

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND ADJOINING 11 DUBBS KNOLL ROAD, GILDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Planning Reference: S/1586/17/OL
NGR: TL 2772 4426
AAL Site Code: GUDK 19
CHER Event number: ECB5814
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-345911



Report prepared for Paul and Page Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number AAL2019039

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Cover image: General shot of Trench 1, looking northwest

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Paul and Page Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land adjoining 11 Dubbs Knoll Road, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire, in support of a planning application for the construction of two dwellings.
- Prehistoric, early Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval through to post medieval activity has been recorded in the area, including Anglo-Saxon burials to the southeast and Morden Hall, a medieval moated manor situated to the east southeast of this site.
- The trenching strategy comprised the excavation of three trenches, measuring 30m long, 20m long and 10m long. The trenching exposed a natural feature interpreted as a probable tree bole, cutting the natural chalky clays.
- Overall, the site was found to have negligible archaeological potential.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Paul and Page Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land adjoining 11 Dubbs Knoll Road, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire, in support of a planning application for the proposed construction of two dwellings.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (ClfA 2014), the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), local guidelines outlined in the '*Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*' (Medlycott 2011), a brief provided by Cambridgeshire HET (Stewart 2018) and the specification prepared by this company (AAL 2019).
- 1.3 The documentation and records generated by the excavation will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines in '*Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire*' (2017). The archive will be deposited with the County Archive Facility within six months of completion of the report, where it will be stored under the Event Number ECB 5814.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development is located in Guilden Morden, a village and civil parish in the administrative district of South Cambridgeshire District Council. It is located approximately 22km southwest of central Cambridge and 8km northwest of Royston. The proposed development area comprised of a roughly square block of partly wooded land on the west side of Dubbs Knoll Road, centred on NGR TL 2772 4426 and was c.35.9m above Ordnance Datum (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The local bedrock geology comprises West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, with no overlying superficial geology recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of two dwellings, with all matters reserved (Planning Reference S/1586/17/OL). Permission was granted subject to conditions, including for the undertaking of a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in accordance with a written scheme of investigation to be submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.
- 3.2 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by (AAL 2019) in response to a design brief for archaeological evaluation from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) at Cambridgeshire County Council (Stewart 2018). The results of this work will enable the planning authority to make an informed decision on the need, design and extent of any subsequent archaeological mitigation works that may be required in advance of development.
- 3.3 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular sections of relevance being Paragraphs 187 and 189 of '*Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Feb 2019).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Prehistoric activity is represented by a burnt flint scatter and animal bone, found c.150m to the northeast (CHER Reference 09850). Early Iron Age activity has also been identified, c.500m to the southeast of the site (CHER Reference MCB24356). Activity on the site continued throughout the Roman period.
- 4.2 Several Roman or Saxon finds, including a bronze pig were found in coprolite mining c.750m to the west-southwest (CHER Reference 00662). Near to this site, a medieval copper gilt figurine of St John the Evangelist was found (CHER Reference 00668). The site is near to where a medieval chapel, known as Redderia, was believed to have been located.
- 4.3 There is some physical evidence for Saxon activity in the village. Archaeological work c.250m to the southeast identified several modern and undated features, but also produced a Saxon loom weight from the topsoil (CHER Reference MCB22684). Three Anglo-Saxon burials of probable 6th century date are recorded c.500m to the southeast of the site (CHER Reference CB14603).
- 4.4 At the time of Domesday in 1086, the parish was divided among four manors, owned by Earl Roger, Geoffrey de Mandeville, Hardwin de Scales and Picot of Cambridge. This latter estate was by far the largest, and included 43 of the 58 villagers listed in the parish as well as one mill and a half share in another (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 4.5 Medieval activity is well represented in the vicinity of the site, with slight earthworks representing possible tofts and crofts immediately to the north of the site (CHER Reference 09910).
- 4.6 The parish church of St. Mary, located c.300m to the east-southeast has 14th century arches in the southern nave, with a 15th century tower and south porch, and was restored in 1850s (CHER Reference 02278).
- 4.7 To the east of the village, c.800m east-southeast of the site, is Morden Hall, a moated enclosure originally measuring c.80m x 80m, with a c.10m wide moat surrounding the manorial dwelling, the earliest parts of which date to the 14th century. The west and south parts of the main moat were backfilled during the 20th century. Another moated enclosure to the south enclosed an orchard, but this too has been partially infilled (CHER Reference 01210). Three or four Roman pewter plates were dredged from the moat in the early 20th century (CHER Reference 01210a).
- 4.8 Another possible medieval moated enclosure is shown on a 1797 map c.200m to the southwest, but it is not present on later maps (CHER Reference 01206).
- 4.9 Ridge and furrow has also been recorded c.700m southeast (CHER Reference MCB24347) and 400m to the east-southeast (CHER Reference MCB24348).
- 4.10 Scatters of Late Saxon and medieval pottery are recorded c.500m to the north-northwest (CHER Reference 02285), and a mixed scatter of finds ranging in date from Roman to post-medieval was recovered c.200m to the east (CHER Reference MCB16170).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 A trial trenching strategy was agreed for the site comprising initially two trenches, each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide. However due to areas of the woodland still being present in one of the proposed locations the trenching strategy was amended to comprise one 30m, one

