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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**HILLS ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE SPORTS  
PAVILION, CAMBRIDGE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

ECB 3707

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA	
NGR: TL 4585 5572	Report No: 3978
District: Cambridge	Site Code: AS 1457
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4461
Signed:	Date: December 2011

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Hills Road Sixth Form College Sports Pavilion, Cambridge</i>		
<p><i>In December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at the site of Hills Road Sixth Form College Sports Pavilion, Cambridge (NGR TL 4585 5572). The evaluation was commissioned by Hills Road Sixth Form College and was undertaken in advance of the proposed demolition of an existing sports pavilion, and the replacement and relocation of a new sports pavilion with an associated secure open air store.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within the southern suburbs of Cambridge. Cartographic sources suggest that the site has remained undeveloped until it became a playing field in 20<sup>th</sup> century. The site had a potential for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds, and no indication of previous development was identified.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>15/12/2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4461</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1457</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Sports field</i>		
Planned development	<i>Sports pavilion</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Cambridge</i>	<i>Cambridge</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 800m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4585 5572</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>14m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>CCC HET</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Hills Road Sixth Form College</i>		
Full title	<i>Hills Road Sixth Form College Sports Pavilion, Cambridge. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3978</i>	OASIS ID	<i>118507</i>
Date (of report)	<i>December 2011</i>		

# HILLS ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE SPORTS PAVILION, CAMBRIDGE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at the site of Hills Road Sixth Form College Sports Pavilion, Cambridge (NGR TL 4585 5572). The evaluation was commissioned by Hills Road Sixth Form College and was undertaken in advance of the proposed demolition of an existing sports pavilion, and the replacement and relocation of a new sports pavilion with an associated secure open air store.*

*The site is located within the southern suburbs of Cambridge. Cartographic sources suggest that the site has remained undeveloped until it became a playing field in 20<sup>th</sup> century. The site had a potential for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological remains.*

*In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds, and no indication of previous development was identified.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at the site of Hills Road Sixth Form College Sports Pavilion, Cambridge (NGR TL 4585 5572; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Hills Road Sixth Form College (HRSFC), and was undertaken in advance of the proposed demolition of an existing sports pavilion and the replacement and relocation of a new sports pavilion with an associated secure open air store (Cambridge City Council Planning Ref. 11/0900/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET; dated 01/12/2011) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 02/12/2011) and approved by HET. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

### *Planning policy context*

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located towards the southern extent of Cambridge (Fig. 1). The historic core of the city lies 2.8km to the north, with much of its suburbs extending 1km to the site's north-eastern boundary. The small settlement of Trumpington lies 1.6km to the south-west of the site, and the neighbouring village of Grantchester 2.6km to the west. The site is also located to the north of the A1134 Long Road, which serves as a link road between the arterial A1309 Hauxton Road and the A1307 Hills Road to Little Abington. The site comprises a small section of playing field associated with Hills Road Sixth Form College, which is situated off Hills Road 850m to the site's north-north-east.

2.2 The Hills Road Sixth Form College playing field incorporating the site lies at the southern extent of the college complex, and is bound to the immediate south by Long Road. To the immediate east of the playing field lies residential properties fronting Sedley Taylor Road and Luard Road, whilst to the north lies the college's sports and tennis centre. The western boundary of the playing field is demarcated by the mainline railway running southwards from Cambridge station. The proposed sports pavilion site itself lies towards the south-eastern corner of the playing field and 75m to the south of an existing pavilion (Fig. 2). The site is roughly rectangular in plan and comprises approximately 800m<sup>2</sup> of existing playing field. It is proposed to develop the site for a replacement sports pavilion changing room for Hills Road Sixth Form College.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies within a predominantly urban location, and towards the southern extent of the city and district of Cambridge (Fig. 1). The River Cam, which flows through the city and lent its name, lies 2.3km to the west of the

site, whilst the smaller watercourse of Vicar's Brook or Hobson's Conduit flows southwards 40m to the site's west. Cambridge is located upon an overwhelmingly flat and low-lying relief and at the southern extent of the Fens. The site therefore lies at 14m AOD the with surrounding relief sloping only slightly down towards the River Cam to the west, although White Hill rises to 45m AOD 2.1km to the south-south-east.

