Severalls Hospital, Colchester

An Archaeological Evaluation



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Severalls Hospital, Colchester: An Archaeological Evaluation

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

49 trenches totaling 2322.36 sqm were opened over an area of 42.13ha at Severalls Hospital, Colchester. Seven small pits filled with a significant charcoal content were identified and though without any finds they are comparable with other pits found in previous works from which a date of the Late Iron Age to Early Roman periods has been determined. Radiocarbon analysis of a charcoal sample from one of the pits in the current project has returned a date within the second century BC. With these possible exceptions, the only archaeological features present were either a part of the nineteenth century agricultural landscape, or the twentieth century workings associated with the construction and use of Severalls Hospital.

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INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) was commissioned by K2 Consultancy to conduct an archaeological evaluation over an area of 42.13ha at the former Severalls Hospital, centred upon TL 9927 2838 (Figure 1). This was carried out between June and August 2016 with 49 trenches opened at a total of 1290.2m (2322.36 sqm).

The topography of the proposed development area (PDA) is flat and lies at an average of *c*. 49m OD over bedrock geology of the Thames Group clay and silt overlain by Diamicton Till of mixed clay, silt and sandy gravel. The evaluation focussed upon areas of accessible open land mainly around the fringes of the central built-up 'kidney' of Severalls Hospital. The southeast area of the evaluation was recently separated from the overall estate land by the construction of the Via Urbis Romanae (Northern Approach Road).

Archaeological and Historical Background

No previous archaeological investigation has been carried out within the PDA. A geophysical survey was commissioned as part of the current project in which a number of (mainly linear) anomalies were registered (Bartlett 2016; see Appendices), but from which no specific periodisation could be anticipated without intrusive (e.g. trench) investigation.

The PDA is situated in a landscape of known archaeological activity, the detail of which has been outlined in a Desk Based Assessment (Reeves and Hawkins 2015), although the results of other recent works may also now be added to this. Prehistoric activity has been shown to be limited, with a Neolithic stone axe found to the northwest of the PDA (HER 11601) along with a flint arrowhead (HER 11904); two worked flints were also found in topsoil during evaluation of the Northern Approach Road, south of the PDA (Colchester Archaeological Trust 1997), with another to the north also from topsoil (Le Hégarat in Dyson 2015: 20). The potential for Iron Age activity north of the PDA has been inferred from soilmarks observed from an aerial vantage (HER 14317 and 2644), and these may also relate to Roman activity. To the south of the PDA, abundant Roman occupation is registered across Colchester city centre, which lies upon a significant Roman settlement, Camulodunum. Activity along the northern hinterland of this settlement, and in proximity to the PDA, has been recently illustrated 0.4km north of the PDA at the Cuckoo Farm Park and Ride (Dyson 2015). This consisted of 33 small circular pits filled with deposits often containing high densities of charcoal and ash, and evidence that burning had occurred *in situ*. Pottery found within two of the pits dated to the 1st century AD, and radiocarbon dates from charcoal obtained from a pit absent of finds returned dates of 50BC-AD65 (i.e. latest Iron Age to Early Roman). Similar pits have been recorded during archaeological investigations at Severalls School northeast of the PDA, Cuckoo Farm's Flakt Woods also to the north, and along the Northern Approach Road which traversed the PDA's southeast area. Although undated, these pits may also be of Late Iron Age to Early Roman origin, and may therefore indicate that the area served some form of low-scale industrial purpose. Roman coins recovered to the west of the PDA (HER 56221, 56222 and 56448) may relate to these activities.

There is no recorded evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity in the PDA, with historic cartographic evidence showing this to be a mix of heath land and woodland in the later eighteenth century that subsequently became enclosed by ditched field boundaries and hedgerows in the early nineteenth century.

Construction of an asylum was initiated in the PDA in 1910 and was opened in 1913 (Gittins 1998). Soldiers were encamped within the grounds of Severalls in the First World War, and Severalls acted as a military hospital in both the First and Second World Wars. On 11th August 1942 the women's infirmary and laundry was struck by three bombs during an air raid, killing 38 patients (ibid: 181), although the damage appears to have been concentrated to the northeast of the PDA (1st Line Defence 2016). The majority of the hospital was closed in the mid-1990s. Two of the hospital's buildings are Grade II listed, and the PDA is a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden.

Methodology

The work followed specifications previously outlined in a Project Brief (Tipper 2016) issued by the Colchester Borough Council Planning Services and within a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the CAU (Beadsmoore 2016).

The trenches (Figure 2) were initially opened by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator monitored by an experienced banksman to a level at which archaeological deposits were exposed. All archaeological features and deposits were manually excavated and recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS recording system (Spence 1990). The trenches and features therein were 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 System. Excavated feature sections and trench profiles were photographed in high resolution digital format (RAW and JPEG). Environmental sampling of the archaeological deposits was strategically conducted as bulked (bagged) samples. Spoil heaps were scanned using a metal detector.

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 (Historic England 2015). These are being stored with the processed material finds record at the CAU offices, under the site code COLEM: 2016.56.

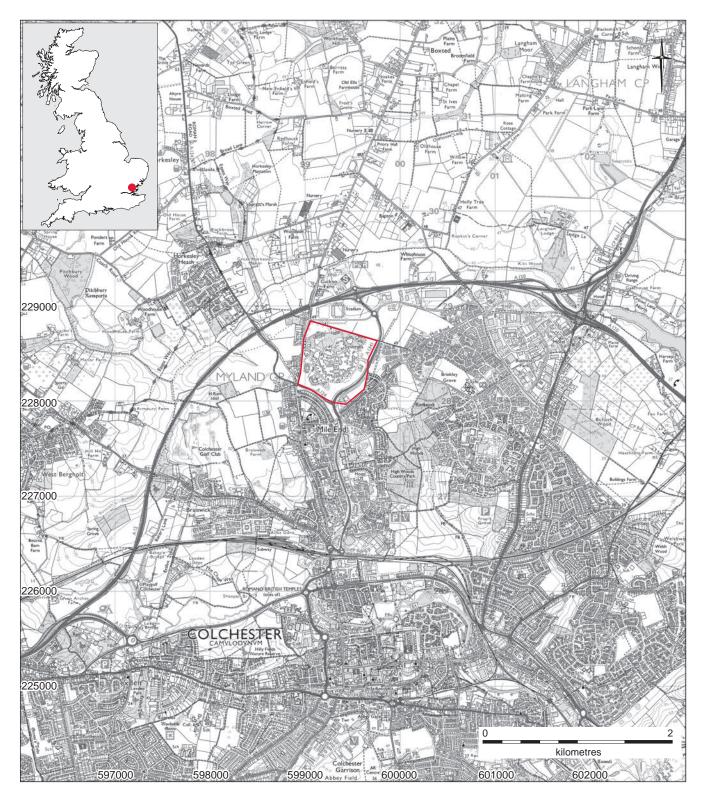


Figure 1. Site Location

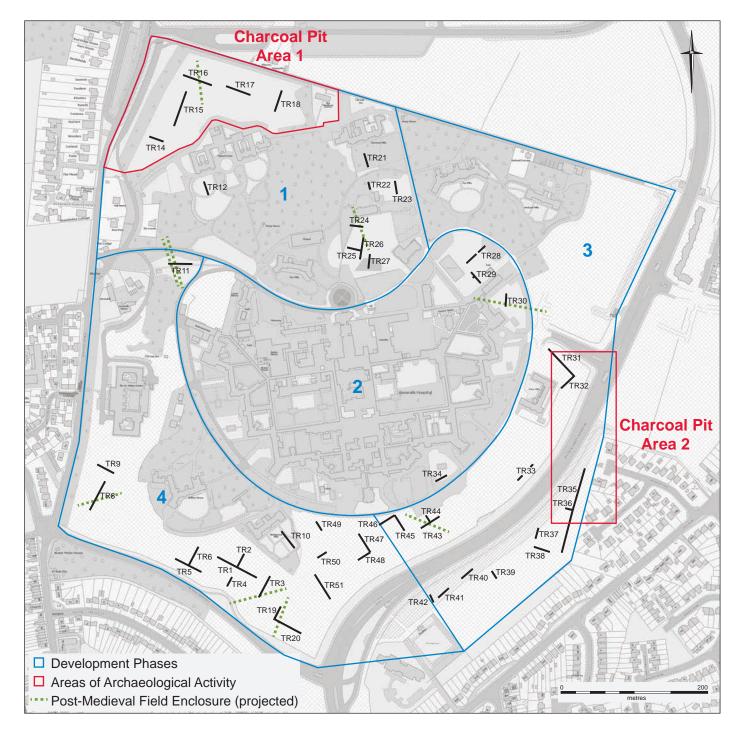


Figure 2. Trench Plan

RESULTS

A total of 76 anomalies were assigned a feature number and tested through manual excavation. The majority of these appear to relate either to the site's post-Medieval agricultural use or the twentieth century workings of Severalls Hospital (garden or construction features). Aside from this, two areas of potentially earlier activity were identified. These were characterised by small circular pits that contained layers of silty ash and charcoal. Although subject to 100 percent excavation these produced no datable finds; however, these lie in relative proximity to similar charcoal-filled pits that have been dated to the latest Iron Age-Early Roman period, and a charcoal sample submitted for radiocarbon analysis confirms a similar dateline for those found in the current project (see Appendices). These two areas of archaeological potential are depicted in Figure 2 as Charcoal Pit Area1 and Charcoal Pit Area2.

The sequence of the site's proposed development has been spatially demarcated into four phases that for ease of discussion are adopted in the results section below, with areas of greatest archaeological potential being subsequently highlighted for more detailed description. The results of the Post-Medieval features are summarised below by reference to the development phase sequence; more detailed attention is reserved for the two areas of potentially earlier features. Full feature descriptions are provided in the individual trench summaries in the Appendices.

Finds were sparse and recovered only from 15 features in 13 trenches; without exception these dated to the post-Medieval or Modern eras.

Iron Age to Roman?

