

HERITAGE NETWORK



Land at THOMAS ROAD, Fulbourn, Cambridge

HN745

Archaeological Evaluation



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

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Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land at THOMAS ROAD Fulbourn, Cambs.

HN745 ECB 2991

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Hill Partnerships Ltd.

by

Geoff Saunders, BA AIFA and Katie Watkins, BA PIFA

Report no.492

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The cover photograph shows Trench 4, looking west

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders and Katie Watkins. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land at Thomas Road	, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire	
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	South Cambridgeshire
Village/town:	Fulbourn	Parish:	Fulbourn
Planning reference:	S/1643/07/F	NGR:	TL 5091 5659
Client name and address:	Hill Partnerships, Uni	t 2, Osprey House, Trinity B	Business Park, Trinity Way,
	Chingford, London, E	4 8TD	
Nature of work:	New Housing	Former land use:	Nursing accommodation
Site status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Post Determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c. 2363m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.129m ²
Site Code:	HN745	Other reference:	ECB2991
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Evaluation	Archive recipient:	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Start of work	03/07/2008	Finish of work	10/07/2008
Related HER Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Undetermined, Modern
Oasis UID	heritage1 - 44848	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	Features, uncertain da	te.	
Physical archive:	None	·	
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a	·	·

Synopsis:

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct new housing on land located at Thomas Road, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of development.

Eight trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon. Trenches 3, 4, and 5 revealed shallow irregular undated features which may be archaeological or natural in origin. Trench 8a contained a feature cut through the modern overburden. Trenches 1,2,6,7 and 8b were blank. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the features.

Undated features were observed which may be natural or archaeological in origin, no artefacts predating the modern period were observed.

1.Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Hill Partnerships, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a new development site located on Thomas Road, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire. The planning permission for the development (ref. S/1643/07/F), granted by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), has been subject to a standard archaeological condition in accordance with the provisions set out in the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning. The scope of the required investigation was outlined in a Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, prepared by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA), acting as adviser to the planning authority (Gore, 2008). A full specification for the project was contained in The Howlett Consultancy's approved Project Design (Howlett, June 2008).
- 1.2 The study area is situated in the town of Fulbourn, centred on NGR TL 5090 5660 (Figure 1). The site is currently occupied by five blocks of nursing accommodation (Figure 2). The development proposes the demolition of the existing accommodation blocks and the construction of 29 new dwellings, with associated access, landscaping and car parking.
- 1.3 On the basis of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the present site, CAPCA advised that archaeological evaluation of the development site should be undertaken prior to the development proceeding.
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.
- 1.5 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2 Background

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The present site is located to the east of Cambridge, and approximately 1km to the north-west of the centre of Fulbourn. The study area occupies a sub-rectangular plot, measuring approximately 1.4ha.
- 2.2 The underlying solid geology of the area is chalk (BGS 1948). Locally the drift geology belongs to the Wantage 2 Association (342d), and consists of shallow well drained calcareous soils over argillaceous chalk associated with similar soils affected by groundwater. Deeper well drained coarse loamy soils in places. Complex soil patterns exist locally. (SSEW 1983). The natural geology was characterised in the trenches as a firm, white (10YR 8/1), very clayey chalk.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.3 A Neolithic flint scatter (MCB 16119), possibly representing a knapping floor, was found approximately 950m to the north-east of the study area.
- 2.4 Situated approximately 550m to the south of the study area is a ring ditch (CHER 09306) observed as a cropmark which has been suggested as being Early Bronze Age in date.
- 2.5 Buried ditches and enclosures located at Caudle Corner Farm, approximately 375m to the north-west of the study area, are noted as being of Late Iron Age or Early Roman in date and are statutorily protected as a scheduled ancient monument (SAM-Cambridgeshire No 95).
- 2.6 An Iron Age/ Roman settlement (CHER 10240) is situated approximately 300m to the north-west of the development area and may be linked to the ditches and enclosures at Caudle Corner Farm. This site contained lime kilns, Roman pottery and animal remains. In addition, approximately 30 skeletons were excavated during the construction of the railway in 1875.
- 2.7 Fulbourn was well established by the 16th century. Listed buildings dating back to the 14th century, such as 11 Highfield House which is listed as Grade II* (LBS 51407), is situated approximately 1km to the east of the development area.
- 2.8 The Church of St Vigor (LBS 51435), approximately 1.1km south-east of the study area dates to the 13th century, with additional features built in the 14th and 15th centuries. This is also a Grade II* listed building.
- 2.9 A 16th century building, the Six Bells Public House (LBS 51422), is situated approximately 1km to the south-east of the development area and is listed as Grade II. A number of other listed buildings, that date from the 13th to the 16th centuries, are situated to the south-east of the study area.
- 2.10 The expansion of the village in the 19th century is reflected in the number of listed buildings of this period in the vicinity, the closest being a timber-framed cottage in Hinton Road, approximately 250m to the south of the development area.

