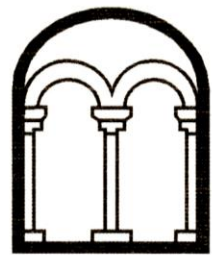


**THE EDINBURGH BUILDING  
SHAFTESBURY ROAD  
CAMBRIDGE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**THE EDINBURGH BUILDING  
SHAFTESBURY ROAD  
CAMBRIDGE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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| Compiled by          | Approved by   |
| Christiane Meckseper | Drew Shotliff |

05 November 2015

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*The figures are bound at the back of the report.*



## **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 Turner & Townsend Project Management Limited on behalf of Cambridge Assessment and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.*

*The fieldwork was undertaken by Christiane Meckseper (Archaeological Project Officer). This report was prepared by Christiane Meckseper.*

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## **Version History**

| <i>Version</i> | <i>Issue date</i> | <i>Reason for re-issue</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>1.0</i>     | <i>28/09/2015</i> | <i>n/a</i>                 |
| <i>1.1</i>     | <i>05/11/2015</i> | <i>Added OASIS form</i>    |

## **Key Terms**

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

|      |  |
|------|--|
| CHER | Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record                 |
| CIfA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists                     |
| HET  | Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council |
| LPA  | Local Planning Authority                                   |



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Cambridge Assessment have received planning permission (14/2093/REM) for the holistic re-development of the site of the Cambridge University Press Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8RU.*

*The historic environment record and previous archaeological investigations suggest that the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains in the vicinity of the site is high. Prior to the demolition of the Edinburgh Building an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2014. This revealed no archaeological remains.*

*An intermittent archaeological watching brief was undertaken after the demolition of the upstanding buildings and during the removal of the concrete slabs which supported the Edinburgh Building and the warehouse of the Cambridge University Press. This revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.*

*It is very likely that the construction of the 1000mm-thick slab that supported the warehouse would have removed any potential archaeological deposits or features that might once have existed on the site. In other areas of the site, where the ground slab was only 250mm thick, it was still above a layer of modern made ground which might have masked potential archaeological deposits.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Cambridge Assessment have received planning permission (14/2093/REM) for the holistic re-development of the site of the Cambridge University Press Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8RU.

The proposals comprised:

- demolition of The Edinburgh Building, warehouse and associated buildings;
- erection of office development of between 4 and 5 storeys to serve as the new office campus headquarters for Cambridge Assessment;
- car parking spaces, cycle parking spaces, motorcycle spaces;
- hard and soft landscaping;
- ancillary facilities including staff canteens, meeting rooms, refuse enclosures, plant rooms, social break-out spaces etc.

Because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site, the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET), acting in the capacity of archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority, recommended that a Condition (13) was attached to the outline planning application (14/0492/OUT). It stated:

“No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.”

This is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 and Cambridge Local Plan 2006 policy 4/9).

Prior to the demolition of the Edinburgh Building an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in October 2014 (Albion 2014). This revealed no archaeological remains.

Initially, most of the existing concrete slab below the Edinburgh Building was to be retained, preserving any potential archaeological assets beneath it. Subsequently, however, it was decided to remove the entire slab for engineering reasons. The HET, therefore, recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the slab's removal, any subsequent ground reduction and excavation of pile caps.

Albion Archaeology was appointed to carry out this watching brief.

Prior to commencement of the fieldwork a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2015) was approved by the HET.



## 1.2 Site Location

Shaftesbury Road lies in the southern part of Cambridge, to the south-west of Cambridge Railway Station and between Hills Road and Trumpington Road (Figure 1). The Edinburgh Building is part of the Cambridge University Press (CUP) and lies to the north-east of the University Printing House. Shaftesbury Road provides access to the site from the north while in the east the Edinburgh Building is bordered by the main train line and guided busway.

The development area falls within the parish of St Andrew the Less and is centred on grid reference TL 45844 56590. It lies on level ground at 10–20m OD and *c.* 1.3km east of the River Cam. The underlying geology consists of sand and gravel River Terrace Deposits 2 over West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

A summary of the data recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) has been supplied by the HET as an appendix to the Design Brief. A heritage statement, based on a 1km-radius study area around the site, was also submitted with the planning application (Albion Archaeology 2013). This information is summarised below.

