



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT:
18 LONG ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE**

NGR: TL 4639 5550

on behalf of Camstead Homes



Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA

March 2005

ASC: 640/CLR/02

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: 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>	House, garage & gardens		
<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>	9 th March 2005
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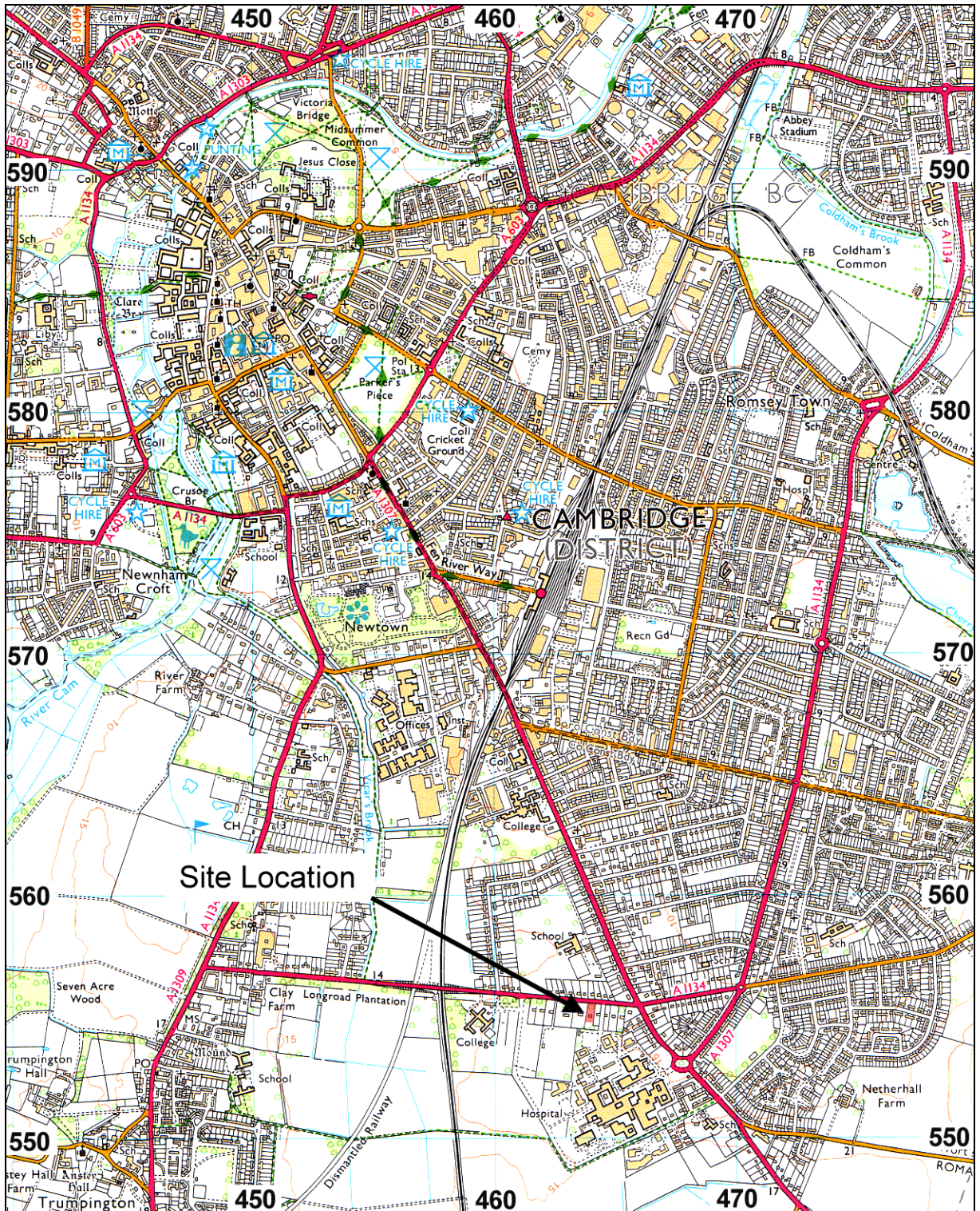


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

A desk-based assessment of land at 18 Long Road, Cambridge revealed that the potential for archaeological features from a variety of periods exists on the site. It also demonstrated that the assessment site had been undeveloped prior to the latter half of the 20th century and that the only obvious possible cause of truncation to the site was the construction of No. 18 itself.

