The Former Marshall Garage, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation

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THE FORMER MARSHALL GARAGE, CAMBRIDGE

An Archaeological Evaluation

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March 2009
Report No. **877**
Event Number: **ECB 3171**

Summary

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook a trench-based evaluation on a 8145m^2 area of land situated in the southern part of Cambridge (at TL 546 256) between the 8th and the 13th of February 2009. Although no evidence of Prehistoric or Roman activity was encountered during this work, a more positive result was recovered from the later periods at the site. The establishment of an open-field system in this location by the mid 14th century demonstrates the expanding pattern of Medieval agricultural practice in the East Fields of the town, for example, whilst the projected pattern of later suburban development in Cambridge can also be directly corroborated. The findings of this evaluation therefore provide confirmation of proposed historical models of landuse development in the area. In addition, the absence of an identifiable Roman presence at the site further narrows the corridor within which the contemporary Colchester to Godmanchester road (or Via Devana*) is likely to have been situated.*

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Introduction

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook a trench-based evaluation on a 8145m^2 area of land located in the southern part of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, between the 8th and the 13th of February 2009. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is centred on TL 546 256 and is bounded to the north by Cherry Hinton Road, to the west by Hills Road and to the south and east by standing residential and commercial buildings; it lies approximately 1km to the south of the historic core of the town (see Figure 1). Four trenches, covering a combined total of 115.7m^2 (or 1.4%), were excavated at the site; however, these were restricted to the margins of the area as much of the interior space had been disturbed by the insertion of 20th century cellaring and petrol storage tanks (see Figure 2). This work followed the specification issued by the CAU (Evans 2008) and approved by Kasia Gdaniec, Development Control Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA). The project was commissioned by Highland Trilatera Ltd. in advance of extensive redevelopment.

Methodology

Modern deposits, including layers of concrete and tarmac, were broken out and removed by a 360° mechanical excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. All archaeological features were then excavated by hand and recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS system (Spence 1994); base plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50, whilst sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Context numbers are indicated within the text by square brackets (*e.g.* **[001]**), and feature numbers are denoted by the prefix F. (*e.g.* **F.03**). The photographic archive consists of a series of digital images.

Landscape and geology

The PDA is situated upon 3rd Terrace river gravels overlying Lower Chalk (British Geological Survey, Sheet 188). Although currently irregular and uneven due to extensive demolition and disturbance, the site's present surface height ranges between 17.04m OD to 16.40m OD; natural gravels were encountered at 15.71m OD to 15.41m OD.

Historical and archaeological background

The historical and archaeological background of the immediately surrounding area has been covered in depth in two previous desktop assessments (Dickens 1999; Dickens *et al* 2003), whilst the wider background of Cambridge is reviewed in several published sources (*e.g.* Cam 1959; Lobel 1975; Bryan 1999; Taylor 1999). This information is not therefore reproduced here in full. Nevertheless, it is necessary to briefly outline the background of the town in order to place the PDA securely within its wider context; further details on specific sites directly related to its development are discussed in the relevant sections of the evaluation results below.

Little is known of the earliest inhabitants of the area. Although there is diffuse evidence of Prehistoric occupation and activity, most notably of Iron Age date, located to the south and west of the town (*e.g.* Evans 1996; Evans *et al* 2009) no

Figure 1: Site Location.

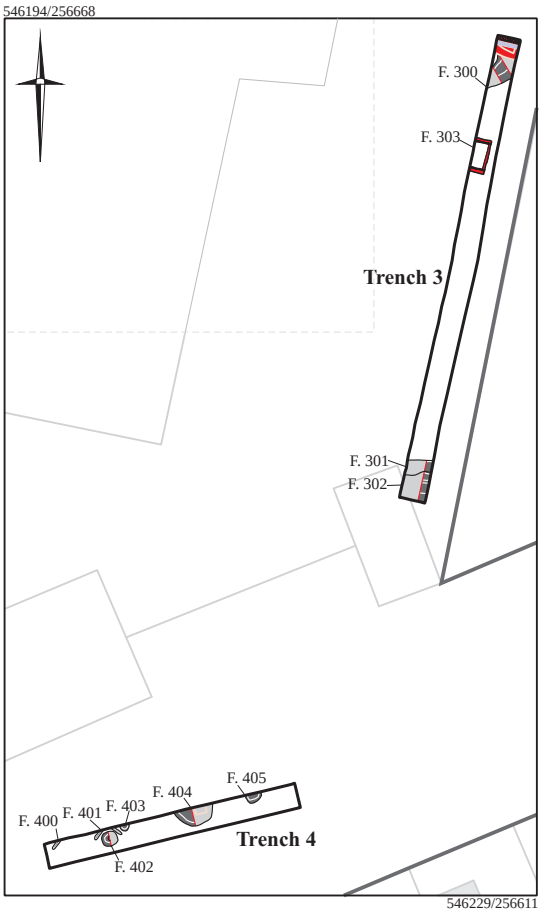


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan.

intensive large-scale settlement has yet been identified. Occupation appears instead to have begun in earnest shortly after the Roman invasion in AD43, with the accepted picture of Cambridge during this period being one of a settlement centred almost exclusively upon the Castle Hill area (*e.g.* Alexander & Pullinger 1999). Recent fieldwork, however, is demonstrating that this interpretation is somewhat limited, with significant settlement having been detected to the west of the presumed centre (Lucas & Whittaker 2001). Finds from this period have also been made to the southeast and there is certainly evidence of Roman activity on the riverfront (Dickens 1996) and the Park Street/Jesus Lane area (Alexander *et al* 2004), as well as a contemporary suburb situated alongside the southern approach to the town (Newman 2008). It is therefore clear that the extent of Roman settlement on the southern bank of the Cam was greater than has generally been supposed and that the southern hinterland of the town was extensive, although it remains poorly understood. Notably, although the PDA is situated at some distance to the south of the main locus of contemporary occupation, it is likely to have lain in close proximity to the principal Colchester to Godmanchester road (commonly referred to as the *Via Devana*) and may therefore have been the focus of limited Roman activity.

