

**LAND AT 35A WEST END,
HADDENHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
CB6 3DT:**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

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

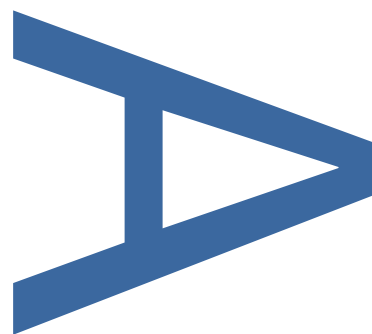
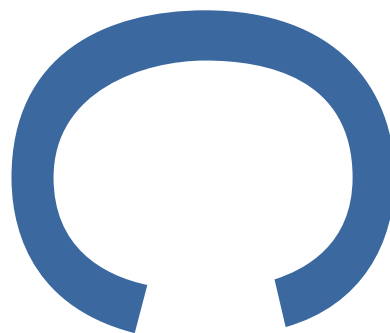
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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT 35A WEST END, HADDENHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Land at 35a West End Haddenham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: East Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: 16/01738/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4573 7552

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Report No. R 13311

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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 35a West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4573 7552) on the 19th June 2018. The archaeological work was commissioned by Kay Richmond in response to a planning condition attached to the demolition of a bungalow and the construction of three 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 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at 35a West End, Haddenham, CB6 3DT (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4573 7552) on 19th June (Figure 1; Plate 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Kay Richmond in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the demolition of bungalow and the construction of three dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping, (Planning Reference: 16/01738/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tom Revell of PCA (Revell 2018) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Gemma Stewart (Stewart 2018) 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 evaluation trenches totalling 40m of trenching (17m & 23m) were excavated and recorded (Figure 2).
- 1.6 This report documents the results of this negative evaluation and informs the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.2 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 (Website 1). The overlying soils are lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Website 2).

2.3 Topography

2.4 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 The following archaeological background is taken from the Archaeological Brief (Stewart 2018) and a search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.

3.2 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.

3.3 Prehistoric/Roman

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 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 eighteen 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.

3.8 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.

3.9 Saxon

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

3.11 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).

3.12 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).

3.13 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).

- 3.14 Another archaeological excavation (an extension of the above mentioned site), undertaken by PCA (House, 2015) at the Three Kings site in 2014, revealed evidence of early Saxon activity comprising thirteen 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 6th 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.

3.15 Medieval

- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 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 12th to 14th century, was likely an important boundary relating to the nearby 13th century church.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised one 1.80m x 17m long trench and one 1.80m x 23m trench, totalling 40m. Due to restrictions on site, the original two 20m trenches could not be accommodated. These were distributed evenly across the site in order to provide a representative sample of the development area.

4.2 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.2.1 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 (none were 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.
- 4.2.2 Artefact characterisation was undertaken, whereby bucket slots (designed to excavate approximately 90 litres of spoil) were excavated through topsoil and subsoil deposits at either end of the evaluation trenches, and hand sorted for finds. There were no finds recovered.
- 4.2.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping. Spoilheaps created were scanned by metal-detector.
- 4.2.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2009).

4.3 Recording Methodology

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.3.2 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.

- 4.3.3 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of every deposit encountered at all stages of the evaluation process.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	1
Context sheets	3
Plan registers	1
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	2
Trench record sheets	2
Photo register sheets	1
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	1

5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	24
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	0

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Trench 1

- 6.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate 3 and 4	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 17m	Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.40m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.15m	0.15m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.25m	0.25m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.40m+	0.40m+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located in the north of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

6.3 Trench 2

- 6.3.1 Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 2		Figure 2		Plate 5 and 6	
Trench Alignment: N-S		Length: 23m		Depth to Natural (m OD): 0.47m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				NW End	SE End
Topsoil		(100)		0.15m	0.15m
Subsoil		(101)		0.30m	0.30m
Natural (max machined depth)		(102)		0.45m+	0.45m+
Summary					
Trench 2 was located in the south of the site.					
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.					

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 There were no archaeological features or finds recovered during the evaluation.
- 7.1.2 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. The site may have been prone to flooding which discouraged both settlement and agriculture, with a preference for the higher ground to the east of the site towards the centre of Haddenham. The results of the evaluation are comparable to those of the nearby site 41 West End Haddenham, which was also negative, being influenced by the same environmental factors.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Kay Richmond for commissioning and funding the work. PCA are also grateful to Gemma Stewart, Kasia Gdaniec, Kerry Hopper and Andy Thomas for their collective input on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed by Peter Crawley and was supervised by the author. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by PCA's CAD Department.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 Printed Sources

Revell, T. 2018. Land at 35a West End, Haddenham: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Program of Archaeological Evaluation. (Unpublished)

Stewart, G. 2018. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation. Land at 35A West End Haddenham, Cambridgeshire. (Cambridgeshire County Council, Unpublished)