3 Fieldwork

METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current Health and Safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.
- 3.2 Eight trenches were located across the site, by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures (Figure 2). They were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon using a tracked excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was visually inspected and scanned with a metal detector for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.3 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.
- 3.4 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.

RESULTS

Trench 1

- 3.5 Trench 1 was located on the south-eastern side of the site, adjacent to the access road (Figure 2). It measured 14m in length and 2m in width and was aligned approximately North South.
- 3.6 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a layer of topsoil over a layer of white redeposited chalk (10YR 8/1) with inclusions of occasional medium sized modern brick fragments. Beneath this was a thin layer of brownish yellow sand over a subsoil which sealed the natural geology.
- 3.7 A modern land drain, 0.45m wide, was noted running approximately east west across the centre of the trench.
- 3.8 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	14.40	Width(m)	1.	.80	Maximum Depth (m): 0.63 Orientation					N-S	
Level at N en	d of Tron	ah (mOD)	Top	9.86	Level at S er	ad of Tro	nah (mOF	.,	Top	10	
Level at N en	iu oi ii eii	ch (mob)	Base	9.30	Level at S el	iu oi iiei	rench (mob)		Base	9.47	
Contant Type			D	4	_		D	imen	sions (n	n)	
Context	Type		D	escriptio	n		Length	W	idth	Depth	
-	Layer	Topsoil layer (10YR 3/2),			-		-	0.20			
_	Layer	Redeposited	Redeposited chalk. Hard, white (10YR 8/1), chalk with occasional medium sized modern brick						-	0.25	
-	Layer	Soft, browni	sh yellow	v (10YR 6	5/8), sand.		-		-	0.05	
-	Layer	Subsoil. Firm	n, brown	(10YR 5	/3), silty clay.		-		_	0.08	
-	Layer	Firm, white geology.	bsoil. Firm, brown (10YR 5/3), silty clay. rm, white (10YR 8/1) very clayey chalk. Natural						-	0.10 +	

Trench 2

- 3.9 Trench 2 was located on the south-eastern side of the site, orientated approximately northwest southeast, and adjacent with the site boundary (Figure 2). It measured 9.80m in length and 2.10m in width.
- 3.10 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a block paved surface above a bedding layer of mixed of sand and stone, which sealed the white (10YR 8/1) clayey chalk natural. No topsoil or subsoil survived. A sondage was excavated at the southern end of the trench to investigate the possible presence of a buried horizon, but none was present.
 - 3.11 A single land drain ran across the trench on an east west alignment.
- 3.12 No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were observed in this trench, and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	9.80	Width(m)	2.	.10	Maximum Depth (m):	0.84	Orienta	tion	NW-SE						
Laval at C an	d of Tuon	sh (mOD)	Top 9.82 Level at W and at		Laval at W and of Transh (mOD)			Lavel at Wand of T		Lavel at Wand of		Successity (see O.D.)		Top	9.82
Level at S en	u or rrend	:n (mOD)	Base	9.34	Level at W end of Trench (mOD) Base 9				9.42						
Context	Tymo		Dagawinstian				Dimensions (m)								
Context	Type		L	escriptio)II		Length	W	idth	Depth					
-	Layer	Block paved	surface.	Surface o	of former car pa	ark	-		-	0.08					
-	Layer	Modern leve	lling lay	er of mixe	ed stone and sa	nd	-		-	0.14					
-	Layer	Firm, white geology.	(10YR 8	0YR 8/1) very clayey chalk, natural					-	0.10 +					

Trench 3

- 3.13 Trench 3 was located in the north-east corner of the site (Figure 2). It was orientated approximately north south, and measured 13.70m in length and 2.20m wide.
- 3.14 The stratigraphy in the trench, which was the same as Trench 2, consisted of a block paved surface above a bedding layer of mixed of sand and stone, which sealed the white (10YR 8/1) clayey chalk natural. No topsoil or subsoil survived.
- 3.15 The trench contained one curvi-linear feature [301], and one crescent shaped feature [303].
 - 3.15.1 Curvi-linear feature [301], was located towards the south-eastern end of the trench and orientated approximately east west. The feature had steep but irregular sides and an irregular base. The irregular nature of the base was characteristic of extensive root activity, and some of the deeper roots had been preserved by the presence of a high water table. The single fill (302) was a firm, brown (10YR 3/2), slightly silty clay, which yielded no archaeological artefacts and contained no inclusions other than roots and occasional unworked subangular flint fragments. The clean nature of the fill and the irregular nature of the feature suggest that it is natural in origin.
 - 3.15.2 Crescent shaped feature [303], was located to the north of [301] in the centre of the trench, and ran beneath the western trench baulk. The feature had irregular sides and an irregular base. The single fill (304) was identical to (302), a firm, brown (10YR 4/3), slightly silty clay which yielded no archaeological artefacts

and contained no inclusions other than unworked occasional small sub-angular flints. The feature is likely to be natural in origin and may be the result of root activity.

