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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**2 AND 2A, BISHOP'S ROAD, TRUMPINGTON,  
CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER NO. ECB 4221

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NGR: TL 4474 5442		Report No: 4635
District: Cambridge		Site Code: ECB 4221
Approved: Claire Halpin		Project No: 5701
Signed:		Date: 24 July 2014 Revised: 18/09/2014

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## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 SITE DESCRIPTION**
- 3 THE EVIDENCE**
  - 3.1 Topography, geology and soils
  - 3.2 Archaeological and historical background
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**

#### **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## OASIS SUMMARY

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	2 and 2A Bishop's Road, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire		
<p>Between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological trial trench evaluation at 2 and 2A Bishops Road, Trumpington, Cambridge (NGR TL 4474 5442). The evaluation was commissioned by Ms Tracy Scutt and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to build a new residential development of two 4-bedroom dwellings following the demolition of the existing building (Planning ref. (13/1739/FUL).</p> <p>The archaeological evidence, particularly from excavations centred on Clay Farm to the north-east and Glebe Farm to the south-west of the development site, shows that the local landscape was intensively used in the prehistoric and Roman periods. Possible Palaeolithic flints tools were found 200m to the west. Neolithic to Roman occupation evidence was excavated 250-350m to the north-east, and Iron Age pits and post-holes have been identified 300m to the west of. A late Saxon coin was found 20m to the north of the site and a medieval coin 100m to the east.</p> <p>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	22/07/2014 – 25/07/2014		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number		Site code	ECB 4221
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status			
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Demolition of existing building and construction of two 4-bedroom dwellings		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	Cambridge	Trumpington
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)		
Post code (if known)	CB2 9NH		
Area of site	c. 300m <sup>2</sup>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 20m		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Dan McConnell)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Egan, S.		
Funded by	Ms Tracy Scutt		
Full title	2 and 2A Bishop's Road, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Egan, S. and Thompson, P.		
Report no.	4635		
Date (of report)	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2014 (Revised 18/09/2014)		

## 2 AND 2A, BISHOP'S ROAD, TRUMPINGTON, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### **SUMMARY**

*Between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological trial trench evaluation at 2 and 2A Bishops Road, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4474 5442). The evaluation was commissioned by Ms Tracy Scutt and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to build a new residential development of two 4-bedroom dwellings following the demolition of the existing building (Planning ref. (13/1739/FUL).*

*The archaeological evidence, particularly from excavations centred on Clay Farm to the north-east and Glebe Farm to the south-west of the development site, shows that the local landscape was intensively used in the prehistoric and Roman periods. Possible Palaeolithic flints tools were found 200m to the west. Neolithic to Roman occupation evidence was excavated 250-350m to the north-east, and Iron Age pits and postholes have been identified 300m to the west of. A late Saxon coin was found 20m to the north of the site and a medieval coin 100m to the east.*

In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological trial trench evaluation at 2 and 2A Bishops Road, Trumpington, Cambridge (NGR TL 4474 5442). The evaluation was commissioned by Ms Tracy Scutt and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to build a new residential development of two 4-bedroom dwellings following the demolition of the existing building of 2 Bishops Road and an extension to 2A Bishops Road (Planning ref. (13/1739/FUL),

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Dan McConnell, dated 12/03/2014), and a specification compiled by AS (17/07/2014), and approved by CCC HET. The documents *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (2012) were used for guidance.

### 1.3 The project objectives were:

- to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development;
- to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

## Planning policy context

1.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## 2 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 2)

2.1 Trumpington is located to the south of Cambridge between the M11 to the west, and the Cambridge to London railway to the east. The site is located to the rear (north) of Bishop's Road. It is situated immediately south of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway route, and is just to the west of Shelford Road. It comprises garden areas associated with 2 and 2a Bishops Road.

### **3 THE EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils**

3.1.1 Trumpington is located on a fairly low lying area of land with the site at approximately 20m AOD, between the River Cam 1km to the west and Hobson's Brook 700m to the east. The local geology comprises river terrace gravels overlying Cretaceous Lower Chalk.

#### **3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background**

3.2.1 A large amount of archaeological evidence for prehistoric and later occupation has been identified in the area of Trumpington showing an intensively used landscape. Some of the earliest evidence comprises a possible Palaeolithic handaxe and worked flints found in a gravel pit 200m west of the development site (CHER 04415). Two areas of large scale excavation work have taken place in the vicinity of the site, centred on Clay Farm to the north-east and Glebe Farm to the south-west.

3.2.2 Site 3 of the Clay Farm excavations was the closest area to the development site with a central grid reference approximately 300m to the north-east (CHER MCB17815). The earliest archaeology was a number of Neolithic pits and tree throws and a single cluster of Early Bronze Age pits, perhaps former cooking or boiling pits. Middle Bronze Age occupation was characterised by a NW-SE aligned rectilinear field system, probably representing fenced paddocks, and pits and burnt stone spreads were also present. The most prominent feature of this period, however, was the establishment and re-cutting of a large enclosure ditch that followed the edge of the field system (CHER MCB17815). Late Iron Age activity comprised a poorly developed field system and the edge of a north-south ditched trackway, along with small-scale quarrying. In the early Roman period cultivation took place and quarrying continued, but although the enclosures of large paddocks have been identified further north (CHER MCB17883), Site 3 seems to have been abandoned by AD 100, perhaps in favour of the larger roadside settlement at Addenbrooke's across the Hobson's Brook valley. Only post-medieval gravel and marl quarrying and Victorian drainage ditches were present after that, until modern times (Timberlake 2007). Several undated, but probably modern features were identified 300m to the west (CHER CB15769).