The Edinburgh Building lies in the southern part of Cambridge in an area rich in archaeological remains. However, most of the heritage assets in close vicinity to the site consist of former agricultural features. The earliest of these is evidence for a Bronze Age pit and possible ditch to the west.

Hills Road is thought to follow the alignment of the *Via Devana*, a major Roman routeway leading from Colchester through Cambridge to Godmanchester. Evidence for the road itself, its construction, roadside activity and small-scale settlements are scattered throughout the study area. Adjacent to the Edinburgh Building in the east, west and south, evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman boundaries and horticultural and agricultural activity has been found. The evidence includes the results of an evaluation to the north and east of the site, which revealed three ditches below an uncontaminated buried soil to the south-east of the Edinburgh Building (Kenny 2000; Figure 2, trench 14). The ditches were undated but due to their similarities with ditches excavated at Brooklands Avenue (MCB 15919), they were interpreted as part of the same Iron-Age/Romano British field system.

The evidence suggests that the area of the Edinburgh Building lay within the agricultural hinterland of Roman Cambridge and its surrounding small farmsteads. Cartographic evidence shows that throughout the medieval and post-medieval period the area was used for agriculture.

Cambridge expanded southwards in the 19th century and the area around the site saw increasing construction of residential and public buildings. The construction of the railway, which forms the eastern boundary of the site, had the biggest impact on the landscape in the mid-19th century. It may also have

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<sup>1</sup> Contains British Geological Survey Materials NERC (2013)



led to extensive disturbance of the eastern part of the site, as indicated on the first edition OS map of 1888.

The site was first built on in the early 1960s when the Cambridge University Press (CUP) acquired the land and the University Printing House was built. The Edinburgh Building itself was constructed in 1979–80.

As part of the development programme, two trial trenches were excavated to the south and north-east of the Edinburgh Building in October 2014 (Albion 2014). The southern trench (Trench 1) revealed no archaeological remains and undisturbed geological deposits were encountered at 0.4–0.5m below present ground level.

The north-eastern trench (Trench 2) revealed 1.5m of compacted concrete rubble which lay directly above undisturbed chalk bedrock. This sequence suggests substantial horizontal truncation and levelling of the area, possibly prior to the construction of the Edinburgh Building. It is likely that this would have removed any potential archaeological features in this area.

#### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The historic environment record and previous work suggest that there is a moderate to high potential for the presence of prehistoric or Roman remains in the vicinity of the site. However, any remains within the site itself may have been subject to truncation by the construction of the railway and the Edinburgh Building itself.

An evaluation on the adjacent former Charrington Oil Depot to the north did demonstrate considerable modern truncation, with only one trench containing significant archaeological remains (Kenny 2000). The evaluation on the site of the Edinburgh Building itself showed up to 1.5m of truncation in the area of the car park to its north-east, but less truncation to its south (up to 0.5m) (Albion 2014). Overall, the archaeological potential of the site was considered to be low.

The principal objective of the archaeological watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains survived within the site and, if so, to determine their date, nature, extent, condition, and significance.





## 2. METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was undertaken during three visits on 15th and 29th July and on 28th August 2015.

The demolition works and exposed soil layers below and around the slab of the Edinburgh Building were inspected visually and photographically recorded.

After demolition of the buildings and the removal of the ground slab, ring beam and pile caps the remaining soil was graded by the demolition contractor into a flat surface using a flat-edged ditching bucket.

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| • Albion Archaeology | <i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).   |
| • ALGAO (east)       | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i>   |
| • CCC                | <i>Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store</i> (HER 2004/1).                     |
| • ClfA               | <i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i>  |
|                      | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)  |
| • Historic England   | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> (2009)  |
|                      | <i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011) |

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB4281.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-216868.



### **3. RESULTS**

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#### **3.1 Introduction**

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in intervals during the removal of the concrete slabs which supported the Edinburgh Building and the warehouse of the Cambridge University Press.

