

**34 ELIZABETH WAY,
EAST CHESTERTON,
CAMBRIDGE,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR REF: TL 4605 5955



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
(OASIS ID: independ1-279077)
(EVENT NR: ECB5001)

MARCH 2017

PREPARED BY CHRISTER CARLSSON

CONTENTS

	Summary
1	Introduction
2	Project Background
3	Archaeological Background
4	Aims
5	Methodology
6	Results
7	Discussion
8	Archive
9	Bibliography

Appendices:

Context Descriptions

OASIS-form

Plans Trench 1 and 2

Sections 001, 002 and 003

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new dwelling with associated services and new access at 34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge. Two evaluation trenches were opened up across the development area, but no features of archaeological interest were encountered during the investigation.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4605 5955) in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), as well as discussions with Gemma Stewart, Archaeological Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CIfA 2014), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011). All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (15/2297/FUL) for a new development at 34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. The development comprised the demolition of an existing two storey dwelling and erection of 4 number 1 bedroom flats and 2 number 2 bedroom flats. No archaeological features were known from within the development area, but remains of a Saxon settlement and a Medieval Abbey were known to exist in the surroundings. The development was therefore going to take place in an area of archaeological potential, as defined by the CHER.
- 2.2 The plot enclosed an area of some 480m² at an average height of 7.30m AOD. The geology of the site comprised river terrace gravel (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by the CHER. Therefore, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to any construction on the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Cambridgeshire City Council, and was in line with standards described in NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).



Figure 1. The location of Cambridge in England.

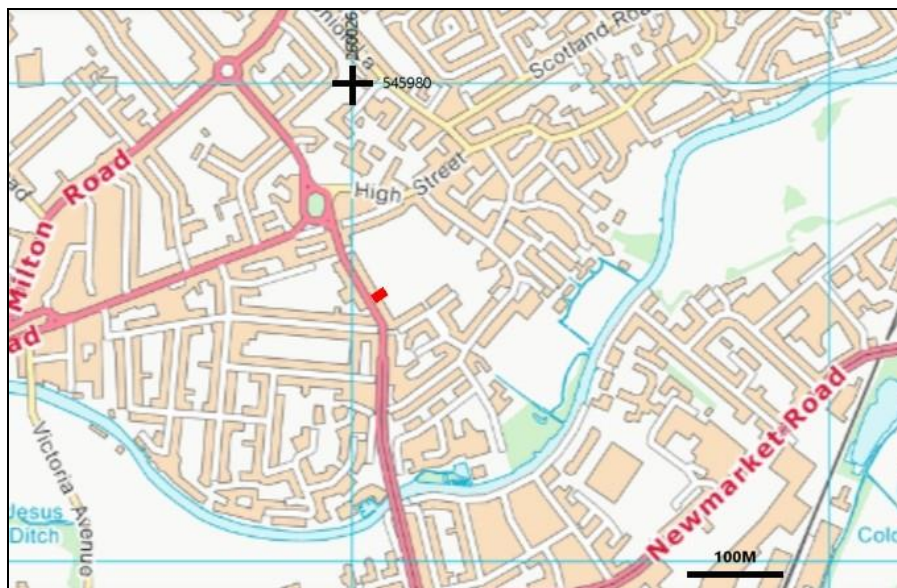


Figure 2. Site Location in Cambridge (Red). (Ordnance Survey maps produced with Licence nr: Ordnance Survey 0100031673).

