

# Edwards Way, Manea

An Archaeological Evaluation



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**Edwards Way, Manea, Cambridgeshire**  
**An Archaeological Evaluation**

Event Number: ECB3514

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### *Summary*

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to address a pre-planning determination request from Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning Countryside Advice (CAPCA). The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is on land adjacent to Edwards Way, Manea (NGR TL 4779 8949). Twelve trenches, totalling 296m<sup>2</sup> were excavated. Several furrow remnants and modern drainage features were revealed.*

## **Introduction**

An archaeological trench-based evaluation was undertaken between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 to assess the extent of any archaeological activity on land adjacent to Edwards Way, Manea (TL 4779 8949). The project was commissioned by Savills Commercial Ltd on behalf of Primetower Properties Ltd, as part of a pre-planning determination request from CAPCA. The project followed a specification set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Beadsmoore 2010) in response to a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeological Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) (McConnell 2010).

The site lies to the south of the B1093 (Manea High Street), on the east side of Edwards Way, and is bordered by houses and gardens to the north, south and west (Figure 1). The underlying geology is Boulder Clay with superficial Till deposits (British Geological Survey 1993). The site is located at approximately 0.5m AOD. The land is currently a disused area of overgrown grasslands and brambles.

## ***Archaeological Background***

Significant prehistoric and Roman activity has been recognized in the wider landscape. Settlement activity dating from the Neolithic through to the Roman period has been identified at Stonea in Wimblington to the northwest of Manea, (CHER 06014, 06033, 06057a, MCB17561). In Manea, finds dating from the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods have been recovered within a 1.5km radius to the east and north of the PDA respectively (CHER 05871, 05981, 05978). Within this radius, a range of Neolithic polished axes were discovered to the east (CHER 05981a), whilst Bronze Age implements and a ploughed out barrow have also been found in the parish (CHER 05861, 05862, 05864, 05875, 05969).

The proposed development area (PDA) comprises approximately 0.6ha and is located c.300m east of a Roman settlement on Manea Island (CHER 06048). Roman pottery, coins, bones and metal objects have been recovered from the immediate area, and significant finds including a pewter hoard and a bronze statuette of Mercury have also been found to the north and east of the PDA respectively (CHER 05867, 05995). A probable Saxon burial was discovered to the east of the site (CHER 05866). In addition, the PDA is located close to the Medieval core of Manea.

## ***Methodology***

Twelve trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked machine with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, supervised by an experienced archaeologist. The trenches were machine excavated to a level where any archaeological features would be visible. A trench sheet was completed for every trench to record deposit depths and section profiles, as well as any geological variances. No archaeological features were revealed in the trenches. Digital photographs of trenches were taken for reference. The trenches were fixed to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and located using a Global Positioning System. The site was identified as EWM 11.

## **Results**

The twelve trenches amounted to a total of 296m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2). The thickness of the topsoil and subsoil deposits was generally consistent throughout the PDA, with an average topsoil depth of 0.30m and an average subsoil depth of 0.13m. A thin alluvial deposit (with an average depth of 0.12m) was also noted in each of the trenches. The remnants of NE-SW aligned furrows could be seen at this level in Trenches 1-5, although upon removal of this deposit, only the deeper, modern drainage ditches and pipes were seen cutting the natural substrate.

The drainage ditches and pipes largely followed the alignment of the earlier furrows (NW-SE) although a few were also noted crossing the site on a NE-SW orientation. These features probably date to early 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural activity before the area was developed for housing. The drainage ditches were backfilled with a mix of topsoil and subsoil, further emphasising their recent origins.

## **Discussion**

No archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation at Edwards Way, Manea. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the topsoil and subsoil layers, and a few furrow remnants were seen cutting this deposit, whilst modern drainage features had been cut along the same alignment as the furrow remnants.

## **Acknowledgements**

This work was commissioned by Savills Commercial Ltd on behalf of Primetower Properties Ltd. The site was monitored by Dan McConnell (Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice) and managed by Emma Beadsmoore (CAU).

