Girton College, West Field, Cambridge

An Archaeological Evaluation



Marcus Brittain





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University of Cambridge Division of Archaeology

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In April 2014 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit excavated nine evaluation trenches with a total length of 260.5m within the West Field of Girton College. With the exception of residual finds of worked flint and Late Bronze-Early Iron Age pottery, prehistoric activity was not represented by any features. This was also the case for the Roman evidence, illustrated by four small abraded sherds of 1st-2nd century AD pottery. This, along with a complete absence of Anglo-Saxon activity, confirms the western limit for the Roman and Saxon cemetery found during the construction of College buildings in the later 19th century, and a northern limit for equivalent prehistoric activity recently exposed in the North West Cambridge development project.

Overall, the study area's archaeology is comprised of the partial survival of a regular furrow system preceding a rectilinear cluster of pits containing a small amount of both Roman and Late Medieval pottery. Certainly by the 16th-17th centuries the furrow system is in disuse, although linear slots for drainage continue to be cut in subsequent centuries along the same east-west course as the furrows, and thereby maximising the natural south-eastern landfall. Early 20th century service mains and garden bedding plots represent the most recent features.

Undated features include two pits or postholes and a gully terminus, all within the northern half of the study area.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at Girton College, Cambridge, on $9^{th} - 14^{th}$ April 2014, as a prospective measure to address future conditions that may be placed upon planning consent.

1.1 Location, Topography, Geology

The potential development area (PDA) covers 1.6 ha of land that is positioned approximately 1.3km northwest of the town of Cambridge (Figure 1), and is bounded to the northwest by Grange Drive and by College gardens to the northeast, to the southeast by Orchard Drive and College buildings, and to the southwest by Huntingdon Road (TL 42255/61091). The land within the PDA is currently a grassed field and is flat with a slight landfall in the west corner from 27m to 25m AOD. The underlying geology is sandy gravel overlying Gault formation mudstone.

1.2 Archaeological Background

Girton College lies within an area known for the significance of aspects of its archaeology; to date, no intrusive investigations have been carried out within the West Field. Non-intrusive investigation includes geophysical survey of almost two-thirds of the PDA in Marchs and April 2013 by a local amateur team, Archaeology RheeSearch Group (2013). Although the results of the survey were not particularly clear, what did stand out where at least six linear anomalies evenly spaced approximately 8-9m apart on an east-west axis, with two additional strong responses of anomalies with alignments independent of one another (Figure 2). These are also clearly visible on black and white aerial photographs of the College from 1947, and are likely to represent a combination of service trenches and field drainage (Figure 3), perhaps also with an underlying furrow system. Using a combination of magnetometer and earth resistance equipment, the geophysical survey also noted the northeast-southwest fenceline boundary parallel with the all-weather sports surfaces that once divided land owned by the gatehouse to The Grange and that owned by the college. More intriguingly, geophysical anomalies towards the centre of the PDA were suggested to possibly represent the foundations of two small rectilinear buildings.

Of the intrusive archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the West Fields, the most notable finding is a cemetery of inhumations and cremations found in the front of the College Old Wing at Emily Davis Court and the Tower Wing during construction works in the 1870s and 1880s. Approximately 230 burials were excavated, and although the exact location and character of the cemetery remains uncertain a plan was published four decades later mainly from careful analysis of diary notes (Hollingworth 1925; Figure 4). The cemetery may be dated predominantly to the late $5^{th} - 6^{th}$ centuries AD, and therefore the first centuries of the Anglo-Saxon period after the end of the Roman Empire, although an earlier date range of between the 1^{st} /early 2^{nd} century and the early 5^{th} century AD is also represented by less than 10 of the burials, a number of which included high-status imported grave-goods. A pit was also found to contain Roman masonry including building stone and fragments of a rare lion sculpture and a human torso, which together suggest some proximity to an important building for either domestic or funerary purposes. The extent of the cemetery has been an issue of speculation since its discovery. Three trenches opened

to c. 1m depth along Orchard Drive in 2011, directly adjacent to the PDA, recorded an absence of archaeology, thereby suggesting that the cemetery itself did not extend into the current area of investigation (Newman *et al.* 2011).

Prehistoric activity represented in the College cemetery by a sherd of Bronze Age pottery thought to be from an Early to Middle Bronze Age cinerary urn (Hollingworth 1925; Fox 1923), points to the possibility that a prehistoric funerary mound may have been situated close by and may have attracted later funerary practices. Two such mounds, now destroyed, have been recorded alongside Huntingdon Road less than 500m east of the PDA (Fox 1923; HER 05178, HER 07902). Nevertheless, and in spite of recent development-instigated investigations and College-commissioned geophysical survey (see Whittaker 2002; Fletcher 2008; Newman *et al.* 2011), little further information has come to light and provided enhanced understanding of the context of the cemetery's Anglo-Saxon, Roman and prehistoric associations.

Whilst the paucity of these archaeological findings is surprising given the proximity of what is clearly an important cemetery, it is in the context of the broader landscape that this contrast may be most fully perceived. Significant early prehistoric deposits have been recorded along the gravel ridge and most notably at the Traveller's Rest Pit where over 40 stone hand axes and other implements dating to at least the Palaeolithic have been observed (Marr 1920; Smith 1926; Burkitt 1931), with additional items of this period collected as chance finds (e.g. a Neolithic axe in this area to the south side of Huntingdon road, HER 05169) and during fieldwalking in advance of excavations to the southeast of the PDA within the University's North West Cambridge development project by the CAU (see Cessford and Evans 2014). Here the subsequent trial trenching (Evans and Newman 2010) and open area excavations (Cessford and Evans 2014; the results from the most recent phases of latter currently undergoing analysis), have revealed areas of dense prehistoric settlement, particularly from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. These include ditched enclosures and open plan field systems with post structures and funerary architecture.

