

The New Pavilion Site, Girton College, Cambridge



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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September 2008

Client:	Girton College
OA East Report No:	1060
OASIS No:	oxfordar3-48071
NGR:	TL 4236 6122

The New Pavilion Site, Girton College, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation

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Site Name: The New Pavilion Site, Girton College
HER Event No: ECB 3022
Date of Works: September 2008
Client Name: Girton College
Client Ref: none
Planning Ref: S/1019/06/F
Grid Ref: TL 4236 6122
Site Code: GIR LAG 08
Finance Code: GIR LAG 08
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No:

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Date: 20-10-08
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Summary

OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Girton College, Cambridge in early September 2008. The investigation consisted of 5 trenches, 45m in total length, within the proposed redevelopment area of a new sports pavilion adjacent to the Girton College playing fields with an associated access road.

Archaeology was recorded within Trench 3 only which consisted of a small pit which, despite 100% excavation, remains undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Girton College playing fields (TL 4236 6122)
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Gore of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application S/1019/06/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, 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 site is located on an area of Gault Clay, overlain by head gravels (Institute of Geological Sciences 1978) at a height of approximately 23mOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

A number of archaeological interventions have taken place close to the site over the years. A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record is summarised in the points below:

- 1.3.1 In 1881 an Anglo-Saxon and Roman cemetery was uncovered during the construction of tennis courts 250m to the south of the Sports Ground (ECB862).
- 1.3.2 To the north of the Sports ground an Iron Age and Roman settlement was identified from cropmarks in 1975 (ECB980) and further elucidated from air photographs in 1996 (ECB979). However assessment revealed little archaeological evidence (ECB982).
- 1.3.3 To the east of the Sports ground, archaeological evaluation at Wellbrook Way produced no archaeological remains (ECB268) – though another evaluation on the same road did produce evidence of a medieval field system with residual finds from earlier periods (ECB267).
- 1.3.4 An evaluation at Girton College, close to the Chapel and library produced one undated pit (ECB888).
- 1.3.5 Evaluation at 2 Girton Road revealed only post-medieval and later features (ECB2058) whilst an evaluation at Howes Close in 1991 produced no archaeological evidence (ECB 152).
Stray finds have also been made in the vicinity:
- 1.3.6 Palaeolithic flints were found at The Travellers rest gravel pit – HER05299.

- 1.3.7 Prehistoric stone objects were recorded in 1878 – HER 05301 and a neolithic axe was found off the Huntingdon Road - HER 05169.
- 1.3.8 Iron Age pottery and animal bone and a Saxon spindle whorl and comb was found during the construction of a garden pond in Girton - HER 08890/A.
- 1.3.9 Roman coins and other finds have also been recorded – HER 05178/ 05185.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank John Gant of Pleasance, Hookham and Nix who commissioned the work and to Girton College who funded it. Thanks are due to Eliza Gore of CAPCA who monitored the evaluation. Acknowledgements also go to the College grounds staff and to Vic of Lattenbury's who excavated and backfilled the trenches. The site was excavated and surveyed by the author and managed by James Dummond-Murray.

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 development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The location of the trenches was agreed with CAPCA prior to work commencing, with the approval of a trench design.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 13 ton rubber-tracked 360 excavator using a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales.
- 2.2.5 The site survey was carried out by the author using a Leica GPS which is located on the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were also recorded on the top and bottom of each trench with the GPS.
- 2.2.6 Drawn plans were incorporated with the survey data to accurately plot the position of the trenches.
- 2.2.7 Colour, monochrome and supplementary digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.8 Weather conditions were good, with constant sunshine and no rain.
- 2.2.9 Although service plans were consulted and the area was scanned using a CAT scanner, a disused water pipe running from the nearby water tower to the old laundry site was encountered in Trench 2.

3 RESULTS

The results will be presented below, trench by trench. Cut numbers will be displayed in **bold** text, all other context in normal text. Appendix B provides descriptions of topsoil and subsoil depths. The location of all trenches can be seen in Figure 1.

3.1 Trench 1

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented north to south.
- 3.1.2 This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.95m where natural gravels and silt were encountered (Figure 2, section 1).
- 3.1.3 No archaeological features were present within this trench.

3.2 Trench 2

- 3.2.1 Trench 2 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented east to west.
- 3.2.2 This trench formed a “T”-shape in plan with Trench 3.
- 3.2.3 This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.0m where natural gravels and silt were encountered (Figure 2, section 2).
- 3.2.4 No archaeological features were present within this trench.

