



**CAM ARC Report Number 944**

**An Evaluation at No. 32  
Scotland Road, Chesterton,  
Cambridgeshire**

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**An Archaeological Evaluation**

Liz Muldowney MA

Site Code: CAM SCR 07  
CHER Event Number: ECB 2540  
Date of works: 26 March 2007  
Grid Ref: TL 6272 9935

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**CAM ARC OASIS Report Form**  
**cambridg1-25682**

**OASIS Number:**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
Project name	Evaluation at 32 Scotland Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire			
Short description	Two trenches were excavated below the footprint of a demolished factory adjacent to Scotland Road. Neither contained archaeological remains. Both contained elements of the demolished factory, Trench 2 was located entirely within a modern backfilled excavation, perhaps a cellar.			
Project dates	Start	26.03.07	End	26.03.07
Previous work	None		Future work	No
Associated project reference codes	CAM SCR 07; CHER ECB2540			
Type of project	Evaluation			
Site status	none			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Industrial building			
Planned development	Housing			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Modern service trench; Modern industrial structural remains			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	none			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Chesterton	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	32 Scotland Road, Chesterton, Cambridge CB4 1QG			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	58.75 sq m			
National grid reference	TL6272 9935			
Height OD	Min OD	6.40	Max OD	7.59
<b>PROJECT ORIGINATORS</b>				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Andy Thomas			
Project design originator	Paul Spoerry			
Director/supervisor	Liz Muldowney			
Project manager	Paul Spoerry			
Sponsor or funding body	Amber Homes (St Ives) Ltd			
<b>ARCHIVES</b>				
	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical			None.	
Paper	CAM ARC CAMSCR07		Indices, Plan, Photos, Survey notes	
Digital	CAM ARC CAMSCR07		AutoCAD drawings, Report PDF, digital photos	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>				
Full title	An Evaluation at 32 Scotland Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire			
Author(s)	Liz Muldowney			
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## **Summary**

On the 26th of March 2007 CAM ARC conducted an archaeological evaluation at No. 32 Scotland Road, Chesterton, Cambridge in advance of the construction of flats on the site of a demolished factory.

Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the demolished building, neither contained archaeological remains. Trench 1 contained modern features comprising a drain and wall footings from the factory. Trench 2 was sited over a modern deep excavation - probably either the remains of a basement or a large pit of unknown extent. No archaeological remains or natural deposits were encountered in this trench.

## **Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Geology and Topography</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Archaeological and Historical Background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>3</b>
	5.1 Trench 1	3
	5.2 Trench 2	3
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>5</b>

### **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Location of trenches with development area outlined (red)

### **List of Plates**

Plate 1: Trench 1 showing modern service trench (running left to right below scale)

Plate 2: Trench 2 showing extent of modern disturbance

### **List of Tables**

Table 1: Trench depths 3

## 1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application 05/0223/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly the Archaeological Field Unit).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with 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 CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

## 2 Geology and Topography

The site overlies second terrace river gravels (British Geological Survey 1981). Trench 1 encountered sands and gravels interleaved with eroded chalk deposits.

The site was at approximately 7.5m OD, although levelling after demolition of the factory building had taken place.

## 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Chesterton was an important medieval centre before being absorbed by the expansion of Cambridge, of which it now forms an easterly suburb. This site lies on Scotland Road, which formerly functioned as a 'back lane' for properties fronting onto the north side of Chesterton High Street.

Early 19th century maps show a few properties on this lane, but not in the position of this site. By the time of the 1st edition OS map (1886) the site appears to have been part of a garden for a large house on the High Street. By 1953 the western part of the site contained part of the factory units latterly demolished.

In recent years a significant amount of archaeological fieldwork has been carried out adjacent to, and close by, the site. Excavations were carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) adjacent to the southwest corner of the site and also across Union Lane. Several

stage reports have been produced from this work, with the results summarised in a published paper (Cessford and Dickens 2004) that also considers the wider development of historic Chesterton.

Immediately south of the site evaluation trenches found limited remains of unknown date, with perhaps some recent truncation (Masser 2000), the dense medieval features being further west closer to Union Lane. The latter zone was subjected to excavation (Armour 2001) and produced a sequence of major Late Saxon boundary ditches that might have included a bank to their north-east, thereby implying an enclosure including the subject site (Cessford and Dickens *op. cit.*). From the Saxo-Norman period onwards, smaller boundary systems are established that align with Union Lane and High Street, and which demarcated properties on those frontages. Occupation and activity then continued throughout the medieval period, but whether this extended as far as the subject site is unclear. On balance this seems unlikely.

