

19 Barford Road, Eynesbury, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation



Katie Hutton



**CAMBRIDGE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

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Illustrations by Jane Matthews

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Summary

An archaeological trenched evaluation was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land adjacent to 19 Barford Road, Eynesbury (TL 1847 5907) in advance of the planned construction of a dwelling, garages and associated landscaping. The proposed development area (PDA) consists of 0.11 ha. The trenches showed some modern pond disturbance but otherwise no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on the 22nd May 2014 on land adjacent to 19 Barford Road, Eynesbury. The evaluation, commissioned by Steve Homer, was carried out in advance of the development of the site and aimed to establish the presence, date, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains. This report details the results of planned evaluation, together with an assessment of the archaeological evidence in relation to the regional research framework, (Glazebrook 1997, Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).

The evaluation was carried out and this report was produced in accordance with an archaeological specification written by the CAU (Beadsmoore 2014) and produced in a response to a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET), (McConnell 2014).

Location, Topography and Geology

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located in Eynesbury, Cambridgeshire on the western side of Barford Road, centred on National Grid Reference TL 1847 5907. The site is currently occupied by mature gardens and is situated next to private dwellings. The PDA is situated at approximately c. 20m AOD. The underlying geology is River Terrace Gravels.

Archaeological Background

The development area is in a landscape of known archaeological activity in the Great Ouse Valley. Monuments and artefacts recovered as stray finds provide evidence for prehistoric activity around the site. A Neolithic long barrow was excavated on land off Barford Road, Eynesbury (CHER 00381), whilst a Neolithic cursus (CHER 11671) and a possible Neolithic double enclosure (MCB 17697) have also been identified nearby. Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts, including worked flint, axeheads and pottery, have also been recovered from the area (CHER 00397, CHER 04459, CHER 00402a, CHER 02032, CHER 004459a). More substantial Bronze Age and Iron Age activity is also known from the area in the form of Bronze Age cremations (MCB 17704) and a Bronze Age/Iron Age pit alignment enclosure (MCB 17703). Evidence for Roman activity is provided by settlement remains (CHER 00396b, CHER 10898, CHER 00403).

Methodology

The trial trenching programme consists of two trenches, a total of 18.50m (Figure 1). Trenches were generally located in order to provide an even coverage of the PDA although trench locations were partially determined/ limited by the location of known services and vegetation.

Trial trenches were excavated using a three tonne tracked 360° excavator using a combination of a toothed bucket (for root removal) and a toothless bucket elsewhere and operated under direct archaeological supervision at all times. Trenches were located using an advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) with Ordnance Datum (OD) heights obtained. Potential archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and subsequently sample excavated, with hand tools and all archaeological finds retained. A written record of archaeological features was created using the CAU recording system (a modification of the MoLAS system) and sections drawn at an appropriate scale.

The work was carried out in full accordance with the IFA's Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

Results

Evaluation trenches were cut into top soil approximately 0.20m deep and subsoil which consisted of a light brown sandy loam approximately 0.40m deep. There was also an interface between the natural sandy loamy gravels and the subsoil. This was approximately 0.30m deep and consisted of an orange sandy loam.

Within the two evaluation trenches no archaeological evidence was discovered. However, some modern disturbance was noted at the north-east end of Trench 1.

Trench 1 (length 11m, width 1.20m) was shorter than originally planned due to vegetation and had some modern concrete pond disturbance situated in the subsoil to the north east.

Trench 1		
General Description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 1 contained some modern disturbance. No archaeological features or deposits were present.	Average topsoil depth (m)	0.15m
	Average subsoil 1 depth (m)	0.40m
	Average subsoil 2 depth (m)	0.30m
	Width (m)	1.2m
	Length (m)	11m

Trench 2 (length 7.50m, width 1.20m) was also shorter than originally planned due to a known service at the South East end.

Trench 2		
General Description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits.	Average topsoil depth (m)	0.25m
	Average subsoil 1 depth (m)	0.40m
	Average subsoil 2 depth (m)	0.10m
	Width (m)	1.2m
	Length (m)	7.5m

Discussion

The preservation of the subsoil in these two trenches shows that if there had been any archaeological features here they would have been preserved. Therefore, as no significant archaeological remains were identified it is highly likely the PDA falls outside of the foci of activity prior to the post medieval period, and saw limited utilisation during Roman and prehistoric times.