3.3 Trench 3

- 3.3.1 Trench 3 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented north to south.
- 3.3.2 This trench formed a “T”-shape in plan with Trench 2.
- 3.3.3 This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.95m where natural gravels and silt were encountered (Figure 2, section 3).
- 3.3.4 A single small pit was recorded within this trench (**304**). This pit was circular in plan with rounded edges and a concave base (Figure 2, section 6). The fill of this pit was a light brown silt with moderate rounded stone inclusions. Despite 100% excavation, no finds were retrieved. A 10 litre soil sample was taken from the deposit of this pit (303) which did not contain any artefacts or ecofacts.
- 3.3.5 Pit **304** was the only feature recorded within this trench.

3.4 Trench 4

- 3.4.1 Trench 4 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented north to south.
- 3.4.2 The depth of this trench varied from 0.68m at the northern end to 1.0m at the southern end.
- 3.4.3 Two layers (401 and 402) were encountered at the southern end of the trench (see Appendix B for descriptions), which were associated with the construction of Grange Cottage approximately 10m to the west (Figure 2, section 4).
- 3.4.4 No archaeological features were present within this trench.

3.5 Trench 5

- 3.5.1 Trench 5 measured 5m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented east to west.

- 3.5.2 This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.80m where natural gravels and silt were encountered.
- 3.5.3 One modern layer (501) was encountered at the eastern end of the trench (see Appendix B for descriptions), which was probably associated with the construction of Grange Cottage (Figure 2, section 5).
- 3.5.4 A modern feature cut from just below the topsoil was noted (**505**), which contained modern glass and plastic.

3.6 Finds Summary

- 3.6.1 No artefacts were recovered during this investigation.

3.7 Environmental Summary

- 3.7.1 The only sample taken for analysis was from a pit in Trench 3. No artefacts or ecofacts were present.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 Investigations at Girton College playing field have provided a small amount of evidence of surviving archaeological features within the development area, represented by a single undated pit in Trench 3.
- 4.1.2 This investigation confirms that there is no continuation of the Saxon and Roman cemetery (ECB862) discovered in 1881 within this area of the college.

4.2 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural bright orange gravels and silt.				Avg. depth (m)		0.95
				Width (m)		1.80
				Length (m)		10.0
				Height(mOD) top of trench		23.13
				Height(mOD) base of trench		22.18
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.12	Turf	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	1.8	0.49	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural bright orange gravels and silt.				Avg. depth (m)		1.0
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		10.0
				Height(mOD) top of trench		23.11
				Height(mOD) base of trench		22.08
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	1.8	0.14	Turf	-	-
201	Layer	1.8	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	1.8	0.56	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural bright orange gravels and silt. Archaeology comprised one small undated pit.				Avg. depth (m)	0.95	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	10.0	
				Height(mOD) top of trench	23.10	
				Height(mOD) base of trench	22.18	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	1.8	0.15	Turf	-	-
301	Layer	1.8	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
302	Layer	1.8	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
303	Fill	0.30	0.12	Fill of 304	-	-
304	Cut	0.30	0.12	Cut of pit	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural bright orange gravels and silt. Two layers of post-medieval construction debris were recorded.				Avg. depth (m)	0.68-1.0	
				Width (m)	1.80	
				Length (m)	10.0	
				Height(mOD) top of trench	22.80	
				Height(mOD) base of trench	22.05	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	1.8	0.11	Turf	-	-
404	Layer	1.8	0.18	Construction debris	-	-
402	Layer	1.8	0.05	Construction debris	-	-
403	Layer	1.8	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
404	Layer	1.8	0.33	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying natural bright orange gravels and silt. A layer of post-medieval construction debris was recorded.				Avg. depth (m)	0.80	
				Width (m)	1.80	
				Length (m)	5.0	
				Height(mOD) top of trench	22.91	
				Height(mOD) base of trench	22.04	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	1.8	0.17	Turf	-	-
501	Layer	1.8	0.07	Construction debris	-	-
502	Layer	1.8	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
503	Layer	1.8	0.33	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Drummond-Murray, 2008 J		Specification for Archaeological Evaluation : land at Girton College
Gore, E	2008	Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Girton College, Girton
Institute of Geological Sciences	1978	Sheet 188, Cambridge. Solid and Drift Edition 1:50 000 Series

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-48071		
Project Name	Evaluation at The New Pavillion Site, Girton College, Cambridge		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	01-09-2008	Finish	02-09-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GIRLAG08	Planning App. No.	S/1019/06/F
HER No.	ECB 3022	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Other

