

Orchard Court, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge

An Archaeological Investigation.



Jacqui Hutton

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



Orchard Court, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge;
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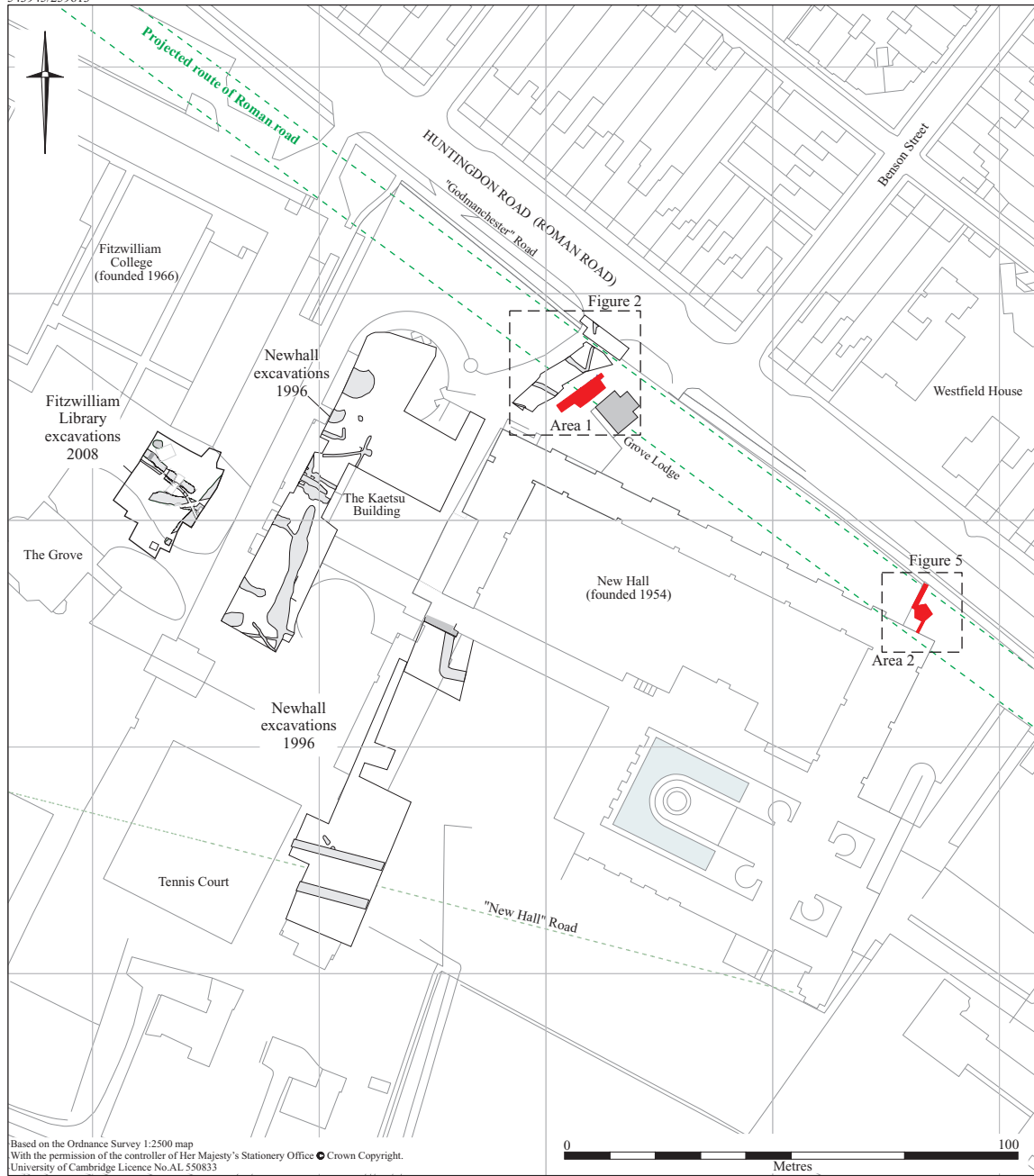
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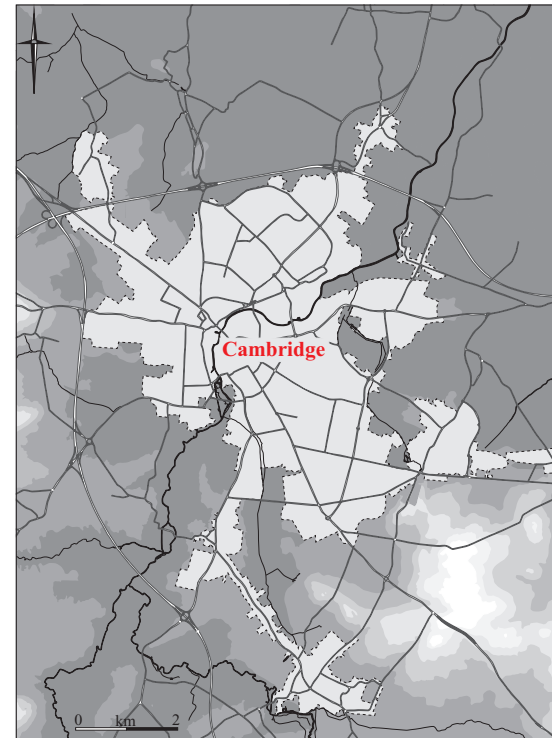
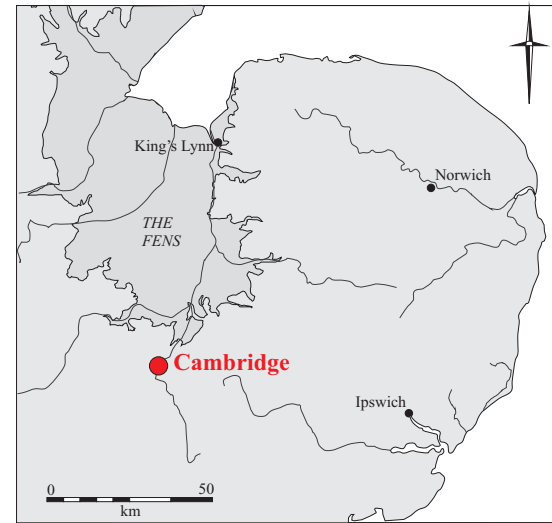


Figure 1. Location Plan.

