

Parkside Fire & Rescue Station, Cambridge

An Archaeological Evaluation.



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THE PARKSIDE FIRE & RESCUE STATION, CAMBRIDGE

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Summary

A trench-based evaluation, comprising three trenches covering a combined total of 449m², was undertaken at the Parkside Fire & Rescue Station site, Cambridge, between the 12th and the 21st of September 2011. This revealed that the site had previously been subject to intensive gravel quarrying activity. Although no earlier, pre-quarry features had survived, two distinct types of quarry pit were identified. The first of these consisted of a series of haphazardly arranged sub-oval features, one of which was found to contain abraded Roman pottery (although the majority of these quarries appear most likely to have been medieval in origin). Subsequently, however, during the 17th century, the site became the focus of more intensive 'strip-type' extraction techniques. A large number of deep, straight-sided linear pits were inserted at this time, and between them these features removed almost all of the remaining natural gravel. Following the Inclosure of the site in 1807, its by now irregular and uneven terrain was landscaped and a relatively high-status villa – Peters Field (or Petersfield) House – was constructed. This was finally demolished in 1963-4 in order to allow the erection of the Parkside Fire & Rescue Station.

Introduction

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook a trench-based evaluation within a 0.54ha area of land located in the southern part of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, between the 12th and the 21st of September 2011. The development area is situated on the northern edge of Parker's Piece, immediately to the northwest of East Road. It is bounded to the northwest by Cambridge Central Police Station, to the southwest by Parkside and to the northeast by an external property boundary (see Figure 1). The site, which previously housed Cambridge's Fire & Rescue Station, is centred on TL 4572 5822 and lies approximately 500m to the southeast of the historic core of the town. An earlier, test pit-based investigation was conducted here by the CAU in July 2010 (Newman 2010b). The scope of this work was severely limited, however, as at this time the Fire & Rescue Station remained in active use. During the present evaluation, in contrast – which was conducted following the building's demolition – three trenches (covering a combined area of 449m²) were excavated. These were positioned in such a way as to sample the widest possible spectrum of the area. Their locations were again limited, however, in this instance by the presence of the current site offices, a former diesel sump, a 20th century basement and a series of newly installed pile foundations. The location of these trenches is shown in Figure 1. The project followed a specification issued by the CAU (Standring 2011) and was monitored by Dan McConnell, Development Control Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (formerly CAPCA). It was commissioned by Grosvenor Developments Ltd, in advance of the construction of a new Fire & Rescue Station and associated housing.

Methodology

Prior to the commencement of the evaluation, all pre-existing structures at the site were demolished (with the exception of an active electricity sub-station). Furthermore, a concrete layer that had formerly comprised a car park surface across the majority of the north-eastern half of the development area was also removed. In their place a 0.30m to 0.50m thick pile mat, consisting of building rubble and hardcore, had been introduced. Along with an underlying layer of 19th century garden soil, this material was removed within the area of each trench by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. Where appropriate, the trench edges were stepped in order to maintain their stability. All archaeological deposits were then recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS system (Spence 1994); quarry pits were sample-excavated to a degree sufficient to understand and characterise their dating and chronology. Base plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50, whilst sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Context numbers are indicated within the text by square brackets (*e.g.* [01]), and feature by the prefix F. (*e.g.* F.01). The photographic archive consists of a series of digital images.

Landscape and Geology

Due to the extensive program of demolition and levelling activity outlined above, the present ground surface of the development area was relatively even and lay at around 12.10m OD. Geologically, the site is situated upon 3rd Terrace river gravels (British Geological Survey, Sheet 188), and pale yellow sandy gravels were encountered at 11.53m OD. It should be noted, however, that untruncated natural was only present in the north-eastern corner of Trench 1.

