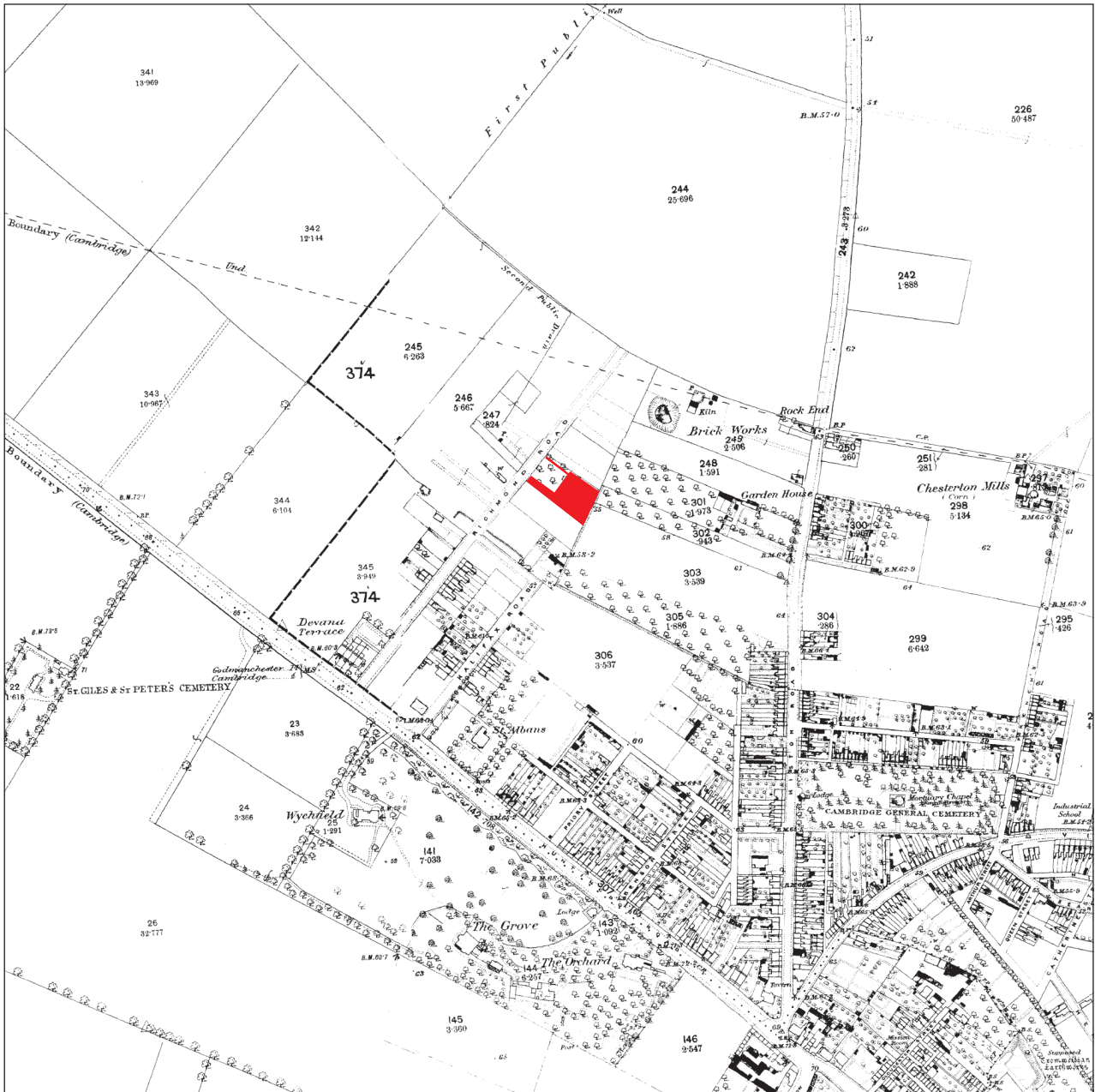


# 82 Richmond Road, Cambridgeshire

## An Archaeological Evaluation.



Jacqui Hutton

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



**82 Richmond Road, Cambridge;  
An Archaeological Evaluation**

**Jacqui Hutton**

©Cambridge Archaeological Unit  
Department of archaeology  
University of Cambridge

Report No. 1085  
Event No. ECB 3749  
May 2012

*A team from Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation at 82 Richmond Road, Cambridge. The trenches produced no archaeological evidence apart from one modern pit and one small pit dated to the Post-Medieval period. The lack of other earlier archaeological features implies that the site lies outside the known settlement areas recorded from previous excavations carried out within the surrounding landscape.*

## **Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 82 Richmond Road, Cambridge (NGR TL 4411 5997) on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The monitoring followed a written scheme of investigation set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Beadsmoore 2012) in response to a design brief issued by Cambridge Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (McConnell 2011)

Three trenches were placed in the Proposed Development Area (PDA) in compliance to permissible access and minimal disturbance to the trees surrounding the site. Two trenches revealed no archaeological activity; the third had one modern pit and a small pit dated to the Post-Medieval period.

