

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

## WATCHING BRIEF: 130-136 VICTORIA ROAD CAMBRIDGE

NGR: TL 4481 5958

on behalf of Cloughmore Homes Ltd



Martin Cuthbert BA

March 2009

ASC: 1146/CVR/2

() (V) (SO 9001

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## Site Data

ASC project code:	CVR		ASC Project No:	1146			
OASIS ref:	archaeol2-54210		Accession no:	ECB3121			
County:		Cambrid	geshire	•			
Village/Town:		Cambrid	ge				
NGR (to 8 figs):		TL 4481	5958				
Extent of site:		c.320 sq	m				
Present use:		Former h	ousing				
Planning proposal:		Erection of new apartments					
Planning application	ref/date:	07/110/FUL					
Local Planning Author	ority:	City of Cambridge					
Date of fieldwork:		February 2009					
Commissioned by:		Cloughmore Homes Ltd					
		Cloughmore House					
			Woodlands Close				
		Great Shelford					
		Cambridge CB22 5LP					
Contact name:		Mr John	Price				

## **Internal Quality Check**

Primary Author:	Martin Cuthbert	Date:	12/03/09
Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:	Karin Semmelmann	Date:	12/03/09

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## **CONTENTS**

Su	ummary	4
1.	Introduction	4
2.	Aims & Methods	7
3.	Archaeological & Historical Background	8
4.	Results.	10
5.	Conclusions	15
6.	Acknowledgements	16
7.	Archive	16
8.	References	17
Ap	ppendices:	
1.	ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	18
2.	Photo List	27
3.	ASC OASIS Form	28
Fig	igures:	
1.	General location	3
2.	Site plan	6
3.	Site plan showing observed and unobserved trenches	11
4.	Archaeological features	12
5.	1889 OS map showing Site location	13
Pla	lates:	
Co	over: General shot, looking south	
1.	General shot northern end of site, looking west	14
2.	Trench Section northern end of site, looking south	14
3.	General shot, looking south	14
4.	Wall footing in Pad 3, looking west	14
5.	Ditch in Pads 3 and 4, looking south	14
6.	Ditch in Pad 5, looking north	14

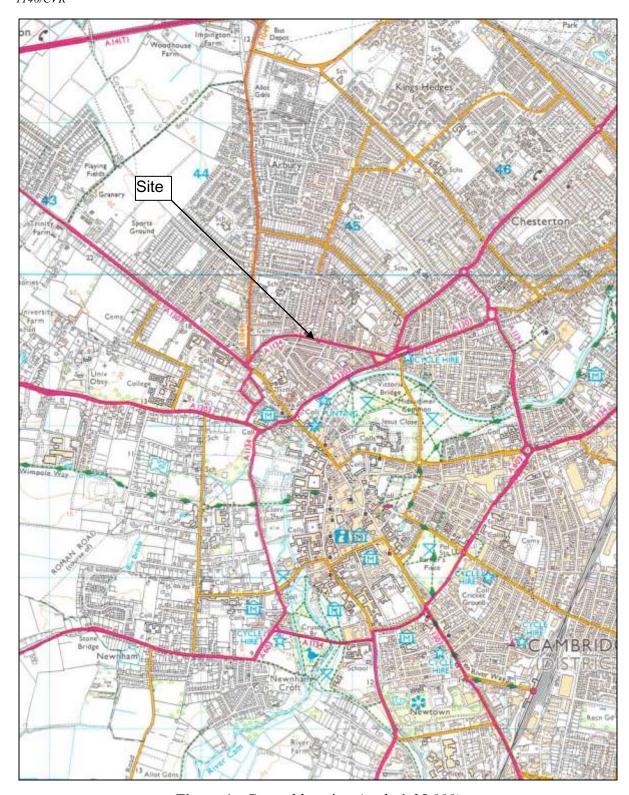


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## **Summary**

In February 2009, Archaeological Services and Consultancy (ASC) carried out a watching brief during the ground works at 130-136 Victoria Road, Cambridge. A post-medieval ditch and the remnants of Victorian terraced houses were the only archaeological finds. The absence of earlier features or finds within the deposits, suggests that the site lay within agricultural land up to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In February 2009 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 130-136 Victoria Road, Cambridge. The project was commissioned by Cloughmore Homes Ltd, and was carried out according to a brief (Gdaniec 2009) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Cambridge City Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office (CAPCA), and a project design prepared by ASC (Fell 2009). The relevant planning application reference is 07/110/FUL

## 1.2 Planning Background

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note* 16 (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

### 1.3 Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd (ASC) is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a Registered Archaeological Organisation by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

#### 1.4 Management

The project was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

#### 1.5 The Site

#### 1.5.1 Location & Description

The site is situated in the city of Cambridge (Fig. 1). It lies to the north of the city centre, on the north side of Victoria Road between Victoria Park and Garden Walk (Fig 2). It is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR TL 4481 5958 and comprises a rectangular plot of land of c.320 sq m.