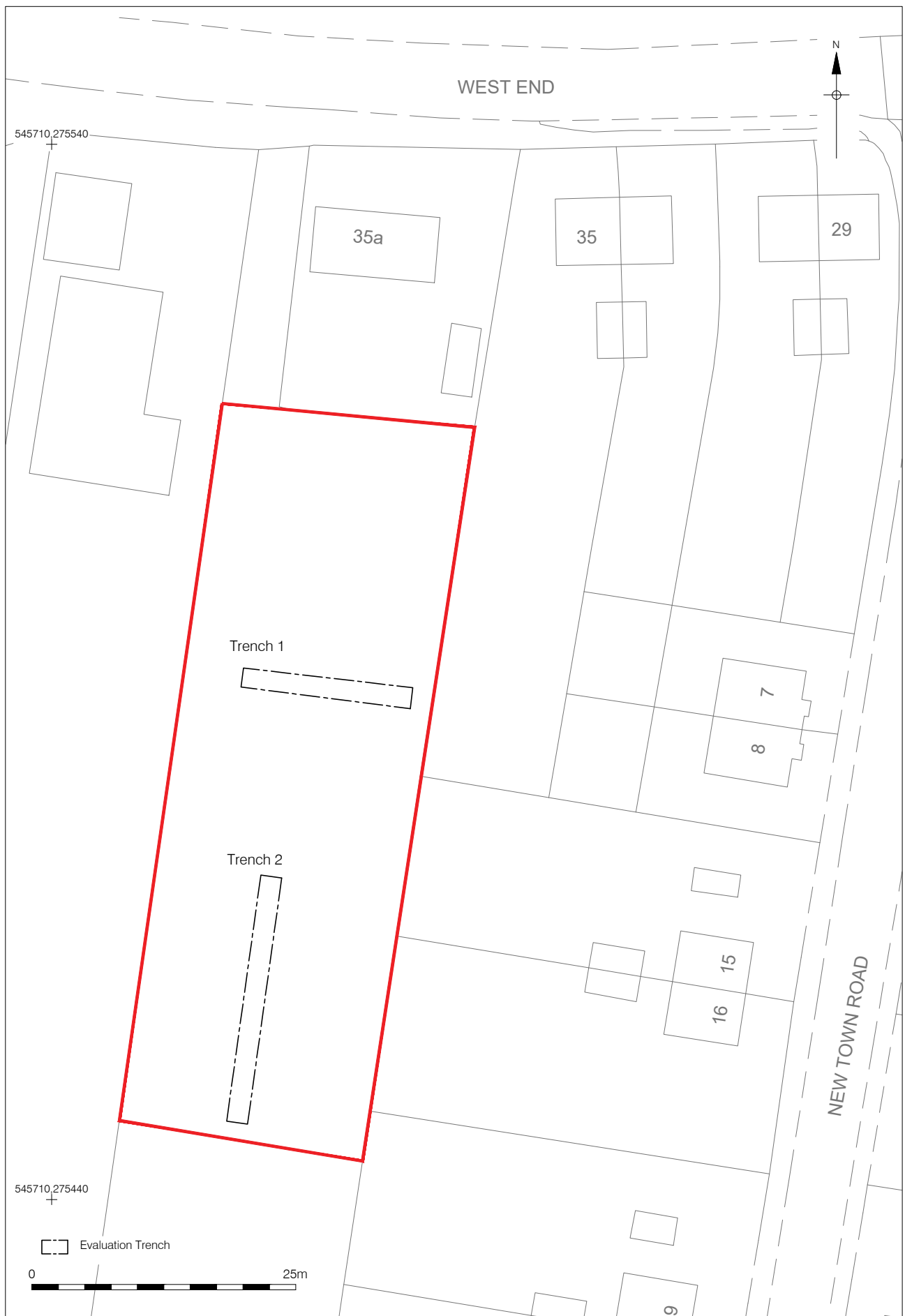
9.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey, 2014. Geology of Britain Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP9%203DG>. Accessed 31/07/14

2) <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>



Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



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27/06/18 RS

Figure 2
Detailed Site Plan
1:500 at A4

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 3. The site, view north



Plate 4 The site, view south



Plate 5 Trench 1, view west



Plate 6 Trench 1, sample section, view south



Plate 7 Trench 2, view north



Plate 8 Trench 2, sample section, view west

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS INDEX

Context	Cut	Category	Function	Description	Section
(100)	-	Layer	Natural	Topsoil	S 01, 02
(101)	-	Layer	Natural	Subsoil	S 01, 02
(102)	-	Layer	Natural	Geology	S 01, 02

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Project details

Project name	Land at 35a West End, Haddenham
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 35a West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4573 7552) on the 19th June 2018. The archaeological work was commissioned by Kay Richmond in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of two 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.
Project dates	Start: 19-06-2018 End: 19-06-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 5426 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE HADDENHAM Land at 35a West End, Haddenham
Postcode	CB6 3DT
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4573 7552 52.357930263305 0.140222578151 52 21 28 N 000 08 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 22m Max: 22m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Gemma Stewart
Project design originator	Tom Revell
Project director/manager	Peter Crawley
Project supervisor	Gary Reid
Name of sponsor/funding body	Private developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at 35a West End Haddenham
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