## **Topography and Geology**

The site lies towards the north-western outskirts of Cambridge. The underlying geology is superficial Head or Observatory Gravels over Gault (BGS GeoIndex <http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/default.aspx>). The elevation is approximately 16.80m AOD. The site is situated within an area of residential properties; bounded to the west, north and south with wooden outbuildings and light commercial properties to the east. There were several trees within the proximity of the PDA and the ground surface comprised of a mixture of grass and gravelled and concrete tracks and parking areas.

## **Archaeological and Historical Background**

Abundant archaeology is known within the local environs and surrounding landscape from the pre-historic periods through to the Medieval period. A comprehensive historical and archaeological background of the immediate environs is outlined in a Desk Based Assessment (Appleby 2011) and therefore will only be summarised here.

The PDA once formed part of an orchard, as can be seen on the Ordnance Survey Maps of 1886 and 1888 and has remained more or less unchanged since (see Appleby 2011). Small scale evaluations have been undertaken within the immediate environs that have revealed no archaeological evidence (see Appleby Appendix 1). Although there are no known sites within the immediate environs, there have been evaluations and excavations within the surrounding landscape and the wider Cambridge area. These included prehistoric features attributed to the Bronze Age, a Middle Iron Age settlement and Romano-British settlements on the North West Cambridge site (Evans & Newman 2011). Iron Age activity was identified to the east at Marion Close, whilst Roman activity is known to the north and south (Hutton 2009, Collins 2010).

## **Investigation Strategies**

The principle objective of the evaluation was to determine the presence, absence and extent and nature of archaeological activity and to assess the degree of preservation of any features and environmental remains.

The trenches were stripped with a 360° tracked excavator with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket, which removed the topsoil and subsoil, under the careful supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The unit modified version of the MoLAS recording system was used; all relevant archaeological features were planned at 1:50, and augmented by a colour digital imagery photographic record. Archaeological features were assigned a unique number (e.g. **F.100**; bolded upon introduction within the text)

and each stratigraphically distinct episode (e.g. a cut, a fill) was recorded with a unique context number, (e.g. [001]). All exposed areas and moat sediments were metal detected using a Laser Rapiet metal detector as agreed with English Heritage. The site was surveyed into the Ordnance Survey Grid and Ordnance Datum by means of an RTK GPS unit. All work was carried out with strict adherence to Health and Safety legislation and within the recommendations of FAME.

In total 2 features were identified during the excavation, with two separate contexts assigned. The artefacts and accompanying documentation have been compiled into a stable, cross-referenced and indexed archive in Accordance MoRPHE Project managers Guide (English Heritage 2006). The archive is currently stored at the offices of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit under the project code RRC 12 and Event Number ECB3749.

## Results

The evaluation revealed two features; one was a modern pit, the other a small pit that was dated to the Post-Medieval period. There was evidence of field drains during the machining in Trench 2 suggesting that this area was previously farmland with little or no disturbance during the past 100 years. The presence of little/or no archaeological features and no material culture, suggests that the presence of any archaeological activity within this vicinity is minimal.

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was on the grassed area to the southwest of the PDA and revealed two pits; the first towards the northern end was modern in date and was not recorded. A similar pit, F.1 towards the southern end of the trench contained Post-Medieval material was recorded. There was also some tree rooting disturbance throughout the subsoil suggesting the presence of now removed trees and shrubs.

<b>Trench 1</b>							
<b>General Description</b>						<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench contained two features; a small modern pit and a small pit dated to the Post-Medieval period. The natural was brown/grey clay with patches gravel. This was overlain by a subsoil; grey/brown silty clay with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions						<b>Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.30-0.36
						<b>Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.09-0.16
						<b>Approx. Width (m)</b>	1.80
						<b>Length (m)</b>	12.70
<b>Contexts</b>							
<b>Feature No.</b>	<b>Feature Type</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Cut/Fill/ Layer</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	pit	1	F	0.52	0.18	Brick, Pottery	Post-Med
		2	C				

### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was placed in the centre of the PDA adjacent to the north-western edge of the wooden outbuildings. There were no archaeological features or material culture recovered from this trench.