1 Introduction

1.1 In March 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Long Road, Cambridge (NGR TL4640 5551, Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Camstead Homes, and was carried out according to a *Brief* (Thomas 2004), prepared by the *Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office (CCAO)* on behalf of the local planning authority, *Cambridge City Council* (planning ref. C/04/0186/FP) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2005).

1.2 The desk-based assessment was required as a first stage of archaeological evaluation in the CCAO brief. The purpose of the assessment is to inform a subsequent programme of linear trial trenching.

1.3 *Setting*

1.3.1 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).

1.3.2 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.

1.3.3 The proposed development comprises demolition of existing structures, and their replacement with a larger block of flats, with associated access, parking areas and detached cycle stores.

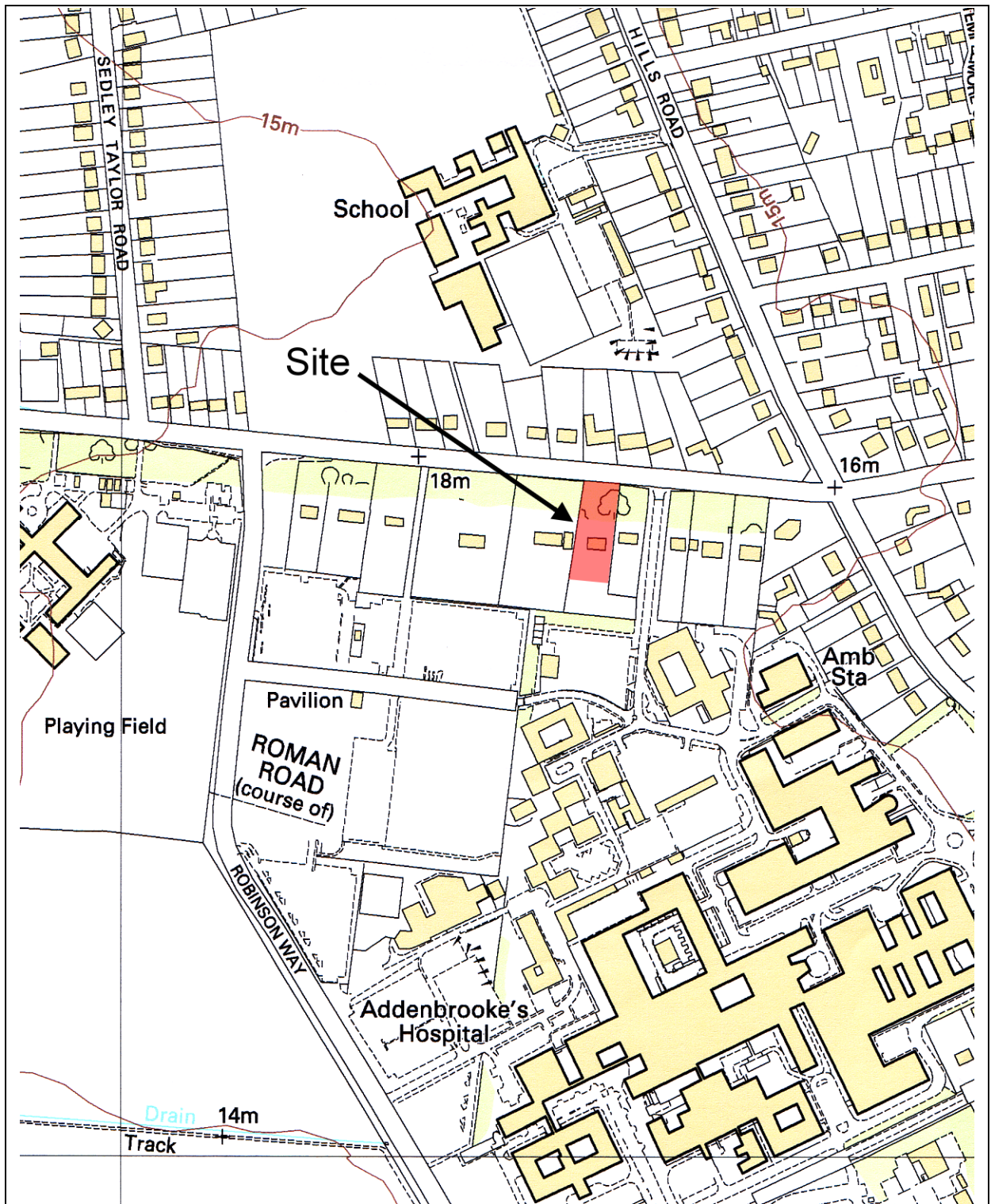


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:5000)

2 Aims & Methods

- 2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing archaeological, historical and topographical information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered.
- 2.2 The desk-based assessment was carried out according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1999).
- 2.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the desk-based assessment:

2.3.1 *Archaeological Databases*

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the Cambridgeshire Sites & Monuments Record (SMR). The study area employed in the SMR search includes the site, and a surrounding area of 500m radius.

2.3.2 *Historic Documents*

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was the Cambridgeshire County Records Office (CRO).

2.3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal source consulted was the Cambridgeshire County Records Office (CRO).

2.3.4 *Geotechnical Information*

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs was compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.

2.4 *Preliminary Walk-Over Survey*

As part of the desk-based assessment a preliminary walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on 15th February 2005, with the following aims:

- 2.4.1 To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- 2.4.2 To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- 2.4.3 To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the CCAO.

3 Archaeological & Historical Evidence

3.1 *Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area*

