

Archaeological evaluation at 1 Fairview, Longstanton Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2015

Client: V.E. Parrott

OA East Report No: 1852

OASIS No: oxfordar3-227674

NGR: TL 3982 6652

Archaeological evaluation at 1 Fairview, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: October 2015

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HER Event No: ECB4559
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Client Name: V.E. Parrott
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: S/2676/14/FL
Grid Ref: TL 3982 6652
Site Code: LONFAR15
Finance Code: LONFAR15
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Accession No:

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Summary

Between 7th and 9th October 2015, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at Fairview, High Street, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (TL 3982 6652). This evaluation was in advance of the demolition of existing buildings, prior to the construction of new houses and flats. The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological finds or features, other than a modern pit.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 1 Fairview, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (TL 3982 6652).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/2676/14/FL), 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 redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). 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 Cambridgeshire County Stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on River Terrace deposits overlaying West Walton and Ampthill Clay formation geology. The development site is located in the centre of the village, to the east of the High Street, and c. 6km to the north-west of Cambridge.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is taken from the specification (Drummond-Murray 2015), which was based on the brief issued for the site (Stewart 2015) and the Historic Environment Record (HER) search for the site.
- 1.3.2 The application area lies in an area of high archaeological potential. The settlement of Longstanton dates to the Saxon period. During the medieval period it consisted of four separate manors (Historic Environment Record reference MCB12239, MCB12230, MCB395). The grounds of one are located immediately to the south of All Saints Church (MCB4316) which is approximately 100m south of the application area. The medieval village of Longstanton, the shrunken remains of which lies south of Rampton Road (MCB11069), focused on the church. To the east of the application area is strong evidence for Prehistoric activity including a ring ditch (MCB16344) and Iron Age settlement (MCB16372).
- 1.3.3 Other prehistoric activity includes a Neolithic flint axe (HER03521), Neolithic activity uncovered during works for the Longstanton bypass (MCB18155) and a Bronze Age pit (MCB 16856).
- 1.3.4 Iron Age activity includes eg enclosures (MCB16346) and settlement (MCB 16369)
- 1.3.5 Extensive Saxon and medieval activity in the area includes ridge and furrow at Green End Farm (HER 10896) and Wilsons Road (HER 10299), earthworks (HER 10857 and 02289) including those of the shrunken medieval village to the south-east of the current site (HER 09261).

Previous archaeological work (selective):

- 1.3.6 The groundworks at a watching brief at the New Parsonage, a short distance to the south, did not go deep enough to reveal any archaeology (ECB136).
- 1.3.7 Iron Age settlement activity was investigated to the south-east (ECB1875; Evans and Mackay 2004)
- 1.3.8 To the west Iron Age, Saxon and medieval activity was revealed in an evaluation and excavation by BUFAU for a haul road (ECB 3058; Paul 2008)
- 1.3.9 Further afield, investigations at Striplands farm to the north (ECB1834) and Hattons Farm to the east (HER 09548) revealed extensive settlements from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank VE Parrott who commissioned this evaluation. Gemma Stewart monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. The evaluation was conducted by the author. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray, who also monitored the back-filling. The plant was provided by Lattenbury Services.

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 Brief required the excavation of five trenches, totalling 60m in length were excavated. Due to the presence of numerous obstructions (live services, trees, buildings, paths etc.), the location of some of these trenches was slightly altered on site.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a rubber tracked 5-tonne 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GS08 GPS.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 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 and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were generally good, with occasional rain showers.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Details of each trench are given in Appendix A, along with brief descriptions of each deposit encountered. A full description of features and deposits is given, by trench, below.

3.2 Trenches 1 and 2

3.2.1 Both of these trenches were located at the front of the site, close to the High Street. Their size was limited by the presence of known live services. The natural geology was not reached in either trench, due to modern intrusions. Trench 1 was excavated to a total depth of 0.50m before a soak-away was encountered. Trench 2 was dug to 0.70m before a live sewerage pipe prevented further excavation.