To the north and along the A14 corridor northwest of the PDA are linear ditches forming possible field boundaries and enclosures that have been shown to date to the transitional Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (FARG and Croft 1977; Edwards 1996). Recent analyses of the Roman phases of the Cambridge hinterland suggest that semi-rural settlement is consistently distributed with spacing of between 300-500m (Evans *et al.* 2008). This is largely confirmed by the CAU's North West Cambridge excavations, in which ditched throughways connect settlement areas across the gravel ridge, including those mentioned above, with settlement areas situated in the lower-lying valley to the south and bisected by the M11. Today's Huntingdon Road is broadly aligned upon one of these ways linking Cambridge to Godmanchester, and a second way has been postulated as traversing across the College grounds and linking Roman settlements to the northwest and southeast. It is possible that these throughways correspond in some way with the cemetery.

In spite of the cemetery's high status grave goods the whereabouts of any accompanying settlement remains unknown. Domestic activity of the 12th-16th centuries has been documented from the High Street in Girton (Gilmore 2011), and a series of small Late Medieval dwelling plots have recently been excavated either side of Huntingdon Road at Howes Close. Approximately 1km east of the PDA, and to the

north of the PDA at Wellbrook Way, Girton, Late Medieval and early post-Medieval field allotments have been investigated, each also containing residual evidence for low-level prehistoric and Roman activity (Alexander 2000). As investigations of the North West Cambridge development project have illustrated, considerable Post-Medieval quarrying of the gravels over the ridge has impacted upon the survival of archaeological deposits, although the exact extent of this quarrying is not securely mapped.

Girton College was itself founded in 1869 as England's first residential college for women, and has undergone various architectural modifications and expansions since its opening in 1873 (Stephen 1933). The land in which the PDA is situated is believed to have been divided in ownership between residencies of The Grange House and the College until stages of sale by The Grange to the College between the mid-1920s and the 1970s, changing in use from vegetable allotment to its present use as a sportsfield.

1.3 Methodology

The work followed specifications previously outlined in a Design Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by the office of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice, and a Project Specification outlined by the CAU (Evans 2014).

Nine trenches totalling 260.5m in length (Figure 5) were opened by 360° machine excavator using a 2m wide toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Work was undertaken in accordance to statutory Health and Safety guidelines detailed under the recommendations of SCAUM (Allen and Holt 2007). All spoil heaps, deposits and features were scanned by Laser Rapier metal detector. All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand and recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS recording system (Spence 1990). Linears were subject to excavation of a slot at least 1m in length, and discrete features (e.g. pits/postholes) were 50% excavated. Trenches and features were digitally photographed and then planned at a scale of 1:50, with trench and feature sections planned at 1:10. All plans were correlated with fixed points on the OS grid using a Geographic Positioning (GPS). Progress of the evaluation was monitored by the Historic Environment Team of the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Environmental sampling of the archaeological results was adjudged to be unnecessary in this instance.

1.4 Archive

Information detailing the character of the trenches was recorded on a data sheet that, along with the digital photographic record, has been catalogued together within an archive following the procedures outlined in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006). These are being stored with the processed material finds record at the CAU offices, under the site code GIR14.

2. RESEARCH DESIGN

The principle objective of the evaluation process was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to establish their character (e.g. chronological range and quality of preservation) and the site's depositional history. Furthermore, the site's potential local, regional and national significance was assessed.

3. RESULTS

Across the PDA the topsoil thickness ranged between 0.2m and 0.3m, with subsoil only partially traceable and, where present, generally averaging c. 0.12m thickness to a maximum of 0.2m in the northwest of the site (Trenches 2, 7 and 8). The topsoil contained a small quantity of 19th and 20th century brick, tile, glass and pottery which were not collected, and, surprisingly, no items were found during the metal detector survey. A minimum of two archaeological features were present in all of the trenches (Figure 6), and where features could be securely dated these ranged in date from the Late Medieval to Post-Medieval periods (including the Modern era). These mainly comprised of furrow bases measuring between 1.85m and 0.38m in width, and with flat bases at an average depth of 0.05m, and thin drainage slots up to 0.29m in depth, all with an east-west alignment. Residual pottery dated to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age and the 1st-2nd centuries of the Roman period, along with late prehistoric worked flint, were found in small quantities in a number of these later features. The following is an overview of the main characteristics of each trench, and detailed descriptions of the individual trenches are provided in Section 6.3; selected drawn sections and photographs of features are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8.

3.1 Trenching

Trench 1

All fourteen features are of Post-Medieval or Modern date, and comprise two furrow bases (F.18, F.19) cut by a 19^{th} or 20^{th} century drainage ditch (F.17) and slot (F.20). These were cut by garden bedding ditches and related features (F.21, F.40-45); one of these (F.22) was a small, shallow sub-circular pit 0.22m in depth which contained degraded or crushed mortar and a 20^{th} century confectionary wrapper. F.39 was also cut by these garden features; it represented a service trench and was not excavated.

