

# Land off Auckland Road, Cambridge

An Archaeological Evaluation.



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## *An Archaeological Evaluation*

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July 2012

Report No. 1099

**ECB 3750**

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### ***Non Technical Summary***

*Between 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 an archaeological trench evaluation was carried on a small building plot (165 sq m) located on the east side of Auckland Road, Cambridge in advance of the construction of the Beth Shalom synagogue and community centre. Beneath a layer of modern building rubble, 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden soil and re-deposited gravel lay the truncated surface of a complex sequence of early post-medieval backfilled quarry pits and spoil dumps. These probable square and rectangular pits were all different sizes and lay adjacent to one another, some of them slightly intercutting, with others cut from the top of the subsoil or into already quarried ground. In order to best record these the 11m long trench was machined down to the underlying natural (marly gravel) surface into which the bases of a number of round to oval or moon-shaped quarry pits had been cut. None of the coarseware pottery recovered from the pit fills and quarry-spoil dump layers appeared to be later than 16<sup>th</sup> century AD in date, whilst most of these were of locally-made 15<sup>th</sup> century types. It seems likely therefore that this area of ground on the edge of the First/Second Gravel Terraces was intensively quarried and re-quarried during the 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries, prior to subsequent re-development. The late medieval (15<sup>th</sup>-century) pottery found within these quarry fills was probably re-deposited, and therefore reflects the presence of contemporary settlement within this area between Barnwell and the town of Cambridge. Also re-deposited within the quarry waste and soil backfill were a number of Mesolithic-Early Neolithic flint blades and microliths, suggesting the presence of prehistoric flint-working sites along the riverside.*

## **Introduction**

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) comprises of a small east-west aligned building plot of approx. 165 sq m on the east side of Auckland Road lying in between the end of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced house and a recently constructed two-storey building. It centred on TL 4589 5890, (Figure 1). To the rear of this plot lies a Community Orchard and allotments, whilst the front faces Auckland Road (CB5 8DW). The development will include the construction of a new synagogue (the Beth Shalom) and a community centre.

### *Topography*

The PDA lies at around 11.68m AOD at the bottom end of Auckland Road, close to the edge of the Second Gravel Terrace. Below this end of Auckland Road the footpath onto Midsummer Common drops away quite steeply; the elevation at the bottom of the Cam Valley (by the river's edge) being just 4.9m AOD rising to 12.7m AOD where Auckland Road meets Newmarket Road.

### *Geology*

The geology here is at the junction between the 1st Terrace Gravels and a thin strip of raised terrace belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Terrace Gravels. Immediately beneath, and to the east of here along Riverside lies the outcrop of the underlying Gault Clay, but below the site itself on Midsummer Common this clay is overlain by alluvium. Beneath the site the Gault sub-crop is at a depth of little more than 2.5 – 3m. However, some 40m to the south and upslope of the PDA, Newmarket Road follows the edge of the Third Gravel Terrace (BGS 1974).

## **Archaeological background**

### *Prehistoric*

Archaeological finds made within the Midsummer Common/Riverside area suggest evidence for scattered prehistoric occupation and settlement. This includes various Palaeolithic flint implements (CHER 04531), some Beaker and Early Bronze Age pottery (CHER 04623), two food vessels and an Early Bronze Age bowl from Midsummer Common (CHER 04801), and a potentially prehistoric cremation which was found much closer to the current PDA (CHER 05020A). In 2011 an excavation was carried out just 2-300m to the east of Auckland Road at the Cambridge Regional College Brunswick Site (TL 461589) which produced redeposited (residual) Mesolithic flint, but also four earlier prehistoric pits, one of which yielded c.200 Early Neolithic flints and a sherd of a Neolithic pot. These pits were sealed by colluvium, and then overlain by a 0.64m of Late Iron Age alluvium, and above this another layer of Roman colluvium (Atkins 2011).

### *Roman and Saxon*

Residual Roman finds from the Brunswick site included coins, metalwork and pot (Atkins *ibid.*). Also nearby were sherds of Roman pottery recovered from Midsummer Common near

to the PDA (CHER 05020B). The main Roman activity in Cambridge was focused on Castle Hill, although part of a Roman Cemetery was also uncovered and excavated at 35-37 Jesus Lane (Alexander et al. 2004). One sherd of Saxon pottery was recovered from the Brunswick Site excavation. The late Saxon town lay well to the west of Auckland Road/Midsummer Common and much nearer to the Market Hill area within the centre of Cambridge.