3.16 No further features, deposits or artefacts were identified within the trench.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	13.70	Width(m)	2.	20	Maximum Depth (m):	0.60	Orienta	tion		N-S
Level at NW	Level at NW end of Trench (mOD)			9.82 9.33	Level at SE end of Trench (mOD)				Top Base	9.74 9.33
Context	Туре		D	osorintio	n		D	imen	sions (m)	
Context	Туре		Description				Length	W	idth	Depth
301	Cut		ery irreg	ular base	th steep irregul on an east – w		3.00 +	0	.81	0.97
302	Fill	Firm, brown [301].	firm, brown (10YR 4/3), slightly silty clay. Fill of 301].						.81	0.97
303	Cut		se, runs ii		rregular sides a n trench baulk		2.00 +	0	.96	0.22
304	Fill	Firm, brown [303].	(10YR 4	4/3) slight	ly silty clay. Fi	ill of	2.00 +	0	.96	0.22
-	Layer	Block paved park.	surface l	ayer. Sur	face of former	car	-		-	0.08
-	Layer	Levelling lay	yer of mi		-		-	0.22		
-	Layer	Firm, white Natural geol	`	/1), very (clayey chalk.		-		-	0.10 +

Trench 4

- 3.17 Trench 4 was located close to the north of the site and was orientated approximately East West (Figure 2). It measured 14.20m in length and 2m wide.
- 3.18 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a layer of tarmac which formed the surface of the car park. Beneath this was a make-up layer of aggregate directly above the natural geology recorded as white (10YR 8/1) very clayey chalk.
- 3.19 The interface between the natural geology and the levelling aggregate was separated by a breathable fabric indicating that when the car park was constructed significant ground reduction had been undertaken.
- 3.20 Two land drains were observed in the trench, one running along the length of the trench, the other forming a 'T' junction and running south beyond the trench.
- 3.21 The trench contained a single feature [401], a large but shallow irregular shaped cut with an irregular base and sides. The solitary fill (402) was a firm, brown, slightly silty clay that yielded no artefacts and contained no inclusions other than occasional small unworked sub-angular flints. The irregular shape and cut of the feature and the lack of archaeological artefacts or inclusions in its fill indicate that it is likely to be natural in origin.
 - 3.22 No further archaeological activity was observed in the trench.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	14.20	Width(m)	2.	00	Maximum Depth (m): 0.60 Orientation					E-W	
Loyal at W as	nd of Tuon	ah (mOD)	Top	9.92	Level at E e	nd of Two	mah (mOI	• •	Top	9.73	
Level at W end of Trench (mOD)			Base	9.39	Level at E e	na or re	enen (mot	"	Base	9.28	
Contout		D	inti			D	imen	sions (n	n)		
Context	Type		υ	escriptio		Length	W	idth	Depth		
401	Cut		allow irregular shaped cut with an irregular base I sides. Natural feature.						40 +	0.11	
402	Fill	Firm, brown [401].	(10YR 4	1/3), sligh	tly silty clay. F	fill of	4.40	1.4	40 +	0.11	
-	Layer	Tarmac surf	ace layer				-		-	0.08	
-	Layer	Make-up la	Make-up layer of modern aggregate.						-	0.32	
-	Layer	,	rm, white (10YR 8/1), very clayey chalk. stural geology.						-	0.10 +	

Trench 5

- 3.23 Trench 5 was located in the northwest corner of the site and was aligned North South (Figure 2). It measured 14m in length and 2m wide.
- 3.24 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a tarmac layer, comprising of part of the car park surface. Beneath this was a layer of aggregate. No original topsoil or subsoil remained.
- 3.25 The interface between the natural geology and the levelling aggregate was separated by a breathable fabric indicating that when the car park was constructed significant ground reduction had been undertaken.
- 3.26 A single land drain was observed running along the trench on a North South alignment.
- 3.27 The trench contained one irregular shaped feature [501], which was situated in the northern half of the trench and was aligned east-west. The solitary fill (502) was a firm, brown, slightly silty clay which yielded no artefacts and contained no inclusions other than occasional small unworked sub-angular flints. The irregular shape and cut of the feature and the lack of archaeological artefacts or inclusions in its fill indicate that it is likely to be natural in origin.
 - 3.28 No further archaeological activity was observed in the trench.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	14.00	Width(m)	2.00 Maximum Depth (m): 0.66			0.66	Orienta	tion	N-S	
I areal of N an	d of Tuon	ak (mOD)	Top	15.56	I aval at C as	с. т	mah (mOD	.,	Top	15.28
Level at N end of Trench (mOD)			Base	14.50	Level at S er	ia oi ire	ench (mod)		Base	14.44
Comtowt	Т		Description				D	imen	sions (m)	
Context	Type						Length	W	idth	Depth
501	Cut	_	rregular shaped feature with an irregular base and sides. Natural feature.					3	.55	0.19
502	Fill	Firm, brown [501].	(10YR 4	1/3), sligh	tly silty clay. F	ill of	2.00 +	3	.55	0.19
-	Layer	Tarmac layer	r of car p	ark			-		-	0.10
-	Layer	Layer of agg	Layer of aggregate						-	0.55
-	Layer	Firm, white Natural geol	`	/1), very (clayey chalk.		-		-	0.10 +

