Manor Community College, Arbury Road, Cambridge



Archaeological Evaluation Report



December 2012

**Client: Cambridgeshire County Council** 

OA East Report No: 1360 OASIS No: oxfordar3- 123990

NGR: TL 4557 6073



# Manor Community College, Arbury Road, Cambridge

An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: December 2012

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Report Number: 1360

Site Name: Manor Community College, Arbury Road, Cambridge

HER Event No: CHER ECB 3752

Date of Works: April 2012

Client Name: Cambridgeshire County Council

Client Ref: 14251

Planning Ref: Not Applicable

Grid Ref: TL 4557 6073

Site Code: CAMMCC12

Finance Code: CAMMCC12

Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No:

Prepared by: Kate Clover

Position: Archaeological Supervisor

Date: December 2012

Checked by: Stephen Macaulay
Position: Senior Project Manager

Date: 20/12/12

Signed:

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# Summary

Between the 2nd and 5th April 2012 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation at Manor Community College, Arbury Road, Cambridge (TL 4557 6073). The archaeological work comprised eight evaluation trenches. The only archaeological features to be revealed were two medieval or post-medieval plough furrows.

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#### 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation consisting of the machine excavation of eight trial trenches was conducted at Manor Community College, Arbury Road, Cambridge in March 2012. The Site is situated in the northern part of the historic city of Cambridge (Fig. 1). The work was necessitated by a plan to re-develop the existing school and was undertaken on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council under the direction of their agents Mouchel (Dean Clark).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (Thomas, 2012) prior to a Planning Application being made. This was supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed re-development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

# 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The re-development area is situated on flat ground lying at between 12m and 13m OD. The underlying geology is 3rd terrace River Gravels (British Geological Survey 2002). The current land use is a combination of school buildings and grass playing fields.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The Site sites lies to the north of the historic core of the City of Cambridge and is located in the vicinity of dense known Roman activity (largely to the north of the site).
- 1.3.2 A Roman Villa estate (CHER 05411) is known to be located c500m due north of the Site, beneath the grounds of Kings Hedges Primary School. This settlement is just one of many recorded archaeological remains of the Roman period located in this northern part of the City of Cambridge. The Roman road of Akeman Street (CHER 05352) passes to the west of Manor Community College, on a course from Cambridge (Duroliponte) to Ely and Denver in Norfolk and is also known locally as Mere Way. Roman remains are recorded closer to the Site e.g. a Roman well and pottery found at Alexwood Road in 1974 (CHER 05428) and significant Roman remains found in the early 1950s at Humphreys Road, only 200m west of the Site.
- 1.3.3 Most recently, a single evaluation trench excavated within the playing fields of Manor Community College in 2000 (as part of an Arts and Archaeology project at Kings Hedges School). This investigation found a palisaded ditch with associated postholes, both thought to be Roman in date. This 53m long trench was located near the south-eastern boundary of the playing field at TL 4572 6062 (CHER MCB16487; Reynolds, 2000).

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# 1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA East would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council who funded the work and Mouchel (Dean Clark) who commissioned the work on their behalf. We would also like to thank Manor Community College for their support in allowing the project to progress smoothly. Stephen Macaulay managed the project on behalf of OA East and the fieldwork was carried out by Kate Clover, Kat Hamilton and Steve Porter. Rachel Clarke surveyed in the trenches. Stephen Wadeson of OA East commented on the finds. The brief was written by Andy Thomas and the work was monitored by Dan McConnell, both of Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology office.

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### 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Aims.

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the proposed re-development area.
- 2.1.2 An attempt was made to determine the depth of foundations to the existing buildings, to indicate if any archaeology might survive beneath them.