Following the decline of Roman town during the 5th century the level of occupation in the area appears to have temporarily decreased, as the evidence for Early Saxon (*c.*410-700) activity in and around Cambridge primarily comprises material recovered during the 19th century from pagan cemeteries on the outskirts of the city (*cf.* Dodwell *et al* 2004; Cessford with Dickens 2005a). Very little occupational evidence from this period has yet been identified, with the exception of a small 6th to 7th century settlement that was recently excavated on the western bank of the Cam around a kilometre to the south of the former Roman town (Dodwell *et al* 2004). Middle to Late Saxon (*c.*700-900) activity, in contrast, appears to have been primarily refocused upon the Castle Hill area, where a 7th to 9th century execution cemetery has recently been investigated (Cessford with Dickens 2005; Cessford *et al* 2007). By the mid 9th century it is clear that some form of settlement had been re-established in the area, as this was occupied by the Viking Great Army in 875, and the region was incorporated into the Danelaw from *c.*886 until its conquest by Edward the Elder in *c.*917 (Cam 1934, 39; Lobel 1975, 3). Although it has been suggested that occupation extended across both the northern and southern banks of the Cam at this time (*e.g.* Gray 1905, 21-3; Cam 1934, 39; Haslam 1984, 19; Hines 1999, 136; Taylor 1999, 44-50), there has as yet been little opportunity to test this theory archaeologically. Nevertheless, regardless of the settlement's precise extent, it certainly remained only an "economically viable backwater" up until the mid 10th century (Hines 1999, 136); following this date, however, it emerged as a significant urban centre. By the late 10th century a mint had been established (Lobel 1975, 3) and the town was being linked to a group of important trading centres including Norwich, Thetford and Ipswich (*cf.* Fairweather 2005), thereby emphasising the central role played by river trade in its rapid economic growth. Indeed by the beginning of the 13th century Cambridge acted as the leading inland port in the county, through which goods and services were disseminated to many of the surrounding regional towns (Cam 1934, 43).

By this time the town was fully established on the eastern side of the river, and was probably already enclosed by an extensive boundary work that later became known as the King's Ditch. Although the eponymous 'king' is usually interpreted as being either John (1167-1216), who repaid the bailiffs of Cambridge the costs of enclosing

of the city in 1215, or Henry III (1207-72), who paid for its refortification in 1267 (Cooper 1842-53), a recent radio-carbon determination derived from the basal fill of the ditch at the Grand Arcade site indicates that the boundary was at least partially extant by the late 11th or early 12th century (Craig Cessford, *pers comm*). Yet by the Late Medieval period, Cambridge's role as a dominant port was long since over (Bryan 1999, 97); indeed, the economic wealth of the town was no longer based upon river-borne trade, but was instead largely centred around the University (which had been founded in 1209). The expansion of this institution had greatly benefited from royal investment, especially from the 15th century onwards (*ibid*, 94-6), and its growth was also given significant impetus by the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536-40 since many of the disbanded religious houses were subsequently converted into Colleges (*cf.* Willis & Clark 1886). Notably, the gradual expansion of Cambridge from the 10th century onwards (and the concomitant rise in the local population) led to the development of ever more extensive fields systems to the west and east of the town (*cf.* Hall & Ravensdale 1976; Hesse 2007); it is within the southern portion of the latter of these field systems that the current site lies.

Evaluation results

Three phases of activity have been identified from the evaluation at the former Marshall Garage site. These comprise:

I. Early activity, which culminated in the establishment of an open-field system by the mid 14th century.

II. Subsequent Post-Medieval agricultural activity (spanning the 16th to 18th centuries).

III. Evidence relating to the suburban expansion of Cambridge in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Because each of these phases represents events that occurred on a site-wide as opposed to trench-specific scale, the relevant information from each trench has been amalgamated into a general phase by phase discussion.

Phase 1: early activity

Relatively little early activity was encountered at the site. Although a remnant sub-soil layer was present in Trench 1 (**[118]**), which may represent Prehistoric/Roman agricultural activity in the area, no dating material was recovered from this deposit. The earliest definite trace of anthropogenic activity is represented by 14th century east-northeast to west-southwest aligned ditch **F.300**. This feature – which contained a Type 15 copper alloy English jetton, dated *c.*1319-1343 – appears to relate to the establishment of a Medieval field system at the site.

> Sub-soil layer **[118]** is of uncertain form, as it extended beyond the limits of Trench 1 in every direction. It consisted of very firm mid rich reddish brown silty sand, with rare gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions, and measured 0.21m deep. This deposit was most probably truncated by later activity in every other trench investigated.
>
> Ditch **F.300** is linear in form and is aligned east-northeast to west-southwest; it is situated in Trench 3. Cut **[312]** measures 1.87m+ by 1.15m+ in extent and 0.50m+ deep with steeply to moderately sloping sides and a relatively flat base. Initial fill **[305]** comprised a deposit of loosely compacted mid brownish gold sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions 0.28m deep, whilst to the

southwest **[304]** comprised a deposit of loosely compacted golden sand with very frequent gravel inclusions 0.26m deep. Overlying both of these deposits was **[303]**, a deposit of relatively loosely compacted mid orangey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions 0.48m+ deep. **F.300** represents a field boundary (or subdivision thereof) of 14th century date.