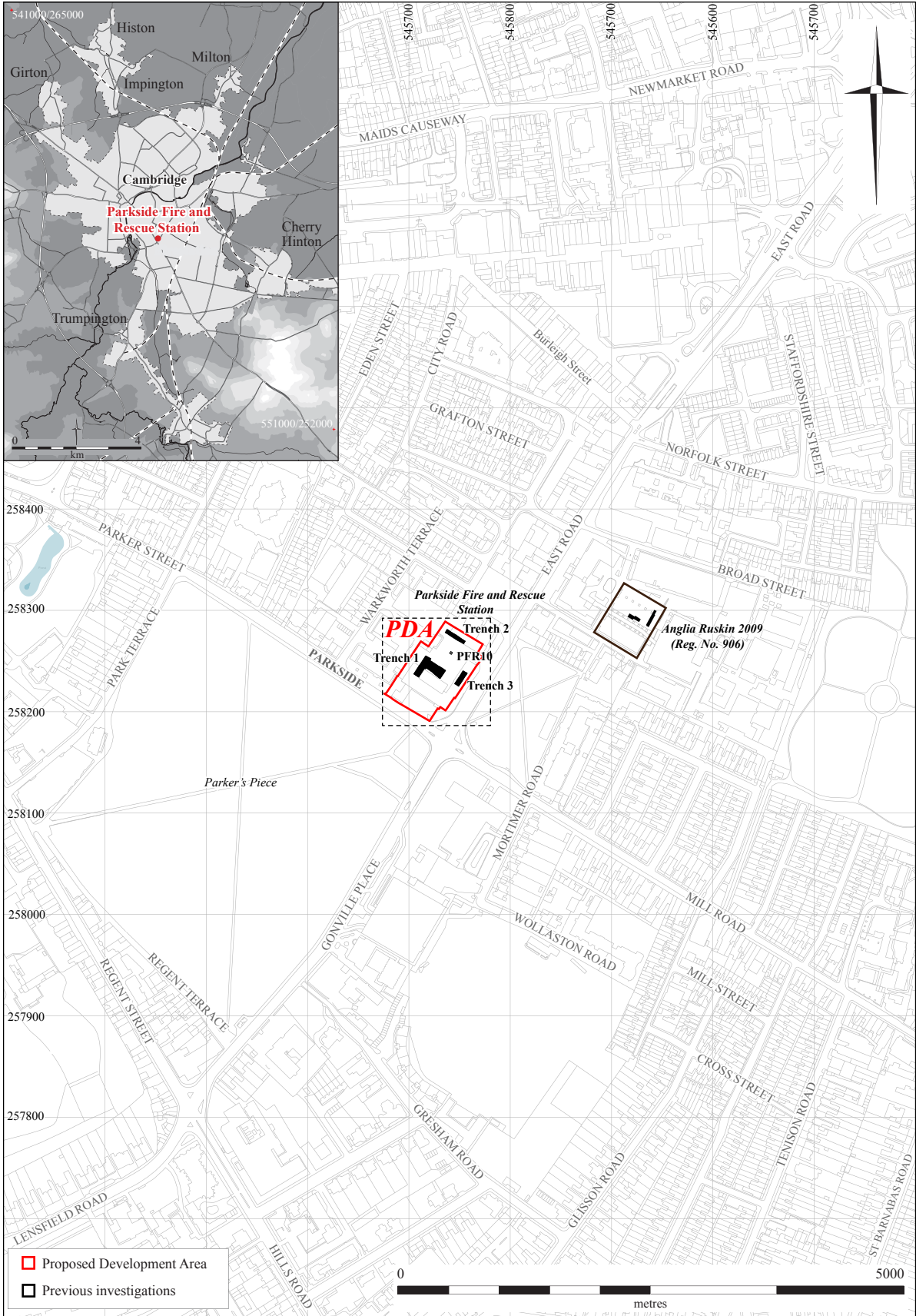


Figure 1. Site Location.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The historical and archaeological background of the site has been covered in depth in a previous desktop assessment (Dickens & Appleby 2006), whilst the wider background of Cambridge itself is reviewed in several published sources (e.g. Cam 1959; Lobel 1975; Bryan 1999; Taylor 1999). This information is not therefore reproduced here in full. Nevertheless, it is necessary to briefly outline the background of the area in order to place the site securely within its wider context.

Aside from occasional stray surface finds (see Browne 1974, map 8) no evidence of Prehistoric activity has previously been encountered in the vicinity of the development area. Indeed, with the exception of a single Late Bronze Age pit that was identified some way to the south at the Brooklands site (Cooper 2004, 14), the earliest detectable anthropogenic impact upon the landscape of this area appears to be Roman in date. A number of Roman features have previously been identified within the surrounding southern hinterland of Cambridge (although the majority of these are located between 0.5km and 1.5km to the south the present site). Perhaps most significantly, a number of probable Roman gravel quarry pits have been identified at the Old Cattle Market and CB1 Development sites. It has been suggested that these may have related to extraction activity associated with the construction and/or maintenance of the nearby ‘*Via Devana*’, or Cambridge to Godmanchester road (Mackay 2001, 24; Mackay 2006, 17-18; Slater 2010, 17). Although the precise route of this road is not known, it appears to have broadly followed the course of present day Hills Road (cf. Walker 1910, 166-7; RCHM(E) 1959, 6) and thus lay some distance to the west of the current site. Elsewhere within the area, a small number of Roman features have also been encountered at the Unilever, Brooklands and Homerton College sites (Dickens 1999, 7-9; Armour 2002, 12-13; Alexander 1997, 5-7; Webb & Dickens 2006, 10), although the relatively dispersed nature of these features – and the paucity of material remains encountered within them – indicates that they were all situated within the outlying rural hinterland of the town at this time. The dominant impression of this part of Cambridge during the Roman period is therefore one of a series of scattered rural farmsteads, many of which appear to have been situated along the aforementioned road within an otherwise relatively unoccupied hinterland (see also Evans *et al.* 2008).

This pattern indicates that the probability of encountering Roman features at the Parkside Fire & Rescue Station site is slight. Much more certain, however, is the fact that – from at least the 11th century onwards – the site was situated within the eastern agricultural fringe of the burgeoning town. Whilst much less intensively studied than the West Fields of Cambridge (see, for example, Maitland 1898; Hall & Ravensdale 1976), the documentary evidence relating to the development of the contemporary East Fields has also been subject to historical analysis (Stokes 1915; Hesse 2007). This work has demonstrated that the field network developed from probable pre-Conquest origins, apparently doubling in size between the 11th and 14th centuries (Hesse 2007, 156-58). The development area thus originally formed part of a belt of common pasture/moorland surrounding the eastern fringe of Cambridge, upon which open arable fields were quickly established. These provided demesne lands for the Augustinian priory at Barnwell from the early 12th century until its dissolution in 1538 (Clark 1891). The site itself remained open until 1807, when it was finally inclosed. At this time, the site was subdivided into two adjoining allotments; one of these was awarded to Peterhouse College, who sub-let it to Emmanuel College, and

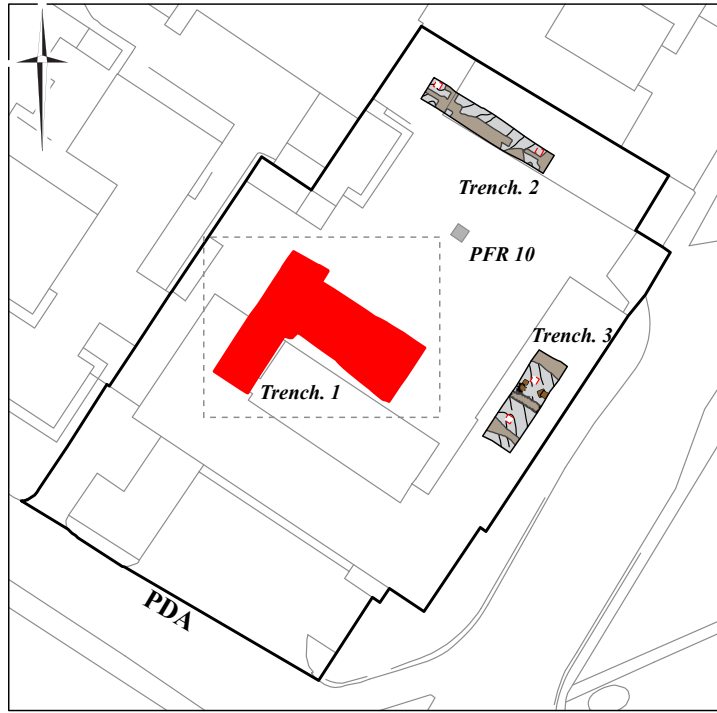
the other to a Rev. H. Bullen (Dickens & Appleby 2006, 8). As occurred elsewhere in Cambridge, the process of inclosure led to the attendant possibility of marked suburban expansion (see Bryan & Wise 2005, 202-3). By 1830, the southeastern corner of the site had been occupied by Peters Field (or Petersfield) House. Baker's map of 1830 depicts this as a large property, with a sweeping driveway to the front and formal gardens at the rear (see Dickens & Appleby 2006, Fig. 4). During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a number of additional buildings – representing the creation of at least one further property – were also constructed at the site (see the Ordnance Survey 1888, 1903, 1927 and 1938 maps; Dickens & Appleby 2006, Fig's 7-11). These structures remained standing until widespread demolition in 1963-64 allowed the construction of the first phase Fire & Rescue Station.