## 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Eight trial trenches were excavated. Four trenches measuring 1.5m width and totalling 42m length were opened up around the perimeter of the playing field. (T1-4) One trench measuring measuring 1m wide x 15m long was opened up next to a tennis court (T5), two trenches measuring 1.5m x 11m and 1m x 7m were opened up by a classroom (T6 and T7 ) and one trench measuring 1m x 2m was opened up in a tarmac area (T8) next to another classroom (Fig. 2) to determine the foundation depth of the existing building.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator and with a mini-digger, both using toothless ditching buckets.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica 1200 GPS. All trench locations were scanned for buried services with a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to machine excavation.
- 2.2.4 All finds were retained for inspection. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Site conditions were favourable.

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### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are described in trench order below. Full details by trench/context appear in Appendix B. All trenches apart from Trench 8 were dug through turf.

# **3.2** Trench 1 (Fig. 3 and Plate 1)

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 measured 11.5m in length by 1.5m width and was on average 0.58m deep. The trench was located in the north-west side of the playing field, alongside a sports building. Natural gravelly sand was encountered at approximately 0.53m below ground level. The effects of bioturbation gave the natural a mixed 'dirty' appearance. It was sealed by between 0.1m and 0.15m of mid brown slightly sandy silt subsoil (101). This is turn was sealed by between 0.39m and 0.43m of dark brown silty topsoil(100) which contained occasional pebbles and bits of rubbish.
- 3.2.2 One irregular pit-like feature, 3m in length, was observed in the northern end of the trench (102). A small sherd of Roman or medieval pottery and a fragment of an iron nail was found close to it. A slot was excavated out of one side of the feature and it was seen to have a concave base and steep sides with a sharp break of slope. Its fill (103) was mixed light greyish yellow sandy silt containing frequent flecks of manganese. The feature is most probably a tree throw and therefore natural.

# **3.3** Trench **2** (Fig. 3)

3.3.1 Trench 2 measured 12.5m in length and 1.5m in width and it was on average 0.5m deep. The trench was located in the eastern corner of the playing field, next to the perimeter fence and a housing estate. Natural gravels and silty sand were encountered at 0.5m below ground level. Natural was sealed by 0.16m of subsoil (201) of mid brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles which looked similar to the natural. This was sealed by 0.34m of dark brown silt topsoil (200) containing tile, clay pipe and one sherd of modern pottery. There were no features in the trench and bioturbation was evident throughout.

# **3.4** Trench **3** (Fig. 3)

3.4.1 Trench 3 measured 10m by 1.5m and was 0.48m deep. The trench was located on the south-east side of the playing field next to the perimeter fence and a housing estate. Natural sandy gravels became more sandy towards the north-eastern end of the trench. There was no obvious subsoil in this trench – the natural undulated from between 0.36m to 0.5m below ground level and there was bioturbation evident. These sands and gravels were sealed by 0.26m of dark brown silty topsoil (300). The undulation in the natural may have been due to a possible former line of trees along the perimeter. There were no features in this trench.

### **3.5** Trench 4 (Figs. 3 and 5 and Plate 2)

- 3.5.1 Trench 4 measured 8m by 1.5m and was an average of 0.75m deep. The trench was located on the south-west side of the playing field, next to the tennis courts. It was sited to avoid a tree. Natural silty sand was encountered at 0.75m below ground level. It was sealed by 0.25m thickness of subsoil (401) and 0.5m of topsoil (400).
- 3.5.2 There was one feature in the trench a shallow, badly truncated linear feature running north-east to south-west (**403**). This probable plough furrow was 0.12m deep and 1.5m



wide and was filled with a dark brownish grey friable sandy silt which appeared to be a natural accumulation deposit (402). The furrow was dug through natural and was sealed by subsoil and topsoil.

# **3.6** Trench **5** (Fig. 4)

3.6.1 Trench 5 measured 15m by 1m and was 0.46m deep. Trench 5 was located in the most north-westerly tennis court on its grass verge. A modern service was encountered at the western end of the trench resulting in the trench being shifted south by 0.25m in order to avoid it. Natural silty sand and gravel was encountered at 0.46m below ground level. This was sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of subsoil (501) which in turn was sealed by 0.26m of topsoil (500). There were no archaeological features within the trench. Two linear patches of lighter silt were investigated and found to be natural features.