Discussion

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the limited early activity encountered at the former Marshall Garage site is the apparent absence of any Roman presence in the area. Whilst pre-Roman remains might reasonably be anticipated to have occurred only sporadically throughout this landscape, the PDA is known to have lain in very close proximity to an important routeway – the Colchester to Godmanchester road, or *Via Devana* – that had most probably been established by the mid 1st century AD (*c.f.* Walker 1910). As such, contemporary activity (in the form of gravel quarries, field systems or isolated farmsteads, for example) could perhaps be expected to have occurred with a somewhat higher degree of frequency during the Roman period. Yet this dearth is by no means an isolated phenomenon. With the exception of two possible observations of the Roman road in the grounds of the Perse School a little way to the south (Walker 1910, 166-7; RCHM(E) 1959, 6) – which are themselves to be regarded as somewhat questionable – very little evidence of Roman activity has yet been encountered during archaeological work undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the site. Indeed, no trace of a contemporary presence was identified during evaluation work undertaken at the Homerton Street site situated immediately to the west, for example (*c.f.* Mackay 2001a; Mackay 2001c). In fact, the clearest archaeological evidence of Roman activity within the area surrounding the PDA comprises gravel quarry pits identified to the north during evaluations undertaken at the Old Cattle Market and CB1 Development sites (Mackay 2001b, 24; Mackay 2006, 17-18), although these features were themselves most probably associated with the nearby road's initial construction. The precise nature and usage of the surrounding area during the pre-Roman and Roman periods therefore remains obscure.

A much clearer picture emerges of the post-Roman usage of the area, however, as from at least the 11th century onwards the PDA was situated within the eastern agricultural fringe of the burgeoning town. Although much less intensively studied than the West Fields of Cambridge (see, for example, Maitland 1898; Hall & Ravensdale 1976), the documentary evidence relating to the development of the contemporary East Fields has also been subject to historical analysis (*c.f.* Stokes 1915; Hesse 2007). This work has demonstrated that the field network developed from probable pre-Conquest origins, apparently doubling in size between the 11th and 14th centuries (Hesse 2007, 156-58). The PDA thus originally formed part of a belt of common pasture/moorland surrounding the eastern fringe of Cambridge, upon which open arable fields were established by the mid 14th century (see Figure 4). This evidence agrees very closely with the date of the jetton recovered from **F.300** (*c.*1319-1343), as well as the nature of the residual pottery recovered from the later Post-Medieval ploughsoil, and indicates that this ditch most probably formed an internal subdivision between rows of newly established selion strips. Although the feature lies very close to the boundary between the Middle Field (which was located within the town boundary) and Fendon Field (which was located immediately to its south), this division is likely to have been marked instead by the route of Mere Way, a green lane or hollow way whose course appears to be broadly followed by present day Elsworth Place.

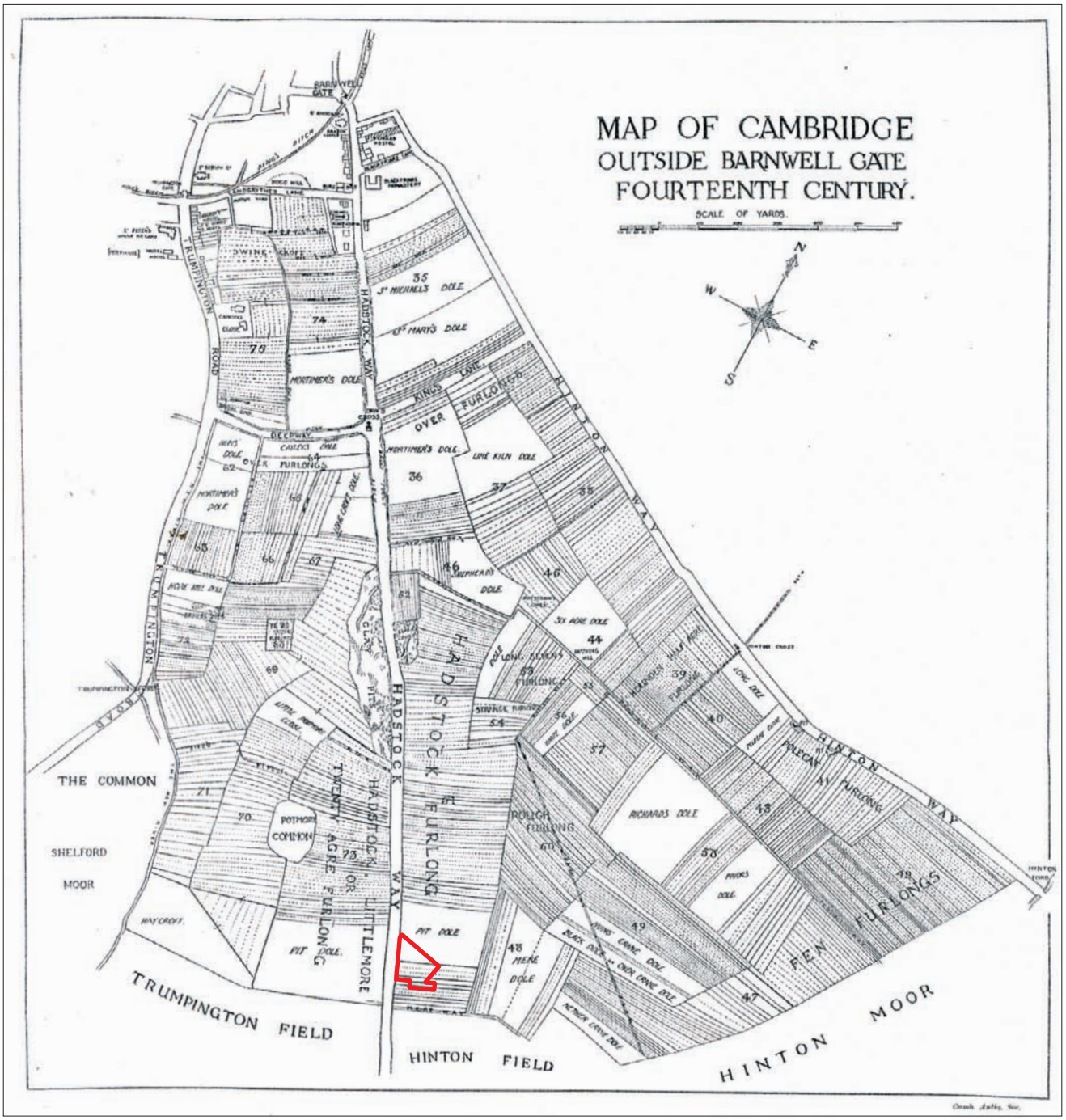
A.