Results

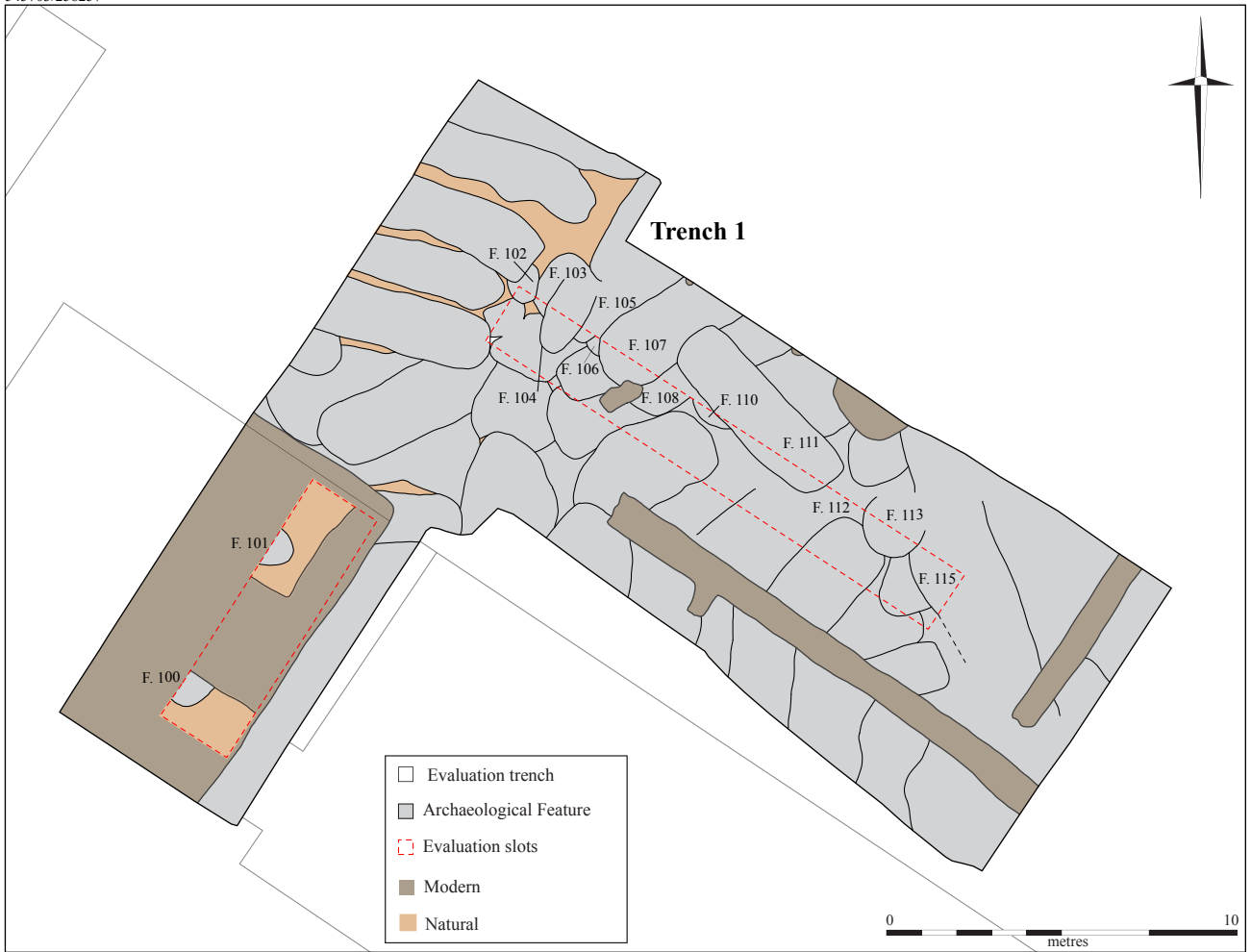
The earliest surviving features to be identified at this site comprised an extensive horizon of pits that shared both a similar morphology and a distinctive fill. Although largely indistinguishable from later features in plan, due to extensive intercutting, the presence of a distinct 'group' of early pits became immediately apparent in section (see Figure 3). In general, these features appear to have been irregularly sub-oval in form and relatively shallow in depth. In many instances, they also appear to have contained noticeably higher quotients of subsoil and redeposited natural within their matrices than many of the succeeding horizon of intensive quarry pits. Although their precise distribution is hard to determine, due to the extent of later truncation and obfuscation, it is clear that examples of this quarry-type were present in all three of the trenches investigated (although they were most readily identifiable in Trench 1). It therefore appears likely that the majority of the site was subjected to low-level extraction activity of this kind. The rather haphazard pattern and relatively small size of these pits, however, suggests that in its initial form this activity may have been somewhat *ad hoc* and sporadic in nature. This interpretation is also underlined by the paucity of material culture that was present within these features. Only a single sherd of pottery was recovered, for example, from **F.105**; this consisted of a small, abraded fragment of Roman oxidised sandy ware. As it was found in association with two fragments of medieval (13th century or later) tile, however, it was most probably residual in nature.

Excavated examples of this early quarry type, which included **F.102**, **F.103**, **F.105**, **F.106**, **F.109**, **F.112** and **F.114**, varied between 0.98m+ to 1.66m+ in length and 0.21m+ to 0.87m+ in width and were of irregular sub-oval form. Each contained very similar banded deposits of mid yellowish brown silty sandy gravels, with occasional lenses of mid to pale brown sandy silt and relatively few inclusions. They each had moderately sloping concave sides and varied in depth between 0.24m+ to 0.38m+ (having probably originally been *c.* 0.20m deeper, prior to truncation).

By far the most common feature-type to be encountered during the evaluation of this site was the so-called 'strip-quarry', of which a large number of examples were identified (see Figures 2-5). These features – which are typified by their linear, frequently sub-rectangular form – were most readily identifiable in Trench 1, where a relatively low level of modern truncation was present. For this reason, Trench 1 was not only the most extensively excavated trench by area but also the most intensively investigated archaeologically. In the first instance, a machine-dug slot was inserted along the central axis of the trench in order to elucidate the stratigraphic sequence. Once recorded in section (Figure 3), the features that were thus revealed were then sample-excavated in order to facilitate the recovery of securely provenanced material.