### *Medieval*

The Augustinian Barnwell Priory was founded in 1092, then moved to its subsequent site east of the PDA in 1112 AD (approx..location TL 465590). The establishment of this led to the founding of an agricultural village detached from the main town, as a means to meet the priory's demand for labour on the very large quantity of arable land it had acquired. It was a wealthy institution which was finally dissolved in 1538, and following that, the buildings were gradually dismantled. The current development site on Auckland Road would have lain within the Sturbridge sub-field of the East Fields of Cambridge. At this particular time Barnwell would have existed as a separate village outside of the town limit, thus the site itself would have lain outside of the Barnwell Gate. The Brunswick site (just 200m east of the PDA) lay another c.200m west of the priory or secular buildings. Excavation here exposed a thick Medieval deposit, which in all probability was a soil brought in to level the land and make this easier to plough (Atkins *ibid.*). This deposit yielded some 3000 artefacts dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> centuries (but peaking in the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD), the bulk of which was pottery. However, amongst all this were pieces of metal scrap, which included the debris of iron smelting and smithing (such as iron ore and slag), the latter suggesting material imported into the Barnwell settlement to be worked (Atkins *ibid.*). An earlier evaluation of the riverside edge of this site (at TL 46045893) took place in 2009. This identified medieval cultivation soil containing a mixture of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century rubbish, possibly associated with middens connected with Barnwell Priory (Atkins 2010).

Some 200m to the east of the Brunswick site a small excavation was undertaken in 1985 within the priory precinct adjacent to the still extant Abbey House (Haigh 1988). South of here a piece of the Barnwell village and the late medieval–early post-medieval industrial suburbs of Cambridge along the south side of Newmarket Road (at approximately TL463588) was excavated in May 2012 (Newman *forthcoming*). This work revealed extensive evidence for the presence of medieval–early post-medieval walled and ditched roadside plots which contained wells and numerous rubbish pits full of domestic as well as industrial workshop refuse. To the north and west of here, between 2004-2008, the monitoring of the route of the 33kV reinforcement cable on Sturbridge Common revealed the remains of a possible 12<sup>th</sup> century channel, and a 14<sup>th</sup> century laneway, as well as a network of palaeochannels present in the area of Jesus Green and Midsummer Common (Davenport et al. 2008). Further east on Midsummer Common lies the site of a possible plague pit at TL 456590 (CHER 10174).

### *Post-medieval*

The Brunswick site excavation also provided evidence for late 17<sup>th</sup> century quarrying which appeared to be more or less contemporary with another five quarry pits located c.100m to the

east of this (at TL 4604/5893), thus marginally closer to the current PDA. Amongst the nineteenth century activities identified here was disturbance from coprolite working as well as additional gravel quarrying, whilst later the site had become part of the Priory Brewery, which was taken over by the Star Brewery in 1891. The Star Brewery was located on Newmarket Road (at TL 4583/5885) and was in use from c.1830 to 1972. Other breweries along Newmarket Road within the vicinity of Auckland Road include the Victoria Brewery on Napier Street (TL 4592/5877), the Shakespeare Brewery (TL 4597/5881), and the Auckland Brewery on the corner of Auckland Road and Newmarket Road which seems to have been in operation for a few years sometime around 1875 (TL 45905883) (Flood 1987). Immediately opposite the PDA on Auckland Road lies the site of a malthouse or maltings connected with the former brewery(s) in this area. The foundation plaque from this building has since been re-incorporated into the gable wall of the new residential building constructed on this site.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken with the aim of determining the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed and liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

The objectives were to undertake detailed recording and sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed in this trench, with particular attention to identify 'sites' and determine the relationship of these with the broader archaeological landscape. The latter includes to the east of here evidence for Prehistoric (Mesolithic and Neolithic flint-working and Bronze Age pottery) and also early medieval soils and deposits associated with settlement around the Barnwell Priory. These and other relevant research issues have been highlighted for the archaeology of Cambridge within the regional research framework (Glazebrook 1997; Glazebrook & Brown 2000).

### **Methodology**

A single 11.2m long x 1.5m wide east-west orientated trench was laid out within the middle of the building plot, (see Figure 1). The land beneath the footprint of the proposed building was first checked for services with a CAT scan. Machining was then carried out using a 1.5 ton 360° excavator fitted with a 1m wide ditching bucket; the compacted gravel and rubble layer(s) being removed first, followed by the garden soil and upper sub-soil layers down to a the top of the natural/subsoil boundary to a maximum depth of 1.2m. A trench recording sheet was completed for this alongside a plan of the base of the trench at 1:50 scale and a long section of the northern side of this trench at 1:20. The bottoms of a number of remnant shallow features cut into the natural (gravel) along the base were then excavated (half-sectioned) and drawn at 1:10 scale, the layers being recorded using an amended version of the Museum of London context system (Spence 1990). A scaled photographic (digital colour) record was also undertaken. The machined spoil removed from the lower layers after being dumped alongside the trench edge were then periodically bucket sampled for finds, and metal-detected. Recovered finds were washed, bagged and recorded within the CAU Finds

Department before being examined by an in-house specialist. The CAU site code was AUR 12.