D.

B.

C.

Figure 3: Photograph of **F.405** (A), **F.300** (B), layer **[201]** (C) and **F.402** (D).



PDA

Figure 4: The Medieval East Fields of Cambridge (after Stokes 1915).

Phase 2: Post-Medieval activity

During the Post-Medieval period, the PDA continued to remain the subject of agricultural as opposed to domestic activity. A number of plough furrows containing 16th to 18th century pottery were identified in Trenches 1 and 4, whilst a well developed plough-soil – also containing contemporary refuse material – was encountered across much of the site (only being absent in Trench 2, where it had apparently been truncated by later 19th century activity).

> Plough furrows **F.100** to **F.102**, **F.104** to **F.106** and **F.400** to **F.401** are linear in form; those situated in Trench 1 (**F.100** to **F.102**, and **F.104** to **F.106**) were oriented north-northeast to south-southwest, parallel to Hills Road, whilst those situated in Trench 4 (**F.400** and **F.401**) were aligned at right-angles to this, running east-northeast to west-southwest. They varied in length between 2.90m+ and 0.60m+, and in width between 0.29m and 0.13m; the deepest was 0.18m deep and the shallowest 0.04m deep. Each displayed a relatively consistent profile, with moderately sloping sides leading to a partially concave base. The single fill that was present in each case consisted of a relatively firm deposit of mid brown sandy clay silt that became increasingly pale with depth. It contained rare gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions and was identical to overlying horticultural soil layer **[102]** = **[302]** = **[402]**, of which it had clearly formed a part.
>
> Plough-soil layer **[102]** = **[302]** = **[402]** is of uncertain form as it extended beyond the limits of Trenches 1, 3 and 4. The deposit consisted in every case of a well-stratified deposit of mid brown sandy clay silt that became increasingly pale with depth. It contained rare gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions, and varied in thickness between 0.47m and 0.16m.

Discussion

The change in alignment observed between the plough furrows identified in Trenches 1 and 4 indicates that the pre-existing Medieval field division – originally defined by **F.300** – was most probably maintained in some way during the Post-Medieval period (although no definite physical trace of its existence was encountered). Therefore, whilst the dominant agricultural methodology adopted during this period most probably shifted away from the Medieval practice of 'strip-farming' towards the maintenance of larger open fields, little obvious difference would have been apparent to the casual observer between the two periods. The increase in the quantity of material culture that was incorporated into the ploughsoil, however, demonstrates the contemporary expansion of the nearby town's population; it is also notable that it was during this period that Cherry Hinton Road – originally known as Fulbourn Road – was first established (according to historic map evidence), replacing the earlier route of Mere Way. In addition, although not positively identified as such at the time, very similar deposits of Post-Medieval ploughsoil also appear to have been encountered during the nearby Homerton Street and Cattle Market evaluations (*c.f.* Mackay 2001a, 10-11; Mackay 2001b, 19-22), thereby providing further evidence of the contemporary usage of the area.

Phase 3: Modern activity

A marked increase in the intensity of activity being undertaken at the site can be discerned from the latter half of the 19th century onwards. In parallel with this increase, the focus of these activities also appears to have shifted, moving away from the preceding dominance of arable cultivation towards the creation of a more horticultural, garden-like environment. Thus, as part of this new phase, two parallel east-northeast to west-southwest aligned linear pits/ditches were created in Trench 3

(**F.301** and **F.302**) along with a number of probable planting pits in Trench 4 (**F.402** to **F.405**), whilst a well-worked 'garden-soil' type layer was encountered across the entire site (**[101]** = **[201]** = **[301]** = **[401]**). The presence of the latter deposit was particularly marked in Trench 2, where its creation appears to have caused the truncation much of the preceding sequence (see Figure 5).

Linear pits/ditches **F.301** and **F.302** are aligned east-northeast to west-southwest and are located in Trench 3; they measure 1.8m+ by 1.5m in extent and 0.75m+ deep and 1.8m+ by 1.6m and 0.67m+ deep respectively. Both features had steeply sloping sides leading to relatively flat bases and were backfilled with banded deposits, consisting primarily of mixed dark brown and brownish grey sandy silt in the former and redeposited natural in the latter. Stratigraphically, **F.302** appears to have succeeded **F.301**. Due to the limited scale of the investigation their original purpose remains obscure, although they most probably served as ditches subdividing the area during the late 19th/early 20th century.