Assistance on site was provided by Leanne Zeki. Graphics and illustrations were provided by Vicki Herring. The site was surveyed by Iain Forbes.

## References

Beadsmoore, E. L. 2010. A specification for archaeological evaluation on land off Edwards Way, Manea, Cambridgeshire. CAU.

McConnell. D. 2010. Brief for archaeological evaluation. Land adjacent to Edwards Way, Manea. CAPCA.

## Trench Descriptions

<b>Trench 1</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 1 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was a mid orange sandy clay with patches of mid-pale bluish-grey silty, chalky clay. Furrow remnants and modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.3
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.18
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.07
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	15

<b>Trench 2</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 2 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Furrow remnants and modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.25
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.18
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.09
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	15

<b>Trench 3</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-W
Trench 3 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Furrow remnants and modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.39
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.09
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.1
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	14

<b>Trench 4</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 4 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.32
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.06
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.15
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	13.2

<b>Trench 5</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 5 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.29
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.14
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.13
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	14

<b>Trench 6</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-W
Trench 6 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.28
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.16
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.15
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	14.5

<b>Trench 7</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 7 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.32
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.07
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.16
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	13.2

<b>Trench 8</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 8 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.27
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.16
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.17
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	14.35

<b>Trench 9</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 9 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.34
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.14
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.16
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	14

<b>Trench 10</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 10 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.23
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.1
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.21
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	8.65

<b>Trench 11</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 11 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1. Modern drainage features were revealed.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.31
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.14
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.05
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	13.45



<b>Trench 12</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 12 contained no archaeological features. An alluvial deposit was identified beneath the subsoil layer. The natural was as Trench 1.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.27
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.16
	<b>Av. Alluvial Depth (m)</b>	0.05
	<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
	<b>Length (m)</b>	15