Trench 6

- 3.29 Trench 6 was located in the north-western corner of the site and was aligned east west (Figure 2). It measured 17.30m in length and was 2m wide.
- 3.30 The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of firm, brown, clayey silt topsoil with occasional fragments of modern CBM in it. Beneath this a layer of redeposited chalk with occasional large fragments of modern CBM in it. The subsoil was a firm, brown, silty clay which sealed the natural geology of firm, white, very clayey chalk.
- 3.31 In the course of machining, tooth marks from an earlier phase of ground reduction were observed cut into the natural horizon.
- 3.32 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench. No artefacts predating the 20^{th} century were observed within the spoil.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	17.30	Width(m)	2.00 Maximum Depth (m): 0.70				Orientation		E-W	
Level at E en	d of Tren	ch (mOD)	Top 10.29 Level at W end of Trench (mOD)				Top Base	10.47 9.76		
Contont	Т		Ъ	D				imen	nsions (m)	
Context	Type		Description				Length	W	idth	Depth
-	Layer	Firm, brown	(10YR 4	1/3), claye	y silt. Topsoil.		-		-	0.35
-	Layer	Redeposited	white (1	0YR 8/1),	chalk.		-		-	0.21
-	Layer	Firm, brown	(10YR 5	5/3), silty	clay. Subsoil		-		-	0.13
-	Layer	Firm, white Natural geol	white (10YR 8/1), very clayey chalk.				-		-	0.10 +

Trench 7

- 3.33 Trench 7 was located in the western corner of the site on a North South alignment (Figure 2). It measured 18.20m in length and was 2m wide.
- 3.34 The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of a layer of tarmac over a layer of crushed concrete. Beneath this was a firm, brown, silty clay subsoil layer. The natural geology of firm, white, very clayey chalk lay beneath this.
- 3.35 Root action was observed in the northern end of the trench. A storm drain crossed the centre of the trench on a North South alignment. A land drain was observed in the southern half of the trench also on a North South alignment.
- 3.36 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench. No artefacts predating the 20^{th} century were observed within the spoil.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	18.20	Width(m)	2.00 Maximum Depth (m): 0.62				Orientation		N-S	
Level at N and of Tranch (mOD)			Top	9.70	I and at C and af Translation			<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	Top	9.95
Level at N en	vel at N end of Trench (mOD)			9.36	Level at S end of Trench (mOD)				Base	9.33
Contaut	Tyma		D	agawintia		D	imen	sions (m)		
Context	Type		υ	Description				W	idth	Depth
-	Layer	Tarmac surfa	ace.				-		-	0.05
-	Layer	Crushed con	crete leve	elling lay	er.		-		-	0.38
-	Layer	Firm, brown	(10YR 5	5/3), silty		-		-	0.08	
-	Layer	Firm, white Natural geol	`		-		-	0.10 +		

Trench 8a

- 3.37 Trench 8 was split into two sections, 8a, and 8b, so as to avoid known services. Trench 8a was located in the south-west corner of the site on an east west alignment (Figure 2). It measured 14.30m in length and was 2m wide.
- 3.38 The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of a firm, very dark greyish brown, slightly clayey silt topsoil. Beneath this lay a firm, brown, silty clay subsoil over a second subsoil layer of firm, greyish brown, silty clay which contained fragments of modern CBM and concrete. Below this was the natural geology.
- 3.39 A layer of concrete separated the two subsoil layers in the centre of the trench and sealed feature two features.
 - 3.39.1 Feature [801] was cut through the second subsoil layer and survived in the trench to a depth of only 0.09m. The single fill (802) was a firm, brown, slightly silty clay which yielded no artefacts and contained no inclusions other than occasional small unworked sub-angular flints. The form and function of the feature is unclear, but it was cut through a layer which contained modern concrete and CBM.
 - 3.39.2 A potential linear feature [803] was also sealed by the concrete, and was investigated in section. Investigation demonstrated it to be limited to staining of the natural geology and it had no definitive cut edge. No artefacts were recovered from the stained area.
- 3.40 This trench was located very close to the present site boundary, and the overburden observed in the trench was substantially deeper than that encountered elsewhere on the site. This, and the two recorded features, are likely to date to the construction of the accommodation blocks that currently occupy the site.
 - 3.41 No further archaeological activity was observed in the trench.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	14.30	Width(m)	2.	00	Maximum Depth (m):	1.00	Orientatio n		E-W	
Level at E en	d of Tren	ich (mOD)	Тор	9.99	Level at W end of Trench (mOD)				Top	10.13
20,01 m 2 cm or 11 cm (m o 2)			Base	9.16	20,0100			Base	9.15	
Context	Type		D	escriptio	'n		D Length		sions (n	,
Context	Турс		Description					W	idth	Depth
801	Cut	Linear cut for flat base. Mo		-	straight sides a	and a	1.90 +	1.	86 +	0.09
802	Fill	Firm, brown of [801].	Firm, brown (10YR 4/3), slightly silty clay. Fill of [801].					1.	86 +	0.09
803	Cut	Stained natu	ıral geol	ogy.			2.60 +	1	.31	-
-	Layer	Thick concr [801] and st			ly sealing feat	ure	5.50	2.	00 +	0.25
-	Layer	Firm, very d slightly clay	_		vn (10YR 3/2)	,	-		-	0.12
-	Layer	Firm, brown	n (10YR	5/3), silt	y clay. Subsoil		-		-	0.68
-	Layer		Firm, greyish brown (10YR 5/2), silty clay. Second subsoil layer.						-	0.98
-	Layer	Firm, white Natural geol	`	8/1), very	clayey chalk.		-		-	0.10 +

