

Post-Medieval Ditches & Undated Features at the Perse School Cambridge



Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2016

Client: The Perse School

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NGR: TL 4618 5580

**Post-Medieval Ditches and Undated Features at the Perse School,
Cambridge**

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 9th and 11th of May 2016 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology East in advance of the construction of a new artificial grass all-weather pitch at the Perse Upper School, Cambridge (TL 4618 5580). This evaluation took the form of six 30m trenches covering 5% of the development area.

The trenches were excavated to a chalky marl natural and revealed limited archaeological remains alongside periglacial features. Archaeologically, a series of undated, though potentially prehistoric or Roman ditches were uncovered on the same north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east alignment as those of the coaxial field system identified in the Addenbrooke's area to the south and Clay Farm to the south-west.

Two post-medieval ditches were also identified forming part of a boundary and drainage system within the area. The boundary ran perpendicular to a boundary identified in 2008, on a north to south alignment, with the drainage ditch running east-north-east to west-south-west and parallel to ditches identified in the 2008 and 2012 evaluations to the south-east.

An isolated and undated posthole was also identified, as well as a series of pits of uncertain date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the Perse School, Cambridge, National Grid Reference TL 4618 5580 (see Figure 1). The work was undertaken ahead of the development of a new artificial grass all-weather pitch in an area of the school's playing field.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Stewart 2016; Planning Application 15/1857/FUL), supplemented by a specification prepared by Tom Phillips of OA East (Phillips 2016).
- 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 appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The geology of the area is West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation grey chalk with encroaching river terrace deposits of silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2002).
- 1.2.2 The development area is located in the south of Cambridge, between Addenbrooke's Hospital (to the south) and the historic city centre (3km to the north-west), and within the grounds of the Perse School. The site lies on the western side of Hills Road and approximately 3km to the east of the Cam/Granta river valley.
- 1.2.3 The site lies on a slight slope, at a height of 16.17m OD in the north-east corner and 15.29m OD in the south-west corner. The lie of the land is otherwise flat, forming the edge of a school playing field, and bounded to the south-east by tennis courts.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following archaeological background is based upon the written scheme of investigation (Phillips 2016), Clarke (2008) and the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER) data for a 1km radius around the site.

Prehistoric (to AD 43)

- 1.3.2 Prehistoric activity within the development area has predominantly been associated with the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Some Mesolithic artefacts have, though, also been recovered from the vicinity of the development area. Flints were recovered during the excavations of the Hutchison Site (CHER CB15770) 400m to the south-west. Feldwalking adjacent to Long Road Sixth Form College (CHER MCB16139), 500m to

the west-south-west, recovered a Mesolithic tranchet axe and a large number of worked flakes.

- 1.3.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age activity has been identified through fieldwalking to the west of Addenbrooke's Hospital (CHER MCB17843), about 550m to the south-west of the current development. Middle Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement activity in the area has been indicated through the postholes, pits, gullies and quarry pits identified during excavation at the Hutchison site within the grounds of the hospital (CHER CB15770).
- 1.3.4 The significance of the Iron Age activity within the Addenbrooke's complex can be seen through the large rectangular enclosure with associated postholes and gullies to the south-west of the Hutchison site (CHER 04800), and intensively occupied Late Iron Age settlement that incorporated an enclosure system and multiple roundhouses to the north of the Hutchison site (CHER MCB17888).
- 1.3.5 This Iron Age activity is thought to continue beyond the current development with Iron Age ditches, gullies and roundhouse features (CHER CB15010) and ditches (CHER CB15270) that were thought to be part of a coaxial field system identified at Long Road Sixth Form College, to the south-west of the Perse School, and then continuing to the north with ditches and pits identified on Glebe Road, approximately 450m to the east of the site (CHER CB15272).
- 1.3.6 The extensive scale of the Bronze Age through to Roman occupation has been revealed in the large scale excavations that have been carried out at Clay Farm (Phillips and Mortimer 2012) and Trumpington Meadows (CHER MCB17702).