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

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
pit	Uncertain		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Cambridge City	Girton College Huntingdon Road Cambridge, CB3 0IN	
Parish	Girton		
HER	ECB 3022		
Study Area	81m2	National Grid Reference	TL 4236 6122

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Eliza Gore
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County Store	OA East Offices	Cambs County Store
Accession IDGIRLAG08	Accession ID GIRLAG08	Accession ID GIRLAG08

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey



Notes:

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Evaluation Trench	- - - - -
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Natural Features
Sondages/Machine Strip	- - - - -
Test Pit	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation
Undercut	———
Cut	———
Illustrated Section	————— S.14
Archaeological Feature	
Excavated Slot	
Cut Number	118

Sections

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Cut	—————
Cut-Conjectured	- - - - -
Deposit Horizon	—————
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation
Top Surface/Top of Natural	—————
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Cut Number	118
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD 
Deposit Number	117
Stone	

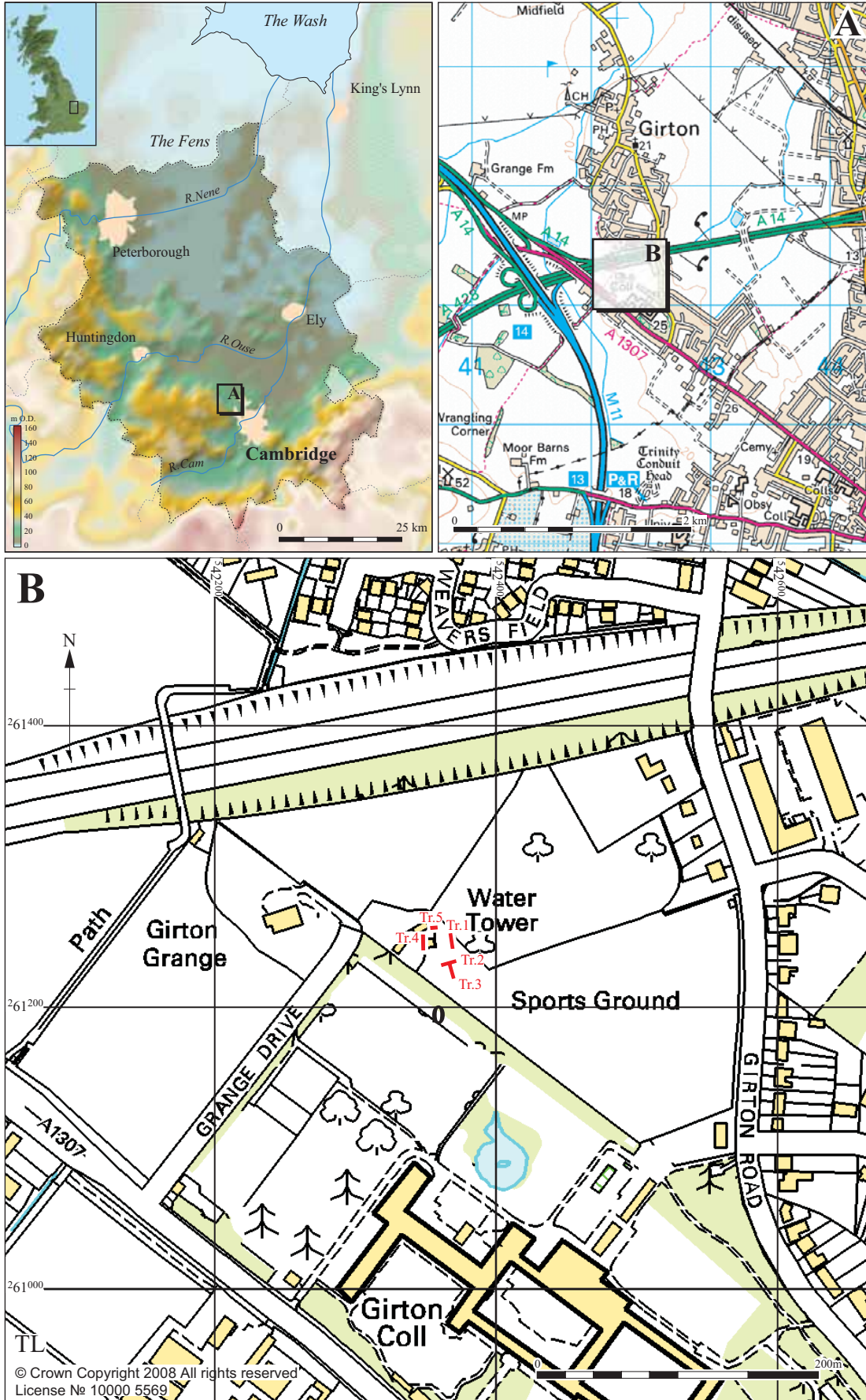


Figure 1: Location of trenches (red)