Trench 8b

- 3.42 Trench 8b was located in the south-west corner of the site and aligned approximately east west (Figure 2). It measured 5.75m in length and was 2.20m wide.
- 3.43 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a firm, very dark greyish brown, slightly clayey silt topsoil over a layer of firm, white, redeposited chalk. Below this lay a firm, brown, silty clay subsoil which sealed the natural geology.
- 3.44 A single land drain was observed running along the trench on an east west alignment.
- 3.45 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench. No artefacts predating the 20th century were observed within the spoil.

Trench Data:

Length (m)	5.75	Width(m)	2.	.20	Maximum Depth (m):	1.15	Orienta	tion		E-W
Level at E en	Level at E end of Trench (mOD)			9.77 8.92	Level at W end of Trench (mO			D)	Top Base	9.92 8.85
Context	Tyma		Description				D	imen	nsions (m)	
Context	Type		Description				Length	Width		Depth
-	Layer	Firm, very d clayey silt. T		sh brown	(10YR 3/2), s	lightly	-		-	0.20
-	Layer	Firm, white	(10YR 8	/1), redep	osited chalk la	yer.	-		_	0.40
-	Layer	Firm, brown	Firm, brown (10YR 5/3), silty clay. Subsoil.						-	0.35
-	Layer	-	Firm, white (10YR 8/1), very clayey chalk. Natural geology.						-	0.10 +

FINDS CONCORDANCE

3.46 During the course of the fieldwork finds including pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), and concrete were observed within the overburden layers present on site. None of these artefacts definitively predate the 20th century and their presence on the site is likely to be the result of the construction work undertaken for the accommodation blocks which currently occupy the site.

4 Discussion & Conclusion

- 4.1 In the course of the present evaluation, no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts definitively predating the 20^{th} century were identified.
- 4.2 Undated features [301], [303], [401], and [501], which are likely to be the result of root or geological action, were identified in Trenches 3, 4, and 5. All were irregular in nature and none yielded any archaeological artefacts.
- 4.3 Trench 8a, contained a single feature [801], which was cut through a modern overburden layer and is likely to be associated with groundworks carried out during the construction of the accommodation blocks that currently occupy the site.
- 4.4 Land drains were observed in seven of the eight trenches indicating that the study area previously formed agricultural land. Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the site remained open until at least the 1960s.
- 4.5 The evaluation has shown that groundworks in the 1960s, associated with the construction of the existing accommodation blocks, were extensive. Little or none of the stratigraphy on the site appears to predate the development suggesting that the original ploughsoil had been stripped across the site.
- 4.6 Although the site is situated within an area of significant archaeological potential, the absence of any human activity predating the modern period may be attributable to the extent of earlier development groundworks. Nevertheless, the absence of deep cut features would suggest that any potential earlier activity on the site was insubstantial and of low density.

Conclusions

- 4.7 The archaeological evaluation of the site did not reveal any archaeological remains of significance.
- 4.8 The study area is located in a well documented archaeological landscape, but no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts predating the modern period were observed. Previous development groundworks on the site may have destroyed any archaeological evidence on the site, although the absence of both unstratified artefacts predating the modern period, and deep cut features, suggests a genuine absence of occupation activity on the site.
- 4.9 On the basis of these findings, the risk that significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts might be disturbed by the proposed development, is considered to be Low.