The site was formerly occupied by four Victorian terraced houses. The building on the west side of the site (formerly no. 136 Victoria Road) was probably demolished during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the three remaining houses (nos. 130, 132 and 134) were demolished as part of the current development.

## 1.5.2 Geology & Topography

The site is in an urban area and the natural soils have not been surveyed. The underlying geology comprises Gault Clay (BGS Sheet 188). The site is flat and lies at an elevation of  $c.14 \mathrm{m}$  OD.

## 1.5.3 Proposed Development

The development proposal comprises construction of 8 apartments.



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

### 2. Aims & Methods

#### 2.1 *Aims*

As described in the Project Design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks were recorded and interpreted
- To ensure that any significant artefacts were recorded and analysed

#### 2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

#### 2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the Project Design (Section 3.3), which required:

- An archaeologist be present during all works which may have affected archaeological remains
- Soil be stripped under archaeological supervision
- Soil layers and the underlying natural strata (if reached) were monitored for the presence of archaeological remains
- Any archaeological remains exposed or disturbed were excavated and recorded

#### 2.4 Constraints

Due to an oversight by the developers, only half the footings were observed as construction of two of the apartments had already been completed (Fig 3).

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

#### 3.1 *Introduction*

- 3.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.
- 3.1.2 This section has been compiled with information from readily available sources including the Cambridgeshire *Historic Environment Record* (HER) and books, journals and maps in ASC's in-house library.
- 3.1.3 Cambridge is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest (*e.g.* Taylor 1999; RCHM 1988) but little very little archaeological work has been undertaken in the Victoria Road area. A large amount of research and excavation has been undertaken within the Roman and medieval settlement, to the south of the development site and also in the surrounding areas, including Cherry Hinton and Chesterton. By contrast, little is known of the development site and its surrounding area, and the archaeological potential of the site is currently undefined.

### 3.2 **Prehistoric** (before AD43)

- 3.2.1 A number of prehistoric sites and artefacts are known from the area surrounding the development site but the early development of the area is not understood in detail. Flint axes have been recorded from Stretten Avenue (HER 1900) and at 56 Histon Road (HER 4513) *c*.400m north and *c*.500m west of the development site respectively.
- 3.2.2 The valley of the river Cam was of importance during the Iron Age and a number of settlement sites are known in the area. Examples have been recorded at Hills Road, *c*.2km south of the development site, on Trumpington Road and a substantial defended enclosure was present on Castle Hill *c*.500m southwest of the development site.

#### 3.3 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

- 3.3.1 During the Roman period transport and communications in the area were probably dominated by a major Roman road, linking *Camulodunum* (Colchester) with *Durovigutum* (Godmanchester). A second road, now known as *Akeman Street* and *Mare Way* linked the small town of Sandy with the fens (OS 1979). The course of the latter road has not been traced in detail, but the HER records it following a northeast to southwest route *c*.400m west of the development site, along the approximate alignment of Stretton Avenue and Carlton Way.
- 1.3.2 A small town, known as *Duroliponte* developed to the south of the development site, centred on the present Castle Street/Shire Hall area (HER 5251 & 5254; Taylor 1999, 25-38). Little is known of the area immediately

around the development site but Roman pottery (HER 4609) has been recorded from Victoria Road, to the south.