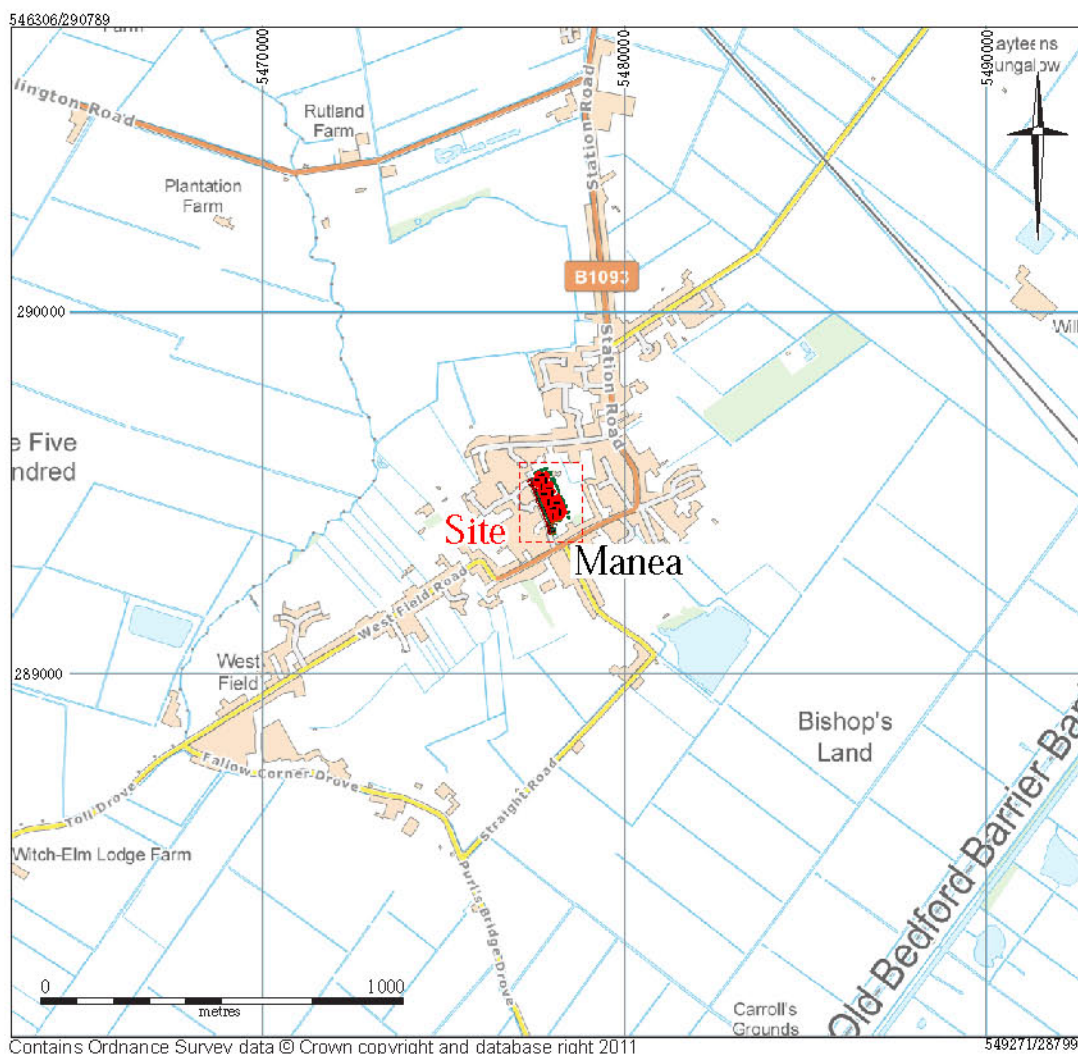
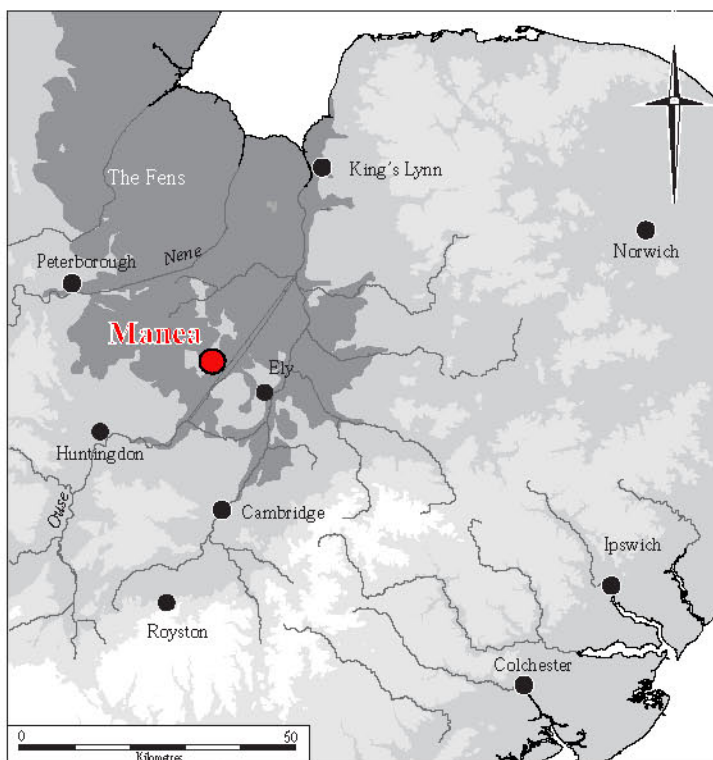