SMR = Cambridgeshire Site and Monuments Record

3.1.1 Prehistoric (*before 600BC*) - Iron Age (*600BC-AD43*)

As noted in the brief evidence for prehistoric land use in the vicinity of the assessment site is plentiful. The area around the study area contains some notable prehistoric sites including the largely destroyed Iron Age 'War Ditch' c.2.5km north east of the site in Cherry Hinton, and *Wandlebury*, c.3.5km to the southeast. Further afield Iron Age sites of major significance are known, including the settlement c.4km north west of the site at Castle Hill in Cambridge.

Of particular relevance to the assessment site is the range of archaeological evidence uncovered in several phases of work directly to the south and west, from the initial rescue excavations at New Addenbrookes (SMR 04800) in 1967 (Cra'ster 1969) to the 2002-3 excavations at the Hutchison site (Evans *et al* 2004; SMR CB15770).

The New Addenbrookes excavation was undertaken in less than ideal circumstances and the importance of their findings has recently been subject to some scrutiny and revision (Evans *et al* 2004, 4-6). The principal discovery of the excavation was a rectangular ditched enclosure with a V-shaped profile. Although some pits were recorded it is uncertain whether any internal features were excavated. A series of parallel ditches flanked the southern side of the enclosure and a circular hut was identified adjacent to these constituting the only settlement evidence. Pottery from the site is most probably of 3rd – 2nd C BC date, although a La Tène decorated pot could extend this into the 1st century BC (Evans *et al* 2004, 4-6).

The excavation on the Hutchison site revealed three main prehistoric phases spanning middle Bronze Age through to later Iron Age occupation. However the main phase of interest is the later Iron Age paddock/enclosure system and the questions of continuity raised by its relationship to the later Conquest period activity on the site (Evans *et al* 2004).

Both excavations confirm the presence of an organised later prehistoric landscape already suggested by the extensive cropmark record for the surrounding area. This landscape is one characterised by bi-axial field systems and scattered heavily bounded settlement enclosures and other archaeological interventions in the area have further indicated its spatial continuity (*e.g.* Connor 2000, Abrams 2000, & Brudenell 2004).

3.1.2 Roman (*AD43-c.450*)

The development area is located in the agricultural hinterland south of the Roman fort and later small town at Castle Hill. However, the excavated evidence suggests that the area was far from marginal.