Charcoal Pit Area1 (Figure 3)

Trenches 14-17

Two pits contained charcoal-rich fills. Feature 13 in Trench 15 was sub-oval in plan, 0.84m wide, and filled with two deposits. At a depth of 0.35m the pit's slight concave base was hardened and reddened as a result of direct heat, suggestive of *in situ* burning, and a thick basal fill of brown silt [25] contained two lenses of small charcoal fragments separated by unfired orangey grey clay. This was capped by light greyish brown silt [24] with rare flecks of charcoal, but no artefacts were recovered. Feature 12 in Trench 17 was another pit of sub-circular plan, 1.1m long and 1.07m wide, that was identified with a single fill [22] of soft mid-brown clayey silt infused with frequent small charcoal fragments. This pit displayed gently sloping sides and a flat base at a depth of 0.1m.

Three postholes were located near to the pits. One, F.47 in Trench 14, was of a concave profile with a diameter of 0.3m and was filled with soft brown silt [53] and occasional charcoal flecks to a depth of 0.12m. This contained a small assemblage of heat-cracked stones. Two other postholes, Fs. 48 and 49, were identified near to pit F.13 in Trench 15. These were both circular in plan with diameters of 0.22-.28m and, positioned less than 2.0m apart, each contained a single fill with rare charcoal flecks to between 0.04m and 0.15m depth.

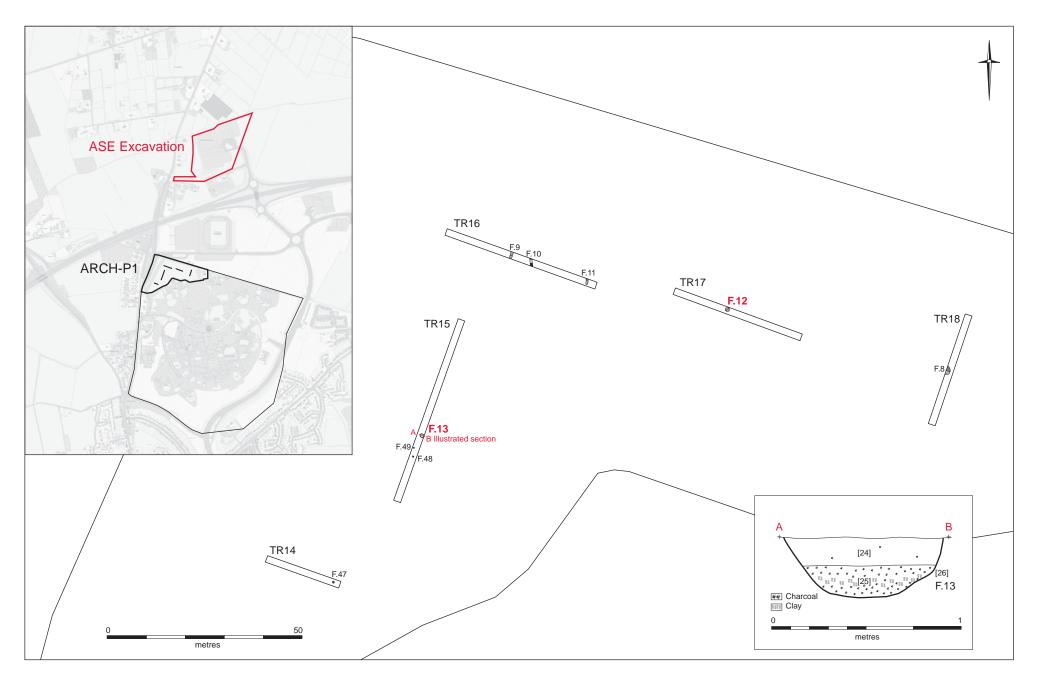


Figure 3. Detail of Charcoal Pit Area1, and location of ASE 2015 excavation

A number of post-Medieval or modern linears were also observed, but one shallow ditch, F.9, contained a fill [17] of friable mid brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks that contrasted with the dark humic deposits that characteristically filled the later features. Nevertheless, with its full 2.0m exposure excavated and measured to a width of 0.8m and a depth of 0.19m, this remains undated.

The distribution of Charcoal Pit Area1 is likely to extend northwards and correspond with 33 pits identified in the Cuckoo Farm Park and Ride (Dyson 2015). This would equate to an extent of some 400m over a northeast course.

Charcoal Pit Area2 (Figure 4)

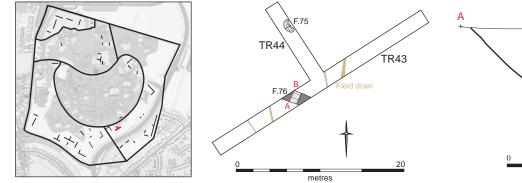
Trenches 31-32, 35

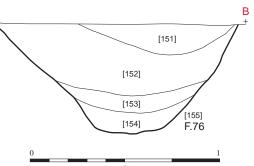
Seven pits of varying size and character were identified in this area that is broken by the route of the Northern Approach Road. West of the road, Trench 31 revealed three pits containing charcoal: Fs. 61-63. At 0.3m the deepest of these, F.61, was also the widest with a circular diameter of 0.9m at its mouth. With sharp concave sides this was filled with three deposits over a flat base. The basal deposit [120] of dark grey silty sand housed the most frequent inclusions of charcoal in small lumps and flecks. This was overlain by firm light blueish grey sandy clay [119] and capped by fine mid grey brown sandy silt [118] with rare charcoal flecks. Over 10m to the northwest was a second pit, F.62, and a third, F.63, a further 15m from this. Respectively, these were sub-circular and rectangular (c. 0.37-.46m wide and 0.5-.85m long) with depths of only 0.08-.11m. Each containing mid or light grey sandy silt, the degree of charcoal varied from rare (F.62) to frequent (F.63). Again, these contained no artefacts - including heat affected stones. On the east side of the road and in Trench 35 were four pits that may be distinguished from proximate post-Medieval features. Two of these, Fs. 36 and 68, contained two fills the uppermost of which were rich with charcoal. In F.68 the charcoal included large lumps of roundwood along the base of the fill [108] and concentrated along the pit's north edge. This produced a radiocarbon date within the second century BC (see Appendices). In situ burning was not readily apparent in F.68, but the flat base of F.36 was reddened and hardened by direct heat. These two pits were each 0.6m wide with concave sides to a depth of 0.11-.28m. These two pits were separated by almost 60m, midway between which was a further two pits, Fs. 69 and 70. These were positioned 5.0m apart and were similar in their character. Both c. 0.4m diameter at their circular mouth, these displayed sharp concave profiles filled to 0.18m depth with mid brownish grey silty sand, but no charcoal. Undated, their connection with the charcoal-filled pits is uncertain.

The extent of Charcoal Pit Area2 is highlighted by the record of four charcoal-filled pits in the area of the Northern Approach Road between the two areas of trenching (Baister 2014). Of a character certainly comparable with those pits in the current project (the dimensions are not reported, but a photo and basic feature descriptions are presented), this appears to represent a north-south distribution in excess of 300m length.



Figure 4. Detail of Charcoal Pit Area 2 and location of CAT Northern Approach Road excavation (2014)









F.68

F.63





F.61

Trench 47





Figure 5. Selected photographs and sections

Post-Medieval and Modern

Area 1

Trenches 12, 14-18, 21-27

Eight service trenches or shallow field drains were identified. The pre-hospital agricultural landscape was highlighted by ceramic field drains along with three shallow ditches. However, two of the services (Fs. 10 and 31) in Trenches 16 and 25-26 comprised of a regular straight-sided cut up to 0.3m deep, at the base of which were copper cables encased within wooding framework filled with bitumen; this unusual type of service may be an early twentieth century communications line. Ten shallow pits and two square postholes may be remnants of the hospital gardens. These contained single dark humic deposits occasioned with fragments of post-Medieval brick, tile or iron nails. A treebowl in Trench 18 further supports this view; however, one pit (F.50) in Trench 22 may be connected either with pre-hospital agricultural activities or with the construction of the hospital itself. This was 0.7m deep and 1.1m wide with four mixed fills containing building rubble including brick and glass.

Area 2

Trenches 28-30, 34

Additional features likely associated with the hospital gardens here included three shallow pits (Fs. 18 and 22-23) filled with dark silt and occasional charcoal, but with finds of a hand-made iron nail and late nineteenth or early twentieth century pottery. Three square postholes (Fs. 19-21) in Trench 28 were aligned northeast to southwest, and a fragment of brick was recovered from one of these and immediately south of pit F.18. A possible truncated base of a ditch, F.24, oriented east-west in Trench 30 was heavily impacted by wheel tracks and certainty of its character was not possible to determine, but brick fragments were contained therein.

Area 3

Trenches 31-33, 35-46

Traces of the northerly course of Severalls' east side chain-link fence perimeter were recorded by 34 postholes in Trenches 31, 32 and 35. In addition to this was a shallow circular pit (F.38) in Trench 35, impacted by wheel tracks but containing fragments of brick, with a burnt-out treethrow, F.75, in Trench 44, and a ditch containing nineteenth century glazed tile and brick brick fragments in Trench 43. The ditch, F.76, was oriented east-northeast with straight sides 1.3m wide with a flat base at a depth of 0.57m.

Area 4

Trenches 1-11, 19-20, 47-51

Two alignments of features were encountered in Area 4, respectively oriented eastwest/north-south and northwest-southeast. The former consisted of two ditches, Fs. 3 and 25 in Trenches 3 and 20, with an east-west line of four post holes (Fs. 1-2 and 4-5) crossing Trenches 3-5. The features situated upon the northwest-southeast alignment were concentrated along the west edge of the PDA in Trenches 8 and 11. In trench 8 this consisted of one ditch, F.42, 0.7m wide and 0.23m deep from which at its base fragments of hand-made brick were recovered. Five shallow flat-based hollows (Fs. 39-41, 43 and 46) were also investigated here, up to 0.15m deep and each filled with homogenous soft grey silt. These were irregular in plan, though broadly oval, and 1.42-2.85m wide. Their irregular shape, close distribution and fill character is reminiscent of a natural hollow effect resulting from aquifer or springhead activity; a spring is depicted on the OS maps from the late nineteenth century onwards on the east side of the Severalls estate, and though not warranting of registry on the estate's west side the presence here of a subterranean aquifer seems likely. In Trench 11 the continuation of the northwest-southeast feature alignment is represented by two parallel and shallow ditches, Fs. 57 and 60, and three square postholes with five shallow pits may be the remnants of the hospital's garden arrangement.

