UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE LONG ROAD 6TH FORM COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Project: LRC2191 CHER event no.: ECB3127 Oasis ref. no: albionar1-154159

> Document: 2013/129 Version 1.0

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24th July 2013

Produced for: BAM Construction Ltd.



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by BAM Construction Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisor) under the management of Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer). This report was prepared by Kathy Pilkinton with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	24/07/2013	n/a

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

HET Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council

CHER Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

LPA Local Planning Authority

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

WSI Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (13/0584/FUL) has been granted for a new University Technical College building for 670 students and 70 staff at Long Road 6th Form College, Long Road, Cambridge. The proposed development will comprise the erection of a three-storey building with rooftop plant, associated landscaping, new cycle parking, car parking and an all-weather pitch with lighting.

As the development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) advised the City Council that a condition would be appropriate to secure archaeological mitigation with an evaluation as the first step. This is in line with the requirements of paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The trial trenching took place on 18th and 19th July 2013. Nine trenches were opened in the area of the current car park and tennis courts (the location of the proposed expanded car park and UTC building).

A further five trenches in the southern part of the development area (the current school playing fields) are subject to funding agreement for a new all weather pitch and were not undertaken at this stage.

No archaeological remains were present in the nine trenches opened within the northern part of the development site.

The depth and preservation of the subsoil within Trenches 1-4 and 9 indicates good potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the development area. This suggests that their absence is genuine and not due to truncation associated with landscaping of the college grounds.

The absence of remains within the development area indicates that the extensive Iron Age and Roman activity previously investigated on the adjacent Addenbrooke's Hospital site (Evans, Mackay and Webley, 2008), and the Saxon and Bronze Age activity to the south (Collins 2009) do not extend as far north and north-west as the current tennis courts and car park within the development area.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Planning permission (13/0584/FUL) has been given for a new University Technical College building for 670 students and 70 staff at Long Road 6th Form College, Long Road, Cambridge. The proposed development will comprise the erection of a three-storey building with rooftop plant, associated landscaping, new cycle parking, car parking and an all-weather pitch with lighting.

As the development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) advised the City Council that a condition would be appropriate to secure archaeological mitigation with an evaluation as the first step.

This is in line with the requirements of paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states that Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets before they are lost, this can be achieved by imposing planning conditions or obligations as appropriate (CLG 2012).

A Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation was prepared by Albion Archaeology (Albion 2013) in response to a design brief, issued by the HET, setting out the requirements for the archaeological evaluation of the site in order to determine the potential impact of the development on archaeological remains (HET 2013).

1.2 Site Location

The development area lies in the Queen Edith's Ward of Cambridge, covering c. 1.4ha of flat ground, centred on TL 4605 5543 (Fig. 1). It is bounded by Long Road to the north, Addenbrooke's Hospital to the east, the London-Cambridge railway (and beyond that open fields) to the west, and the Cambridge Medical Research Council building to the south. The underlying geology comprises lower chalk in the eastern and central part of the development area with 2nd and 3rd terrace gravels in the western part (Evans et al 2008, 14).

1.3 Archaeological Background

The development area lies in a landscape rich in archaeological remains. To the immediate east of the development area, excavations at the Hutchison site at Addenbrooke's Hospital (Evans *et al* 2008) revealed extensive Iron Age and early Roman settlement activity of the "Conquest" period. The settlement included industrial activity in the form of a number of kilns, and a cemetery with both cremations and inhumations. It was preceded by late Bronze Age activity and followed by a late Roman field system; there was also evidence for middle Saxon occupation.

Plans of the cropmarks and open area excavations (Evans *et al* 2008) suggest that parts of the settlement are likely to extend into the development area.



A Roman road was also identified and its projected route crosses the development area, running NW-SE. Investigations to the west of the development area in advance of construction of a teaching block to the southwest of the college (CCC AFU 2000 and 2001) encountered a series of linear remains. These included a pair of parallel NW-SE aligned ditches on a similar alignment to the projected road. Although they contained no datable material, their morphology suggested an Iron Age/Roman date.

This densely settled landscape continued to the south of the Long Road 6th Form College where evaluation of the Addenbrooke's 2020 Lands in 2005 and subsequent excavation of the CBC Boulevard site (which is part of the 2020 Lands) in 2010 revealed the existence of further concentrations of settlement features. The evaluation report identified several "sites" which are defined as concentrations of more intense activity within a general presence of archaeological features and artefact scatters and continuing multi-period field system (Evans and Mackay 2005). Their nature and date was further investigated by the subsequent mitigation (Newman *et al* 2010).