Excavations carried out at the Perse School (c.300m to the north west) in the early 20th century (Walker 1910) recorded a road consisting of rammed chalk and gravel with

flanking ditches (the *Via Devana*). Roman artefactual evidence consisting of coins, pottery and building material was also recovered and it has been suggested that a villa lies nearby (Evans *et al* 2004, 4). It is stated in the brief that the projected line of this main north-south route passes to the immediate west of the development site (section 1.2). However, excavation of the Hutchison site, which straddles this area, revealed no convincing evidence of a road on this alignment. It did however recover a postulated E-W Roman road along its southern edge (Evans *et al* 2004, 94).

Again the principal excavated site in the vicinity is the Hutchison site, where settlement activity appears to continue from the late Iron Age into the Conquest period with a series of pottery kilns being of particular interest during this time. The later Roman evidence is more agricultural in nature although a cemetery was uncovered (Evans *et al* 2004). As with the Iron Age, other archaeological interventions (*e.g.* SMR CB15768, CB15713) in the area have emphasised the degree of spatial continuity during this period, again complementing the cropmark evidence.

3.1.3 Saxon (c.450-1066) - Medieval (1066-1500)

The only Saxon activity recorded in the study area was found on the Hutchison site where evidence of low level Middle Saxon occupation was recovered (Evans *et al* 2004). Medieval evidence is limited to traces of ridge and furrow in soil profiles and the site of the 'Red Cross' a wayside cross (SMR 04774). The general vicinity would have been part of the agricultural hinterland supplying and surrounding the town c.3km northwest during these periods.

3.1.4 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

The area remained in agricultural use until the expansion of Cambridge in the latter half of the 19th century. A catalyst for this change was the coming of the railway in 1847. Also of local importance was the creation of Long Lane itself in the late 18th – early 19th century, when it was known as Trumpington New Road. However although suburban expansion of the city was underway, the site itself remained undeveloped throughout the Post-Medieval period.

3.1.5 Modern (1900-present)

The expansion of the city of Cambridge continued throughout this period. Housing continued to spread to the south with the north side of Long Lane being fully occupied by the latter half of the century (Bryan 2000). Development on the south side of Long was slower and more piecemeal but appears to have been initiated during the Edwardian period with the construction of 'The Spinney' to the west of the assessment site.

3.2 Cartographic Evidence

- 3.2.1 The earliest source depicting the site is the Inclosure Map of 1804 showing the area to be agricultural land divided by the recently laid out New Road. The next available source is Bakers 1830 map on which the area is little changed although the strip of woodland flanking the south side of Long Lane has appeared, the first edition Ordnance Survey 25in map of 1885 appears identical (Fig. 3).
- 3.2.2 The site and its immediate surroundings remain unchanged until the OS 25in map of 1925 (Fig. 4) which shows the beginnings of construction activity on both sides of Long Lane. Later OS maps trace this activity until, on the 1954 edition (Fig. 5) the development site boundaries have been defined by the construction of the adjacent properties.