Figure 1. Location Map

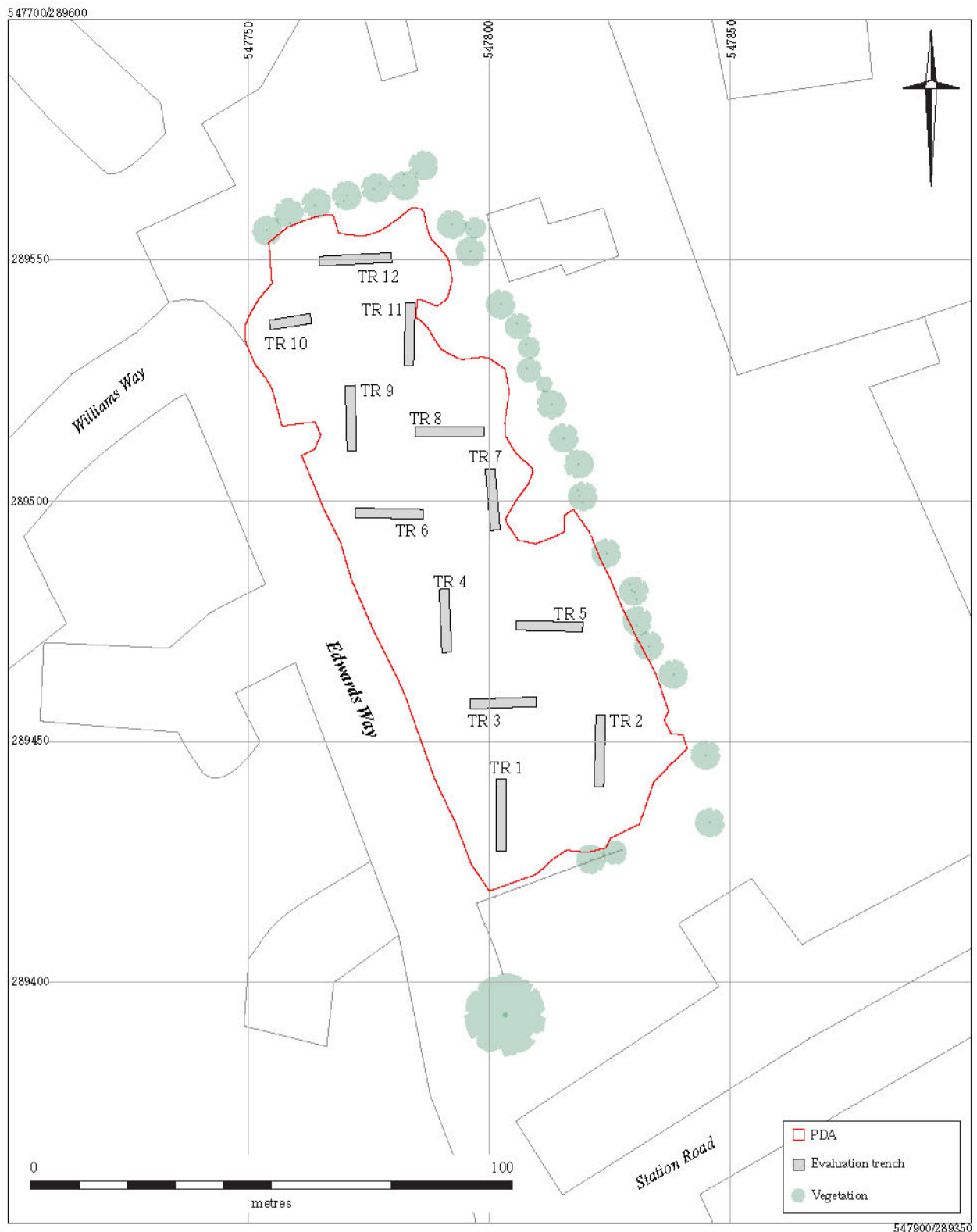


Figure 2. Trench Plan



A.



B.

Figure 3. Photographs: A. Photograph along Trench 1  
B. Furrow and field drain situated in Trench 4

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**OASIS ID: cambridg3-93163**

### Project details

Project name	Edwards Way, Manea: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to address a pre-determination condition placed upon planning consent for the construction of houses with associated services and access at Edwards Way, Manea (NGR TL 4779 8949). Twelve trenches, totalling 162m were excavated. Several furrow remnants and modern drainage features were identified, although no archaeology was revealed.
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2011 End: 02-02-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3514 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	EWM11 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	FIELD DRAINS Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
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 FENLAND MANEA Edwards Way
Postcode	PE15 0HZ
Study area	0.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4779 8949 52.4828920420 0.176627780304 52 28 58 N 000 10 35 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.46m Max: 0.49m

### 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	Shannon Hogan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Savills

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	EWM11
Physical Contents	'other'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	EWM11
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	EWM11
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Trench sheets only

### Project bibliography 1

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