3.2.2 The main deposit (2) encountered in these trenches was a modern dumped deposit. It was a mixed deposit of mid brownish grey silty sand, and pale orange sand. Frequent brick rubble and plastic were present in this layer. This deposit was overlain by a thin layer of topsoil (1) in both trenches.

3.3 Trenches 3 and 4

3.3.1 Trenches 3 and 4 were adjacent to each other in the middle of the site and on the same alignment. The natural geology was not reached in Trench 3, due to the presence of a modern pipe. The top of the geological horizon was revealed in parts of Trench 4 (where services were not present), but no archaeological features were identified.

3.4 Trench 5

3.4.1 Trench 5 was positioned at the north-east of the site. It was the longest of the trenches, and the only one in which no services were encountered. At the southern end of the trench was a large pit (6), which was 0.62m deep, with a visible length of 7.70m. It had gently sloping sides and an irregular base. The basal fill of this pit (5) was a mid brownish grey, silty sand. This was overlain by deposit 4, a dark brownish grey, silty sand. Frequent broken glass bottles were present within the fills of these features, which were early 20th-century in date (Carol Fletcher pers. comm.).

3.4.2 Cutting through the upper fill of this pit was a circular feature, lined with modern frogged bricks. This was not excavated and appeared to represent a modern garden feature.

3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 Two glass bottles from feature 6 were retrieved for identification. Both were machine-made in an olive green glass. One preserved the remains of an embossed paper label, although the writing on this was illegible. Both bottles are early 20th-century in date (Carol Fletcher pers. comm.).

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The location of this site adjacent to Longstanton High Street, just 100m from All saints Church, suggested that medieval or Anglo-Saxon occupation might have been expected, as the church was constructed in the 14th century (CHER03512). However, no features of either period were found during the excavation.
- 4.1.2 The lack of features of medieval or earlier date may be due to the extensive disturbance seen adjacent to the High Street, in Trenches 1 and 2. Although geological horizons were not reached in these trenches (due to the presence of live services), modern backfill was still present at a depth of 0.70m.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 This evaluation failed to identify any finds or features earlier than 19th century in date.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the Cambridge Historic Environment Team.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern dumped deposit. A soak-away prevented excavation to the geological horizon.				Avg. depth (m)	0.50	
				Width (m)	1.60	
				Length (m)	2.70	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	>0.30	Modern make-up	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern dumped deposit. A sewage pipe prevented excavation to the geological horizon.				Avg. depth (m)	0.70	
				Width (m)	1.60	
				Length (m)	2.70	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	>0.50	Modern make-up	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern dumped deposit, which sealed the subsoil. A pipe prevented excavation to the geological horizon.				Avg. depth (m)	0.52	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	3.0	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Modern make-up	-	-
3	Layer	-	>0.13	subsoil	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern dumped deposit, which sealed the subsoil. Four pipes prevented excavation to the geological horizon in parts of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.58
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		11.10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22	Modern make-up	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.20	subsoil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contained a large modern pit and a brick -lined garden feature. Consists of topsoil overlaying subsoil.				Avg. depth (m)		0.40
				Width (m)		1.60
				Length (m)		25.80
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
4	Fill	>1.60	0.38	Fill of pit 6	Glass bottle	modern
5	Fill	>1.60	0.24	Fill of pit 6	Glass bottle	modern
6	Cut	>1.60	0.62	Pit	-	modern

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Drummond-Murray, J. 2015. *Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Evaluation at 1 Fairview, Longstanton*. Oxford Archaeology East unpublished document.

Stewart, G. 2015 *Brief for archaeological evaluation, 1 Fairview, Longstanton*. Cambridgeshire County Council, unpublished document.

