

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: 2 CAVENDISH AVENUE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGESHIRE

NGR: TL 5463 2561

on behalf of Camstead Homes



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

September 2009

ASC: 1201/CCA/2

() (V) (SO 9001

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Site Data

ASC project code:	CCA	ASC project no:		1201		
OASIS ref:	Archaeol2-	66714	Event/Accession no:	ECB3246		
County:		Cambridgeshire				
Village/Town:		Cambridge				
Civil Parish:		St John's	Cherry Hinton			
NGR (to 8 figs):		TL 5463	2561			
Extent of site:		c35x45m	1			
Present use:		Derelict	residential site			
Planning proposal:		Erection of three six-bedroom detached dwellings				
Planning application	ref/date:	09/0300/FUL				
Local Planning Author	ority:	Cambridge City Council				
Date of fieldwork:		22 nd -23 rd September 2009				
Client:		Camstead Homes				
		1 St Mary's Court				
		Main Street				
		Hardwick				
		Cambridgeshire				
		CB23 7QS				
Contact name:		Phil Barnes				

Internal Quality Check

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Revisions:		Date:	
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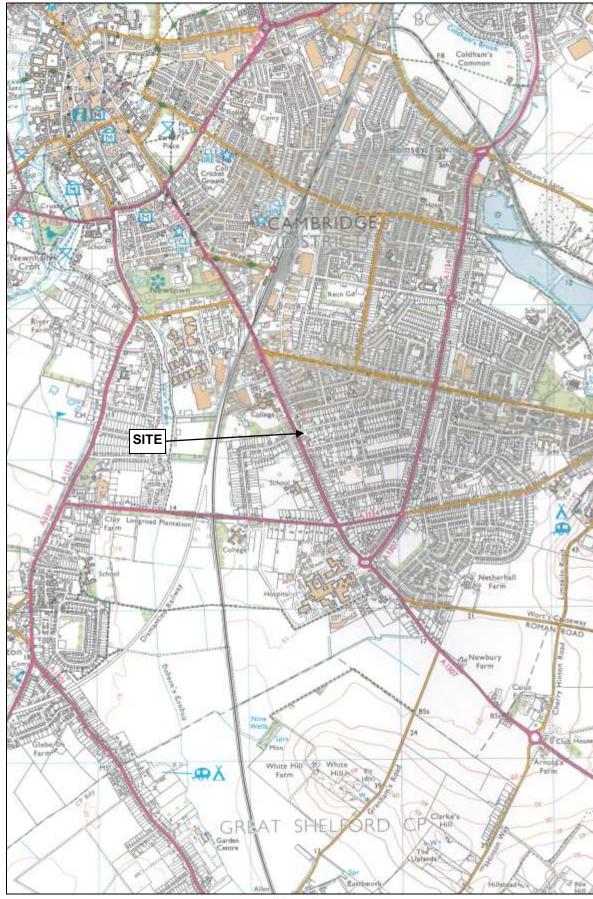


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In September 2009, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, prior to the residential redevelopment of the site. A single L-shaped trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development, and revealed a single, undated pit. This pit was cut by a tree throw, the fill of which contained one very abraded sherd of possible Iron Age pottery. No other significant finds or features were observed during the evaluation.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2009 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge. The project was commissioned by Camstead Homes, and was carried out according to a brief (McConnell 2009) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Cambridge City Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2009). The relevant planning application reference is 09/0300/FUL.

1.2 Planning Background

This evaluation 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 Organisation by the Institute for 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 located in the administrative district of Cambridge City, within the parish of St John's Cherry Hinton, at NGR TL 5463 2561 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises a roughly rectangular area on the corner of Cavendish Avenue and Hills Road, which form the northern and western boundaries of the site respectively. The site is bounded to the south and east by residential development (Fig. 2). The site is currently overgrown, and contains a number of trees which are surrounded by Root Preservation Zones (Fig. 3).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site is located on West Melbury Marly Chalk (McConnell 2009). The site lies at an elevation of c.15m AOD.

1.5.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing building and the construction of three six-bedroom detached dwellings with associated access (Fig. 3).

