

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: 18 LONG ROAD, CAMBRIDGE**

**NGR: TL 4639 5550**

*on behalf of Camstead Homes*



**Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA**

**April 2005**

**ASC: 640/CLR/03**

Letchworth House  
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,  
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE  
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700  
Email: [office@archaeological-services.co.uk](mailto:office@archaeological-services.co.uk)  
Website: [www.archaeological-services.co.uk](http://www.archaeological-services.co.uk)



## Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	CLR	<i>Project no:</i>	640
<i>County:</i>	Cambridgeshire		
<i>District:</i>	Cambridge City		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Cambridge		
<i>Parish:</i>	Cambridge (unparished)		
<i>NGR:</i>	TL 4639 5550		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.0.35 hectares		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Vacant plot		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Residential development		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	C/04/0186/FP		
<i>Client:</i>	Camstead Homes 1 St Marys Court Main Street Hardwick Cambs CB3 7QS		
<i>Contact name:</i>	David Middleton		
<i>Telephone</i>		<i>Fax:</i>	

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Nicholas A Crank	<i>Date:</i>	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2005
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**Figure 1:** General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*During April 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on a site at 18 Long Road, Cambridge. The work was undertaken in advance of proposed residential redevelopment of the site.*

*A total of five trenches were excavated. A small ditch was revealed in Trench 4, a small slot in Trench 3, and a possible plough furrow in Trench 5. No artefacts were recovered from the excavated features or from the trenches in general. No archaeological features were revealed in the remaining trenches although some intrusions caused by the construction and subsequent demolition of the house were noted. Despite these little evidence of truncation to the site was revealed.*

*In conclusion it seems likely that the area has remained largely undisturbed and undeveloped until now with the exception of the sparse features revealed.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In April 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 18 Long Road, Cambridge (NGR: TL 4639 5550: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Camstead Homes, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2005), and a brief (dated 12/12/04) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Cambridge City Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Cambridgeshire County Council, County Archaeology Office. The evaluation was informed by a prior desk-based assessment (Crank 2005). The relevant planning application reference is C/04/0186/FP.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the demolition of existing structures, and their replacement with a larger block of flats, with associated access, parking areas and detached cycle stores.

### 1.3 *Location*

The site is located about 2.5km south of Cambridge city centre, at NGR TL 4640 5551 (Fig. 1). It lies on the south side of Long Road (A1134), an east-west route linking the A1309 Hauxton Road and the A1307 to Little Abington. To the south of the site is Addenbrookes Hospital: to the east and west are similar large plots, each containing a single detached house (Fig. 2).

### 1.4 *Description*

When the trial trenching was conducted the existing house and garage and outbuildings had been demolished and this area levelled. The remainder of the site was as described in the prior desk-based assessment (Crank 2005).

