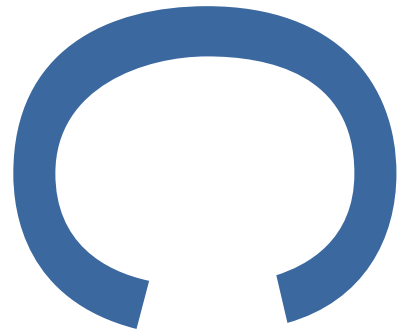


**LAND AT ST REGIS FLATS,  
CHESTERTON ROAD, CAMBRIDGE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION**

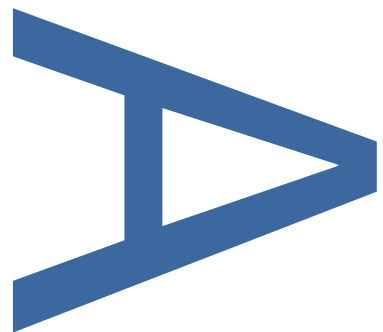


**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:  
17/0970/FUL**

**PCA REPORT NO: R13422**

**SITE CODE: ECB5440**





**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

# LAND AT ST REGIS FLATS, CHESTERTON ROAD, CAMBRIDGE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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## **Land at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge: Archaeological Evaluation**

**Local Planning Authority:** Cambridge City Council

**Planning Reference:** 17/0970/FUL

**Central National Grid Reference:** NGR TL 4565 5955

**ECB Number/ Site Code:** ECB5440

**Report No.** R13422

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**October 2018**

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## CONTENTS

CONTENTS .....	2
ABSTRACT .....	4
1 INTRODUCTION .....	5
2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY .....	7
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	8
4 METHODOLOGY .....	13
5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE .....	16
6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS .....	17
7 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE .....	24
8 DISCUSSION .....	33
9 CONCLUSIONS .....	36
10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	37
11 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	38
12 APPENDIX 1: PLATES .....	51
13 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX .....	60
14 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM .....	63
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION .....	40
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION .....	41
FIGURE 3 TRENCH 1 PLAN AND SECTIONS .....	42
FIGURE 4 TRENCHES 2–4 PLAN AND SECTIONS .....	43
FIGURE 5 TRENCH 5 PLAN AND SECTIONS .....	44
FIGURE 6 CHESTERTON ENCLOSURE MAP, 1840 .....	45
FIGURE 7 CHESTERTON TITHE MAP, 1840 .....	46
FIGURE 8 1ST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1885 .....	47
FIGURE 9 2ND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1901 .....	48
FIGURE 10 2ND EDITION OS MAP WITH 1911 REVISIONS .....	49
FIGURE 11 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1950 .....	50

PLATE 1: THE SITE, HAMILTON ROAD SIDE, VIEW WEST .....	51
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, MACHINING, VIEW WEST .....	51
PLATE 3: THE UNDERCROFT ACCESS, VIEW SOUTH-EAST .....	52
PLATE 4: TRENCH 4, VIEW NORTH-EAST .....	53
PLATE 5: TRENCH 1, WALL FOUNDATION (106), VIEW NORTH-WEST .....	53
PLATE 6: TRENCH 2, PLOUGH FURROW [112], VIEW SOUTH .....	54
PLATE 7: TRENCH 3, VIEW NORTH-WEST .....	54
PLATE 8: TRENCH 3, DITCH [116], VIEW NORTH-EAST .....	55
PLATE 9: TRENCH 4, POSTHOLE [118], VIEW SOUTH-WEST .....	55
PLATE 10: TRENCH 4, PIT [122], VIEW NORTH.....	56
PLATE 11: TRENCH 5, VIEW EAST.....	57
PLATE 12: BRICK FROM WALL FOUNDATION (106), TRENCH 1 .....	58
PLATE 13: BRICK FROM WALL FOUNDATION (106), TRENCH 1 .....	58
PLATE 14: LATE-19TH-CENTURY FLOWERPOT FROM PIT [120], TRENCH 3 ...	59

## ABSTRACT

*In August and September 2018, Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation of land at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge, in advance of demolition and replacement of the existing flats with new student accommodation. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological planning condition and aimed to identify the archaeological potential of the site and inform the design of a mitigation strategy for the site's heritage assets.*

*The evaluation found slight evidence for prehistoric activity, comprising a posthole and a pit, both containing single struck flint flakes, in Trench 4. A residual Late Iron Age or early Roman potsherd was recovered from Trench 1.*

*A medieval to post-medieval plough-soil survived across the site, sealed below deposits associated with the construction of St Regis Flats in the 1930s. In Trench 5 the lower part of this plough-soil contained medieval pottery; medieval potsherds and a lower quantity of post-medieval pottery were recovered from it in Trench 1. A medieval ditch in the central part of the site (Trench 3) appears to be an early demarcation of a field boundary which lasted until the late 19th century and which is shown on the Chesterton Enclosure and Tithe Maps, and the 1st Edition OS Map.*

*The overall quantity and condition of the medieval pottery from the site indicates that it derives from manuring. However, its fairly frequent occurrence in the plough-soil across the site might indicate proximity to a farmstead or other focus of occupation, perhaps an area of medieval dispersed settlement along Chesterton Road, which is known to be an early route between Cambridge and the village at Chesterton.*

*There is no evidence of direct occupation on the site at any time before the early 20th century. The good preservation conditions mean that this absence is likely to be genuine rather than due to truncation. The further archaeological potential of the site itself would therefore appear to be low.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1BY (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4565 5955) between the 28th August and 5th September 2018 and 20th–21st September 2018 (Figure 1; Plate 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Henry Riley LLP, on behalf of Clare College, in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the demolition of the existing flats and the construction of new student accommodation comprising 53 student rooms, 9 student flats and 15 student studios, together with ancillary facilities including kitchen/ communal areas, laundry rooms, plant rooms, as well as bin and bicycle enclosures. The development also includes the refurbishment of 108 Chesterton Road, with the retention of 8 student rooms and 14 residential flats comprising 1 bed and 2 bed units, together with landscaping and associated infrastructure (Cambridge City Council Planning Reference: 17/0970/FUL). The condition was applied due to the high archaeological potential of the development area.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tom Woolhouse of PCA (Woolhouse 2018) in response to a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation issued by Andy Thomas (Thomas 2018) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET).
- 1.4 The first phase of the scheme of archaeological work was a Level 2 (as defined by Historic England) illustrated historic building record of the St Regis flats. The historic building recording element of the project has been undertaken by another contractor and the results are outside the scope of this report.
- 1.5 The second phase of the scheme of archaeological work was a trial trench evaluation. 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 A total of five evaluation trenches, totalling 80.4m long (145m<sup>2</sup>), were excavated and recorded (Figure 2), providing a 4.8% sample of the 0.3ha site. The dimensions of each trench were as follows:

Trench 1 – 20m x 1.8m

Trench 2 – 11.2m x 2m

Trench 3 – 23m x 1.8m

Trench 4 – 14m x 1.8m

Trench 5 – 12.2m x 1.8m

- 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 the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.



## **2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Site Location**

- 2.1.1 St Regis Flats are located on the south side of Chesterton Road, approximately 1km north-east of Cambridge city centre (Figure 1; Plate 1). The existing flats are in three blocks occupying a broadly rectangular plot, with a semi-detached Edwardian house and rear garden at neighbouring 108 Chesterton Road, to the east, also forming part of the overall development area. The site has a total area of 0.3ha.

### **2.2 Geology**

- 2.2.1 The site is located on Gault Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 100–113 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. These deposits are capped by River Terrace gravels associated with the River Cam, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period (British Geographical Survey 2018; Website 1).

### **2.3 Topography**

- 2.3.1 The site is at an elevation of approximately 7m OD and is broadly flat. In the wider area, the land slopes down gradually to the south, towards the River Cam, located approximately 300m from the site. The course of this part of the river has probably been relatively stable during the last c. 12,000 years but was certainly wider at times in the past (e.g. Cessford 2017, 63–7), prior to its post-medieval and modern canalisation and the attendant reclamation of land from its former floodplain and riparian marshes. The course of the river could therefore have been closer to the site at times in the past.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A detailed description of the archaeological context of the site and past land-use and activity in the area can be found in the desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared by PCA (Fletcher 2016). The following information is taken from the DBA, as well as the results of a search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record, undertaken in April 2018.
- 3.2 Prehistoric activity in the area around the site is mainly focused along the course of the River Cam, approximately 300m to the south. A worked stone object was recovered from the Cam near Midsummer Common in 1930 (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) 04759). Early Bronze Age pottery, comprising two Food Vessels and a small bowl, were found during gravel digging on Midsummer Common in c. 1860 (CHER 04801), as well as a cremation burial of later prehistoric date (CHER 05020A).
- 3.3 Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age finds were recovered during excavations at the former Cambridge Regional College, 650m south-east of the site (CHER ECB3402). Further Early Bronze Age pottery, comprising a Beaker vessel, was identified at Abbey Road, Barnwell, c. 800m south-east of the site (CHER 04623).
- 3.4 Later prehistoric pits and ditches were identified during the construction of a car park and extension at the New Milton and Lady Adrian Schools, c. 500m north-west of the study site (CHER CB15631).
- 3.5 Iron Age settlement, comprising roundhouse eaves-drip gullies, a rectangular enclosure and pit clusters were identified during an evaluation and subsequent excavation at Jesus College, c. 800m south-west of the current site (CHER CB15722). Residual sherds of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pottery were also recovered, which may have originally derived from a natural hollow identified in the excavation.
- 3.6 An Iron Age pit was identified at the Ashwell Site, Union Lane (CHER MCB17140), 500m to the east of St. Regis Flats. This pit contained a small Early Iron Age pottery assemblage and was in proximity to a possible gully,

which may have been of similar date. Large quantities of residual Early Iron Age pottery were also recovered from later features, indicating further activity in the vicinity.

- 3.7 The site is around 1km east of the late Roman walled town, located in the Castle Hill area (Alexander and Pullinger 1999; Evans and Ten Harkel 2010; Cessford 2017, 69-75), and, as such, is relatively peripheral in the Roman-period landscape.
- 3.8 However, a possible Roman drain has been recorded in Chesterton Road, to the west of the site (CHER 04547). Roman pottery has also been found at Jesus Close (CHER 04621), located c. 850m south-west of the site.
- 3.9 Gravel extraction at Midsummer Common (CHER 05020A), as well as recovering prehistoric material, also recovered Roman material of unspecified type.
- 3.10 Jesus College (CHER 05275), located c. 800m south-west of the site, has a long history of archaeological discoveries and investigations. For example, an evaluation and excavations prior to the construction of a new maintenance block, undertaken in 2004 and 2015–16 revealed evidence for Roman field systems (CHER CB15722). To the west of the college, a number of Roman inhumations were identified, adjacent to Park Street (CHER CB15513). Various finds of Roman material have also been made in the vicinity of Jesus College, for example, Roman glass found near the south side of the chapel court (CHER 05275b).
- 3.11 A multi-period site, including a pit containing Roman pottery, was identified at the Former Sargeant's Garage site, in East Chesterton, off the High Street c. 400m east of the site (CHER CB15544). Further residual Roman material was recovered from the complex of medieval boundary ditches and later medieval pits, indicating further Roman activity in the near vicinity.
- 3.12 As well as later prehistoric activity, a large Roman ditch, which may have been recut, was identified during archaeological investigations at the New Milton and Lady Adrian Schools, c. 500m north-west of the site (CHER

CB15631).