Pits **F.402**, **F.403**, **F.404** and **F.405** are sub-circular in form and are located in Trench 4. Each had steeply sloping sides leading to a partially concave base, and they varied between 1.8m and 0.60m in length, 1.6m and 0.35m+ in width and 0.75m+ and 0.10m+ in depth. Each of the features also contained a relatively loose deposit of mid brown sandy clay silt, which appears to primarily consist of redeposited Post-Medieval plough-soil **[102]** = **[302]** = **[402]**. Given their form and location, therefore, allied with the relatively sterile nature of their fills (although they did contain occasional sherds of late 19th century pottery), these features most probably represent planting pits located within a formal garden.

Posthole **F.103** is square in form and is located in Trench 1. It has vertical sides and a relatively flat base, and measures 0.41m by 0.41m in extent and 0.07m+ deep. A central post-pipe was present, which contained a loose black silt deposit with frequent slag inclusions, along with a mid to dark brown clay silt packing deposit. The precise purpose of this feature is unclear, as no other structural remains were encountered within this trench. It is most probably 19th century in date, although no datable material was recovered.

Horticultural 'garden-soil' layer **[101]** = **[201]** = **[301]** = **[401]** is of uncertain form as it extended beyond the limits of Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. The deposit consisted in every case of very humic dark brownish grey (almost black) clay silt that contained rare gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions, and varied in thickness between 0.45m and 0.10m.

Archaeological evidence of the subsequent development of the site during the 20th century was also encountered. This primarily comprised levelling/made-ground deposit **[100]** = **[200]** = **[300]** = **[400]**, which was present in all four trenches, although individual structural remains of this date were also identified in Trench 4 (**F.303** and **F.304**).

Made-ground deposit **[100]** = **[200]** = **[300]** = **[400]** is of uncertain form as it extended beyond the limits of Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. It consisted in every case of banded layers of tarmac and gravel and CBM hardcore, and varied in thickness between 0.65m and 0.36m.

Soakaway/cellar **F.303** and wall **F.304** were both partially present within Trench 3; they measured 1.7mm by 1.1m+ in extent and 1.8m+ by 1.5m in extent respectively, although neither was fully investigated. Soakaway/cellar **F.303** was sub-rectangular in form and consisted of a single skin revetment wall composed of machine-made yellow frogged bricks measuring 220mm by 110mm by 80mm on average. It survived to a depth of at least three courses, but was not fully bottomed. A little way to the north-northeast, double skin wall **F.304** was linear in form and aligned west-northwest by east-southeast; it was constructed on top of a concrete foundation and survived to the height of a single course. Notably, it was composed of identical materials to **F.303** and both features most probably comprised part of a contemporary 20th century structure associated with the former Marshall's Garage complex.

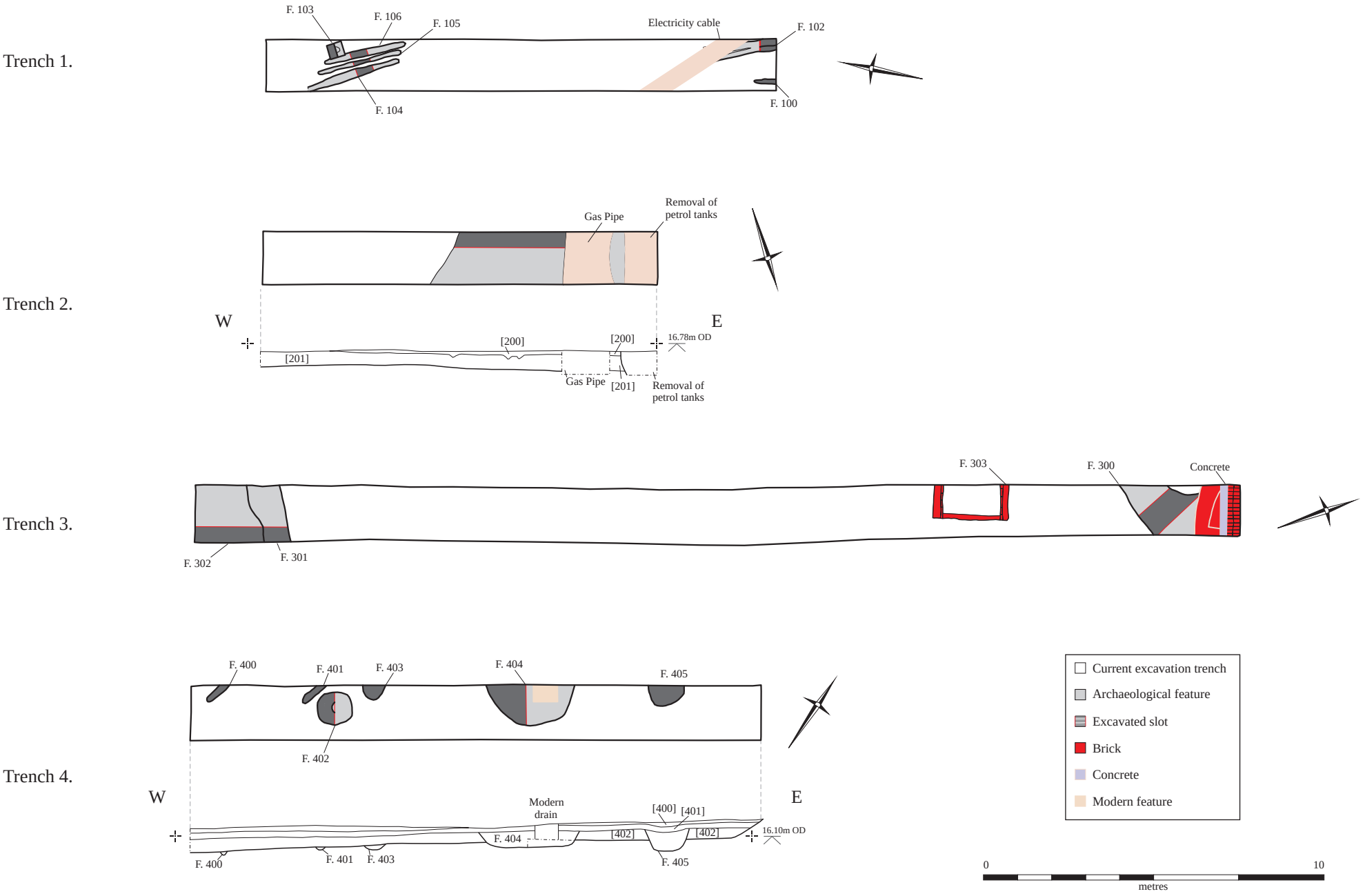
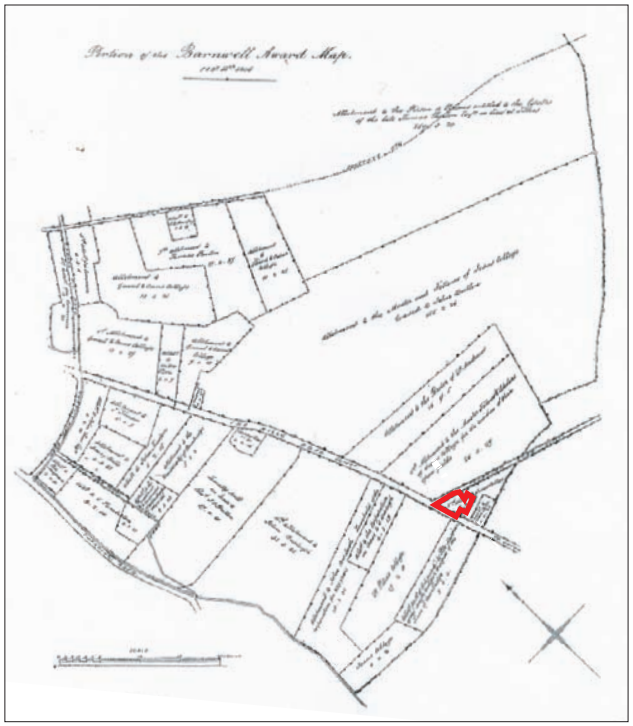
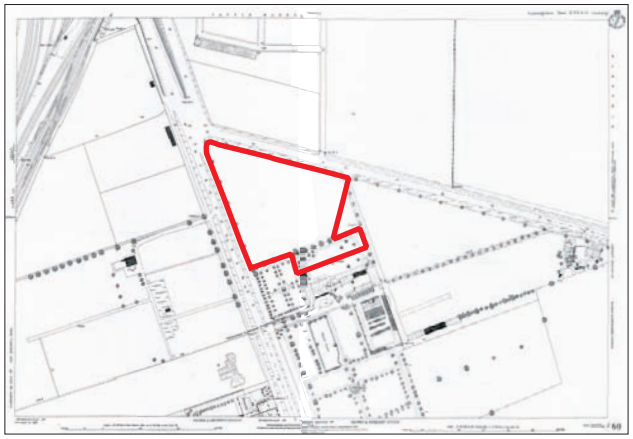