Roman (AD43–410)

- 1.3.7 The current development area lies within an area of dense Roman archaeology that extends between Luard Road to the north and sites within the vicinity of Addenbrooke's to the south. Excavations at The Hutchison Site to the south of Long Road revealed evidence of settlement in the form of pottery kilns, ovens, a series of enclosures, and a small mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery (CHER MCB17888).
- 1.3.8 Further Roman activity in the area is shown by the *Via Devana*, a Roman road linking the military forts at Colchester and Chester (Walker 1910, 166-7), with the section linking Cambridge with Haverhill running through the grounds of the Perse School. The route within the school grounds is thought to have run on a course parallel with Hills Road (which lies to the east). The identified parts of the road lie to the north-east of the current site. Walker (1910) noted that the Roman road existed as a ridge running through the grounds of the school in 1910 when it was levelled. He recorded a section of the road as 12-15 feet wide with a 9 inch hardcore of rammed chalk, 2.25 feet of gravel and earth with chalk above, and the metalled surface robbed away (Walker 1910, 166). An evaluation undertaken in 1996 (Leith 1996) did not uncover any trace of the Roman road despite being in the line that it was thought to follow from the grid reference given from a section cut into the road in 1952 (CHER 05146).
- 1.3.9 Other Roman activity has been identified within the grounds of the school, and is represented by the recovery of artefacts in the northern half of the school site: pottery (including samian bowls), tiles, coins, tesserae (CHER 04819, 04821 and 04824). During drainage works for the playing fields in 1960, a cremation urn and four samian bowls were found near the expected line of the *Via Devana* (CHER 04820; Liversidge 1977, 21), within the eastern half of the current evaluation area.

- 1.3.10 Roman pottery and building material has been recovered from Hills Road and Luard Road to the north (CHER 04735 and 04812), and a possible small enclosure system identified during evaluation work at Homerton College (again to the north; CHER 11958).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066) and Medieval (AD1066–1485)

- 1.3.11 Anglo-Saxon evidence is not as strong in the vicinity of the development area, but excavations have shown that to the west of the Addenbrooke's Hospital area, 5th to 6th century settlement was uncovered that included pits, wells, domestic waste, small scale iron smelting (CHER MCB17800). Combined with Middle Anglo-Saxon evidence of an enclosure ditch, wells and a possible large timber structure uncovered from the hospital site (CHER MCB17890), this suggests that this area was intensively occupied over a substantial period of time (Clarke 2008, 3).
- 1.3.12 Medieval evidence near the current site becomes even more scarce than that for the Anglo-Saxon period, and is limited to ditches identified during an evaluation at Homerton College (CHER 11958).

Post-Medieval (AD 1485–present)

- 1.3.13 Post-medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the Perse School in the form of ditches – probably associated with agricultural boundaries – identified at Homerton College to the north (CHER MCB17702 and 11958) and Glebe Road to the east (CHER CB15272). Postholes were also identified at the Perse School for Boys to the south-east of the current development area (CHER 11902; Leith 1996). Within the grounds of the Perse School, post-medieval activity has been found relating to a boundary ditch running across the site during an evaluation in 2008 (Clarke 2008), just to the south of the current development. The current development lies within an area that formed part of Truslove's Farm in the early 19th century, and was later renamed Great Tithe Farm, and then Trinity Farm. The land continued to be used for arable crops until about 1950 when it was converted into grassed playing fields (Leith 1996, 3).
- 1.3.14 The area around the school is developed and includes residential areas on the other side of Hills Road to the east, and schools on the western side of Hills Road.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 1.3.15 A large number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the area of the Perse School. The earliest was carried out by Walker (CHER 05146) in 1910, which uncovered evidence of a Roman road, running on a north-west to south-east alignment, to the north of the current development area; currently under school buildings. The road was also identified when the playing fields were levelled further to the north (CHER 04819). Drainage work during the 1960s, for the school's playing fields, revealed a cremation urn and four samian bowls (CHER 04820; Liversidge 1977, 21). Work for foundations to school buildings, 100m to the north of the current site, recovered Roman pottery (CHER 04824).
- 1.3.16 More recent archaeological investigations have also identified activity to the immediate south-east of the current development area: two phases of work took place ahead of work for the tennis courts forming the south-eastern boundary of the site (CHER ECB2949, Clarke 2008; CHER ECB3864, Haskins 2012). The first of these (Clarke

2008) uncovered a post-medieval boundary ditch and some undated ditches, whilst the second (Haskins 2012), immediately to the south-west, revealed three alignments of ditches that have been dated as prehistoric and Roman or medieval. Just beyond those sites, an area was evaluated in 1996 that revealed two postholes that were thought to relate to the post-medieval Truslove's Farm that had been on the site (CHER ECB925; Leith 1996). Just to the east of the 1996 evaluation, an evaluation carried out in 2015 (CHER ECB4514; Webb 2016) uncovered a series of undated ditches that probably related to the field systems encountered in other works of the area alongside evidence of ridge and furrow.