## Results

The evaluation trench was 11.4m long and 1.5m wide and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.2m. It revealed a truncated surface of levelled and re-deposited backfilled quarry fill that included the traces of cut and re-cut quarry pits within it, (Figure 2).

The uppermost layers (at a depth of 0.6m-0.8m) consisted of modern building rubble, re-deposited gravel and garden soil.

Layers (Figure 3):

- (01) Greyish/yellow brown, loose mixed sand, silt and gravel and topsoil with much CBM, in particular concrete and modern brick. Above this lies a more compacted layer of laid gravel. This appears to be a compacted layer of very modern building rubble associated with recent demolition and subsequently made-up ground
- (21) Lens up to 0.35m thick consisting of loose black tarmac. Probably dumped and very modern, associated with demolition and levelling, perhaps part of (01).
- (02) Dark grey-black compacted topsoil with clay tile and occasional pieces of broken and weathered brick, degraded coal and charcoal. Rarely small fragments of broken china and (19<sup>th</sup> century) clay pipe stems. Probably a Victorian – early 20<sup>th</sup> century garden soil. Between 0.1-0.3m (max.) in thickness.
- (03) Light mid-brown loose sandy-gravelly silt with small broken-up inclusions of coal, brick and tile (some very small). This (0.1-0.3m thick) layer becomes more gravel-rich towards its base. Perhaps derived from earlier (19<sup>th</sup>-century?) clearance, but may also incorporate some re-deposited gravel as a result of the levelling of this formerly heavily-quarried area.

These overlay the truncated surface of a patch of heavily quarried and re-quarried ground associated with probable 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century gravel extraction. A number of quarry pits and trial quarry holes could be recognized amongst this.

Quarry-like features (Figures 2 & 3; Figures 4a+4b):

**F.1** The bottom of a slightly later 1.45m long quarry ‘scoop’ which cuts through previously backfilled quarry (gravel pit) waste and stops at the chalky marl. The basal fill of this context (31) consists of a mid-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones from which was recovered a single (residual) mesolithic flint microlith (<6>). The underlying context (032) at the western end of this feature was a mottled bright orange coarse silty sand mixed with a mid-brown silty sand which contained frequent gravel and chalky inclusions. Maximum depth of surviving fill in base is 50-60mm.

**F.2** The bottom of a small (0.8m long) ‘comma-shaped’ pit or scoop into the natural – possibly the 0.1m deep base of a quarry pit [35] cut down from the top of the backfilled quarry dump sequence. This could be the continuation of F.3? The fill (34) consists of medium-dark sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and stones and flint gravel. Finds include tile, oyster shell and slag.

**F.3** The base of a large (2.3m long and 1m wide) ‘comma-shaped’ pit or scoop into the natural – perhaps cut from the top of the backfilled quarry sequence. The bottom of the cut [37] for this is a maximum of 0.15m deep. This feature might be part of F.2. The fill (36) consists of a mid-dark and slightly greyish-

brown coarse sandy silt with fairly frequent flint gravel and small stones and occasional charcoal flecks (SE-facing section), with patches of a bright mid-orange coarse sandy silt in the same (in W-facing section). One sherd of 15<sup>th</sup>-century Coarse Pink pottery, some tile, and two residual flakes of Neolithic-Early Bronze Age flints were recovered from this.

**F.4** One of the best-defined 'pit' type features within the base of the trench – the form of this suggests it could have been dug as a round pit (0.7 x 0.8m diameter and 0.12m deep). Perhaps however, this is still a trial pit, cut down from above through the general quarry backfill. The relationship with the adjacent pit F.5 is also not that clear; probably this is a simultaneous / consecutive cut i.e two quarry scoops cut at the same time. However, the fill of F.4 maybe atop that of F.5, suggesting that F.5 was backfilled first. The fill of F.4 is (38), a mid to dark sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional stones and flint gravel. Finds include x1 sherd of 15<sup>th</sup> century Coarse Pink ware, some tile, oyster shell, and one residual Neolithic – Early Bronze Age flint blade.

**F.5** As F.4 (a quarry scoop or trial pit) which here is sub-circular in outline (0.65m x 0.55m) and just 0.07m deep with shallow, sloping and concave sides [41]. This contained a single fill (40) consisting of a mid-dark brown sandy silt mottled with small flecks of bright orange coarse silty sand and occasional charcoal flecks and stones. The only finds included a small amount of oyster shell.

**F.6** Possible feature, but perhaps the base of a tipping/ dumping sequence within quarry pit F.8, at a point where the 'soil-rich' silt horizons rest on top of the natural. This doesn't seem to be a distinct pit or very obviously 'cut' feature (i.e. 1m x 0.7m in diameter and just 1-2 cms deep with very indistinct base). No finds.