<b>Trench 2</b>		
<b>General Description</b> There were no archaeological features in this trench. The topsoil was overlain by a modern deposit of gravel 0.18-0.23m thick. The natural was brown/grey clay with patches gravel. This was overlain by a subsoil; grey/brown silty clay with occasional to	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
	<b>Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.12-0.35
	<b>Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.27-0.35
	<b>Approx. Width (m)</b>	1.80
	<b>Length (m)</b>	6.20

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 was in the north-eastern part of the PDA, between the fenced boundary and wooden outbuilding away from the canopy of the surrounding trees. There were no archaeological features or material culture in this trench.

<b>Trench 3</b>		
<b>General Description</b> There were no archaeological features in this trench. The topsoil was overlain by a modern deposit of gravel 0.15-0.21m thick. The natural was brown/grey clay with patches gravel. This was overlain by a subsoil; grey/brown silty clay with occasional to	<b>Orientation</b>	NNE-SSW
	<b>Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.17-0.28
	<b>Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.25-0.26
	<b>Approx. Width (m)</b>	1.80
	<b>Length (m)</b>	4.40

## **Discussion**

The evaluation at Richmond Road revealed no archaeological features or residual artefacts pertaining to periods of previously recorded sites within the environs of the PDA. The lack of archaeological features and material culture, apart from the Post-Medieval period suggest that the PDA was outside the area of known settlement and associated field systems.

## **Acknowledgements**

Enterprise Heritage Ltd commissioned and funded the evaluation. The Project was managed by Emma Beadsmoore and monitored on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council by Dan McConnell. The machine excavation was conducted with great care by Mark from Lattenbury Services. The archaeology was excavated and interpreted by the author and Vida Rajkovača. The area was surveyed by Donald Horne and digitised by Bryan Crossan.

## **Bibliography**

Appleby, G. 2011. *82 Richmond Road, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Desktop Assessment*. Cambridge Archaeological Report No. 1015

Beadsmoore, E. 2012. *A Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at 82 Richmond Road, Cambridge*.

Collins, M 2010. *Land at NIAB HQ Site, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge: Spine Road and Phase 1B: An Archaeological Evaluation*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 970

Glazebrook, J. (ed) 1997. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource Assessment*. EAA Occasional Paper No. 3

Glazebrook, J & N. Brown (eds) 2000. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research and Agenda Strategy*. EAA Occasional Paper No. 8

Gurney, D. 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14

Hutton, J 2009. *Orchard Court, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge: An Archaeological Investigation*. Cambridge Archaeological Report No. 901

IFA 1999. *Code of Conduct: The Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

McConnell, D. 2012. *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Land to Rear 82-90 Richmond Road, Cambridge*. Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.





Figure 1. Location Plan.