20m and one 10m long trenches. The fieldwork was conducted by a team of experienced archaeologists over a period of two working days, between 27th and 28th February 2019 and supervised by the author.

- 5.2 In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits was removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 100mm in thickness. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was by hand.
- 5.3 Metal detecting (with the detector set to not discriminate against iron) of the excavation area was undertaken prior to and during mechanical excavation, including scanning of spoil heaps.
- 5.4 In addition, a bucket sampling programme was undertaken, whereby 90 litres of spoil was hand sorted for each soil horizon encountered. No finds were recovered.
- 5.5 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. All excavated sections were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights displayed on each class of drawing. All features were mapped using a Leica Survey Grade GPS unit and accurately surveyed in. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow.
- 5.6 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number) consisting of three digits, and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Numbers within square brackets denote cut features, e.g. natural feature [203].

6.0 Results

- 6.1 Throughout the site, the stratigraphy was broadly consistent, comprising a loose mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil, between 0.35-0.60m thick. This sealed the natural geology, a firm very light grey chalky clay.

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 6.2 Trench 1 was located in the southeast part of the proposed development area, targeted over the proposed location for the driveway and northern part of Plot 1, it measured 30m long and was aligned northwest to southeast.
- 6.3 The trench stratigraphy consisted of the natural geology 101, a firm very light grey chalky clay, sealed by two modern layers, 103, a lens of black silty clay 0.05m thick and 102 a made ground of orange brown silty sand, measuring 0.23m thick. This was sealed by topsoil 100, with very frequent inclusions of modern waste, measuring c.0.28m thick.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

- 6.4 Trench 2 was located towards the centre of Plot 2 orientated southwest to northeast. The trench measured 20m long.
- 6.5 The trench stratigraphy consisted of the natural geology 202, sealing this was 201 a possible alluvial deposit of greyish green silty clay, with a maximum thickness of 0.47m, which was only

present across the northeast end of the trench. This was sealed by another possible alluvial deposit 205, a mid bluish grey silt, measuring 0.10m thick. Above was the topsoil 200, measuring 0.44m thick (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Northwest facing representative section of Trench 2, looking southeast, scales 2m, 0.50m and 0.30m

- 6.6 The trench was devoid of archaeological features but one naturally occurring feature was recorded. Situated emerging from the southwest corner was [203] a shallow stepped sided irregular based possible tree bowl. It measured 0.34m in depth, and had an exposed length of 1.8m and 0.55m wide.

Trench 3 (Figure 3)

- 6.7 Trench 3 was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast, across the western part of Plot 2, and measured 10m in length.
- 6.8 The trench stratigraphy consisted of the natural geology, 302, sealed by 301 an alluvial deposit with a maximum excavated thickness 0.60m, only present across the east end of the trench. This was sealed by the topsoil 100, measuring 0.35m thick.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded on the site. The trenches exposed alluvial layers in Trenches 2 and 3, potentially derived from a watercourse shown in historic mapping that formed the western boundary of the site. A possible tree bole was recorded at the west end of Trench 2, which may relate to a lightly wooded area shown on the 1974 Ordnance Survey map in this part of the site.
- 7.2 Probable modern dumping was recorded in Trench 1, with notably higher quantities of modern detritus recorded in the topsoil in this area, suggesting some form of recent ground disturbance.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The trial trenching methodology employed was appropriate to the scale and nature of the project and has indicated no archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Paul and Page Limited for this commission.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Trench 1