Confidence Rating

- 4.10 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.
- 4.11 There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

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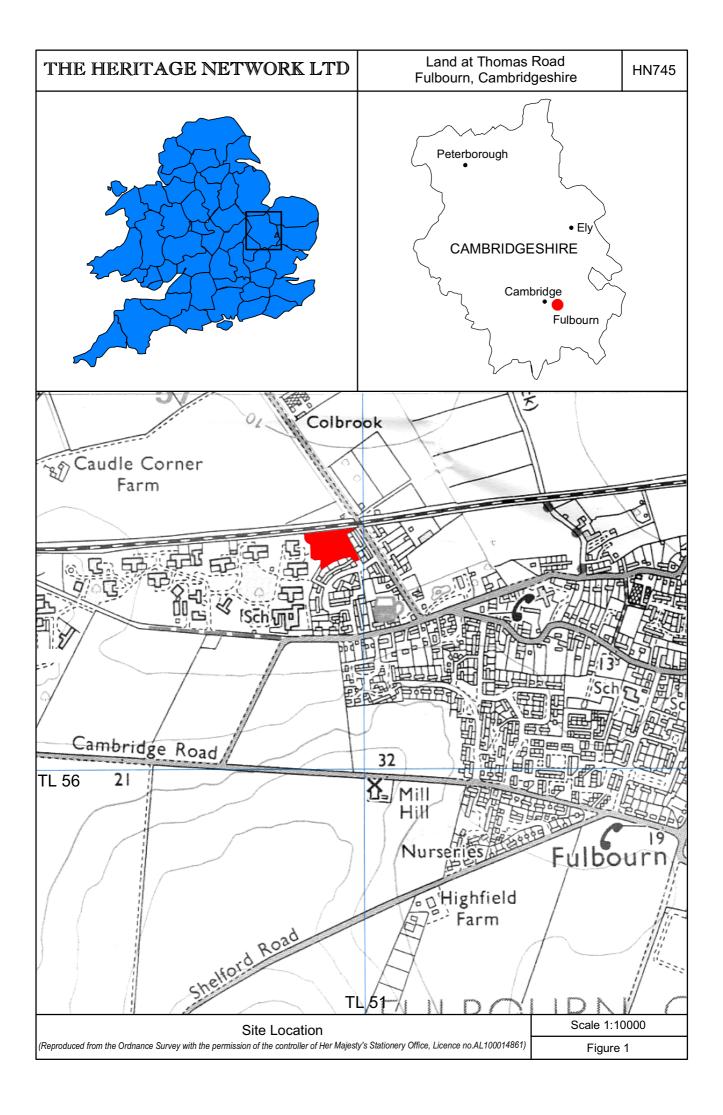
Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 Soil Map Sheet 4, Eastern England, Scale 1:250,000

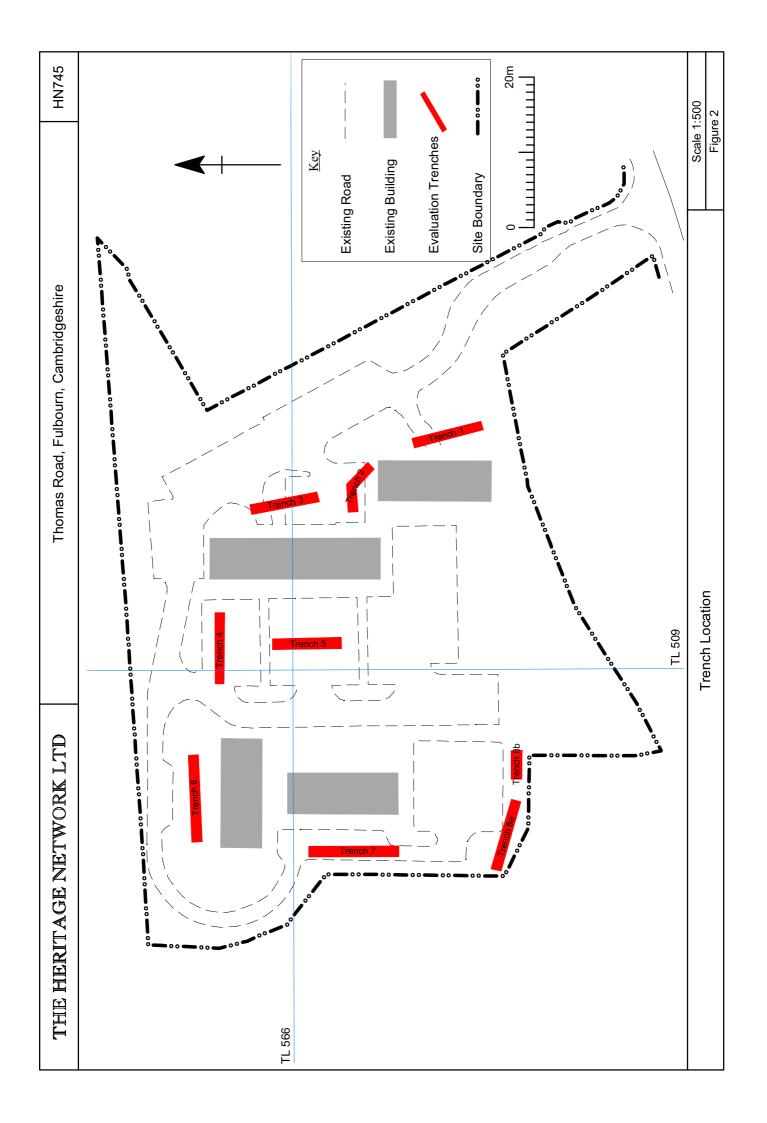
www.promap.co.uk Ordnance Survey historical mapping