The alignment of the east-west/north-south feature system would broadly be consistent with the field allotments depicted in the 1842 Tithe map and may therefore date to the first half of the nineteenth century. The northwest-southeast alignment may predate this, although there is little evidence in support of this.

Environment Data

Five bulk samples from three charcoal-filled pits were processed by flotation for the recovery of plant remains and wood charcoal, as well as any molluscs and small animal bone where present (Table 1). A modified version of the Sīraf tank was used (Williams 1973) with flots collected on $300\mu m$ nylon mesh and heavy residues on 1mm mesh.

Sampla	ample Feature	Contoxt		Charcoal		
Sample		Context	Volume/Litres	No. items	Weight (g)	
3	13	24	14	10-50	1	
4	13	25	13	+50	34	
6	61	120	14	+50	19	
7	68	108	14	0	0	
8	68	109	10	+50	336	

Table 1. Summary of Environmental data

Only charred wood was present within the samples. The majority of this was in small fragments, except for in F.68 [109] in which roundwood fragments up to 30mm diameter predominated. The cross section of the roundwood fragments displayed a porous structure and medullary rays most likely of Oak woodland species.

Material Culture

The assemblage (Table 2) comprised post-medieval and modern finds of 31 brick or tile fragments, seven pottery sherds (45g), two fragments of dark brown bottle glass and five metal items that included three handmade nails and a copper alloy window or door latch. Though documented here, these items were not retained within the archive. Pit F.47 produced 11 fire-cracked stones; these being six sandstone and five flint cobbles, all unworked.

			Brick/Tile		Pottery		Glass	Burnt Stone	Metal
Feature	Context	Trench	No.	Hand- made Y/N	Number (weight g)	Glazed Y/N	No.	Weight (g)	No.
3	7	3	-	-	1 (3)	Y	-	-	-
11	20	16	-	-	5 (18)	Y	-	-	1 Cu Latch
16	31	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 Fe Nail
18	70	28	-	-	1 (3)	Y	-	-	-
21	76	28	1	Y	-	-	-	-	-
23	66	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 Fe Nail
25	35	20	3	N	-	-	-	-	-
29	84	23	5	N	3 (21)	Y/N	-	-	-
30	86	24	-	-	1 (6)	N	-	-	-
32	91	27	3	Y	-	-	-	-	1 Fe Bar
38	106	35	1	Y	-	-	-	-	-
42	44	8	7	Y	-	-	-	-	-
47	53	14	-	-	-	-	-	240	-
50	59	22	10	Y/N	1 (3)	Y	1	-	-
76	152	43	1	Y	1 (12)	Y	1	-	1 Fe Nail

Table 2. Summary of material culture

DISCUSSION

The absence of earlier prehistoric archaeology within the PDA is consistent with the low-scale activity assigned to this phase in previous investigations, with finds only generally having been retrieved from topsoil contexts. In spite of inspection of the spoil heaps in the current project, no finds were forthcoming, and the marginality of this landscape to prehistoric communities may be further highlighted. This indeed appears to be the character of the land within the PDA for some considerable duration, which in spite of its clay soil geology may seem surprising in light of the availability of nearby springhead water sources.

As evinced by the charcoal-filled pits it appears that by the Late Iron Age interest was turned towards the land's vegetative resources. Based on the dating of pit F.68, such practices seem to have emerged during the second century BC and continued into the first century AD. The specific nature of the activities connected with the pits remains somewhat open to question. Pits containing layers of charcoal of varying density have been noted within a number of the area's previous monitoring

programmes, but their near exclusive lack of datable artefact content has rendered both their phasing and interpretation as negligible. One such pit at Cuckoo Farm's Flakt Woods was considered to be a nineteenth century 'fire pit' dug by barracked soldiers (Mattinson 2004), and along the Northern Approach Road similar pits were attributed to the First World War in connection with fog clearance as an aid to airfield approach (Crossan 2001; Baister 2014). Additional pits with high charcoal content found at the Severalls School on the northeast boundary of the PDA have been similarly difficult to contextualise (Wroe-Brown 2015). Therefore, the importance of the radiocarbon determinations and associated 1st century pottery retrieved from two of 33 pits at the Cuckoo Farm Park and Ride (Dyson 2015), north of the development area, cannot be overstated. In addition, it is evident that the distribution of the charcoal pits is focused along the north and east of the PDA and beyond. Nevertheless, the pattern is sporadic when compared with regulated settlement dynamics, and the likelihood here is one of intermittent visitation rather than concerted occupation, although some qualification of this view may be warranted by reference to the (undated) postholes observed in area Charcoal Pit Area1. Use of the pits may not be securely defined, with sampled deposits producing little other than charred wood. This absence is instructive for it points to their use solely for charcoal production. Charcoal was a multi-purpose resource and a key component in iron smelting as well as an ingredient in glass making. To what aspect of charcoal production the pits were associated may have been varied; for example, evidence for in situ burning was found only in two of the pits. The use of a pit in charcoal production is in itself an unusual phenomenon (see Kelley 1986), and may have acted as a flue to oxygenate a wood stack from its base. Alternatively, the charcoal production may have been a surface activity, for which the pits may simply have served as a means to clear the ground of hot debris following the main firing process, so to inhibit unregulated spread of embers and risk of uncontrolled fire.

Comparable examples for the charcoal pits are few for the Iron Age or Roman periods. Examples of the Middle Saxon era are more plentiful, with sites across East Anglia having been noted at Mayton Wood in Norfolk (Patten 2004) and Parnwell in Cambridgeshire (Webley 2007). Their sporadic distribution and lack of occupational evidence or material culture is replicated in the earlier examples around Severalls, and illustrates an industrial process that is difficult to date without scientific methods, but which was presumably an effective means of fuel and commodity production for use elsewhere in more populated contexts.

With no evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity, the post-Medieval and Modern landscape appears to conform with the cartographic documentation; this being a transition from eighteenth century heathland to an enclosed agricultural landscape in the nineteenth century and leading into the twentieth century prior to the establishment of the asylum in 1913.

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APPENDICES

Trench Summaries

Trench 1		
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.35
No Archaeology, Coology, of mixed group	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
No Archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	SE-NW
Sand and Clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	60.0
Trench 2		
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.34
No Archaeology, Coology, of mixed group	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
No Archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
Sand and Clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	20.0

Trenc	Trench 3							
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.36		
One lin	$oor(E_2)$	and a nor	stholo (E l		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0		
One in	of mixed			5). Geology	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW		
	ormixed	graver, s		лау	Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
					Length of Trench (m)	32.0		
Contexts	Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
3	Linear	7	F	0.7 wide, 0.25 deep	Mid brown silt containing angular and rounded stones. One blue/white pottery sherd	- Post-Medieval		
5	Linear	8	С		N-S orientation with moderate sloping sides and flat base			
5	Posthole	9	F	0.5 long, 0.45 wide,	Soft light grey clayey silt with orange mottling	Post-Medieval		
5		10	С	0.43 wide, 0.21 deep	Sub-circular in plan with moderate sloping sides and concave base. Possibly aligned with Fs 1, 2 and 4	or Modern		

Trenc	h 4					
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.36
0	athala (E		on cof min		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
One po		.4). Geolo		ked gravel,	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
			Ciay		Width of Trench (m)	1.8
					Length of Trench (m)	14.0
Contexts						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
4	Posthole	5	F	0.6 long,	Mid to dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional to rare small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal	
		Posthole 0.3 wide, 6 C 0.18 deep	Oval in plan with straight inverted sides to concave base. Possibly aligned with Fs 1, 2 and 5			

Trenc	Trench 5							
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3		
Two no	otholog (E	a 1 and		gy of mixed	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0		
Two pos	•		,	gy of mixed	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE		
gravel, sand and clay					Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
					Length of Trench (m)	40.0		
Contexts								
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
1	Dootholo	Posthole	F	0.21 wide, 0.18 deep	Soft light grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	Post-Medieval or Modern		
	FOSLIDIE		С		Sub-square in plan with straight sides at top, tapering to point at base. Possibly aligned with Fs 2, 4 and 5			
2 Pos	Posthole	3	F	0.17 wide,	Soft light grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	Post-Medieval		
	4	4 C 0.03 d	0.03 deep	Sub-square in plan with flat base; sides truncated. Possibly aligned with Fs 1, 4 and 5	or Modern			

Trench 6		
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.34
No Archaeology Coology of mixed group	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
No Archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
Sand and Clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	30.0

Trench 7		
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-
Trench abandoned due to flooding	Orientation of Trench	-
	Width of Trench (m)	-
	Length of Trench (m)	-

Trench 8

Wheel ruts (Fs. 44 and 45) across northeast end of trench impacting geology. Five pits or silt-filled hollows (Fs. 39-41, 43 and 46) bordered to the southwest by a linear or wall foundation slot F.42. Geology of firm sand, gravel and clay

Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	0.36
Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.23
Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1
Orientation of Trench	NNE-SSW
Width of Trench (m)	1.8
Length of Trench (m)	44.0

			-			44.0	
Contexts	;						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date	
39	Pit/	38	F	1.42 wide,	Fairly homogenous soft grey silt with rare sounded stones	n.d.	
39	hollow	39	С	0.1 deep	Sub-circular in plan with slight near straight concave sides and near flat base	n.u.	
40	Pit/	40	F	1.51 wide,	Fairly homogenous soft grey silt with rare sounded stones	n.d.	
40	hollow	41	С	0.06 deep	Sub-circular in plan with slight near straight concave sides and near flat base	n.u.	
44	Pit/	42	F	2.85 wide,	Fairly homogenous soft grey silt with rare sounded stones	nd	
41	hollow	hollow 43 C 0.13 deep	0.13 deep	Sub-circular in plan with slight near straight concave sides and near flat base	n.d.		
	Ditch	44	F		Soft mid greyish brown silt with rare rounded and sub-angular stones and moderate charcoal flecks	Post-Medieval	
42		48	F	0.7 wide, 0.23 deep	Mid reddish brown soft silt with rare sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks. Finds of hand-made brick		
		45	С		NW-SE oriented with steep slightly concave sides and flat base		
43	Pit/	46	F	1.8 long, 0.7 wide,	Soft mid reddish brown silt with rare and sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks	n.d.	
43	hollow	47	С	0.15 deep	Sub-oval in plan with moderate concave sides and slightly undulating base		
	Wheel	49	F	0.6 wide.	Mid greyish brown soft silt (impressed topsoil)	Modern	
44	rut	50	С	0.06 base	Oriented NNE-SSW with gradual concave sides and undulating base. Aligns with wheel tracks in aerial images of construction of children's centre		
45	Wheel	51	F	0.7 wide.	Mid greyish brown soft silt (impressed topsoil)	Modern	
	rut	52	С	0.09 deep	Oriented NNE-SSW with gradual concave sides and undulating base. Aligns with wheel tracks in aerial images of construction of children's centre		
46	Pit/ hollow	-	-	-	Unexcavated grey silt	n.d.	