# **3.7** Trench 6 (Fig. 4 and Plate 3)

3.7.1 Trench 6 was 10.80m long by 1m wide and 0.55m deep. It was located between a classroom and a path. Natural sands with patches of gravel were encountered at 0.45m below ground level. These were sealed by 0.28m to 0.40m thickness of mid brown sandy silt subsoil (601) which in turn was sealed by between 0.48m and 0.6m of dark brown silt topsoil (600). A service trench half the width of the evaluation trench was recorded running along most of the south-eastern side of the evaluation trench. This cut through the subsoil and the natural. There were variations in the natural all the way along the trench but none of them proved to be man made features. Rooting was seen throughout the trench.

## **3.8** Trench **7** (Figs. 4 and 5)

- 3.8.1 Trench 7 was 7m long by 1m wide and 0.5m deep. It was dug in a small space to the south of Trench 6, between the classroom and a path. The western 2m of the trench was not excavated to the level of natural ground due to the presence of a fibre optic cable. Natural sand and gravel was encountered at between 0.4m and 0.48m below ground level in the remainder of the trench. This was sealed by mid reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (701), 0.2m thick which was in turn sealed by 0.3m thickness of mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil (700).
- 3.8.2 One linear feature was recorded aligned north-east to south-west (**703**). This heavily truncated feature was 0.1m deep and 1.35m wide. Its fill was mid greyish brown soft sandy silt (702) containing one fragment of Roman or medieval pottery and one fragment of coal. This probable plough furrow was dug through natural and was sealed by subsoil and topsoil.

# **3.9** Trench 8 (Figs. 4 and 5 and Plate 4)

- 3.9.1 Trench 8 was a small trench dug within a tarmac area. It was located against a classroom wall to test the depth of the foundations. Trench 8 measured 2.2m by 1.03m and was dug to 1m depth. Natural ground was a light reddish brown silty sand with grey brown worm mottling. It had a high percentage of gravel and was slightly clayey (805). Natural was encountered at 0.58m below ground level and was sealed by approximately 0.3m thickness of light brown silty sand subsoil with grey brown worm mottling (804). Natural and subsoil merged into each other with no clear transition.
- 3.9.2 In the north-east and south-west facing sections of the trench a foundation cut (803) was visible which had been dug through the subsoil and natural. The cut contained the foundation to the classroom which was constructed of brick with a concrete base (802)

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The concrete base stepped out 0.18m from the edge of the trench. The depth of the foundation, including the concrete base, was 0.85m below current ground level. After the foundation had been dug the ground was raised by the addition of 0.10m of brick hardcore, 0.08m of loose concrete (801) and, finally, 0.1m of tarmac (800). There was nothing of archaeological interest within this trench.

# 3.10 Finds Summary

3.10.1 There was a low density of finds from the site and all finds were either modern or of uncertain date. There were no finds of prehistoric date. A full list of finds is included in tabular form in Appendix C.

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### 4 Discussion and Conclusions

#### 4.1 The trenches

- 4.1.1 Two heavily truncated ditches were recorded **403** and **703** in Trenches 4 and 7 respectively. **403** did not contain any finds and **703** contained a pot fragment and a piece of coal. Both features are interpreted as plough furrows remnants of medieval or post-medieval ploughing dating from the time when the area was farmed as part of the Manor Estate. Only the bases of the furrows survived and they would originally have been much wider. The agent of truncation was probably modern ploughing.
- 4.1.2 The large palisade ditch recorded in an evaluation trench in 2000 was not picked up in any of the 2012 evaluation trenches. However, the 2012 evaluation trenches only evaluated a small percentage of the playing field and were sited around the perimeter. Potentially future geophysical survey in the playing field may bring this feature and others to light.
- 4.1.3 Trench 8 was excavated to ascertain the depth of the existing school buildings foundations. The depth of the foundation, at 0.85m below ground level, would suggest that any archaeology that might have been present has been truncated, and/or destroyed, by the construction of the school buildings. Clearly Trench 8 is only single location but if construction was uniform then it might be considered reliable in determining the likely survival of archaeology under existing (non-temporary) structures.