Trench 2

Of the seven features recorded in Trench 2, four were Post-Medieval drainage slots (F.10, F.13, F.51, F.52) representing the latest phase of archaeology. These also produced the only stratigraphic relationship, cutting a furrow base (F.9) that was also oriented east-west. This contained an abraded and residual sherd of Roman pottery dated to the $1^{st}-2^{nd}$ century AD. Two features that could not be dated are a shallow linear gulley terminus (F.12) oriented north-south and cut to a depth of 0.9m. This contained a single fill [57] of mid greyish brown soft silt that contrasted with the gritty sand-filled furrows, and was situated c. 5.0m southwest of a small sub-circular pit (F.7) which with a diameter of c. 1.0m contained an upper fill of dark grey silty

sand [52] overlying a gritty silty sand [53] that contained an abraded lump of burnt clay.

Trench 3

Eleven features were identified in Trench 3, representing six Post-Medieval drainage slots (F.2, F.31-34, F.49) cutting through two of three furrow bases (F.1, F.50, F.23), one of which (F.32) contained a small abraded and residual sherd of Roman coarseware pottery. A service trench recorded as F.38 in Trench 9 also continued into Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trenches 4 and 5 ran parallel and nearest to a treeline, the roots of which had marginally disturbed the subsoil deposits. Nine features were recorded from within Trench 4 of which three were service trenches (**F.29**, **F.38**, **F.54**); only one of these services (F.29) was tested for confirmation, and displayed vertical straight sides with a mixed sandy gravel and clay fill [95]. Here excavation was halted at 0.75m depth, and it appears that the service links with F.38 to the west. Of the remaining features the partial remnants of only a single furrow (**F.4**) could be identified, which was cut by one of five drainage slots (**F.3**, **F.5**, **F.55-57**). One of these (F.3) contained a sherd of the base of a vessel dated to the 16th-17th century AD.

Trench 5

Two features were identified in Trench 5: a Post-Medieval drainage slot (**F.53**) and a small pit or posthole (**F.6**). This latter feature, circular in plan, was affected by rooting of the tree line to the east, but had survived enough for it to be possible to discern a profile with straight vertical sides rounding towards a concave base at 0.22m depth. A deposit of natural silting [50] covered the base, and was overlain by mid brown silt [49] and capped with dark grey silt containing small flecks of burnt stone and charcoal. A medium-sized water-rounded stone abutted the north side of the cut in this upper fill. This could be compared with F.7 in Trench 2 in terms of its composition and lack of finds, although the structure of F.6 was clearly of a much sharper profile.

Trench 6

Parallel with Trench 1, and opened to confirm the continuation of linears therein, Trench 6 contained seven features, the earliest of which were two furrow bases, one (**F.16**) containing an abraded sherd of Roman coarseware pottery and cut by a drainage slot (**F.15**), and the other (**F.19**) cut by garden bedding features (**F.14**, **F.46-48**). One of these garden features (F.14) was investigated, and proved to be a small circular posthole 0.18m in diameter and 0.15m deep; the other features were small linear slots containing Modern brick and glass.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was excavated in two stages, first being opened as a linear trench and then subsequently expanded eastwards, linking with Trench 2 in order to reveal the extent of a sub-rectangular feature oriented northwest-southeast (Figure 8). Three slots were excavated into the feature, two opened entirely by hand excavation on its western edge, and one 2.0m slot partially opened by machine across its centre (oriented northeast-southwest) and completed by hand excavation. The possibility of this being a sunken floored building was dispelled early in this process as seven pits (F.11, F.30, F.58-62) were identified in the sections and in the bases of the slots. Intercutting within a rectilinear defined area covering 5.0m by 8.5m, each of these pits had been excavated to the level of the water table, and were filled with 2-5 deposits of mid brown sandy silt and silty gravel. Finds were sparse, including two fragments of animal bone, one of which, a cow tibia, had been butchered mid shaft and then reutilised for some purpose. Pottery included three sherds of Late Medieval (13th-15th century AD) coarseware and a single Roman sherd of reduced greyware from the 1st- 2^{nd} centuries AD. All of these finds came from mid or basal fills, but the latest pottery provides the most reliable *terminus post quem* date for the overall pit cluster.

A furrow base (F.25) followed the consistent east-west course 3.5m to the north of the pit cluster, and both the furrow and the pit cluster were cut by drainage slots (F.26, F.13).

Trench 8

A furrow base (**F.27**) cut by a drainage slot (**F.28**) were the only features identified in Trench 8, and correspond with slots excavated in Trenches 2 and 7.

Trench 9

Four Post-Medieval linears were investigated in Trench 9, one of which (**F.38**) was a service trench that continues into Trenches 3 and 4; this was partially excavated to a depth of 0.75m and, like F.29 in Trench 4, held straight vertical sides and a mix of clay and sandy gravel fills. A single furrow base (**F.35**) was excavated in the northeast end of the trench, and was found to be cut by a drainage slot (**F.36**) with a second drainage slot (**F.37**) positioned on the same east-west alignment 6.0m to the south of this.

3.2 Discussion

Phase	Period(s)	Character
А	Prehistoric & Roman	Periodic visitation/ open fields
В	13 th -15 th century	Furrow field systems
С	15 th -16 th century	Pit cluster (end of furrow use?)
D	16 th -17 th century	Drainage slots (agricultural use)
Е	18 th -19 th century	Land drains (agricultural use)
F	19 th -20 th century	Mains services and gardens

Table 1. Summary of the sequence of archaeology at West Field

A summary of the sequence of archaeology at West Field is presented in Table 1.