#### 3.4 **Saxon and Medieval** (c.450-1500)

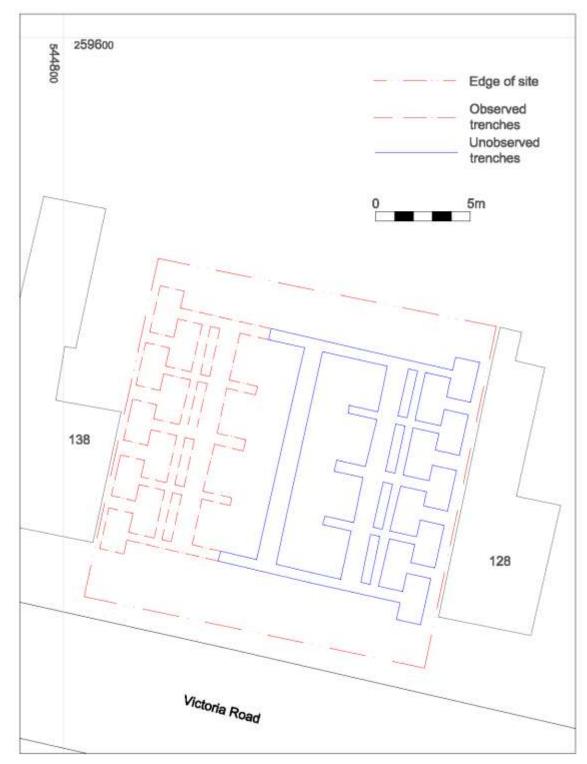
3.4.1 The early development of Cambridge is not understood in detail but the nature of the pattern of occupation shifted during the Saxon period. A settlement developed on the south side of the river Cam during the later Saxon period (Taylor 1999, Fig. 22). The north side of the river probably also retained its importance and a further settlement, interpreted as a separate village, developed *c*.500m southwest of the development site (HER 4422). Separate settlements also developed at Chesterton and Histon. During this period the development site probably comprised open land, within the open field landscape of the parish of Chesterton.

### 3.5 **Post-Medieval and Modern** (after 1500)

- 3.5.1 The medieval and later city of Cambridge was constructed to the south of the development site and Chesterton developed as a separate settlement, to the east. The development of Cambridge can be traced on a series of maps from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century (*e.g.* Smith 1588, Speed 1610), but the development site lay beyond the area of urban development and is not shown on the majority of the maps.
- 3.5.2 The first edition one inch to the mile scale map of the area was published in 1836 and shows the area at a small scale. The area around the development site remained largely open land and Victoria Road had not yet been laid out. The former Roman road (Stretton Avenue) was a principal route and the road leading north from the city centre to Impington and Histon (Histon Road) was also shown.
- 3.5.3 Victoria Road was probably constructed during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is shown in detail on the first edition twenty five inch to the mile scale map, which was published in 1886. The development site is shown occupied by four terraced houses, with gardens to the rear. It is likely that these buildings were the first structures to occupy the development site. The church of St Luke (HER 14818) was built between 1874 and 1885 to a design by W Basset-Smith and is situated *c*.300m east of the development site (Pevsner 2002). The map also shows the Histon Road Cemetery (HER) 14799), which was founded in 1843.

#### 4. Results

- 4.1 Observations were made during excavation of the foundation trenches for two of the four apartments (Fig. 3 and 4, Plates 1-6). Each trench varied in width and depth from 600mm 1m wide and 500mm 1.4m deep. The stratigraphic makeup was similar across the whole site and deposits removed consisted of 200-300mm of made ground containing topsoil brick and tile that overlay the natural grey clay.
- 4.2 Parts of the foundation trenches for the new build were located in the old footprint of the Victorian terrace houses that stood here prior to this development (Fig 4). The brick foundations of the rear wall of the terrace houses were observed within Pad 3 (Plate 4) and also a possible interior wall was located in Pad 4.
- 4.3 A north to south orientated ditch was revealed in Pads 3 to 5 on the western side of the site. It was 1.10m wide and 0.50m deep. The fill, of grey clay, contained post-medieval brick fragments (Fig 4, Plates 5 and 6). The ditch is orientated on the same alignment as the boundaries seen on the 1889 OS map (Fig 5).
  - The ditch, which contained post-medieval brick fragments, appeared to have been infilled shortly before the Victorian houses were erected.
- 4.4 There were no other archaeological features observed and no earlier artefacts were recovered from the spoil