Figure 5: Plan of Trenches 1-4, with sections.



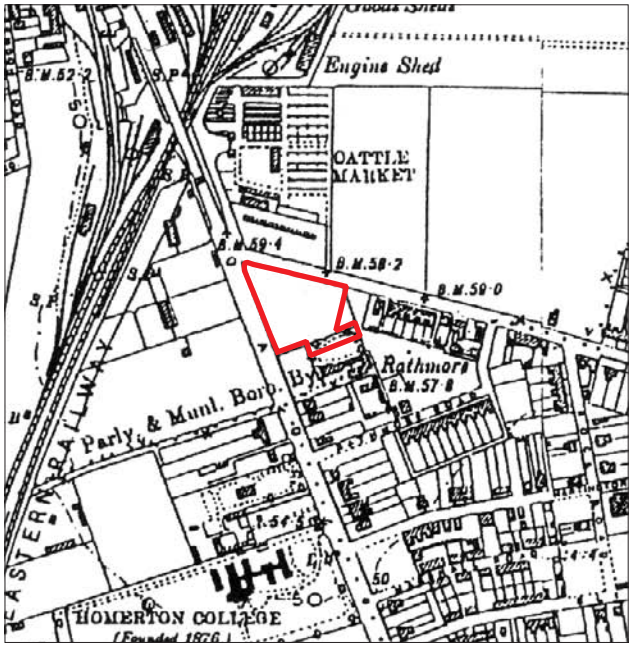
PDA

A. Enclosure Map, c.1807.



PDA

B. 1st Edition OS Map, 1889.



PDA

C. 2nd Edition OS Map, 1904.

Figure 6: Historic map sequence.

Discussion

Upon enclosure in 1807, the PDA remained open arable land (see enclosure map, Figure 6, **A**) that passed into the possession of Jesus College. Although the area immediately to the north of Cherry Hinton Road was also acquired by the college at this time, and was subsequently developed into the town's Cattle market (*c.f.* Mackay 2001b), the current site appears instead to have remained in agricultural usage throughout at least the first half of the 19th century. However, the very process of enclosure led to the attendant possibility of marked suburban expansion. Whilst this practice developed only slowly at first, construction work at the newly established suburb of New Town a little way to the north was clearly well underway by 1830 (Bryan & Wise 2005, 202-3). Indeed, by 1889 a prosperous farm (inventively named 'The Farm') had been established immediately to the south of the PDA (see the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, Figure 6, **B**). This was flanked by a tennis court to the south, and formal gardens to the west and north. The latter of these areas was investigated archaeologically in Trench 4, within which features **F.402** to **F.405** may well have related to planting pits for formal shrubbery. The larger area to the north, in which Trenches 1, 3 and 4 were situated, appears to have remained open at this time, although it was now tree-lined and may well have been carefully maintained (thus leading to the creation of (**[101]** = **[201]** = **[301]** = **[401]**).

