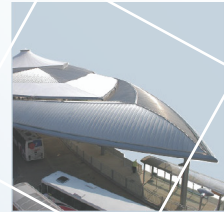


Report № 1800

An Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Clare Road, Cambridge

CHER ECB 2889



Steve Hickling

June 2008

BAU 1800

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Contents

Summary

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Geology and Topography
- 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background
- 4.0 Methodology
- 5.0 Results
- 6.0 Conclusions

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Figures

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Trench plan
- Figure 3 Sections 1 to 3

Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 1, facing south
- Plate 2 Trench 2, facing east

Location: 2 Clare Road, Cambridge
District: Cambridge City
Grid Ref: TL 4421 5752
CHER No: ECB 2889
Date of fieldwork: 19 May 2008

Summary

Two trenches measuring c.6m long and c.1.8m wide were investigated. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during this evaluation. The one feature present was undated. It is unlikely that it is indicative of significant archaeological activity in the immediate vicinity and may be agricultural in origin. The great depth of topsoil and subsoil is probably due to intensive arable and horticultural activity in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

1.0 Introduction

The site was in an area of proposed development at 2 Clare Road, Cambridge. Two trenches totalling 18m² were excavated to provide a 5% sample of the proposed development area (750m²).

R H Partnership Architects of Cambridge commissioned the report on behalf of Newnham College Management Ltd.

This archaeological programme was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Cambridge City Council in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref: BAU1800/DW) and a Brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (Gore 2008).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Geology and Topography

The site overlies river gravels associated with the River Cam (British Geological Survey Map, Sheet 188 (Cambridge), 1:50,000). The site is situated on flat land 400m west of the River Cam, at a height of 10–11m AOD.



Figure 1 site location

Local Authority No.100019340

This figure is based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office - © Crown Copyright. 'Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.' Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich (05/01/05). **Reference copy - no further copies to be made.**

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3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric

A number of Prehistoric (mainly Iron Age) burials have been found in the vicinity of the present development. An Iron Age inhumation, with grave-goods was found 125m south of the present development site (CHER 04429). Prehistoric burials have been found in Newnham College playing field, 100m north-west of the present development (CHER 05089). An Iron Age inhumation with grave-goods was found 225m south of the present site (CHER 05161).

A number of Neolithic items have been found to the north-east of the site. A Neolithic stone axe-head was found in 1971, 240m north-east of the site (CHER 04431). A Neolithic flint scraper was found 400m north-east of the present development (CHER 04432).

3.2 Roman

A large amount of Roman material has been found to the north and west of the site. Roman pottery has been found 100m west-south-west of the present development (CHER 05109A). Roman pottery was found 250m west-south-west of the development in 1901 (CHER 03792). In 1933 Roman pottery sherds were found 200m west-south-west of the present site (CHER 05097). In 1954 Roman pottery was found in 1954 300m west of the present development (CHER 04403) and 250m north-west of the present site (CHER 04421). Roman inhumations were found in 1939 in the grounds of Newnham College, 275m north-west of the present development (CHER 04427). A Roman coin was found 220m east-north-east of the present development (CHER 04430).

A late Iron Age or Roman ditch was found during an archaeological evaluation 375m north-west of the development site in 2003. This was thought to be a field boundary (CHER CB15629). A series of large Roman ditches were found 350m north-north-west of the present site during an archaeological investigation (CHER MCB17316).

In 1893 several Anglo-Saxon burials were found in ground 'thickly strewn with Roman pottery' 275m west-south-west of the present development (CHER 04997A).

3.3 Anglo-Saxon

To the west of the site there is considerable evidence for a large Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery. In 1893 several early Anglo-Saxon cremations and inhumations with grave-goods were found 275m west-south-west of the present development (CHER 04997). Between 1880 and 1910 several Anglo-Saxon inhumation and cremation burials with grave goods have been found 100m west-south-west of the present development (CHER 05109). Another Anglo-Saxon inhumation with grave goods was found in 1893 200m west-south-west of the present development (CHER 05098).