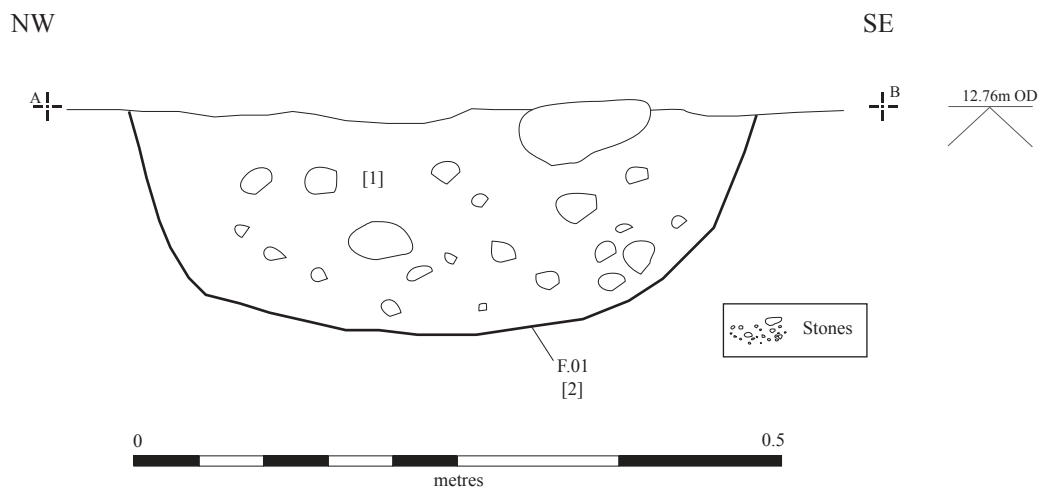
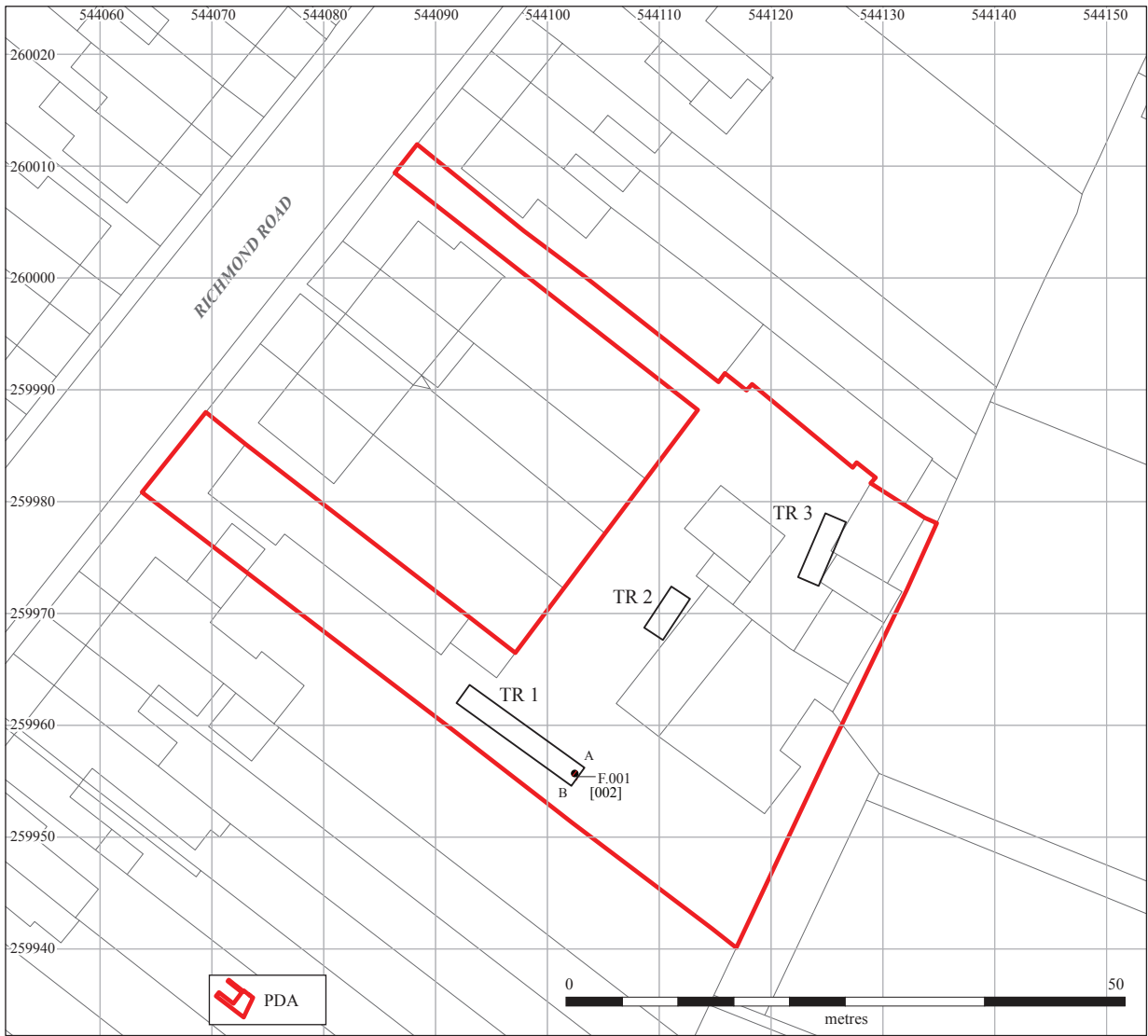


Figure 2. Plan and section of Pit in trench 1.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: cambridg3-127871**

### Project details

Project name	82 Richmond Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at 82 Richmond Road, Cambridge (NGR TL 4411 5997) on 17th May 2012. Three trenches were placed in the Proposed Development Area (PDA); two of the trenches revealed no archaeological activity; the third had one modern pit and a small pit dated to the Post-Medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 17-05-2012 End: 17-05-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RRC 12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3749 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE 82 Richmond Road
Postcode	CB3 0HL

Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4411 5996 52 0 52 13 07 N 000 06 35 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.00m Max: 1.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Emma Beadsmoore
Project director/ manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Jacqui Hutton
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	RRC 12
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	82 Richmond Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hutton, J
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
URL	<a href="http://www.oasis.ac.uk">http://www.oasis.ac.uk</a>

Entered by	Jacqui Hutton (jah99@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	1 June 2012

# OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page