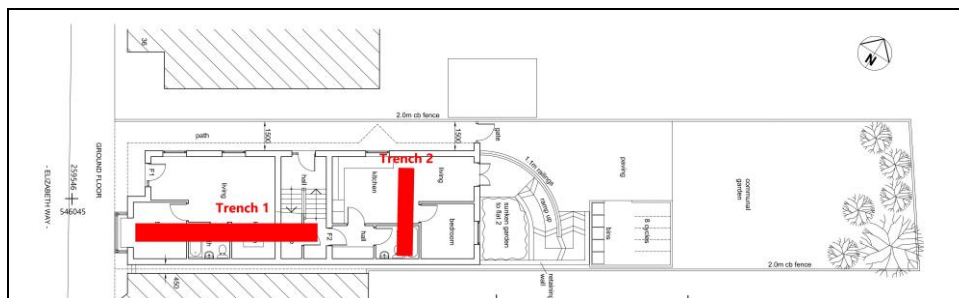


Figure 3. Site Outline and Trench Locations.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Although, there were no known archaeological remains within the proposed development area a number of archaeological sites were known from the surroundings.
- 3.2 The development area was situated approximately 200m west of 13th century Saint Andrew's Church (Historic Environment Record reference 05558) which is associated with the 13th century Carmelite Friary adjacent to it (05332a).
- 3.3 Also in the vicinity was evidence of Prehistoric and Saxon occupation (MCB16547, 05020B), and numerous Medieval and Post-Medieval remains (such as MCB17901).
- 3.4 A Post-Medieval quarry existed at Church Street in Chesterton some 200m north east of the site (MCB20940) and Chesterton House from the 17th and 18th century was located 200m north east of the site (04954).
- 3.5 A building named The Old Manor House from 17th to 18th century existed 250m south east of the site (04966) and the so called "Lovers Walk", and associated Post-Medieval outbuildings, were located some 200m east of the site (CB15543).
- 3.6 The Vicarage from the 19th and 20th century was located some 300m north east of the site (03716) and Chesterton Hall, dating to ca 1630, existed about 200m to the north of the site (04871).
- 3.7 An undated linear feature had finally been found some 300m south east of the site (CB15545).
- 3.8 The proposed development site, therefore, contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. This did not, however, prejudice the investigation against features and finds relating to other periods.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - i) to gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;
 - ii) to provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;

- iii) to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
 - iv) to mitigate potential threats;
 - v) to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;
 - vi) to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
 - vii) to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.
- 4.2 The evaluation also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).
- 4.3 Specifically the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:
- *characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
 - *characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
 - *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Trial Trenching

The evaluation aimed at determining the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It was suggested that one 10m x 2m large, and one 5m x 2m large, machine cut trench were opened up under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 15m, totalling 30m², or ca. 6% of the 480m² large plot.

The location of the trenches targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and provided representative sample coverage. The location of the trenches were, however, slightly flexible and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance. The investigation area was searched for live cables and other potential threats prior to the evaluation.

The trenches were excavated to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any deposits uncovered. The field evaluation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets of the site and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

5.2 Metal Detecting

Metal detector sweeps of exposed deposits and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character of all deposits exposed, and to allow appropriate recording.

Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. A characterisation of the artefact contents of the ploughsoil and subsoil was attempted to provide an understanding of the presence/absence and condition of possible underlying archaeological remains. The topsoil and subsoil was bucket sampled in 90 litre samples. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was acceptable.

5.4 Recording

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced showing all exposed deposits (including natural and modern features etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections were produced for all excavated deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads etc.).

All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record, and a selection of digital photographs was used in this report.

6 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 6.1 Trench 1 was 10m long, 2m wide and up to 1m deep (Figures 4-5). Underlying all other deposits in the trench was an up to 1.5m thick light yellow, soft,

sandy layer with mixed in gravel. This layer, which was first thought to be the Natural deposits, turned out to be far too soft to be the actual Natural. During the site visit by Andy Thomas from Cambridgeshire County Council a discussion was held between him and the responsible Archaeological Site Officer about what had actually happened within the site in the past.

- 6.2 It is known that the area surrounding Elizabeth Way has been used for quarrying activity, and that many of the former quarry pits have been backfilled with a similar light yellow, soft, sandy layer that was found at the bottom of Trench 1. This was confirmed when a sondage was opened up with the help of the machine, as it turned out that the former quarry pit was running deep into the Natural deposits. The sondage was 1.5m deep and were dug down to a level where Natural deposits were finally reached.
- 6.3 For this reason it was obvious that no potential archaeological deposits could possibly have survived within the site, and after basic documentation of the two modern rubbish pits [104] and [105] in the eastern part of the trench the trench was backfilled on recommendation from Andy Thomas at Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 6.4 The two rubbish pits were, for this reason, younger than the backfilled quarry, and were 0.17m deep, 1.25m wide and 1.50m long [104] respectively 3.50m long, 1.75m wide and 0.15m deep, [105]. Both pits had similar fills (102) (103) of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional charcoal and pieces of broken modern china. The two pits [104] and [105] were sealed by an up to 1m thick layer of made ground of dark brown, soft topsoil mixed with modern sand and silt (101). This was also the uppermost deposit in Trench 1.