### 4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

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# APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992,* and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

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# APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1										
General de	escription	1	Orientation		NE-SW					
Natural gra	•		Avg. depth (m)		0.58					
				dark brown silty topsoil(100) bits of rubbish. An irregular	Width (m)		1.5			
				robably a tree throw (102)	Length (m)		11.5			
Contexts	Contexts									
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds date					
100	topsoil		0.1-0.15		Some modern rubbish	Mod	ern			
101	subsoil		0.39- 0.43		Post-medie or later					
102	Cut	1m x 2m		Cut of tree throw	- Natural		ıral			
103	Fill	1m x 2m		Fill of <b>102</b>	1 sherd of pottery 1 piece of Fe nail	Natu	ıral			

Trench 2										
General d	escription	1	Orientation	NE-SW						
	avels and s		Avg. depth (m)		0.5					
	dy silt with		Width (m)	1.5						
natural. This was sealed by dark brown silt topsoil (200). There were no features in the trench and bioturbation was evident throughout.  Length (m)					12.5					
Contexts										
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	•			
200	topsoil		0.34		tile, pottery and clay pipe.	and Modern				
201	subsoil		0.16		-	Post or la	-medieval ter			

Trench 3									
General d	escription	า	Orientati	NE-SW					
Natural sa			Avg. dep	Avg. depth (m)					
the trench. There was no obvious subsoil in this trench – the natural						Width (m)			
undulated from between 0.36m to 0.5m below ground level and there was bioturbation evident. These sands and gravels were sealed by dark brown silty topsoil (300). There were no features.					Length (	10m			
Contexts									
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	date		
300	topsoil		0.26		-	Modern			

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Trench 4									
General description						ion	NW-SE		
	ty sand wa		Avg. dep	oth (m)	0.75				
				utting through natural ( <b>403)</b> .	Width (n	າ)	1.5		
This likely plough furrow was filled with a dark brownish grey friable sandy silt which appeared to be a natural accumulation deposit (402).						Length (m)			
Contexts							-		
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date			
400	topsoil		0.5	Very deep	-	Modern			
401	subsoil		0.25		-	Post-medie	eval or later		
402	fill	1.5	0.12	Cut of plough furrow	-	Medieval to medieval	Medieval to post- medieval		
403	cut	1.5	0.12	Fill of 402	-	Medieval to medieval	post-		

Trench 5										
General d	lescriptior	1	Orientat	NE-SW						
	ty sand an		Avg. der	0.46						
(501) which in turn was sealed by topsoil (500). There were no archaeological features within the trench. Two linear patches of						Width (m)				
				be natural features.	Length (m)		15			
Contexts										
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	date			
500	topsoil		0.26		-	Modern	Modern			
501	subsoil		0.2		-	Post-med	lieval or later			

Trench 6										
General d	escription		Orientation	1	NE-SW					
Natural sa			Avg. depth	(m)	0.55					
sandy silt s			Width (m)		1					
topsoil (600). A service trench was recorded running along the evaluation trench. This cut through the subsoil and the natural. There were variations in the natural all the way along the trench but none of them proved to be man made features.						Length (m)				
Contexts										
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date				
600	topsoil		0.48-0.6		Glass bottle	Modern				
601	subsoil		0.28-0.4		-	Post-medieval or later				