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Figure 2. Plan of Trench 1.

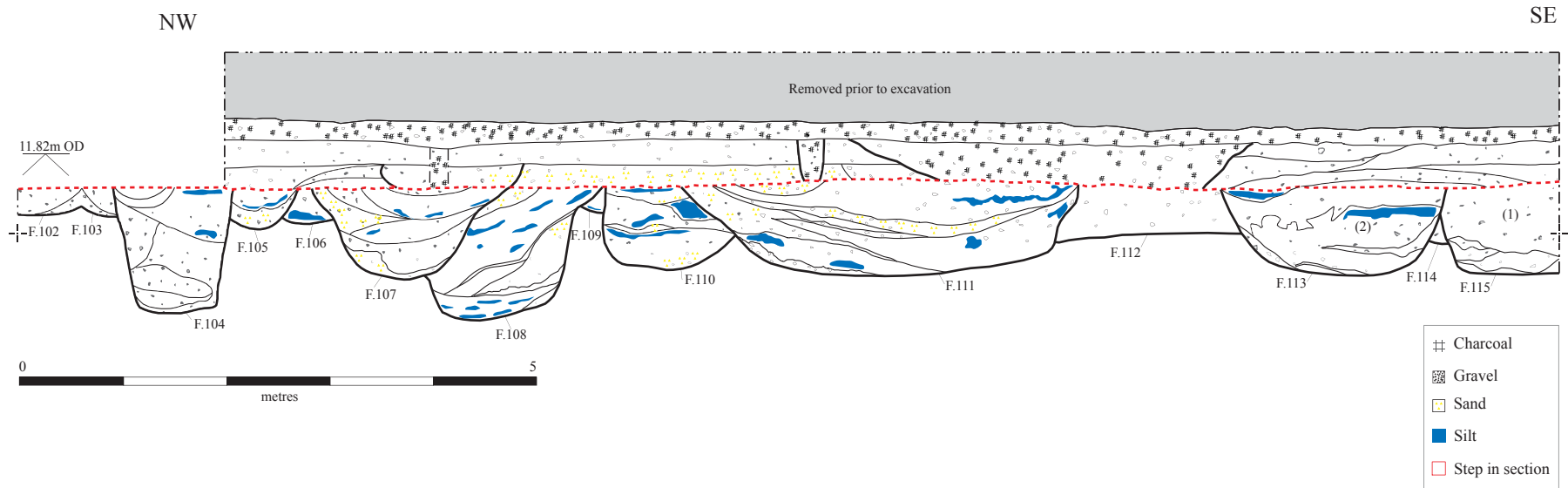
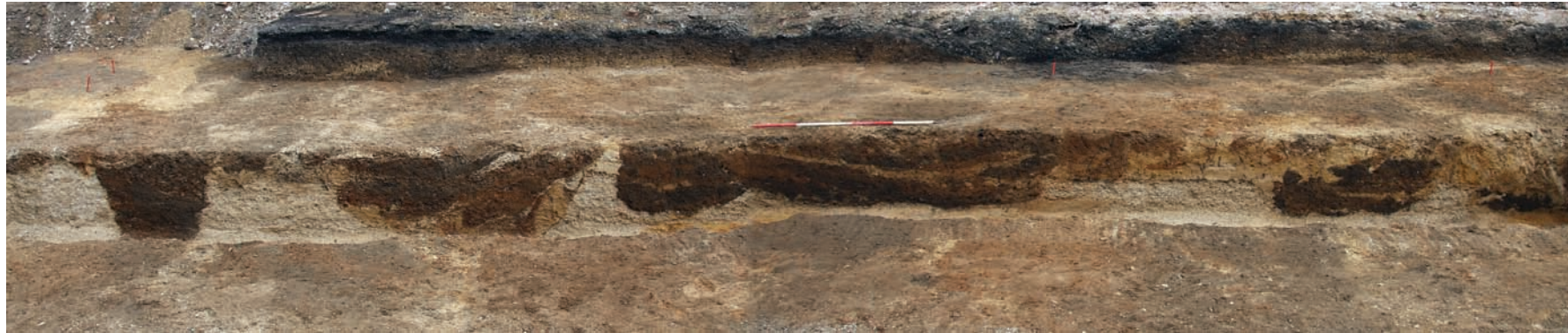
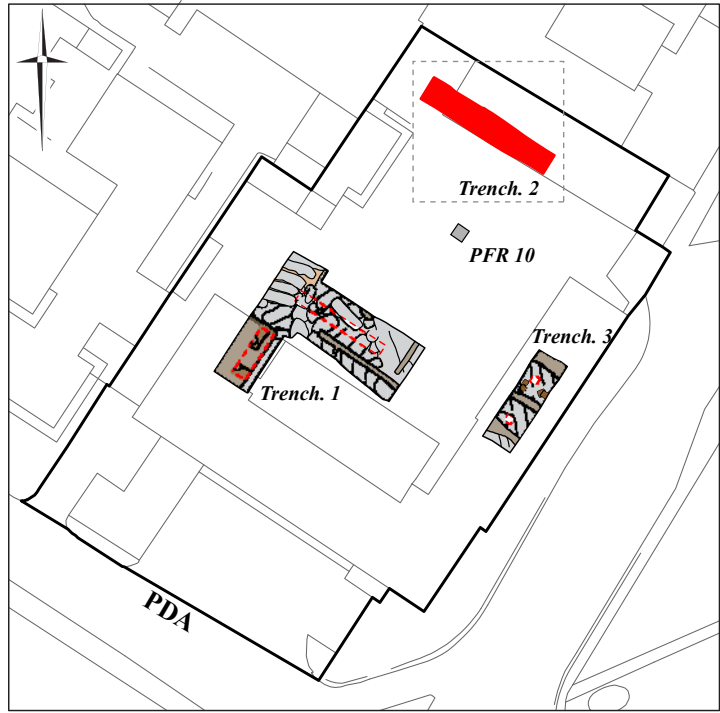
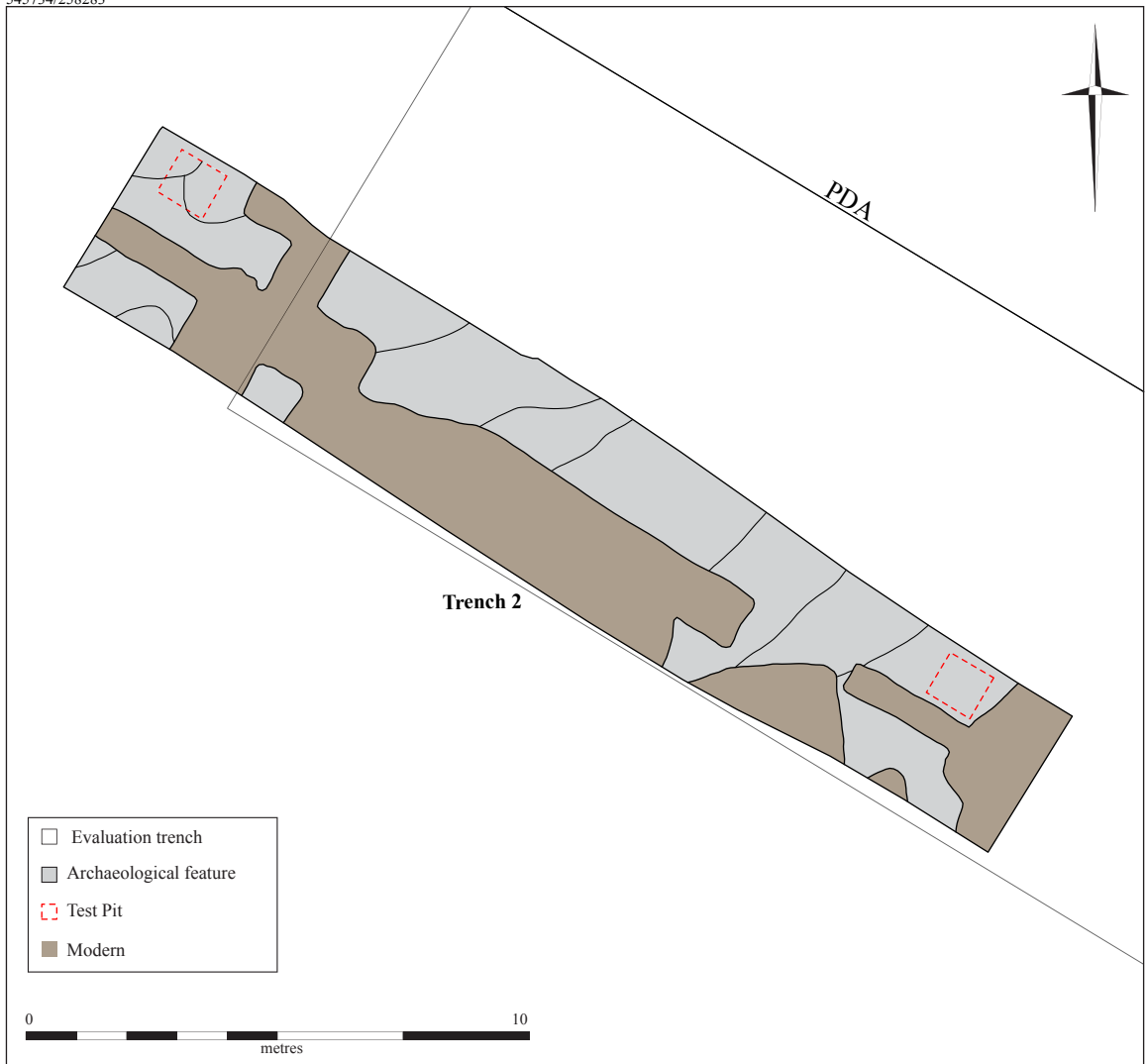