The investigation of the West Fields at Girton College has presented only very lowlevel of evidence for Prehistoric to Roman activity, illustrated in the main by the infiltration of abraded artefacts within Late Medieval and Post-Medieval features. Undated pit/post-hole and gulley features (F.6-7, F.12) from within the northern half of the PDA may prove to be early, but their proximity to Post-Medieval pit clustering raises caution. As has been found with other recent investigations at Girton College, additional archaeology contemporary with the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon elements of the cemetery excavated in the 19th century has been largely unforthcoming. Nevertheless, such negative evidence is instructive for defining the western limits of the cemetery's extent, and with regards to the prehistoric and Roman context of its use the evidence emerging from excavations to the south and southeast suggest that it is in this area where the core settlement and related activity areas are situated. This in part means that a considerable portion of the immediate evidence is likely to have been lost to quarrying, but the relationship of the cemetery to the throughways identified both to the northwest and southeast of the PDA remains to be clearly ascertained.

The furrow system is likely to represent the earliest recognisable cut archaeological features within the PDA. Furrow systems may date from the 8th-9th century onward, and in some cases furrow systems may be used until the 17th century. Direct dating of the furrows in the current investigations is not possible, but the presence of Late Medieval pottery found from within the intercutting pit cluster in Trench 7 may indicate furrow use at least around this time. The mis-alignment of the rectilinear area of the pit clustering (F.11, F.30, F.58-62: southeast-northwest) to the orientation of the furrow systems (east-west) indicates that these were not in contemporary usage, and the combination of Roman and 13th-15th century Medieval pottery of a mixed condition in the core of the dark silty filling of the pits suggests their derivation from the dumping of a ploughsoil and subsoil into open features during the cutting of adjacent pits. Set at intervals of 6-9m, the furrow system is consistent with similar systems recorded at Wellbrook Way less than 1km northeast of the PDA (Alexander 2000). Here the alignments of the furrows were northwest-southeast or perpendicular to this, and the preservation of Medieval field boundaries by modern field division was postulated, in spite of the furrow's probable disuse by the 16th-17th century. Whilst most of the pottery was Post-Medieval, 14th-15th century pottery was also noted. The alignment of the furrow system within the PDA is unusual by comparison, and at odds with modern field division, but its orientation respects a subtle landfall to the southwest, and is replicated by later drainage features (including 19th century ceramic pipes removed during machining) that also cut through the furrow ditches. Drainage appears to have been a priority, and the run-off may have contributed to the marshy conditions at the confluence of the Washpit and Beck brooks to the west (Wright and Lewis 1989: 115). Historical records from 1202 outline two main field plots south of Girton village, and within one of these the PDA would have been situated: Watercodds and Millhill (Wright and Lewis 1989: 120-4). By the late 15th century numerous fields were grouped within these plots to provide triennial rotation of crops such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, and peas, and by the 17th century Millhill is grouped with two other fields (Redland and Fulwell) for the rotation of crops, and Watercodds with three other fields (Stanford, Little Hay, and Further Meadow).

Small-scale quarrying is the most likely purpose of the cluster of inter-cutting pits (F.11, F.30, F.58-62) which now appear to post-date the furrow system. According to the geophysics, a second rectilinear pit cluster may lie in the un-trenched area to the immediate south. The excavated cluster was cut by a thin drainage channel that is replicated across the PDA at an interval of approximately 8m, and which again reflect an attempt to drain the land. Of these, F.3 produced a sherd of 16th-17th century pottery, which again confirms the disuse of the furrows by this time, and presents a *terminus ante quem* for the pit cluster, thereby placing it within 100 years either side of the 16th century. Undated pit/post-hole and gulley features (F.6-7, F.12) may, based upon their proximity alone, be contemporaneous with the pit cluster.

19th-20th century ceramic drains and services extend across the PDA. The services are clearly identifiable on the geophysics plot in Figure 2 and the 1947 aerial photograph in Figure 3. Improvements in the College's drainage is documented from 1919 (Stephen 1933: 107), and it is possible that these works relate to F.29 and F.38-9. The garden features in the southwest corner of the PDA correspond with previous ownership of this plot and use as a vegetable plot by gatehouse on Huntingdon Road for The Grange house.

4. CONCLUSION

The programme of trial trenching at the West Field in Girton College has confirmed the western limit for activities associated with the Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemetery discovered during construction of the College in the 19th century. The absence of archaeological features prior to the Medieval era highlights the marginal position of this part of the gravel ridge that to the south and east is densely settled from at least the Middle Bronze Age onwards. A furrow system across the PDA is consistent with the Medieval land use identified to the north of the College at Wellbrook Way as well as across the North West Cambridge development project to the southeast. In spite of the cessation of this system by at least the 16th-17th century, its orientation is maintained in subsequent drainage schemes. Services traversing the PDA have been located within its southern half, and which exceed 1m in depth.

The archaeology over most of the PDA is of a low priority in research frameworks for the East of England (Medlycott 2011). The presence of Medieval quarry pits in the north half of the PDA are similarly negligible, but undated discrete features may prove to be of an earlier or unrecognised phase.

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6. APPENDICES

6.1 Specialist Reports

6.1.1 Worked Flint by Emma Beadsmoore

A total of 4 (108g) worked flints were recovered and are listed by type and feature in Table 2.

		Туре					
Feature	chip / chunk	secondary flake	multiple platform core	core rejuvenation flake	Total		
19		1			1		
23	1				1		
60			1		1		
61				1	1		
Sub Total	1	1	1	1	4		

Table 2. Summary of worked flint recovered by feature.