Introduction

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken on land at Murray Edwards College (formally known as New Hall College), Cambridgeshire, (TL 439 595) on a Development Area located approximately 1.5km northwest from the centre of Cambridge (Figure 1). The programme of excavation took place in two phases between 22nd and 29th June, and 26th to 29th August, with the aim of establishing the presence, absence, extent and nature of archaeological activity and to assess the degree of preservation of any features and environmental remains.

The archaeological investigations targeted the two areas of the development; the first area was located on the northwest side of the existing Grove Lodge, where the proposed works comprised the construction of a fire-escape spiral stairway, a car park and tree planting. The second area was at the eastern end of the building where an external fire-escape spiral stairway was to be constructed. Area 1 started as a trench and was widened to a small excavation area, whilst the second area comprised a watching brief where contexts were investigated and recorded when archaeological features were encountered.

Topography and Geology

The site is situated on fourth Terrace Gravels overlying Lower Chalk Marl dating from the Cretaceous period on the Southern Crown of the Cambridge spur (British Geological Survey 1984). The locale around Area 1 prior to the excavation was covered with trees, shrubs and a lawn adjacent to Huntingdon Road at the back of Murray Edwards College. Area 2 was situated between the main college building and a gas meter building. The basic soil sequence in Trench 1 was extensively disturbed and truncated through the construction of the adjacent 19th century building (Grove Lodge) and tree planting. The level at which archaeological features were encountered was approximately 0.56m below the surface of the topsoil (19.74m OD). The soil sequence in Area 2 was also disturbed and truncated; to the north by a gas meter station and to the south by the construction of the college student accommodation building.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Abundant archaeology is known within the local environs and the wider landscape, the site is close to the centre of Iron Age and Roman Cambridge where excavations have revealed a wealth of archaeology from the prehistoric period to more recent times (Evans forthcoming; Slater 2008; Wills 2004; Alexander & Pullinger 2000; Lucas 1999; Evans 1996, 1993). The earliest evidence for archaeological activity from the wider landscape is provided by flint scatters dated from the Palaeolithic to Bronze Age periods discovered during quarrying on Gravel Hill during the 19th century. More recent investigations at Fitzwilliam College Library revealed Bronze Age features characterised by two substantial ditches with later re-cuts, probably relating to a field system (Slater 2008). Whilst a large Bronze Age ditch and associated domestic debris was recorded during excavations prior to construction at New Hall College (Evans 1996).

The site lies outside of the Roman town and immediately east and adjacent to the area of the New Hall excavations, where extensive evidence of later prehistoric and Roman occupation was recovered (Evans 1996; Slater 2008). A subsequent

archaeological investigation to the east of the site, in 1999 in the yard of Buckingham House, New Hall (Lucas 1999), showed evidence of extensive coprolite quarrying, which had quarried away any pre-existing archaeology on the site. A single ditch dated to the Romano-British period was also recorded that extended from the previous excavation (Slater 2008). After the Roman Conquest, Cambridge became a site of strategic importance and would later become an important civil settlement. Four Roman roads were constructed, the crossroads of which would have been located at or near the modern Histon Road, Victoria Avenue, Huntingdon Road junction, and not far from the River Cam where a bridge would have probably been constructed (Alexander & Pullinger 2000).

Previous excavations within the city have offered potential evidence of roadside ditches, such as those recorded during an excavation by Cambridge County Council Archaeological Field Unit in 2003 in the cellars of 68-70 Castle Street. The results suggested the ditch went out of use during the mid 2nd century (Hickling 2004). The crossroads of the Cambridge to Godmanchester road (part of the *Via Devana*) with the north-south orientated Akeman Street was found during investigations at Shire Hall, although this interpretation is uncertain (Dickens 2002; see Evans forthcoming for a reassessment of this material). More recent archaeological investigations at Trinity Hall playing fields and Northwest Cambridge have also identified probable Roman roads (Wills 2004; Newman 2009).

Excavations at Castle Street revealed evidence of Roman activity with an enclosure ditch, linears and pits with associated domestic activity. Late Roman features and archaeology from the later periods appeared to have been truncated by Civil War landscaping activity. Although evidence suggests that the enclosure ditch was re-cut several times. There was no evidence of any road contexts recorded during the excavations at Castle Street during 2006 (Ten Harkel 2006).

On the current site, a 19th century building called Orchard Lodge was thought to be originally owned by Emma Darwin, the wife of Charles Darwin, whose son, Horace resided there during the late 19th century.

Methodology

The excavation areas were stripped with a 360° tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, which removed the topsoil and overburden down to an archaeological level, under the careful supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The unit modified version of the MoLAS recording system was used; all relevant archaeological and geological features were planned at 1:50, with sections drawn at 1:10 and augmented by colour digital imagery and black and white film photographic record. All pits were half-sectioned and linear features sampled at appropriate intervals. Archaeological features were assigned a unique number (e.g. **F.100**; bolded upon introduction within the text) and each stratigraphically distinct episode (e.g. a cut, a fill) was recorded with a unique context number (e.g. [001]). All exposed features were metal detected using a Laser Rapier metal detector. The site was surveyed into the Ordnance Survey Grid and Ordnance Datum by means of an RTK GPS unit. All work was carried out with strict adherence to Health and Safety legislation and within the recommendations of SCAUM.