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness / depth (m) | Interpretation |
|---------|-------|--|------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 100 | Layer | Loose, mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent modern rubble and waste inclusions | | | 0.28 | Topsoil |
| 101 | Layer | Compact, very light grey chalky clay | | | 0.1 | Natural geology |
| 102 | Layer | Loose, mid orange brown silty sand with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded medium stones | 3 | 1.8 | 0.23 | Made ground |
| 103 | Layer | Friable, black silty clay | 0.3 | 1.8 | 0.05 | Dumped deposit |

Trench 2

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness/ depth (m) | Interpretation |
|---------|-------|---|------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 200 | Layer | Loose, mid greyish brown silty clay with modern rubble and waste inclusions | | | 0.44 | Topsoil |
| 201 | Layer | Firm, mid greyish green, silty clay | 14.3 | 1.8 | 0.47 | Alluvial deposit |
| 202 | Layer | Compact, very light grey chalky clay | | | 0.1 | Natural geology |
| 203 | Cut | North - South orientated feature with stepped sides to an irregular base | 1.8 | 0.55 | 0.34 | Cut of tree bowl |
| 204 | Fill | Firm, mid greyish green, silty clay with frequent tree roots | | | 0.34 | Fill of tree bowl [203] |
| 205 | Layer | Soft, mid bluish grey silt | 8 | 1.8 | 0.08 | Alluvial deposit |

Trench 3

| Context | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness/ depth (m) | Interpretation |
|---------|-------|--|------------|-----------|----------------------|------------------|
| 300 | Layer | Loose, mid greyish brown silty clay with modern waste inclusions | | | 0.35 | Topsoil |
| 301 | Layer | Compact, mid greyish green clay | 7 | 1.8 | 0.6 | Alluvial deposit |
| 302 | Layer | Compact, very light grey chalky clay | | | 0.24 | Natural geology |

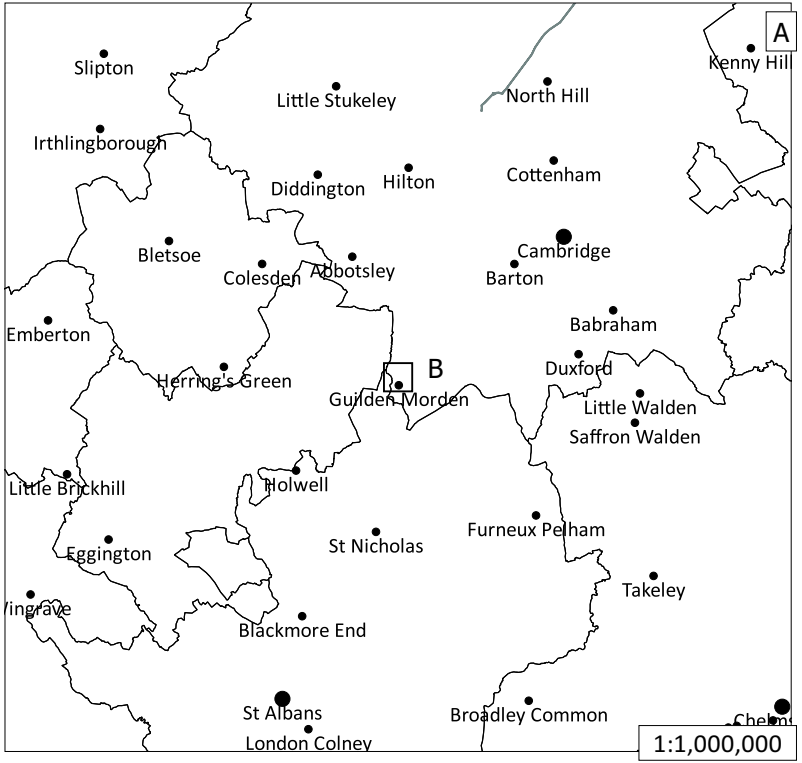


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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| | |
|-----------|--|
| Site Code | GUDK19 |
| Scale | 1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4 |
| Drawn by | GRM |
| Date | 07/03/2019 |