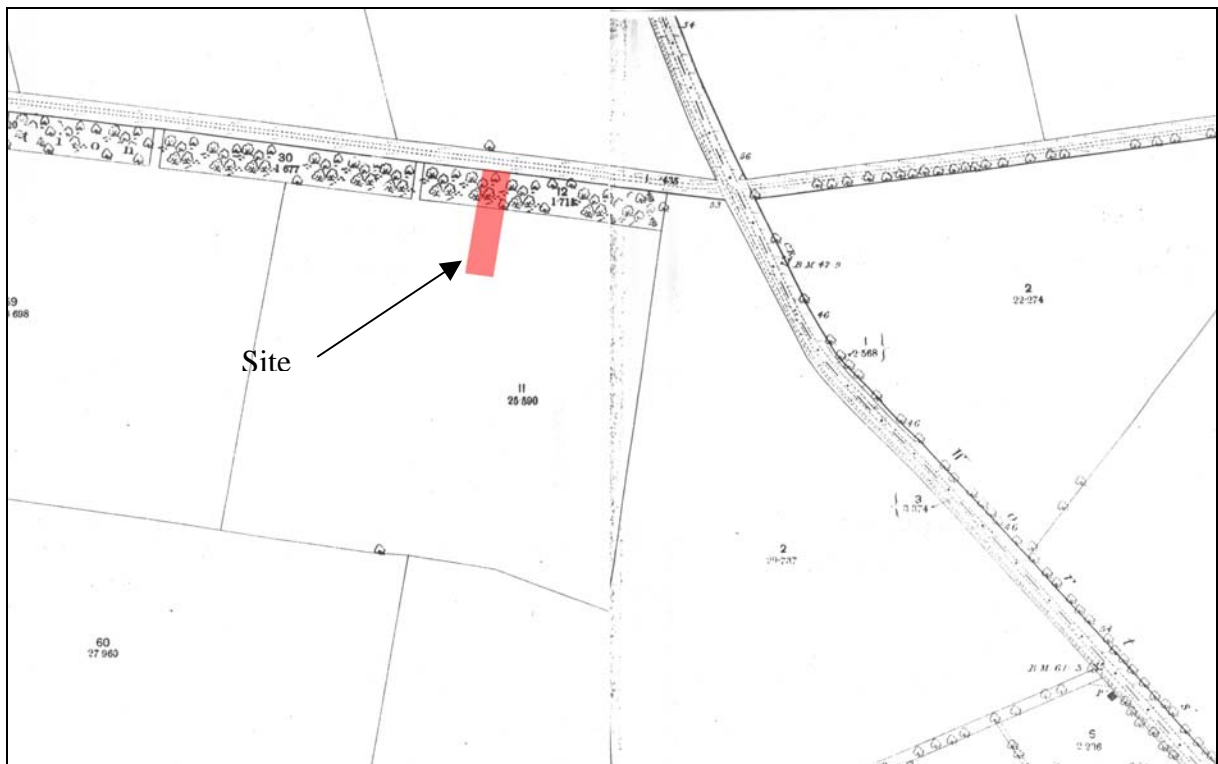


Figure 3: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25in 1885 (*Not to Scale*)