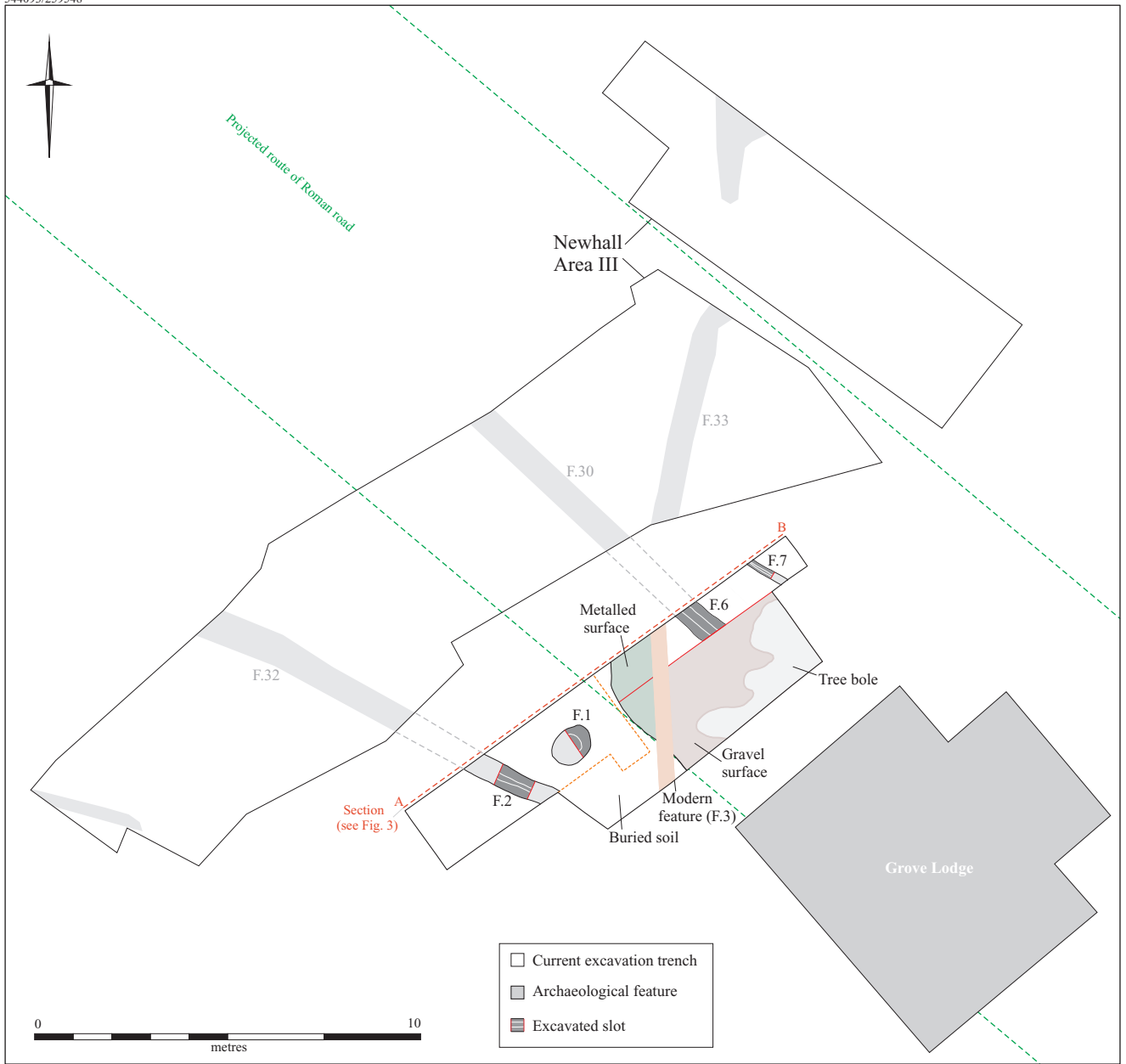


Figure 2. Plan of Area 1 and Newhall Area III excavations.

A total of nine features were identified during the excavation, with 47 separate contexts assigned. The artefacts and accompanying documentation have been compiled into a stable, cross-referenced and indexed archive in Accordance with Appendix 6 of MAP 2 (English Heritage 1991). The archive is currently stored at the offices of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit under the project code OCD09.

Excavation Results

The excavation areas were targeted on the areas of development. Disturbance from trees, services and modern constructions were evident throughout Area 1 and Area 2.

Area 1

In total eight features were recorded, although only five were deemed to be of archaeological interest; the remaining three were modern features such as a pathway. The archaeological features consisted of three ditches, one pit and a roadway surface dated to the Roman period.

Towards the western end of the area there was a small pit, **F.1**, measuring 1.17m x 0.65m wide and 0.07m deep, that contained pottery dated to the 13th/14th century and a residual bone hair pin of probable Romano-British date. The base of the feature had cut down onto cobbles that probably related to the potential road surface and were pressed into the natural suggesting that the surface of the road may have eroded or slumped in a westward direction. Due to the disturbance and truncation of later landscaping, only the base of the feature survived.

Ditch **F.2** (0.56m wide and 0.08m deep) was adjacent to F.1, on a northwest-southeast orientation, the same alignment as F.32, which was identified in the New Hall excavation (Evans 1996). F.2 produced no datable artefacts although the profile and make-up of the linear corresponded with F.32 which was Roman in date.

F.3 crossed the trench on a north-south orientation and was an amenities pipe associated with the adjacent 19th century building (see Appendix).

The main feature recorded in Area 1 was **F.4**; a series of compacted gravel and cobbled layers, at least 6.61m wide, which contained Roman pottery. Disturbance by the construction of the later 19th century lodge and the trees was evident with material culture from both the Roman, post-Medieval and modern periods distributed throughout the layers overlying and interfacing with the gravel surface. The last phase of surface was cobbled and gravelled, [017] and [018] respectively, with an additional lens of gravel material, [016], overlying [017]. Artefacts were found on the surface of [017] and amongst the cobbles. These included a fragment of human skull. There was no evidence of a burial within the immediate vicinity and the material may have come from a grave disturbed when gravel was obtained for the road surface (a cemetery was discovered during the New Hall excavations nearby; Evans 1996). The cobbles lay above a buried soil, [27], that yielded a number of bone and pottery fragments. The modern pipe F.3 disturbed the section and obscured the relationship between [017] and [021], which may represent the same layer. Layer [021] overlay a linear (F.6), and may potentially have been deposited as a levelling layer to compensate for the depression caused by the earlier feature (fig. 3). Deposit [30], which overlay [021], probably represented a period of disuse in between the metallised surfaces, or

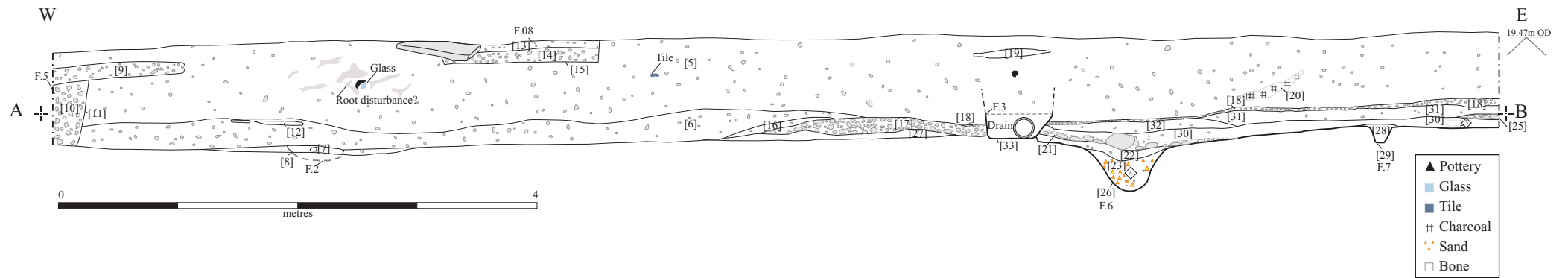


Figure 3. Section of F.4 road with multiple layers.