- 1.3.17 Slightly further from the current evaluation area, work to the south (at the Hutchison site) revealed Iron Age and Roman pottery kilns, inhumations and cremations (Evans *et al* 2008). Located even further to the south, at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Bronze Age to Saxon occupation material has been recovered (CHER CB15010, 15770, MCB15027, 16500, 17800, 17888, 17890, 17896). A large scale evaluation and subsequent excavation at Clay Farm and Trumpington Meadows has also revealed extensive Bronze Age through to Roman occupation (CHER MCB17912).
- 1.3.18 To the south-east of the current development area, and just to the west of Hills Road, part of an inhumation was found during repair works at 278 Hills Road. This burial was on an east to west orientation (CHER 07972).
- 1.3.19 To the north-east of the current development area, evaluations carried out at Glebe Road have identified Iron Age, Roman and undated features (Connor 2000a, 2000b, Gilmour 2011, Muldowney 2007). Works at Homerton College have also revealed field-systems related to Roman and post-medieval farming and drainage (CHER 11958, MCB 17702; Alexander 1997; Webb and Dickens 2006).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The work was commissioned by the Perse School. Machine excavation was carried out by Lattenbury Services, and hand excavation by Matthew Brooks and Robin Webb. The site survey was carried out by Dave Brown. The project was managed by Tom Phillips and the fieldwork led by Robin Webb. Advice and monitoring was provided by Gemma Stewart of CCC HET.

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 or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The results will be used to determine the character, date and significance of the archaeological resource.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of six trenches were excavated, totalling an area of 324m² and covering 5% of the development area, in an area of school playing field that was bounded to the south-east by tennis courts.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket to the depth of geological horizons or archaeological features as they were found.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 GPS fitted with Smartnet, and located to Ordnance Survey co-ordinates.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. Topsoil and subsoil were sampled for the recovery of finds within each of the trenches. 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 The evaluation was carried out in variable weather conditions with bright sunshine on the first day changing to intermittent light and heavy rain for the second, and overcast with heavy showers on the third. Environmental samples were taken from two features in order to identify whether any plant remains were present across the site as samples taken from features in nearby sites had revealed limited, if any, plant remains. The results from the former works suggested that the ditches were dug for drainage and were not near settlement.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The evaluation revealed a limited amount of human activity across the site, with dating evidence recovered from a single ditch, and during characterisation of the topsoil and subsoil. The natural geology across the site was a light grey-white chalky clay (1). A series of periglacial features were identified across the trenches, and these all contained the same fill as that described in the periglacial feature in Trench 4 (**16**): a soft mid brownish yellow and red sand with occasional 0.01m sub-rounded gravel (17).
- 3.1.2 The results are presented numerically by trench, with further details of the trenches and contexts given in the tables in Appendix A, and a plan of the archaeological features within the trenches shown in Figure 2.

3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 (Plate 1) was recorded at a height of 15.75m OD along the western two-thirds of its length and had a rise at the eastern end to a height of 15.96mOD where it approached the build-up of ground for the wicket of a cricket pitch. The trench was located in the north-west corner of the development area on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment.
- 3.2.2 This trench consisted of the natural geology (1) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy-silt subsoil (2) and a friable dark grey-brown silt topsoil (3).
- 3.2.3 Located 9.7m from the south-western end of the trench was a sub-circular shaped pit (**34**) with steep sides and a concave base. This pit was filled by a loose light grey-brown silty sand (36) overlain by a loose dark grey-brown silty sand (35) that contained burnt clay. This pit cut into a periglacial feature that ran across the trench in a curvilinear fashion.
- 3.2.4 A further 2.5m to the east was a second pit (**37**) that extended to the north, outside the limits of the trench. This pit was sub-circular in plan, with steep sides and a 'v-shaped' base, and was filled by a loose light grey-brown silty sand (38) that contained no artefacts or ecofacts.
- 3.2.5 A further 6.5m to the east was a single posthole (**39**) that was sub-circular in plan, with steep sides and a concave base, and that was filled by a loose light grey-brown silty sand (40) that again contained no artefacts or ecofacts.