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Trench 7							
General d	escriptior	1	Orientation	NW-SE			
				mid reddish brown sandy silt	Avg. depth	(m)	0.5
subsoil (701), which was in turn sealed by mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil (700). One linear feature was recorded (703). Its fill was mid							1
greyish brown soft sandy silt (702)							7
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	ds date	
700	topsoil		0.3		-	Modern	
701	subsoil		0.2		-	Post-medie	val or later
702	fill	1.35	0.1	Fill of <b>703</b>	1 fragment Roman or medieval pottery 1 fragment of coal	Medieval or post- medieval	
703	cut	1.35	0.1	Cut of probable plough furrow	-	Medieval or medieval	r post-

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Trench 8								
General d	escription				Orientation	NW-SE		
	05).was sea		Avg. depth	(m)	1			
brown worm mottling (804). A foundation cut ( <b>803</b> ) was visible containing the foundation to the classroom (802). The ground had been raised by the addition of 0.10m of brick hardcore, 0.08m of loose concrete (801) and, finally, 0.1m of tarmac (800). There was nothing of archaeological interest.  Width (m)  Length (m)							1.03	
						)	2.2	
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds date			
800	layer		0.1	Tarmac	-	Modern		
801	hardcore		0.18	Loose concrete overlying brick hardcore	-	Modern		
802	layer		0.85	Brick and concrete foundation within 803	-	Modern		
803	cut		0.85	Foundation cut	-	Modern		
804	subsoil		0.3	Merges with 805	-	Post-Medieval or later		
805	natural			Sand and gravel	-	Natural		

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# APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

# C.1.1 Introduction and Methods

Finds were looked at by Stephen Wadeson of OA East. There was a low density of finds from the site and all were either modern or of uncertain date. There were no finds of prehistoric date. Finds are listed in Table 1 below.

Context	Trench	Description	Weight (g)	Date
103	1	End of a Fe object, possibly a nail	1	Roman or later
103	1	Fragment of greyware pottery, oxidised surfaces, calcareous inclusions.	1	Roman or medieval
200	2	Fragment of ridge tile or floor tile with remnants of glaze	21	Medieval or later
200	2	Fragment of white china	9	Modern
200	2	Fragment of clay pipe	3	Post-medieval or modern
600	6	Small glass bottle with screw top	29	Modern
702	7	Fragment of reddish sandy pottery with occasional ?flint inclusions	9	Roman or medieval
702	7	Fragment of probable coal	1	Modern

Table 1: List of finds by context

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# APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Thomas, A. 2012 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation – Manor Community College, Cambridge*. Cambridgeshire County Council

Reynolds, T 2000 Archaeological Evaluation at the Manor Community College, Arbury, Cambridge (CAMMCC 00)

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# APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project D	etails									
OASIS Nur	nber	oxforda	r3-123990							
Project Nar	me	Manor (	Communit	y College, Arbu	ry, Cambrid	lge				·
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start			Start	02-04-2012			Finish	05-04	l-201	2
Previous W	ork (by	OA Ea	ast)	No			Future Work Unknown			known
Project Ref	erence	Codes	s							
Site Code	CAMMO	C12			Planning	g App. N	lo.			
HER No.	ECB375	2			Related	HER/O	ASIS N	lo.	исв1	6487
Type of Pro	ject/Ted	chniqu	ues Use	d						
Prompt		Dire	ection from	Local Planning	Authority -	PPS 5				
Developme	nt Type	Oth	er							
Please se	lect all	techi	niques	used:						
Aerial Phot	tography -	interpre	etation	Grab-Sa	mpling			F	Remo	ote Operated Vehicle Survey
Aerial Phot	tography -	new		Gravity-Core				$\times$	Samp	ole Trenches
Annotated	Sketch			Laser Scanning				Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure		
Augering				Measured Survey				Targeted Trenches		
Dendrochro	onological	Survey		Metal De	etectors		Test Pits			
Documenta	ary Search	1		Phospha	te Survey		☐ Topographic Survey			graphic Survey
☐ Environme	ntal Samp	ling		Photogra	ammetric Su	ırvey			√ibro	-core
Fieldwalkin	ıg			Photogra	phic Survey	у			√isua	I Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
Geophysic	al Survey			Rectified	Photograph	hy				
List feature typ	oes using	the NN	IR Mon	nds & Their ument Type ive periods. If n	e Thesau	urus and	-			g the MDA Object type
Monument			Period	Object		Object				Period
furrow			Post Med	dieval 1540 to 1901						Select period
			Select pe	eriod						Select period
Select pe				riod						Select period