**F.7** Possibly a trial hole or trial pit for testing for worked/un-worked gravel for quarrying. This was dug towards the west end of the existing quarry pit F.8 (into its backfill). This was perhaps then terminated on reaching the natural (marl) or on hitting the clearly re-deposited soil horizon. Length of cut [23] is c.1m, but the width is unknown. Profile is 'U-shaped' but asymmetric, and steeper to the west than the east (0.5m+ deep). The single fill (04) consists of a soft mid brown sandy silt with occasional to rare round flint gravel inclusions – evenly spread and mixed throughout. Contains tile and oyster shell plus two sherds of pottery – one of 15<sup>th</sup>-century Coarse Buff ware (local) and one of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Glazed Red Earthenware.

**F.8** Very large and fairly shallow flat-bottomed quarry pit of undetermined width and length, but at least 7m long, and at its deepest point 0.6m deep. The top of this is truncated away. The feature has only been recorded within the main trench section (Figure 3). Probably this was a square or rectangular cut [24] into the gravel and sand beds dug for the purposes of extraction. The feature appears to have been backfilled from both west and east ends (as a result of digging pits such as F.9 either side of this) with a mixture of re-deposited gravel, sand and silt waste and re-deposited soil from other surface cuts. The soil layers have both contemporary and earlier finds (artefacts) within them (including worked flint which may have come from the sub-soil). This large feature contained at least nine lensed fills along its section length. In stratigraphic sequence (from top to bottom) these consisted of : (05) A sterile yellow sand with moderate lens-like gravel inclusions; (06) A mid-chocolate brown coloured sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and small amounts of fragmentary brick and tile; (07) A yellow sand lens similar to 05, and possibly the same as 14; (08) A mixed or disturbed context consisting of a reddish-brown silty sand overlain by brown (slightly more humic) silt, sand and gravel; (09) A mid-chocolate brown sandy silt with very little gravel and some small fragments of brick or tile; (10) A pale yellow sandy silt intermixed with a yellow-brown clayey silt containing some sandy streaks and gravel inclusions; (11) A thin pale yellow to yellow-brown gravelly sandy silt with some larger rounded flint gravel pebble clasts similar to 07; (12) A mixed mid-dark brown to reddish-brown sandy silt. The reddish-brown sandy lenses are coarser, with more gravel inclusions, but are otherwise sterile. The humic lenses, by contrast, contain oyster shell and other material. The profile of this 25-30cm thick layer seems typical of dump stratigraphy; (13) A pale yellow-brown clayey silt with some sand and gravel mixed in. Sterile of finds.; (14) A streaky-white clay marl mixed with

yellow silt, sand and gravel, mixed in places. Underlies 12; (22) A lens of light grey marl mixed with sand and gravel, in slumped profile.

**F.9** Straight-sided quarry pit similar to F.8, but much smaller (2m long and 0.6m+ deep with a flat to slightly irregular base and (probable) square to rectangular x-section and plan view [25]). This contained two discernible fills: (17) A pale yellow-grey gravelly sand which is stony with basal concentrations of round flint gravel and pebble inclusions. This has a reddish-brown laminar silt horizon which caps this. Sterile of finds.; (30) A mid-dark brown sandy silt with evenly dispersed and occasional-moderate amounts of small gravel inclusions and patches of darker silt. This contained some oyster shell, some probable Postmedieval pot, and one residual Mesolithic flint (<21>).

**F.10** Small (?) quarry pit dug immediately adjacent to F.9 on its eastern side, but which has a slightly cut edge where it abuts (thus is slightly later). This is probably of approximately the same date as F.9, thus a phase of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century quarry pitting that is re-depositing the slightly earlier quarried material. The pit cut [26] is 2.4m+ long and similarly c.0.6m deep, and is 'U-shaped' to square in x-section with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave-flat base. The three fills consist of (18) A pale yellow-grey gravelly sand which is stony with concentration of round flint gravel and small pebbles towards its base. The lower part is mixed, whilst the top is capped by a thin laminar layer of reddish-brown silt (similar to F.9 (017)); (19) a mid-dark brown silt containing occasional gravel inclusions plus thin patches of reddish-brown silt which is mixed in. This layer contained oyster shell, the handle of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century iron glazed tyg cup, and two residual pieces of worked flint, one a Mesolithic blade (<21>) and the other a probable Neolithic-Early Bronze Age flake. Within 19 was a lens of gravelly reddish-brown silt (20).

**F.11** Another probable trial quarry pit dug to probe the edge of the worked (i.e. quarried) ground nearest to the edge of F.9. This had been sunk through the re-deposited (worked) gravel until the darker humic horizons (i.e. 12 of F.8 or 27 of F.12) were encountered. At this point the digging was discontinued. The cut [28] for this was 1.6m in length and 0.6m deep. Likewise the x-sectional profile was 'U-shaped' with a flattish-concave base and steep (near vertical) concave sides. The single fill (15) consisted of a mixed reddish-brown to mid-dark brown humic silt with occasional to moderate amounts of gravel and moderate amounts also of fragmentary red tile as inclusions.