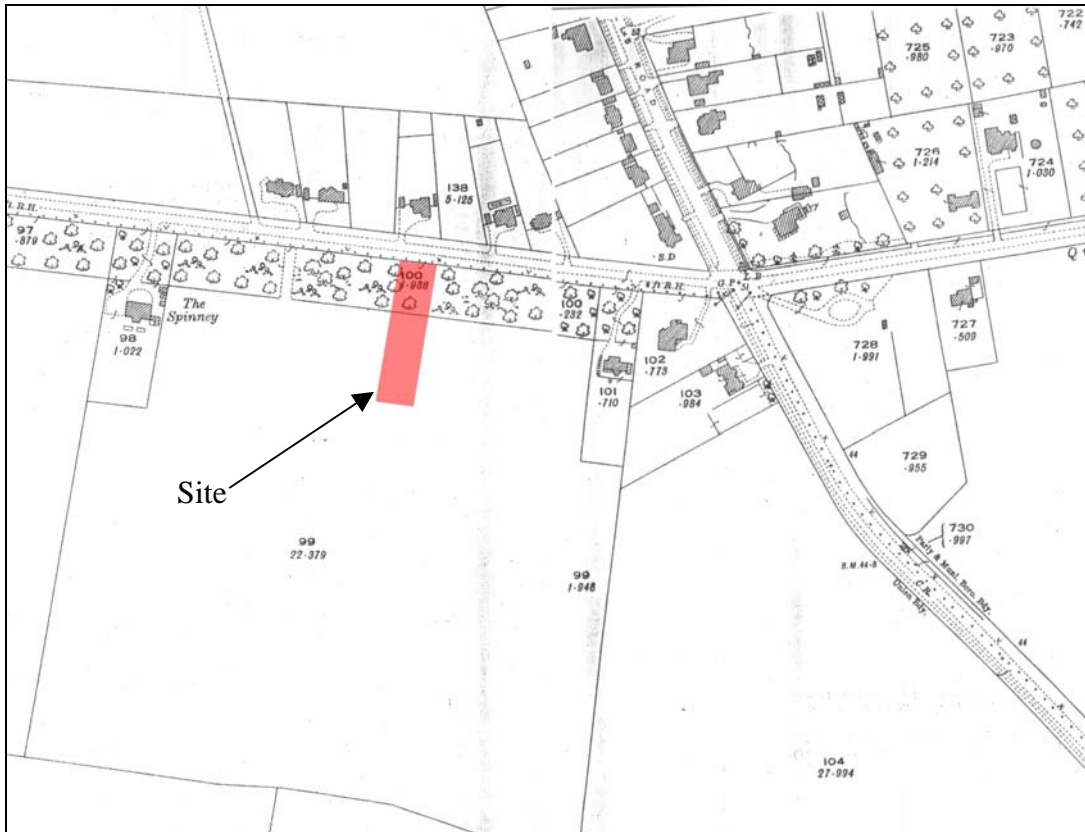


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 25in 1925 (Not to Scale)

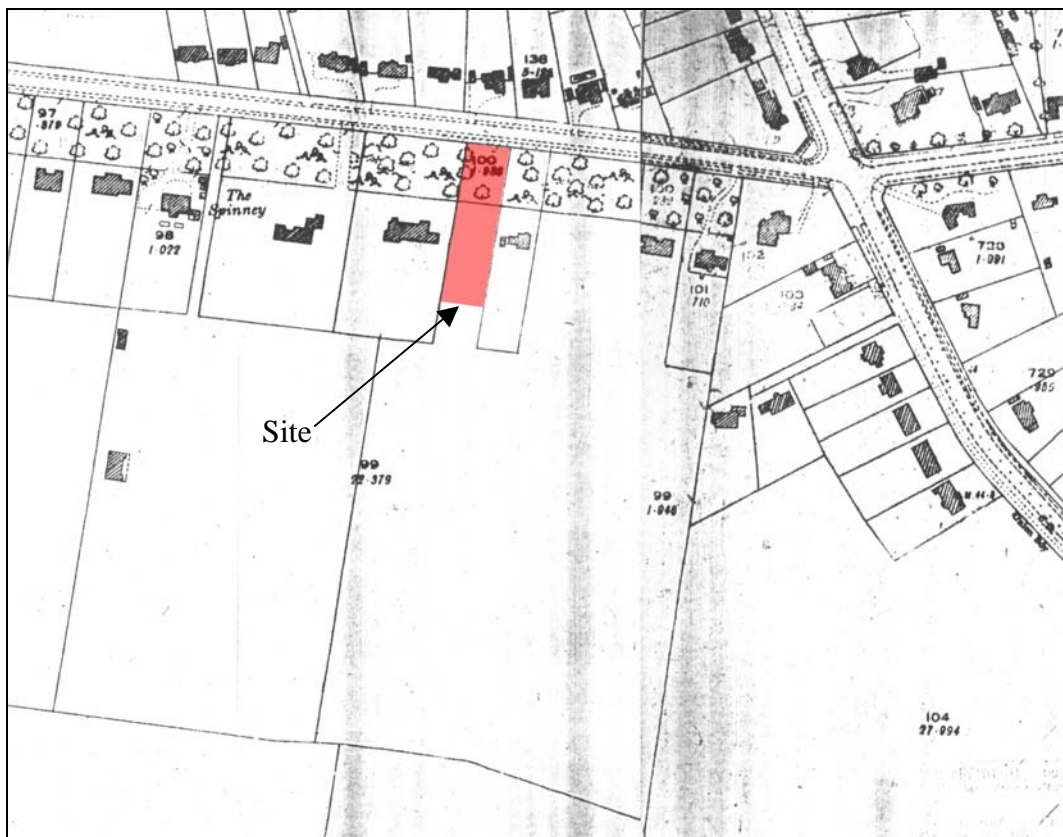


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 25in 1954 (Not to Scale)

4 Walk-Over Survey

As part of the assessment a preliminary walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on the 15th February 2005.

4.1 *Aims*

The walk-over survey was undertaken with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the CCAO.