Figure 4. Roman road surface, facing northwest.

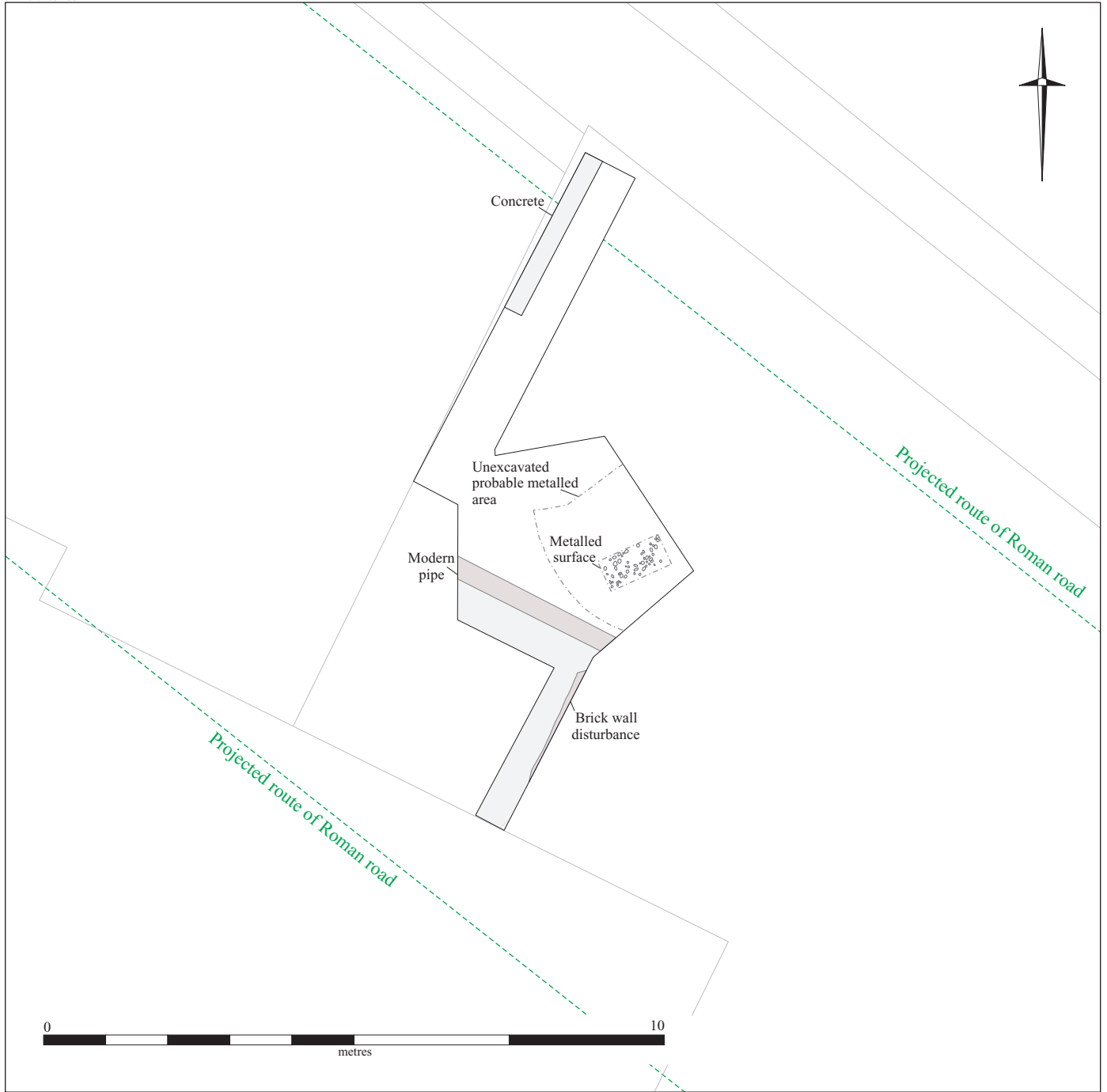


Figure 5. Plan of Area 2



Figure 6. Photograph of F.11, Area 2

alternatively, be associated with levelling and general road construction resulting in the deposition of a gravel layer, [018], to stabilise the road surface. The later deposits of sandy silts ([32]) and clayey silts ([31]) situated above [30] seem to form part of the road make-up, prior to the last phase of construction. The potential road comprised several phases of modification, disuse and possibly re-orientation. The earlier ditch, **F.6**, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.43m deep, may relate to an earlier phase of road-side ditch and represent a different phase of road construction, potentially indicating a southward-shift in the orientation of the road.

F.6 was on the same alignment as linear F.30 from the adjacent New Hall excavation (Evans 1996). F.33 from the New Hall excavation appeared not to have continued into the current area, suggesting that it terminated between the two areas. To the north of F.30 a small narrow gully was recorded (F.47), which was similar to **F.7** (0.2m wide and 0.23m deep) in the current area.

F.5 and F.8 were modern features related to modern construction and landscaping (see Appendix).

Area 2

In Area 2 the metalled surface (**F.11**) was comparable to the surface recorded in Area 1, although with greater quantities of artefacts. The Area 2 gravel surface was more substantial/better preserved than the surface exposed in Area 1, with less disturbance and truncation of the upper surface, although the northern and southern extent of the deposit was not revealed by the works. Two contexts were directly linked to the metalled surface; [104] and [105], although residual Roman pottery sherds were recorded throughout layers exposed in the small area. Context [105] was identified as the actual surface. The 69 sherds recovered from this small area excavation, including mortaria and London ware, date from the mid to late 1st century AD (see discussion and Anderson, below).

Other features recorded within the trench indicate the presence of brick buildings that were probably demolished before the construction of the college building. The exact date of the structures was unknown, but thought not to have been earlier than the late 19th century.

Discussion

The small-scale area excavations conducted at Murray Edwards College revealed two areas of relatively dense archaeological features and a substantial assemblage of Romano-British pottery. Taken alone, such small excavations within an urban area are limited in their interpretive scope. Significantly, these two interventions have taken place in an area where substantial fieldwork has been conducted in both the grounds of Murray Edwards, Fitzwilliam, and St Edmunds colleges, Trinity Hall playing fields, Mount Pleasant and the Castle Hill/ Shire Hall area. It is within this wider fieldwork context that these results must be considered.

