

Archaeological Test Pitting Chalklands Linton Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



July 2013

Client:
The Design Partnership, (Ely) Ltd
and Burmor Construction

OA East Report No: 1489
OASIS No: oxfordar3-154204
NGR: TL 5646 4715

Archaeological Test Pitting at Chalklands, Linton, Cambridgeshire

Site Code: LINCHA13

CHER No. ECB3995

Date of Works: 26/6/13

Report No: 1489

Excavator: Stephen Morgan MA MSc AIFA

Client: The Design Partnership, (Ely) Ltd and Burmor Construction

Report Date: 1/7/13

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Summary

On the 26th of June 2013, OA East carried out archaeological test pitting at Chalklands, Linton (TL 5646 4715). The test pitting was carried out prior to the construction of new houses.

Two test trenches which were 5m long and 2m wide excavated. No archaeological features were observed in either of these trenches, however, the natural geology was not reached in one of them as it would have been too deep to be safe.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.1.1 The natural geology consisted of chalk and clay.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The historic core of the village of Linton lies to the south of Chalklands, either side of the River Granta. Dense later prehistoric and Roman remains also lie to the south along the valley floor, as investigated most recently at Linton Village College.

This site lies higher up the valley side, on the chalk landscape. Although it is outside of the densest areas of known Iron Age and Romano-British remains to the south, the presence of crop-mark enclosures a short distance to the north (MCB 19603) might suggest continuity between the two areas of known remains that would encompass the site.

A small early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (CHER 6114, CHER 6124 and MCB17059) lies less than 200m to the south-east of the site. The full extent of this is not, however, known.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this test pitting 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 development area.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that two 5m by 1.6m trenches were excavated (Figs 1 and 2). This was carried out by a mechanical digger using a toothless bucket. As the width of the bucket was 2m the trenches were actually 5m by 2m.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located by measuring off known points on an OS map.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.5 Site conditions were dry and cloudy.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Trenches

4.1.1 Trench 1

This north-south aligned trench was 5m long, 2m wide and 0.30m to 0.60m deep (Plate 1). The natural chalk and brown clay sloped from north to south. Above this was a light brown silty clay subsoil which was overlain by mid brown make-up deposit (1) in the north part of the trench and dark grey make-up deposit (7) in the south part of the trench. The uppermost deposit in this trench was a layer of tarmac.

4.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned north-south and was 5m long, 2m wide and excavated to a depth of 1.20m (Plate 2). Natural chalk was not reached in this trench as to do so would have meant going beyond a safe depth and there was limited scope for stepping the trench to achieve this in a very small site. The lowest deposit observed in this trench was a dark grey clayey silt (2) which was overlain by a 0.50m deep mid grey clayey silt (3) and a 0.40m deep mid brown clayey silt (6). These deposits themselves were overlain by a 0.20m deep layer of mid grey silty clay (4), which contained chalk and brick fragments. A 0.30m deep gravel make-up layer (5) was found to overly deposit (4).

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Deposits (3), (4), (5) and (6) in Trench 2 are likely to be make-up layers which were dumped in the area in order to build up the level of the ground. This would have been done to provide a level platform for the garages which previously occupied the site, thereby compensating for the effect of the local topography which naturally slopes from north to south. A vertical drop of approximately 1m was observed 2m to the south of this trench, in the driveway of no. 92 Chalklands, and it is likely that these make-up deposits are responsible for this discrepancy in ground level. It may, therefore, be the case that deposit (2) represents the remains of the previous topsoil layer on to which these make-up deposits were dumped.
- 5.1.2 As natural chalk was observed across the whole of Trench 1, representing perhaps 5% of the total impact area from the proposed new buildings, it was decided that further investigation below buried topsoil level in Trench 2 would not be necessary to conclude the evaluation.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Burmor Construction and The Design Partnership who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Paul Sperry.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Dan McConnell.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-154204		
Project Name	Archaeological Test Pitting at Chalklands, Linton, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	26-06-2013	Finish 26-06-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	LINCHA13	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB3995	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
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Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	South Cambridgeshire	Chalklands
Parish	Linton	
HER	Cambridgeshire HER	
Study Area	20m2	National Grid Reference TL 5646 4715