Trench 9							
	Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	0.43					
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.34					
No Archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel,	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05					
sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	WNW-ESE					
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8					
	Length of Trench (m)	22.5					

Trench 10								
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.35		
No Archaeology. Two natural 'features' (Fs. 6					Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0		
and 7). Geolog	y of mixe	d gravel,	sand and	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE		
clay					Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
					Length of Trench (m)	29.0		
Contexts								
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
6	Tree	11	F	2.8 wide,	Mid brown clay silt with lenses of orange brown clay silt	n.d.		
0	Bowl	12	С	0.15 deep	Sub-oval in plan with moderate sloping sides and concave base	n.u.		
7	Hollow	13	F	0.6 wide, 0.13 deep	Mixed mid brown silt and orange clay with occasional stones	n.d.		
7		14	С		Sub-oval in plan with moderate sloping sides and concave base	11.0.		

Trench 11

Two shallow ditches (Fs. 57 and 60), three postholes (Fs. 52, 58 and 59) and five garden features (Fs. 51 and 53-56); also a service ditch. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay

Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	16.0
Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	22.0
Orientation of Trench	E-W
Width of Trench (m)	1.8
Length of Trench (m)	32.3

Contexts	Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
Tree	Tree	131	F	1.2 wide,	Soft mid grey silt mixed with gravel	n.d.		
51	Bowl	132	С	0.13 deep	Circular in plan with diffuse sides and undulating base. Probable garden feature	n.a.		
52	Posthole	133	F	0.25 wide,	Soft mid grey brown silt	n.d.		
52	FOSUIDIE	134	С	0.07 deep	Square in plan with concave sides and near flat base	n.a.		
53	Pit	135	F	0.5 wide,	Soft mid grey brown silt	n.d.		
55	ΡII	136	С	0.1 deep	Circular in plan with straight vertical sides and flat base. Probable garden feature	n.a.		
54	Pit	137	F	0.55 long, 0.36 wide,	Soft mid grey brown silt	n.d.		
54	гι	138	С	0.04 deep	Oval in plan with diffuse sides and flat base	n.a.		
55	Tree	139	F	2.15 wide,	Soft mid grey brown silt	n.d.		
55 Bowl	Bowl	140	С	0.1 deep	Circular in plan with diffuse sides and flat base. Probable garden feature	n.a.		
56	Pit	141	F	1.2 long, 0.45 wide, 0.07 deep	Soft dark grey silt with occasional charcoal and small sub-angular stones	n.d.		
50	T IC	142	С		Oval in plan with sharp concave sides and near flat base. Probable garden feature encircling F.55	1.0.		
57	Ditch	114	F	0.82 wide,	Soft and powdery mid brown silt; heavily rooted	Post-Medieval		
57	Ditch	115	С	0.13 deep	Oriented NNW-SSE with sharp concave sides and flat base	FOST-IVIEULEVAI		
58	Posthole	143	F	0.25 wide,	Soft mid grey brown silt	n.d.		
50	FOSUIDIE	144	С	0.06 deep	Square in plan with straight vertical sides and flat base. Fenceline with Fs 52 and 59	n.a.		
59	Posthole	145	F	0.25 wide,	Soft mid grey brown silt	n.d.		
59	rustilule	146	С	0.06 deep	Square in plan with straight vertical sides and flat base. Fenceline with Fs 52 and 58	11.0.		
60	Ditch	116	F	0.9 wide,	Soft and powdery mid brown silt; heavily rooted	Post-Medieval		
UU	DIICH	117	С	0.12 deep	Oriented NNW-SSE with sharp concave sides and flat base	FUSI-IVIEUIEVAI		

Trench 12							
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25					
No Archaeology A single corregio field drain	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.18					
No Archaeology. A single ceramic field drain. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	NNW-SSE					
Geology of mixed gravel, sand and day	Width of Trench (m)	1.8					
	Length of Trench (m)	19.0					

Trench 13							
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	-					
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	-					
Not excavated owing to limited access	Orientation of Trench	-					
	Width of Trench (m)	-					
	Length of Trench (m)	-					

Trenc	Trench 14									
			4----		Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.35				
				iining heat- dy gravel in	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0				
				clay-silt in	Orientation of Trench	WNW-ESE				
wearan		easts sid		oldy one in	Width of Trench (m)	1.8				
					Length of Trench (m)	19.2				
Contexts										
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date				
47	Pit or	53	F	0.3 wide,	Soft mid brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Finds of burnt stone	nd				
47	Posthole	54	С	0.12 deep	Circular in plan with gradual concave sides and rounded base	n.d.				

Trench 15		
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.38
Two postholes (Fs. 48 and 49) and a single	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
charcoal-filled pit (F.13). Geology of mixed	Orientation of Trench	NNE-SSW
gravel, sand and clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	49.0
Contexts		

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
		24	F		Soft light greyish brown silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional sub-angular stones	
13 Pit	Pit	25	F	0.84 wide, 0.32 deep	Soft dark greyish brown silt with two charcoal lenses separated by orangey grey clay. Base hardened and reddened by direct heat	n.d.
		26	С		Sub-oval in plan with moderate steep sides and concave base	
48 Posth	Deathala	55	F	0.28 wide,	Soft and slightly friable mottled mid brown and light grey sandy silt	
	Posthole	56 C 0.15 dec	0.15 deep	Circular in plan with near straight inverted sides and sharp rounded base. Possibly paired with F.49	n.d.	
49 Pos	Deathala	57	F	0.22 wide,	Light grey sandy silt with gravel and rare charcoal flecks	
	Posthole	58	С	0.04 deep	Circular in plan with flat base and truncated sides. Possibly paired with F.48	n.d.

Trench 16							
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.32	
One ditch (F.9) of unknown date with two					Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0	
service ditches (Fs. 10 and 11). Geology of					Orientation of Trench	WNW-ESE	
mixed gravel, sand and clay					Width of Trench (m)	1.8	
					Length of Trench (m)	41.0	
Contexts		r		1		1	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date	
9	Ditch	17	F	0.8 wide, 0.19 deep	Soft and slightly friable mid brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and rare stones	nd	
9	Ditch	18	С		NNW-SSE orientation with moderate sloping sides with concave base	– n.d.	
10	Ditch/	19	F	0.35 wide,	Soft mid brown silt with copper cables at base encased within wood boxing filled by bitumen	Modern	
10	Service	20	С	0.35 deep	N-S orientation with vertical sides and flat base	wodern	
11	Ditch/	21	F	0.5 wide,	Soft mid brown silt with rounded and sub-angular stones. Find of blue/white pottery	Post-Medieval	
11	0	0			0.05 -1		a a Marala aa

Trenc	h 17					
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m) Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.33 0.0
A single charcoal-filled pit (F.12). Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay					Orientation of Trench	WNW-ESE
		, ,		- J	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
					Length of Trench (m)	34.5
Contexts						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
12	Pit	22	F	1.1 long,	Soft mid brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal and occasional small stones	nd
	гι	Pit 23 C 1.07 wide, 0.1 deep	Sub-circular in plan with gentle sloping sides and flat base	– n.d.		

NNW-SSE orientation with vertical sides with flat base

0.5 wide, 0.35 deep

С

22

Ditch/ Service

11

Trench 18								
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.34		
	o o bollow t	rachowl (logy of firm	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0		
A single shallow treebowl (F.8). Geology of firm sandy clay					Orientation of Trench	NNE-SSW		
		Sanay Ci	ay		Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
					Length of Trench (m)	29.3		
Contexts								
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
0 Track and		15	F	n/a	Mid-brown clayey silt with occasional stones and rooting	n.d.		
8 Tree	Treebowl	16	C n/a	11/d	Sub-oval and irregular in plan with irregular shallow sides and undulating base	n.u.		

Post-Medieval or Modern

Trench 19							
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3					
No graphicalizative Coologie of mixed gravel	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0					
No archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW					
Sand and Clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8					
	Length of Trench (m)	19.0					

Trench 20									
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3			
A si	ngle post-	-Medieva	l ditch (F.	25) with	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0			
ceramic drain. Geology of mixed gravel, sand					Orientation of Trench	NW-SE			
and clay					Width of Trench (m)	1.8			
					Length of Trench (m)	42.0			
Contexts									
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date			
		35	F		Soft mid brown silt with rare small to medium sub- angular stones. Finds of brick and tile				
25	Ditch	36	F	1.1 wide, 0.35 deep	Mid orangey brown clayey silt	Post-Medieval			
		37	С		Oriented NE-SW with moderate sloping sides and flat base				

Trench 21		
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.35
Three small drains or ploughscars (Fs. 26 and	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
27) with three ceramic drains and an undated pit or garden feature (F.35). Geology of mixed	Orientation of Trench	NNW-SSE
gravel, sand and clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
gratol, cana ana ciay	Length of Trench (m)	19.0
Contexts		

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
26 Drain or Ploughscar	Drain or	78	F	0.27 wide,	Soft light orangey brown silt	
	79	С	0.07 deep	NNE-SSW orientation with concave profile	Post-Medieval	
o- Drair	Drain or	80	F	0.4 wide, 0.12 deep	Soft light orangey brown clayey silt with rare small rounded stones	- Post-Medieval
27	Ploughscar	81	С		NNE-SSW orientation with concave profile	
35		99	F	0.65 wide,	Soft light orangey brown silt with occasional small rounded and sub-angular stones	n.d.
	Pit	100	С	0.7 long, 0.18 deep	Oval in plan with moderate sloping sides and concave base	

Trench 22									
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.35			
A sing	gle pit (F.	50) contai	ining mod	lern brick,	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0			
glass a	nd tile. G		•	avel, sand	Orientation of Trench	NNW-SSE			
		and cla	iy		Width of Trench (m)	1.8			
					Length of Trench (m)	10.0			
Contexts	Contexts								
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date			
		59	F		Light orangey grey silty sand with small stones and brick				
		60	F		Light orangey brown clayey silt with gravel				
50	Pit	61	F	1.1 long, 0.7 wide,	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with rare rounded and sub-angular stones. Finds of brick and glass	Post-Medieval or Modern			
		62	F	0.7 deep	Soft mid orangey brown silt				
		63	С		Sub-Circular in plan with steep slightly irregular sides and concave base. Possibly connected with construction works at Severalls Hospital.				