Trench 2

- 6.5 Trench 2 was 5m long, 2m wide and up to 0.60m deep (Figures 6-7). Underlying all other deposits in the trench was the same kind of material as in Trench 1; an up to 1.5m thick light yellow, soft, sandy layer with mixed in gravel. This was confirmed when a sondage was opened up with the help of the machine, and it turned out that the former quarry pit was running deep into the Natural deposits in Trench 2 as well. The sondage was 1.5m deep and were dug down to a level where Natural deposits were finally reached.
- 6.6 For this reason it was obvious that no potential archaeological deposits could possibly have survived within Trench 2, and after basic documentation of the modern rubbish pit [203] in the southern corner of Trench 2 the trench was backfilled on recommendation from Andy Thomas at Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 6.7 The rubbish pit [203] had, just as the two pits in Trench 1, been cut into the material of the backfilled quarry pit. The pit [203] was 1.25m long, 1.25m wide and 0.27m deep and had a fill (202) of dark brown, soft silty clay with

occasional charcoal and pieces of modern glass. The pit [203] was sealed by an up to 0.60m thick layer of made ground of dark brown, soft topsoil mixed with modern sand and silt (201). This was also the uppermost deposit in Trench 2.



Figure 4. Trench 1. Overview. Two rubbish pits [104] and [105] can be seen in the eastern end of the trench. Pre-excavation photo.



Figure 5. Trench 1. The two modern rubbish pits [104] and [105] contained broken glass and china, and can probably be dated to the 19th- or 20th century. Post-excavation photo.



Figure 6. Trench 2. Overview. The modern rubbish pit [203] was visible in the south corner of the trench. Pre-excavation photo.



Figure 7. The modern rubbish pit [203] in the south corner of the trench. Modern glass was found in the pit, and it is likely to be from the 19th- or 20th century. Post-excavation photo.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation at 34 Elizabeth Way, Cambridge indicated that no archaeological deposits were preserved within the development area. Extensive quarrying in recent years had created deep quarry pits that were running well into the Natural deposits.
- 7.2 In both Trench 1 and Trench 2 were some modern rubbish pits present, but since these had been cut into the material of the backfilled quarry they are all likely to be from the 19th or 20th century. All rubbish pits contained modern material, such as modern broken glass and china. After basic documentation of these rubbish pits the two evaluation trenches were backfilled on recommendation from Andy Thomas at Cambridgeshire County Council.

8 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The photographic and drawn records

The project report

The primary site records

The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections for Cambridgeshire County Council.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey. Internet based service.

English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).

HER for Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire County Council. Cambridgeshire 2014.

NPPF 2012. (National Planning Policy Framework). Department for Communities and Local Government. London 2012.

Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England, Medlycott, M. 2011 (Ed.) East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000).

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. Reading.

Treasure Act. 1996. London.

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Trench 1 (10 x 2 m)		
(101)	1	Made ground of dark brown, soft topsoil mixed with modern sand and silt	(102) (103)	-
(102)	0.17	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional charcoal and pieces of modern china	[104]	(101)
(103)	0.15	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional charcoal and pieces of modern china	[105]	(101)
[104]	0.17	Cut of pt [104]	Fill in quarry pit	(102)
[105]	0.15	Cut of pit [105]	Fill in quarry pit	(103)
Fill in quarry pit	1.50	Light yellow, soft, sandy layer with mixed in gravel	Natural	[104] [105]
		Trench 2 (5 x 2 m)		
(201)	0.60	Made ground of dark brown, soft topsoil mixed with modern sand and silt	(202)	-
(202)	0.27	Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional charcoal and pieces of modern glass	[203]	(201)
[203]	0.27	Cut of pit [203].	Fill in quarry pit	(202)
Fill in quarry pit	1.50	Light yellow, soft, sandy layer with mixed in gravel	Natural	[203]

OASIS ID: independ1-279077

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation, 34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site. Two test trenches were opened up, but no preserved archaeological features or deposits were identified.
Project dates	Start: 07-03-2017 End: 08-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EWC17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/2297/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	SN CL Modern
Monument type	SN CL Modern
Significant Finds	SN CL Modern
Significant Finds	SN CL Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
---------	---------

34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge: Archaeological Evaluation

Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE 34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge
Postcode	CB4 1EE
Study area	480 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4605 5955 52.214354519697 0.137997259917 52 12 51 N 000 08 16 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.8m Max: 7.3m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HERI
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge: Archaeological Evaluation

Publication type

Title Archaeological Evaluation, 34 Elizabeth Way, East Chesterton, Cambridge

Author(s)/Editor(s) Carlsson, C

Date 2017

Issuer or publisher Independent Archaeology Consultants

Place of issue or publication Peterborough

Entered by Christer Carlsson (contact@independentarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 14 March 2017