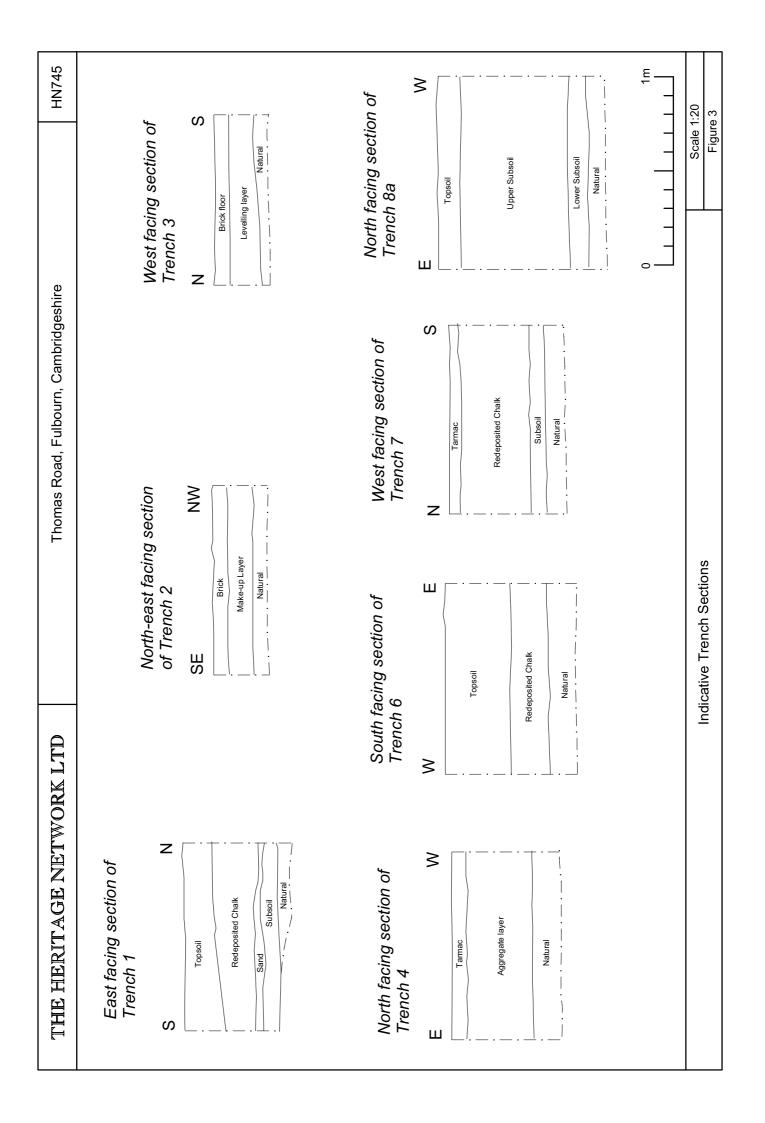
Page 11

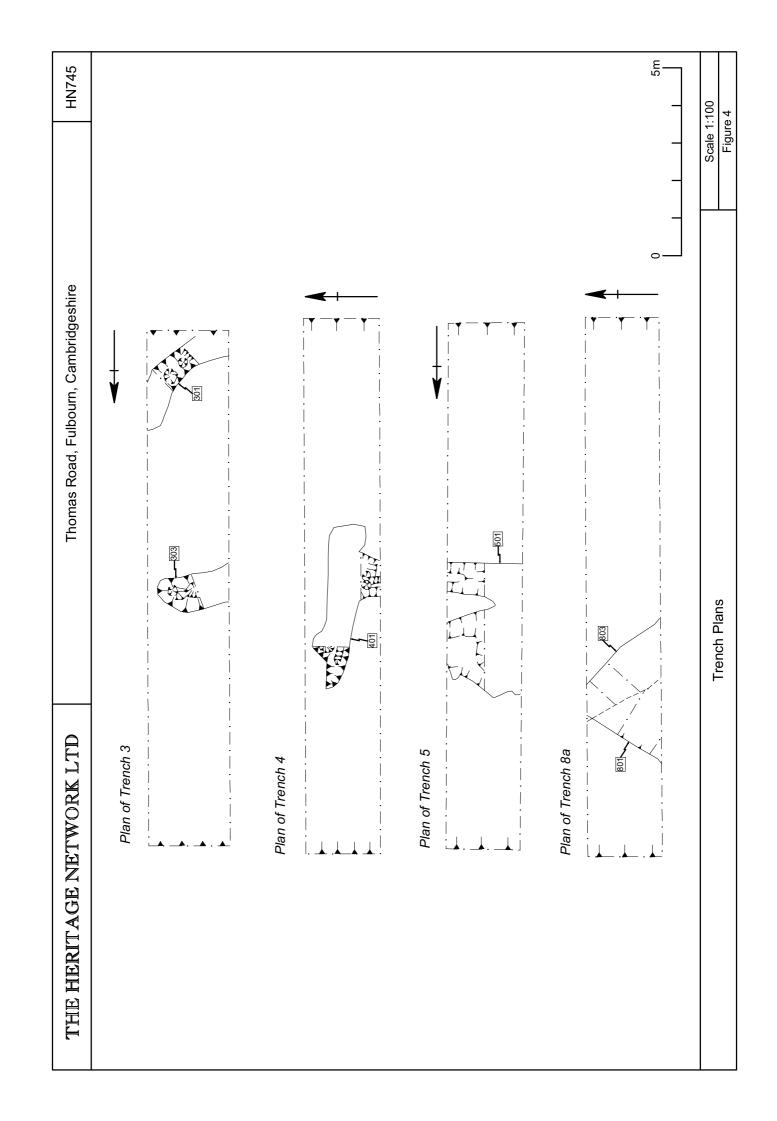
6 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench Location
Figure 3	Indicative Trench Sections
Figure 4	Trench Plans
Plate 1	Trench 1 looking North
Plate 2	Trench 2 looking East
Plate 3	Trench 3 looking South
Plate 4	Trench 4 looking West
Plate 5	Trench 5 looking North
Plate 6	Trench 6 looking West
Plate 7	Trench 7 looking North
Plate 8	Trench 8a looking West
Plate 9	Trench 8b looking East
Plate 10	Natural feature [301] looking Northeast









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Plate 1: Trench 1 looking North



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking East



Plate 3: Trench 3 looking South



Plate 4: Trench 4 looking West



Plate 5: Trench 5 looking North



Plate 6: Trench 6 looking West

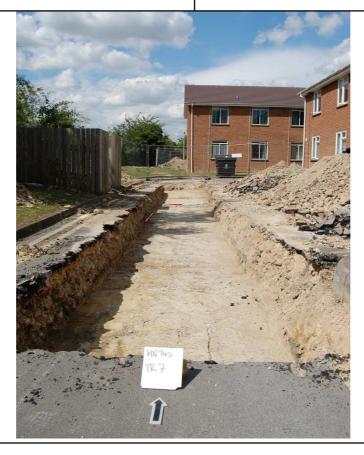


Plate 7: Trench 7 looking North



Plate 8: Trench 8a looking West



Plate 9 : Trench 8b looking East



Plate 10: Natural feature [301] looking Northeast

Appendix

OASIS On-line Record

0.4979.70.1.4.40			
OASIS ID: heritage1-448	48		
PROJECT DETAILS	Total of Thomas Doub Follows Combailed in		
Project name	Land at Thomas Road, Fulbourn, Cambridgshire In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct new housing on land located at Thomas Road, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of		
Short description of the project	archaeological evaluation in advance of development. Eight trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon. Trenches 3, 4, and 5 revealed shallow irregular undated features while Trench 8a		
	contained a feature cut through the modern overburden. Trenches 1,2,6,7 and 8b were blank. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the features. Undated features were observed which may be natural or archaeological in origin.		
D : . 1 .	No artefacts predating the modern period were observed.		
Project dates	Start: 03-07-2008 End: 10-07-2008		