Acknowledgements

The work was commissioned by Steve Homer. Dan McConnell of CHET monitored the project. The trial trench programme was carried out by Katie Hutton who was assisted by Dan Sharman. John Moller was responsible for the field survey and report graphics were produced by Jane Matthews. The project was managed by Emma Beadsmoore.

References

- Beadsmoore, E. 2014. A Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to 19 Barford Road, Eynesbury
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 (eds). Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: Research Agenda and Strategy. EAA Occasional Paper 8
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- McConnell, D. 2014. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, 19 Barford Road, Eynesbury. Cambridgeshire Historic Environmental Team
- Medlycott, M. 2011 Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England, EAA Occasional Paper 24

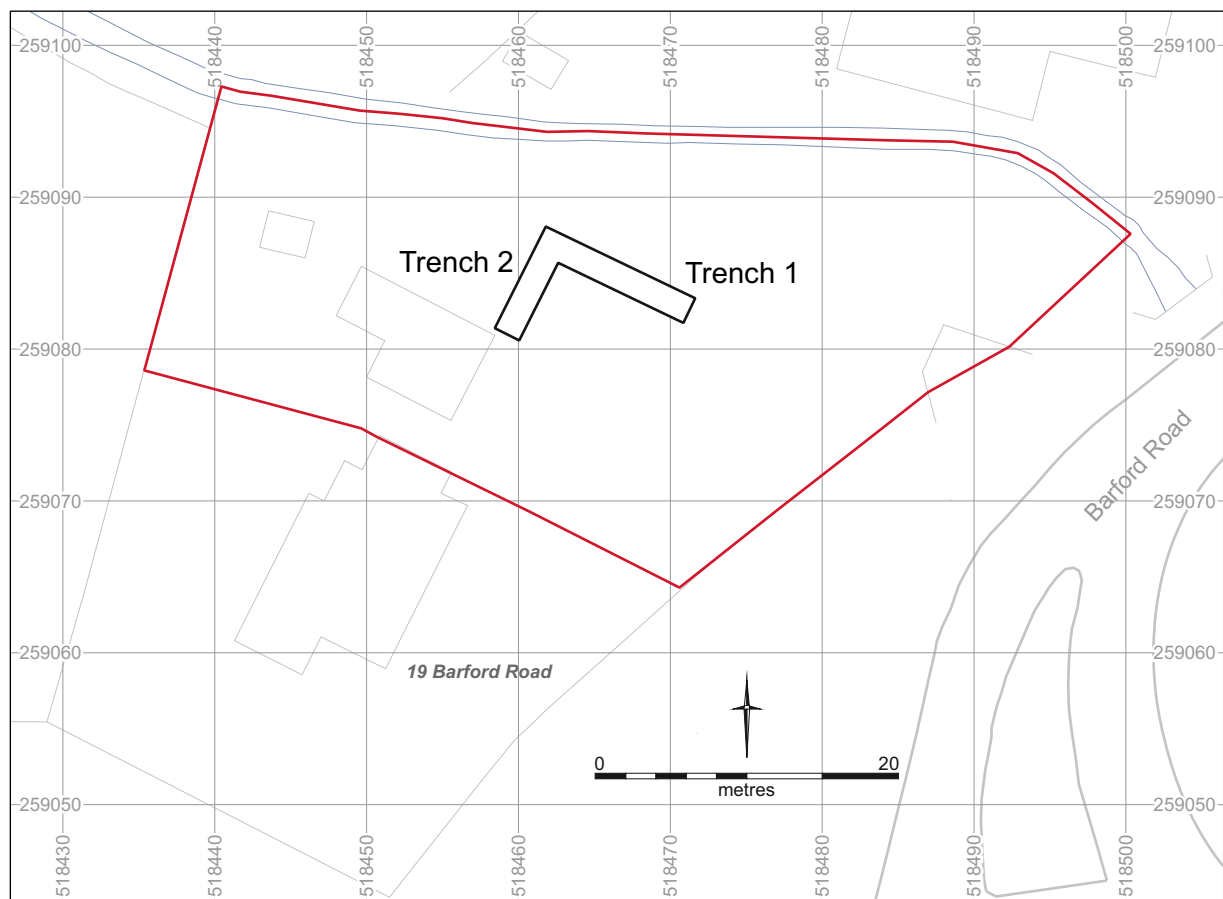
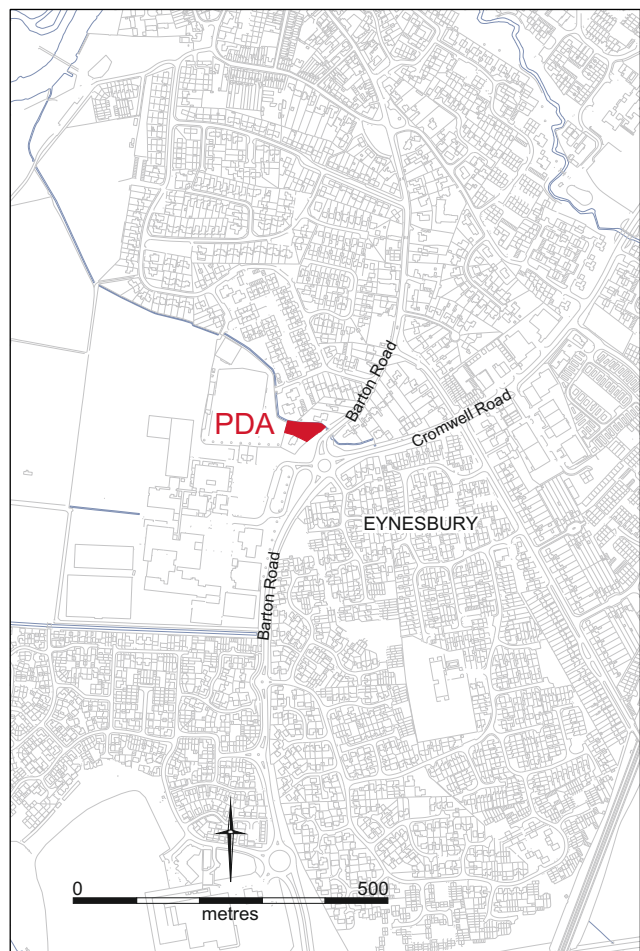
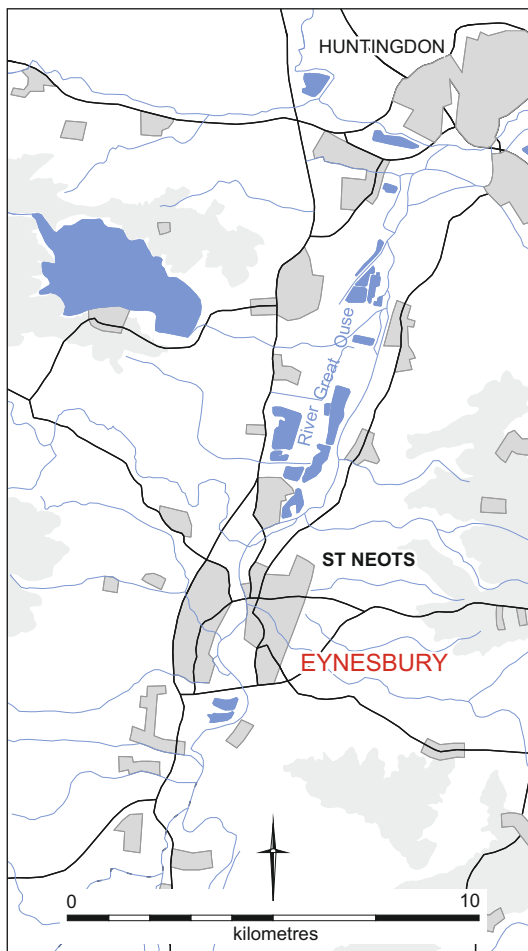


Figure 1. Location of PDA and trench plan

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Project details

Project name	19 Barford Road, Eynesbury
Short description of the project	An archaeological trenched evaluation was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land adjacent to 19 Barford Road, Eynesbury (TL 1847 5907) in advance for a dwelling, garages and associated landscaping. The proposed development area (PDA) compromises 0.11 Ha.
Project dates	Start: 22-05-2014 End: 22-05-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4181 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BRE14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE EYNESBURY HARDWICKE ECB4181

Postcode	PE19 2SB
Study area	0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1836 5913 52.217231 -0.26727739 52 13 02 N 000 16 02 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.00m Max: 20.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Emma Beadsmoore
Project director/manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Katie Hutton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Barford & Co
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Report","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	19 Barford Road, Eynesbury, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Beadsmoore, E.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hutton, K.
Other	

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