Several Anglo-Saxon inhumations have been found in the Newnham College playing field, 100m north-west of the present development (CHER 05089A). More Anglo-Saxon inhumations and grave goods were found 200m west-south-west of the development site (CHER 05097A).

3.4 Medieval

Medieval material is rare in the vicinity of the present development, probably due to the area being located within the towns West Field (Hesse 2007), a large suburban agricultural field, which, along with two other fields, was owned by the town and supported its food needs. It seems likely that the West Field would have been under open-field-type agriculture, producing ridge and furrow earthworks which leads to the creation of a deep subsoil and to truncation of any archaeological remains beneath.

Archaeological fieldwork at Newnham House in 1992 revealed two medieval pits with finds of pottery 360m north-east of the present development area (CHER 04977A). Medieval pottery was found 350m west of the development (CHER MCB 16929).

3.5 Post-medieval

Newnham House, 360m north-east of the present development site, is a brick built house dating to c.1820. Archaeological work there in 1992 revealed the remains of a 17th–18th-century house beneath (CHER 04977). Early post-medieval structural remains were found during an archaeological evaluation 350m northeast of the site in 2006 (CHER MCB17285).

3.6 Cartographic evidence

The 1888 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (scale 1:2500) shows the vicinity of the development site as very similar to the modern mapping. Newnham College and its playing fields lay to the north and immediately to the east lay the cricket field. The development site lies in a garden attached to properties on Clare Road. 2 Clare Road is labelled Clare Villas (www.old-maps.co.uk).

4.0 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that 5% of the development area be sampled by trenching.

Machine excavation was carried out with a 6-tonne tracked 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. No environmental samples were taken.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