- 3.13 As with the Roman period, the site is some distance from the main centre of the medieval town at Cambridge, as well as the former site of the 12th–16th-century Augustinian Barnwell Priory (CHER MCB23337), located across the River Cam, c. 830m to the south-east of the study site. Test pitting in 2009 (CHER MCB19146) at Cambridge Regional College identified a medieval cultivation soil, which was suggested by the excavator to derive from middens associated with Barnwell Priory, 200m to the east.
- 3.14 Jesus College (CHER 05275a), located c. 800m to the south-west, contains numerous extant medieval buildings within its grounds, for example the Benedictine Nunnery (formerly the nunnery of St Radegund, suppressed in 1496) and the college Church (both established in the 12th century).
- 3.15 Saint Andrew's Church (CHER 05558) in Chesterton, 500m to the north-east of St. Regis Flats, was established in the 13th century and contains numerous 13th- and 14th-century elements within its surviving fabric, including the nave, tower and aisle. The graveyard also contains surviving medieval gravestones.
- 3.16 A 1952 excavation at Midsummer Common, 600m south of the current site, identified a number of medieval inhumations, including some relating to a plague cemetery.
- 3.17 Evidence for medieval gravel extraction was identified in a 2002 evaluation at the Chesterton Monument, on Union Lane (CHER CB15236), c. 450m north-east of the current site.
- 3.18 The former Sargeant's Garage site, c. 400m north-east of the site (CHER CB15544), contained medieval house plots aligned at right angles to Union Lane, which appear to have been continuously occupied since the Saxo-Norman period. A clunch-lined 15th-century well was identified, which contained a silver groat of Henry V or VI.
- 3.19 Evidence for medieval activity was identified at the site of the Former Chesterton Workhouse during the course of an evaluation in 2001 (CHER

- CB15564). This comprised well-preserved features of 12th- to 14th-century date, which also respected the alignment of Union Lane.
- 3.20 Another small evaluation undertaken in the vicinity of Union Lane and Chesterton High Street (CHER MCB15980) revealed a number of medieval ditches and quarry pits, although the density of features was less than that observed at the former Sargeant's Garage site. A series of undated linear features were also identified and were interpreted as possible Anglo-Saxon land divisions. These boundaries were formalised as plots in the 11th to 12th centuries, before the site area was used as a gravel quarry in the 12th and 13th centuries.
- 3.21 A small excavation, slightly to the north of the above site, was undertaken at Scotland Road/Union Lane in 2006 (CHER MCB17142). This identified a 13th-century sequence of activity based around an enclosure on Union Lane.
- 3.22 A small evaluation in 2003 at Victoria Avenue (CHER CB15640), c. 300m south-west of the current site, identified a medieval gully, as well as two further pits of possibly earlier date.
- 3.23 Residual medieval pottery was found in post-medieval features in a 2014 evaluation at Chesterton House, Church Street, c. 300m east of the site (CHER MCB22629).
- 3.24 Recent evaluation (January 2018) at the Ashley Hotel, 140m west of the current site along Chesterton Road, identified a number of pits and ditches and a brick and rubble wall foundation. Late medieval (c. 14th- to 16th-century) pottery was recovered from a ditch and one of the pits (CHER ECB5318; MCB24869). Chesterton Road may have been the main medieval route between Cambridge and the village at Chesterton.
- 3.25 As with the other periods recorded in the HER search of the study area the post-medieval period is represented at Jesus College (CHER 05275), with both extant buildings and below ground archaeological features being present. These remains relate to the use of the site as a college and a Grammar School (MCB21508).

- 3.26 Milton Road, located 1km north-east of the site, had a windmill somewhere along it (CHER 05479), although the precise site of the mill has not been confirmed by archaeological investigation.
- 3.27 The various sites around the Union Lane area of Chesterton which have been subject to archaeological investigation have usually contained evidence of post-medieval activity. The Former Hospital site (CHER CB15563) on Union Lane had evidence for extensive post-medieval gravel extraction, which had severely truncated earlier deposits. Further evidence for gravel extraction has been found in the wider area, for example, at Milton Road (CHER MCB20470), where a 2015 evaluation identified a series of large 19th-century quarry pits, at Green Road (CHER MCB20485), where smaller quarry pits were identified, and at Church Street (CHER MCB20940), which had large 17th- to 18th-century quarry pits backfilled with domestic refuse.
- 3.28 Further investigation at Church Street (CHER MCB22629), c. 650m north-east of the site, identified further quarry pits, as well as features relating to the construction of the 18th-century Chesterton Hall. This building is still extant, but the surviving fabric is almost entirely 19th- to 20th-century in date.
- 3.29 In November 1923, the Carmelite nuns of Notting Hill opened a convent at 104–106 Chesterton Road (CHER MCB21998). Their chapel served as a Mass centre for Catholics in the Chesterton area. The Chesterton Road property (now the site of St Regis flats) became too noisy for the nuns and so they moved in 1937 to Waterbeach. The convent is marked on the 3rd Edition (1925) Ordnance Survey map.
- 3.30 The St Regis flats were constructed in the late 1930s and, with the threat of war imminent, included provision for an air raid shelter in the grounds of the property. During World War II, the flats served as a civil defence headquarters.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of five trial trenches, each 1.8–2m wide and between 11 and 23m long, totalling 80.4m of trenches (Figure 2). These provided a 4.8% sample (145m<sup>2</sup>) of the overall 0.3ha site. The dimensions of each trench were as follows:

Trench 1 – 20m x 1.8m

Trench 2 – 11.2m x 2m

Trench 3 – 23m x 1.8m

Trench 4 – 14m x 1.8m

Trench 5 – 12.2m x 1.8m

- 4.1.2 Trench positions were dictated by the positions of standing buildings and services, but nevertheless provided good coverage of most areas of the site.

### **4.2 Excavation Methodology**

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 1.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator (Plate 2). The small size of the machine was necessitated by the issues surrounding access to the site. The southern block of flats and Trench 1 could only be accessed off Hamilton Road, with no through-route being available between this area and the other parts of the site. The only way to access the area of Trenches 2–4 was via an undercroft with low ceiling clearance, which would not have accommodated a larger machine (Plate 3).
- 4.2.2 Topsoil, subsoil and other overburden of low archaeological interest was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Due to the nature of the topsoil and subsoil at the site as buried

deposits of unknown date, the spoil from these deposits was searched for finds throughout the excavation process. In the case of Trench 1, a test pit was excavated by hand prior to machine excavation in order to ascertain the potential age of the deposits. The buried subsoil (124) in Trench 5 was also investigated by means of two 1x1m hand-dug test pits, after which the bulk of the remainder of the deposit was also excavated by hand in order to check the underlying natural gravel for archaeological features. Bucket sampling, whereby 100 litres of excavated subsoil (101) from each end of each trench was hand-sorted, resulted in the recovery of medieval and post-medieval pottery in Trench 1 (see Sudds, Section 7.1, Table 1).

- 4.2.3 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

### **4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery**

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica GS014 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). 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]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated 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.

4.3.3 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 periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant trenches, features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

#### **4.4 Sampling Strategy**

4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly-spaced slots. Where possible, slots were positioned against the trench edges in order to record stratigraphic relationships with overlying deposits.

#### **4.5 Environmental Sampling**

4.5.1 A total of one bulk sample (20 litres in volume) was taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The aim of this sampling was to investigate the past environment and economy of the site, the diet of the past inhabitants and the agricultural basis of the settlement. An additional aim of the sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals. The sample was taken from a sealed deposit.

## 5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

### 5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	2
Context sheets	25
Plan registers	1
Plans at 1:50	6
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	16
Trench record sheets	5
Photo register sheets	2
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	1

### 5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	93
GPS survey files	3
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

### 5.3 Physical Archive

		Discard
Struck flint	2 (6.9g)	N
Burnt flint	0	
Pottery	12 (83g)	19th C; retain medieval
Ceramic building material (CBM)	2 x bricks	Y
Glass	0	
Briquetage	0	
Small Finds	0	
Slag	0	
Animal bone	13 (81g)	Y
Shell	0	
Environmental bulk samples	1	N
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	2	
Monolith samples	0	
Other samples (specify)	0	
Black and white films	0	
Colour slides	0	

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with context data tabulated (Appendix 2).

### **6.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)**

- 6.2.1 Trench 1 contained a set of adjoining perpendicular wall foundations, aligned approximately east-north-east to west-south-west and north-north-west to south-south-east. Small buildings are shown in approximately this location on the 1911 and 1950 Ordnance Survey maps (Figs. 10 and 11). They were smaller than the semi-detached Edwardian houses shown on the adjacent plot to the east, so were probably outbuildings; one was a greenhouse associated with the use of the site as a nursery until the first decade of the 20th century (Fig. 9). The trench also contained a buried subsoil, present along its entire length, which appears to be a buried medieval to post-medieval plough-soil from before suburban Cambridge expanded eastwards into this area in the late 19th century. The trench also contained a large service aligned north-west to south-east, crossing the trench.
- 6.2.2 Wall Foundation (106) (Figure 3, Section 3, Plate 5) was located at the north-east end of the trench and was aligned west-south-west to east-north-east, extending for 5.4m before apparently turning through 90° and continuing north-north-west to south-south-east for 1.5m at the east end of the trench. Its full width was not visible within the trench and it was quite shallow, measuring 0.3m+ wide by 0.24m deep. The main wall foundation consisted, for the most part, of a single stretcher course of locally-made yellow bricks (Plate 12) and occasional frogged bricks stamped with the logo of the London Brick Company (Plate 13) (Valcarcel, Section 7.3), bonded with a light grey sandy mortar and overlain by concrete. The south-south-eastward return of the wall consisted of a layer of concrete only. The bricks date to the late 19th/early 20th century. The wall foundation was underlain by Layer (107), which comprised light grey gravel and crushed concrete measuring 0.08m deep.
- 6.2.3 Layer (101) (Figure 3, Sections 2 and 3, Plate 5), present along the full length

of the trench, and beneath the wall foundations, was a loose to moderately compact homogenous mid greyish-brown sand, up to 0.54m deep. It contained eight sherds (40g) of pottery, which includes a range of medieval fabrics (Grimston-type ware, Medieval Ely Ware, Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware, Essex-type micaceous grey sandy ware etc.; Sudds, Section 7.1), alongside a post-medieval flowerpot sherd and a residual Late Iron Age/early Roman burnished shelly ware sherd (3g). The sherds are all small, abraded and mixed, indicating that this is not a primary deposit. The appearance of the layer suggests that it is a predominantly medieval plough-soil, with the associated finds deriving from deliberate dumping and spreading of occupation waste as manure. The plough-soil may have continued to be worked into the 18th/19th century, before suburban Cambridge expanded into this area.

