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**PARADISE NATURE RESERVE, GRANTCHESTER MEADOWS,
CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

CHER ECB 4007

Authors: Kamil Orzechowski MA (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 4463 5724	Report No: 4440
District: Cambridge	Site Code: AS
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5377
Signed:	Date: 30 October 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Paradise Nature Reserve, Grantchester Meadows, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.</i>		
<i>In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks / earthworks to enhance the riparian habitats at Paradise Local Nature Reserve, Grantchester Meadows, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4463 5724). The works were required in compliance with a planning condition on approval for the scheme (Planning Ref. 11/1064/FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</i>			
<i>The groundworks exposed the natural geology. No archaeological features or finds were present.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>4, 7, 8, 9 October 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>No</i>
P. number	<i>5377</i>	Site code	<i>ECB 4007</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Nature reserve</i>		
Planned development	<i>Formation of earthworks to enhance habitats</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Grantchester</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.2.3ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4463 5724</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 7.50m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Unit</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Kamil Orzechowski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Cambridge City Council</i>		
Full title	<i>Paradise Nature Reserve, Grantchester Meadows, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Orzechowski, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4440</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2013</i>		

PARADISE NATURE RESERVE, GRANTCHESTER MEADOWS, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks / earthworks to enhance the riparian habitats at Paradise Local Nature Reserve, Grantchester Meadows, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4463 5724). The works were required in compliance with a planning condition on approval for the scheme (Planning Ref. 11/1064/FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The groundworks exposed the natural geology. No archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks / earthworks to enhance the riparian habitats at Paradise Local Nature Reserve, Grantchester Meadows, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4463 5724). The works are required in compliance with a planning condition on approval for the scheme (Planning Ref. 11/1064/FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC, Dan McConnell, dated 14th June 2013), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 26th June 2013), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- to ensure a level of reporting commensurate with the findings of the investigation

- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

1.4 The principal research issues will be to identify any evidence of a Roman crossing point across the Cam from north to south banks. Given the proximity to the known cemetery on the south bank, such a crossing may lie within the current site.

Planning policy context

1.5 The 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.

1.6 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The Paradise Local Nature Reserve is located on the south-west edge of Cambridge just to the east of Newnham College, and 2km north of the village of Grantchester.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS

3.1.1 The site lies at c.7.5m AOD on the north bank of the River Cam on river terrace deposits with chalky till of the Hanslope association to the west. The underlying solid geology is Upper Greensand and Gault Clay of the Cretaceous period. It is proposed to remove existing vegetation and topsoil to

re-wet the existing marsh and enhance biodiversity, with further ancillary works.

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for finds of Iron Age and Romano-British date, which have previously been identified in the area. An Iron Age inhumation burial on land at King's College, off Barton Road, contained grave goods including horse harness and three brooches. Iron Age pottery was found during construction of Grantchester House, Latham Road to the south-east of the site. Prehistoric burials were also found at Newnham College to the west of the site, and an axe head was recovered from Maltings Lane to the north.

3.2.2 The Roman Dam Hill cemetery is located on the opposite south) bank of the Cam which was identified during gravel working, and Roman pottery and coins have been found at Latham Road. Undated cropmarks have also been found in this area including an inferred square enclosure to the south-west of Dam Hill. Finds of Romano-British date have been made on the north side of the Cam, suggesting that activity extends across towards the site. The closest known finds include a group of inhumations at Newnham College and Roman coins from Pitt Press. A Roman crossing point over the Cam from north to south banks is likely to have existed, and given the proximity to the known cemetery on the south bank, such a crossing could lie within the development site.

3.2.3 Early to middle Saxon inhumations are also known from Dam Hill, while other cremations and inhumations have been identified at Newnham College. Circa 875 Grantchester was named *Grantbycge* and is thought to have been a fortified port. Newnham University College was founded in 1871.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the ground works associated with groundworks / earthworks to enhance the riparian habitats at Paradise Local Nature Reserve. A mechanical excavator was used for this purpose.

4.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all ground works, inspection of subsoil, make-up layers, and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps for archaeological finds and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in a sample section presented below.

<i>Sample section 1.</i>		
<i>0.00 = 7.43m AOD</i>		
0.00– 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. Black, friable, sandy silt, very humic

0.16 – 0.25m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, dark grey silt with occasional small angular and sub angular stones, flint and chalk
0.25m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, light yellowish grey clay.

The depth of the excavation was on average 0.9m below the current ground level and the natural geology was exposed. 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 during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L1000 was a black, friable sandy silt, highly humic and organic with roots and decayed plants. L1000 sealed Subsoil L1001, a dark grey, friable, silt with occasional small angular and sub-angular chalk fragments, stones and flint. It contained fragments of modern CBM, modern pottery and animal bone. Below L1001 was the natural, L1002, a firm light yellowish clay with no inclusions.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for further finds of Iron Age and Romano-British date, which are known from the area. The Roman Dam Hill cemetery is known from the opposite bank of the Cam. Finds of Roman-British date have also been made on this side of the Cam, suggesting that activity extends across to this bank. A Roman crossing point across the Cam from north to south banks is likely to have existed, and given the proximity to the known cemetery on the south bank, it was thought that such a crossing may lie within the site.