3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 (Plate 2), sloped up from a height of 15.29m OD at its south-west end to 15.51mOD at its north-east end, and was located in the south-west corner of the development area and ran on a south-west to north-east alignment.
- 3.3.2 This trench consisted of the natural geology (1) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy-silt subsoil (2) and a friable dark grey-brown silt topsoil (3).
- 3.3.3 This trench contained four modern postholes and a series of periglacial features running across the trench. Two of the postholes were not excavated as they were visible from just below the level of the grass in the topsoil, and remains of the wooden

posts were visible at the depth to which the trench was excavated. Of the remaining two postholes, the south-western most (**41**) was located 8.2m from the south-west end of the trench and was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a soft mid grey-brown silty sand post packing (42) and loose mid yellow-brown sand and grit (43) that was deposited in the hole when the post was removed. The second of the postholes (**44**) was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. This posthole was filled by a concrete mid grey-brown silty sand (45) that was overlain by a friable dark grey-brown sandy silt (46). Neither of these postholes contained any artefacts or ecofacts.

3.4 Trench 3

- 3.4.1 Trench 3 (Plate 3) was located in the middle of the development area and sloped up from 15.61m OD at its southern end to 15.84m OD at its northern end. It ran on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment.
- 3.4.2 This trench consisted of the natural geology (1) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy-silt subsoil (2) and a friable dark grey-brown silt topsoil (3). Within the trench, a series of periglacial features were identified on a largely north-east to south-west orientation.
- 3.4.3 Emerging from the southern end of the trench was a linear ditch terminus (**27**, Plate 4, Figure 3) that had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a friable dark red-brown sandy silt (28) that contained no artefacts or ecofacts. This ditch ran on a north-west to south-east alignment.
- 3.4.4 Located 7.7m to the north of this ditch terminus was a circular shallow pit (**29**) with gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand (30) that contained no artefacts or ecofacts.
- 3.4.5 A further 8.6m to the north was a second ditch terminus (**31**), this time on a north-east to south-west alignment. It contained a friable mid red-brown sandy silt (32) overlain by a friable dark red-brown sandy silt (33). Neither of these fills contained artefacts or ecofacts.

3.5 Trench 4

- 3.5.1 Located just to the east of the centre of the development area, Trench 4 (Plate 5) sloped down from 16.04m OD at its south-east end to 15.97m OD about two-thirds of the way to the north-west, before rising up again to 16.19m OD at its north-west end in order to accommodate the build-up for the wickets of a cricket pitch. This trench was aligned on a north-west to south-east orientation.
- 3.5.2 This trench consisted of the natural geology (1) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy-silt subsoil (2) and a friable dark grey-brown silt topsoil (3).
- 3.5.3 Two periglacial features were recorded in this trench: extending beyond the northern end of the trench, periglacial feature **18** was irregular in plan with irregular sides and a flat base. It was filled by a soft mid brown-yellow and red sand (19) that contained occasional sub-rounded gravel of less than 0.01m diameter. Located 8.3m to the south-east, periglacial feature **16** had a sub-linear shape in plan that terminated within the trench and continued to the north-east of the trench limits, irregular sides and a concave base. This feature was filled by a soft mid brown-yellow and red sand (17).

- 3.5.4 Archaeologically, this trench contained a linear ditch (**6**, Plate 6, Figure 3) on a north to south orientation. This ditch had steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand (7). This deposit (7) contained animal bone towards the base. This ditch had a re-cut (**8**, Plate 6, Figure 3) that followed the same alignment and was to the north-west of the earlier ditch. This re-cut had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand with frequent lumps of chalk less than 0.1m in diameter (9). It was overlain by a soft dark red-brown silty sand (10). This later ditch did not contain any artefacts or ecofacts.
- 3.5.5 Located 0.8m to the north-east of this ditch was a ditch terminus (**11**, Plate 7, Figure 3) on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. This ditch terminus had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand (12) that contained no artefacts or ecofacts.
- 3.5.6 Cutting through both of these ditches was a linear ditch (**13**, Plate 8, Figure 3) on an east to west alignment with steep sides and a flat base. This ditch was filled by a firm light grey-brown silty sand (14) that was overlain by a soft dark brown-grey sandy silt (15). The later of these fills contained a fragment of clay pipe stem and two sherds of pottery. This ditch continued across the site and was also parallel to ditch **24** seen in Trench 6.