Figure 3. Photograph and section through quarry features in Trench 1

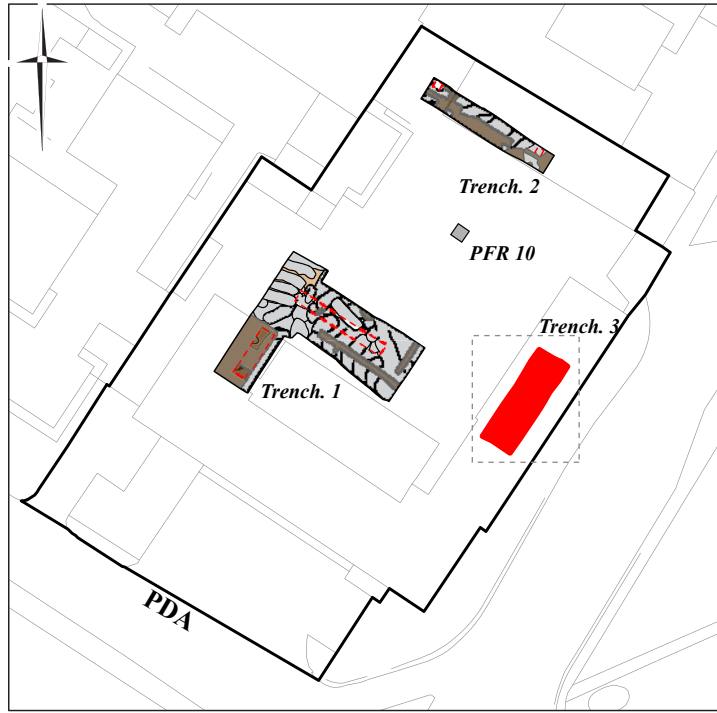


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Figure 4. Plan of Trench 2.



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Figure 5. Plan of Trench 3.



Figure 6. Test pit 2A, facing north (A) Test Pit 2B, facing north (B); Test pit 3A, facing south (C); Test pit 3B, facing south (D).

By way of contrast, however, in Trenches 2 and 3 the quarry pit horizon had been extensively disturbed and obscured by 20th century wall foundations (see Figures 4 and 5). As a result, hand-dug test pits were inserted at either end of these trenches in order to determine whether a similar pattern of activity was present (see Figure 6). In each instance, within both Trench 1 and the four test pits located in Trenches 2 and 3, a very consistent pattern of activity was identified. This took the form of a series of distinctive, linear pits that were consistently deeper than the sub-oval quarries which had constituted the preceding horizon. Furthermore, these features shared characteristic, banded fills along with a small but tightly datable assemblage of material culture. The latter, which included both clay tobacco pipes and pottery, indicates that the majority of these features are 17th century in date. The strip-quarries do not appear to represent a single, continuous phase of activity, however, but rather an intensive period of episodic extraction. This is indicated by the presence of discrete groups of pits, usually comprising clusters of between five and ten examples, which share a common alignment. Different ‘groups’ frequently intercut (see especially Figure 2), thereby indicating that they represent temporally distinct episodes of quarrying activity. Based upon these results, it is now clear that the test pit which was excavated in 2010 (Newman 2010b) was most probably located entirely within one, or else a closely adjacent group, of these large strip-quarries.

