

# CHARITY HALL, LONG LANE, FOWLMERE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE – PHASE 1

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



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# CHARITY HALL, LONG LANE, FOWLMERE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE – PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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Planning Ref.	S/2296/13/FL	OASIS	britanni1-180238
Approved By	Tim Schofield	Date	May 2014



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#### Abstract

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Charity Hall, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4208 4593), during the excavation of foundation trenches and other intrusive ground works associated with the construction of a new retaining wall, boundary wall and carport.

The site appears to have remained largely free from development or intrusive ground activity.

The remains of a construction cut (1003) associated with the  $19^{th}$  century barn still present on the site was encountered at the eastern end of the new retaining wall foundation trench, adjacent to the existing barn.

Despite the potential for medieval and post medieval archaeology on the site no other archaeological finds or features were present.



#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Charity Hall, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4208 4593), during the excavation of foundation trenches and other intrusive ground works associated with the construction of a new retaining wall, boundary wall and carport.

Monitoring work was conducted in accordance with a design Brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by BA (dated May 2014) and approved by CCC HET.

### 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Figs. 1 & 2)

Fowlmere is a small village situated 14.5km south west of Cambridge. The site is located 280m north west of the centre of Fowlmere. It lies at a height of 25m AOD and is bounded to the north by Cassander Close and to the east and south by residential buildings, (Fig. 1).

Both Charity Hall and the barn are believed to be of 19th century date. The barn is to be subsequently demolished in advance of the future development. The carport, retaining wall and boundary wall lie to the south and west of the site.

At the time of writing the British Geological Survey had no records of the superficial geology for the area. The bedrock geology comprises Holywell nodular chalk formation which was formed in the late cretaceous period around 93.9 to 100.5 million years ago (BGS, 2014).

#### 3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation was carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). The relevant local planning policy is contained the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan; 2013 Policy Chapter 6.

# 3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

 The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;



- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.
- 3.2 South Cambridgeshire Local Plan; 2013 Policy Chapter 6.

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan replaces the existing Local Development Framework and Chapter 6 deals specifically with safeguarding heritage assets. The key areas for consideration in relation to archaeology and development are:

- 6.53 Where development is proposed for a site which includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, developers must submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
- 6.54 Prospective developers should contact the County Council's Historic Environment Team for information to establish whether there is known or potential archaeological interest and the need for investigation and evaluation at an early stage.

#### 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

## 4.1 Archaeological/Historical Sources

The following archaeological background utilises the Cambridge County Council Historic Environment Record (NHER) and Record Office (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (<a href="www.pastscape.org.uk">www.pastscape.org.uk</a>), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS).

There are 75 entries held in the CHER that lie within the 1km search radius. The majority of entries relate to listed buildings in the village of Fowlmere which predominantly date from the  $18^{th}$  century. The Parish Church of St Mary (DCB6757) lies 160m to the east of the site. The church has an early  $12^{th}$  century nave and chancel with rebuilding taking place later in the  $13^{th}$  century. Rebuilding and restoration work continued through the medieval and post medieval periods and into the modern period culminating with restorations in 1869 and 1956.



One record (MCB16309) relates to a series of Saxo-Norman – Medieval enclosures 30m to the north east of the site. An evaluation revealed a number of well-preserved archaeological features almost exclusively medieval in date. The remains comprised ditches, pits and postholes. Six areas were opened up for excavation and a large ditch dating to the  $9^{th}$  –  $11^{th}$  centuries was encountered. Finally a late Saxon double ditched enclosure with a western entrance 9m wide produced finds of an early medieval date including a bone clamp and some disarticulated human bone possibly ritually deposited.

Approximately 125m to the north of the site another evaluation (MCB16310) revealed further medieval features. Subsequent excavations encountered large rubbish pits and a well containing large quantities of animal bone. An abandoned late medieval/early post medieval well contained a large assemblage of horse bones representing at least 15 individuals, interpreted as being knackers waste.

The earliest record relates to a find (11694) 470m south east of the site, where a very large Palaeolithic patinated flint scraper was excavated in the garden of 74 Chapel Lane in 1993. Other prehistoric finds were recovered from the area (MCB16114, 04028) and include collections of flint cores, blades and scrapers.

The Bronze Age is represented by a number of cropmarks (08761) 800m to the north west of the site, a ring ditch interpreted as barrow with a central anomaly and other associated enclosures.

The Iron Age is represented by a single series of excavations (11138A) which revealed a small Iron Age ditch approximately 280m east of the site. The only Roman record returned by the CHER relates to a coin from a finds spot (MCB161115) encountered during digging prior to building works, identified as Radiate of Postumus (AD259 – 268).

The predominant potential for archaeology at this site was likely to be medieval and post-medieval, especially relating to medieval enclosures north - east of the site.