The slab supporting the Edinburgh Building was 250mm thick. It was surrounded by a concrete ring beam which was *c.* 300mm wide and 700mm thick. Pile caps were positioned at regular intervals throughout the slab; they were 3m x 3m in extent and 800mm thick. The concrete slab supporting the warehouse was 1000mm thick.

Ground reduction in the area of the former fishpond outside reception at Shaftesbury Road was also inspected.

#### **3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits**

The 1000mm-thick slab, ring beam and pile caps directly cut into undisturbed river terrace gravels. Deposits revealed below the 250mm-thick slab were 19th-century to modern make-up layers, possibly created during the construction of the railway, and levelling prior to the construction of the Edinburgh Building.

The made ground consisted of a mid yellow-brown coarse silty sand with frequent fragmentary and whole bricks, moderate small to medium stones, and moderate scrap metal fragments. River gravels were a bright yellow sandy gravel.

#### **3.3 Archaeological Findings**

No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief.



## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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It is very likely that the 1000mm-thick slab supporting the warehouse would have removed any potential archaeological deposits or features that might once have existing within the footprint of the building. In other areas of the site, where the ground slab was only 250mm thick, it was still above a layer of made ground which might have masked potential archaeological deposits.

A number of undated ditches were recorded to the south-east of the site in the Charrington Oil depot evaluation (Kenny 2000, Trench 14). The projected alignment of one of the ditches suggested that it might have extended into the area of the Edinburgh Building. Trench 1, excavated during the evaluation of the current site, was positioned to reveal such a possible continuation, but no features were exposed (Albion 2014). Overall, the archaeological potential of the current site was judged to be low to negligible.

No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief, which confirms this assessment.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Albion Archaeology 2013. *The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge: Heritage Asset Assessment*. Document ref: 2013/180.
- Albion Archaeology 2014. *The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*. Document ref: 2014/196.
- Albion Archaeology 2015. *The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Document ref: 2015/95.
- Kenny, D. A. 2000. *An Archaeological Evaluation at The Former Charringotn Oil Depot, 22-24 Clarendon Road, Cambridge*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No 360.



## 6. APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

### OASIS ID: albionar1-216868

#### Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge - Watching Brief   |
| Short description of the project       | Cambridge Assessment have received planning permission (14/2093/REM) for the holistic re-development of the site of the Cambridge University Press Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8RU. The historic environment record and previous archaeological investigations suggest that the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains in the vicinity of the site is high. Prior to the demolition of the Edinburgh Building an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2014. This revealed no archaeological remains. An intermittent archaeological watching brief was undertaken after the demolition of the upstanding buildings and during the removal of the concrete slabs which supported the Edinburgh Building and the warehouse of the Cambridge University Press. This revealed no archaeological features or artefacts. It is very likely that the construction of the 1000mm-thick slab that supported the warehouse would have removed any potential archaeological deposits or features that might once have existed on the site. In other areas of the site, where the ground slab was only 250mm thick, it was still above a layer of modern made ground which might have masked potential archaeological deposits. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 15-07-2015 End: 28-08-2015  |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / No   |
| Any associated project reference codes | EB2196 - Contracting Unit No.<br>albionar1-190819 - OASIS form ID  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Monument type                          | NONE None  |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None  |
| Investigation type                     | ""Watching Brief""   |
| Prompt                                 | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF  |

#### Project location

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Country          | England   |
| Site location    | CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge - watching brief |
| Study area       | 1.2 Hectares  |
| Site coordinates | TL 45844 56590 Point  |