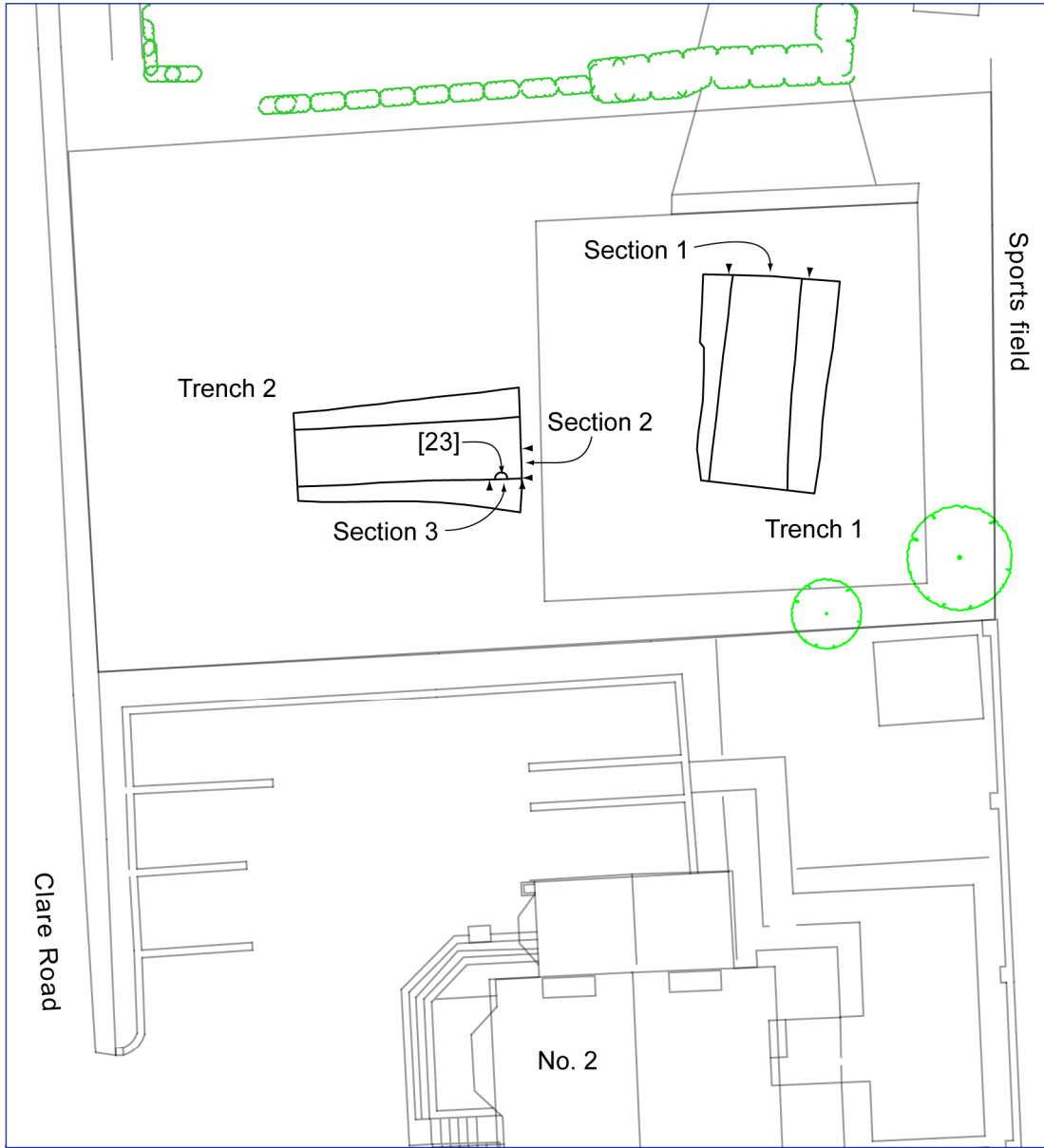
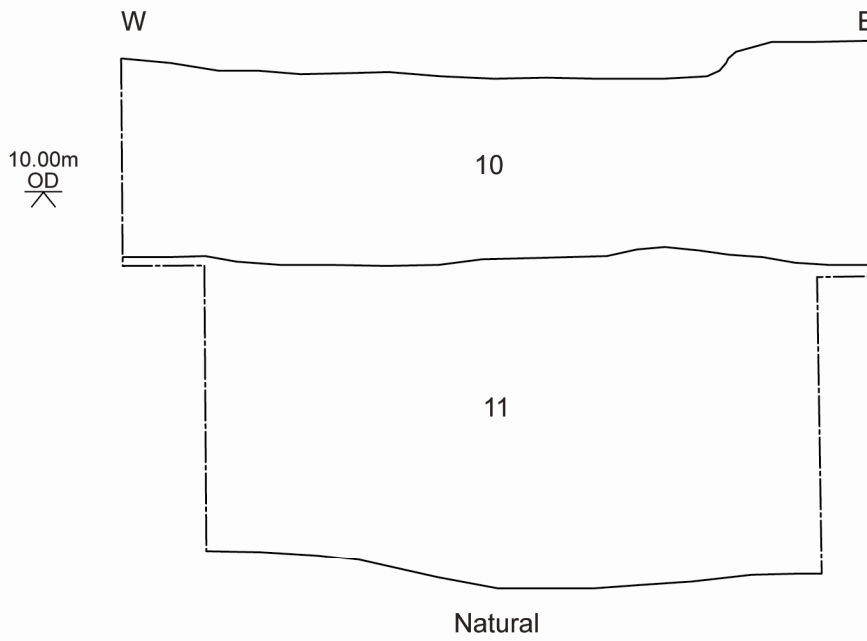
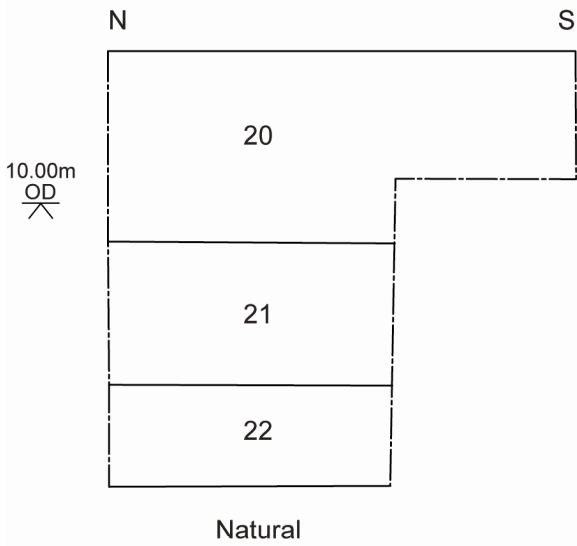