Trench 23								
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.38						
Four shallow linear features (Fs. 28 and 29) of	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0						
probable post-Medieval date with a modern service and a concrete garden feature (F.73).	Orientation of Trench	NNW-SSE						
Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8						
	Length of Trench (m)	17.0						
Contexts								
Fosturo Fosturo Contoxt Contoxt Dimonsions								

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
28	Ditch	82	F	0.52 wide,	Soft light orangey grey clayey silt with rare small rounded stones	Post Modiaval
20	Ditch	83	С	0.16 deep	NNW-SSE orientation with concave profile	Post-Medieval
29	Ditch	84	F	1.0 wide, 0.18 deep	Soft mid brown silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stones. Find of blue/white ceramic and brick fragments	Post-Medieval
		85	С		NNW-SSE orientation with gradual sides with flat base	
71	Posthole	-	-		Unexcavated square posthole	Post-Medieval or Modern
72	Posthole	-	-		Unexcavated square posthole	Post-Medieval or Modern
73	Garden Feature	-	-	0.4 (W), 0.08 (T)	Concrete base to a linear (NNE-SSW) garden feature	Modern

Trench 24

Two service ditches (F.31) with a ploughscar or drain (F.33)), a probable post-medieval ditch or drain (F.34) and an undated pit (F.30) that is probably a garden feature. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay

Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
Orientation of Trench	ESE-WNW
Width of Trench (m)	1.8
Length of Trench (m)	17.0

Contexts						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
30	Pit	86	F	0.6 wide,	Soft light grey brown sandy silt with moderate rounded and sub-angular stones. Find of brick or tile fragment	Post-Medieval
		87	С	0.09 deep	Circular in plan with gradual sides and neat flat base	
31	Convine	97	F	0.4 wide, 0.18 deep	Dark greyish brown silt with copper cables at base encased within wood boxing filled by bitumen	Madam
31	Service	98	С		N-S orientation with vertical sides and flat base	Modern
33	Drain or	93	F	0.15 wide, 0.06 deep	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	- Post-Medieval
- 33	Ploughscar	94	С		NNW-SSE orientation with moderate sloping sides with near flat base	
34	Sonvice	95	F	0.4 wide,	Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Contains plastic lining	Modorp
34	Service	96	С	0.2 deep	N-S orientation with vertical sides and flat base. Cuts F.33	- Modern
74	Pit				Unexcavated – see F.50 (trench 22) for comparison	

Trench 25

Two post-medieval drains or small linears with
a modern service (F.31) and three pits (Fs. 15-
17) of unknown date. Geology of mixed gravel,
sand and clayAvg. Topsoil Depth (m)0.4Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)0.0Orientation of Trench
Width of Trench (m)ESE-WNWUtil the second seco

Contexts						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
15	Pit	29	F	1.1 wide,	Friable light orangey brown sandy silt with rare small sub-angular stones	nd
15	ΡI	30	С	0.13 deep	Sub-oval in plan with gradual sloping sides and undulating base	n.d.
16		31	F	0.85 wide,	Soft mid orangey brown friable sandy silt. Finds of two hand-made iron nails	Post-Medieval
10	Pit	32	С	0.19 deep	Sub-circular in plan with moderate sloping sides and flat base	
17		33	F	1.05 wide,	Soft mid orangey brown friable sandy silt	n.d.
17	Pit	34	С	0.16 deep	Sub-oval in plan with moderate sloping sides and rounded base	
		88	F		Light reddish grey clayey silt	
31	Service	89	F	0.5 wide, 0.3 deep	Dark greyish brown silt with copper cables at base encased within wood boxing filled by bitumen	Modern
		90	С		N-S orientation with vertical sides and flat base	

Trench 26									
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.4			
Two p	oost-medi	ieval linea	ars or drai	ins (F.34)	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0			
				owl (F.14).	Orientation of Trench	NNE-SSW			
Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay					Width of Trench (m)	1.8			
					Length of Trench (m)	30.0			
Contexts	-					-			
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date			
14	Pit	27	F	1.5 wide,	Friable mid orangey brown sandy silt	n.d.			
14	1 11		Sub-oval in plan with moderate sloping sides and flat base	n.u.					
34	Ditch	-	-	-	Unexcavated – continuation of F.34 in trench 24	Modern			

Trench 27								
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.55		
A ainal	o nit or a	ordon foo	turo (E 20		Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0		
A single pit or garden feature (F.32). Geology of sandy clay					Orientation of Trench	NNE-SSW		
					Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
					Length of Trench (m)	19.0		
Contexts								
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
32	Pit	91 Pit	F	0.8 long, 0.7 wide,	Mid greyish brown silt with rare small angular stones; remains of wood post/stake (8cm diam) at centre cutting base. Finds of brick fragments and iron hand- made nail	Modern		
		92		Sub-circular in plan with steep inverted sides and flat base. Directly in line with front entrance (dated 1928) to nurses dorms. Probable garden feature				

Trenc	h 28					
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
A serv	vice with a	a single p	it or garde	en feature	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
· · ·	•			sts (Fs. 19-	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
21). G	eology of	mixed gr	avel, san	d and clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
					Length of Trench (m)	34.4
Contexts						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
18	Pit	70	F	0.77 wide, 0.12 deep	Moderately firm mid grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and lumps, sometimes in concentrations. Find of pottery	Post-Medieval
		71	С		Circular in plan with shallow concave sides and near flat base. Possible garden feature	or Modern
19	Posthole	72	F	0.16 wide,	Soft and moderately friable mid grey brown sandy silt	Post-Medieval
15	rustitule	73	С	0.09 deep	Square in plan with vertical sides and flat base. In series with Fs 20 and 21	or Modern
20	Posthole	74	F	0.1 wide,	Soft and moderately friable mid grey brown sandy silt	Post-Medieval
20		75	С	0.11 deep	Square in plan with vertical sides and flat base. In series with Fs 19 and 21	or Modern

Soft and moderately friable mid grey brown sandy silt

Square in plan with vertical sides and flat base. In series with Fs 19 and 20 $\,$

76

77

21

Posthole

F

С

0.18 wide, 0.15 deep Post-Medieval or Modern

Trench 29								
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.45		
Two services with two small oval pits (Fs. 22					Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0		
and 23	3). Geolo	gy of mixe	ed gravel,	sand and	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE		
clay					Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
					Length of Trench (m)	19		
Contexts	;							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
	64 F 1.05 long,	Mid grey sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks	Post-Medieval					
22	Pit		0.6 wide,	0.6 wide,	Oval in plan with gradual concave sides and pear flat	or Modern		

Trench 30						
25		67	С	0.1 deep	Oval in plan with gradual slight concave sides and flat base	or Modern
23	Pit	66	F	+0.9 long, 0.64 wide,	Mid grey sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks. Find of hand-made iron nail	Post-Medieval
		65	С	0.11 deep	base	or modern

•				<i>.</i>	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.4		
				an area of				
heavily tracked truncation with hard-standing debris. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and					Orientation of Trench	NE-SW		
clay					Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
0.07					Length of Trench (m)	17.0		
Contexts	Contexts							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date		
24	Ditch	68	0.5 wide,	,	Firm and stiff mid orangey brown silty sand with clay; rare small sub angular stones with brick flecks throughout. Overburden contains rubble and brick.	Post-		
		69	С	0.1 deep	E-W orientation with sharp concave sides and slight rounded base	Medieval?		

Trench 31						
Three pits (Fs. 61-63) of unknown date, filled with charcoal, with two postholes (Fs. 64 and 67) forming part of post-Medieval post					Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m) Avg. Topsoil Depth (m) Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.55 0.25 0.0
alignment (with Fs. 65 and 66 in trench 32) – part of original Severalls' boundary. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay				Geology of	Orientation of Trench Width of Trench (m) Length of Trench (m)	NW-SE 1.8 50.0
Contexts Feature	Feature	Context	Context	Dimensions	Description	Date
No.	Type Pit	No. 118	Type F	(m) 0.9 wide, 0.3 deep	Mid grey brown fine sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	
61		119	F		Firm light blueish grey sandy clay	n.d.
01	ГЦ	120	F		Soft very dark grey silty sand with frequent charcoal	n.u.
		121	С		Circular in plan with slightly irregular sharp concave sides and near flat base	
62	Pit	122	F	0.85 long, +0.46 wide,	Mottled mid grey and orange sandy silt with rare charcoal and rare small sub-angular stones	n.d.
02	1 11	123	С	0.11 deep	Oval in plan with shallow concave sides and near flat base	n.u.
		124	F		Mottled orange and mid grey sandy clay silt	

frequent charcoal

Soft mid grey brown silt

Soft and slightly friable light grey sandy silt with

Rectangular in plan with sharp concave sides and flat base.

Square in plan with diffuse sides and flat base. Possibly part of Severall's Hospital border link-chain fence with F.65

0.5 long, +0.37 wide, 0.08 deep

0.25 wide, 0.02 deep

F

С

F

С

-

125

126

127

128

-

63

64

67

Pit

Posthole

Posthole

Trench 32		
	Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	0.7
Two postholes (Fs. 65 and 66) that form part of post-alignment with postholes (Fs. 64 and	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.24
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
67 in trench 31). Geology of mixed gravel,	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
sand and clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	25.0
Contexts		

Unexcavated

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
		129	F	0.25 wide,	Soft mid grey brown silt	
65 P	Posthole	130	С	0.02 deep	Square in plan with diffuse sides and flat base. Possibly part of Severall's Hospital border link-chain fence with F.64	n.d.
66	Posthole	-	-		Unexcavated	

n.d.

n.d.