**F.12** Further trial quarry pit hole which was re-excavated later by a second (i.e. F.11). The amount of re-deposition and cutting of this gravel and sand bed suggests some difficulty in finding un-worked (undisturbed) gravel to excavate. This truncated pit contains two discernible fills: (29) a yellow-brown sandy silt with gravel lenses, and (27) a pale-mid brown gravelly sandy silt with some fragmentary tile inclusion.

## Artefacts

### Medieval – Early Post-medieval Pottery *David Hall and Simon Timberlake*

Spot dates and a brief commentary on the diagnostic sherds was undertaken. All nine sherds recovered as unstratified finds from the lower layers of the trench during the machining plus as well as from the fills of Features 3, 4, 7 & 10 proved to be of 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century date. For the most part these consisted of unglazed coarsewares including those of 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century Coarse Grey (x1); 15<sup>th</sup>- century Coarse Red (x1 ); 15<sup>th</sup>-century Coarse Pink (x2); 15<sup>th</sup>-century Coarse Buff (x2); 15<sup>th</sup>-century Essex Red (x1); a 16<sup>th</sup>-century iron-glazed Tyg (x1); plus a single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE). Most of these were small broken-up pieces, yet they appeared to be moderately freshly broken, thus if re-deposited, were locally so. Amongst these two diagnostic sherds were noted: a jar rim of Coarse Red (unstratified) and the handle of an iron-glazed Tyg cup (F.10).

The assemblage was fairly distinctive, and most probably (except for the Essex Red) locally made (D.Hall *pers.com.*). The pink coarseware fabrics with sandy white grit and iron grit tempers in them were quite

distinctive, and have been encountered elsewhere in Cambridge. For instance , the same generic pottery types were recently encountered during an archaeological evaluation carried out at the Clare College Graduate Accommodation Site at Newnham Road, Cambridge(CNR 12) in May 2012 (Timberlake 2012 *forthcoming*).

### **Worked Flint** *Lawrence Billington*

A total of eight worked flints were recovered from the excavations. With the exception of two flakes from F.3 and F.10 and possibly the distal end of a blade from F.4 the flintwork appears to represent a small but coherent assemblage of Mesolithic date.

The Mesolithic material includes several fine blade based removals, a core rejuvenation flake and a single microlith. All of this material is uniformly recorticated to a light blue colour and one piece (the core rejuvenation flake) has been burnt. The technological traits of this group of flints are characteristic of Mesolithic flintworking practices, indicating the use of specialised blade based cores with carefully abraded platform edges and the use of soft (probably organic) percussors. The single microlith is a relatively large (41mm long, 10mm wide) obliquely truncated piece. Traditionally this form of microlith has been seen as occurring throughout the Mesolithic in Southern Britain although they are more common in earlier assemblages (Jacobi 1976). Microliths such as these are generally assumed to have been used as inserts in composite arrowheads.

The remaining flints are unrecorticated and lack the technological evidence for blade based reduction that characterises the Mesolithic material. None of these pieces are strictly diagnostic but are likely to reflect activity in the Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

	F. 1	F. 3	F. 4	F. 7	F. 9	F. 10	Totals
flake		1				1	2
blade			1		1	1	3
bladelet		1					1
rejuvenation flake				1			1
microlith	1						1
Totals	1	2	1	1	1	2	8

## **Discussion**

On the basis of the findings from this single archaeological trench, little more can be said about this site except that prior to the presence of backyard terrace plots or gardens and the local brewery buildings constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (especially the malhouses or warehouses which lay to the rear of the breweries on Newmarket Road), this raised gravel terrace at the bottom of Auckland Road seems to have been intensively quarried during the early Post-medieval period, in all probability during the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century as the city expanded to the east of Christ's Pieces and the demand for locally procured building materials grew. The limited area available for quarrying at this time is suggested by the crowding and re-cutting of the pits, with numerous trial holes dug to ascertain adjacent edges of un-worked ground, the implications being that much of the area surrounding

these quarries was already occupied and built up at this time. Because of this intensive quarrying it was not possible to determine whether the medieval agricultural soil and occupation layer associated with the village and abbey of Barnwell Priory continued this far east of the Brunswick Site. However, the presence of re-deposited 15<sup>th</sup>-century pottery within the quarry fills suggests this area may still have been within the Late Medieval town, and moreover, it may then have been demolished and re-developed over the next two centuries. The true extent of quarrying along the edges of Midsummer Common is implied by the discovery of other 17<sup>th</sup>-century pits at the Brunswick Site.