3.2.3 Another area of large-scale excavations near Glebe Farm is centred on approximately 550m south-west of the site. The main occupation evidence dated to the Early Iron Age - 5<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC. This included eleven ditches in four discrete rectilinear alignments, within which two probable drove-ways were identified. Two flexed inhumation burials, and around 60 pits and post-holes of various size, form and function were also revealed along with a large waterlogged feature identified as a well with three associated hollows (Armour 2007). Some evidence for late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age occupation was also present, while an undated ring ditch 8m in diameter, located 420m south-west of the development site, contained an extended male burial but no

grave goods (CHER MCB19447). Further undated pits and post-holes were identified in the area of the ring gully burial (CHER MCB19450).

3.2.4 Iron Age pits and post-holes have been excavated 300m to the west of the site (CHER MCB16430), with an Iron Age pit containing human bone and pottery located beneath Hauxton Road 430m to the west (CHER 04414). An area centred approximately 630m south-west of the site also revealed middle to late Iron Age/Roman pits (CHER MCB19449). Cropmarks of an undated but possible Roman field system have been identified given a central grid reference 500m east of the site (CHER 08349, 08357). Two phases of Early to Middle Saxon enclosure have been identified approximately 430m to the north-west, under what is now a superstore (CHER CB14653).

3.2.5 Undated burials and unspecified Roman remains have been recovered from the grounds of Anstey Hall (CHER 04875, CHER 08478). Further human skeletons have been recovered nearby in Maris Lane suggesting a large cemetery (CHER 04875). The burials could relate to the medieval Grade I listed Church of St Mary and St Michael, or a predecessor, located to the north-west (CHER 04883, 04935a). Anstey Hall was originally a 17<sup>th</sup> century house that was doubled in size in 1909 (CHER MCB19342). The two closest find spots to the development site comprise a silver penny of Edward the Confessor from 20m to the north (CHER 05157), and a medieval coin found 100m to the east (CHER 04874).

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 Two trial trenches were excavated (Fig. 2). Both trenches were 15m long and 1.60m wide. A third trench could not be excavated.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.



## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1

<i>Sample section: North-east end, north-west facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 20.51m AOD</i>		
0.00 - 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with sparse small sub-angular flints.
0.10 - 0.27m	L1001	Modern Made Ground. Mid orange brown, firm, silty clay
0.27 - 0.43m	L1002	Demolition Layer. Pale yellow, compact, concrete and rubble
0.43 - 0.63m	L1003	Modern Made Ground. Dark grey, firm, silty clay and sand
0.63 - 0.81m	L1004	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, firm, silty sand with occasional small sub rounded flint
0.81m+	L1005	Natural deposits. Pale orange / yellow, firm, silty sand with clay patches and sparse small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.

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

### Trench 2

<i>Sample section: South-west end, south-east facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 20.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 - 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.12 - 0.51m	L1006	Modern Made Ground. Pale yellowish orange, firm, silty clay with frequent small flint.
0.51 - 0.74m	L1007	Modern Made Ground. Mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with frequent tarmac fragments
0.74 - 1.92m+	L1008	Modern Made Ground. Mid grey brown, firm, silty clay.

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

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L1000 was uppermost across the site. It comprised firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with sparse small sub-angular flints. Below the topsoil in Trench 1 was made ground (L1001 and L1003) and a demolition layer (L1002). Below L1003 was Subsoil L1004,

comprising mid orange brown, firm, silty sand with occasional small sub rounded flint. L1004 overlay the natural (L1005), a pale orange / yellow, firm, silty sand with clay patches and sparse small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.81m below the present day ground surface).

7.2 Below the topsoil in Trench 2 was a sequence of modern made ground layers over 1.5m deep. Evidently the natural horizon and archaeological features, if originally present, had been truncated.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 Based on previous investigations in the area, the site had good potential for archaeological features and finds, especially for those dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods. Single Saxon and medieval coins are also known from the immediate vicinity. However, in the event the trial trench evaluation did not encounter any archaeological features or finds.

8.2 A deeply stratified sequence of modern made ground deposits was encountered in Trench 2. It is possible that any archaeology originally present in this area of the site had been truncated/ removed by more recent activity.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank the client, Ms Tracy Scutt for funding the project and Mr Chris Anderson for his 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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803

## **WEB SITES**

[www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

[www.heritagegateway.org](http://www.heritagegateway.org)



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General shot of site showing opened trenches



2  
Post excavation shot of Trench 1



3  
Post excavation shot of Trench 2



4  
Sample section, Trench 1





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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 1:750 at A4