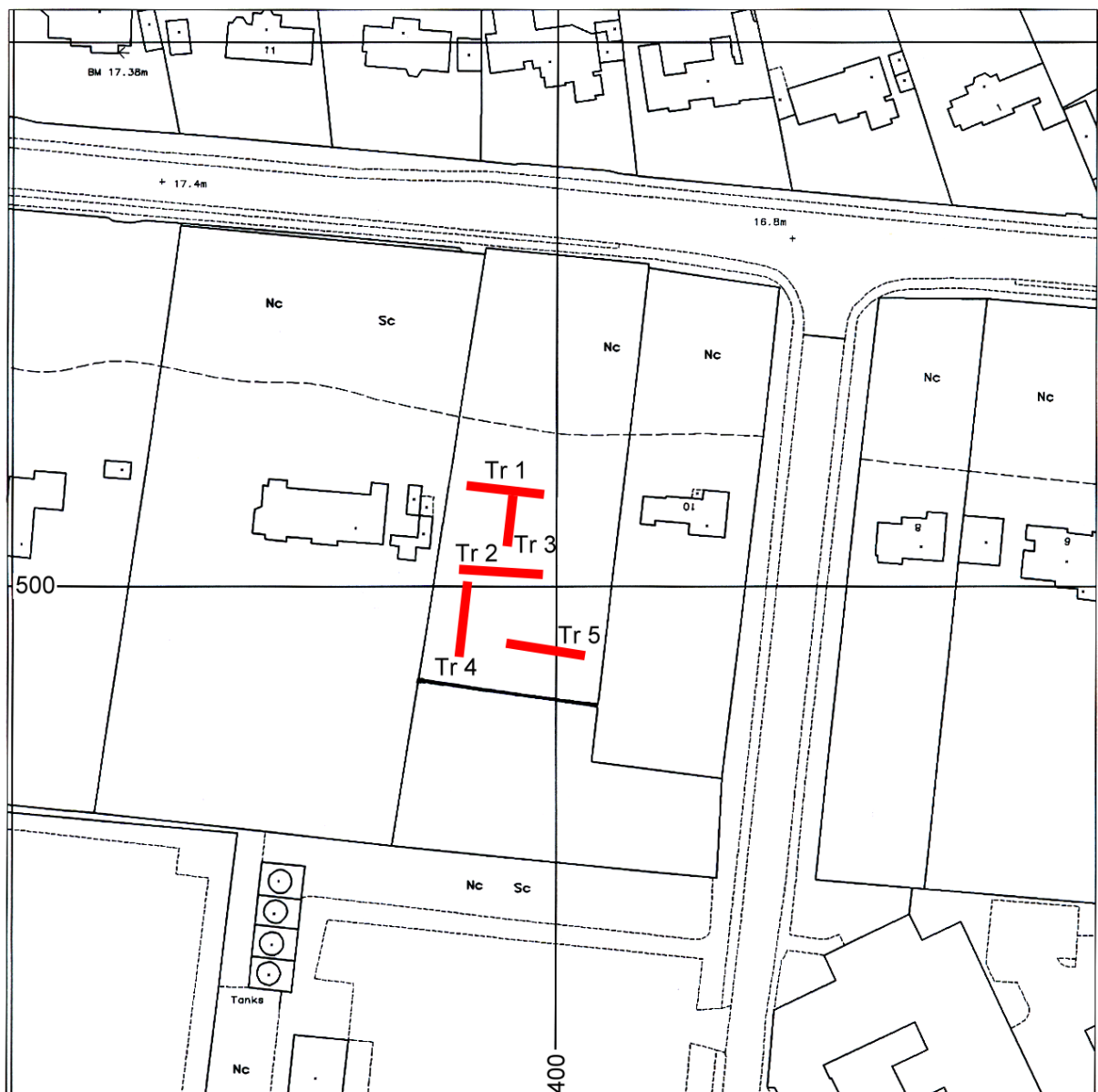
### 1.5 *Geology & Topography*



The site lies on more or less level ground, at an elevation of c.16m AOD. Soils in the area are not mapped, but are likely to belong to the Wantage 2 association, described as 'shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over argillaceous chalk associated with similar soils affected by groundwater' (Soil Survey 1983, 342d). The underlying geology comprises Middle Chalk.

### 1.6 Archaeological & Historical Background

A full discussion of the archaeological and historical background to the study site is presented in the prior desk-based assessment (Crank 2005).



**Figure 2:** Site plan showing Trench Locations (*scale 1:1250*)

## 2 Aims & Methods

### 2.1 Aims

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

- to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains which are liable to be threatened by the development.
- to produce an accurate and full record of the archaeology present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they may be re-examined and interpreted in the future.

### 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 trial trenching and/or test-pitting, based on the results of the desk-based assessment, designed to adequately sample the threatened available area. A minimum 5% sample of the areas to be affected by the development will be subject to trenching.

### 2.4 Constraints

A proposed trench plan was submitted as part of the desk-based assessment and approved by the AA prior to the evaluation. This trench plan was devised to give adequate coverage of the development area in line with section 2.3, above. Subsequently, on-site constraints necessitated some revision of trench locations due to the presence of a deep infilled cellar on the eastern edge of the demolished house. The final trench layout is shown in Fig. 2 (above).