Figure 2 Trench location

Section 1, facing south



Section 2, facing west



Section 3, facing north

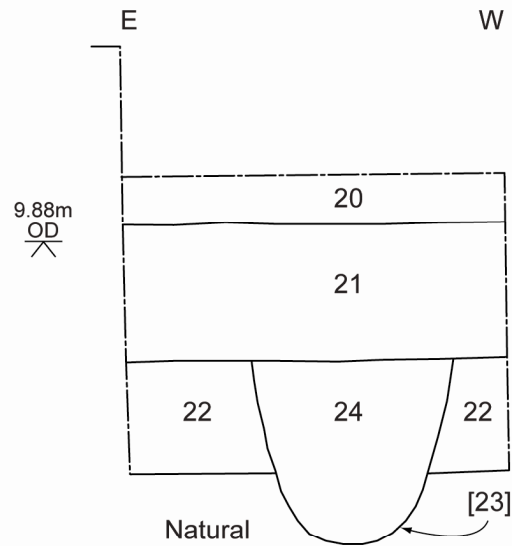


Figure 3 Sections 1 to 3

5.0 Results

The results of the evaluation are outlined below. Deposits are given in round brackets (), while archaeological features (cuts) are given in square brackets []. Plan of the trenches are given in Figure 2.

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3, Section 1)

Trench 1 was aligned north–south and was 6.1m long, 2m wide and 1.48m deep. Because of the depth the sides were stepped. No archaeological features were encountered. The natural subsoil was found to be orange sand with occasional flint gravel. The earliest deposit was a mid-grey silty sand subsoil with occasional flint gravel (11), 0.88m in depth. The topsoil (10) was a dark grey silty sand with occasional flint gravel, 0.5–0.6m deep. No artefacts were recovered from this trench.



Plate 1 Trench 1, facing south

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3, Sections 2 and 3).

Trench 2 was aligned east–west and was 6.5m long, 1.7m wide and 1.16m deep. Because of the depth, the sides were stepped. The natural subsoil was an orange sand with occasional flint gravel. The earliest deposit encountered was a pale brown sand subsoil, with mottles of orange sand, occasional flint gravel and rare charcoal flecks (22). This layer was 0.28m deep. Cutting through layer (22) was feature [23], a small circular pit or post-hole, 0.54m wide and 0.49m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (24) was a mid-brown sand with occasional flint gravel and charcoal flecks, but no datable artefacts. Sealing this was subsoil layer (21), a mid-brown sand with occasional flint gravel and charcoal flecks,

0.38m deep. Above this was the topsoil (20), a dark brown clayey sand with rare flint gravel, coal and plant pot fragments, 0.5m deep. No artefacts were recovered from this trench.



Plate 2 Trench 2, facing east

6.0 Conclusions

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during this evaluation. The one feature present was undated. It is unlikely that it is indicative of significant archaeological activity in the immediate vicinity and may be agricultural in origin. The great depth of topsoil and subsoil is probably due to intensive open-field-type arable activity during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank John Boothroyd, who assisted with the fieldwork. The machining was done by Jon Knowles of P.L.Wordingham Plant Hire. Thanks must also be given to Sarah Poppy of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record data and to Eliza Gore, of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice, who monitored the site. The work was commissioned by Matt Heywood of R H Partnership Architects on behalf of Newnham College Management Ltd.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
10	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
11	Layer	Subsoil	Unknown
20	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
21	Layer	Subsoil	Unknown
22	Layer	Subsoil	Unknown
23	Cut	Pit / post-hole	Unknown
24	Fill	Fill of [23]	Unknown

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Unknown	Pit	1