In *Area 1* five features were identified, although heavily truncated by later activity and services. All of these features, with the exception of the southernmost ditch (F.2)

contained pottery (253 sherds) dating to the Romano-British period (mid 1st to 3rd century AD); much of the pottery was abraded. Of note, the two ditches continued the ditch alignments (F.30 and F.32) exposed in the earlier excavations immediately to the northwest (Evans 1996). The gully located to the north of the area (F.7) was of small proportions and does not appear to have extended much further beyond the edge of excavation. The small pit-like feature in *Area 1* was, however, very shallow and contained sherds of 13th/14th century pottery, the butchered pelvis from an unidentified large animal and cobbles. Probably representing the base of a much larger truncated pit, this feature is Medieval in date and most likely cut the western edge of the metallated surface/spread to the east.

Unlike the 1996 excavation to the northwest, a large area of metallating measuring over six meters wide (F.4) was identified in *Area 1*. Either slumping into, or deposited over ditch F.6 (see fig. 3), this spread was related to resurfacing of either a cobbled yard or road surface. Most of the pottery recovered from this feature (170 sherds) were small and abraded sherds and had been incorporated into the spread, probably as hardcore (fragments of quern were also incorporated into the surface). The human skull fragment also found within the spread may represent disturbance of a nearby earlier grave or material that was quarried and ‘imported’ onto site from the nearby cemetery at New Hall (*ibid.*); the presence of a linear, road-side cemetery nearby must be considered a distinct possibility.

In *Area 2* a similar truncated metallated surface was also exposed (F.11) measuring some two meters square, from which 69 sherds of pottery were recovered, all dating from the mid to late 1st century AD. The majority of the vessels were locally produced with a number of imported vessels. The faunal assemblage from both areas provides economic evidence of mixed animal husbandry with butchery and marrow extraction taking place, whilst in *Area 2* limescale deposits on the interior surfaces of several sherds bear witness to heating water (cooking?). The ceramic and faunal assemblages from *Area 2* illustrate domestic activity taking place within the immediate areas and are possibly representative of a distinct settlement foci established shortly after the Roman conquest; this settlement may have been largely destroyed as extensive quarrying in the area has been identified during excavations in the immediate area, particularly the site of Buckingham Hall, (Lucas 1999). Less clear is the construction or establishment of the Cambridge – Godmanchester Road.

Understanding the relationship between the features identified in these two areas and the known archaeological sequences identified in the earlier fieldwork highlighted above enables the ditch alignments and metallated surfaces to be placed in context. The northwest-southeast oriented ditch F.6 exposed in *Area 1* and the 1996 excavation, possibly represents an earlier southern roadside ditch of the Cambridge to Godmanchester Road, a possibility first suggested by Evans (1996: 33), with the metallating exposed in *Area 2* providing evidence for the establishment of the road towards the end of the 1st century AD. However, the pottery from the metallated surface in *Area 1* suggest that this was deposited in the later 3rd century AD, although it may also represent material used to repair the earlier road surface (*agger*). Nonetheless, it is clear from the material recovered from F.6 that, accepting the metallating may be from a road surface, the alignment predates any substantial provision of a metallated surface. Interestingly, excavations west of Castle Court identified the location of the later western gate of the walled Roman town (Alexander & Pullinger 2000) and it is

assumed the initial alignment the road. A recent re-evaluation of the evidence from the Castle Hill area would argue for an early 2nd century date for the establishment of the Cambridge – Godmanchester road, with the north-south oriented Akeman Street predating its construction (see Evans forthcoming). Furthermore, excavations from New Hall (Evans 1996) and Trinity Hall playing fields and Fitzwilliam College (Slater 2008) indicate that the ‘New Hall College’ road predates the Cambridge – Godmanchester road, the two later converging just outside the western gate.

The precise orientation and exact route of the Cambridge to Godmanchester road has been the subject of research for a number of years and was previously thought to be located under the present Huntingdon Road or just to the north of the road (see Alexander & Pullinger 2000, for the ‘northern’ route). The features recorded during these excavations and that of the more recent investigations at Northwest Cambridge, (Newman forthcoming) strongly suggest, however, that the road lies to the south of the existing modern road; an evaluation trench excavated along Marion Close found no evidence of a Roman road north of Huntingdon Road (Mortimer & Evans 1997). This orientation is supported by documentary evidence that states that the current alignment of Huntingdon Road between Cambridge and Lolworth follows the route of a turnpike road constructed during the 17th century:

“After passing through the station, our road left it by the opposite gate, keeping nearly in the line of the modern road to Huntingdon: it passed through the fields of the farm called Hows house, where a barrow containing several Roman coins was removed in making the present turnpike road, and went close by Lolworth hedges, to which it directly points” (Lysons & Lysons 1808, 44-5).

Due to the nature and poor quality of the surface, the road is either a very degraded and disturbed main road, or that of a lesser used road; however, this does not mean that the original surface was robbed out or that it was removed and disturbed by later agricultural and construction activity. Despite the strong circumstantial evidence that the location and orientation of the Cambridge to Godmanchester has now been ‘fixed’, the possibility remains that the metalled surfaces exposed in these two areas and the earlier 1996 excavation may not be road related and are possibly yard surfaces or similar. However, this interpretation is less likely in view of the lack of evidence for a Roman road located either below or to the north of Huntingdon Road.

Acknowledgements

The Project was funded by Murray Edwards College, managed by Emma Beadsmoore and monitored on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council by Andy Thomas. The machine excavation was conducted with great care by Matt Chambers from Holmes Plant & Construction on behalf of Haymills. The archaeology was excavated and interpreted by Tony Bennet, Shannon Hogan, Haley Roberts and Dawn Mooney. The author supervised the 1st Phase, and Dave Webb supervised the 2nd phase of excavations. The area was surveyed by Donald Horne and digitised by Bryan Crossan. Jason Hawkes and Illanith Pongolini sorted and catalogued the finds and Bryan Crossan produced the illustrations.

Appendix

Specialist Reports

Environmental Remains *Anne de Vareilles*

Methodology

One Romano-British and one Medieval bulk soil samples were chosen for analysis. They were processed by Frances Cox using an Ankara-type flotation machine at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, using 300µm aperture meshes for collecting the flots and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residues. Both flots and residues were dried prior to analysis. For this assessment, only heavy residue components greater than 4mm were sorted by eye. The smaller fractions have been stored for future reference. Sorting of the flots was carried out under a low power binocular microscope (x6–40) in the George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereal, Stace (1997) for all other flora and an updated version of Beedham (1972) for molluscs. All macro-remains are listed in Table 1.