The material comprises a small, chronologically mixed assemblage. The core rejuvenation flake recovered from F.61 was the by-product of systematic flake/blade production/core reduction, prevalent in the Late Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic. Whilst the multiple platform core and chunk recovered from F.60 and F.23 respectively are expediently and crudely worked, and likely to date to the later prehistoric period. The remaining flake from F.19 is chronologically non-diagnostic.

6.1.2 Prehistoric Pottery by Mark Knight

Three small sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered as residual finds from within Medieval and Post-Medieval features. The sherds are abraded and are all from the body of at least two vessels; combined, their total weight is 7g.

F.11 [24] cat. no. 006. Weight 2g. Two sherds that appear to be residual Late Bronze Age or Iron Age. This identification is based largely on the fact that the fabric is similar to the sherd from <005> and is not certain.

F.11 [22] cat. no. 005. Weight 5g. One sherd that is probably residual Late Bronze Age or Iron Age.

6.1.3 Roman Pottery by Chris Going

A small quantity of four sherds of Roman pottery weighing 18g were recovered from four separate features and represent four individual vessels. None of the sherds are fully diagnostic to a particular form or type, although a $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD dateline is considered appropriate. All the sherds are either small body sherds in a condition that is abraded or very abraded and each was a residual find from within a later (i.e. post-Roman) feature.

F.9 [34] cat. no. 004. Weight 9g. Abraded reduced grey sandy coaseware. 1st-2nd century AD.

F.16 [28] cat. no. 010. Weight <1g. Very abraded oxidised reddish sandy coarseware.

F.32 [44] cat. no. 019. Weight 3g. Very abraded oxidised reddish sandy coarseware.

F.60 [70] cat. no. 020. Weight 6g. A single sherd of reduced greyware. 1st-2nd century AD.

6.1.4 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery by Craig Cessford

The assemblage comprised four sherds of pottery from three features weighing a combined total of 31g, of which three sherds were identified as dating to the later Medieval period (13th-15th century AD), and one as Post-Medieval in date (16th-17th century AD). Mainly represented by body sherds, and with a single base, the condition of the assemblage ranged from moderate to good.

F.3 [32] cat. no. 002. Weight 12g. One sherd of glazed red earthenware, 16th-17th century AD.

F.11 [22] cat. no. 005. Weight 18g. Two sherds that are probably 13th-15th century AD sandy coarseware.

F.11 [24] cat. no. 006. Weight 1g. One heavily abraded sherd which may be a 13th-15th century AD coarseware, although the identification is not certain.

6.1.5 Fauna by Daniel Sharman

A total of three specimens weighing a total of 68g were recovered from Features 17 and 11 in varying states of preservation, and representing identifiable elements from sheep/goat and cow (Table 3).

Methodology

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge. Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories where possible. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count.

Results

F.11. [24] cat. no. 007. Trench 7. Sheep/goat represented by a metacarpal (4g), with a fragmented cow tibia (63g) also being recovered from the same context; preservation of both specimens was good. The tibia shows signs of butchery with chopping marks mid-way along the shaft. On one side of the tibia the chopping marks and general exterior surface have been burnished by secondary usewear.

F.17. [8] cat. no. 012. Trench 1. Humerus (1g) of an unidentified medium mammal in a moderate state of preservation with signs of weathering.

Tayan	Feat	Total NICD	
1 8 2011	F.11	F.17	I OLAI MISP
Cattle	1		1
Sheep/goat	1		1
Sheep-sized		1	1
Sub Total	2	1	3

Table 3. Summary of faunal elements recovered by feature.

The assemblage size is too small and varied in preservation to offer any additional meaningful analysis.

6.1.6 Ceramic Building Material by Marcus Brittain

A small assemblage of three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 45g, was recovered from two features, both of Post-Medieval date.

F.15 [30] cat. no. 008. Weight 40g. Two red coarse sandy brick fragments. Post-Medieval.

F.17 [8] cat. no. 014. Weight 5g. Tile fragment with reddish exterior and grey interior. Post-Medieval.

6.1.7 Burnt Clay by Marcus Brittain and Simon Timberlake

Two abraded lumps of burnt clay were retrieved from two features, a linear (F.16) and a small pit (F.7). Neither of these lumps displays any character that may indicate use or date.

F.7 [53] cat. no. 003. Weight 8g. Fine-grained dark grey sandy burnt clay lump.

F.16 [28] cat. no. 011. Weight 2g. Small lump of hard-fired pinkish burnt clay. Possible fragment of Post-Medieval brick.

6.2 Figures



Figure 1. Location plan and known archaeological sites in vicinity of PDA



Figure 2. Plan of evaluation trenches overlying geophysics survey (resistivity and magnetometry)



Figure 3. 1947 Oblique aerial view of Girton College, looking south-east



Figure 4. Plan of Girton College Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemetery



Figure 5. Plan of evaluation trenches



Figure 6. Plan of archaeological features



Figure 7. Photographs and sections of features





Figure 8. Photograph and section across area of quarrying in Trench 7

6.3 Detailed Trench Descriptions

Trench 1



	Summary description
Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.16
Orientation of Trench	NW-SE
Width of Trench (m)	2
Length of Trench (m)	31

Fourteen archaeological features: two furrow bases and one drainage slot, both oriented east-west; a ditch oriented north-south, and a mains service trench cut by garden bedding features (totalling seven). All post-Medieval or modern.