Trench 33		
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.1
Trench located in area of demolished building.	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
Foundations and demolition rubble throughout.	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	32

Trench 34						
	Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	0.1				
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25				
No Archaeology. A single ceramic field drain.	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.2				
Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW				
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8				
	Length of Trench (m)	16.5				

Trench 35						
Thirty postholes in alignment as part of Severalls' east boundary (one, F.37, excavated). A post-Medieval pit or garden feature (F.36) with two undated charcoal-filled pits (Fs. 38 and 68) and two smaller pits (Fs. 69 and 70) without charcoal. South half of trench impacted by wheel ruts and debris. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m) Avg. Subsoil Depth (m) Orientation of Trench Width of Trench (m) Length of Trench (m)	0.4 0.0 NNE-SSW 1.8 75.0				

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
		101	F		Mixed ash and charcoal with light grey silt and rare rounded stones	
36	Pit	102	F	0.6 wide, 0.11 deep	Root-penetrated natural geology with upper surface red and hardened by direct heat	n.d.
		103	С		Sub-circular in plan with very gradual concave sides and near flat base	
37	Posthole	104	F	0.2 wide,	Soft mid brown silt mixed with orange clayey sand	Modern
51	1 USUIDIE	105	С	0.16 deep	Square in plan with very slight concave sides and tapered base	
38	Pit	106	F	0.85 wide, 0.12 deep	Moderately compact mid grey and mottled mid yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional small sub- angular stones' rooting throughout and impact of wheel ruts in upper profile. Find of brick fragment.	Post-Medieva
		107	С		Circular in plan with shallow concave sides and near flat base. Possible garden feature?	
		108	F	0.6 wide, 0.28 deep	Mid greyish brown silty sand with charcoal flecks and lumps with occasional small to medium sub-angular stones	
68	Pit	109	F		Light brownish grey silty sand with charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-angular stones	n.d.
	110 C		Sub-circular in plan with sharp concave sides and base			
69	Dit	111	F	0.4 wide,	Mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular stones	nd
69	Pit	112	С	0.2 deep	Oval in plan with concave base	n.d.
70	Dit	113	113 F 0.4 wide	0.4 wide,	Mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular stones	
70	Pit	146	С	0.2 deep	Circular in plan with gradual inverted sides and concave base	n.d.

Trench 36						
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.5				
No croboology, Coology of mixed group	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0				
No archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	ENE-WSW				
Sand and Clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8				
	Length of Trench (m)	9.0				

Trench 37		
No archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.5
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
	Orientation of Trench	NNE-SSW
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	13.0

Г

Trench 38					
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.5			
No archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0			
	Orientation of Trench	ESE-WNW			
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8			
	Length of Trench (m)	21.0			

Trench 39		
	Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	0.1
No archaeology. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1
	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	11.0

Trench 40		
	Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	0.66
No archaeology. A single ceramic drain. Built-	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.1
up ground from construction of Via Urbis	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1
Romanae. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
clay	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	19.5

Trench 41		
	Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	1.05
No archaeology. A single ceramic drain. Built-	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.17
up ground from construction of Via Urbis	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.17
Romanae. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
	Width of Trench (m)	3.6
	Length of Trench (m)	4.1

Trench 42					
	Avg. Built-up Ground Depth (m)	0.3			
No archaeology. Built-up ground from construction of Via Urbis Romanae. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.17			
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.29			
	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW			
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8			
	Length of Trench (m)	16.5			

Trench 43						
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.2
One post-Medieval ditch (F.76) with three				(F.76) with three Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		
cerami	c field dra	ins. Geol	ogy of mi	xed gravel,	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
	:	sand and	clay		Width of Trench (m)	1.8
					Length of Trench (m)	30.0
Contexts	1	-			-	_
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
		151	F		Firm very pale yellow brown silt with occasional rounded stones <5cm diam.	
		152	F		Firm mid grey brown silt with pockets of dark grey clay clasts and rare small rounded stones. Finds of brick, tile and glass	
76	Ditch	153	F	1.3 wide, 0.57 deep	Fine and firm banded light yellow brown sandy silt	Post-Medieval

			1	
	154	F	Moderately soft mid brown silt with rare small sub- angular stones	
	155	С	Oriented WNW-ENE with east side straight and slightly inverted, and west side slightly convex, each to a flat base	

Trenc	h 44					
					Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.2
One undated treethrow (F.75) containing				ntaining	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
charcoal fills. Geology of mixed gravel, sand			mixed gra	avel, sand	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE
	and clay				Width of Trench (m)	1.8
					Length of Trench (m)	9.5
Contexts						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Date
		147	F		Fine and firm powdery light grey silt	
		148	F	1.7 long,	Soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal and horizontal rootlets	
75 Treethrow	Treethrow	149	F	0.85 wide, 0.32 deep	Moderately firm dark grey silt with frequent charcoal lumps. No sign of in-situ charring	n.d
		150	С		Slight crescent oval with straight vertical east side against possible up-cast clay and stone; sharp concave profile on the west side to slight concave base	

Trench 45				
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28		
No archaeology. Two ceramic field drains. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0		
	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE		
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8		
	Length of Trench (m)	23.2		

Trench 46					
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28			
No archaeology. Two ceramic field drains. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0			
	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW			
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8			
	Length of Trench (m)	26.0			

Trench 47					
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.22			
No archaeology. Three ceramic field drains. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05			
	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE			
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8			
	Length of Trench (m)	26.7			

Trench 48		
No archaeology. One ceramic field drain. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.31
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05
	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	21.0

Trench 49		
Nie ensken sie wer Thurse service Gold dusies A	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28
No archaeology. Three ceramic field drains. A slight natural hollow with thicker (0.55m) topsoil coverage. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	15.0

Trench 50		
No archaeology. Two ceramic field drains. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.2
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.04
	Orientation of Trench	NE-SW
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	15.0

Trench 51		
No archaeology. Four ceramic field drains with one ceramic service pipe in trench; plough scars evident. Geology of mixed gravel, sand and clay	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.3
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.0
	Orientation of Trench	NW-SE
	Width of Trench (m)	1.8
	Length of Trench (m)	53.0

Archaeological Geophysical Survey – A.D.H. Bartlett

[The following is an abridged version of a report on fluxgate gradiometer survey commissioned to Bartlett-Clark Consultancy on behalf of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, and submitted in May 2016.]

Introduction

The fieldwork for the survey was done in two stages between 26-28 April and 5-6 May 2016. The survey covered areas of surveyable ground which are located within the site, and which may be affected by the proposed redevelopment. Much of the site is occupied by buildings, roads, paved areas and woodland, and was unsuitable for geophysical investigation. The survey coverage as finally achieved is marked on the site plan, and amounts to 9.14 ha (or 22% of the total proposed development area).

Soils on silt and gravel vary in their responsiveness to magnetometer surveying, but the response will be further modified by the presence of the Diamicton Till that overlies the bedrock. The strength of the magnetic response may depend in part on the relative proportions of clay and gravel in the till. Magnetic susceptibility measurements made on soil samples from the site gave relatively low readings (with a mean value of 7.6 x 10^{-8} SI/kg), which would be consistent with the presence of a predominantly clay soil. Soils of this kind may not be strongly responsive to magnetic investigation, but magnetically enhanced remains relating to ancient occupation activity should usually be detectable.

The magnetometer readings were collected along transects 1m apart using Bartington 1m fluxgate gradiometers, and are plotted at 25cm intervals along each transect. Interpretation of the findings is presented using a colour-coded scheme. Features as marked include magnetic anomalies which may represent potential (but doubtful) archaeological findings which are outlined in red, and recent disturbances in grey. Pipes are shown in blue, and some of the more conspicuous ferrous objects (identifiable as narrow spikes in the graphical plots) are outlined in light blue. Possible cultivation effects, drains or services are indicated.

Results

The survey covered plots of ground located mainly around the periphery of the hospital site, where there are a number of previously unbuilt fields and paddocks, but also some small pieces of accessible ground distributed across the site. The larger areas (or groupings of small survey blocks) have been numbered for reference in a sequence (1-12) running approximately from north-west to south-east. We comment on the findings from these areas in the sequence as numbered on the attached plans.

Areas 1-2: Area 1 is an open grass paddock. The survey plots show that the site is intersected by various iron pipes, but the ground surface appears otherwise to be

largely undisturbed. There are strong magnetic anomalies of a kind which must be of recent origin in the south-west corner, and next to a metal fence along the northern boundary. There is undisturbed ground also within the greater part of the small survey blocks labelled as area 2. It is not impossible that the weak ditch-like features (marked as A and B in figure 8) could pre-date the twentieth century development of the site, but the evidence is minimal, and they could equally represent non-ferrous pipes or small service trenches. The strong curving magnetic anomaly C corresponds to a path shown on the site plan.

Areas 3-4: Several ditch-like features (e.g. D, E) are visible (as at A, B in area 2). It again remains probable that they represent ditches or trenches of recent origin, but earlier ditches or boundaries (if present) could also give rise to similar magnetic effects. The strong linear feature marked as a pipe or service at F in area 3 is difficult to categorise. It is not an iron pipe, and appears to be 2m + in width. It lies slightly to the north of a curving path and so does not correspond directly to a path (as is the case at C in area 2). The site is said to contain tunnels, and it is not impossible that a brick or concrete tunnel at shallow depth could give rise to a magnetic anomaly as seen at F, although other explanations (such as a buried concrete pipe) could be equally valid.

Area 5: The site is intersected by pipes, but appears otherwise to be undisturbed.

Area 6: The site as initially proposed for investigation is partly woodland, but two reduced areas were surveyed. Only pipes and other strong recent disturbances were detected.

Areas 7-8: These two areas are open paddocks in the south-west corner of the site. The survey plots indicate various pipes, together with clusters of small magnetic anomalies which could represent scatters of rubble or similar recent debris. Parts of the site are sufficiently undisturbed for weak magnetic anomalies to be visible. These include parallel linear markings which are faintly visible in the grey scale plot in area 8. These could perhaps relate to previous cultivation at the site. The convergent pattern of the linear features at G in area 7 suggests they could represent land drains. The more continuous ditch-like feature at H is outlined in red in case it indicates a former ditch or boundary, although it could also represent a drain.