By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, however, which was produced in 1904 (see Figure 6, **C**), significant suburban development had clearly occurred. The majority of the area to the south and east of the PDA had been built upon, and only a small remnant of the formal gardens that originally surrounded The Farm remained extant. Furthermore, whilst the main portion of the PDA still apparently comprised open ground at this time, the nature of layer **[201]** and the presence of ditches **F.301** and **F.302** indicate conversely that the area may well have been at least informally subdivided for a number of alternate uses. The portion lying closest to Cherry Hinton Road might well have been subject to intense horticultural use, for example, perhaps serving as an area of allotments for use by nearby residents. By the mid 20th century, however, the majority of the PDA had been built upon when the first in a series of automobile garages was established.

Conclusion

Although limited in scale, the work undertaken at the former Marshall Garage site has produced results in two important areas. In the first instance, the apparent absence of Roman activity in the area has clear implications for both the route of the *Via Devana* (which, whilst it may conceivably have been situated in the narrow corridor lying between Trenches 1 and 4, appears most likely to have lain further to the west, very close to the present course of Hills Road) and the associated pattern of contemporary land use. Notably, a zone of intense Roman gravel quarrying activity occurring immediately alongside the road has been observed elsewhere along the *Via Devana*'s course; indeed, such features have been discovered only a little way to the north during the Cattle Market and CB1 Development investigations (Mackay 2001b; 24; Mackay 2006, 17-18) and have also been observed beneath later suburban settlement on the southern bank of the Cam (Newman 2008, 61-3). Although admittedly discrete – and thus easily missed by dispersed trenching – this apparent 'signature' has the

potential to greatly assist in future efforts to define the course of the routeway; a thorough review of the earlier Perse School findings may also prove rewarding.

Yet aside from the (as yet only tentatively identified) road itself, and the perhaps somewhat more believable evidence of contemporary gravel extraction associated with its initial construction, the apparent absence of any other evidence of Roman activity in the area suggests a potentially nodal landscape during this period, in which areas of high activity – such as the Addenbrookes environs to the south (Evans *et al* 2008), and the small town of *Duroliponte* to the north (Alexander & Pullinger 1999) – were interspersed with much blanker areas of relative inactivity. By way of contrast, a more positive result was obtained from the later periods at the site, where the findings of this evaluation provide confirmation of proposed historical models of landuse development in the area (*e.g.* Hesse 2007; Bryan & Wise 2005). The expanding pattern of Medieval agricultural practice in the East Fields can be demonstrated, for example, with an open-field system having been established at the site by the mid 14th century. Similarly, the projected pattern of later suburban development in Cambridge can also be directly corroborated. This work is therefore of clear benefit in complimenting ongoing historical research into the origin and development of Cambridge's outer environs.

Acknowledgments

The project was commissioned by Highland Trilatera Ltd. and the fieldwork was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec, Development Control Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA); the project was managed for the CAU by Robin Standring and Chris Evans. The excavations were directed by Richard Newman and were undertaken in the field with the assistance of Lizzie Middleton, Ilanith Pongolini, Nick Overton and Adam Slater. Jason Hawkes managed the finds processing and specialists who examined material from the site included Martin Allen (numismatics) and Craig Cessford (clay tobacco pipe). The graphics were produced by Bryan Crossan. Particular thanks are due to Craig Cessford for commenting upon a draft of this text.

Appendix: finds assessment reports

In total 95 items, weighing 2.05kg, were recovered from the evaluation at the former Marshall Garage site. Notably, even given the limited scale of the work that was undertaken, this is a very small amount of material which serves to underline the essentially peripheral nature of the location throughout the majority of its history.

Provisional assessments of the most significant classes of material are presented below; in certain cases, however, insufficient quantities were recovered for a full assessment to be worthwhile. The quantity of animal bone recovered, for example, (4 fragments, weighing 10g) is insufficient for any useful interpretation to be derived. Similarly, the small quantities of CBM (15 fragments, weighing 751g) and shell (10 fragments, weighing 76g) are also difficult to interpret.

Pottery assessment

The total amount of pottery recovered during the evaluation comprised 31 sherds, weighing 499g. Although this assemblage is very small, the material within it spans the Medieval to Modern periods and relates to the main phases of activity at the site.

Medieval and Post-Medieval

A single sherd of Medieval pottery (consisting of 13th to 15th century Ely Ware, weighing 11g) was recovered from plough furrow **F.400**. Whilst its presence may relate to the establishment of a field system in this location during the 14th century, it is equally possible that it was instead introduced alongside other material during later manuring activity.

Fabric	Number	Weight (g)
Medieval Ely Ware	1	11
Glazed Red Earthenware	3	108
Unglazed Red Earthenware	2	32
Babylon Ware	2	16
Broad Street Fineware	2	23
Frechen Stoneware	1	49
TOTAL	**11**	**239**

Table 1: Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery by fabric.

Altogether 10 sherds of Post-Medieval pottery (weighing 228g) were recovered, primarily as redeposited material within later features. The most frequently occurring was Glazed Red Earthenware (3 sherds, weighing 108g), a basic utilitarian fabric that was first produced in the 16th century and continued in use into the 19th century. Two sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware (weighing 32g) were also present, although these fragments may have been derived from the unglazed portions of GRE vessels. In addition, two local 16th century Ely products were also identified; Broad Street Fineware (2 sherds, weighing 23g) and Babylon Ware (2 sherds, weighing 16g). Finally, a single imported fabric was present; this consisted of the base (weighing 49g) of a 16th/17th century Frechen Stoneware jug/bottle from Germany. Based upon typologies of Post-Medieval pottery in the Cambridgeshire region (*cf.* Edwards & Hall 1997; Hall 2001), this small assemblage is consistent with a process of gradual

deposition during the 16th and 17th centuries, most probably related to contemporary agricultural activity.