Preservation

All plant macro remains preserved through carbonisation. All the cereal grains and most of the wild plant seeds have been badly damaged which has made identification difficult. They appear to have been very heavily burnt resulting in many vitrified fragments of amorphous parenchymous tissue. Mollusc shells occurred only sporadically and though they are listed in Table 1 they need not be discussed any further. Although the extent of their disturbance can not be quantified, modern rootlets clearly interfered in all contexts sampled.

Results

Romano-British Ditch, F.6 [22]

The ditch contained some crop processing waste consisting of some cereal grains and a larger number of arable weeds. The remains were heavily burnt and many fragments could only be assigned to vitrified parenchymous tissue; actual quantities of burnt grains and seeds are probably higher. The ditch contained other domestic debris such as charcoal, pieces of bone, pottery sherds and oyster shell.

13/14th Century AD Pit, F.1 [5]

The pit only had one or two cereal grains, and six or seven wild plant seeds (likely to be arable weeds). However, as was noted in F.6, many fragments were too heavily transformed by heat to be identified. A few bone fragments and one pottery sherd were recovered from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue.

The Romano-British ditch appears to have been filled with waste from various sources, perhaps as part of a strategy to extend the road. The plant remains may have been used as fuel before being discarded.

The Medieval pit had a little domestic refuse, probably also from various activities.

Sample number		1	2
Context		5	22
Feature		1	6
Feature type		Pit	Ditch
Phase/Date		13/14 th C	RB
Sample volume - litres		3	19
Flot volume - millilitres		5	8
Flot fraction examined - %		100	100
CHARCOAL			
large charcoal (>4mm)			-
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		-	-
small charcoal (<2mm)		++	+++
vitified charcoal		++	++
parenchyma frags - undifferentiated plant storage tissue		+++	+++
CHARRED CEREAL GRAINS			
<i>Hordeum vulgare sensu lato</i>	hulled barley	1 cf.	5
<i>Triticum / Hordeum</i> sp.	wheat or barley		2
<i>Avena</i> sp.	oat (wild or cultivated)		1
cereal grain fragments indet.			7
CHARRED CEREAL CHAFF			
Culm node	straw node		1
CHARRED NON-CEREALS			
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	Goosefoots		1
<i>Atriplex patula</i> L./ <i>prostrata</i> Boucher ex DC	Oraches	1	4
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock	1	
<i>Brassica / Sinapis</i> sp.	Cabbages / Mustards		3
<i>Vicia / Lathyrus / Pisum</i> sp. 2-4mm	Vetches / Wild Pea / Pea		2
Indet. cotyledons <2mm	small Brassica		5
<i>Medicago / Trifolium</i> sp.	Medics or Clover		2
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking Chamomile		5
large Poaceae indet. >4mm	grass family seed	3	9
medium Poaceae indet. 2-4mm	grass family seed		8
Poaceae frag indet. - wild or cultivated grass seed frags		1	2
seed indet.		1	3
MOLLUSCS			
Habitat			
<i>Vertigo antivertigo</i>	damp, marshy		-
<i>Lauria / Pupilla</i> sp.		-	-
<i>Vallonia excentrica/pulchella</i>	open, damp and/or dry		-
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i>	blind burrowing snail	+	+++
<i>Trichia</i> sp.	catholic	-	
OTHER BIOLOGICAL ITEMS, EXCLUDING MOLUSCS			
bone fragments, >4mm		+	++
oyster shell			-
OTHER ARTEFACTS (>4mm)			
pottery sherd		-	+
burnt stone			-

Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' <10, '++' 10-50, '+++>50 items; WL = waterlogged

All samples were rich in modern intrusive rootlets

Table 1. Macro remains from the bulk soil samples

Faunal Remains *Vida Rajkovača*

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone, amounting to 49 fragments was recovered from 12 different contexts (Table 2) during the archaeological watching brief that was undertaken at Orchard Court in June 2009. The assemblage demonstrated moderate to poor states of preservation. 43 (93%) specimens were identified to element and further 16 (33%) to species. Animal bones analysed in this report represent hand-recovered material. Previous excavations in close proximity, as well as in the wider area, have produced rich evidence for an extensive occupation during the Romano-British period (Evans 1993, 1996; Wills 2004; Mackay 2006).

Feature	Context	Type	Date	Animal bone count	Species present	Butchered
F.1	[1]	Pit	13 th /14 th century	9	Cow	1 (worked)
F.2	[3]	Linear	-	3	-	-
F.3	[24]	Modern drain	19 th /20 th century	1	Cow	-
F.4	[17], [21], [25], surface cleaning	Roman road	Romano-British period	24	Cow, dog, pig, sheep/ goat	4
F.6	[22]	Ditch	Romano-British period	1	-	-
F.7	[27]	Gully	Romano-British period	1	-	1
F.11	[104], [105]	Same as F. 4	Romano-British period	10	Cow, chicken, horse, pig, sheep/ goat	2

Table 2. Animal bone by feature

Method

The zooarchaeological analysis followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Evidence of butchery and pathology were noted where evident. No ageable specimens were recovered from this assemblage.

Results

Seven features yielded faunal material, some of which were modern in date. The assemblage overall is comprised entirely of domestic species, with no evidence of wild animals on site.

F.1

F. 1 was a pit dated to 13th/ 14th century. A loose cow tooth and a 2nd phalanx were identified, as well as some fragments assigned to a size category. A worked bone object was recovered from this feature (<004>). The artefact is fragmented although the surviving end appears to have been fashioned into a pin (54mm long and 4mm in diameter) with two parallel circular decorative grooves around the end. The object could probably be assigned to the Romano-British period and is likely to represent a hair pin.

F.2

This feature was a linear found adjacent to the F. 1, but with no dating evidence. Animal bone recovered was poorly preserved and fragments could only be assigned to a size category.

F.3

F. 3 was 19th/ 20th century drain producing fragmented cow metacarpal.

F.4

F. 4 was part of a Roman road and this feature yielded the majority of animal bone recorded from this small assemblage. Of 24 fragments of bone, seven were assigned to species (Table 3), all of which are domestic species. Four bones were noted as butchered: scoop marks were common and they tend to be used to remove small remnants of meat or to detach a portion of muscle from a particularly tight attachment to the bone (Krish Seetah, PhD thesis, unpublished). Some long bone fragments were axially or vertically split for marrow removal with the use of a cleaver. Cattle scapula was identified with the trimming of the spina and suggests that the joint of meat was prepared for dry-curing.