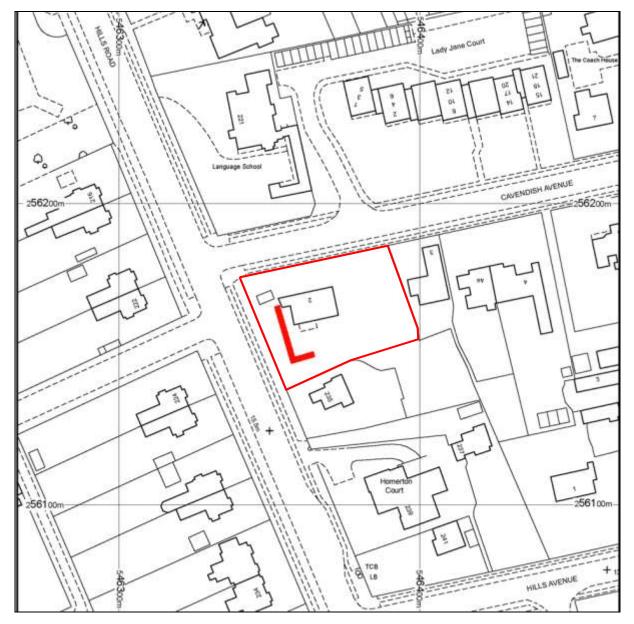


Figure 2: Site plan showing trench location (scale 1:1250)

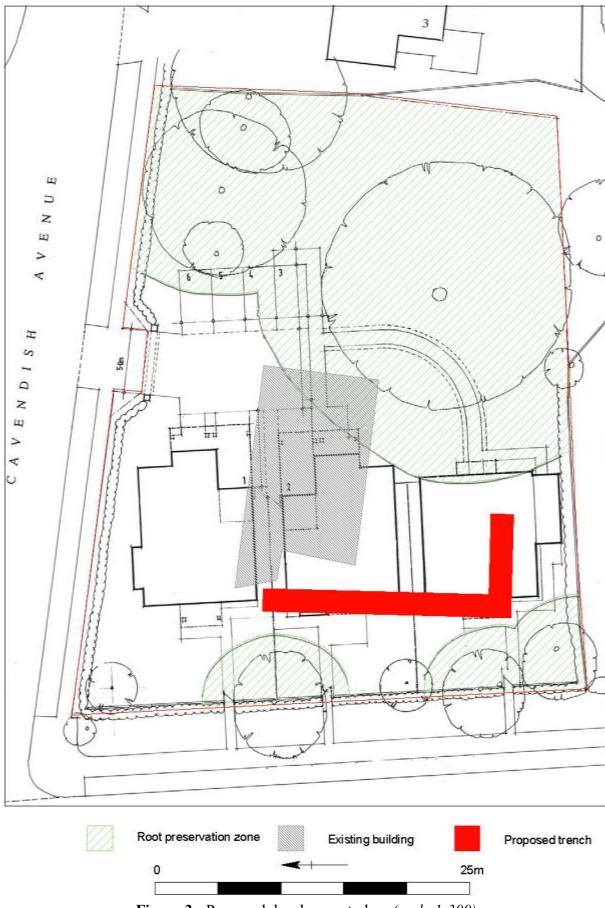


Figure 3: Proposed development plan (scale 1:300)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 3), the aims of the evaluation were:

• To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of 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 brief (Section 2), which required:

• A programme of linear trial trenching and/or test pitting to adequately sample the threatened available area

2.4 *Constraints*

The trees on the site are subject to Root Preservation Zones, which restricted the area in which trial trenching could be carried out (Fig. 3).

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 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.

This section has been compiled with information from the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER/MCB), Cambridgeshire County Record Office, ASC's own library and other, readily available, sources.

3.2 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

The area to the south of Cambridge is particularly rich in archaeology from the prehistoric periods. This includes the major sites of War Ditches, c.3km to the east of the site in Cherry Hinton, and Wandlebury Hill fort, c.6km to the southeast. Further afield Iron Age sites of major significance are known, including a settlement surrounded by an enclosure ditch c.3km northwest of the site at Castle Hill in Cambridge. This covered c.7ha and was located in a commanding position on top of a hill at a major river crossing (Taylor 1999, 21). At Addenbrookes Hospital c.1.5km south of the site, excavations have recently recorded features relating to a settlement from this period (Mackay 2003). Also, a site containing many pits with evidence of ritual deposition and Middle to Late Iron Age pottery sherds was excavated at the Trumpington Park and Ride c.2km south of the site (Hinman 2001).