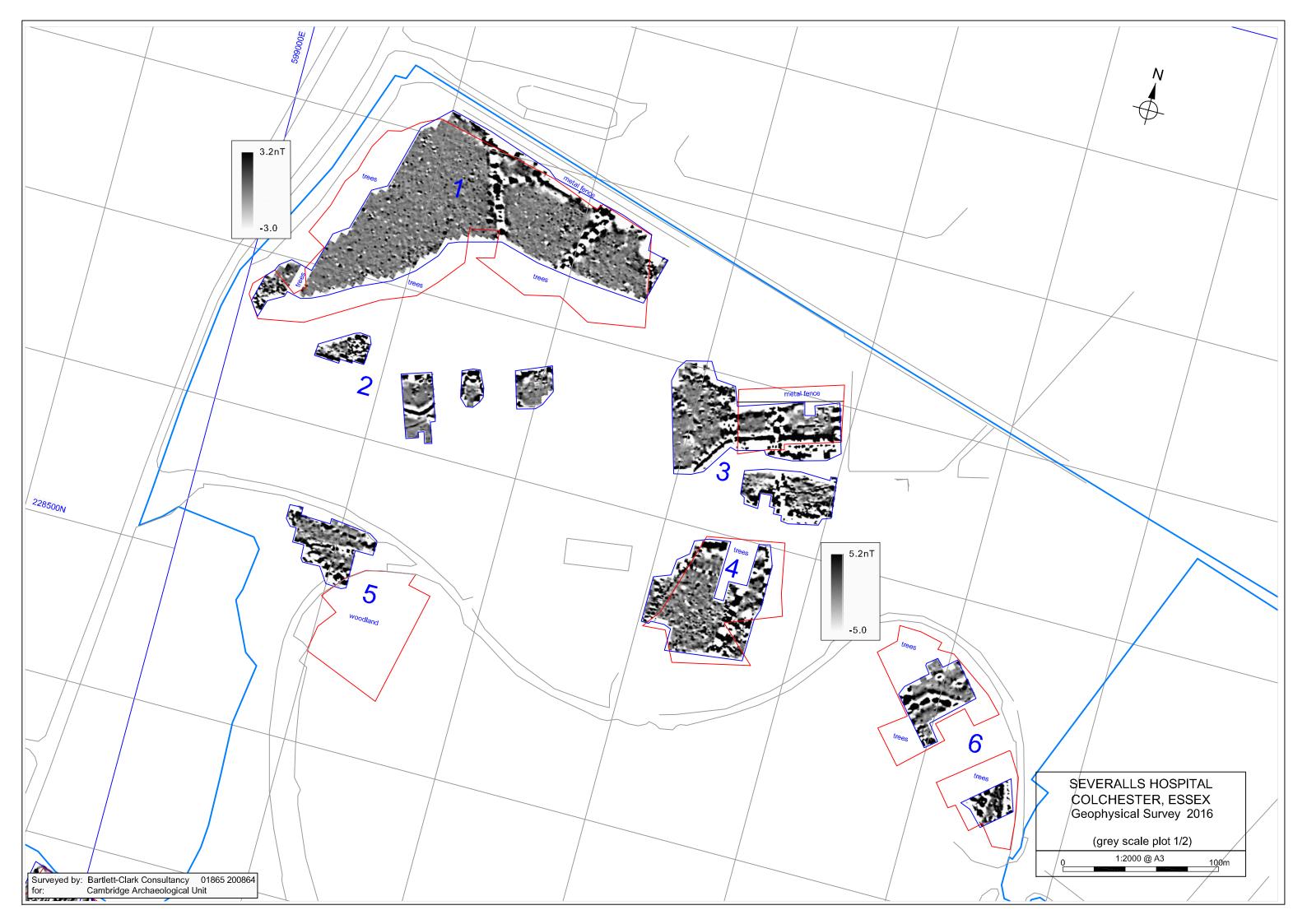
Area 9: Various iron pipes are present in this former sports field (as shown in blue), but there is also an overall pattern of angled parallel linear markings, which is characteristic of a system of land drains. One slightly irregular and more continuous linear feature to the east of the site at I is marked in red, given that it could perhaps represent an infilled ditch rather than a drain.

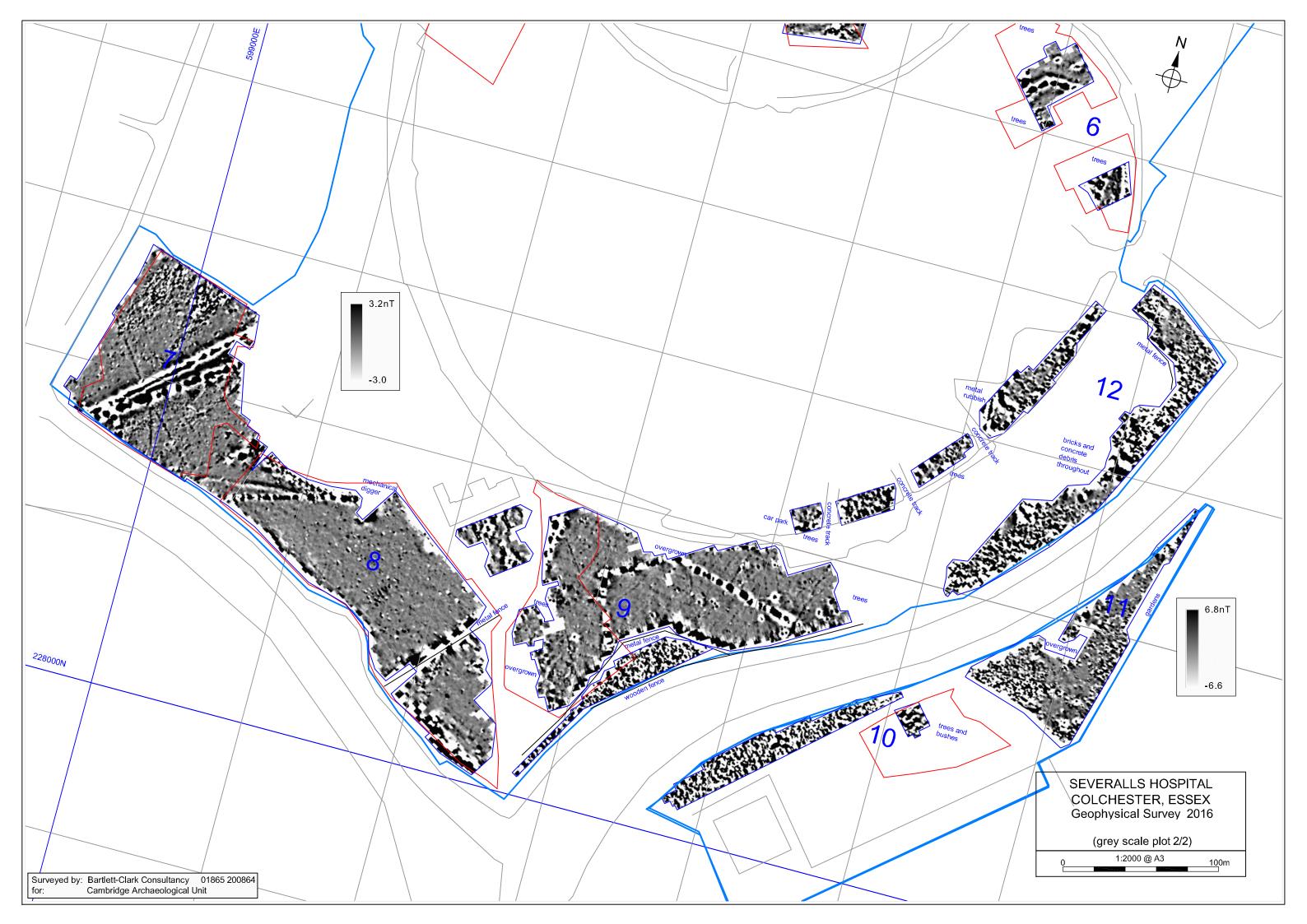
Areas 10-12: The larger survey areas are located alongside the new road, and the smaller survey blocks are next to the curving access road which encloses the hospital site. The data plots show strong magnetic interference indicating dense scatters of rubble or similar recent debris across much of the site, although there is some less disturbed ground in area 11. Bricks and concrete debris could be seen on the ground across much of area 12. A strong linear feature at J in area 12 shares similar characteristics to F in area 3.