4.2 *Results*

- 4.2.1 The northern third of the site is grassed over and occupied by a fair density of mature trees, a substantial mature hedge forming the boundary with Long Road (Plate 1). A tarmac driveway runs along the east side of the area leading to a parking area in front of the 1960s/1970s brick built two-storey detached house No. 18. The house is linked to a single-storey flat roofed double garage. Attached to the rear of the house is a raised and walled patio area with a small greenhouse to its west. The remainder of the rear garden is largely laid to grass with small mature trees on its western boundary and a hedge forming its eastern border (Plate 2). The more heavily wooded rear portion of the site to the south is bounded by a new close boarded fence and does not form part of the proposed development.
- 4.2.2 Generally the site appears level and with the exception of the raised patio area no significant landscaping is apparent. The density of the trees in the northern part of the site would preclude trenching in this area, especially as they are to be retained within the proposed layout. The existing house and garage is to be demolished prior to trial trenching thus giving access to its site and the rear of the plot. As the house appears to be uncellared trenching within its footprint may be worthwhile.



Plate 1: Wooded north end of site



Plate 2: Southern part of site

5 Conclusions

5.1 As outlined above (section 3) the site lies within an area that has yielded significant archaeological remains particularly from the Iron Age and Roman periods, although Bronze Age and Saxon remains have also been recovered. The site is positioned between the probable villa recorded at the Perse School to the north and the important multi-period excavation at the Hutchisons site to the south. Other investigations in the vicinity have demonstrated the survival of an organised and well utilised late prehistoric and Roman landscape of settlement and agriculture representing a continuation of the cropmark record known from the south of the study area northwards beyond the present site.

5.2 *Archaeological Potential of the Site*

From the above assessment it is clear that the site has considerable potential for the recovery of remains relating to several periods from the middle Bronze Age through to the middle Saxon period. The combined evidence from the walk-over survey and the cartographic sources suggests that with the exception of the modern house in the centre of the site, the ground has been subject to little recent truncation or disturbance. As a result the potential for the preservation of below ground archaeological remains is viewed as good in those areas outside the footprint of the existing buildings. The potential for archaeological remains within the footprint of the existing buildings is uncertain. However, it is suggested that disturbance may be minimal in this part of the site as the buildings are of relatively modern construction and are therefore unlikely to be cellared. As noted in the walk-over survey little modern landscaping is apparent other than the raised patio area at the rear of the house. As this probably represents 'landscaping up' its impact on any underlying archaeology should have been minimal.

5.3 *Proposals for Further Work*

On the basis of the above evidence, existing site constraints and the proposals for redevelopment a suggested trench plan (Fig. 6) has been prepared, comprising 70 linear metres of trenching representing 5% of the development site by area.