3.6 Trench 5

- 3.6.1 Trench 5 (Plate 9) was located along the south-eastern edge of the development area on a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment. The upper surface of the trench sloped up from 15.80m OD at the south-western end to 15.90m OD at the north-eastern end.
- 3.6.2 This trench consisted of the natural geology (1) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy-silt subsoil (2) and a friable dark grey-brown silt topsoil (3). A series of periglacial features with irregular edges, but running on a broadly north-west to south-east alignment, were located across the trench. Rooting disturbance was also present at the north-eastern end of the trench.
- 3.6.3 Archaeologically, this trench contained a ditch terminus (**20**) in the north-eastern corner. This ditch terminus had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark red-brown sandy silt (21) that contained no artefacts or ecofacts.
- 3.6.4 Located 6.8m to the west-south-west of the ditch terminus was a pit (**22**) with steep sides and a concave base that extended to the south beyond the limits of the trench. This pit was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand (23) that contained no artefacts or ecofacts.

3.7 Trench 6

- 3.7.1 Trench 6 (Plate 10) was located along the north-eastern perimeter of the development area on a north-north-west to south-south-east orientation. This trench sloped up from 16.19m OD at its south-eastern end to 16.24m OD in the middle, before sloping down to 16.18m OD at its north-western end.
- 3.7.2 This trench consisted of the natural geology (1) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy-silt subsoil (2) and a friable dark grey-brown silt topsoil (3). A series of irregularly shaped periglacial features were identified across the trench.

- 3.7.3 The trench contained a linear ditch (**4**), orientated north-east to south-west. It was 11.2m from the south-east end of the trench, with gentle sides and a flat base. This ditch was filled by a loose mid brown-grey silty clay (**5**) that contained animal bone. This ditch was truncated by a modern plastic water pipe.
- 3.7.4 Located 0.7m from the south-east end of the trench was the ditch (**24**) running parallel to that seen in Trench 4 (**13**). This ditch had steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a firm mid brown-grey sandy silt (**25**) overlain by a friable dark brown-grey sandy silt (**26**). It contained no artefacts or ecofacts.

3.8 Finds Summary

- 3.8.1 Very little artefactual and ecofactual evidence was recovered from the archaeological features. The artefacts comprised a piece of English stoneware jug handle, a fragment of clay pipe stem and a piece of glazed red earthenware, all from within the upper fill (**15**) of a single ditch (**13**) in Trench 4 that has been dated as 19th century. The pottery from archaeological features weighed a total of 0.018kg, and the clay pipe stem weighed 0.004kg.
- 3.8.2 A total of 0.364kg of animal bone was recovered from the excavation, from four contexts. These contexts included the subsoil (**2**; 0.016kg) and topsoil (**3**; 0.026kg). Animal bone was recovered from the fill of ditch **4** in Trench 6 (**5**; 0.032kg), and the fill of ditch **6** in Trench 4 (**7**; 0.290kg), both of which remain undated. The faunal remains recovered were poorly preserved; of the identifiable specimens three belonged to cattle and one to sheep or goat, but with such a small sample making it an unreliable sample for identifying the importance of different species. Evidence of butchery is present on the sheep/goat bone, and could be indicative of evidence of a greater degree of butchery having been eroded.

Characterisation of subsoil and topsoil by finds

- 3.8.3 The layers sealing the natural geology were sampled for the recovery of finds in order to provide a characterisation. All of the finds recovered from the subsoil (**2**) and topsoil (**3**) have been dated as late 19th century (Mortimer *pers. comm.*, Table 1). This fits with the material recovered from within archaeological features within the trenches, where the only material recovered was from the upper fill of a ditch, and was dated to the 19th century.
- 3.8.4 The subsoil (**2**) contained a total of 0.012kg of ceramic building material (CBM) from two of the trenches.
- 3.8.5 The topsoil (**3**) contained a total of 0.027kg of glass from Trench 3, 0.052kg of pottery from four of the trenches, 0.010kg of clay pipe stem from four of the trenches, 0.134kg of CBM that included a brick fragment and part of a roofing 'peg' tile, 0.003kg of fired clay CBM from Trench 1 and 0.006kg of oyster shell from Trench 1.