Context	s				1	
F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
		8	F	0.65.6.3	mid yellowish brown stiff clayey silt with sub-angular stones	
17	Ditch	9	F	0.65 (w) 0.28 (d)	mixed (8) and blue-grey clay	Post-Medieval
		10	С	0.20 (u)	regular concave profile with flat base	
19	Furrow	11	F	1 (w) 0.05	mid orange brown stiff sandy-clay silt	Madiaval
16	Fullow	12	С	(d)	truncated sides with near flat base	Wedleval
10	Eurom	13	F	0.9 (w) 0.06	mid orange brown stiff sandy-clay silt	Madiaval
19	Fullow	14	С	(d)	truncated sides with near flat base	Wedleval
20	20 D i 15	15	F	0.2 (w) 0.29	mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Dest Medieval
20 Dra	Drain	16	С	(d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Post-Medieval
21	Pit	17	F	0.51 (w)	very dark grey soft humic clay-silt with occasional charcoal flecks	Post-Medieval
		18	С	0.06 (d)	shallow oval plan with a flat base]
		19	F	0.50()	mid brown clay-silt	
22	Pit	20	F	0.58 (w) 0.22 (d)	degraded foundation mortar	Post-Medieval
		21	С	0.22 (u)	circular plan with regular concave profile	
39	Service	-	-	0.97 (w)	unexcavated	Post-Medieval
40	Pit	-	-	0.62 (w)	unexcavated; see F22	Post-Medieval
41	Pit	-	-	0.71 (w)	unexcavated; see F22	Post-Medieval
42	Pit	-	-	0.32 (w)	unexcavated; see F22	Post-Medieval
43	Pit	-	-	0.57 (w)	unexcavated agricultural feature	Post-Medieval
44	Pit	-	-	0.35 (w)	unexcavated agricultural feature	Post-Medieval
45	Pit	-	-	0.66 (w)	unexcavated; see F21	Post-Medieval

Trench 2		
		Summary description
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.2
	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
	Width of Trench (m)	2
	Length of Trench (m)	39
	Seven archaeological features: or four drainage slots, all oriented e gulley with rounded terminus, orie small pit containing a fired clay contained a residual sherd of Roma	ne furrow base and east-west; a shallow ented north-south; a lump. The furrow no-British pottery.
Contexts		

Contex						
F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
_		52	F	1 (w) 0.34	dark grey friable sandy gritty silt with a medium sized rounded stone at base	
7	Pit	53	F	(d)	re-deposited mid orangey brown sandy clay gravels	nd
		54	С		sub-circular in plan with concave sides and a near flat base	
0	Eurouv	34	F	1.48 (w)	mid grey brown friable sandy silt	Madiaval
9 Ft	Fullow	35	С	0.06 (d)	irregular and shallow profile with flattish base	Wiedleval
10	10 5	111	F	0.13 (w)	mixed firm blue-white clay and friable dark grey sandy silt	Dest Medieval
10	Diam	112	С	0.18 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	1 Ust-wieuleval
12	Cullar	57	F	0.16 (w)	soft mid grey brown sandy silt	nd
12	Guiley	58	С	0.09 (d)	rounded terminus with shallow concave profile	na
12	Drain	89	F	0.16 (W)	mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Dest Medieval
15 1	Diam	90	С	0.23 (D)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Post-Ivieuleval
51	Drain	-	-	0.15 (w)	unexcavated	Post-Medieval
52	Drain	-	-	0.15 (w)	unexcavated	Post-Medieval

Trench 3



	Summary description
Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.2
Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.12
Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
Width of Trench (m)	2
Length of Trench (m)	41

Eleven archaeological features: three furrow bases and six drainage slots; one of the furrows contained a residual sherd of Romano-British pottery. A mains service trench was also noted, and passes through Trenches 4 and 9.

Contexts						
F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
		1	F	17()02(mid mid-brown loose sandy silt with occasional small stones	
1	Furrow	3	F	1.7 (w) 0.36	mid mid-brown loose sandy silt with frequent small stones	Medieval
		5	С	(u)	truncated sides with near flat base	
2	Drain	6	F	0.52 (w)	dark brown friable sandy silt	Dogt Madiaval
2	Diam	7	С	0.36 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Post-ivieuleval
23	23 Eurrow	36	F	1.2 (w) 0.05	mid orange brown friable sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks	Medieval
20 1010		37	С	(d)	truncated sides with near flat base	
24	24	40	F	0.68 (w)	mid grey brown friable sandy silt with rare sub-angular stones	Madiaval
24	Fullow	41	С	0.09 (d)	concave sides with a flat base	Wiedleval
21	Drain	42	F	0.22 (w)	mixed firm blue-white clay and friable dark grey sandy silt	Dogt Madiaval
51	Diam	43	С	0.26 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Post-Wiedleval
22	Drain	44	F	0.21 (w)	mixed firm blue-white clay and friable dark grey sandy silt	Dest Mediaval
32	Diam	45	С	0.25 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Post-Wiedleval
22	Drain	46	F	0.18 (w)	mixed firm blue-white clay and friable dark grey sandy silt	Post Madiaval
33	Dialli	47	С	0.22 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	rost-iviculeval
34 Drain	Drain	38	F	0.2 (w) 0.29	mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular stones	Post Madiaval
	Diam	39	С	(d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Post-Wiedleval
49	Drain	-	-	0.15 (w)	unexcavated	Post-Medieval
50	Furrow	-	-	0.51 (w)	unexcavated	Medieval

Trench 4



	Summary description
Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1
Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
Width of Trench (m)	3
Length of Trench (m)	62

Nine archaeological features: one furrow base and five drainage slots, all oriented east-west; one of the drainage slots contained 16th-17th century pottery. Three modern mains service trenches were also identified.