<b>TRENCH 1</b>	<b>Figure 3</b>	<b>Plate 4</b>	
Trench Alignment: WSW–ENE	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 6.67–6.75m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Maximum Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>WSW End</b>	<b>ENE End</b>
Tarmac	(103)	0.11m	0.16m
Crushed concrete	(104)	0.24m	0.39m
Silty sand with rubble inclusions	(105)	0.34m	0.52m
Buried subsoil	(101)	0.88m	0.98m
Natural Sand and Gravel	(102)	0.88m+	0.98m+
<b>Summary</b>			
<p>Trench 1 was located close to the southern boundary of the site.</p> <p>The trench contained a set of wall foundations, aligned approximately west-south-west to east-north-east and north-north-west to south-south-east. Small buildings are shown in approximately this area on the 1911 and 1950 Ordnance Survey maps. Brick samples recovered from the wall foundation date to the late 19th/ early 20th century.</p> <p>The trench also contained a buried medieval to post-medieval plough-soil, present along its entire length.</p> <p>A single modern service crossed the trench and truncated the archaeological levels.</p>			

### 6.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

- 6.3.1 Trench 2 contained a single probable plough furrow, which was aligned approximately east-north-east to west-south-west. It was sealed by a buried subsoil, which was present along the full length of the trench and was probably the same as that seen in Trench 1.
- 6.3.2 Plough Furrow [112] (Figure 4, Section 6, Plate 6) extended across the majority of the trench and was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, continuing beyond the limits of excavation in both directions (8.7m+). It was narrow and shallow, measuring 0.25m wide and 0.05m deep. It contained a single fill (111), a light greyish-brown clay which contained no finds. The feature was heavily truncated, only surviving in short stretches.
- 6.3.3 The plough furrow was sealed by the subsoil (101) (Figure 4, Section 4), a moderately compact mid greyish-brown sandy silt which contained no finds. It was probably the same deposit seen in Trench 1: a buried medieval to post-medieval plough-soil from before suburban Cambridge expanded into this area in the late 19th century.

TRENCH 2	Figure 4	Plate 6	
Trench Alignment: WSW–ENE	Length: 11.2m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.74–5.84m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		ENE End	WSW End
Tarmac and crushed concrete	(108)	0.28m	0.28m
Silty sand with rubble inclusions	(109)	0.54m	0.84m
Mortar and sand	(110)	-	0.88m
Buried topsoil	(100)	0.82m	-
Buried subsoil	(101)	1.03m	1.07m
Natural Clay	(102)	1.10m+	1.12m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 2 was located centrally within the site.			
The trench contained a single probable plough furrow, which was aligned approximately east-north-east to west-south-west and was sealed by a buried former plough-soil. No finds were present in either the furrow or the plough-soil.			

#### **6.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 4)**

- 6.4.1 Trench 3 contained a ditch and a pit. The ditch contained a sherd of medieval pottery and was sealed by the subsoil; the pit cut through the buried former topsoil and subsoil and contained late-19th-century pottery.
- 6.4.2 Ditch [116] (Figure 4, Section 10, Plate 8) was located towards the north-west end of the trench and was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was relatively wide and deep, measuring 1.53m wide by 0.76m deep. It contained two fills: a 0.50m thick upper fill of mid orangey-grey clay (114), which contained no finds, and a 0.26m deep basal fill of mid grey clay (115), which contained a base sherd (10g) of probable medieval Essex-type micaceous grey sandy ware with external sooting (AD 1150–1400; Sudds, Section 7.1). A soil sample <1000> from the basal fill did not contain any concentrations of plant macrofossils; those botanical remains that are present appear to be modern contaminants (Turner, Section 7.5).
- 6.4.3 The ditch was aligned approximately east-north-east to west-south-west, parallel with Chesterton Road 30m to the north. The Chesterton Enclosure Map, Tithe Map (1840) and 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1885) (Figures 6–8, respectively) all show a field boundary in approximately this position (although possibly slightly further to the south) and on this alignment. However, the ditch contained a sherd of probable medieval pottery and was also sealed by the buried former plough-soil (101), which appears from the associated pottery in Trenches 1 and 5 (see below) to have medieval origins. Therefore, the ditch may be a medieval demarcation of a field boundary which lasted until the late 19th century. Later cuts of the boundary ditch had probably been destroyed by large Pit [120] in the centre of Trench 3. It is also of note that the position of Ditch [116] corresponded with a change in geology, from clay to the south to sand and gravel to the north.
- 6.4.4 Pit [120] (Figure 4, Plate 7 centre ground) was located centrally within the trench and was not fully visible in plan (7.50m+ long x 2m+ wide x 0.60m+ deep), extending beyond the limits of excavation to the east and west. It had an upper fill (119) of dark grey silty clay which contained brick rubble,

corroded ironwork and late-19th-century pottery including numerous flowerpots (Plate 14). The latter may relate to the use of the site as a nursery c. AD 1900 (Figure 9: 1901 Ordnance Survey map). The pit was visible cutting through made ground Layer (109), as well as through the buried former topsoil (100) and subsoil (101).

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figure 4</b>	<b>Plate 7</b>	
Trench Alignment: NNW–SSE	Length: 23m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.88–6.07m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Maximum Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>NNW End</b>	<b>SSE End</b>
Tarmac and crushed concrete	(108)	0.29m	0.28m
Silty sand with rubble inclusions	(109)	0.46m	0.54m
Buried topsoil	(100)	0.66m	0.74m
Buried subsoil	(101)	0.94m	1.00m
Natural Sand and Gravel/ Clay	(102)	1.10m+	1.05m+
<b>Summary</b>			
<p>Trench 3 was located centrally within the site. It contained a ditch and a large pit. The ditch contained a sherd of medieval pottery and was sealed beneath the subsoil. The pit was late-19th-century+ and probably associated with the use of the site at that time as a horticultural nursery. Apart from where it had been cut by the large pit, the buried subsoil was present along the length of the trench. It probably represents the former plough-soil from before the expansion of Cambridge into this area in the late 19th century.</p>			

## 6.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

6.5.1 Trench 4 contained a posthole and a pit. Both features contained single struck flint flakes; the pit also contained a fragment of animal bone. Both features were sealed by the buried former plough-soil, which was present along the full length of the trench.

6.5.2 Posthole [118] (Figure 4, Section 9, Plate 9) was located centrally within the trench and was circular in plan with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base (0.35m wide by 0.15m deep). It had a single fill (117), a light brownish-grey silty sand, which contained a prehistoric struck flint flake (Egberts, Section 7.2).

6.5.3 Pit [122] (Figure 4, Section 15, Plate 10) was located towards the west end of

the trench. The exposed part of the feature was oval in plan with fairly steep sides and a concave base (0.94m long x 0.45m+ wide x 0.48m deep). It had a single fill of loose mid brownish-grey clayey silt (121), which contained a piece of sheep bone and a struck flint flake (Egberts, Section 7.2). The pit was sealed by the subsoil (101).

<b>TRENCH 4</b>	<b>Figure 4</b>	<b>Plate N/A</b>	
Trench Alignment: WSW–ENE	Length: 14m (excluding break)	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.92–6.05m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Maximum Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>ENE End</b>	<b>WSW End</b>
Tarmac and crushed concrete	(113)	0.30m	0.22m
Silty sand with rubble inclusions	(100)	0.63m	0.62m
Buried subsoil	(101)	0.82m	0.82m
Natural Sand and Gravel	(102)	0.83m+	0.83m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 4 was located in the central northern part of the site.			
The trench contained a posthole and a pit, each of which contained a single prehistoric struck flint flake. Both features were sealed by the buried subsoil.			

## 6.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 5)

- 6.6.1 The west end of Trench 5 contained a layer of buried soil (124) which contained medieval and post-medieval pottery (3 sherds; 33g). No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were present. Numerous modern services crossed the trench.
- 6.6.2 Layer (124) (Figure 5, Plate 11 foreground) was a moderately compact mid- to dark greyish-brown sandy silt, encountered beneath Subsoil (101) in the west end of Trench 5 (5m+ long x 1.8m+ wide x 0.23m deep). Machine excavation ceased when it was encountered, as medieval pottery was visible in the deposit (2 sherds from a Hedingham fineware jug; 31g; Sudds, Section 7.1). The layer was investigated by means of two 1x1m hand-dug test pits; the bulk of the remainder of the deposit was then also hand-excavated in an attempt to recover any additional finds and to check the underlying natural gravels for archaeological features. A small post-medieval flowerpot sherd (2g) was



probably intrusive from the upper subsoil level (101). Layer (124) was probably a buried medieval plough-soil; it may be the same as the lower part of Layer (101) encountered in the other trenches. It also contained three fragments of animal bone (one cattle, one sheep and one cattle-sized).

<b>TRENCH 5</b>	<b>Figure 5</b>	<b>Plate 11</b>	
Trench Alignment: WSW–ENE	Length: 12.2m (excluding break)	Level of Natural (m OD): 6.86–7.00m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Maximum Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>WSW End</b>	<b>ENE End</b>
Tarmac	(103)	0.14m	-
Crushed concrete	(104)	0.39m	0.08m
Silty sand with rubble inclusions	(105)	0.45m	0.12m
Buried subsoil	(101)	0.87m	-
Buried subsoil	(124)	1.10m	-
Made ground (silty clay with occ. brick and concrete)	(123)	-	0.94m
Natural Sand and Gravel	(102)	1.10m+	0.94m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 5 was located in the north of the site. In the western part of the trench was a buried soil layer which contained medieval pottery; it may have been a medieval plough-soil. Numerous modern services crossed the trench.			