These sites are: Site I, a multi-ditched enclosure which is part of an extensive Bronze Age landscape; Site II, a previously unknown 1st-century Roman settlement with a possible central droveway; and Site III (possibly including site IV), a concentration of 1st- to 3rd-century Roman enclosures, suggesting a major landscape re-organisation, perhaps related to the establishment of villas to the north and south (Evans and Mackay 2005, Newman *et al* 2010).

All of these "sites" were located some distance to the south of the development area. However, Field U that borders the College site to the south had a lesser density of features. The number of ditches, gullies and pits revealed together with a small quantity of both later Iron Age and middle Saxon pottery still suggest some manner of settlement "presence" (Evans and Mackay 2005, 46), which may continue northwards into the development area.

Further excavations of a 0.9ha area to the south of the development area did reveal some of this settlement evidence in the form of an Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building (SFB) and two wells. The works also recorded evidence for Neolithic and Roman artefacts, a cluster of Iron Age postholes and a large, Bronze Age, L-shaped enclosure ditch (Collins 2009).

The excavation of an archaeological trench along the northern edge of Field U in association with the relocation of a water main also revealed an early Anglo-Saxon pit cluster and a well. No structures were revealed within the trench but the quantity of domestic refuse within the features suggests the existence of settlement nearby (Evans *et al* 2008, 194). Field U has since been developed and now houses the Cambridge Medical Research Council building.

A non-intrusive geophysical survey was carried out on the land to the south of the College, including the southern part of the current development area (Evans *et al* 2008, 194). The survey revealed faint traces of N-S aligned linear anomalies, suggesting the presence of ploughed-out ridge and furrow field



systems. A possible NW-SE aligned linear anomaly is also present on the projected line of the Roman road.

The general paucity of definite archaeological anomalies in this survey is interesting, given the density of archaeological remains to the south and east of the development area and those already identified within its western part. Either the area genuinely contains few archaeological remains or they do survive but were not detectable by geophysical survey — perhaps, for example, because of the masking effects of modern disturbance.

Three large, probably modern, N-S aligned linear anomalies were identified in the south-western quadrant of the development area (Fig. 1). They may represent the remains of a series of WWII Air Raid Protection trenches. Plans of such trenches are depicted on a 1939 proposed construction diagram (Albion Archaeology 2009). This shows that the original intention was to place the trenches along the eastern boundary of the site. However, no such remains were identified in that location by the geophysical survey.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the archaeological evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains survive within the development area and, if so, to determine their date, nature, extent, condition, and significance. The information gathered will be used to inform decisions with regard to the impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological remains, and to help in the formulation of appropriate mitigation measures to protect remains either by preservation or excavation.

The general research aims of the archaeological investigations were to:

- 1. Establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation on the site.
- 2. Establish the relationship of any remains found to surrounding contemporary landscapes.
- 3. Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
- 4. Determine site formation processes and the nature of preservation and truncation of features present.

The objective of the archaeological investigations was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting. Information about this setting has been provided by the extensive archaeological investigations in its vicinity (see Section 1.3 above).

With reference to those investigations and within the context of the regional research agenda, the *Revised Framework for the East of England*, which identifies the need to study settlement typologies, chronologies and dynamics, and processes of economic and social change in all periods, from the Bronze Age to the Anglo-Saxon, and particular the transition phases between periods (Medlycott 2011, pp 20-21, 29-32, 57-59), a number of project-specific research aims were formulated.



The specific research aims of the archaeological investigations were to:

- 1. Establish the extent of the late Iron Age/Roman settlement identified on the adjacent Hutchison site (Evans *et al* 2008). Does the settlement extend into the development area? If so, what is its nature within the development area?
- 2. Assess site formation processes. Do the blank results of the geophysical survey in the southern part of the development area represent a real absence of archaeological features?
- 3. What is the evidence for the Roman road traversing the site and are there any associated roadside features of artefacts?
- 4. Do the field systems and low-density occupational activity identified in the 2020 Land investigations to the south of the development area (Evans and Mackay 2005), extend northwards into the development area and what is their nature?
- 5. Is there any evidence for Saxon settlement on the development area?