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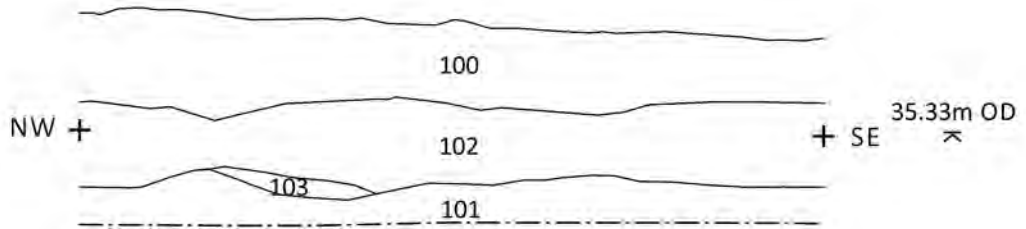
- Lincoln
- Birmingham
- Cambridge
- Southampton

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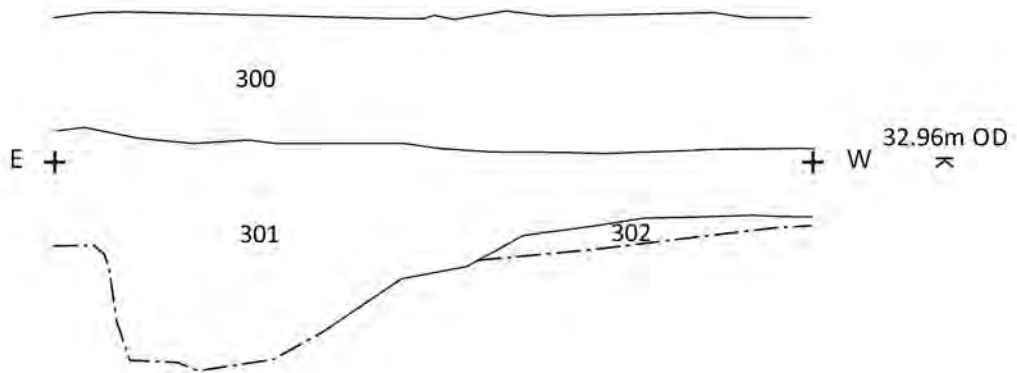


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Southwest facing representative section Trench 1