Project Location

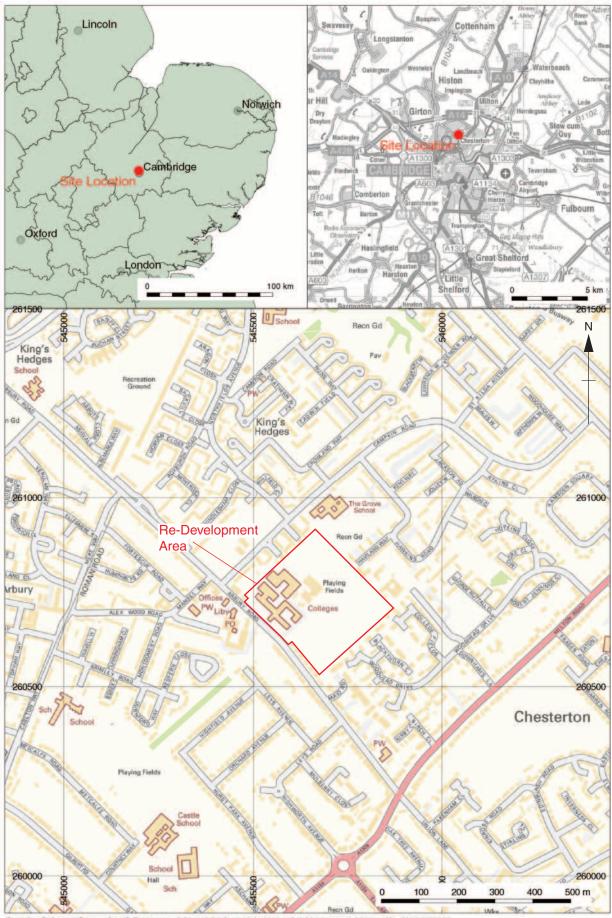


County	Cambridgeshire			Site A	Site Address (including postcode if possible)					
District	Cambridge	Manor Community C		College, Arbury Road, Cambridge, CB4 2JF						
Parish										
HER	Cambridge									
Study Area				Natio	nal Grid Re	ference	TL 4557 6073			
Project Or	riginators									
Organisation		OA EAST								
Project Brief Originator		County Council								
Project Design Originator		Stephen Macaulay								
Project Manager		Stephen Macauley								
Supervisor		Kate Clover								
Project Ar	chives									
Physical Archive			Digital Archive			Paper Archive		Archive		
LocationCCC stores, Landbeach			LocationOA East			LocationOA		OA East		
Accession ID			Accessio	Accession ID			Accession ID			
Archive Con	tents/Media									
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents			Digital Me	dia	Paper Media		
Animal Bones						Database		Aerial Photos		
Ceramics	$\boxtimes$					GIS				
Environmental						Geophysics				
Glass	X							□ Diary		
Human Bones						Illustration	ns	☐ Drawing		
Industrial						☐ Moving In	nage	Manuscript		
Leather						Spreadsh	eets			
Metal	$\times$							Matrices		
Stratigraphic						▼ Text		Microfilm		
Survey		X				Uirtual Re	ality	Misc.		
Textiles								⋉ Research/Notes		
Wood								Photos		
Worked Bone								✓ Plans		
Worked Stone/L	ithic									
None								X Sections		
Other								Survey		