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry
Supervisor	Stephen Morgan

Project Archives

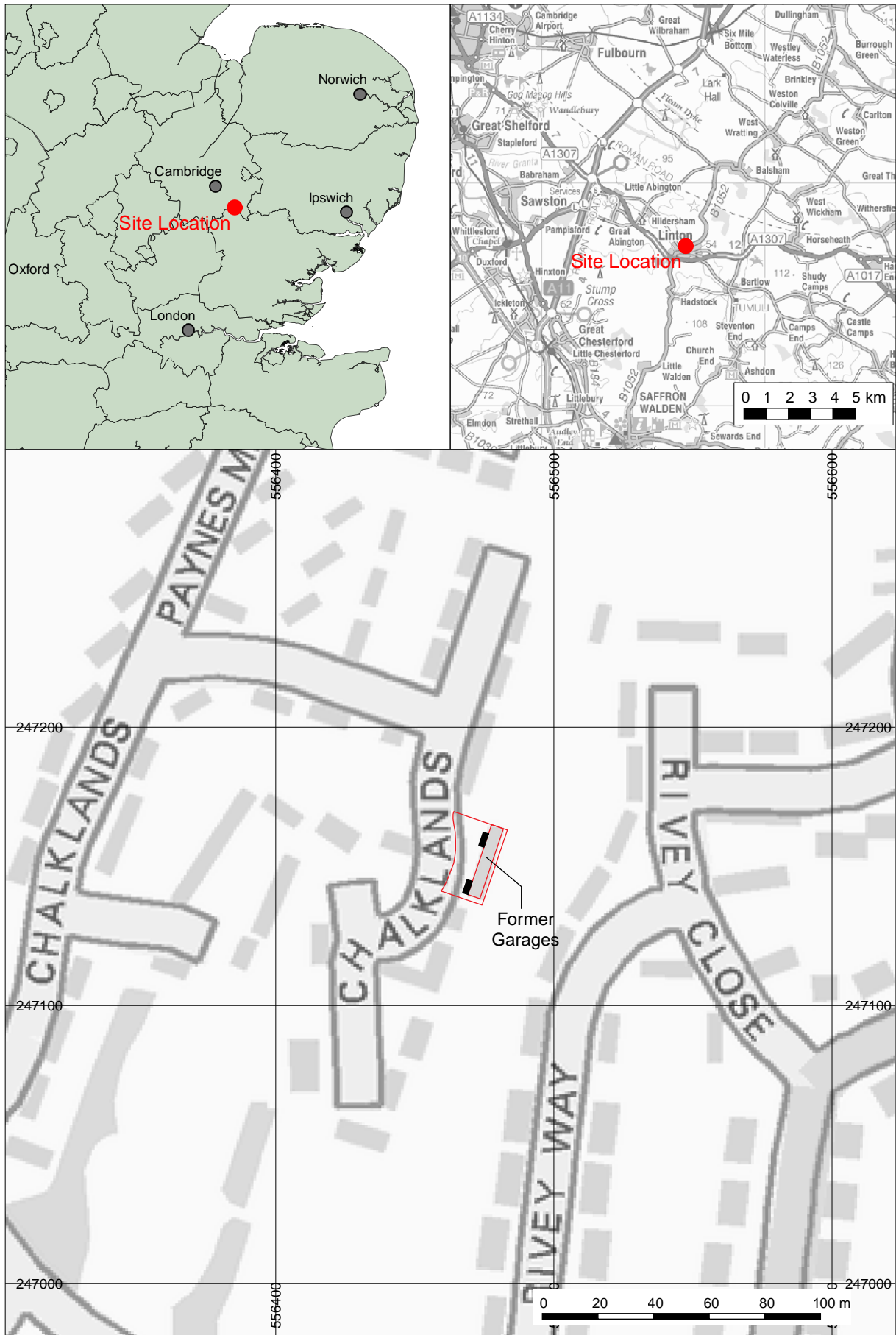
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambridge County Store	OA East	Cambridgeshire County Store