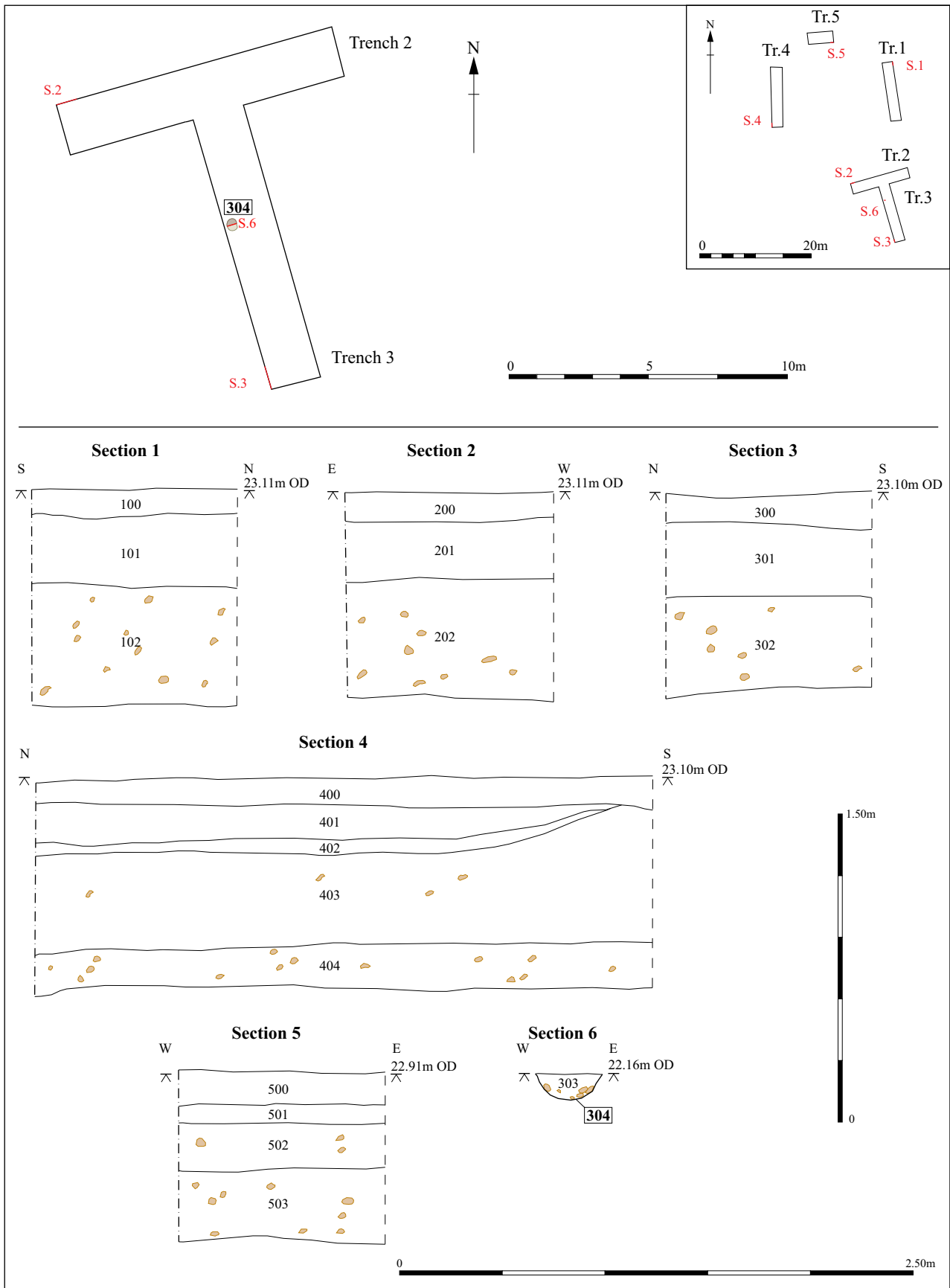


Figure 2: Trench plan and section drawings



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 3: Trench 3



Plate 4: Trench 4



Plate 5: Trench 5



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