## **7 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **7.1 Pottery**

#### **By Berni Sudds**

##### Introduction

- 7.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered during the evaluation, amounting to 12 sherds, weighing 83g. The fabrics were examined under x20 magnification and recorded using a system of mnemonic codes based on common name, as laid out in the type series for Cambridgeshire (Spoerry 2016).
- 7.1.2 With the exception of a single sherd of probable Late Iron Age to early Roman date, the pottery dates to the medieval and post-medieval period. The medieval and later pottery can all be well-paralleled in Cambridge (Spoerry 2016, 38 and 51), but is fragmentary and abraded, providing little more than dating evidence for the deposits from which it was recovered and, consequently, contemporary activity in the immediate area. Indeed, the majority was recovered from the subsoil (101) (Trench 1), with just one medieval greyware sherd from Ditch [116] (Trench 3) and two vessels from layer (124) (Trench 5), comprising two sherds from the same Hedingham fineware jug and a small sherd from a late post-medieval flowerpot. The possible Late Iron Age to early Roman sherd is small but has a fine shelly fabric and highly burnished surfaces.

Context	Fill of	Tr	Type	Form	SC	Wg	Date range	Spot date/ comments
101 (WSW end)		1	Burnished shelly ware	Body sherd	1	3	Late Iron Age – Early Roman?	1700 - 1900
			Grimston-type ware (GRIM)	Jug sherd, external green glaze	1	1	1175 - 1400	
			Medieval Ely Ware (MEL)	Body sherd	1	5	1150 - 1350	
			Medieval Essex-type micaceous grey sandy ware (MEMS)	Small body sherd	1	2	1150 - 1400	
			South-east Fenland Calcareous Buff ware (SEFEN)?	Body sherd, oxidised	1	3	1150 - 1450	
101 (ENE end)		1	Post-medieval redware	Flowerpot body sherd	1	6	1700 - 1900	
			Medieval Ely Ware (MEL)	Body/base sherd. External sooting. HUNFSW?	1	7	1150 - 1350	
			Huntingdonshire Early Medieval Ware (HUNEMW)	Body sherd	1	13	1050 - 1200	
115	116		Medieval Essex-type micaceous grey sandy ware (MEMS)?	Base sherd, external sooting. Abraded. ?Roman	1	10	1150 - 1400	1150 - 1400
124			Post-medieval redware	Flowerpot body sherd	1	2	1700 - 1900	1700 - 1900
			Heddingham Fineware (HEDI)	Thumbed jug base and body sherd. Abraded. Small patches of clear/green glaze surviving	2	31	1150 - 1350	1900

Table 1: Catalogue of the pottery and ceramic building material

(Tr = Trench; SC = Sherd count; Wg = Weight in grams). Fabric codes in brackets after fabric common name, based on Sperry 2016

## 7.2 Struck Flint

### By Ella Egberts

#### Description

- 7.2.1 The evaluation resulted in the recovery of two struck flints. One flake is struck from a fine-grained, translucent black/ brown flint with weathered nodular cortex. The other flint is struck from a fine-grained, translucent dark grey flint with a weathered nodular cortex. The raw material may have been obtained from river terrace deposits present in the vicinity of the site. The terrace deposits include weathered nodular flint, which could have become incorporated in the terrace through erosion of the underlying chalk bedrock (BGS 2018; Website 1). The flakes are in slightly chipped to chipped condition, suggesting they have moved to some extent after discard.
- 7.2.2 One flake from Posthole [118] is 33mm long, 27mm wide, 6mm thick and weighs 5.2g. The dorsal side is mainly cortical except for a negative flake scar in the centre of the flake, running from the striking platform, and a negative flake scar along the left edge. The striking platform is a negative flake scar and slightly obtuse. The distal end of the flake is snapped off. The other flake (from Pit [122] fill (121)) is 19mm long, 21mm wide, 8mm thick and weighs 1.7g. The flake has a thick and cortical striking platform and has a slightly hinged termination. The dorsal side is shaped by one negative flake scar. The right edge appears broken, which possibly occurred when the flake was knapped.
- 7.2.3 Although the flakes do not show any highly diagnostic characteristics, the larger flake is well-knapped, resembling earlier rather than later prehistoric flint-working, whereas the smaller flake shows characteristics of later prehistoric flint-knapping. However, as both flakes are not distinctly diagnostic, they can only be dated to the prehistoric period in general.

#### Significance and Recommendations

- 7.2.4 As there are only two finds, the significance of the flakes is limited, but they do indicate that humans were present at the site at some point during the prehistoric period.

7.2.5 The struck flints have been comprehensively described in this report and no further analytical work is recommended.

### 7.3 Ceramic Building Materials

By Amparo Valcarcel

#### Review

7.3.1 A small assemblage (three fragments) of building material was recovered from the archaeological evaluation at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge. The material consists of two modern bricks taken from Wall Foundation (107). The Fletton brick came into widespread use in Britain around AD 1900. The cheap transport of the time meant that the bricks could reach most parts of the country and could be cheaper than local products. The London Bricks Company (L B C) manufactured these fragments at the end of the 19th century.

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date
107	107	3038;3261	Fletton stamped brick; modern brick	LBC 2 frogged local	1850	1950	1850	1950	1900–1910

Table 2: Ceramic building materials

#### Recommendations

7.3.2 Other than dating different deposits, the modern bricks are unremarkable and an extremely common form and fabric. As such, they should be discarded. Their presence merely reflects modern building activity, perhaps related to the terraced buildings of Hamilton Road. No further work is recommended.

### 7.4 Animal Bone

By Ryan Desrosiers

#### Introduction

7.4.1 Evaluation of land at St. Regis Flats recovered a total of 13 fragments of animal bone, from two deposits. These remains, weighing a total of 81g, are

comprised of taxa from one taxonomic order, mammals (Mammalia).

#### Methodology

- 7.4.2 The animal bone was identified and recorded to species level where possible. In the case of unidentifiable fragments, like long-bone shaft fragments or vertebral fragments, classification into size classes (e.g. cattle-sized, sheep-sized etc.) was attempted. During the recording of individual elements, attributes including species, bone portion, taphonomy, pathology and any anthropogenic alterations to elements were noted. Attempts were made to refit all possible elements within contexts, with the total number of fragments also being noted.
- 7.4.3 All of the animal bones found in the course of the trial-trenching were collected by hand. Once brought back from site, all bones were washed by hand using warm water and medium- to firm-bristled brushes.

#### Assemblage Description

- 7.4.4 The evaluation recovered 13 fragments of animal bone, from two deposits within two trenches. After refitting, these 13 fragments reduce to a total of four specimens. Two domestic species: cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (ovicaprid) are present (see Table 3). Given the small size of the assemblage, the proportions are not statistically significant. Overall, the state of preservation of the bones is relatively good for smaller elements, and larger fragments display little evidence of extraneous taphonomic factors influencing preservation. No specimens display direct evidence of human consumption or alteration.
- 7.4.5 A buried subsoil (124) in Trench 5 yielded three specimens. These consist of a mostly intact right sheep/goat mandible (including all molars and premolars), a left cow tibia fragment, and an unidentifiable long-bone fragment.
- 7.4.6 The single undated fill (121) of Pit [122] in Trench 4 contained a right sheep/goat tibia shaft. No indicators for ageing this individual are present.

#### Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.4.7 A brief assessment of the faunal remains from St. Regis Flats only allows for

limited inferences regarding animal husbandry at this site and within the surrounding area. The presence of domestic fauna (i.e. sheep/goat and cattle) is unsurprising given their common use in agriculture during all periods.

## **7.5 Environmental Remains**

### **By Kate Turner**

#### Introduction

7.5.1 This report summarises the findings of rapid assessment of the environmental remains from one bulk soil sample taken during the archaeological evaluation of land at St. Regis Flats. This sample was taken from the fill of a medieval ditch, the context information for which is given in Table 4.

7.5.2 The aim of this assessment is to:

1. Give an overview of the contents of the assessed sample;
2. Determine the environmental potential of the sample;
3. Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

#### Methodology

7.5.3 One environmental bulk sample, of 20 litres in volume, was processed using the flotation method. Material was collected using a 300µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4mm, and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1–10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly frequent (11–30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31–100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).

7.5.4 The light residue (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example, roots and modern plant material.

## Results and Discussion

Sample <1000>, context (115), fill of Ditch [116]

- 7.5.5 Sample <1000> was poor in environmental remains. A moderate frequency of heavily fragmented wood charcoal was found in the flot, none of which was a suitable size for species identification (>4mm in length/width). A large concentration of modern duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) seeds were also recognised, along with modern roots and a low frequency of ostracods, insect remains and juvenile snails. The majority of this material appears to be non-contemporary, and likely to be evidence of contamination, and is thus of limited diagnostic potential. Cultural material was absent from this deposit.

Sample No.	1000	
Context No.	115	
Feature No.	116	
Feature type	Ditch	
Period	Medieval	
Trench	3	
Volume of bulk (litres)	20	
Volume of flot (millilitres)	0.1	
HEAVY RESIDUE		
FLOT RESIDUE		
Charcoal		
Charcoal >4 mm		
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm		
Charcoal <2 mm	3	
Frag. of ID size	x	
Seeds		
Lemna sp.	Duckweeds	4
Other plant macrofossils		
Roots/tubers	1	
Other remains		
Ostracods	1	
Juvenile snails - terrestrial	1	
Insect eggs/worm cases	1	
Coal	1	

Table 4: Assessment of environmental samples

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant



#### Recommendations for further work

- 7.5.6 Due to the poor preservation of environmental material in the single sample, additional specialist work is not required.

CONTEXT	CUT	TRENCH	FEATURE	SPECIES	WEIGHT (g)	FRAGMENTS	PART	ELEMENT	ANAT_REGION	SIDE
121	122	4	Pit	OVCA	28	1	S	Tibia	Hind	R
124	0	5	Subsoil	OVCA	30.5	10	W	Mandible	Cranial	R
124	0	5	Subsoil	BOS	20	1	F	Tibia		L
124	0	5	Subsoil	CSZ	2.5	1	F		Fore/Hind	U

Table 3: Animal bone by context

## **8 DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Prehistoric**

- 8.1.1 A posthole and a pit, each of which contained single struck flint flakes of prehistoric date, were found in Trench 4, sealed beneath the buried subsoil. One of the struck flint flakes may be later prehistoric; the other possibly has more in common with earlier prehistoric flint-work, though it is not particularly diagnostic. These features and finds suggest the presence of prehistoric, possibly later prehistoric (c. later-2nd- to early-1st-millennium BC) settlement or other activity in the vicinity, but there does not appear to have been any focus of activity on the site itself during this period. The survival of a medieval to post-medieval plough-soil across the entire site suggests that any earlier archaeological deposits, if present, would have stood a good chance of survival (allowing for damage caused by medieval and post-medieval agriculture).
- 8.1.2 The presence of prehistoric activity in this location is not surprising, considering the suitability of the light, free-draining terrace gravels of the River Cam, which form the superficial geological deposits in parts of the site, for early settlement and farming. This is shown by the presence of prehistoric remains elsewhere in the vicinity of the site and along the course of the River Cam, for example at Union Lane (CHER MCB 17140), Midsummer Common (CHER 04759, 04801 and 05020A) and Jesus College (CHER CB15722).