Modern

A small quantity of Modern pottery (consisting of 20 sherds, weighing 260g) was recovered from the site. This material was primarily derived from probable planting features **F.402**, **F.404** and **F.405**, along with ditch **F.301**.

Fabric	Number	Weight (g)
Refined White Earthenware	11	152
Unglazed Red Coarseware	1	36
Chinese Porcelain	1	3
English Utilitarian Stoneware	4	69
TOTAL	**20**	**260**

Table 2: Modern pottery by fabric.

As Table 2 above demonstrates, the most common Modern fabric at the site consisted of late 19th/early 20th century Refined White Earthenware; eleven sherds, weighing 152g, were found to be present. This included a large sherd (**<017>**, weighing 95g) from a large bowl/chamber pot that was recovered from 19th century horticultural soil **[401]**. Four sherds of English Utilitarian Stoneware were also present (weighing 69g), along with a sherd of 19th century Unglazed Red Earthenware plant pot (weighing 36g) and, finally, a small sherd of 18th century Chinese Porcelain (weighing 3g).

Clay tobacco pipe assessment (with Craig Cessford)

21 stem fragments, weighing 40g, were recovered from five separate features (**F.101**, **F.301**, **F.402**, **F.404** and **F.405**). In general, the presence of clay tobacco pipe fragments in a context indicates a date between the late 16th and early 20th centuries (*c.*1580-1910), although it is normally only possible to derive a precise date from bowls, marked pieces and some heel or spur fragments (*cf.* Oswald 1975). Stem bore apature is a less reliable indicator of date as it altered at a much slower rate than the changing fashions of bowl form. In this instance, only one of the stem fragments (derived from **[415]** in **F.405**) was closely datable as it bore the mark of 'PAWSON CAMB' in a circle. James Pawson was active in Cambridge between 1786 and his death in 1813; he was succeeded by his wife Anne Pawson, who died in 1823. This particular mark most probably dates to *c.*1800-1823.

Metalwork assessment (with Martin Allen)

The metalwork recovered during the evaluation – which totals 9 fragments, weighing 551g – consists of both iron and copper alloy objects. Although derived from separate contexts, all of the iron artefacts were found to be in a poor state of preservation. The metalwork comprises:

> **<043> [105] F.101** contained an Fe nail fragment (weighing 18g). This measured 48mm in length and 10mm in diameter.
>
> **<044> [413] F.404** contained an unidentifiable Fe 'lump' (weighing 19g). This measured 46mm in length and 27mm in width.

<045> [303] F.300 contained a Cu English jetton with a sterling bust obverse, possibly of class 15 (dating to *c.*1319-1343). The reverse, with a quatrefoil in each quarter of the cross moline, is similar to Mitchiner 192 (*c.f.* Mitchiner 1988). This measured 19mm in diameter and weighed 1g.

<046> [307] F.302 contained an Fe plate fragment (weighing 36g). This measured 96mm+ in length and 45mm+ in width.

<047> [309] F.301 contained an Fe square headed bolt (weighing 258g). This measured 183mm in length and 17mm in diameter.

<048> [310] F.301 contained an Fe bar/bolt (weighing 281g). This measured 202mm in length and 16mm in diameter.

<049> [310] F.301 contained a folded Cu alloy ring/fitting (weighing 8g). This measured 44mm in diameter.

<050> [403] F.402 contained two Fe nails, one composed of 2 = 1 fragments (weighing 16g and 14g respectively). These measured in turn 82mm+ in length and 6mm in diameter and 80mm+ in length and 8mm in diameter.

None of these objects require further study; only the jetton is of inherent interest.

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Oasis Form

OASIS ID: cambridg3-57532

Project details	
Project name	An archaeological evaluation at the former Marshall Garage, Cambridge
Short description of the project	The Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook a trench-based evaluation on a 8145m2 area of land situated in the southern part of Cambridge (at TL 546 256) between the 8th and the 13th of February 2009. Although no evidence of Prehistoric or Roman activity was encountered during this work, a more positive result was recovered from the later periods at the site. The establishment of an open-field system in this location by the mid 14th century demonstrates the expanding pattern of Medieval agricultural practice in the East Fields of the town, for example, whilst the projected pattern of later suburban development in Cambridge can also be directly corroborated. The findings of this evaluation therefore provide confirmation of proposed historical models of landuse development in the area. In addition, the absence of an identifiable Roman presence at the site further narrows the corridor within which the contemporary Colchester to Godmanchester road (or Via Devana) is likely to have been situated.
Project dates	Start: 08-02-2009 End: 13-02-2009
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FMG 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PITS Modern
Significant Finds	JETTON Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE The former Marshall Garage

Postcode	CB2 2RJ
Study area	8145.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 5461 2566 51.9077052599 0.247721825550 51 54 27 N 000 14 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.41m Max: 15.71m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Robin Standring
Project director/manager	Robin Standring
Project supervisor	Richard Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Highland Trilatera Ltd.

Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	FMG 09
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	FMG 09
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	FMG 09
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	The former Marshall Garage, Cambridge: an archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, R.
Other bibliographic details	CAU Report Number 877
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	An A4 wire bound document with a plastic laminate front; it is 26 pages long, with six illustrations.
URL	http://ads.ahds.ac.uk
Entered by	Richard Newman (rn276@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	30 March 2009