Excavated examples of the strip-quarry type – which included **F.100, F.101, F.104, F.107, F.108, F.110, F.111, F.113, F.115, F.200, F.201, F.202, F.203, F.300, F.301, F.302** and **F.303** – varied between 1.23m+ to 3.00m+ in length and 0.48m to 1.02m in width and were of elongated linear sub-rectangular/sub-oval form. In almost every instance, they contained banded/slumped deposits consisting of varying degrees of: collapsed/redeposited pale yellow sandy gravels and pea grit; mid orangey brown sandy silt with occasional to rare gravel and charcoal inclusions, and; mid brown sandy clay silt with occasional gravels and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. These bands were frequently pitched at steeply sloping angles, indicative of rapid redeposition/backfilling (see Figure 3). In general, the strip-quarries had steeply sloping to near vertical sides leading to relatively flat bases and they varied in depth between 0.86m+ to 1.92m+. Notably, the two test pits excavated in Trench 2, at the northern end of the site, encountered significantly deeper quarry pits than those that were identified elsewhere at the site. Indeed, whereas the majority of strip quarries bottomed out at around 10.30m OD, those in Trench 2 extended to 9.65m OD. This implies that the gravel band which formed the focus of the extraction activity gradually deepens to the north.

Once the quarrying activity had been concluded, a pitted, almost ‘lunar’ landscape appears to have predominated across much of the site. Evidence of this surface irregularity, in the form of upcast mounds of waste material, was clearly visible in section (Figure 3). Although partially denuded, the scale of the surviving upcast indicates that the site did not return to horticultural use following the conclusion of the intensive phase of extraction. Instead, the irregularities only appear to have become sealed in the 19th century when the area was incorporated into Cambridge’s rapidly expanding suburban fringe; at this time, the majority of the area was landscaped for use as a formal garden. A series of unexcavated square pits in Trench 3, whose upper surfaces contained 19th century ceramics and clay tobacco pipe fragments, appear to have been associated with this phase, as was an associated posthole alignment (see Figure 5). Subsequently, in 1963-64, the 19th century buildings were demolished. A large machine-excavated pit of this date was encountered in Trench 1. This contained significant quantities of moulded stone and ceramic building materials, which were clearly derived from the demolition of a prestigious 19th century structure. Finally, wall foundations and drainage features associated with the original Fire & Rescue Station itself were also encountered in all three trenches.

The widespread 19th century garden/landscaping deposit, which was encountered in all three trenches, primarily consisted of a layer of mid to dark brown humic clay silt with occasional to frequent gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions; it measured 0.25m thick on average. Notably, in those areas where significant upcast deposits had survived from the preceding phase of quarrying activity, this layer became markedly more banded (see Figure 3). Above the landscaping deposit lay a relatively firm dark black organic silt layer with occasional CBM and charcoal fleck inclusions. This was again present in all three trenches, and measured 0.19m deep on average. The widespread presence of partially rotted organic matter within this deposit indicates that it is most likely to represent the clearance or levelling of the garden area prior to the construction of the first phase Fire & Rescue Station. Elements of this same material were also incorporated into the majority of the 1960s features that were present in all three trenches. In particular, this included the bases of two drainage cuts, a minimum of two pits and two postholes in Trench 1, along with a series of pits/depressions in Trench 2. The remaining modern features, which were encountered in Trenches 2 and 3, represent the wall footings of 1960s structures that were partially removed and/or disturbed during the recently completed demolition process (see Figures 4 and 5).

Material Culture

A small assemblage of material culture was recovered during the evaluation at the Parkside Fire & Rescue Station site. This group – which includes pottery, clay tobacco pipe, moulded stone and worked flint – has been subdivided by material type and is discussed in detail below.

Pottery (Richard Newman with Katie Anderson)

A small pottery assemblage – consisting of 29 sherds, weighing 169g – was recovered during the present evaluation (see Table 1).

Period	Fabric	Count	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
<i>Roman</i>	Oxidised Sandy Ware	5	25	5
	Sandy Grey Ware	5	25	5
	Shelly Ware	1	8	8
<i>Medieval</i>	Grimston Ware	1	2	2
	Essex Red Ware	2	30	15
	Surrey Borders Ware	1	8	8
<i>Post-Medieval</i>	Glazed Red Earthenware	6	26	3.2
	German Stoneware	1	4	4
	Iron-glazed Earthenware	1	4	4
<i>Modern</i>	Chinese Export Porcelain	1	5	5
	Staffordshire-type Slipware	1	3	3
	Refined White Earthenware	4	29	7.2
		29	169	5.8

Table 1: Stratified pottery by fabric.

In the first instance, 11 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 58g, were identified. All of these sherds were heavily abraded, however, and occurred residually within later features. The fabrics present – which included Oxidised Sandy Ware, Sandy Grey Ware and Shelly Ware – were undiagnostic, and can only be dated generically to between the 1st and 4th centuries AD. Amongst these fragments was a rim sherd derived from a possible lid-seated vessel. Also present were four sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 40g. These included a sherd of 13th to 15th century Grimston Ware, two sherds of 14th to 15th century Essex Red Ware and a sherd of 14th to 16th century Surrey Borders Ware. In addition, eight sherds of post-medieval pottery were identified. These included six sherds of 16th to 17th century Glazed Red Earthenware, a sherd of 16th to 17th century German Stoneware and a sherd of 17th to 18th century Iron-glazed Earthenware. Although small, this group of medieval and post-medieval wares is relatively typical of assemblages frequently encountered at contemporary Cambridge sites (see Edwards & Hall 1997). Finally, six sherds of modern pottery were also recovered. These included a sherd of 18th century Chinese Export Porcelain, a sherd of 18th century Staffordshire-type Slipware and four sherds of 19th century Refined White Earthenware.