3.9 Environmental Summary

- 3.9.1 A total of two samples, totalling 70 litres, were taken from features during the evaluation, from the ditch terminus (**11**) in Trench 4 and a pit (**34**) in Trench 1. These samples contained occasional charcoal fragments, but no plant remains other than modern rootlets. This absence of plant remains can be explained through food not being prepared or discarded on the site, and a lack of preservation due to the soil type and taphonomy.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A limited number of archaeological features were identified during the current evaluation, with the majority containing no dating evidence. The only physical dating evidence came from a post-medieval ditch. There is potential, though, for the undated ditches to form part of the prehistoric or Roman field systems found during previous evaluations directly to the south and more widely around Addenbrooke's and further south-west at Clay Farm. The paucity of recovered finds possibly relates to the fields here being further from the focus of any settlement.

4.2 Post-medieval features

4.2.1 A single ditch (**13** in trench 4) was securely dated to the post-medieval period. This ditch ran parallel to ditch **24** in trench 6, on a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment. This ditch contained a fragment of clay pipe stem and two 19th century pottery sherds, and was parallel to, and comparable in profile to, ditch **3/007** in Trench 3 of the 2008 evaluation undertaken by AOC to the south (Clarke 2008), and to ditch **14** in Trench 3a of the 2012 OAE evaluation (Haskins 2012). As such, these appear to form part of the post-medieval field system that is visible on the 1810 Ordnance Survey map, possibly forming a drainage network within that field system. Although the ditch shown on the 1810 map continues across the development area, from the 1886 map the ditch reaches only as far as the tree line to the east of the development area.

4.2.2 A second ditch (**6** in Trench 4) identified in the current evaluation may relate to the post-medieval period, but based only on a comparison with a ditch that extended between two trenches in the 2008 AOC evaluation to the south (Clarke 2008; ditch **3/005** and **4/004**). The ditch in the current development has a comparable fill and profile to that of the one uncovered in 2008, and runs perpendicular. In the current development area this ditch was recut (ditch **8** in Trench 4), showing the continued use of the boundary. The absence of this ditch from the 1810 map and later maps also suggests that it may have formed part of the pre-enclosure field systems.

4.3 Modern features

4.3.1 Modern features were only encountered in one trench (Trench 2), and these consisted of four postholes. Two of these still retained the remains of wooden posts, and all were visible cutting through the topsoil and subsoil from just below the grass. The south-western most of these postholes had a sand backfill from the removal of the post and lined up with the white markings on the playing field and so may have been the location of former goalposts. The other three postholes are likely to have formed part of former fence lines.

4.4 Undated features

4.4.1 The majority of features identified during this evaluation were undated, with only one ditch (ditch terminus **11** in Trench 4) being able to be stratigraphically dated as pre-19th century. This ditch terminus extended on an alignment almost perpendicular to that of

the post-medieval field system ditch identified in the 2008 AOC evaluation, and suggests that it may have been an earlier version of that layout.

- 4.4.2 The other ditch of a substantial nature (ditch 4 in Trench 6) ran on an alignment broadly similar to, but not parallel to, the pre-19th century boundary ditch in Trench 4. This time though, the fill was more comparable to that of the ditch identified as post-medieval in the current phase of work, and suggests that it may have been part of the post-medieval field system.
- 4.4.3 The other features within the current evaluation were on a smaller scale, with three ditch terminals within the trenches on a north-east to south-west or south-west to north-east alignment. These ditches may relate on a wider scale to the prehistoric and Roman coaxial field systems identified to the south at Addenbrooke's and to the south-west at Clay Farm, but further from any settlement focus.
- 4.4.4 The four pits that were identified within the evaluation each had broadly similar profiles with a concave base and 45° to steep sides, but were all different in their scale.
- 4.4.5 A single undated posthole was uncovered during the excavation with no features to which it was clearly related.

4.5 Significance

- 4.5.1 As with the other evaluations carried out in this area of the Perse School, no sign of the Roman road was visible in the area being developed. One suggested location for the road (Leith 1996, 1) follows the current north-north-west to south-south-east orientated line of trees, which extend through the school playing fields, approximately 20m east of Trench 6. This forms part of a longer running field boundary on the 1810 map.
- 4.5.2 The latest Iron Age or Early Roman ditch identified in the 2012 OAE evaluation (Haskins 2012) has no comparable feature within the current phase of work, but the undated ditches may form part of that system. Due to the paucity of finds and lack of environmental evidence from these features it is suggested that the ditches are outlying field boundaries and drainage ditches associated more widely with the dense areas of prehistoric and Roman field system around Addenbrooke's to the south and at Clay Farm to the south-west.
- 4.5.3 The post-medieval field system identified in the current evaluation at least partially corresponds to the boundaries seen on the historic maps and are likely to relate to the field systems on the outskirts of Cambridge City, Cherry Hinton and Trumpington that slowly disappeared with the expansion of Cambridge.