3.2 The underlying geology of the Cambridge area comprises Middle Chalk (British Geological Survey 1978), which consisted of a mottled pale yellowish/off-white chalk marl with occasional spreads of orange sand and gravel revealed during an archaeological evaluation at No. 18 Long Road and 580m to the east-south-east of the site (Crank 2005b). The evaluation also encountered a topsoil comprised of a soft mid brown silty loam with occasional chalk pebbles, which may be comparable to that located within the site (*ibid.*). Although the soils of urban areas like Cambridge remain unsurveyed, the site is judged to lie upon soils of the Wantage 2 association, which are described as shallow, well drained calcareous silty soils over argillaceous chalk associated with similar soils affected by groundwater (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site area has been prepared by AS (Higgs 2011). In summary:

*The area surrounding the site has produced a wealth of evidence for prehistoric occupation and land use dating from the Neolithic period onwards. Much of the prehistoric evidence derives from extensive previous archaeological excavations undertaken at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Clay Farm, whilst a number of significant prehistoric sites are recorded in the wider area. The Hutchison site at Addenbrooke's 550m to the south-east of the site has revealed three main prehistoric phases dating from the middle Bronze Age onwards, as well as evidence for intense occupation dating from the late Iron Age/Conquest period. Although prehistoric remains are less extensive to the north of Long Road, the majority of recent development has been concentrated to its south, and Long Road is known to date only to the early modern period. The site thus has a moderate potential for further prehistoric remains, particularly those dating from the Bronze and Iron Age periods.*

*Extensive Romano-British remains have also been found in the area surrounding the site, although remains are dominated by features associated with agricultural activity, or those corresponding with known cropmarks. Notable Romano-British find were recorded at the Addenbrooke's Hospital and Clay Farm excavations, as well as the Perse School, which lies 400m to the east of the site. The course of an east to west aligned Roman road was identified across the hospital complex, with a second Roman road visible at the school as a ridge until 1910 when it was levelled. Evidence for a Romano-British cemetery was also found at the Perse School, whilst Roman pottery was found at Luard Road and 400m to the north-east of the site. The site thus*

*has a moderate potential for Romano-British remains particularly those associated with agricultural activity or possibly the presence of Roman roads in the area.*

*Anglo-Saxon evidence from the area surrounding the site was found only at the Addenbrooke's Hospital complex located 800m to the south-east. Early Anglo-Saxon remains found during an evaluation comprised a cluster of intercutting pits and a well, whilst low level middle Saxon occupation was recorded in the form of a curvilinear ditch, five wells, a pit and one or possibly two rectangular post-holes structures. During the Saxon period, the site is known to have occupied a peripheral location at the north-eastern extent of the manor of Trumpington, and thus has only a low potential for further Anglo-Saxon remains. Similarly, the medieval period is poorly represented in the area, confirming that the site remained in the peripheral, agricultural hinterland of both Cambridge and Trumpington. The limited medieval evidence predominantly consists of ridge and furrow remains, and thus the site has only a low potential for such medieval evidence.*

*The area surrounding the site remained in overwhelmingly agricultural use until the expansion of Cambridge in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The mainline railway located to the west of the site was developed in 1847 and subsequently altered as late as the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The site itself, however, has remained as undeveloped land, consisting of agricultural land owned by Trinity College in Cambridge until c. 1803 when it became part of the agricultural land associated with Great Tithe Farm, later Trinity Farm. The farm had had been demolished and lost to the modern suburbanization of Cambridge by 1925; a date consistent with the early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the area. Cartographic sources confirm that the site has remained undeveloped and suggest that it was become part of a playing field associated with Cambridgeshire High School for Boys; the precursor to Hills Road Sixth Form College, by 1954. The site thus has only a low potential for post-medieval, early modern and modern remains.*

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 Three trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 3). The trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed new replacement sports pavilion.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3, DP 2-3)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 5): western end, south facing</i> <i>0.00 = 14.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid to dark greyish brown, soft, silty loam.
0.24 – 0.52m	L1001	Light to mid yellow, compact, sand with occasional charcoal, chalk and pebbles.
0.52m +	L1002	Natural mid to dark yellow, compact, silty sand and, locally, white chalk.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 6): eastern end, north facing</i> <i>0.00 = 14.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.44m +	L1002	Natural sand and chalk. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological remains or finds were present.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 3, DP 7-8)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 10): northern end, east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 14.03m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.29 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.53m +	L1002	Natural sand and chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 11): southern end, west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 13.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.26 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.48m +	L1002	Natural sand and chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* No archaeological remains or finds were present.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 3, DP 12-13)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 15): western end, south facing</i> <i>0.00 = 13.99m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.27 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.58m +	L1002	Natural sand and chalk. As above, Tr. 1.



<i>Sample section 3B (DP 16): eastern end, south facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 14.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.28 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.56m +	L1002	Natural sand and chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* No archaeological remains or finds were present.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a mid to dark greyish brown, soft, silty loam (0.20 – 0.30m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a light to mid yellow, compact, sand with occasional charcoal, chalk and pebbles (0.20 – 0.30m thick).