A



B

Figure 7. Redeposited moulded stones recovered from Trench 1 (A) and Trench 3 (B)

Clay Tobacco Pipe (Craig Cessford)

In total, six complete or partially complete clay tobacco pipe bowls were recovered during the present evaluation. In addition, a number of clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were also present; these are undiagnostic, however, and were not retained. In general, the presence of clay tobacco pipe fragments in a context indicates a date between late 16th to early 20th centuries (c. 1580-1910). Bowls can be dated more closely dated on typological grounds, however, with reference to Oswald's general typology (Oswald 1975). In the first instance, three type 16 bowls (dating to c. 1610-40) were identified from **F.113**, **F.201** and **[1004]**. Also present was a type 4 bowl (dating to c. 1600-40) from **F.300**, and two incomplete bowls dating to c. 1660-1760 and c. 1730-1820 from **[2009]** and **[3001]** respectively. No maker's marks or other distinguishing decorations were present.

Moulded Stone (Richard Newman)

A relatively large quantity of moulded stone was encountered as residual material within modern features during the course of the evaluation. In particular, two large groups of architectural fragments were encountered in Trenches 1 and 3 respectively (see Figure 7). In both instances, the blocks were machine-cut, and were clearly 19th century in origin. In Trench 1, within a large, 1960s machine-excavated feature, a broad range of blocks had been redeposited. These included two fragments of dressed ashlar (most probably for quoining), an elaborate edging slab from a decorative pavement, and three jambs with simple roll mouldings that were derived from matching window/door surrounds (Figure 7A). In Trench 2, a very similar range of material was present within the footings of the first phase Fire & Rescues Station's single storey workshop range. Here, at least five dressed ashlar quoins were identified, along with a probable voussoir or keystone (Figure 7B). The various elements which comprise this assemblage are entirely consistent with the relatively high-status building materials that are likely to have been employed within the fabric of the early 19th century villa – variously known as Peters Field (or Petersfield) House – that previously occupied this site. As each of the blocks was highly fragmentary in nature, they most probably represent material that was discarded following this structure's demolition in 1963-64.

Worked Flint (Richard Newman with Emma Beadsmoore)

Two worked flint flakes were recovered during the present evaluation. The first of these consisted of a utilised secondary flake, of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, which occurred residually within **F.200**. The second comprised a retouched, chronologically non-diagnostic waste flake of generic late Prehistoric origin. This was recovered as residual material from **[2003]**.

Discussion

The relatively small quantity of Prehistoric and Roman material that was recovered from this site, all of which occurred residually within later features, is broadly consistent with a general level of 'background noise' as opposed to being indicative of intensive contemporary activity. As such, these assemblages most probably represent material that was introduced during manuring, or other similarly-related agricultural practices. This does not of course preclude the possibility that a small number of discrete features of Prehistoric or Roman date were once present within the development area, but the sheer scale of the subsequent phases of truncation is likely to have removed any or all traces of their existence. Instead, the archaeological sequence at the Parkside Fire & Rescue Station site was dominated by a series of intensive, intercutting quarry pits. Extraction activity appears to have begun here during the medieval or early post-medieval period, but reached its apogee in the first half of the 17th century.