8.2 During the monitoring the depth of the excavation was on average 0.90m below the current ground level, and the natural geology was exposed. No archaeological features or find were present. Subsoil L1001 contained modern CBM and modern pottery.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank Mr David Ifould of Cambridge City Council Project Delivery and Environment Team for commissioning the monitoring, and the earthworks contractor, Lancaster Earthmoving, for their assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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Institute of Field Archaeologists (now Institute for Archaeologists), 1994 (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. IfA Reading.

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WEB SITE

Heritage Gateway

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General site view looking south-west. Also topsoil stripping in the background



2
Topsoil and subsoil stripping looking south



3
Complete stripping of the north area. Looking south



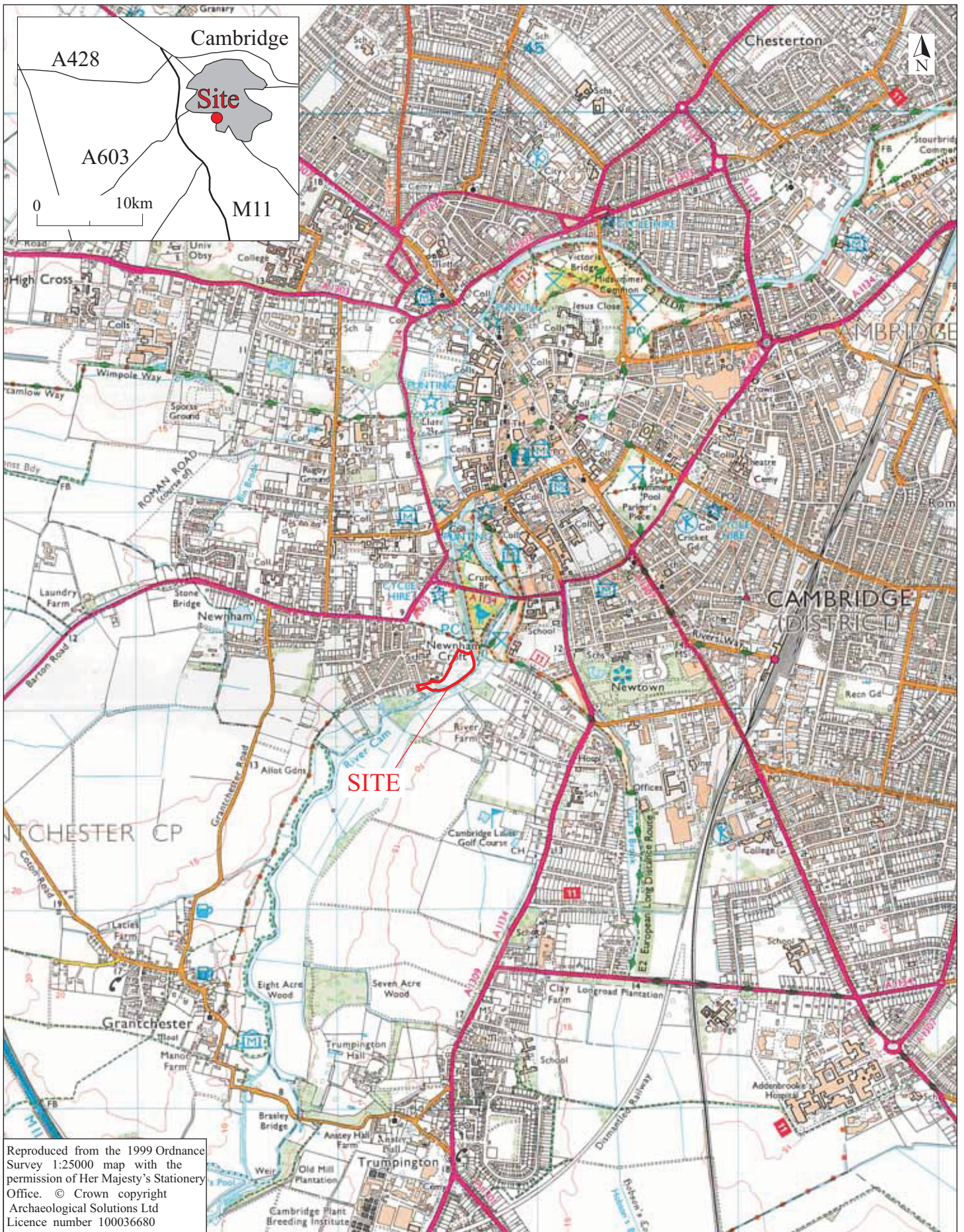
4
Sample section No.1 facing south-east



5
Complete excavation of the west area. Looking east



6
Section of the southern bank. Looking south



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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 1:200 at A4