

# 8, Montreal Road, Cambridge

An Archaeological Evaluation



David Webb

**8 MONTREAL ROAD, CAMBRIDGE,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

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**ECB4015**

## **Summary**

*The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook archaeological evaluation of land at 8 Montreal Road, Cambridge, in advance of construction work at the site. Three trenches were dug but no archaeological remains were observed in any of them.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook archaeological evaluation of a site at 8 Montreal Road Cambridge on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2013, in advance of development for residential accommodation. The work was commissioned by George Collacot on behalf of the landowners, and was carried out in accordance with specification produced by the CAU (Dickens 2013), and approved by Dan McConnell of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET).

### **Location and Topography**

The area of the proposed development (centred upon TL 4726 5750) is situated to the rear of 8 Montreal Road, Cambridge, about 1.5 miles to the east of the historic town of Cambridge. The site extends over c. 1230 sq m in area.

The underlying geology of the site is the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey. 1978. Cambridge.) General elevation is around 12.80m AOD.

### **Archaeological and Historical Background**

Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century the development area was largely part of the agricultural hinterland of Cambridge. Only limited evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded near to the development area with stray finds including a Palaeolithic handaxe (HER 04591) and a Neolithic axe (HER 04696), found within 500m of the site.

The site is situated within a broader area of known Roman occupation, with contemporary findspots to the south and north (such as HER Nos. MCB5886 & MCB5582), a possible Roman military camp to the west (HER No. MCB6256), and the Roman road Via Devana to the site's south-west (HER No. MCB9602).

In 1807 a parliamentary act for the enclosure of the Common Fields of East Cambridge including Barnwell was passed which resulted in the redistribution of the land to the east of Cambridge (Hesse 2007). The Barnwell fields were divided into smaller lots and allocated to the previous users, including the collages and private individuals. As a result the land was free to be developed for housing by the owners or developers.

With the arrival of the railways in the late Victorian period, the Barnwell Fields become a densely occupied area of terraced housing. Mill Road was central to this development, with the road following an earlier medieval trackway across the common land, a multitude of terraced housing branched off this main artery. Montreal Road lies at the eastern end of Mill Road and although adjacent is outside the Mill Road Conservation Area being of slightly later origin, probably early 20<sup>th</sup> century. No development appears on the site until the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when a structure used as a pigsty (*pers. comm. landowner*) is shown on the 1920's Ordnance Survey map adjacent to allotments. From map evidence the current dwelling known as no 8 does not appear to have been constructed until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Methodology**

Prior to excavation, the area was visually inspected and CAT scanned. Three 10m long trenches were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.8m wide

toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. All archaeological deposits were recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS system (Spence 1994). The photographic archive consists of a series of digital images.

## **RESULTS**

The three ten metre trenches all produced the same result with no material or features of archaeological significance being observed.

### *Trench 1*

00.00 - 00.30m Top Soil; A dark grey sandy silt with a moderate frequency of small to medium sub angular gravel inclusions, well sorted and evenly distributed. Occasional late post-med ceramic fragments and brick rubble in upper part of layer.

00.30 - 00.55m Sub Soil; An orange brown silty clay with a sparse frequency of sub rounded gravel inclusions, well sorted and evenly distributed.

No archaeologically significant material recovered.

### *Trench 2*

00.00 - 00.35m Top Soil; A dark grey sandy silt with a moderate frequency of small to medium sub angular gravel inclusions, well sorted and evenly distributed. Occasional late post-med ceramic fragments and brick rubble in upper part of layer.

00.35 - 00.65m Sub Soil; An orange brown silty clay with a sparse frequency of sub rounded gravel inclusions, well sorted and evenly distributed.

00.65 - 00.75m Natural; Pale grey chalky marl.

No archaeologically significant material recovered.

### *Trench 3*

00.00 - 00.40m Top Soil; A dark grey sandy silt with a moderate frequency of small to medium sub angular gravel inclusions, well sorted and evenly distributed. Occasional late post-med ceramic fragments and brick rubble in upper part of layer.

00.40 - 00.65m Sub Soil; An orange brown silty clay with a sparse frequency of sub rounded gravel inclusions, well sorted and evenly distributed.

No archaeologically significant material recovered.

The stratigraphy exposed showed little sign of modern disturbance or contamination and would suggest that any archaeology present would have been well preserved,

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The absence of any archaeological material would imply that, despite being located in an area of archaeological potential, it is unlikely that there are any significant archaeological features in the immediate vicinity of the development area.

### *Acknowledgements*

Fieldwork was conducted by the author and Matt Jones of CAU, survey by Donald Horne and Jon Moller. The work was project managed for CAU by Alison Dickens. Thanks to Bert Collacott for enabling the works and the landowner Mr Trezise for supplying the plant and doing such a good job on the machining. The work was monitored by Dan McConnell of CHET.