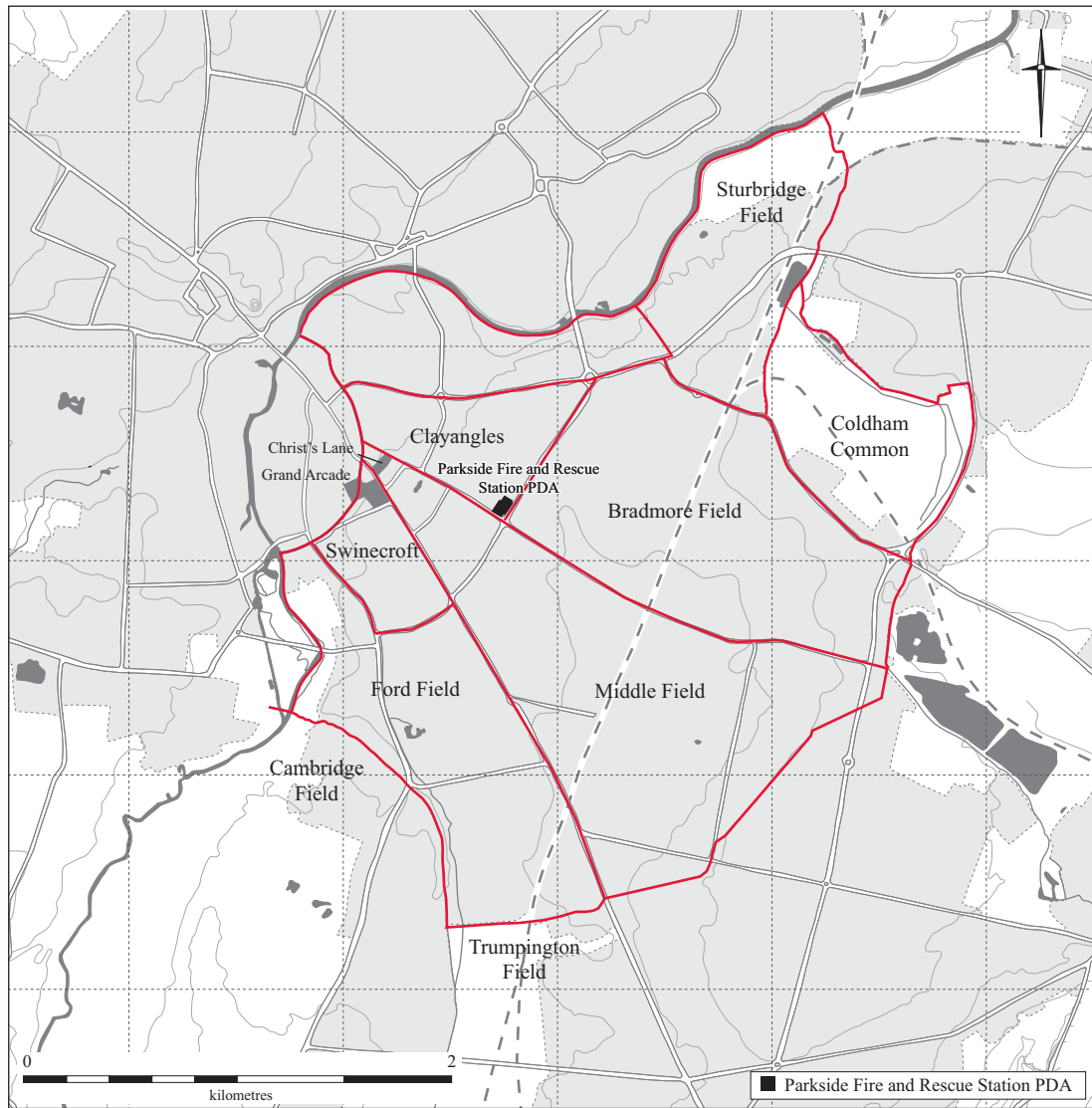


Figure 8. The location of the PDA within the East Fields of Cambridge

Notably, a very similar pattern of quarrying activity – in which an initial phase of haphazard, sub-oval pits was later succeeded by a horizon of features indicative of a more intensive, ‘strip-type’ extraction technique – has recently been identified on the north-western outskirts of Cambridge (e.g. Newman 2008, 14; Newman 2010a, 93-96). Perhaps most significantly, at the Kavli Institute for Cosmology site a number of features dating to the 15th to 17th centuries were investigated (Newman 2008, 10-17). The earliest pits in this sequence, much like those at the present site, appear to have been created on a relatively infrequent, *ad hoc* basis. But, by the 17th century, these irregular features had been succeeded by a much more formalised pattern of linear strip quarries. It therefore appears that the prime agricultural land upon which the site was situated, on the fringe of the West Fields of Cambridge, was gradually sacrificed in order to satisfy the burgeoning demand for construction materials in the urban core of the town (Hall & Ravensdale 1976, 27-30). It is very likely that a similar pattern of encroachment is represented by the sequence at the Parkside Fire & Rescue Station site.

Unlike the West Fields quarries, however, which are specifically mentioned in contemporary documents – most notably the 14th century *Corpus Terrier*, or *Terrarium Cantabrigiae* (Hall & Ravensdale 1976) – the precise date of the initial phase of quarrying at the present site is unclear. On the one hand, it is likely that an ever-advancing ‘fringe’ of gravel extraction activity gradually radiated outwards from the town during the medieval period. The ‘out-sourcing’ of gravel in this way was rendered necessary because, at many sites located within the historic core of the town, all of the immediately available sources of this material appear to have been exhausted by the end of the 13th century. This implies that the features at the present site may be relatively early in date. Conversely, however, the fact that the site lay with the demesne of Barnwell Priory until 1538 suggests that extraction activity may only have commenced following the priory’s dissolution. Rather more certain, given the datable material culture that was recovered, is the marked intensification of quarrying during the early 17th century. At this time, a large number of strip-quarries were inserted across the majority of the area. Furthermore, very similar features were also encountered during a recent evaluation conducted at the nearby Anglia Ruskin University site (Webb 2009, 5-6; see also Figure 1), indicating that this was a relatively widespread phenomenon in the area. Strip-quarries are characterised by their elongated, sub-rectangular form and close parallel alignment. Their distinctive shape appears to have been created via a process of ‘worm-like’ excavation, during which waste material was discarded to the rear of an ever advancing working-face. In effect, therefore, they represent the vestiges of an early form of open-cast mining. For this reason such features are frequently associated with large-scale, often commercial gravel extraction. In this context, it is certainly striking to note that the ‘industrialisation’ of the extraction process in this manner appears to have occurred broadly contemporaneously in both the town’s East and West Fields. The absence of diagnostically 18th century material in both locations also implies that this was a relatively short-lived practice, and suggests that the focus of activity rapidly shifted elsewhere.

The development area most probably formed an attractive location for intensive quarrying activity on this scale because of its proximity to both the nearby town, and to two immediately adjacent roads (see Figure 8). The presence of the latter, in particular, would have greatly facilitated the loading and transportation of large

quantities of aggregates. Significantly, the first of these roads, present-day Parkside, is known to have originally comprised medieval *Hintuneweie* (or ‘Hinton Way’). Even more pertinently, however, the second – East Road – was formerly known as *Gravel Pit Road*, a name which remained in use until 1826 (Stokes 1915, 59-60). Despite the presence of these two routeways, however, and the consequent appeal of this location for a wide variety of possible activities, it is clear that the scale of post-medieval quarrying has removed all traces of any preceding archaeological features. The further archaeological potential of the site is therefore minimal.

Acknowledgments

The project was commissioned by Grosvenor Developments Ltd and the fieldwork was monitored by Dan McConnell, Development Control Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (formerly CAPCA). The project was managed for the CAU by Alison Dickens and the evaluation was directed by Richard Newman. It was undertaken in the field with the assistance of Craig Cessford, Jacqui Hutton and Alistair Wright. The site survey was undertaken by Bryan Crossan, who also produced the graphics for this report. Craig Cessford kindly read and commented upon a draft of this text.

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Oasis Form

OASIS ID: cambridg3-111271	
Project Details	
Project name	Parkside Fire and Rescue Station, Cambridge
Short description of the project	A trench-based evaluation, comprising three trenches, was undertaken at the Parkside Fire and Rescue Station site, Cambridge, between the 12th and the 21st of September 2011. This revealed that the site had previously been subject to intensive gravel quarrying activity. Although no earlier, pre-quarry features had survived, two distinct types of quarry pit were identified. The first of these consisted of a series of haphazardly arranged sub-oval features, one of which was found to contain abraded Roman pottery (although the majority of these quarries appear most likely to have been medieval in origin). Subsequently, however, during the 17th century, the site became the focus of more intensive 'strip-type' extraction techniques. A large number of deep, straight-sided linear pits were inserted at this time, and between them these features removed almost all of the remaining natural gravel. Following the Inclosure of the site in 1807, its by now irregular and uneven terrain was landscaped and a relatively high-status villa - Peters Field (or Petersfield) House - was constructed. This was finally demolished in 1963-4 in order to allow the erection of the Parkside Fire and Rescue Station.
Project dates	Start: 12-09-2011 End: 21-09-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3675 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	PFR 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Medieval
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project Location	
Country	England

Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE Parkside Fire and Rescue Station, Cambridge
Postcode	CB1 1JF
Study area	0.54 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4572 5822 52.2024918654 0.132597575267 52 12 08 N 000 07 57 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.65m Max: 11.53m
Project Creators	
Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Robin Standing
Project director/manager	Alison Dickens
Project supervisor	Richard Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Grosvenor Developments Ltd
Project Archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	PFR11
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	PFR11
Digital Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	PFR11
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Section'
Project Bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Parkside Fire and Rescue Station, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, R.
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