However, in terms of the residual finds recovered, one of the most interesting findings was that of a small assemblage of Mesolithic worked flint, given that this probably reflects local procurement and working of such material by groups occupying this riverside area, perhaps linked to this distinct rise of the Second Gravel Terrace which forms the edge of Midsummer Common, both here and at the more westerly Brunswick Site.

## **Conclusion**

Extensive Early Post-medieval quarrying beneath this end of Auckland Road has removed any *in situ* traces of medieval or earlier occupation. Residual finds suggest Late medieval occupation nearby and also a prehistoric (Mesolithic – Early Bronze Age?) presence within the general area of this gravel terrace.

## **Acknowledgements**

Iona Robinson (CAU) assisted with the archaeological excavation and recording and Emma Beadsmoore was CAU Project Manager. Donald Horne (CAU) undertook the surveying, Jane Matthews digitised plans. Andy Thomas (Cambridge Historic Environment Team) monitored the work. The work was commissioned by Cowper Griffith Architects for the Beth Shalom Synagogue.

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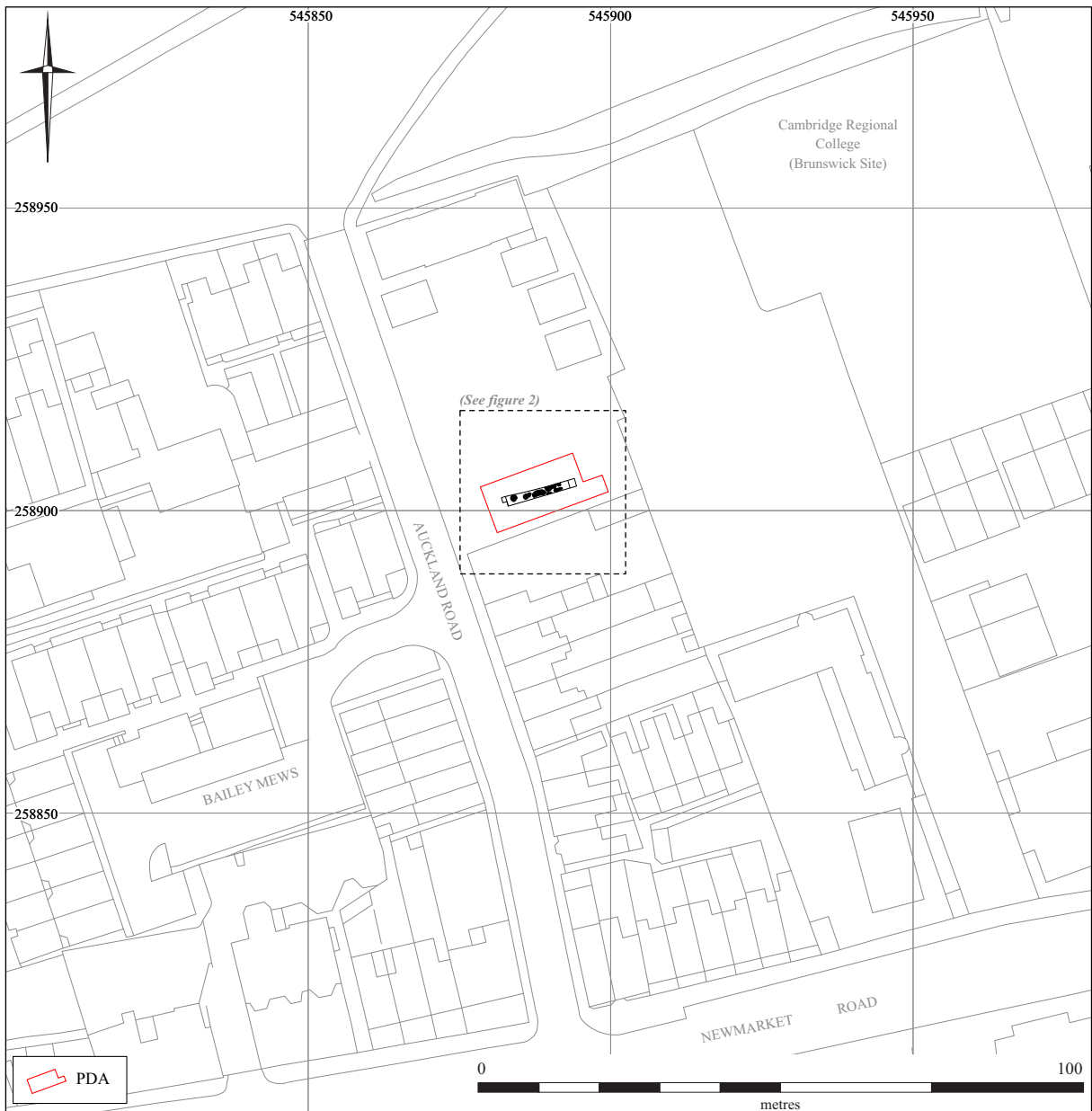
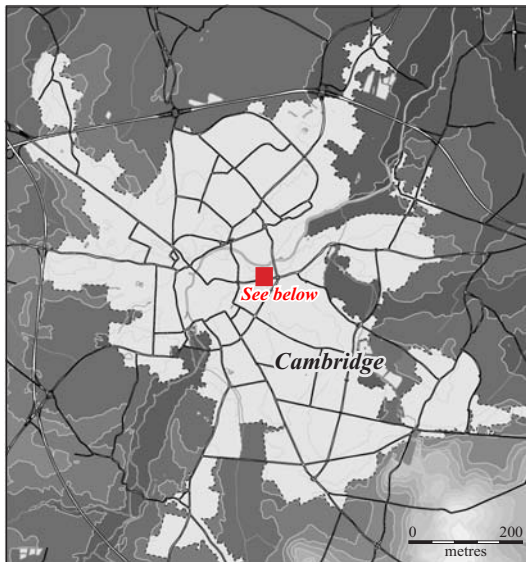