### **8.2 Late Iron Age and Roman (c. 100 BC - AD 400)**

- 8.2.1 An abraded sherd (3g) of shell-tempered pottery with a burnished surface was found residually in the medieval to post-medieval plough-soil horizon in Trench 1. It is probably Late Iron Age to early Roman (c. 100 BC – AD 150).

### **8.3 Medieval (c. AD 1100–1400)**

- 8.3.1 The moderately large ditch in Trench 3, sealed beneath the buried plough-soil and containing a well-stratified sherd of 12th–14th-century pottery, broadly matches the position and alignment of a field boundary shown on 19th-century maps (Figs. 6–8). It thus appears to be a medieval precursor of a field boundary which continued in use until the expansion of suburban Cambridge

onto this previously agricultural land towards the end of the 19th century. The alignment of the ditch parallel to Chesterton Road reinforces the likely medieval (or earlier) date of that route between Cambridge and the then-separate village at Chesterton. In the mid-19th century, the field boundary of which Ditch [116] appears to be a precursor was a broadly east–west subdivision between two small enclosed fields to the north and south (Fig. 6). Together, these two fields formed a parcel of land with a curvilinear shape in plan, which stands out from the generally rectilinear pattern of fields in the surrounding area (Figs. 7 and 8). Its unusual morphology suggests that this land unit might be an early enclosure from Chesterton's open fields, perhaps medieval in origin, and associated with a dispersed settlement or farmstead in the near vicinity. Although the quantity of medieval pottery from the site is small and was probably deposited by manuring (the deliberate spreading of night-soil and other domestic waste on arable land to increase soil fertility), its fairly frequent occurrence in the plough-soil here might suggest proximity to contemporary dwellings where the midden material was generated, perhaps an area of medieval dispersed settlement focused along Chesterton Road. This suggestion would tie in with the discovery of late medieval features at the Ashley Hotel site, 140m to the west (CHER ECB5318; MCB24869).

- 8.3.2 A buried subsoil layer (101) survived across the site, sealed beneath layers associated with the construction of the Regis Flats. It was 'clean' and homogeneous in appearance and probably represents a buried plough-soil from before suburban Cambridge expanded into the area in the late 19th century. Medieval and a smaller amount of post-medieval pottery was found in the layer in Trench 1. In Trench 5, a layer of similar appearance (124) was encountered and investigated beneath Layer (101) and found to also contain predominantly medieval pottery, with one probably intrusive post-medieval sherd. This was distinguishable from (101) only because medieval pottery was observed in it and it was therefore hand-excavated; it may be the same as the lower part of Layer (101) elsewhere on the site. The plough-soil is likely to be medieval in origin, continuing to be worked into the post-medieval period, though perhaps to a lesser extent, perhaps because of a shift towards predominantly pastoral land-use.

8.3.3 The presence of these buried plough-soil layers across the site suggests two things. First, land-use in this area from the medieval period through to the later 19th century was primarily agricultural in nature and probably mainly arable (although the northern half of the site was under grass at the time of the 1840 Chesterton Tithe Apportionment (Fletcher 2016, 21; see Section 11.3 for reference)). Secondly, late-19th- and 20th-century land-use, including the construction of Regis Flats, did not involve significant ground reduction or ground disturbance (at least outside the footprints of the main buildings). Preservation conditions on the site are therefore fairly good and the limited evidence for activity prior to the late 19th century is probably genuine rather than due to truncation, though some damage may have been caused by medieval and post-medieval agriculture.

#### **8.4 Post-Medieval to Modern (c. AD 1900 onwards)**

8.4.1 The post-medieval to modern remains found on the site were limited to a late-19th-century pit containing dumped rubbish, some of it likely to be associated with the use of the site as a horticultural nursery c. AD 1900 (Fig. 9) and the foundations of an early-20th-century outbuilding in the far south-east corner.

8.4.2 Each trench contained deposits of made ground and levelling layers overlying the buried plough-soil. These derive mainly from the construction of the current flats in the late 1930s and indicate that the ground level across the site was built up at this time, rather than cut into, in order to create level access and parking areas.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 The trial trench evaluation at Regis Flats provided a 4.8% sample of the 0.3ha development area. Trench positions were dictated by existing buildings and services but nevertheless provide good coverage of most areas.
- 9.2 The evaluation found slight evidence for prehistoric activity in the area, comprising a pit and a posthole, each containing single struck flint flakes, in Trench 4. One of the struck flints may be later prehistoric. A residual Late Iron Age or early Roman potsherd was found in Trench 1.
- 9.3 A medieval to post-medieval plough-soil survived across the site, sealed below made ground and levelling deposits associated with the construction of Regis Flats in the 1930s. In Trench 5, the lower level of this plough-soil contained medieval pottery; medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from it in Trench 1.
- 9.4 A medieval ditch in the central part of the site (Trench 3), appears to be an early demarcation of a field boundary which lasted until the late 19th century and which is shown on the Chesterton Enclosure and Tithe Maps, and the 1st Edition OS Map. The curvilinear morphology of the field boundaries in this area on the historic maps suggests that the site may lie within an early enclosure, possibly of medieval origin.
- 9.5 The overall quantity and condition of the medieval pottery from the site suggest that it derives from the deliberate spreading of midden material as manure. However, its fairly frequent presence in the buried plough-soil across the site might indicate proximity to a farmstead or other focus of occupation, perhaps an area of medieval dispersed settlement along Chesterton Road.
- 9.6 Despite these interesting findings, there is no evidence of direct occupation on the site at any time before the early 20th century. The good preservation conditions mean that this absence is likely to be genuine rather than due to truncation. The further archaeological potential of the site itself would appear to be low.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Lotan Joseph of Henry Riley LLP for commissioning the archaeological work on behalf of Clare College, who generously funded the project. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work. The project was managed for PCA by Tom Woolhouse and was supervised by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne, assisted by Rory Fisher and Tom Learmonth. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department. PCA would also like to thank Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record for providing up-to-date information about other archaeological fieldwork and finds in the vicinity of the site, and Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies for providing access to historic maps.

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Woolhouse, T. 2018. *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge* (Unpublished: Pre-Construct Archaeology)

### **11.2 Websites**

1) British Geological Survey, 2018. *Geology of Britain Viewer*



<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=CB41AS>. Accessed 10/09/2018

### 11.3 Cartographic Sources

Description	Date	Cambridgeshire Archives reference
Plan of the Parish of Chesterton (Enclosure Map)	1840	Q/RDc59
Chesterton Tithe Map and Apportionment	1840	R60/24/4/2
Ordnance Survey Map, First Edition	1885	Cambridgeshire Sheet XL.14
Ordnance Survey Map, Second Edition (1901 revised 1911)	1901/1911	Cambridgeshire Sheet XL.14 SE
Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map : Provisional Edition (1925 with additions in 1950)	1925/1950	Cambridgeshire Sheet XL.SW