Previous/future work	No / Not known		
Any associated project reference codes	HN745 - Contracting Unit No.		
Any associated project reference codes	ECB2991 – County Event No.		
Type of project	Field Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Current Land use	Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation		
Monument type	Feature, Uncertain date.		
Significant Finds	None		
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'		
Development type	Housing estate		
Prompt	Planning condition		
PROJECT LOCATION			
Country	England		
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE FULBOURN Thomas Road		
Postcode	N/A		
Study area	2363.00 Square metres		
Site coordinates	NGR - TL 5091 5659 - point		
PROJECT CREATORS	•		
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network		
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with advice from County Archaeologist)		
Project design originator	The Howlett Consultancy		
Project director/manager	Chris Howlett		
Project supervisor	Geoff Saunders		
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer		
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hill Partnerships		
PROJECT ARCHIVES	1		
Physical Archive Exists?	No		
Digital Contents	'none'		
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'		
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store		
Paper Contents	none'		
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'		
PROJECT BIBLIOGRA			
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)		

Land at Thomas Road, Fulbourn, Cambs

Archaeological Evaluation

Title	Land at Thomas Road, Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Saunders, G, and Watkins, K
Other bibliographic details	Report Number 492
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts
Description	A4 Booklet, comb bound, green cover – 18 pages text, 4 figures, 10 plates
Entered by	Geoff Saunders (gis@heritagenetwork.co.uk)
Entered on	29 July 2008

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