#### 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The CCC HET brief states that the aim of the investigation was to monitor the development. All archaeological contexts, artefacts exposed, examined or excavated were to be fully recorded on appropriate context, finds and sample sheets, on plans and sections and by photographic record, including black and white film photography (Brief 7.0).

#### 6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The research objectives for the project were in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Project objectives covered the following:

• To recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. Also that the state of preservation of archaeological features and deposits should be determined.



#### 7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CCC HET brief required archaeological monitoring and recording of all excavations associated with ground works being conducted in advance of the construction of a carport, retaining wall and boundary wall.

The excavation of the foundation trenches and associated intrusive ground works were undertaken by a mechanical excavator and then further investigated by hand.

### 8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 2 & 3)

The monitoring visit was undertaken by the author on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 and the foundation excavations were monitored continuously.

The retaining wall foundations were monitored on the eastern side of the site and the remains of a construction cut, 1003, were recorded at the north-eastern end of the trench (Figs. 2 & 3, DP 1). This construction cut is associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn that lies adjacent. It was filled with In Fill layer 1001, a firm light greyish brown mixture of sand silt and clay. Numerous pieces of early modern pottery and CBM were present in this layer (not retained) which is believed to be an in-filling event associated with the construction of the barn. The construction cut has been truncated by the now demolished modern garage. The chalk was present below the Brick Floor 1005. No other archaeological finds or features were encountered.

The carport foundations were excavated in the centre of the site, the chalk was encountered directly below Made Ground surface 1007. No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

Finally the foundations for a boundary wall running north to south parallel to Long Lane at the west end of the site were monitored. This too was shallow, with chalk being present below Made Ground layer 1008.

No further finds or features were present during the groundwork's.

#### 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 3)

The deposit model varied slightly from the east to west, with the difference in stratigraphy relating primarily to the construction cut of the barn to the east and charity hall to the west.

The uppermost layers were Made Ground surfaces 1007 and 1008, Brick Floor 1005 or Topsoil 1000. Made Ground surface 1008 bounded the site along the western edge and is associated with the modern footpath. Made Ground 1007 is currently being used for parking and as a storage area. Brick Surface layer 1005 was only present in the area of the demolished former garage and represents the former floor surface of this structure. Topsoil 1000 was present in all the other excavated areas.



In the western area of the retaining wall foundation trench, Brick Floor 1005 overlay Sand Bedding layer 1006.

Subsoil 1004 was present below topsoil 1000 across the remainder of the site, it comprised mid-brown orange firm sandy silt; likely to represent colluvial deposits.

Natural Chalk layer 1002, was present below Subsoil 1002, Brick floor 1005 and Made Ground layers 1007 and 1008.

The deposit model reveals a relatively simple stratigraphic sequence. All of the layers appear to date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, associated with the redevelopment of the site and the construction of the barn. This would also explain why In Fill Layer 1001 contained early-modern CBM inclusions but no earlier finds.

#### 10 DISCUSSION

The site appears to have remained largely free from development or intrusive ground works until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A slope to the east has produced a layer of colluvial subsoil which may have been assisted further by agricultural activity before the barn was constructed.

The barn construction included the excavation of a construction cut (1003) through the side of the hill which was then in filled with the excavated material around the foundations.

This area of Fowlmere is very much within the medieval core of the settlement and a significantly high level of remains would normally be expected. The discovery of a series of Saxo-Norman – Medieval enclosures in close proximity to the site to the north-east meant that there was a high potential for archaeology to be encountered however it seems that any archaeology was likely destroyed during the construction of the barn. Despite the potential, no archaeological finds or features dating to the medieval period were encountered.

#### 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mrs Zoe Kenworthy and Mr Timothy Kenworthy of Heathland Developments LTD, for commissioning the project.

We are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for his time, help and advice.



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English Heritage PastScape <u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England <a href="https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england">www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england</a>

DEFRA Magic <a href="http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic">http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic</a>



#### APPENDIX 1 DEPOSIT TABLES AND FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

# **Sample Section 1 Deposit Table**

Sample Section No 2	Orientation W - E		Height AOD 25.66	Shot No DP 1
Context No	Depth Deposi		t Description	
1000	0.00 - 0.21m Topsoil.		Light Grey Brown, Sandy Si	lt. Firm.
1004	0.21 - 0.42m	Subsoil.	Mid Brown Orange. Sandy S	Silt. Firm
1002	0.42m +	Natural	Geology. Chalk. White. Very	compact.

### **Sample Section 2 Deposit Table**

Sample Section No 2	Orientation N - S		leight AOD 5.70	Shot No DP 2
Context No	Depth Deposi		escription	
1000	0.00 - 0.13m	Topsoil. Lie	ght Grey Brown, Sandy	Silt. Firm.
1004	0.13 - 0.32m	Subsoil. M	id Brown Orange. Sand	ly Silt. Firm
1002	0.32m +	Natural Ge	ology. Chalk. White. V	ery compact.