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (solid black) and development area (red)

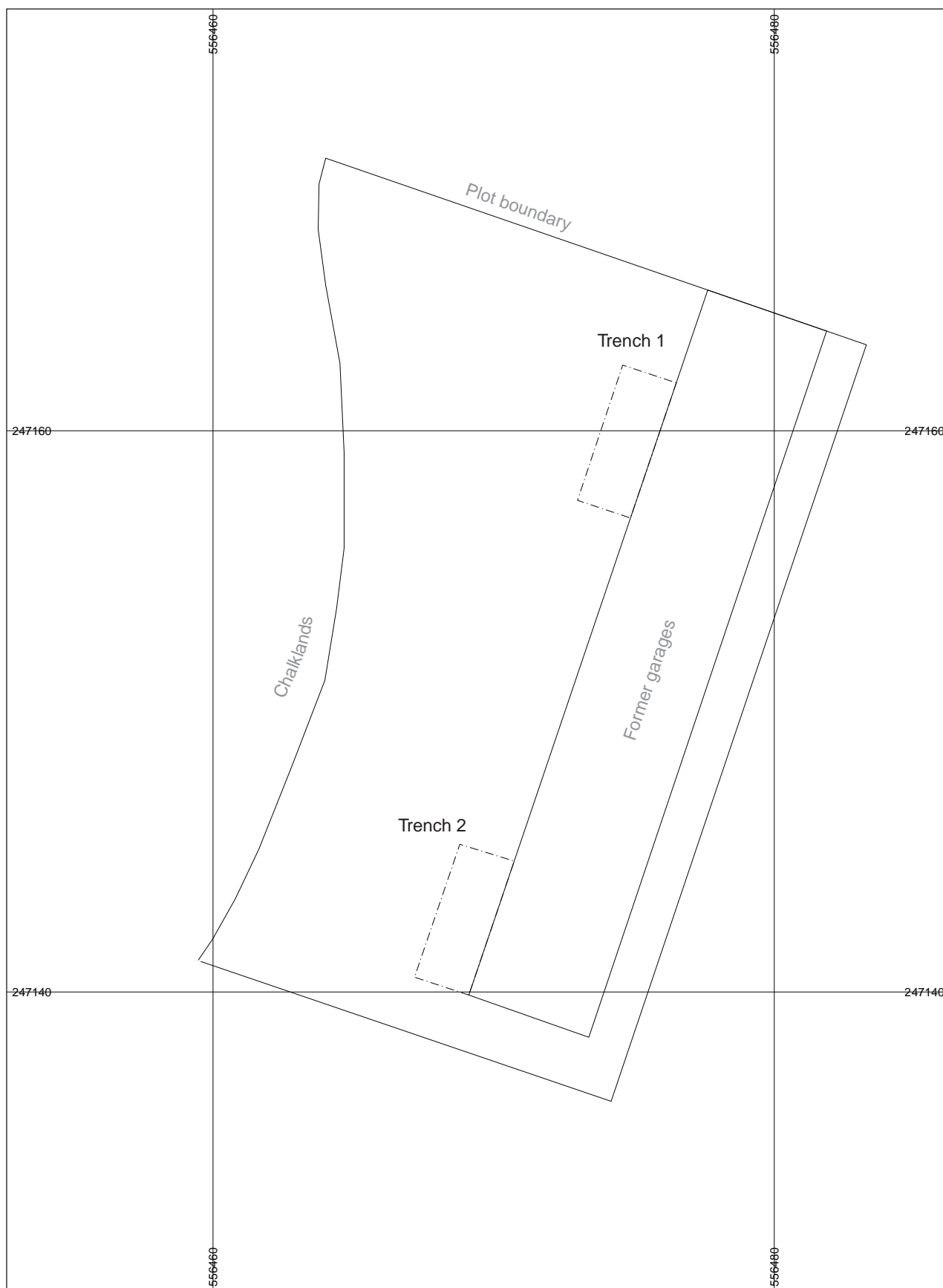


Figure 2: Trench location plan



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking south



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