**Figure 3:** Site plan showing observed and unobserved trenches (1:200)

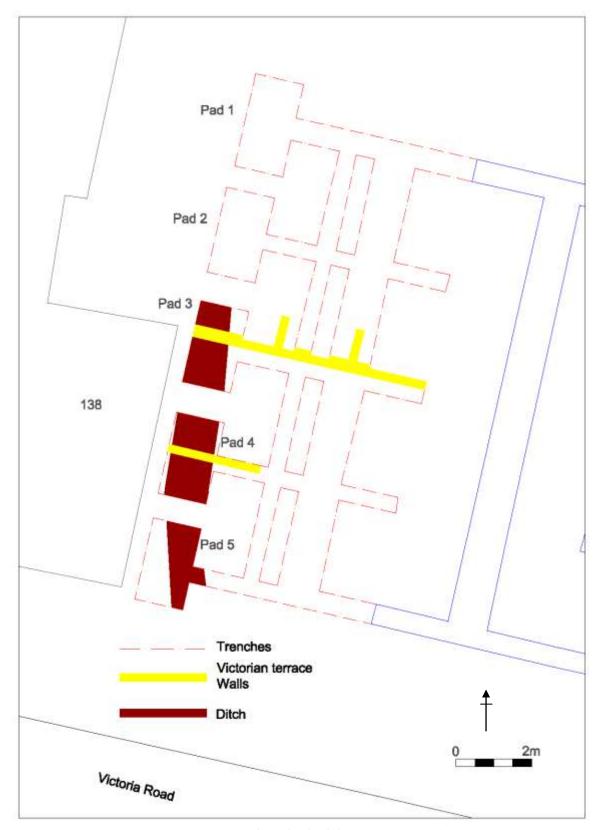


Figure 4: Archaeological features (1:100)

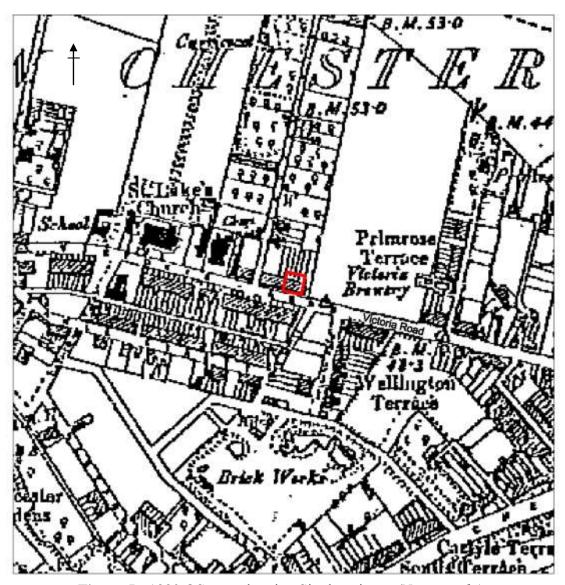


Figure 5: 1889 OS map showing Site location. (Not to scale)



Plate 1: Northern end of site, looking west



**Plate 2:** South facing section of northern most trench



Plate 3: General shot, looking south



Plate 4: Wall footing in Pad 3, looking west



Plate 5: Ditch in Pads 3 and 4, looking south



Plate 6: Ditch in Pad 5, looking north

### 5. Conclusions

5.1 The ditch seen in Pads 3 to 5 is orientated on the same alignment as the boundaries seen on the 1889 OS map adding weight to the theory that the ditch is post-medieval in date. The ditch and the remnants of the Victorian terraced houses were the only archaeological features revealed during the groundworks. The absence of earlier features or finds suggests that the site lay within agricultural land up to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. While the existence of other individual isolated archaeological features away from the trenches cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that other significant archaeological features were present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.

## 5.2 Confidence Rating

Although the watching brief was undertaken in wet conditions, full cooperation was received from all parties involved. As a result, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the watching brief.

## 6. Acknowledgements

ASC is grateful to *Cloughmore Homes Ltd* for commissioning this report. The project was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec on behalf of the *Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the architect, John Price and the site staff.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA, David Kaye BA AIFA, and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Martin Cuthbert BA and edited by Karin Semmelmann.

## 7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
  - 1. Brief
  - 2. Project Design
  - 3. Initial Report
  - 4. Clients site plans
  - 5. Site Monitoring Sheets
  - 6. Site record drawings
  - 7. List of photographs
  - 8. B/W prints & negatives
  - 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with Cambridge County Store (ECB3121).

#### 8. References

### Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.* English Heritage (London).
- Fell. D, 2009 130-136 Victoria Road, Cambridge. Cambridgeshire: Project Design for a Watching Brief. ASC 1146/CVR/1.
- Gdaniec K, 2009 Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: 130-136 Victoria Road, Cambridge. Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice. Cambridgeshire County Council
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds).

#### Secondary Sources

BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.