NI	atac	ı,

Geophysical survey may take place at a future date



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Figure 1: Site location



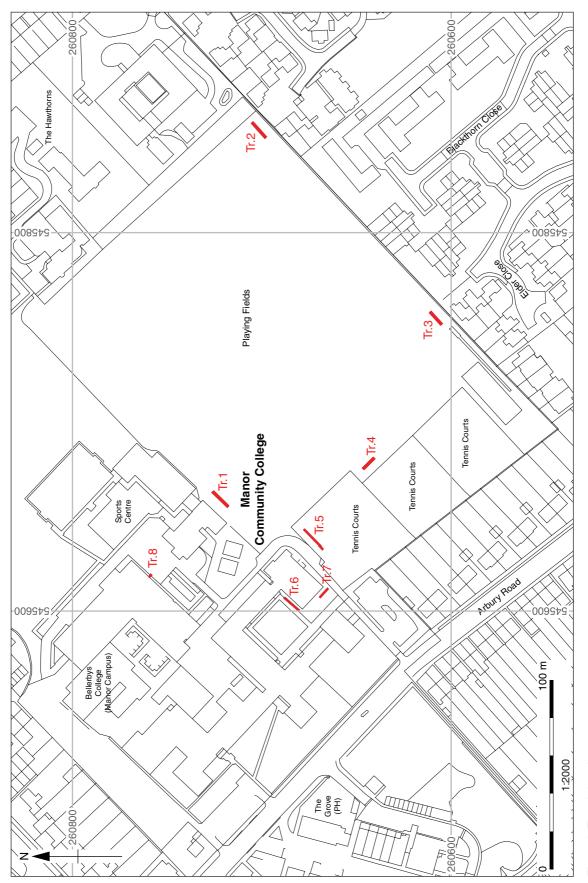


Figure 2: Trench locations



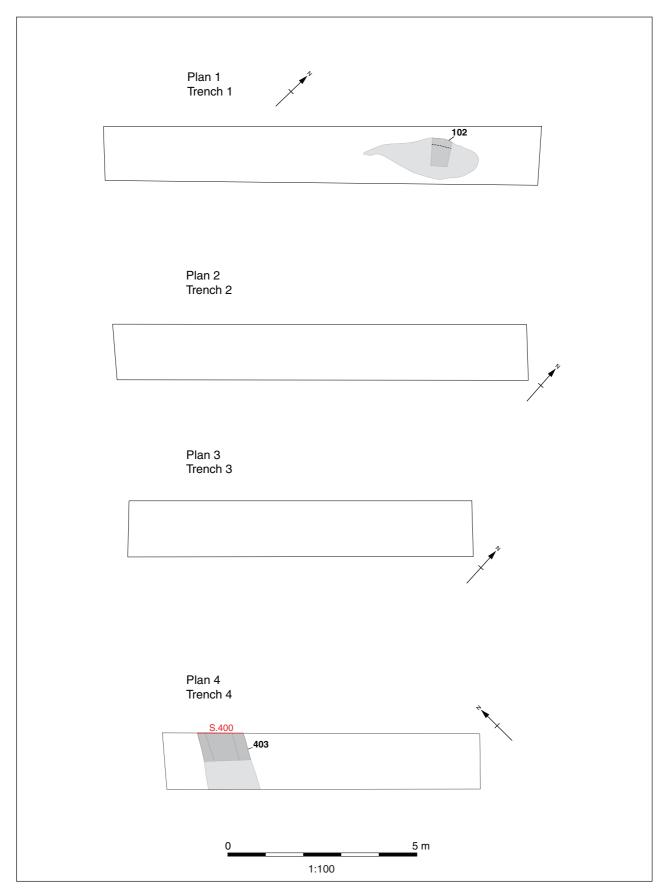


Figure 3: Plans of trenches 1 to 4



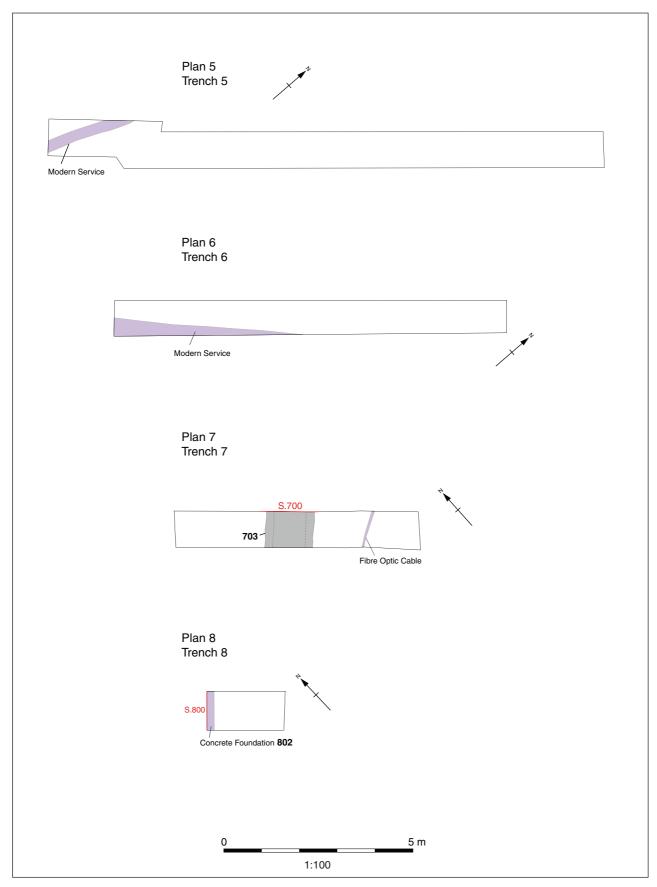