Contexts							
F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments	
2	Drain	32	F	0.24 (w)	mixed soft light blue clay and dark brown loamy silt	Deat Madiaval	
3	Dialli	33	С	0.26 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Post-Medieval	
4	Furrow	91	F	0.38 (w)	mid grey brown friable sandy silt with rare sub-angular stones	Medieval	
		92	С	0.05 (d)	concave sides with a flat base		
5	Drain	93	F	0.1 (w) 0.12	mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular stones	Post-Medieval	
		94	С	(d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base		
20	Somilao	95	F	0.97 (w)	mixed firm mid blue clay and loose sandy gravel	Deat Madiaval	
29	Service	96	С	+0.75 (d)	straight vertical sides. Not bottomed	Post-Medieval	
54	Service	-	-	-	unexcavated	Post-Medieval	
55	Drain	-	-	-	unexcavated	Post-Medieval	
56	Drain	-	-	-	unexcavated	Post-Medieval	
57	Drain	-	-	0.15 (w)	unexcavated	Post-Medieval	

Trench 5						
COM - P	of internation				Summary	description
	and the second				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
A.S.			Martin and		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1
	and the	e station	· Service	and the second sec	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
1.47		and the second	A. State	Wilson - Harne	Width of Trench (m)	2
	and and	A		a stand of the	Length of Trench (m)	18
					Two archaeological features: an undated posthole, and a drainage slot.	d pit or
Contexts						
F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
	Pit	48	F		dark grey and mid brown mottled soft and friable silt with rare charcoal flecks and burnt stone	
6		49	F	0.5 (w) 0.22	mid brown soft and friable silt with occasional small sub-angular stones	nd
		50	F	(-)	moderately compact and friable mid orange brown sandy silt	
		51	С		circular in plan with concave sides and flat base	
53	Drain	-	-	0.13 (w)	unexcavated	Post- Medieval

Trench 6		
		Summary description
and the second sec	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1
	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE
	Width of Trench (m)	2
and the second sec	Length of Trench (m)	27
	Seven archaeological features: two containing a residual sherd of pottery and one drainage slot all	furrow bases, one f Romano-British
	four modern garden features incluing and bedding trenches.	uding a post hole
The second		

	and the second			CONTRACTOR OF		
Contex	rts					
F.No.	F. Туре	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
1.4	Post hole	55	F	0.18 (w)	mid yellow brown soft silty clay	Post-
14		56	С	0.14 (d)	circular in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base	Medieval
15	Durin	30	F	0.24 (w)	mid orange brown firm clay-silt with occasional small stones	Post-
15	Drain	31	С	0.28 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	Medieval
	Furrow	28	F	1.85 (w) 0.2 (d)	mid orange brown soft clay-silt with occasional small stones	Medieval
16		29	С		gradual inverted sides with step to tapered drainage profile at centre	
19	Furrow	-	-	0.6 (w)	unexcavated	Medieval
46	Agricultural	-	-	0.35 (w) 1.22 (l)	unexcavated	Post- Medieval
47	Agricultural	-	-	0.42 (w) 1.77 (l)	unexcavated	Post- Medieval
48	Agricultural	-	-	0.27 (w) 2.88 (l)	unexcavated	Post- Medieval

Trenc	ch 7						
					Sumi	nary description	
	107	1	A B A		Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27	
	a second and	- Jacoban	a marine and		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.18	
					Orientation of Trench	NW-SE	
	Part of	A STATE	P. self		Width of Trench (m)	2	
	and the second s	ast.	ANT		Length of Trench (m)	10	
			-			10	
					Nine archaeological features: one furn two drainage slots; at least six pits y rectangular area of intercutting pits Romano-British and Late Medieval animal bone, all in a mixed condition.	row base and within a sub- s, containing pottery, with	
Contexts	8			Dimensions			
F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	(m)	Description	Comments	
		22	F		dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional small stones		
11	Pit	23	F	+2 (w) 0.7	mid orange brown loose silty sand	Medieval or Post- Medieval	
		24	F	(d)	mid brown friable sandy silt		
		25	С		sub-rectangular in plan with concave sides and flat base		
		26	F	-	dark greyish brown sandy silt	Post-Medieval	
13	Drain	27	C	0.2 (w) 0.5 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base		
		59	F		dark greyish brown sandy silt		
		60	C		straight near vertical sides with concave base		
25	Furrow	107	F	1.31 (w)	stones	Medieval	
		108	С	0.06 (d)	concave sides with a flat base	<u> </u>	
26	Drain	109	F	0.10 (w)	mid orange brown firm clay-silt with occasional small	Post-Medieval	
20		110	С	0.18 (d)	straight near vertical sides with concave base		
	Pit	113	F	+2 (w) 0.7 (d)	dark brown friable sandy silt with occasional small stones	Medieval or Post- Medieval	
20		114	F		mid orange brown loose silty sand		
30		115	F		mid brown friable sandy silt		
		116	С		sub-rectangular in plan with concave sides and flat base		
		61	F		mid brown moderately compact sandy silt with occasional small angular stones	Medieval or Post- Medieval	
		62	F		mid to light brown silty sand with frequent small stones		
		63	F	2.7 (w) 0.7	light yellowish brown soft silty-clay sand with occasional		
58	Pit	05	г Г	(d)	small to medium rounded stones		
		64	F	-	same as [62]		
		65	F		eroded natural sandy gravel	-	
		66	С		flat base		
		67	F	24 ()	mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional	Madianal an Daat	
59	Pit	68	C	2.4 (w) 0.75 (d)	straight inverted sides with rounded break of slope to near	Medieval or Post- Medieval	
		08	C		flat base		
		69	F	1.0 ()	small sub-angular stones		
60	Pit	70	F	1.8 (w) 0.85 (d)	dark grey clayey silt with rare small sub-angular stones	Medieval or Post- Medieval	
		71	С		straight inverted sides with rounded base; circular in plan		
		72	F		mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay silt with occasional		
61	Pit	73	F	+1.6 (w) 0.52(d)	mid orangey brown compact silty sand and gravel	Medieval or Post-	
		74	C		near straight inverted sides with slight songave bees	wieuleval	
		/4			Mid arrest a flag allow allowed and a state of the state		
62	Pit	/5	F C	0.52 (w) 0.1 (d)	flat have of eizevlor pit	Medieval or Post-	