## REFERENCES

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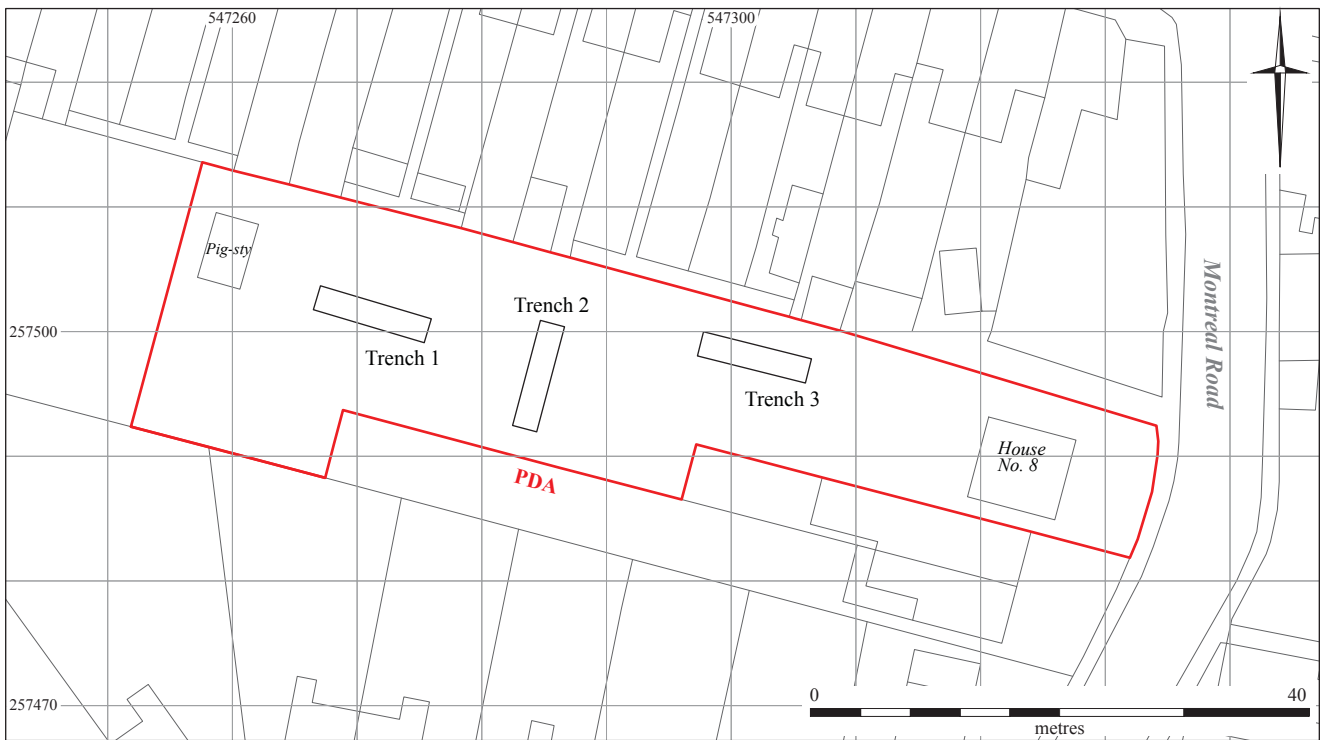
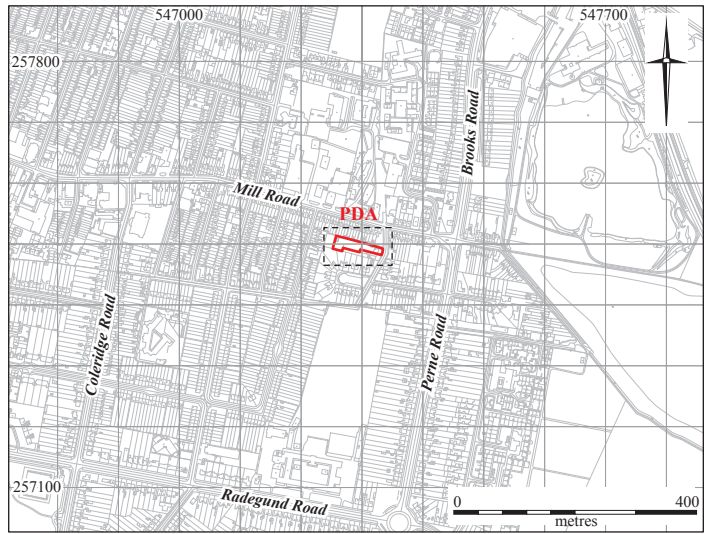
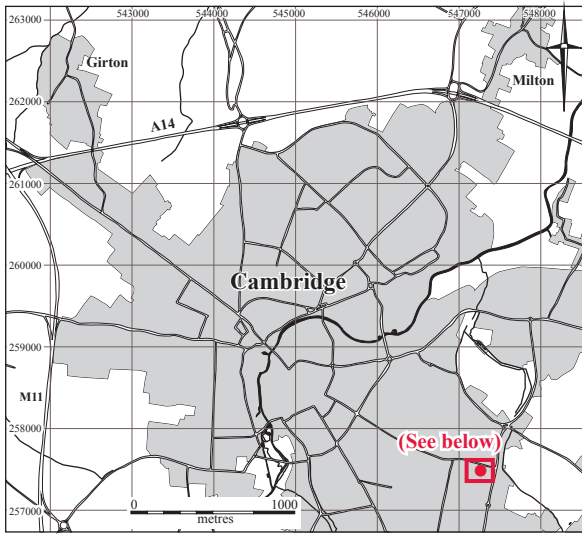


Figure 1. Trench location plan.



**Trench 1**



**Trench 2**



**Trench 3**



**Trench 3 soil profile**

**Figure 2 Trenches and typical soil profile**



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**OASIS ID: cambridg3-156376**

### Project details

Project name	8 Montreal Road, Cambridge Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook archaeological evaluation of land at 8 Montreal Road, Cambridge, in advance of construction work at the site. Three trenches were dug but no archaeological remains were observed in any of them
Project dates	Start: 08-07-2013 End: 09-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MRD13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4015 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, 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 8 Montreal Road
Postcode	CB1 3NP
Study area	1230.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 4726 5750 52 0 52 11 44 N 000 09 17 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 13.00m Max: 13.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Alison Dickens

Project director/manager Alison Dickens

Project supervisor David Webb

Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Name of sponsor/funding body B Trezise & A G Collacott

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Contents "Survey"

Paper Archive Exists? No

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