Figure 4: Plans of trenches 5 to 8



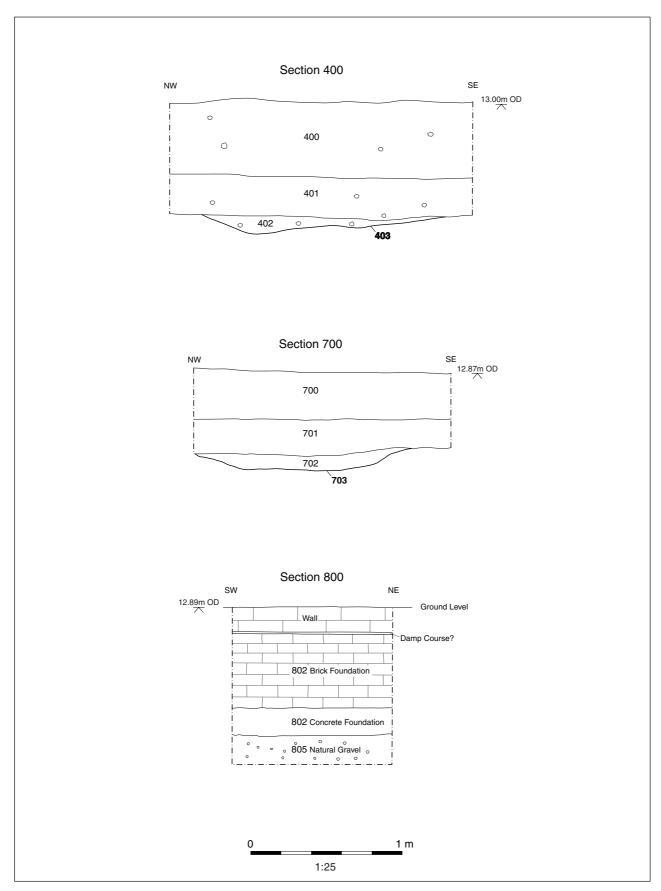


Figure 5: Sections 400 (Tr 4), 700 (Tr 7) and 800 (Tr 8)





Plate 3: Trench 6 from the south-west



Plate 2: Trench 4 from the north-west





Plate 4: Trench 8, from the south-east



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