#### 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                   | Christiane Meckseper  |



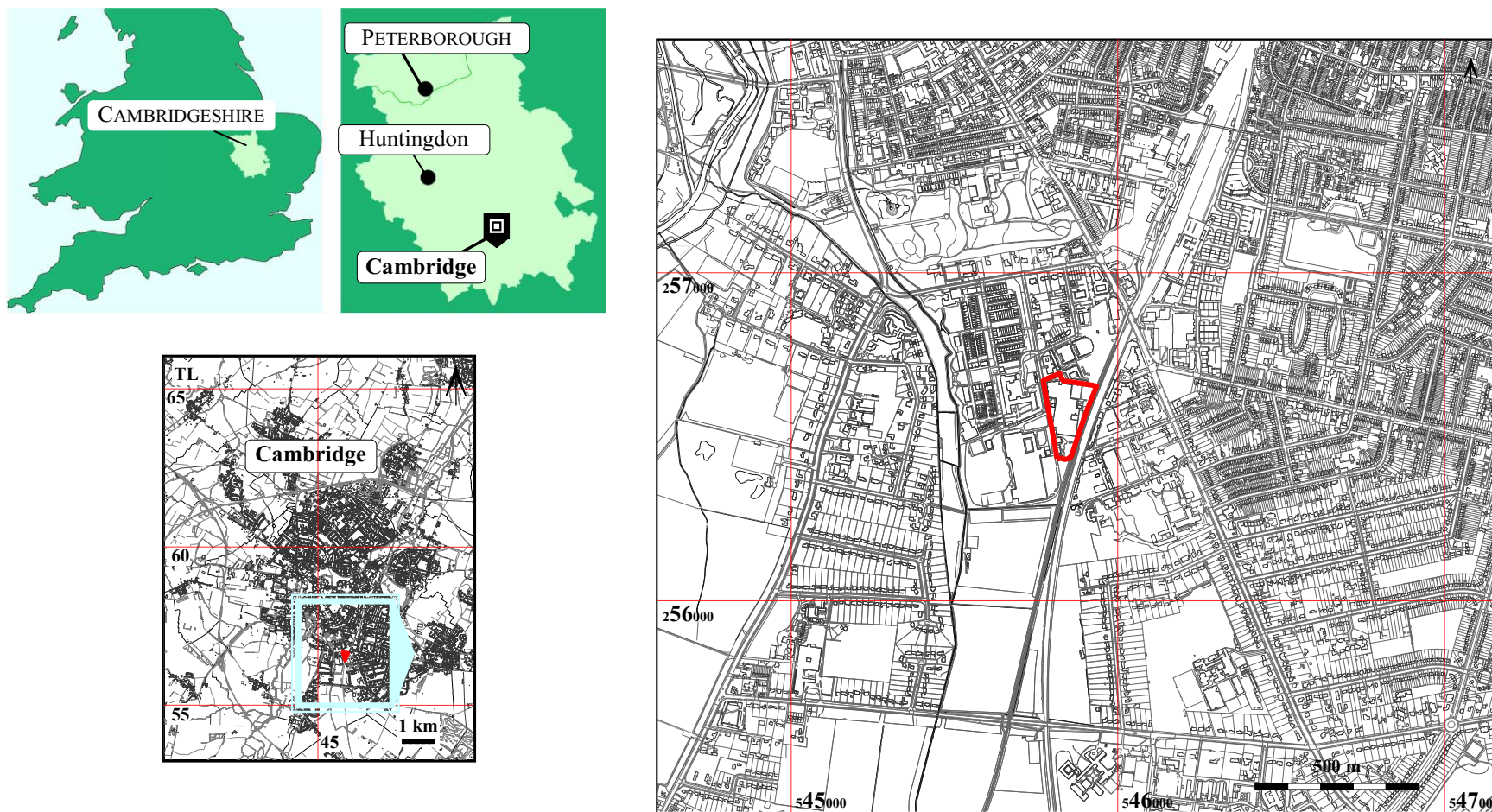
director/manager  
Project supervisor None

### Project archives

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists?  | No   |
| Digital Archive recipient | Albion Archaeology   |
| 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     | "Correspondence" ,"Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph" ,"Report" |

### Project bibliography 1

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)                                  |
| Title                         | The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge: Archaeological Watching Brief |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | 'Meckseper, C'   |
| Other bibliographic details   | 2015/137   |
| Date                          | 2015   |
| 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                    | 2 November 2015  |



**Figure 1: Site location**

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**Figure 2:** Make-up layers and river gravels exposed after removal of pile cap



**Figure 3:** River gravels cut through by ring beam





**Figure 4:** Graded surface after removal of Edinburgh Building, looking north



**Figure 5:** Graded surface after removal of Edinburgh Building, looking north-east



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