8.2 The natural geology, L1002, was present at 0.40 – 0.60m below existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark yellow, compact, silty sand and, locally, white chalk.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular, within the Addenbrooke's Hospital and Clay Farm site.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed, and no indication of any previous development of the site was identified. Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place, and no residual finds were recovered.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Hills Road Sixth Form College for commissioning the project (in particular Mr Nigel Standbridge for his assistance) and their architects, Frank Shaw Associates Ltd, for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. Looking north-north-east.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking west-south-west.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking east.



DP 4. Trench 1, northern section. Looking north-west.



DP 5. Trench 1, western end. Sample section 1A. Looking north.



DP 6. Trench 1, eastern end. Sample section 1B. Looking south.



DP 7. Trench 2. Looking south-south-west.



DP 8. Trench 2. Looking north.



DP 9. Trench 2, western section. Looking south-west.



DP 10. Trench 2, northern end. Sample section 2A. Looking west.



DP 11. Trench 2, southern end. Sample section 2B. Looking west.



DP 12. Trench 3. Looking north-east.



DP 13. Trench 3. Looking east.



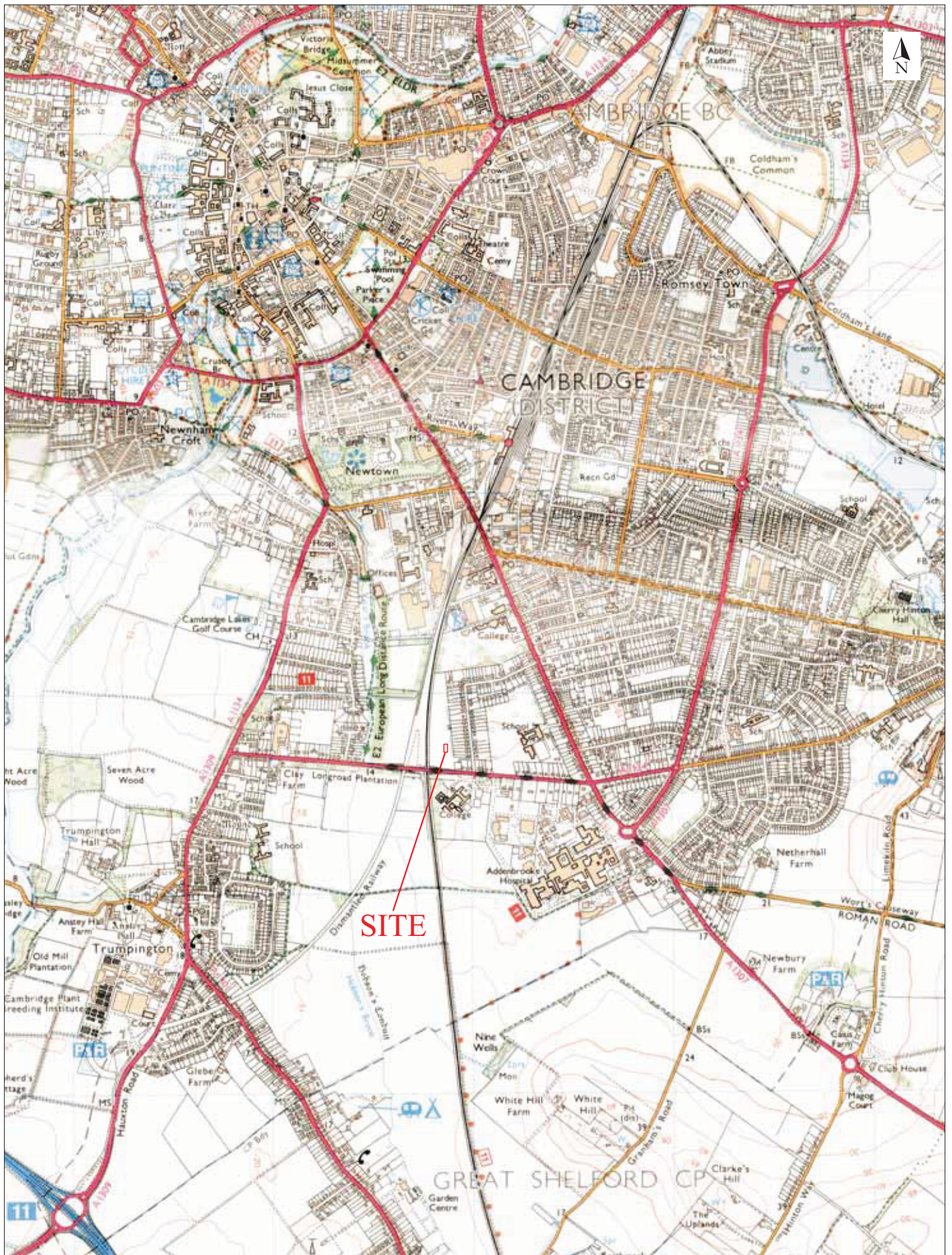
DP 14. Trench 3, northern section. Looking north-west.