OS 1979 Ordnance Survey map of Roman Britain. Ordnance Survey. Southampton

Pevsner N, 2002 The Buildings of England. Cambridgeshire. Yale University Press

RCHM 1988 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of Cambridge.* 2 vols. Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

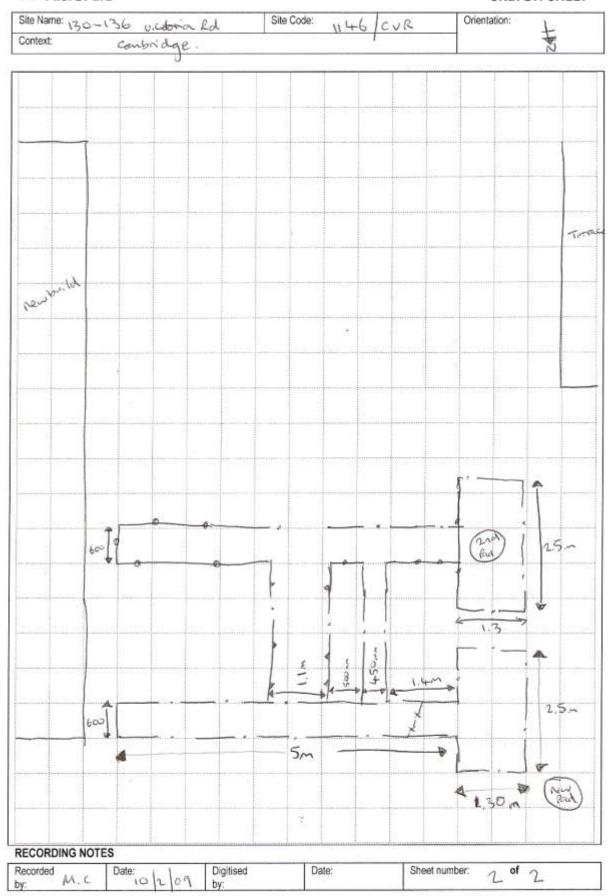
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## **Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets**

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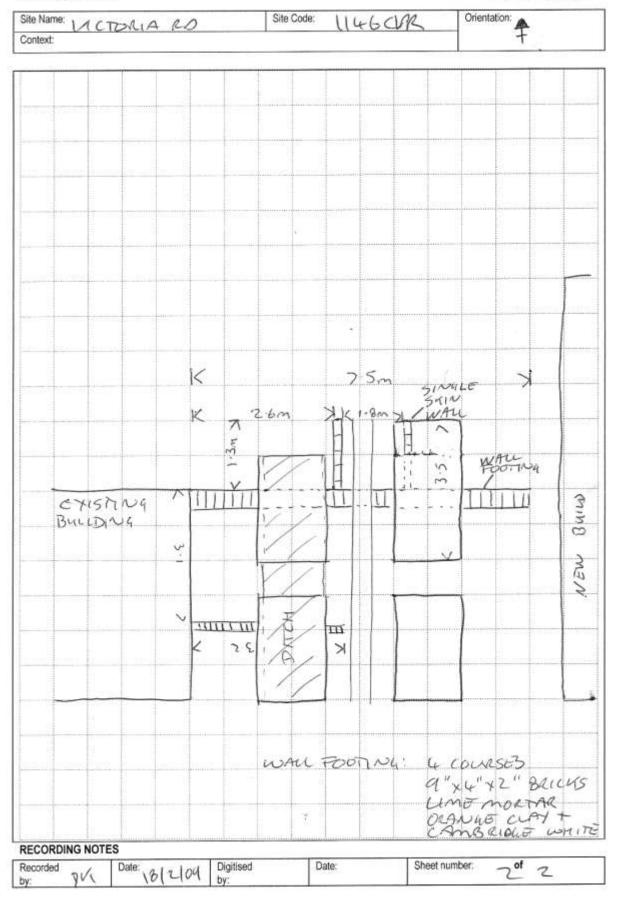