Figure 1. Location Plan.

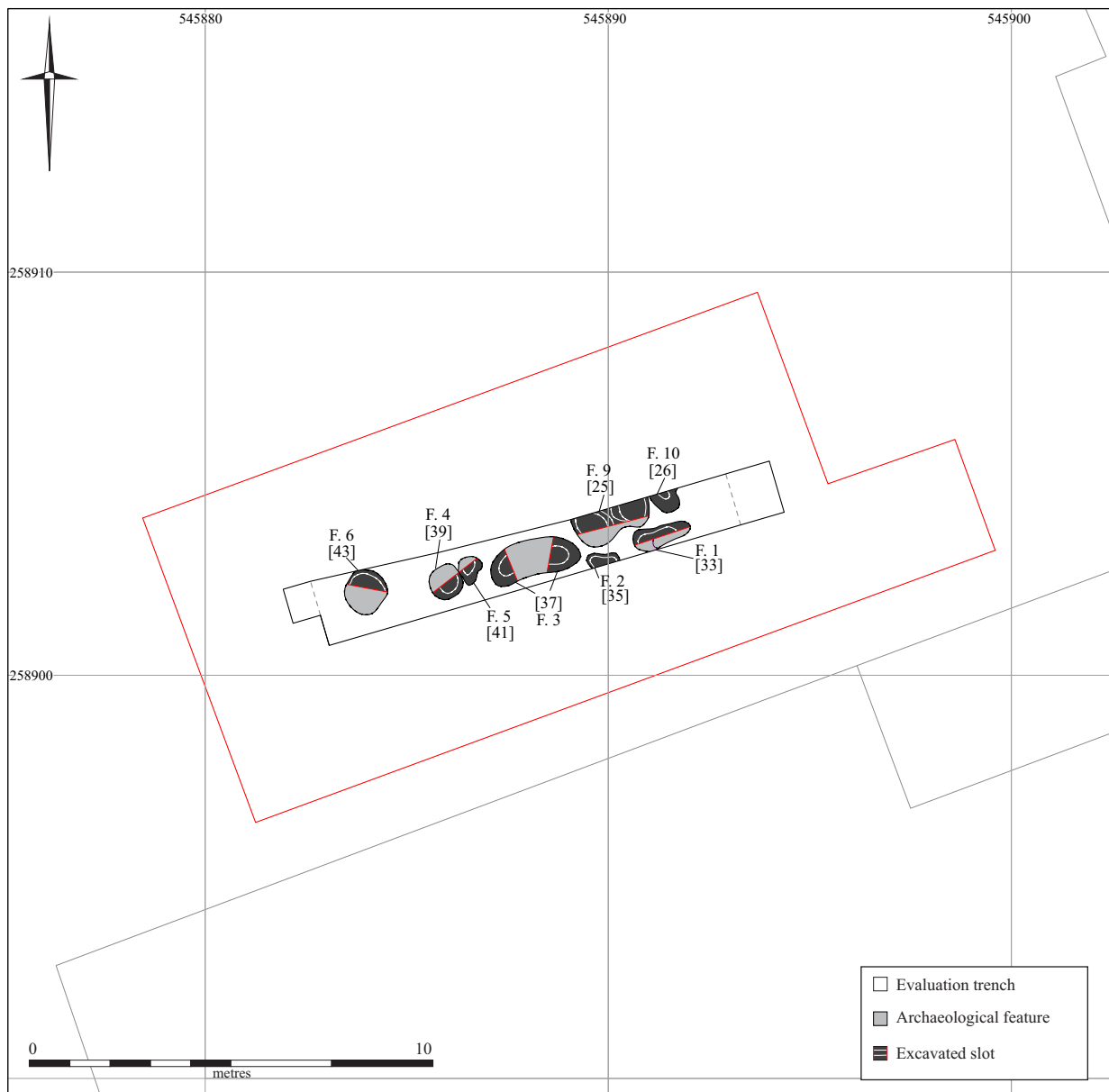


Figure 2. Trench Plan.