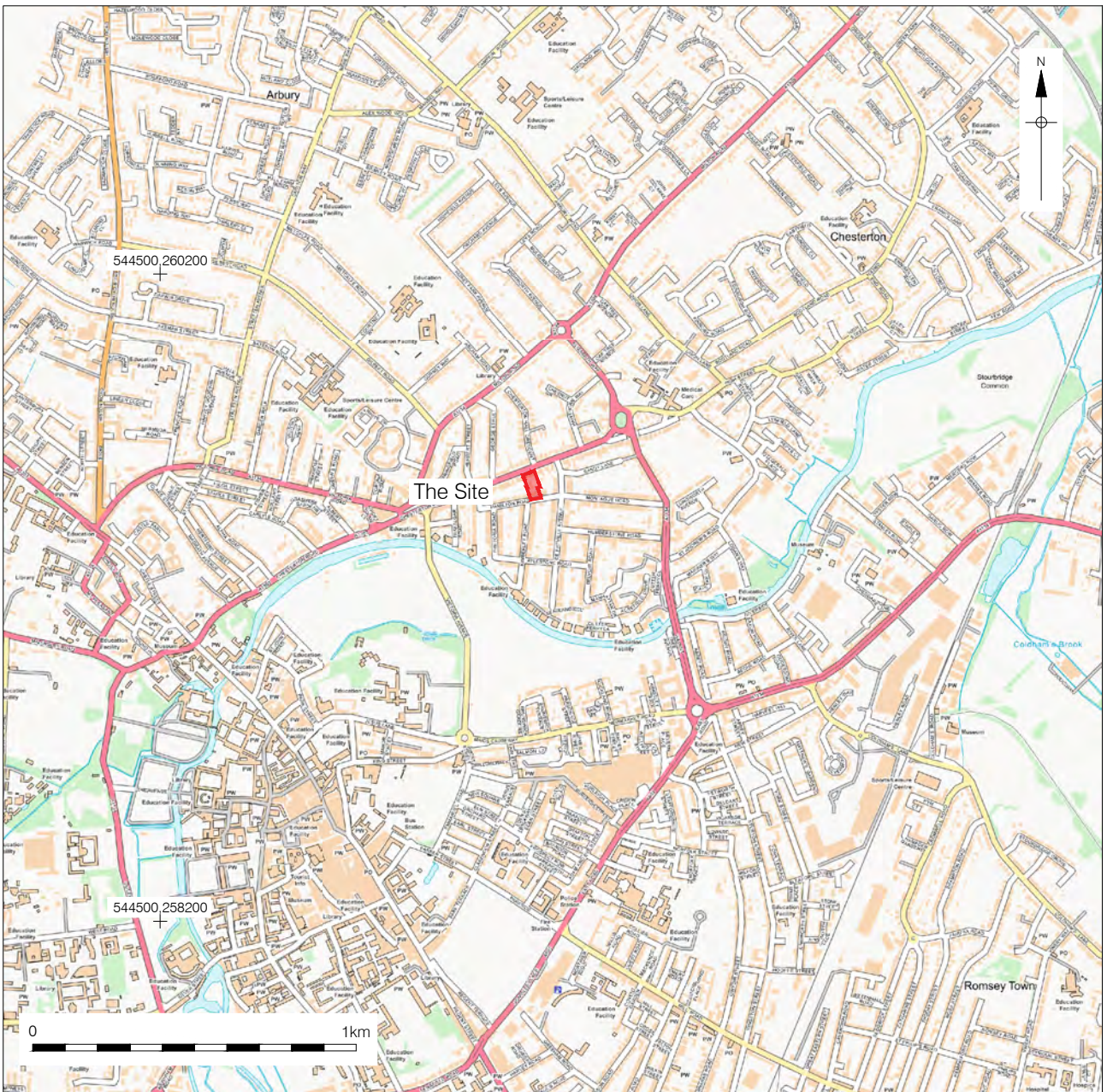
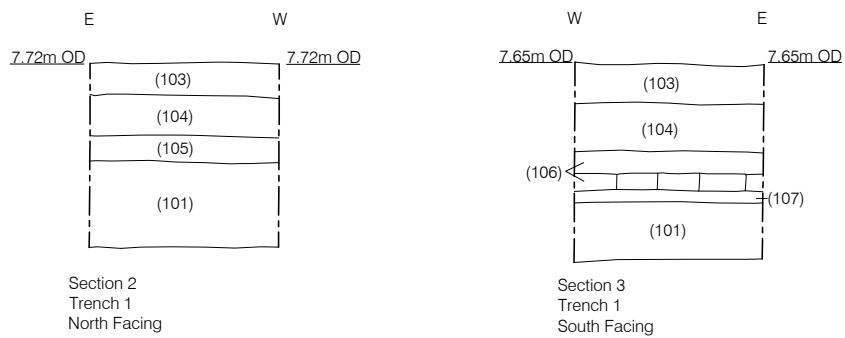
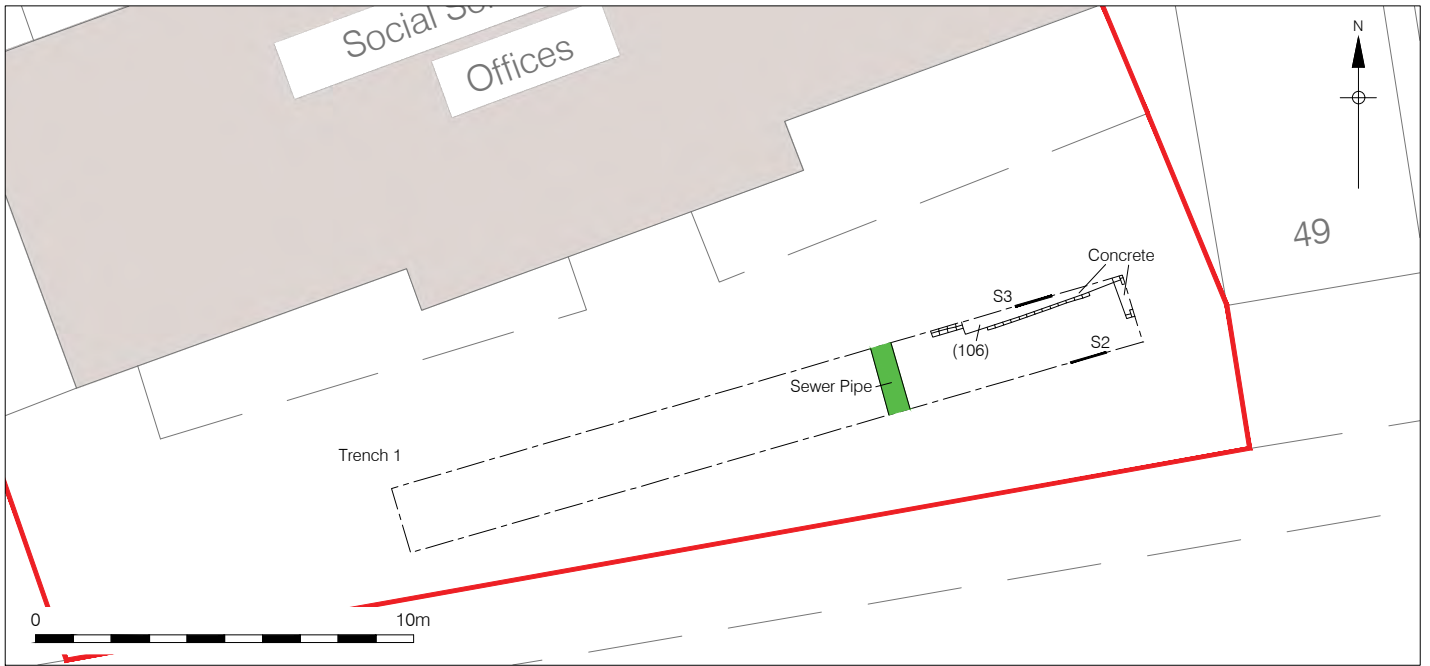
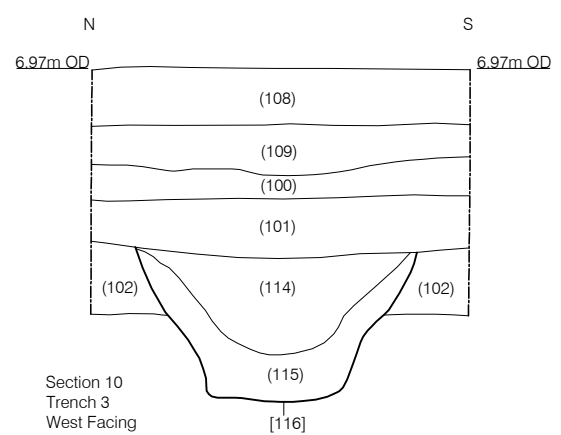
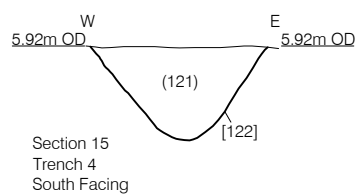
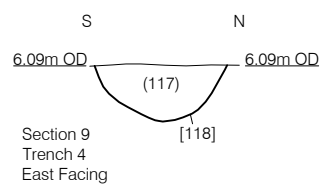
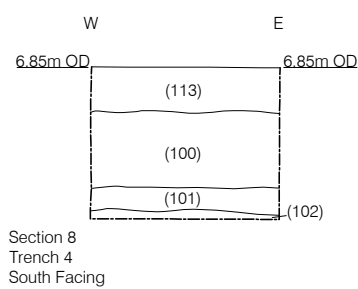
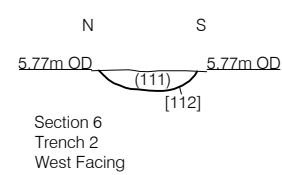
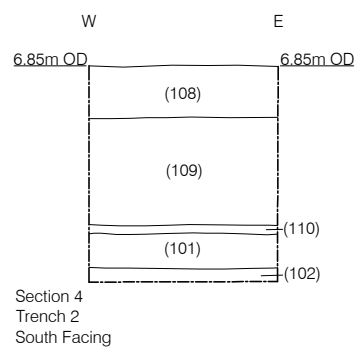
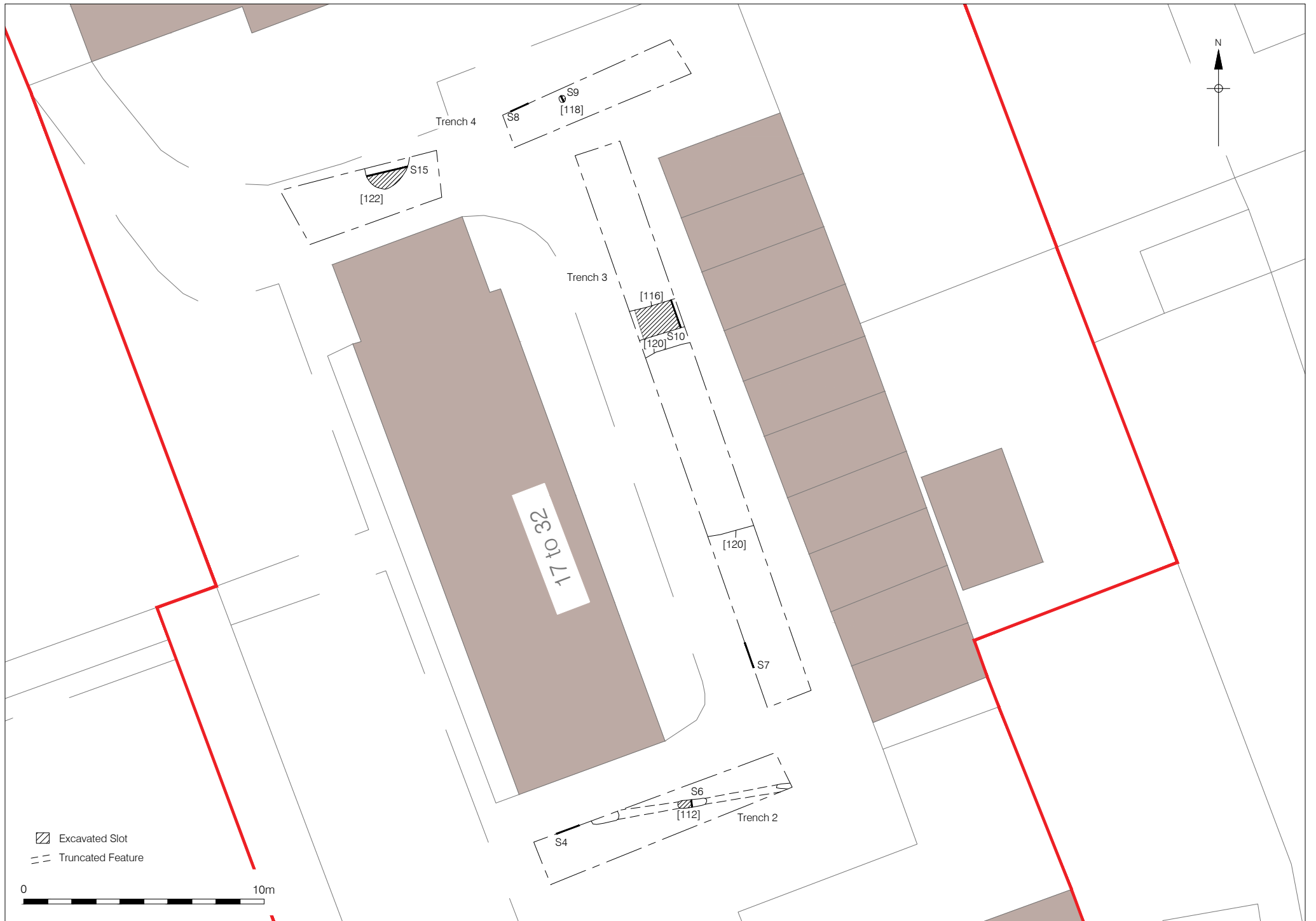
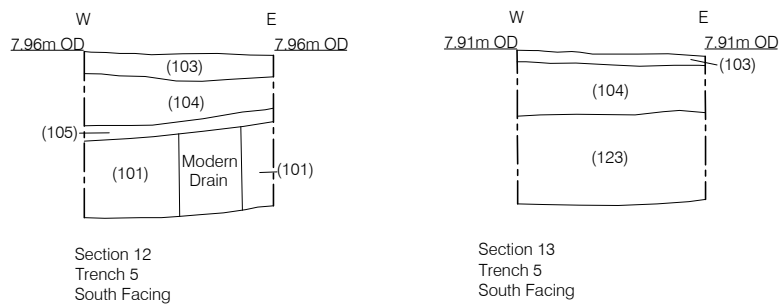
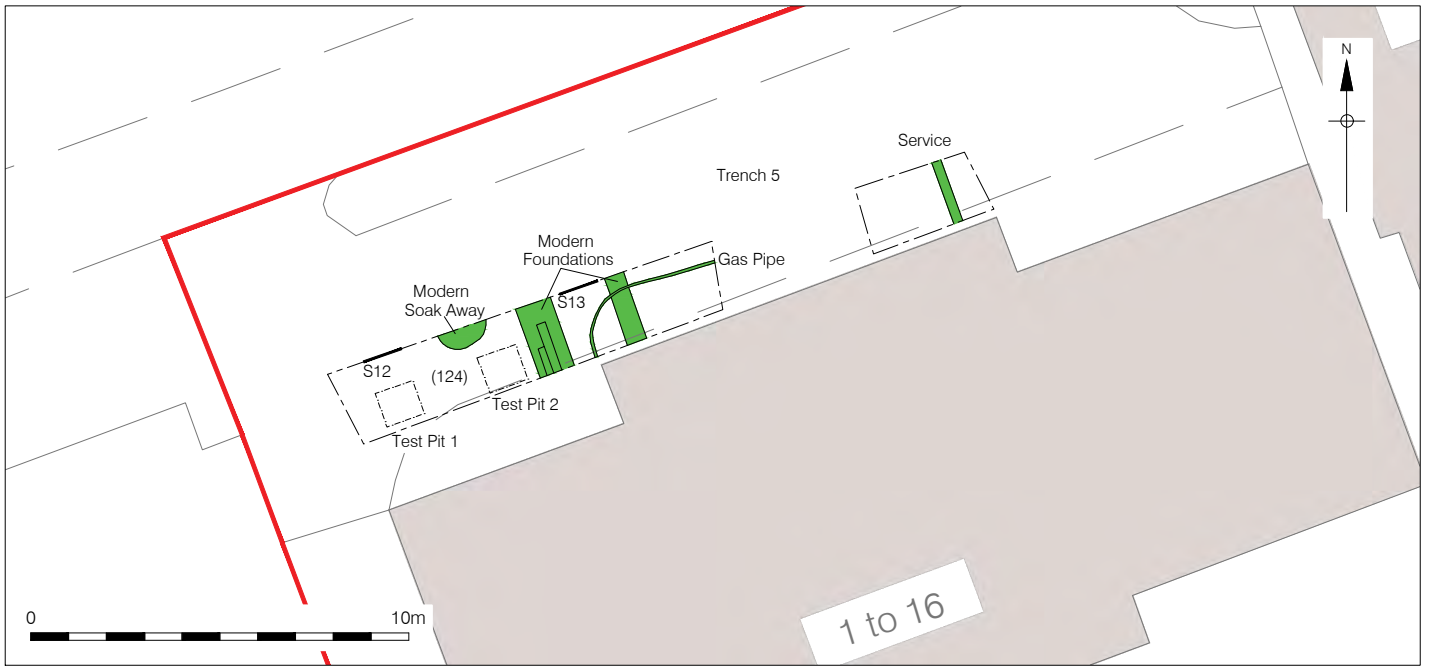




Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:500 at A4













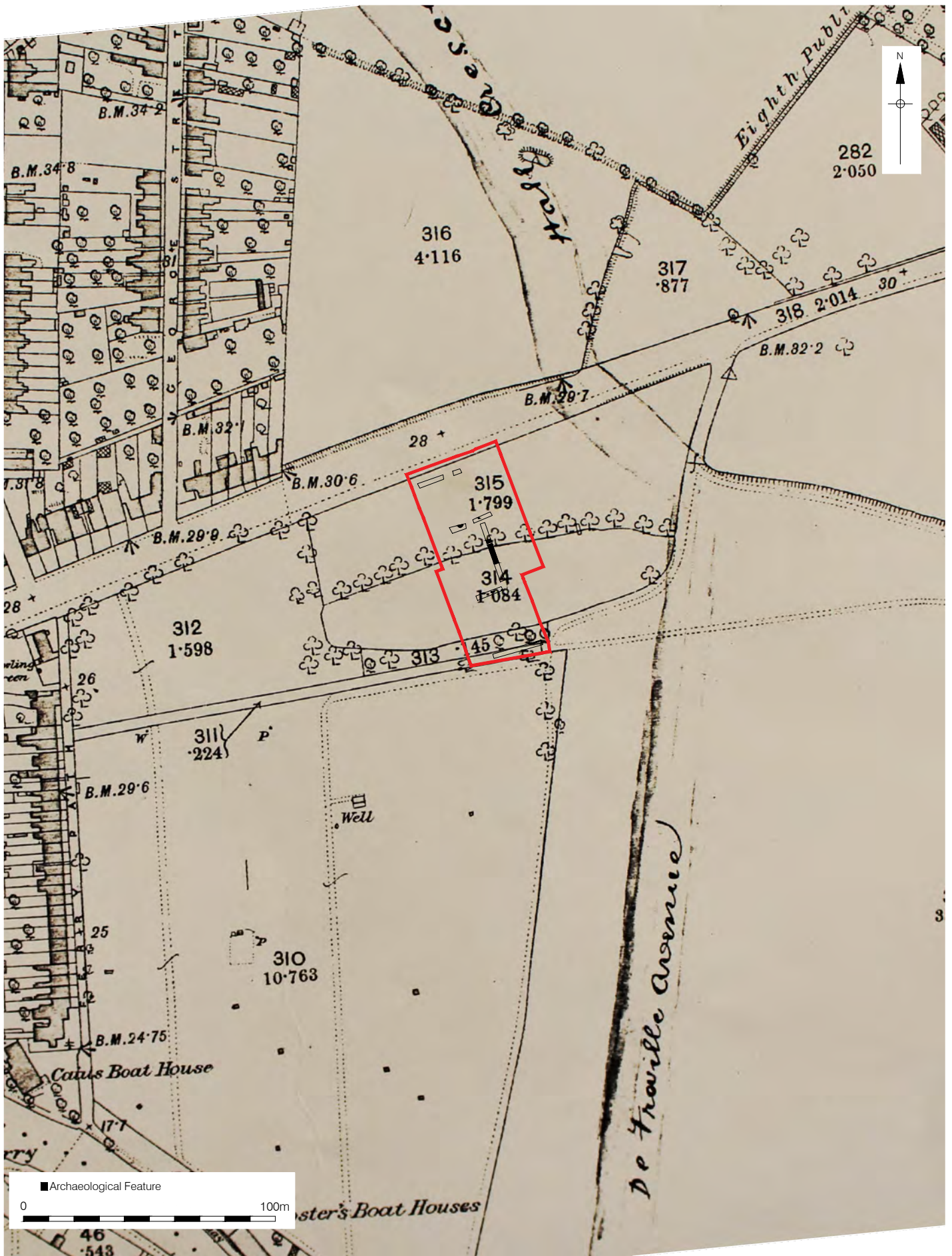


Figure 8  
 First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1885  
 1:2000 at A4