### 3 Results

3.1 The following paragraphs provide a summary of the results of the trial trenches. A full description of the trenches with illustrations, is provided in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 *Results*

A northwest to southeast aligned ditch traversed the south end of trench 4 (F402) for a length of 3.5m. Sealed by the subsoil it cut the natural Chalk Marl. A slot was excavated across the ditch revealing it to be filled by a single deposit (L403) from which no finds were recovered.

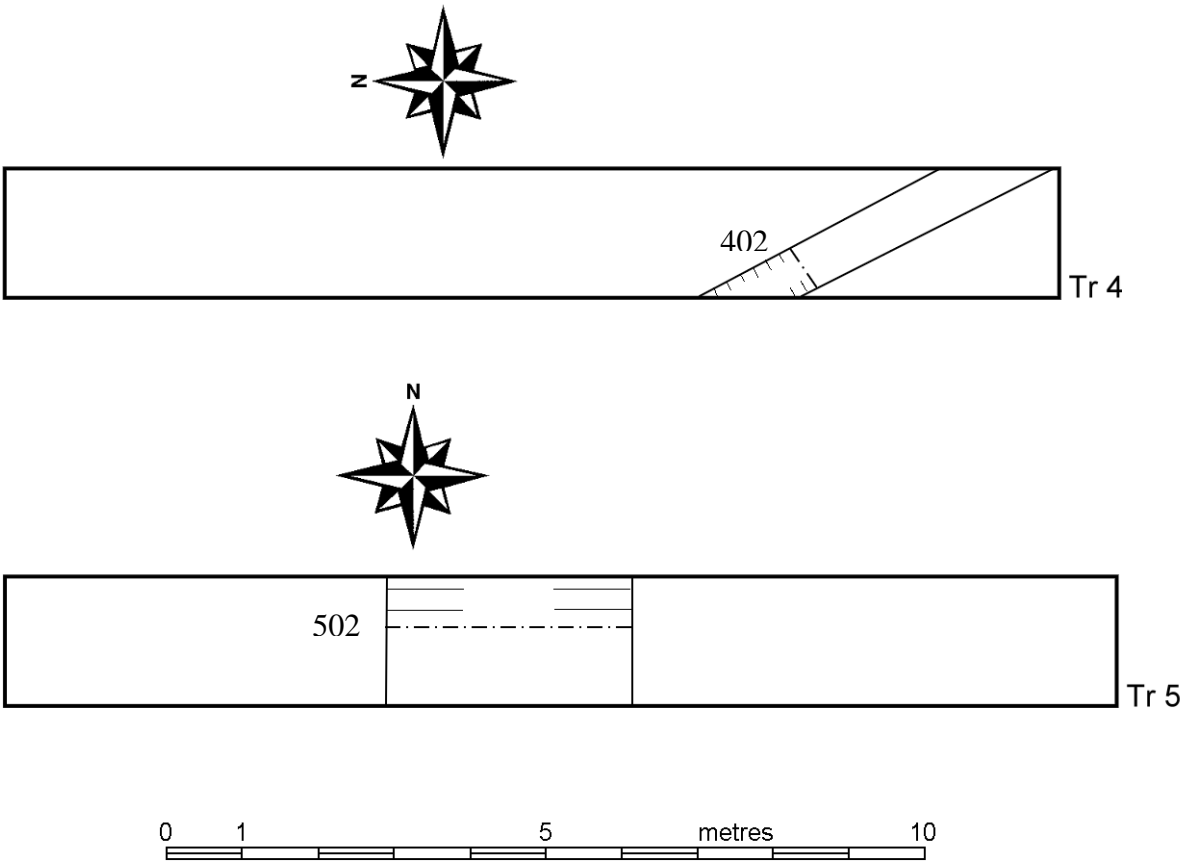
A wide north to south aligned feature (F502) traversed the middle of trench 5. Extremely shallow and with very gently sloping sides and a broad flat base it contained a single fill (L503) from which no finds were recovered. It is suggested that F502 may represent a remnant plough furrow.

A narrow northwest to southeast aligned slot traversed the north end of trench 3 but did not continue into trench 1. No finds were recovered from its fill.