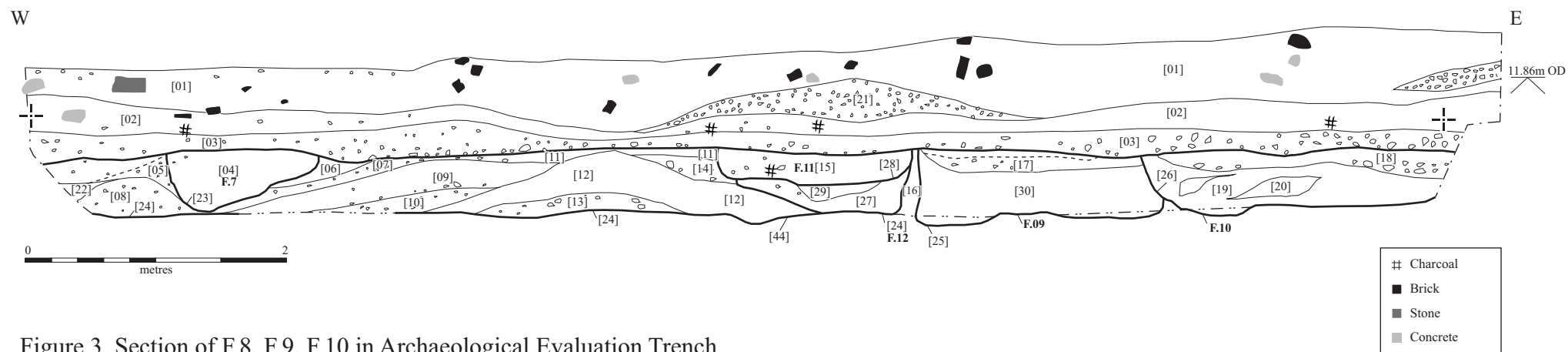


Figure 3. Section of F.8, F.9, F.10 in Archaeological Evaluation Trench.



Figure 4a. Base of trench showing sampled bottoms of quarry pit scoops cut into the natural.



Figure 4b. Quarry backfill dumping layers (012) seen in section.

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**OASIS ID: cambridg3-131134**

### Project details

Project name	Land off Auckland Road, Cambridge An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	<p>Between 29th-31st May 2012 an archaeological trench evaluation was carried on a small building plot (165 sq m) located on the east side of Auckland Road, Cambridge in advance of the construction of the Beth Shalom synagogue and community centre. Beneath a layer of modern building rubble, 19th-century garden soil and re-deposited gravel lay the truncated surface of a complex sequence of early post-medieval backfilled quarry pits and spoil dumps. These probable square and rectangular pits were all different sizes and lay adjacent to one another, some of them slightly intercutting, with others cut from the top of the subsoil or into already quarried ground. In order to best record these the 11m long trench was machined down to the underlying natural (marly gravel) surface into which the bases of a number of round to oval or moon-shaped quarry pits had been cut. None of the coarseware pottery recovered from the pit fills and quarry-spoil dump layers appeared to be later than 16th century AD in date, whilst most of these were of locally-made 15th century types. It seems likely therefore that this area of ground on the edge of the First/ Second Gravel Terraces was intensively quarried and re-quarried during the 16th-17th centuries, prior to subsequent re-development. The late medieval (15th-century) pottery found within these quarry fills was probably re-deposited, and therefore reflects the presence of contemporary settlement within this area between Barnwell and the town of Cambridge. Also re-deposited within the quarry waste and soil backfill were a number of Mesolithic-Early Neolithic flint blades and microliths, suggesting the presence of prehistoric flint-working sites along the riverside.</p>
Project dates	Start: 29-05-2012 End: 31-05-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	QUARRY PITS Post Medieval

Significant Finds	FLINT Mesolithic
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
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 Land off Auckland Road, Cambridge
Postcode	CB5 8DW
Study area	165.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4589 5890 52 0 52 12 30 N 000 08 07 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.68m Max: 11.68m

## 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	Simon Timberlake
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/ funding body	Cowper Griffith Architects for the Beth Shalom Synagogue

## Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	AUR 12
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	AUR 12
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	AUR 12
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Auckland Road, Cambridge An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Timberlake, S.
Other bibliographic details	1099
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	CAU
Place of issue or publication	CAU
Description	A4 Booklet, Pdf document

Entered by	Simon Timberlake (mc459@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	27 July 2012

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