Evidence for prehistoric land use in the vicinity of the site is very slight, consisting of a possible late prehistoric ditch containing animal bone, uncovered during an evaluation at Homerton College, c.500m to the north east of the development site (MCB11958), a small number of features containing Middle Iron Age pottery discovered c.300m south east of the site, during separate evaluations at 90 and 95 Glebe Road (MCB15272, MCB18237). The evaluation at 95 Glebe Road also uncovered evidence of a possible structure in the form of two postholes and a beam slot. A further chance find, a stone object (MCB5553), was found in a garden c.300m northwest of the site.

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

The HER records that the majority of chance finds from this area date to this period. Modern archaeological works and antiquarian investigations have also recorded evidence of activity during this period.

It should be noted that although Cambridge was located within the territory of the Catuvellauni tribe, the boundary with that of the Iceni tribe, from which Boudicca raised her army, is thought to have been a relatively short distance to the east in the Fenland region (Browne 1977). Following the Boudiccan revolt in AD60-61, the eastern region and the Iceni territory in particular were subject to a major campaign by the Roman army. A fort at Cambridge would have been an important strategic point in this. Not surprisingly the Iron Age settlement at Castle Hill, c.3km northwest, was replaced first by a Roman fort and then by a settlement. This remained the centre of Roman activity throughout the period.

The development area is located in the agricultural hinterland south of this important settlement. Such areas often contain no more than field boundaries as evidence of land use during the period. However, several recent archaeological investigations point to the existence of a major Roman Road, referred to as the *Via Devana*, *c*.100m to the west broadly parallel with Hills Road.

The first evidence for this was provided by excavations carried out at the Perse School in the early 20th century (MCB04819, Walker 1910, 156). These recorded the existence of a road consisting of rammed chalk and gravel. Artefactual evidence consisting of coins, pottery and building material dating to the period, was also recovered. Later excavations within the grounds of the school recorded a further stretch of road flanked by ditches c.4-5m apart (MCB05146, Mackay 2001b, 13). Both sites are located c.200m southwest of the site.

A further stretch likely to have been part of the same road was encountered in the Botanic Garden c.800m north-west-north of the site. This gives a projected line for the road which suggests it runs such a short distance west of the development area. However, an evaluation and subsequent excavation at the Homerton Road site, 500m north west of the site and located directly across the proposed route of the road, recorded no evidence of it. This site had suffered severe truncation during modern development work, and this may have removed any trace of the road had it been there at all (Mackay 2001c).

The SMR records another important location for this period c.500m northeast of the site. A series of earthworks (MCB5828) were destroyed during the construction of the Railway Line and Cattle Market during the 19th century. Antiquarians had thought that these were the remnants of a 'Roman marching camp'. However, an archaeological evaluation carried out prior to the recent re-development of the site recorded only one quarry pit dating to the Roman period, and it is thought that the now levelled earthworks lie a short distance to the north of the Old Cattle Market, close to the Hills Road Bridge (Mackay 2001a).

Other evidence for activity within close proximity consists of Roman field systems dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD which were recorded during evaluations (Kenny 2000a, 2000b) at Brooklands Avenue c.800m north west of the site, and at the former Charrington Oil Depot c.700m north west of the site. The broad alignment of these features at right angles to the proposed route of the Roman road, mentioned above, backs up the suggestion that this area was in agricultural use during the Roman period.

Clearly the site lies within close proximity of two important suspected Roman sites, a road and a series of earthworks. However, modern investigations have indicated that archaeological deposits in this area have suffered greatly from 19th and 20th century developments.

Due to the proximity of the site to the locations discussed above, evidence of Roman activity within the development area is considered a distinct possibility.

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

The city's importance during this period is demonstrated by the presence of rich cemeteries along both sides of the river Cam. The largest of these was located on St John's playing field, c.3km to the north west of the development site. Although chiefly a cremation cemetery, the cemetery also contained numerous inhumations, and a variety of grave goods including weapons, brooches and decorative wrist clasps were recovered from both types of burial (Taylor 1999, 40).

The first written reference to Cambridge dates to AD695, when it was referred to as 'Grantacaestir'. During this period, Cambridge's geographical position at a point where several foreign and domestic markets intersected contributed to its economic growth and regional significance. The focal point of the Saxon town was located c.2km to the north east of the development site, in the Castle Hill area of the city. The oldest surviving building from this period is St Benet's, whose Saxon chancel, nave and tower are still in use (*ibid*, 43-5).