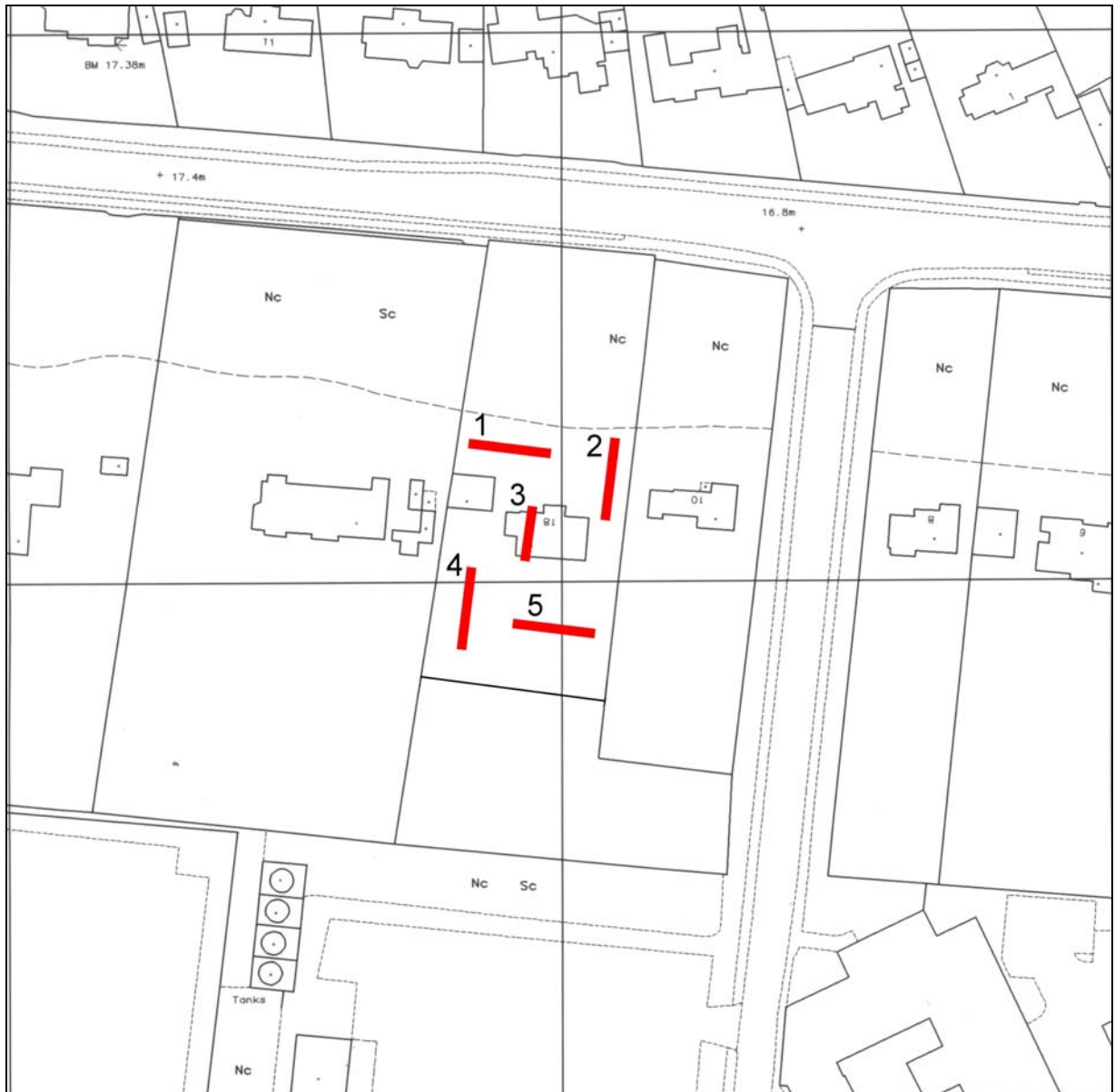


Figure 6: Proposed Trench Plan (Scale 1:1250)

6 Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to David Middleton of Camstead Homes for commissioning and funding this assessment. Thanks are also due to Sarah Poppy of the Cambridgeshire Sites & Monuments Record for providing access to the SMR data. The assistance of the staff of the Cambridgeshire Record Office is also gratefully acknowledged.

The research for the assessment, and the walk-over survey, were undertaken for ASC Ltd by Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA. The report was prepared by Nicholas A Crank and edited by David Fell MA MIFA.

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The following references were consulted in the course of this assessment:

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- Whittaker, P. 2002. *An Archaeological Evaluation at 28-30 Long Road, Cambridge* (CAU Report No. 483)
- Zeevat, B. 2005. *18 Long Road, Cambridge: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* (ASC: 640/CLR/01)

8 Cartographic Sources

The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Date	Reference	Description
1804	R60/24/2/70	Inclosure Map - Trumpington
1830	--	Baker's Map of The University and Town of Cambridge
1885	XLVII: ii	Ordnance Survey 25in First Edition
1901	XLVII: ii	Ordnance Survey 25in
1925	XLVII: ii	Ordnance Survey 25in
1939	XLVII: ii	Ordnance Survey 25in
1950	XLVII: ii	Ordnance Survey 25in
1954	XLVII: ii	Ordnance Survey 25in
1999	209	Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25000
2005	--	Ordnance Survey Landplan 1:5000
2005	TL4655NW	Ordnance Survey Siteplan 1:1250