DP 15. Trench 3, western end. Sample section 3A. Looking north.

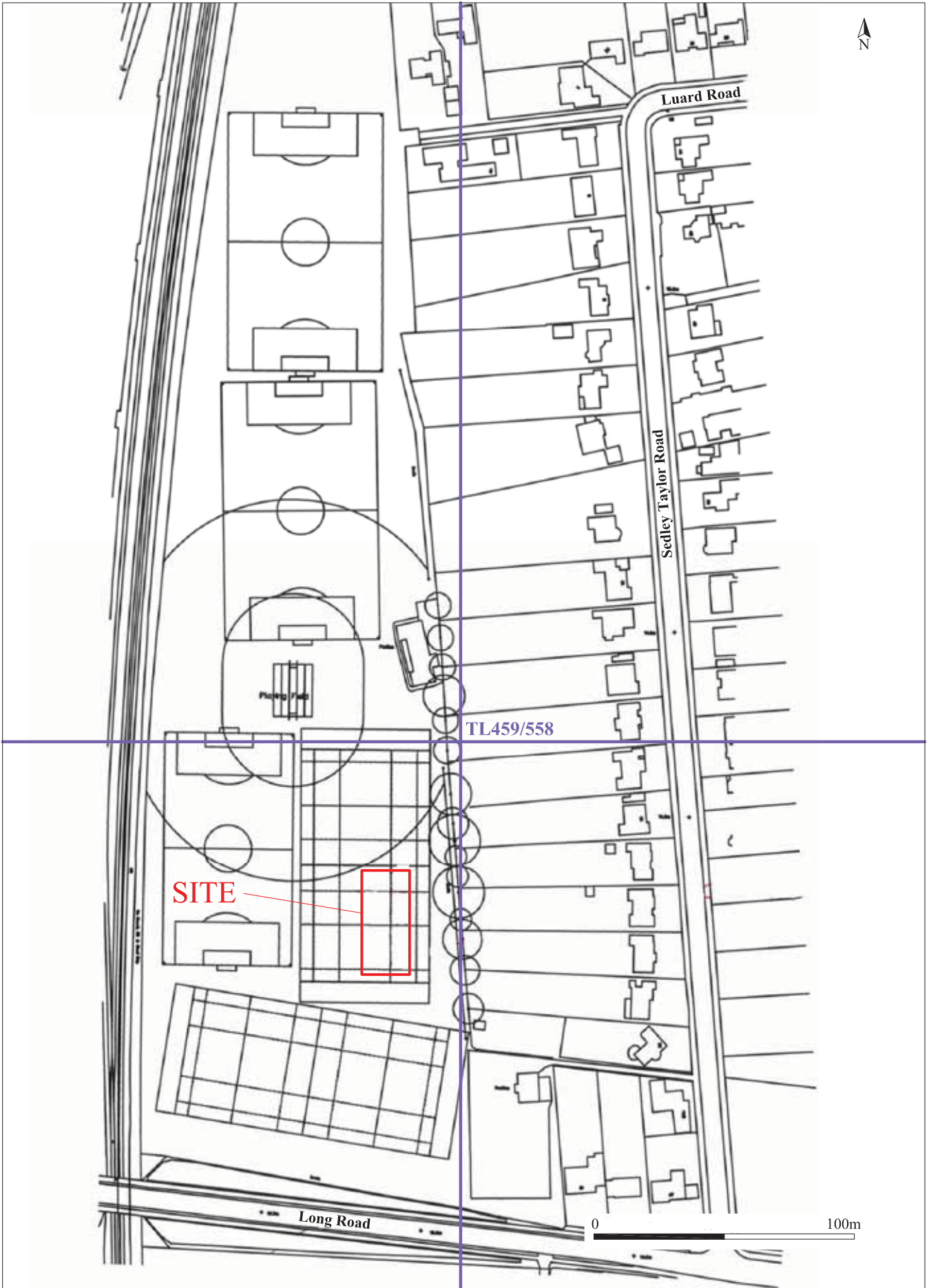


DP 16. Trench 3, eastern end. Sample section 3B. Looking north.



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:2000 at A4