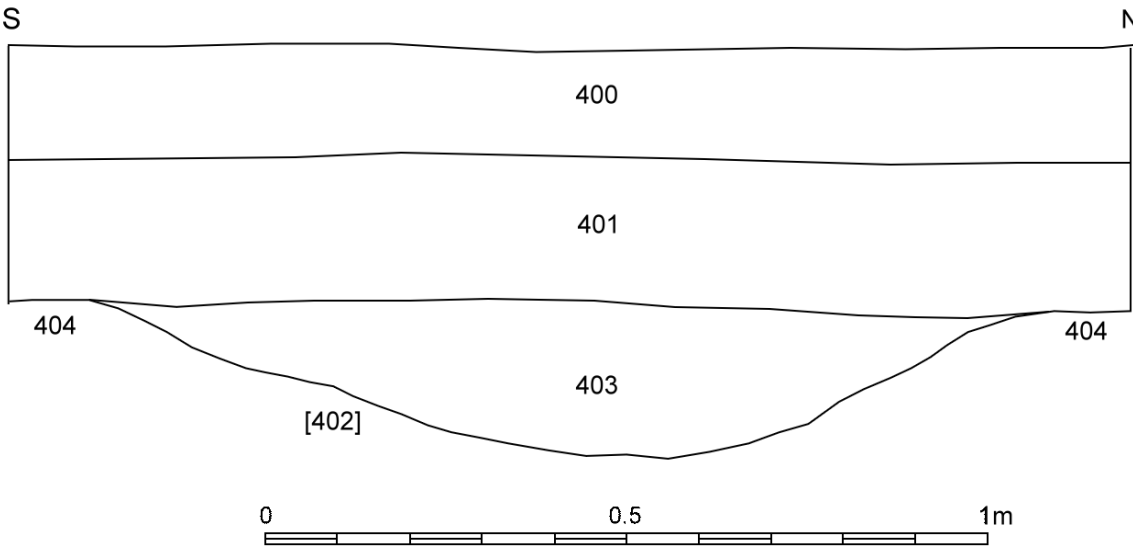
3.3 The trenches revealed a generally consistent pattern of soil formation. The topsoil comprised a soft mid brown silty loam with occasional chalk pebbles. A separate lighter brown chalky subsoil layer was present in trenches 2, 4 and 5. The depth of overburden across the site was generally between 0.45 - 0.8m. In the areas of trenches 1, 2 and 3 demolition and levelling had recently taken place causing some truncation of the natural drift and disturbance of the overburden.

3.4 A mottled pale yellowish/off-white Chalk Marl with occasional spreads of orange sand and gravel was revealed beneath the subsoil layer and is interpreted as the natural strata.





**Figure 3:** Trench Plans (*Scale 1:100*)



**Figure 4:** Profile of Ditch [402], Trench 4 (*Scale 1:10*)



**Plate 1:** Ditch [402], Trench 4, looking North



**Plate 2:** Profile of Ditch [402], Trench 4, looking West

## 4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The evaluation revealed undated archaeological features in three of the five trenches. The two features revealed in trenches 3 and 5 were quite shallow and ephemeral in nature and that revealed in trench 5 may be the remnant of a plough furrow, in common with the findings at 28-30 Long Road (Whittaker 2002). A northwest to southeast aligned narrow ditch revealed in trench 4 formed a more substantial feature. However, no finds were recovered from the fills of these few features or from the overburden excavated from the trenches.
- 4.2 Close examination of the trenches and their profiles suggests that the natural strata have been subject to little truncation other than the clear modern disturbance caused by the house and its demolition. The plan of the Hutchison site (Evans *et al* 2004) shows a clear reduction in features in the northeast corner of the excavation, the area nearest to 18 Long Road. As a result it seems reasonable to conclude with a high level of confidence that the low level of past activity indicated by the evaluation is a representative result. Therefore, while it is unlikely that further significant quantities of archaeological remains are present on the site, the potential presence of occasional isolated remains away from the evaluation trenches should not be entirely excluded.

## **5. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Mr David Middleton of *Camstead Homes* for commissioning the evaluation. The input and advice of Kasia Gdaniec, Development Control Archaeologist with *Cambridgeshire County Council* is acknowledged.