North facing representative section of Trench 3

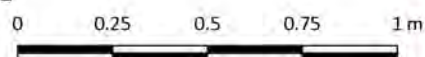


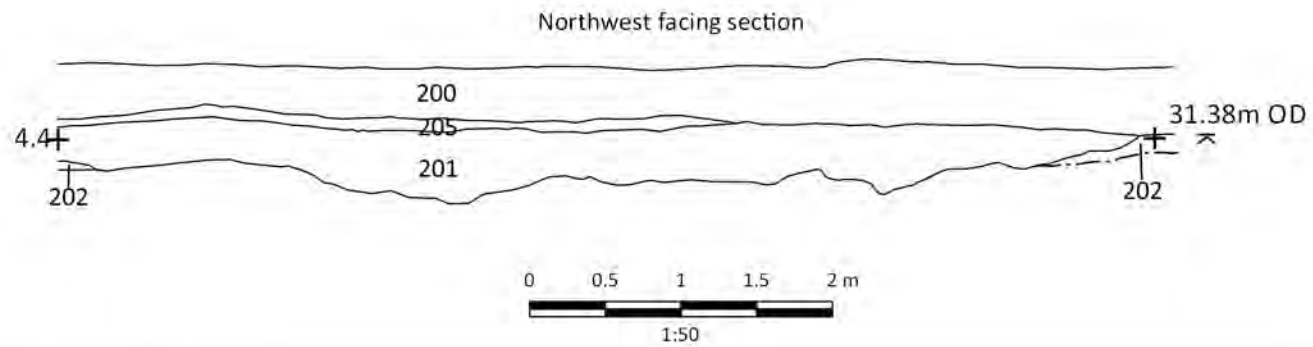
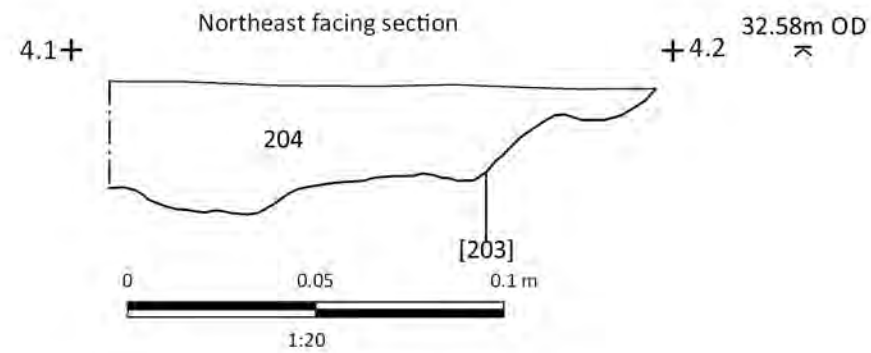
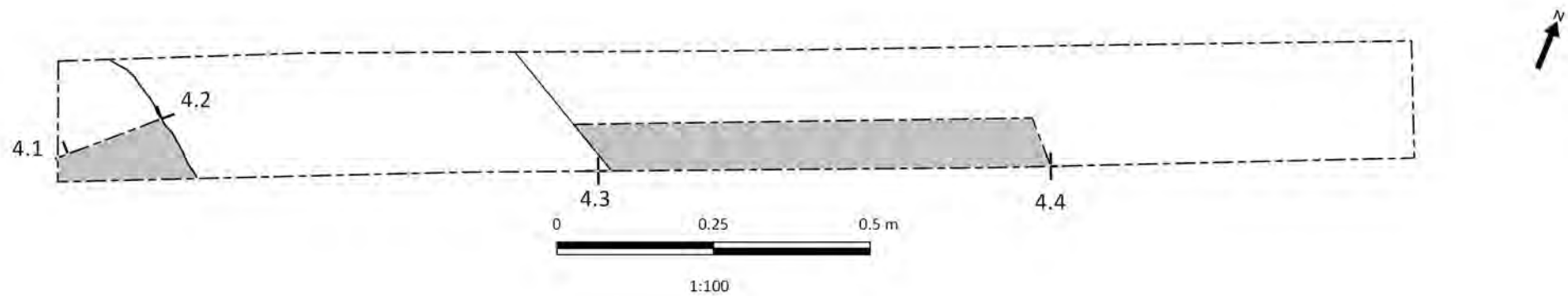
| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Site Code | GUDK 19 |
| Scale | 1:20 @ A4 |
| Drawn By | E Doe |
| Date | 08/03/2019 |

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Figure 3: Representative sections of trenches 1 and 2





| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Site Code | GUDK19 |
| Scale | 1:20, 1:50 & 1:100 @ A4 |
| Drawn By | E Doe |
| Date | 08/03/2019 |

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Figure 4: Plan and sections of Trench 2

Appendix 2: OASIS summary

OASIS ID: allenarc1-345911

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Land off Dubbs Knoll Road, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire |
| Short description of the project | Trial trenching in advance of residential development exposed one possible tree bole and modern dump layers |
| Project dates | Start: 27-02-2019 End: 28-02-2019 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | S/1586/17/OL - Planning Application No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | GUDK 19 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Current Land use | Other 13 - Waste ground |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

Project location

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE GUILDEN MORDEN Land off Dubbs Knoll Road, Guilden Morden |
| Study area | 0.3 Hectares |

Site coordinates TL 2772 4426 52.081512875681 -0.135915571878 52 04 53 N 000 08 09
W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 35m Max: 36m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Allen Archaeology Limited

Project brief City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
originator

Project design Chris Clay
originator

Project Chris Clay
director/manager

Project supervisor Emily Doe

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding body

Name of Paul and Page Limited
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
recipient

Digital Archive ID ECB 5814

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB 5814

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished
Text"

Project bibliography

1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT: TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND ADJOINING 11 DUBBS KNOLL ROAD, GILDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE |
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