No evidence for Saxon activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the development site, but it is likely that the area was part of an open field system at this time.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

It was during the medieval period that the University of Cambridge began to develop with the arrival of students from Oxford in 1209 following murder allegations there. At the time, colleges were generally founded by religious bodies, looking to further religious interests. Most scholars at this time would eventually embark on careers within the church. It was not until about the 16th century, during the reign of Henry VIII, that the university began to be seen as a place to come solely for an education (Taylor 1999, 91-101).

Only one chance find exists from the medieval period in the area directly surrounding the site. This was a medieval brooch (MCB6074) found c.900m northwest of the site. The general vicinity would still have been part of the agricultural hinterland supplying and surrounding the town c.2-3km northwest in Cambridge during this period.

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The area remained in agricultural use until the latter half of the 19th century when the expansion of Cambridge saw the area transformed. The catalyst for this change was the construction of the railway line and Cambridge station a short distance north of the site, opened in 1847. The Old Cattle Market was opened c.500m northeast of the site in 1885 and suburban housing was constructed immediately adjacent to it during this period. The site itself remained undeveloped throughout the post-medieval period, although the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map, which dates to 1889, shows that the site boundary was in place by this time.

3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

The expansion of the city of Cambridge continued throughout this period. Housing eventually surrounded the site and lined Hills Road to the west, and Hills Avenue to the south. The 1927 and 1938 OS maps show that the site was still undeveloped, although by this point there were buildings on the plots immediately to the east and south of the site. The current building on the site is likely to have been constructed in the latter half of the 20th century.

4 Results

4.1 General

A single L-shaped trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development, covering a total of 27.9 linear metres. The general stratigraphy of the trench comprised c.0.25m of dark brown soft, fine silty sandy loamy topsoil with frequent tree rooting (101), overlying c.0.55m of subsoil, which consisted of mid brown yellow silty sandy clay, with occasional rooting and rare sub-angular pebbles (102). Below this was the natural soil, which comprised beige-yellow sandy clay with occasional patches of orange sandy clay with occasional inclusions of flint and sub-rounded pebbles (103).

The excavation of the trench was halted c.1.5-2m short of the intended length, as a modern manhole was encountered (Fig. 3).

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1.

4.2 **Trench 1** (Figs. 3 & 4: Plates 2, 4 & 5)

A single archaeological feature was uncovered within the evaluation trench. This was a steep sided sub-circular pit [104], located 3.88m from the northern end of the trench. The pit was filled by a mid orange brown firm silty clay with occasional pebbles (105). One fragment of oyster shell was recovered from within the fill of the pit.

The pit [104] was partially cut by a natural feature, [106], which lay east-west across the trench, and had a very irregular base, consistent with a root hole. This feature was filled by a very compact beige-mid brown clay, which contained frequent root material and occasional sub-angular pebbles (107). Several fragments of oyster and mussel shell were recovered from the fill as well as a single, small, abraded greyware sherd of possible Iron Age date (R. Zeepvat, pers comm.).

Two modern pits were recorded in the western section of the trench, one of which [108], cut [106]. Both these features were filled with modern brick, pipe, tarmac, concrete and frequent root material.