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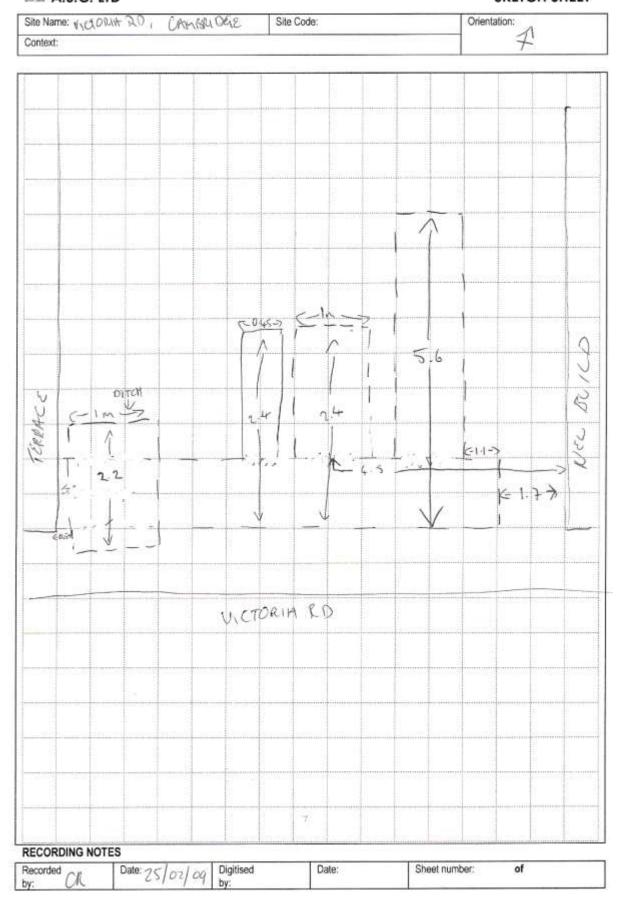
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## **Appendix 2: List of Photographs**

SITE NA	<b>VIE:</b> 130-1	36 Victoria	a Road, Cambridge. SITE NO/CODE: 1146/CVR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓		ID shot
2	✓	✓	Trench Section northern end of site, looking south
3		✓	Trench Section northern end of site, looking south
4		✓	Working shot of site, looking north
5		✓	Working shot of site, looking west
6		✓	Working shot of site, looking west
7		✓	Working shot of site, looking west
8		✓	Working shot of site, looking west
9	✓	✓	Trench Section Pad 1, looking north
10		✓	Trench Section Pad 1, looking north
11	✓	✓	General shot northern end of site, looking west
12		✓	Working shot of site, looking south
13	✓	✓	General shot northern end of site, looking south
14	✓	✓	Wall footing in Pad 3, looking west
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16	✓	✓	Ditch in Pads 3 and 4, looking south
17	✓	✓	Ditch in Pads 3 and 4, looking south
18	✓	✓	Ditch in Pad 5, looking north
19		✓	General shot, looking south
20		✓	General shot, looking south
21		✓	General shot, looking south
22		✓	General shot, looking north
23		✓	General shot, looking north
24		✓	General shot, looking north
25		✓	General shot, looking east
26	✓	✓	Ditch in Pad 5, looking north

## **Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form**

	PROJECT	Γ DETAILS				
Project Name:	130-136 VICTORIA ROAD CAMBR	IDGE				
Short Description:	In February 2009, Archaeological Services and Consultancy (ASC) carried out a watching brief during the ground works of two flats at 130-136 Victoria Road, Cambridge. A post-medieval ditch and the remnants of the Victorian terraced houses were the only archaeological finds. The absence of earlier features or finds within the deposits encountered, suggests that the site lay within agricultural land up to the mid 19th century.					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief					
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed) Current land use:	none Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)  Former housing Future work: unknown					
Monument type:	Housing	(yes / no / unknown)  Monument period:	Post-medieval			
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	N/a					
(* ** *********************************	PROJECT	LOCATION				
County:	Cambridgeshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 4481 5958			
District:	Cambridge	Parish:	Non civil			
Site address: (with postcode if known)	130-136 VICTORIA ROAD, CAMBR	RIDGE, CB4 3DZ				
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	320 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	14m OD			
	PROJECT	CREATORS				
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Cons	sultancy Ltd				
Project brief originator:	Gdaniec K	Project design originator:	David Fell			
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	Martin Cuthbert			
Sponsor / funding body:	Cloughmore Homes Ltd					
	PROJE	CT DATE				
Start date:	10.02.09	End date:	25.02.09			
		ARCHIVES				
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal	bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	N/a	N/a				
Paper:	Cambridge County Store (ECB3121)	Site records, project design, regatives				
Digital:		CD Rom with copies of digita	I files including photos			
BIBLIOGRAF	PHY (Journal/monograph, publish	hed or forthcoming, or unpublish	hed client report)			
Title:	WATCHING BRIEF, 130-136 VICTO	ORIA ROAD, CAMBRIDGE				
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1146/CVR/	/2				
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA					
Page nos	28	Date:	12/03/09			