■ Archaeological Feature



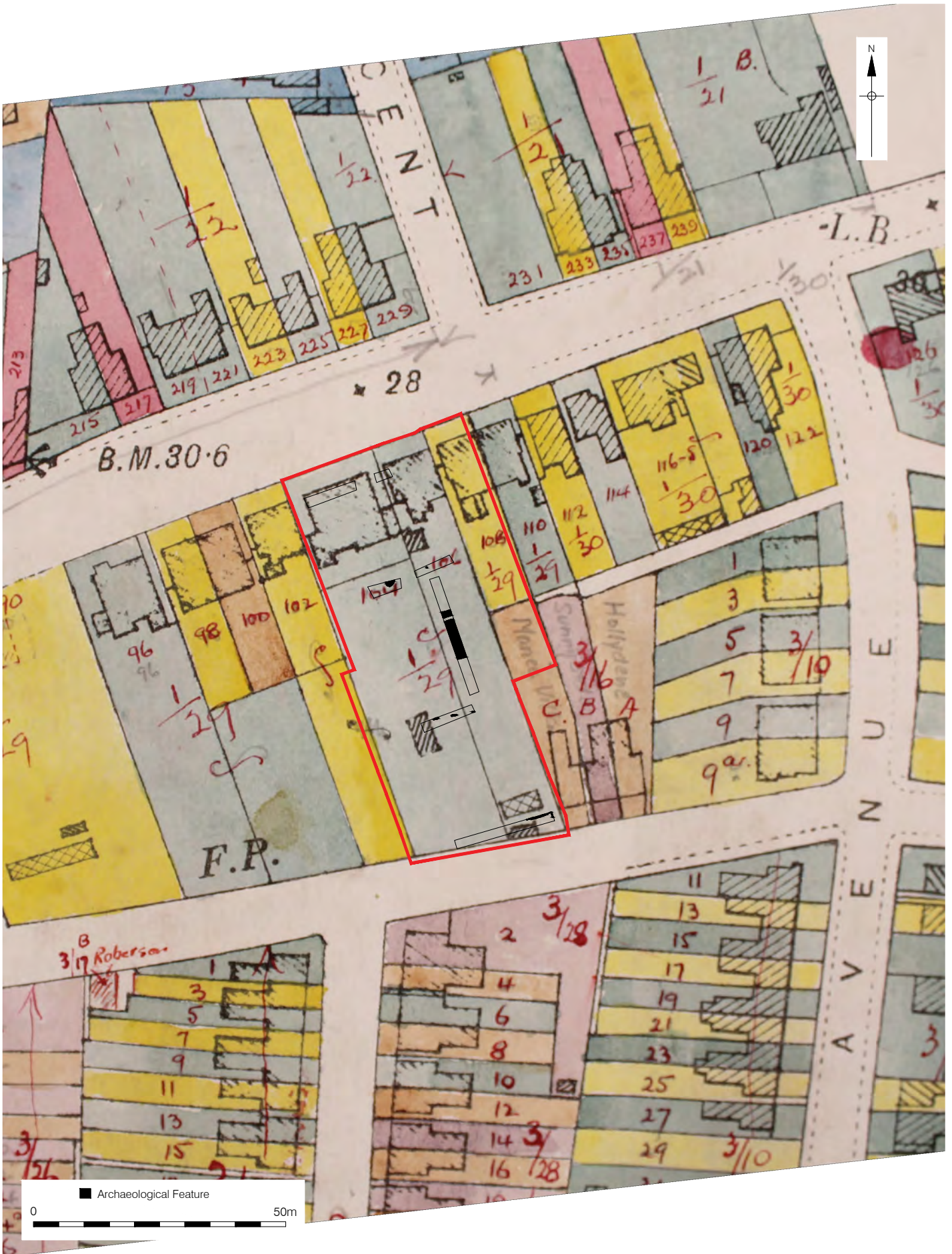
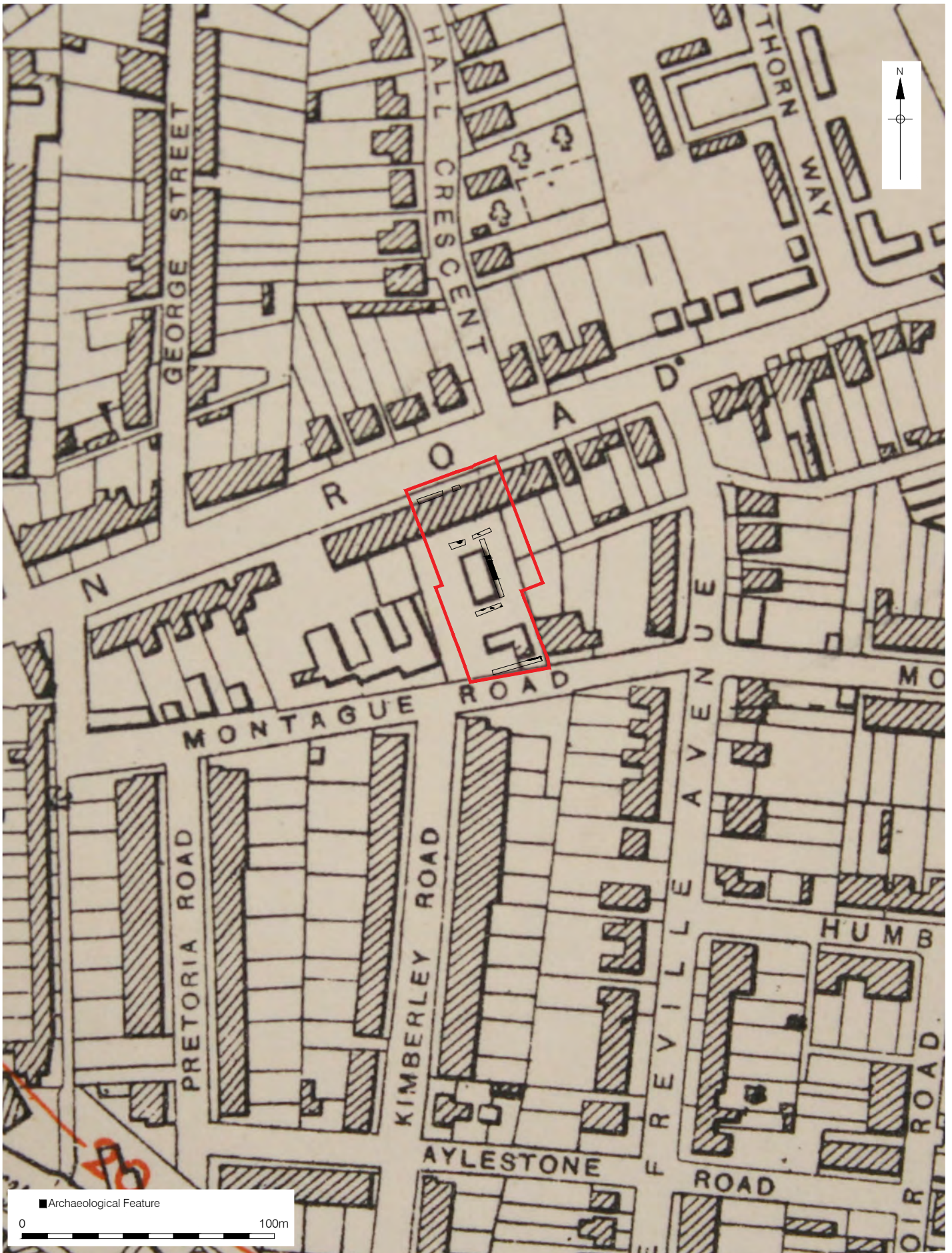


Figure 10  
 Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1901 with 1911 revisions by  
 Land Valuation Department, Inland Revenue  
 1:1000 at A4



## 12 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site, Hamilton Road side, view west.



Plate 2: Trench 1, machining, view west



Plate 3: The undercroft access to Trenches 2–4, view south-east



Plate 4: Trench 4, view north-east



Plate 5: Trench 1, Wall foundation (106), view north-west



Plate 6: Trench 2, Plough Furrow [112], view south



Plate 7: Trench 3, view north-west





Plate 8: Trench 3, Ditch [116], view north-east



Plate 9: Trench 4, Posthole [118], view south-west



Plate 10: Trench 4, Pit [122], view north



Plate 11: Trench 5, view east



Plate 12: Brick from Wall Foundation (106), Trench 1



Plate 13: Brick from Wall Foundation (106), Trench 1



Plate 14: Late-19th-century flowerpot from Pit [120], Trench 3

### 13 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth (m)
100	2,3,4	0	Layer	Topsoil	medieval to post-medieval	Moderately compacted, mid-brown sandy silt with occasional flint inclusions	0.00	0.00	0.40
101	1,2,3,4	0	Layer	Subsoil	medieval to post-medieval	Trench 1-Loose to moderately compacted, mid-greyish brown sand with occasional flint inclusions. Trenches 2-4-moderately compacted, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint inclusions	0.00	0.00	0.54
102	1,2,3,4	0	Layer	Natural	geological	Trench 1-Loose to moderately compacted, light orange/light greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions. Trenches 2-4- Compacted, mid-brownish grey silty clay with rare flint inclusions	0.00	0.00	0.00
103	1	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Tarmac	0.00	0.00	0.18
104	1	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Builders crush/tarmac underlay	0.00	0.00	0.24
105	1	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Moderately compacted, dark grey silty sand with abundant brick rubble, charcoal and tarmac inclusions	0.00	0.00	0.34
106	1	0	Structure	Wall foundation	modern	Light yellow brick with light grey sandy mortar, horizontal coursing, overlain by concrete	5.40	0.30	0.24
107	1	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Very compacted, light grey gravel/crushed concrete	5.40	0.30	0.08
108	2,3	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Builders crush/tarmac	0.00	0.00	0.28
109	2,3	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Moderately compacted, mid-to dark grey sandy silt with abundant brick rubble	0.00	0.00	0.56

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth (m)
110	2	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	crushed mortar? and compacted light yellowy white sand	0.00	2.50	0.05
111	2	112	Fill	Furrow	post-medieval	Moderately compacted, light greyish brown clayey silt with rare flint inclusions	8.70	0.25	0.05
112	2	112	Cut	Furrow	post-medieval	Linear in plan, gentle sides, concave base, aligned ENE-WSW	8.70	0.25	0.05
113	4	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Concrete	0.00	0.00	0.30
114	3	116	Fill	Ditch	medieval	Loosely compacted, mid-orangey grey silty sand with abundant flint inclusions	2.00	1.51	0.50
115	3	116	Fill	Ditch	medieval	Loosely compacted, mid-grey clay with rare flint inclusions	2.00	1.53	0.26
116	3	116	Cut	Ditch	medieval	Linear in plan, moderate to steep sides, flat base, aligned ENE-WSW	2.00	1.53	0.76
117	4	118	Fill	Posthole	prehistoric	Moderately compacted, light brownish grey silty sand with rare flint inclusions	0.35	0.35	0.15
118	4	118	Cut	Posthole	prehistoric	Circular in plan, moderate sides, concave base	0.35	0.35	0.15
119	3	120	Fill	Pit	modern	Loosely compacted, dark grey silty clay with rare flint inclusions	2.00	7.50	0.60
120	3	120	Cut	Pit	modern	Full extent not visible in plan, moderate to steep sides, base not reached	2.00	7.50	0.60
121	4	122	Fill	Pit	undated	Loose, mid brownish-grey clayey silt	0.94	0.45	0.48
122	4	122	Cut	Pit	undated	Oval in plan, moderate sides, concave base	0.94	0.45	0.48
123	5	0	Layer	Made ground	modern	Moderately compact, dark brownish-grey silty clay with	11.50	1.80	0.80

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/Depth (m)
						occasional brick and concrete			
124	5	0	Layer	Subsoil	medieval	Moderately compact, mid- to dark greyish-brown sandy silt	5.00	1.80	0.23



## OASIS ID: preconst1-327994

### Project details

Project name	Land at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	<p>The evaluation found slight evidence for prehistoric activity, comprising a posthole and a pit, both containing single struck flint flakes, in Trench 4. A residual Late Iron Age or early Roman potsherd was recovered from Trench 1. A medieval to post-medieval plough-soil survived across the site, sealed below deposits associated with the construction of St Regis Flats in the 1930s. In Trench 5 the lower part of this plough-soil contained medieval pottery; medieval potsherds and a lower quantity of post-medieval pottery were recovered from it in Trench 1. A medieval ditch in the central part of the site (Trench 3) appears to be an early demarcation of a field boundary which lasted until the late 19th century and which is shown on the Chesterton Enclosure and Tithe Maps, and the 1st Edition OS Map. The overall quantity and condition of the medieval pottery from the site indicates that it derives from manuring. However, its fairly frequent occurrence in the plough-soil across the site might indicate proximity to a farmstead or other focus of occupation, perhaps an area of medieval dispersed settlement along Chesterton Road, which is known to be an early route between Cambridge and the village at Chesterton. There is no evidence of direct occupation on the site at any time before the early 20th century. The good preservation conditions mean that this absence is likely to be genuine rather than due to truncation. The further archaeological potential of the site itself would therefore appear to be low.</p>
Project dates	Start: 28-08-2018 End: 21-09-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5440 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	17/0970/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Modern
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PLOUGHSOIL Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Modern

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Land at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB4 1BY
Study area	0.3 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4565 5955 52.214460690048 0.132146133553 52 12 52 N 000 07 55 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.74m Max: 6.4m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Andy Thomas
Project design originator	PCA Central
Project director/manager	Tom Woolhouse
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Type of sponsor/funding body	University
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clare College

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Physical Archive ID	ECB5440
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB5440
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB5440
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at St Regis Flats, Chesterton Road, Cambridge: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Woolhouse, T. and Morgan-Shelbourne, L
Other bibliographic details	PCA Report No. R13422
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	PCA Central
Place of issue or publication	Pampisford
Description	c. 67 page bound A4 report with front and back covers, 11 figures, 14 plates

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Entered on	5 October 2018

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