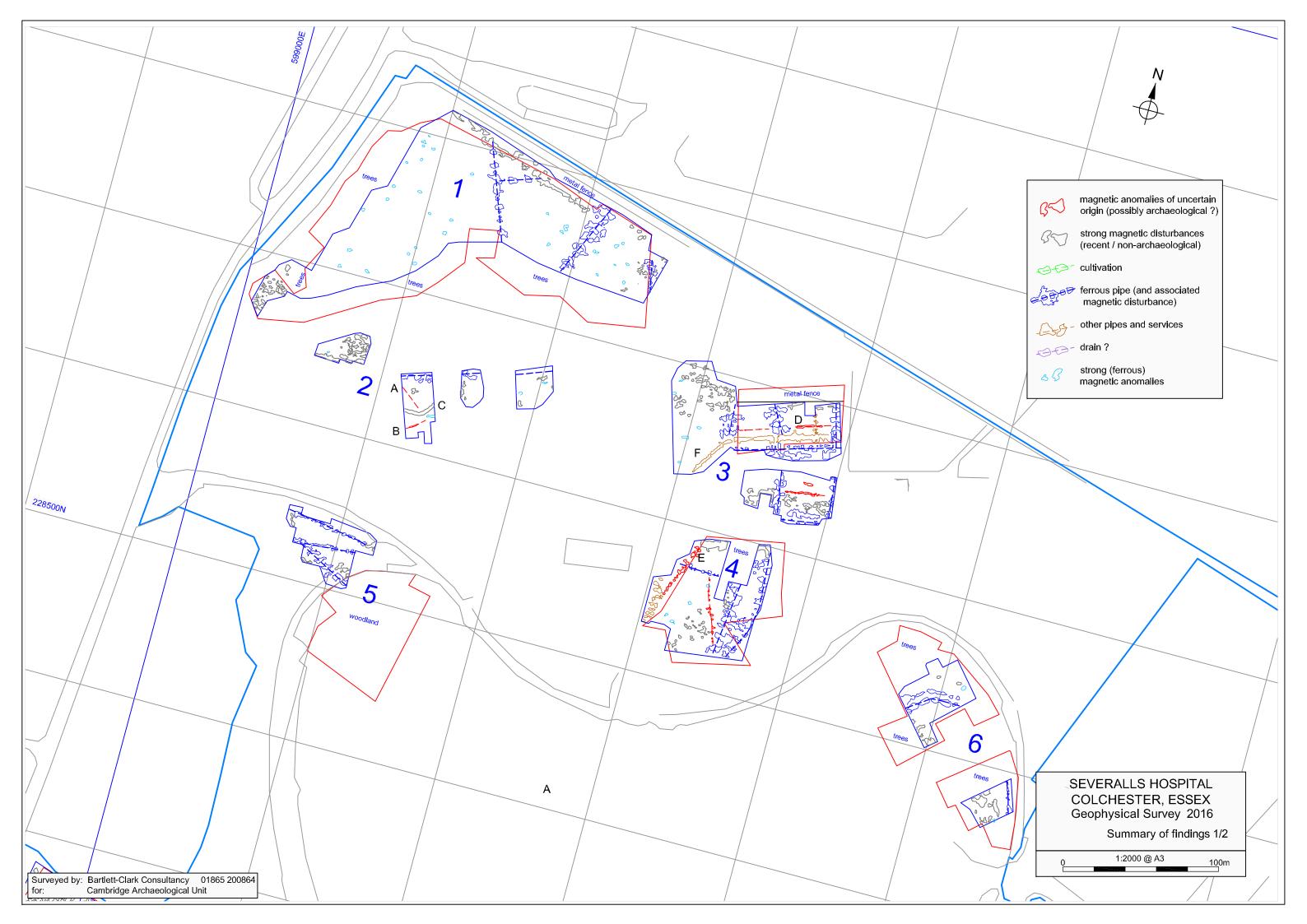
Conclusions

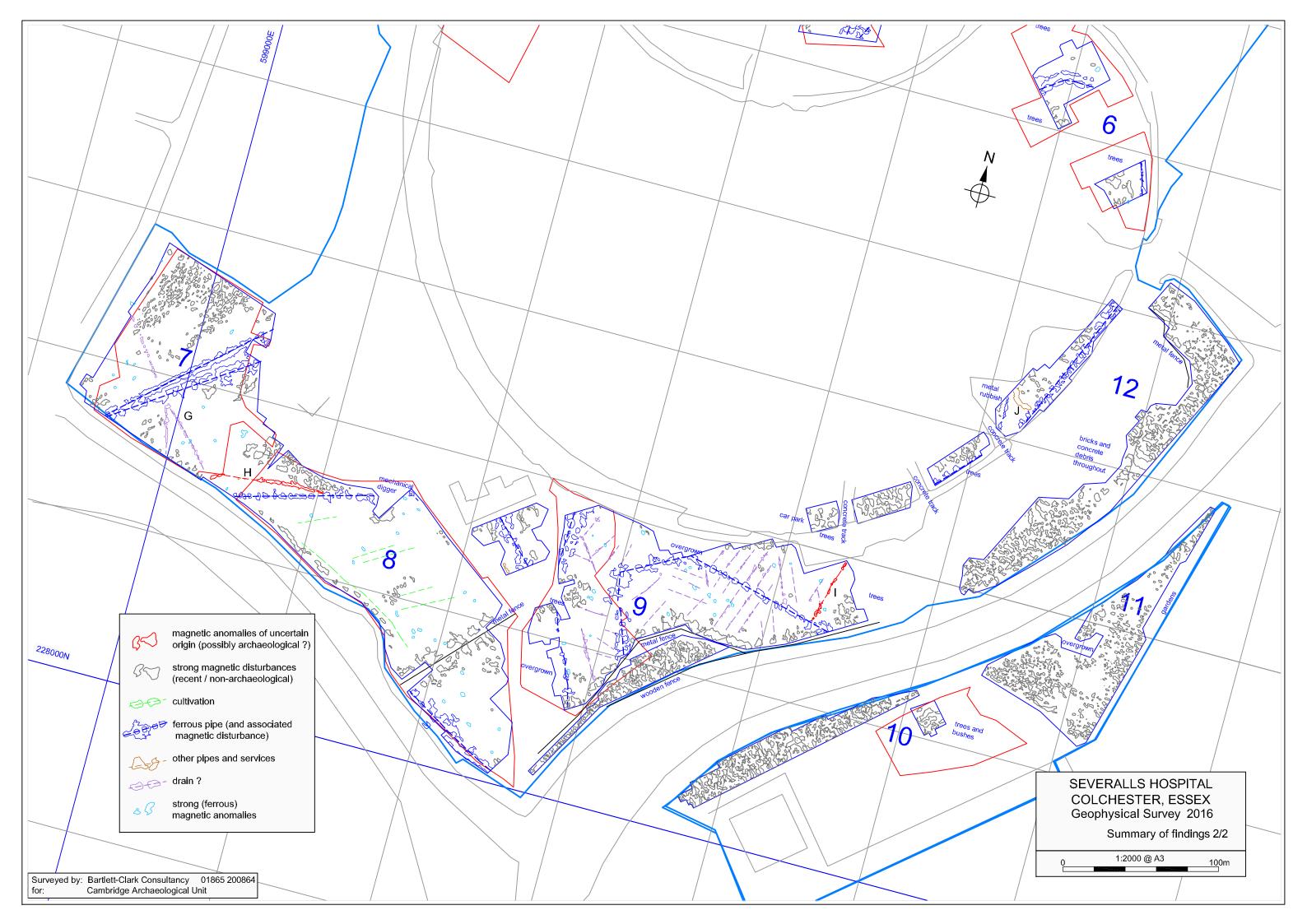
The survey has, as expected, detected numerous ground disturbances relating to the presence of the hospital and the modern history of the site, but has also identified a number of relatively undisturbed areas of ground where there is at least the potential that archaeological sites or features might have survived. Most of the areas investigated in the northern half of the site (areas 1-5), as well as 7-9 in the southwest fall within this category. Much of the ground in the south-east of the site (areas 10-12) is heavily disturbed, or contains dense scatters of recent debris.

Specific findings identifiable in the survey plots include ditch-like features (A, B, D, E, G, H) in areas 2-4 and 8-9. These could be drains or trenches of recent origin, but the possibility that some could predate the hospital cannot be entirely excluded. Strong linear features at F and J (in areas 3 and 12) do not appear to ferrous pipes. It is not impossible they could indicate near-surface tunnels, but it is probably more likely that they represent non-ferrous pipes, or metalled paths or tracks.





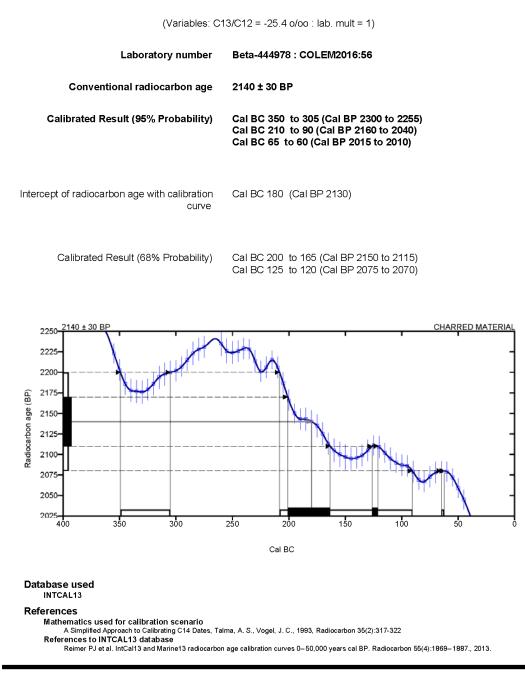




Radiocarbon Analysis

A sample of oak charcoal from F.68 [108] was submitted to Beta Analytic for radiocarbon analysis, from which the following results were obtained.

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS



Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory 4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • Email: beta@radiocarbon.com

Oasis Form

OASIS ID: cambridg3-262080

Project details

Project details	
Project name Short description Project dates Previous/future work	Severalls Hospital, Colchester: An Archaeological Evaluation 49 trenches totaling 2322.36 sqm were opened over an area of 42.13ha at Severalls Hospital, Colchester. Seven small pits filled with a significant charcoal content were identified and though without any finds they are comparable with other pits found in previous works from which a date of the Late Iron Age to Early Roman periods has been determined. A charcoal sample from the current project has been submitted for radiocarbon dating. With these possible exceptions, the only archaeological features present were either a part of the nineteenth century agricultural landscape, or the twentieth century workings associated with the construction and use of Severalls Hospital. Start: 01-06-2016 End: 15-08-2016 No / Not known
Project site code Type of project	COLEM:2016.56 Field evaluation
Site status Current Land use	None Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	PIT Roman DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds Methods & techniques	N/A None "Sample Trenches"
Development type Prompt	Housing estate Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Planning status	Pre-application
Project location	
Country Site location Postcode Study area Site coordinates	England ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Severalls Hospital CO4 5HG 42.13 Hectares TL 9927 2838 51.917713143497 0.897942968395 51 55 03 N 000 53 52 E Point Min: 40m Max: 40m
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49m Max: 49m
Project creators Name of Organisation Project brief originator Project design Project manager Project supervisor Type of sponsor Name of sponsor	Cambridge Archaeological Unit City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist Emma Beadsmoore Emma Beadsmoore Marcus Brittain Development Corporation Severalls Hospital Consortium
Project archives	
Archive ID Archive recipient Physical Archive?	COLEM:2016.56 Cambridge Archaeological Unit No
Digital Media available Paper Contents	Geophysics, Images raster / digital photography, Survey, Text Stratigraphic Context sheet Correspondence Map Notebook - Excavation, Research, General

Paper Media available Context sheet, Correspondence, Map, Notebook - Excavation, Research, General Notes, Photograph, Plan, Report, Section