Plate 1: East-west arm of trench, looking west, 2x1m scale



Plate 3: Typical trench section, looking west, 1m scale



Plate 2: North-south arm of trench, looking south, 2x1m scale

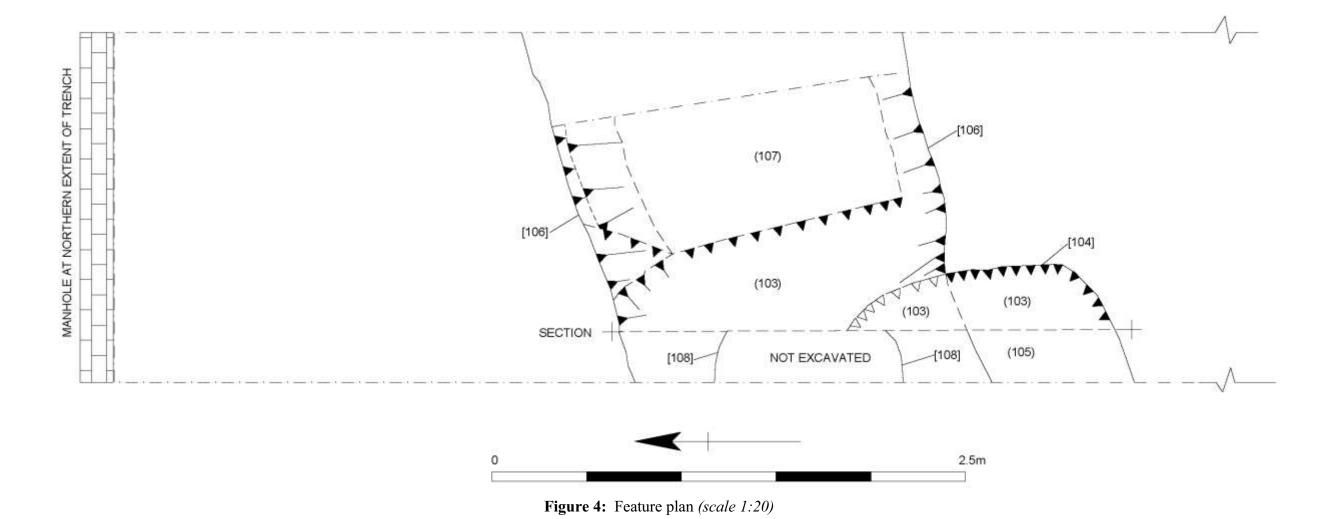


Plate 4: Pit [104], looking west, 1m section



Plate 5: Overview of [104] and [106], looking north, 2m scale

2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire *1201/CCA*



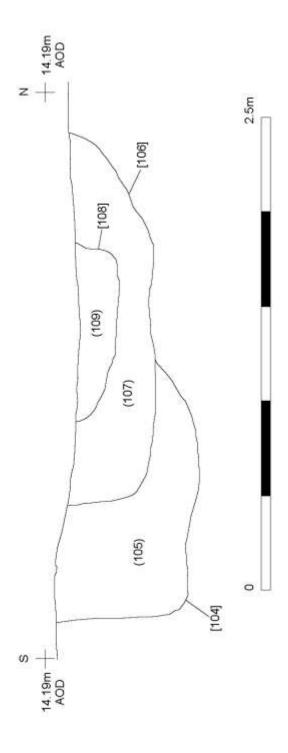


Figure 5: Section (scale 1:20)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The main extent of the site has been compromised by the former building which occupied the central area (Fig. 2). The modern manhole encountered at the northern end of the trench is likely to have been connected with the drainage for this house. It is also possible, given the loose nature of the fill of the two modern pits observed in the trench and their proximity to the manhole, that they are soakaways, also connected with the drainage for the former house.
- 5.2 Pit [104] did not contain any datable evidence, and can therefore not be attributed to any particular period. However, it was cut by the natural feature above it [106], probably a tree throw. Whilst not archaeologically significant by itself, its fill (107) contained a single abraded body sherd, which has been tentatively dated to the Iron Age period. This suggests that [104] could possibly date to the Iron Age, as it must pre-date [106]. However, further firm conclusions cannot be drawn based on the evidence recovered during the evaluation.
- 5.3 Further significant archaeological features were not observed in the trench. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the trench cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features were present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Camstead Homes*. The writer is grateful to Phil Barnes for his assistance. The project was monitored by Dan McConnell of *Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice*, on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Malcolm Reed Construction Ltd.

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

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Brief
 - 2. Project Design
 - 3. Initial Report
 - 4. Clients site plans
 - 5. Site records
 - 6. Finds records
 - 7. Finds
 - 8. Site record drawings
 - 9. List of photographs
 - 10. B/W prints & negatives
 - 11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Store (ECB3246).

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, 2nd edition.* English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds).
- McConnell, D 2009 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: 2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge CAPCA
- Rouse, C 2009 Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire ASC/1201/CCA/1

Secondary Sources

- BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.
- Browne, D. M. 1977 Roman Cambridgeshire Oleander (Cambridge).
- Hinman, M. 2001 Plant Breeding International, Hauxton Road, Cambridge. Cambridge County Council Report
- Kenny, D. A. 2000a *The Former Government Offices Site, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge* Cambridge Archaeological unit Report No.347
- Kenny, D. A. 2000b *The Former Charrington Oil Depot, 22-24 Clarendon Road, Cambridge* Cambridge Archaeological unit Report No.360
- Mackay, D. 2001a *The Old Cattle Market, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No.437
- Mackay, D. 2001b Land around Homerton Street, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No.423
- Mackay, D. 2001c *The Old Cattle Market, Cambridge: An Archaeological Investigation* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No.448
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Taylor, A. 1999 *Cambridge: A Hidden History* Tempus Publishing Ltd (Stroud).