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-227674			
Project Name	Fairview, High Street, Longstanton			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	07-10-2015	Finish	09-10-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	LONFAR15	Planning App. No.	S/2676/14/FL
HER No.	ECB4559	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input checked="" 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	Modern 1901 to Present	glass	Modern 1901 to Present
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	cambridshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	south cambridshire	1 fairview, Longstanton Cambridshire
Parish	longstanton	
HER	cambridshire	
Study Area	0.24ha	National Grid Reference TL 3982 6652

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

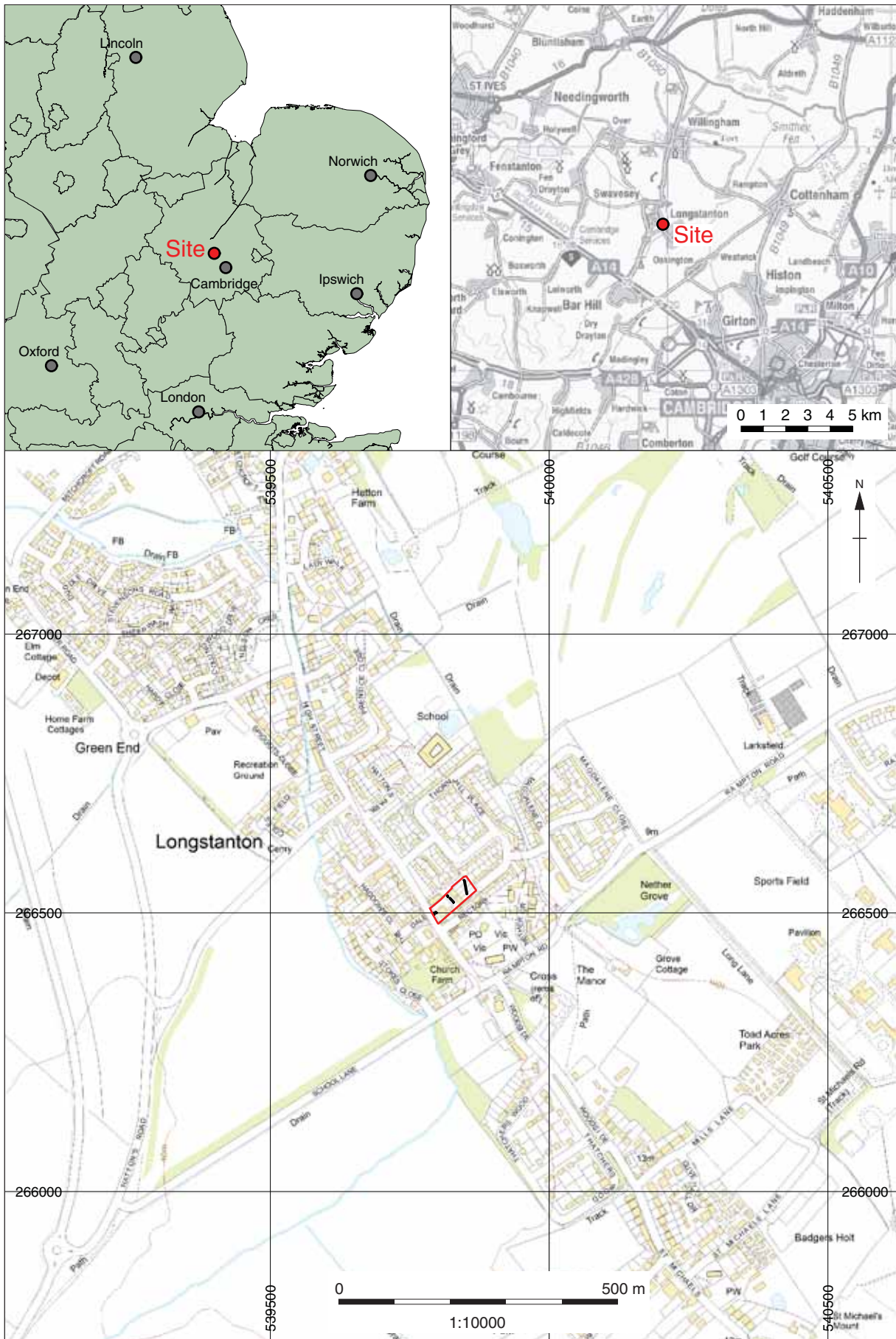
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC stores	OA east, Bar Hill	CCC Stores
ECB4559	LONFAR15	ECB4559

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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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



Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches.



Plate 1: Modern Pit 6 in Trench 5



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