In addition evaluations and excavations have been carried out by the CAU 200m to the north-west along Union Lane at the Chesterton Hospital site and evaluations were conducted by Archaeological Solutions 100m to the north-west along Union Street at Oban Court. The latter organisation also conducted evaluations on the north side of Scotland Road opposite the subject site (Grant and Wilkins n.d.). Here only one 11th to 12th century pit was identified to the north of the subject site.

Cessford and Dicken's summary indicates an initial focus of occupation on a north-west to south-east axis along Union Lane being replaced from the 13th century onwards by an south-west to north-east axis along the High Street, but with occupation being almost exclusively along the latter frontage and thus not extending to the subject site.

From the 17th century onwards occupation and activity intensified, but again, this site may have lain outside this zone, with it being maintained as open space in the form of a garden until the 20th century.

## **4 Methodology**

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

The Brief required that a 5% sample of the proposed development area should be subject to trial trenching. Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 measured 7.4m by 4.8m, Trench 2 measured 5m by 4.5m.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-degree excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

No finds were retrieved. No environmental samples were taken.

Trench locations and plans were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of both trenches.

The location and size of the trenches were constrained by, the narrow limits of the site, the remnants of the factory buildings and the presence of trichloroethane contamination. Rubble from the demolished building and some structural elements were still present during the evaluation.

## 5 Results

No archaeological features were encountered on the site. Below the rubble layer was a deposit of very dark silty clay mixed with more modern debris; this deposit had a greasy bluish grey appearance and showed signs of chemical contamination. In Trench 1 this layer sealed a modern service trench and natural deposits. In Trench 2 it sealed modern backfill deposits.

Trench	Total depth	Depth to Natural	Height (OD) at base
Trench 1	0.55m	0.55m	7.10m approximately
Trench 2	0.93	Not encountered	6.49m approximately

*Table 1: Trench depths*

### 5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 1) was oriented north-west to south-east and measured 7.4m by 4.8m in area (Plate 1). Below the rubble and contaminated soil horizon was a single 1m wide modern service trench oriented north-north-east to south-south-west. Below the rubble but cutting the soil horizon was a north-east to south-west oriented 0.8m wide wall foundation trench. This was modern and contained a concrete foundation and two courses of brick wall, forming remnants of the demolished factory.

### 5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Fig. 1) was sub-square in plan measuring 5m by 4.5m in area. At its north-west corner remnants of a brick floor associated with the factory survived below the rubble. A 1m wide concrete wall foundation also survived immediately below the rubble, oriented east to



west, lying at the southern end of the trench. This was also associated with the factory and was not removed.

Below these features was a series of modern backfill deposits to a depth of 0.93m+ (Plate 2). Excavation stopped at this point because of the presence of a corroded metal tank and voids within the backfill. The backfill was present throughout the trench extending in all directions. It consisted of lenses of gravel, clay, crushed brick and concrete as well as unidentified industrial deposits. This backfill was presumably contained within a disused large basement or pit associated with the previous industrial use of the site. Its full extent could not be determined.

## **6 Conclusions**

The evaluation shows that modern disturbance to site has been extensive. In Trench 1 prior to the construction of the factory the south-eastern part of the site was levelled to the top of the natural horizon. No archaeological features were noted in this area suggesting that any occupation focused on Chesterton High Street did not extend this far to the north-west.

The large basement/pit to the north west had truncated the site to a depth of at least 0.5m below the height of the natural horizon in Trench 1. Any archaeology within its confines would have been entirely removed.

No evidence for continuation of the Late Saxon activity seen immediately to the west in the CAU excavation (ECB1598) remained within the excavated area (Cessford and Dickens 2004, 127). It is likely that any archaeological remains at the western end of the site had been truncated/entirely removed by the construction of the factory building.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Amber Homes (St Ives) Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Dr Paul Spoerry, the site was excavated by the author and Will Punchard. The report was illustrated by Andy Corrigan and edited by Liz Popescu.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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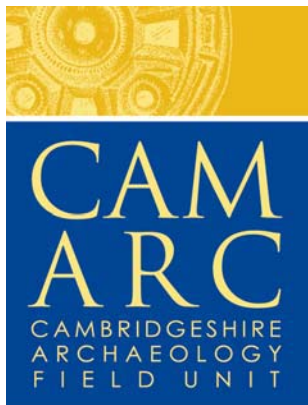
Figure 1 Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)



*Plate 1: Trench 1 showing modern service trench (running left to right below scale)*



*Plate 2: Trench 2 showing extent of modern disturbance*



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