2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place on 18th and 19th July 2013. Nine trenches (one 5m, three 10m and five 15m in length) were opened within the development area (Figure 1).

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. Trenches 5-8 lay within the tennis courts; a breaker was used to remove the tarmac.

A further five trenches on the playing fields to the south of the initial evaluation area were not opened at this time. This area will be investigated subject to funding confirmation for a proposed all weather pitch in the location of the current school playing fields (Figure 1).

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, and 200 for Trench 2 etc. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2013). The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn, 2001).
ALGAO (east)	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of
agg	England
• CCC	Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the
	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store (HER 2004/1).
English Heritage	Management of Research Projects in the Historic
	Environment (MoRPHE) (2009)
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory
	and practice of methods, from sampling and
	recovery to post-excavation (2011)
• IfA	By-Laws and Code of Conduct
	Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field
	Evaluation

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB3553.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-154159.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All deposits found during the investigations are described below and shown in Figure 2. Detailed information on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Topsoil comprising grey brown sandy silt and measuring 0.2–0.55m thick was present in Trenches 1-4 and 9. In Trenches 2 and 4 a chalky landscaping layer (201, 401) associated with the construction of the current car park lay between the original topsoil (202, 402) and a later turf covering (200, 400).

Subsoil comprising compact orange brown sandy silt was present in all trenches and was a maximum of 0.5m thick. In Trenches 5-8 the subsoil was heavily truncated and disturbed by the construction of the tennis courts; it was overlain by geo-textile material, a layer of limestone hardcore and finally the tarmac surface of the courts.

In Trenches 1-4 the underlying geology consisted of mid brownish orange silty sand with occasional chalky patches. To the south, in Trenches 5-9 this became heavily punctuated with loose yellowish gravely patches, reminiscent of quarry backfilling. However, sondages to a depth of 1.2m within Trench 5 (Figure 2) confirmed these to be geological in origin, suggesting that they represent the horizon between two differing geologies.



4. **CONCLUSIONS**

No archaeological remains were present in the nine trenches opened within the northern part of the development site.

The depth and preservation of the subsoil within Trenches 1-4 and 9 indicates good potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the development area. This suggests that their absence is genuine and not due to truncation associated with landscaping of the college grounds.

The absence of remains within the northern part of the development area indicates that the extensive Iron Age and Roman activity previously investigated on the adjacent Addenbrooke's Hospital site (Evans, Mackay and Webley, 2008) and the Saxon and Bronze Age activity to the south (Collins 2009) do not extend as far north and north-west as the current tennis courts and car park within the development area.



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Medlycott, M. (ed), 2011, Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 24

Newman, R., Collins, M., Appleby, G. and Dickens, A. 2010. *Archaeological Excavations at CBC Cambridge: Site 2 The Boulevard. An Interim Report.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 937.



6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS



Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46036: Northing: 55553)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46037: Northing: 55549)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown Sandy Silt Friable Thickness: <0.55m	✓	
101	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt Compact Thickness: <0.25m	✓	
102	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches and greyish white silty chalk patches Compact		
103	Modern intrusion	Geological test pit	✓	
104	Fill	Loose mixed topsoil/subsoul and natural backfill.	~	



Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.95 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46062: Northing: 55543)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46063: Northing: 55553)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown Sandy Silt Friable Thickness: <0.17m	
201	Make up layer	Light white grey Silty chalk Friable Present at southern end of trench Thickness: <0.2m	
202	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown Sandy Silt Friable Thickness: <0.3m	
203	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt Compact Thickness: <0.25m	
204	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel and chalk patches Compact	



Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46060: Northing: 55518)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46068: Northing: 55512)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
300	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown Sandy Silt Friable Thickness: <0.2m	✓	
301	External surface	Grey, small pebbles and small gravel - associated with tennis court construction. SE end of trench, 1.5m in length Thickness: 0.8m	✓	
302	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt Compact Thickness: <0.5m	✓	
303	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches Compact		



Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 1. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46092: Northing: 55519)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46087: Northing: 55510)

Context:	Type:	ype: Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown Sandy Silt Friable Thickness: <0.23m	
401	Make up layer	Light white grey Silty chalk Friable Present at north east end of trench Thickness: <0.2m	
402	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown Sandy Silt Friable Thickness: <0.25m	
403	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt Compact Thickness: <0.3m	✓
404	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches Compact	



Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46090: Northing: 55504)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46076: Northing: 55499)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Fi	nds Present:
500	Tarmac	Tennis court Thickness: <0.2m	✓	
501	Make up layer	White grey limestone gravel Hardcore foundation beneath tarmac Thickness: <0.2m	✓	
502	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt and gravel Friable Occasional CBM fragments Thickness: <0.2m	✓	
503	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches Compact		



Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46059: Northing: 55498)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46069: Northing: 55486)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Presen	t:
600	Tarmac	Tennis court Thickness: <0.2m	V	
601	Make up layer	White grey limestone gravel Hardcore foundation beneath tarmac Thickness: <0.2m	✓ [丁
602	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt and gravel Friable Occasional CBM fragments Thickness: <0.2m		
603	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches Compact		



Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46078: Northing: 55479)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46065: Northing: 55471)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Presen	t:
700	Tarmac	Tennis court Thickness: <0.2m	V [
701	Make up layer	White grey limestone gravel Hardcore foundation beneath tarmac Thickness: <0.2m	V [丁
702	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt and gravel Friable Occasional CBM fragments Thickness: <0.2m	✓ [
703	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches Compact		



Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46072: Northing: 55463)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46084: Northing: 55454)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: F	inds Present:
800	Tarmac	Tennis court Thickness: <0.2m	✓	
801	Make up layer	White grey limestone gravel Hardcore foundation beneath tarmac Thickness: <0.2m	✓	
802	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt and gravel Friable Occasional CBM fragments Thickness: <0.2m	✓	
803	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches Compact		



Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 46070: Northing: 55440)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 46056: Northing: 55433*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown Sandy Silt Friable Thickness: <0.25m	
901	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown Sandy silt Compact Thickness: <0.2m	
902	Natural	Mid brownish orange Silty sand with gravel patches Compact	



APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM 7.

OASIS ID: albionar1-154159

Project details

Project name UTC / Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge

the project

Short description of Planning permission has been given for a new University Technical College building for 670 students and 70 staff at Long Road 6th Form College, Long Road, Cambridge. The proposed development will comprise the erection of a three-storey building

with rooftop plant, associated landscaping, new cycle parking, car parking and an all-weather pitch with lighting. No archaeological remains were present in the nine trenches opened within the northern part of the development site. The depth and preservation of the subsoil within Trenches 1-4 and 9 indicates good potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the area, suggesting that their absence is genuine and not due to truncation

associated with landscaping of the college grounds.

Start: 18-07-2013 End: 19-07-2013 Project dates

Previous/future work

Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

LRC2191 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

13/0584/FUL - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes

ECB3127 - HER event no.

Type of project

Field evaluation

Monument type

NONE

Significant Finds

NONE

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"



Development type University Technical College

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

England Country

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CAMBRIDGE, UTC Long Road Sixth Form

College, Cambridge

Study area 1.4 Hectares

TL 4593 5542 52 0 52 10 38 N 000 08 04 E Point Site coordinates

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory

body

Project design originator

Albion Archaeology

Project

director/manager

Christiane Meckseper

Project supervisor Kathleen Pilkinton

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive

recipient

Cambs County Archaeological Stores

Digital Contents

"other"



Digital Media available

"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Cambs County Archaeological Store

Paper Contents

"other"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous

Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title UTC, Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge; Archaeological

Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Pilkinton, K'

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Meckseper, C'

Other bibliographic

details

2013/129

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

Place of issue or

publication

Bedford

Description A4 comb bound report

Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

Entered on 23 July 2013

Features from cropmarks and excavations

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99

Albion Archaeology

PETERBOROUGH

Geophysical survey

Figure 1: Site and trench location
Base mp reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the
permission of the Controller of Her Majasy's Stationery Office,
by Bedfordshire County Council, County tall, Bedford OS
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Trial trenches subject to funding of AWP

Evaluated Area Trial trenches

Evaluated area from south

Deposits within sondage at NE end of Trench 5 **Figure 2**: Excavated trenches and deposits (1.2m-deep sondages at end of trenches indicated in red)

1m scale, facing NW

University Technical College, Long Road 6th Form College, Cambridge: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation



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