F.4			
SPECIES	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	3	43	1
Pig	2	29	1
Ovicaprid	1	14	1
Dog	1	14	1
ULM	8	8 (Σ=23)	-
UMM	9	8 (Σ=23)	-

Key: UMM & ULM = Unid. Medium and Large Mammal / UUM = Unid. Fragment. NB: Species percentages are out of 7. These differ from the unidentified counts as these are calculated on the basis of element identification (for UMM & ULM) and total fragments (for UUM) (corresponding to Σ in brackets).

Table 3: NISP and MNI counts for Late Roman contexts

F.6

This feature was a linear underlying the Roman road. Only one poorly preserved fragment of an unidentified medium sized mammal was recovered.

F.7

F.7 was a gully, probably of Roman date where a fragment of an unidentified large mammal pelvis was found with several scoop marks.

F.11 (=F.4)

This feature has yielded 10 fragments of bone, six of which were identified to species. Two cattle scapulae were recorded and one was noted with a series of cut marks around the neck. Domestic fowl was positively identified based on a fragment of coracoid. Unidentified cattle-sized cervical vertebra was observed with a chop mark made by using cleaver, possibly to separate left and right portions of the carcass.

This assemblage has shown a varied representation of species, considering its small size. There seems to be a slight predominance of cattle and cattle-sized elements and this could be the result of recovery technique. There is also potential indication for keeping and consuming poultry on site in the Roman period, as evidenced by the chicken coracoid recovered from the assemblage. One cattle-sized vertebra has been

chopped and this is a strong indication of carcass being hung during dismemberment. A number of sites have evidence of such butchery supporting the notion that carcasses were commonly hung on urban sites in the Romano-British period (Seetah 2006:111). Also, the use of cleavers observed on this site suggests urban Romano-British butchers trying to reduce the amount of time spent processing carcasses. It is difficult to discuss the assemblage of this size in the absence of tooth wear data or measurements. However, rather than being isolated from its environs, results from this small assemblage should be viewed against the results gained from contemporary sites in the area (Evans 1993, 1996; Wills 2004; Mackay 2006).

Human Bones *Natasha Dodwell*

A small fragment of adult parietal bone was recovered from [17], F.4, the metalled road surface. The original context of deposition is not known.

Roman Pottery *Katie Anderson*

A small assemblage of Roman pottery totalling 322 sherds, weighing 3487g and representing 3.28 EVEs, was recovered from the site. All of the material was analysed and details of fabric, form, decoration, usewear and date were recorded, along with any other information deemed significant.

Assemblage Composition

The assemblage was comprised of small and medium sized sherds, many of which were abraded, highlighted by the relative low mean weight of 10.8g. The exception to this was a small number of sherds recovered from Feature 11 (see below).

A range of vessel fabrics were identified in the assemblage (see Table 4). Coarse sandy greywares were the most commonly occurring fabric, totalling 194 sherds, weighing 2145g. Most of these are unsourced, as is typical of Roman greyware fabrics; however, 21 sherds (687g) were identified as coming from the Horningsea kilns, which were located approximately 3 miles from the site. Buff sandy wares totalled 68 sherds (327g), although 58 of these came from a single vessel. Other sherds which could be sourced included two Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, and three early Roman London finewares.

Fabric	No.	Wt.(g)
Black-slipped	5	42
Buff sandy ware	68	327
Central Gaulish Samian	7	16
Coarse sandy greyware	171	1454
Colchester whiteware	1	315
East Gaulish Samian	2	14
Fine sandy greyware	2	4
Horningsea greyware	21	687
London Ware	3	67
Nene Valley colour-coat	2	3
Oxidised sandy	16	117
Sandy	11	236
South Gaulish Samian	1	1
Slipped	8	126
White-slipped	1	12
Whiteware	3	66
TOTAL	322	3487

Table 4: All pottery by fabric

A small number of imported wares were identified, comprising seven Central Gaulish Samian sherds and two East Gaulish Samian sherds. These were small and abraded sherds, with only one identifiable form.

A limited range of vessel forms were identified (see Table 5). Of these, jars were the most commonly occurring vessel forms, as is typical of Roman domestic assemblages. Eight sherds from a single colour-coated beaker, with a pedestal base were identified, along with three flagon sherds and two mortaria, including one large Colchester whiteware sherd from Feature 11. The vast majority of sherds were, however, non-diagnostic, which is not unexpected from an assemblage of this nature.

Form	No.	Wt.(g)
Beaker	9	167
Bowl	1	57
Dish	1	4
Flagon	3	29
Jar	76	1380
Mortaria	2	361
Unknown	230	1489
TOTAL	322	3487

Table 5: All pottery by form

The largest quantity of material was recovered from Feature 4, the road, totalling 170 sherds, weighing 1812g. Many of these were small and abraded, which is not unexpected, since many of these sherds appear to have been used as hardcore to fill in the metallised surface. The pottery from this feature ranged in date from the early to later Roman period (mid 1st-3rd century AD). The mixed nature of the material is again to be expected from a feature of this type.

Ft	No.	Wt.(g)
4	170	1812
6	65	403
7	6	36
11	69	1144
Other	12	92
TOTAL	322	3487

Table 6: All pottery by Feature

Feature 6 was an earlier feature cut by the road. It contained a sizable quantity of material, totalling 65 sherds weighing 403g, although this included 58 sherds from a single vessel. The pottery from this feature dated to the early Roman period (mid-late 1st century AD). Six sherds weighing 36g were collected from Feature 7, dating mid 1st-3rd century AD.

Feature 11 contained 69 sherds of pottery, weighing 1144g, all of which dated mid-late 1st century AD. This included a large mortaria sherd, as well as two 'London ware type vessels, one of which had stamped decoration. Several of the sherds were also noted as having heavy limescale on the interior, indicative of holding water.

The pottery provides evidence of activity from the early Roman period to the mid/late Roman period, although there is no evidence of any later 3rd-4th century AD occupation.

The fabrics and forms present in the assemblage are fairly typical for a small Roman site, although the quantities of imported wares are perhaps slightly higher than contemporary rural sites. However, the assemblage is too small to be able to make any real conclusions from this.

Post Medieval Miscellaneous Finds *Jacqui Hutton*

Clay Pipes

The majority of the clay pipes recorded during the excavation were recovered from context [005]; both stems and bowls were found. These provided a generic date of mid 18th century.

Glass

The fragments of glass and nearly complete bottles were all found in fairly modern contexts, including <029>, a Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce Bottle recovered from F.3. This probably dates to the late 19th century and corresponds with the date of the house. Other fragments of glass were recovered of a similar date from context [003].