# **Sample Section 3 Deposit Table**

Sample Section No 3	Orientation W - E	Height AOD Shot No DP 3
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description
1005	0.00 - 0.07m	Brick Floor layer. Former garage floor made up of modern bricks (23 cm x 7 cm x 11cm).
1006	0.07 - 0.09m	Bedding layer. Light yellow orange. Sand. Loose.
1002	0.09m +	Natural Geology. Chalk. White. Very compact.

# **Sample Section 4 Deposit Table**

Sample Section No 4	Orientation E - W		Height AOD 24.30	Shot No DP 4
Context No	Depth	Deposi	t Description	
1007	0.00 - 0.39m		Ground. Dark Grey Black. Soft rubble inclusions.	and Silt and Clay. Loose.
1002	0.39m +	Natural	Geology. Chalk. White. Very	compact.

# **Sample Section 5 Deposit Table**

Sample Section No 5	Orientation N - S	Height AOD Shot No DP 5
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description
1008	0.00 - 0.22m	Made Ground. Light Grey Brown. Silty Sand. Loose. Frequer rubble inclusions.
1002	0.22m +	Natural Geology. Chalk. White. Very compact.

# **Context Description**

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)	Other
1003	Construction Cutl (0.80m+ x 4.20 x 0.69m)assumed rectangular in plan. steep sloping sides, flat base.	1001	Mid Brown Orange, firm, sandy silt. Frequent modern Pot and CBM throughout (not retained)	Early Modern	-	-



#### **APPENDIX 2 OASIS SHEET (Copied from the OASIS website)**

OASIS ID: britanni1-180238

**Project details** 

**Project name** Charity hall, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire **Short description** 

of the project

On the 21st May 2014, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Charity Hall, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4208 4593), during the excavation of foundation trenches and other intrusive ground works associated with the construction of a new retaining wall, boundary wall and carport. The site appears to have remained largely free from development or intrusive ground activity. The remains of a construction cut (1003) associated with the 19th century barn still present on the site was encountered at the eastern end of the new retaining wall foundation trench, adjacent to the existing barn. Despite the potential for medieval and post medieval archaeology on the site no other archaeological finds or features were present.

Start: 21-05-2014 End: 21-05-2014 **Project dates** 

Previous/future work No / Yes

ECB 4187 - Sitecode

Any associated project

reference codes Type of project

Recording project

**Current Site status** None

Residential 1 - General Residential Land use

Monument type NONE None **Significant Finds** NONE None Investigation type "Watching Brief"

**Prompt** Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE FOWLMERE Charity

Hall, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire

Postcode SG87TA Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 4208 4593 52.0930118617 0.0742248901783 52 05 34 N 000 04 27

E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD /Depth Min: 24.00m Max: 25.66m

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District

Archaeologist)

Project design originator

Martin Brook Project director/ manager Martin Brook **Project supervisor** Martin Brook Type of sponsor/ funding Developer

body

Name of sponsor/ Mr and Mrs Kenworthy funding body

**Project archives** 

**Physical Archive Exists?** No

**Digital Archive recipient** Cambridgeshire HER **Digital Contents** "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

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

**Paper Archive recipient** Cambridgeshire HER "Stratigraphic", "Survey" **Paper Contents** 

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan",



"Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

**Project bibliography 1** 

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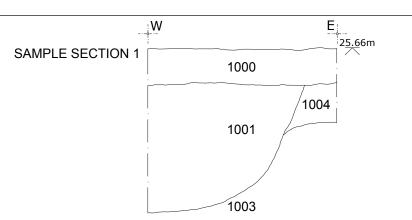
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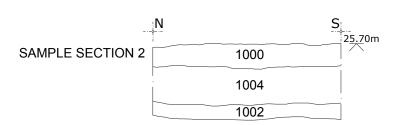
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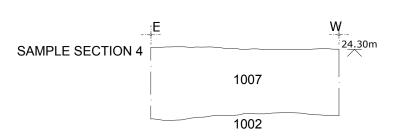


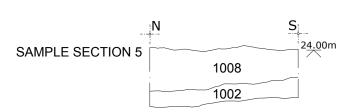














DP1;Retaining Wall Foundation, Sample Section 1, Looking N



DP2; Retaining Wall Foundation, Sample Section 2, Looking E



DP3; Retaining Wall Foundation, Sample Section 3, Looking N



DP4; Garage Wall Foundation, Sample Section 4, Looking S



DP5; Wall Foundation, Sample Section 5, Looking E

REPORT NUMBER: TL 4208 4593

PROJECT:

CHARITY HALL, LONG LANE, FOWLMERE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CLIENT:

ZOE KENWORTHY

DESCRIPTION:

SAMPLE SECTIONS & DIGITAL PHOTOS

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İ	DATE:	AUTHOR:	FIGURE:
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