidence of early Saxon activity comprising 13 pits and nine inhumations, six of which had associated grave goods, including a spear head, a shield boss and various beads and brooches associated with a high status female burial, datable to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. In addition to the graves, four charnel pits were also identified, indicative of the cemetery having been larger at one time, and 13 pits containing finds assemblages suggestive of a nearby settlement.

### **3.4 Medieval**

- 3.4.1 In 1086 Haddenham was held by the Abbot of Ely in three portions, Lindone (now Linden End), Helle (now Hill Row) and Haddenham. In the early Middle Ages the manor was generally known as Lindon, suggesting that Linden End was the more ancient settlement which was later supplanted by Haddenham.
- 3.4.2 Excavations along Haddenham High Street have revealed medieval boundary ditches, pits and a possible trackway (CHER CB15289 and CHER MCB17365). Of note is a significant ditch uncovered at Church Lane (MCB18183), that was up to 7 metres in width and dating the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century, was likely an important boundary relating to the nearby 13<sup>th</sup> century church.

## **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 to obtain a representative sample of the 'blank' spaces on the site (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator with 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 if present. 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. Spoilheaps created were scanned by metal-detector.
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & 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 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). All deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2.
- 4.2.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all deposits.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

### 5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.45m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.12m	0.10m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.31m	0.15m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.45m+	0.35m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 1 was located in the west 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		Plate 3, 4	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 20m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.47m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.14m	0.15m
Subsoil	(101)	0.31m	0.32m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.45m+	0.47m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 2 was located in the east of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

## **6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Though there were no archaeological deposits observed within the two excavated trenches a small number of metal finds were recovered via metal detecting in the top soil. These metal finds included modern horse bits and fragments of modern plough and other farm related machinery. These objects were of clear modern date and as such were not retained.
- 6.2 The lack of archaeological features may be due to the high level of the water table on the site in conjunction to the heavy clay natural geology of the area. This high level of the water table is likely to have encouraged settlement and other activity to be focussed on the higher ground to the east of the site towards the centre of the village.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Kay Richmond and Stephen Sharp for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project. The author would also like to thank the project team: Dave Curry, Gary Collyer and Robby Copsey for their hard work, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **8.1 Printed Sources**

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000. Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8

Hinman, M. 2017. Land Adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation. (Unpublished)

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011. Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Stewart, G. 2017. Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land Adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridge (Cambridgeshire County Council, Unpublished)

### **8.2 Websites**

1) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed 06/04/17



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09/03/17 RM

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:2,000,000 and 1:20,000 at A4



0 20m

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09/03/17 RM

Figure 2  
Trench Location Plan  
1:500 at A4



## **9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



Plate 1: Trench 1, View South-East



Plate 2: Trench 2, View South-West

## 10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	1-2
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1-2
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural geology	1-2

## 11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-278764

### Project details

Project name	Land Adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3TD
Short description of the project	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation: Land Adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3TD
Project dates	Start: 09-04-2017 End: 09-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 4959 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	16/1378/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE HADDENHAM Land Adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3TD
Postcode	CB6 3TD
Study area	1477 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4564 7553 52.358044097179 0.138906157346 52 21 28 N 000 08 20 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Gemma Stewart
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Matthew Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

### Project bibliography 1



Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Adjacent to 41 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Copsey, R. A.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Pampisford
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Entered on	9 March 2017

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