Worked Stone *Simon Timberlake*

<011> F.4 [017]; 20 x 10.5 x 50mm thick (22mm on interior) weight; 1014g (938g for total of three adjoining fragments confirmed for same quern stone).

Part of the rim of a lower quern stone made of Niedermendig lava. The wedge-shaped profile to this rim with a very slightly raised collar (in this case some 40mm wide and of similar thickness to the unworn rim depth of the stone) alongside the furrow dressing of the upper grinding surface, which is laid out in sections (harps), seems to support a Roman date for its production (Horter *et al.* 1950-1; Watts 2002). Indeed, the hollowed-out or dished underside is yet another characteristic of these light weight portable hand-mill querns sometimes also known as 'Legionary querns' because of their association with the Roman military (Curwen 1937). However, these are also found extensively within Roman civilian settlements from the end of the 1st century AD. For instance, the distribution of such querns is widespread on Roman settlements in Cambridgeshire; within the vicinity of Huntingdon Road these have been found in West Cambridge at the Romano-British settlement on Vicar's Farm (Lucas & Whittaker 2001). Kevin Haywood (in Lucas & Whittaker *ibid.*) suggests that the presence of lava quern quite early on within East Anglia could be associated with the Continental maritime trade. It seems likely that millstones were being imported from the quern quarries of Mayen within the Eifel District of the Rhineland via the provincial capital and port of Camulodunum, and from here distributed westwards along the road route of the *Via Devana* or Worsted Street. The early settled region around Cambridge and the Cam and Granta valleys would thus have been well placed for this trade.

These fragments of worn and broken quernstone were undoubtedly intentionally added as road metalling. Similar use of broken quern was noted by John Alexander during his excavations in Arbury; one of his trenches encountered on a stretch of the Roman Road (Akeman Street) in section. This broken quern, it seems, had been used to infill hollows in the stamped gravel-metalled road surface.

Feature Descriptions

F.1 was a pit. The cut [002] was oval in plan, with gradual sloping sides with gradual break of slope and uneven base (1.17m x 0.65m wide and 0.07m deep). It contained a single fill; [001] friable mid grey/brown sandy silt with frequent natural stone and gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery, bone, tile and iron metalwork.

F.2 was a linear on a northwest-southeast orientation. The cut [004] had gradually sloping concave sides with gradual break of slope and concave base. It contained a single fill; [003] soft to firm mid orange/brown sandy silt with frequent natural stone and gravel inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included bone.

F.3 was a 19th/20th century drain on a north-south orientation. The cut [033] on the west side was straight and vertical, the east side moderately sloping and straight with a sharp break of slope and flat base (0.68m wide and 0.90m depth from the surface). It contained mixed mid to dark grey/brown loam with frequent gravel inclusions and organic root systems from trees. Artefacts included pottery, bone and glass.

F.4 was part of a potential Roman road that was orientated northwest-southeast and consisted of multiple layers of gravel, cobbles and soil and was at least 6.61m wide. The surface was severely truncated by tree and development disturbance. There were eight distinct layers; [016] light yellow silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions; [017] mid brown silt with frequent gravel inclusions with cobbles pressed in; [018] gravel; [021] mid brown silt with frequent gravel inclusions and layer of cobbles pressed in; [025] mid brown silt with frequent gravel inclusions and layer of cobbles pressed in; [030] Mid to dark grey/brown sandy silt; [031] mixed mid grey clayey silt with moderate gravel inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal; [032] light brown sandy silt. Artefacts included pottery, bone, shell, glass, worked stone and iron metalwork.

F.5 was a modern cut feature at the western end of the trench. The cut [011] had near vertical straight sides, base unknown (0.55m+ wide and 0.60m+ deep). It contained a single fill; [010] mid orange/brown silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. No finds.

F.6 was a linear underlying the deposited layers of potential road. The cut [026] had moderately steep straight/slightly convex sides with a moderate break of slope and a concave base (0.70m wide and 0.43m deep). It contained two fills; [022] firm dark brown/black slightly sandy clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions; [023] firm mid to dark grey clayey silt with patch of orange silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions and flecks of charcoal. Artefacts included pottery bone and shell.

F.7 was a gully on a northwest-southeast orientation. The cut [029] had steep straight sides with sharp break of slope and a flat base (0.20m wide and 0.23m deep). It contained a single fill; [028] mid grey/brown clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions. Artefacts included pottery, bone and flint.

F.11 was part of the potential Roman Road and consisted of two layers of cobbles and gravels; [104] compacted coarse dark yellow/brown sandy clayey gravel with occasional large cobbles and pottery fragments; [105] dark grey/black silty clay with frequent cobbles and gravel with pottery sherds.

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-67088

Project details

Project name Orchard Court, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge: An Archaeological Investigation

Short description of the project An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken on land at Murray Edwards College (formally known as New Hall College), Cambridgeshire, (TL 439 595) on a Development Area located approximately 1.5km northwest from the centre of Cambridge. The archaeological investigations targeted the two areas of the development; the first area (Area 1) was located on the northwest side of the existing Grove Lodge, where the proposed works comprised the construction of a fire-escape spiral stairway, a car park and tree planting. The second area (Area 2) was at the eastern end of the building where an external fire-escape spiral stairway was to be constructed. Area 1 started as a trench and was widened to a small excavation area, whilst the second area comprised a watching brief where contexts were investigated and recorded when archaeological features were encountered. In Area 1 eight features were recorded, although only five were deemed to be of archaeological interest; the remaining three were modern features such as a pathway. The archaeological features consisted of three ditches, one pit and a roadway surface dated to the Roman period. The roadway surface was also recorded in Area 2.

Project dates Start: 22-06-2009 End: 29-08-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes	ECB3134 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	OCD 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	LINEARS Roman
Monument type	ROAD Roman
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	WORKED BONE - HAIR PIN Roman
Methods & techniques	'Environmental Sampling','Metal Detectors','Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
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 Orchard Court, Murray Edwards College
Postcode	CB3 0
Study area	25.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 439 595 52.2144724847 0.106525770370 52 12 52 N 000 06 23 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Height OD / Depth	Min: 19.18m Max: 19.74m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Emma Beadsmoore
Project director/ manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Jacqui Hutton
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/ funding body	Murray Edwards College
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	OCD 09
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Human Bones','Metal','Worked bone','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	OCD 09
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Human Bones','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked bone','Worked stone/ lithics'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Paper Archive ID OCD 09

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Human Bones','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked bone','Worked stone/lithics'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Matrices','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

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