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

				Trench	1				
Max Dime							s (m)		
		- 100	Length	27.9	Width	1.8		Depth	0.75
						Levels			
			Trench b	ase north		14.15m	OD		
			Trench to	op north		14.82m	OD		
E	120		Trench b	ase south		14.24m	OD		
A Common of the	111	140	Trench to	op south		15.05m	OD		
					NGR (Co-ordina	ates		
	-		N	TL 546352	256165	E	TL :	546364 256150)
			Orientation N-S/			N-S/E-	/E-W		
Reason for Trench					Within footprint of proposed development				
Context	Туре	Type Description and Interpretation				Widt (max: r		Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
101	Layer	Dark brown so rooting - Tops	Dark brown soft fine silty sandy loam with frequent rooting - Topsoil)	250	0
102	Layer		Mid brown yellow firm silty sandy clay with occasional rooting and rare sub-angular pebbles -					550	250
103	Layer	sandy clay wit	Beige yellow sandy clay with patches of orange sandy clay with occasional flint and sub-rounded pebble inclusions - Natural)	100	800
104 105	l l					340		690	1600
		rare oyster sh Pit	rare oyster shell and occasional pebble inclusions - Pit						800
106	Cut		Irregular feature filled by very compact beige-mid)	410	837
107	Fill		y, 1 piece of possible IA pot, occasional d mussel shell – Tree throw						800
108 109	Cut Fill	Steep-sided feature cut from surface, filled with modern brick, pipe, tarmac and concrete – Modern soakaway				950		110	0

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NA	SITE NO/CODE: 1201/CCA							
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject					
1		√	General site working shot, 22/09/09					
2		√	General site working shot, 22/09/09					
3		✓	General site working shot, 22/09/0	9				
4		✓	General site working shot, 22/09/09					
5	✓	✓	East-west arm of trench, looking west, 2x 1m scale, 22/09/09					
6	√	√	North-south arm of trench, looking south, 2x 1m scale, 22/09/09					
7	√	√	Typical section, looking west, 1m scale, 22/09/09					
8	√	√	Soakaway, looking west, 1m scale, 22/09/09					
9	✓	√	Pit [104], looking west, 1m scale, 23/09/09					
10	✓	✓	Pit [104], looking west, 1m scale, 23/09/09					
11	✓	√	Tree throw [106] and pit [104], looking north, 2m scale, 23/09/09					

Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Coi	ntext	Pottery		Во	ne	Flint	Shell	Stone	Other Finds	3
		(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	(no)	Туре	(no)
(1	05)						6			
(1	06)	1	5				14			

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

	PROJECT	DETAILS							
Project Name: 2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire									
Short Description: In September 2009, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, prior to the residential redevelopment of the site. A single L-shaped trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development, and revealed a single, undated pit. This pit was cut by a tree throw, the fill of which contained one very abraded sherd of possible Iron Age pottery. No other significant finds or features were observed during the evaluation.									
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial Trenching								
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-						
Current land use:	Residential (derelict)	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No						
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-						
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	1x possible Iron Age body shero	d, oyster shell							
	PROJECT	LOCATION							
County:	Cambridgeshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 5463 2561						
Site address: (with postcode if known)	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·								
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	1575 sqm	Height OD: (metres)	c.15m						
	PROJECT CREATORS								
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Cons	sultancy Ltd							
Project brief originator:	D. McConnell	Project design originator: C. Rouse							
Project Manager:	K. Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	R. Zeepvat						
Sponsor / funding body:	Camstead Homes								
	PROJEC	CT DATE							
Start date:	22/09/09	End date:	23/09/09						
	PROJECT	ARCHIVES							
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal	bone, files/sheets)						
Physical:	Cambridgeshire County Store	Finds							
Paper:	(ECB3246)	Archive Box							
Digital:	Digital: CD								
BIBLIOGRAP	HY (Journal/monograph, publish	ned or forthcoming, or unpublish	ned client report)						
Title:	itle: Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire								
Serial title & volume:	e: ASC Ltd Report ref. 1201/CCA/2								
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA								
Page nos	1-21	Date: 29/09/09							