Trench 8						
the second second second					Summa	ry description
		The	Store -	0	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
and the	and sales	When the		the state of the	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.2
-				The state of the second se	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
			Sec. 1	and the second	Width of Trench (m)	2
	the second		the ships	and the second second	Length of Trench (m)	12.5
					Two archaeological features: one furrow base and one drainage slot, both oriented east-west.	
F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
27	Furrow	97	F	0.76 (w) 0.05	mid grey brown friable sandy silt with rare sub-angular stones	Medieval
		98	С	(a)	concave sides with a flat base	
28	Drain	99	F	0.15 (w) 0.20 (d)	mid orange brown firm clay-silt with occasional small stones	Post-Medieval
		100	С		straight near vertical sides with concave base	

Trench 9



	Summary description
Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1
Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
Width of Trench (m)	2
Length of Trench (m)	20

Four archaeological features: one furrow base and two drainage slots oriented east-west, with a mains service trench.

F.No.	F.Type	Context	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
35	Furrow	101	F	1.38 (w) 0.05	mid grey brown friable sandy silt with rare sub-angular stones	Medieval
		102	С	(d)	concave sides with a flat base	
36	Drain	103	F	0.12 (w) 0.16	mid orange brown firm clay-silt with occasional small stones	Post-Medieval
		104	С	(a)	straight near vertical sides with concave base	
37 D	Drain	105	F	0.14 (w) 0.20 (d)	mid orange brown firm clay-silt with occasional small stones	Post-Medieval
		106	С		straight near vertical sides with concave base	
	Service	77	F	1.22 (w) +1 (m)	compact mid orange clayey sandy gravel	Post-Medieval
		78	F		stiff blue clay	
		79	F		compact friable mid yellow gravelly sand	
		80	F		compact mid orange clayey sandy gravel	
		81	F		stiff blue clay	
38		82	F		stiff blue clay	
50		83	F		compact mid orange clayey sandy gravel	
		84	F		compact mid orange clayey sandy gravel	
		85	F		stiff blue clay	
		86	F		compact mid orange clayey sandy gravel	
		87	F		stiff blue clay	
		88	С		straight vertical sides; not fully excavated	

7. OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: cambridg3-178289

Project details

Project name	Girton College, West Field, Cambridge. An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	In April 2014 the Cambridge Archaeological Unit excavated nine evaluation trenches with a total length of 260.5m within the West Field of Girton College. With the exception of residual finds of worked flint and Late Bronze-Early Iron Age pottery, prehistoric activity was not represented by any features. This was also the case for the Roman evidence, illustrated by four small abraded sherds of 1st-2nd century AD pottery. This, along with a complete absence of Anglo-Saxon activity, confirms the western limit for the Roman and Saxon cemetery found during the construction of College buildings in the later 19th century, and a northern limit for equivalent prehistoric activity recently exposed in the North West Cambridge development project. Overall, the study area's archaeology is comprised of the partial survival of a regular furrow system preceding a a rectilinear cluster of pits containing a small amount of both Roman and Late Medieval pottery. Certainly by the 16th-17th centuries the furrow system is in disuse, although linear slots for drainage continue to be cut in subsequent centuries along the same east-west course as the furrows, and thereby maximising the natural south-eastern landfall. Early 20th century service mains and garden bedding plots represent the most recent features. Undated features include two pits or postholes and a gully terminus, all within the northern half of the study area.
Project dates	Start: 09-04-2014 End: 14-04-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Project ref. code	GIR14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
	FURROW Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
wonument type	PITS Post Medieval
	PITS Uncertain
	DITCH Uncertain
	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
	FLINT Late Prehistoric
	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Method	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Research
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE GIRTON Girton College, West Field
Postcode	CB3 0JG
Study area	1.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 542255 261091 51.9116648187 0.242473606354 51 54 41 N 000 14 32 E Point
Lat/Long Datum (other)	52.229653/0.08146280
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.00m Max: 27.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Unitary Authority Archaeologist
Project design originator	Christopher Evans
Project director/manager	Christopher Evans
Project supervisor	Marcus Brittain
Sponsor/funding body type	Landowner
Sponsor/funding body name	Girton College
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	GIR14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	GIR14
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Survey","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	GIR14
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Girton College, West Field, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brittain, M
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 1231
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	34 pages, 2 tables, 7 colour and B/W figures, 7 sections
Entered by	Marcus Brittain (mb654@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	06-May-14