The work was supervised for *ASC Ltd* by Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA, assisted by Nigel Wilson HND AIFA. The report was prepared by Nicholas A Crank and the illustrations by Nigel Wilson. The report was edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

## **6. Archive**

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Desk-based Assessment
4. Initial Report
5. Clients site plans
6. Site records
7. Site record drawings
8. List of photographs
9. B/W prints & negatives
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Sites and Monuments Record, accession number 1923.

## 7. 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).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

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*

Crank, N.A. 2005 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: 18 Long Road, Cambridge* (ASC: 640/CLR/02)

Evans, C., Mackay, D., & Webley, L. 2004. *Excavations at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge: The Hutchison Site* (CAU Report No. 609)


Thomas, A. 2004. *Cambridgeshire County Council Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: 18 Long Road, Cambridge* (dated 10/12/04)


Whittaker, P. 2002. *An Archaeological Evaluation at 28-30 Long Road, Cambridge* (CAU Report No. 483)


Zeepvat, B. 2005. *18 Long Road, Cambridge: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* (ASC: 640/CLR/01)





## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1							
		Max Dimensions (metres)					
		Length	14.5	Width	1.8	Depth	0.8
		Levels					
		Trench base east		15.59m OD			
		Trench top east		16.39m OD			
		Trench base west		15.74m OD			
		Trench top west		16.45m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		E	TL46398 55517		W	TL46383 55519	
		Orientation		East to West			
Reason for Trench		General evaluation					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
100	layer	Demolition disturbed topsoil layer		--	800	--	
101	natd	Chalk Marl – Natural drift		--	--	800	

Trench 2							
		Max Dimensions (metres)					
		Length	15.5	Width	1.8	Depth	0.45
		Levels					
		Trench base east		15.69m OD			
		Trench top east		16.14m OD			
		Trench base west		15.86m OD			
		Trench top west		16.31m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		E	TL46397 55502		W	TL46382 55503	
		Orientation		East to West			
Reason for Trench		General evaluation					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
200	layer	Demolition disturbed topsoil layer		--	450	--	
201	natd	Chalk Marl – Natural drift		--	--	450	

Trench 3							
		Max Dimensions (metres)					
		Length	9.5	Width	1.8	Depth	0.7
		Levels					
		Trench base north		15.69m OD			
		Trench top north		16.39m OD			
		Trench base south		15.57m OD			
		Trench top south		16.27m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		N	TL46392 55517		S	TL46391 55507	
		Orientation		North to South			
Reason for Trench		General evaluation					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
300	layer	Demolition disturbed topsoil layer		--	700	--	
301	natd	Chalk Marl – Natural drift		--	--	700	

Trench 4							
	Max Dimensions (metres)						
	Length	14	Width	1.8	Depth	0.5	
	Levels						
	Trench base north			15.76m OD			
	Trench top north			16.26m OD			
	Trench base south			15.82m OD			
	Trench top south			16.32m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates						
	N	TL46383 55501		S	TL46382 55487		
	Orientation			North to South			
Reason for Trench			General evaluation				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
400	layer	Topsoil			--	150	--
401	layer	Subsoil			--	200	150+
402	Cut	Cut of ditch			650	200	350+
403	Fill	Light brown silt fill of [402]			650	200	350+
404	natd	Chalk Marl – Natural drift			--	--	350+

Trench 5							
		Max Dimensions (metres)					
		Length	14.75	Width	1.8	Depth	0.45
		Levels					
		Trench base east		15.57m OD			
		Trench top east		16.02m OD			
		Trench base west		15.79m OD			
		Trench top west		16.24m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		E	TL46405 55487		W	TL46391 55490	
		Orientation		East to west			
Reason for Trench		General evaluation					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation		Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
500	layer	Topsoil		--	300	--	
501	layer	Subsoil		--	200	300+	
502	Cut	Plough furrow?		3500	100	300+	
503	Fill	Mid to light brown silt Fill of [502]		3500	100	300+	
504	natd	Chalk Marl – Natural drift		--	--	300+	