4.6 Recommendations

- 4.6.1 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		ENE-WSW
Trench contained two pits and a posthole alongside periglacial features. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	CBM, fired clay, clay pipe stem, ceramic, shell	Modern
34	Cut	1.18	0.28	Cut of pit	-	-
35	Fill	1.18	0.28	Upper fill of pit 34	-	-
36	Fill	1.18	0.28	Lower fill of pit 34	-	-
37	Cut	0.84	0.35	Cut of pit	-	-
38	Fill	0.84	0.35	Fill of pit 37	-	-
39	Cut	0.43	0.15	Cut of posthole	-	-
40	Fill	0.43	0.15	Fill of posthole 39	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained four modern postholes alongside periglacial features. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	Animal bone	-
3	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	CBM, ceramic	Modern
41	Cut	0.32	0.11	Cut of posthole	-	Modern
42	Fill	0.32	0.11	Post packing of posthole 41	-	Modern
43	Fill	0.15	0.09	Fill of posthole 41	-	Modern
44	Cut	0.37	0.12	Cut of posthole	-	Modern

45	Fill	0.18	0.12	Lower fill of posthole 44	-	Modern
46	Fill	0.17	0.12	Upper fill of posthole 44	-	Modern
Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench contained two ditch termini and a shallow pit alongside periglacial features. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.47
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	CBM, ceramic, glass	Modern
27	Cut	0.57	0.15	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-
28	Fill	0.57	0.15	Fill of ditch terminus 27	-	-
29	Cut	0.75	0.15	Cut of pit	-	-
30	Fill	0.75	0.15	Fill of pit 29	-	-
31	Cut	0.77	0.23	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-
32	Fill	0.77	0.23	Lower fill of ditch terminus 31	-	-
33	Fill	0.25	0.19	Upper fill of ditch terminus 31	-	-
Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a linear ditch with a re-cut just off-centre, a ditch terminus, and a ditch cutting across both of these, alongside periglacial features. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	CBM	-
3	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	CBM, clay pipe stem	Modern
6	Cut	1.9	0.38	Cut of ditch	-	-
7	Fill	1.9	0.38	Fill of ditch 6	Animal bone	-
8	Cut	1.54	0.34	Cut of ditch (re-cut of ditch 6)	-	-
9	Fill	1.38	0.34	Lower fill of ditch 8	-	-

10	Fill	0.75	0.14	Upper fill of ditch 8	-	-
11	Cut	1.16	0.45	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-
12	Fill	1.16	0.45	Fill of ditch terminus 11	-	-
13	Cut	0.65	0.36	Cut of ditch (=24)	-	Post-medieval
14	Fill	0.5	0.2	Lower fill of ditch 13 (=25)	-	Post-medieval
15	Fill	0.65	0.16	Upper fill of ditch 13 (=26)	Clay pipe stem, pottery	19 th century
16	Cut	0.7	0.2	Cut of periglacial feature	-	-
17	Fill	0.7	0.2	Fill of periglacial feature 16	-	-
18	Cut	0.73	0.28	Cut of periglacial feature	-	-
19	Fill	0.73	0.28	Fill of periglacial feature 18	-	-

Trench 5

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a ditch terminus and a pit both extending beyond the limits of the trench, alongside periglacial features. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky clay.	Avg. depth (m)	0.53
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	CBM, clay pipe stem, ceramic	Modern
20	Cut	0.55	0.33	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-
21	Fill	0.55	0.33	Fill of ditch terminus 21	-	-
22	Cut	0.6	0.38	Cut of pit	-	-
23	Fill	0.6	0.38	Fill of pit 22	-	-

Trench 6

General description	Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contained two ditches alongside periglacial features. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky clay.	Avg. depth (m)	0.26
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	CBM	-
3	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	CBM, clay pipe stem,	Modern

					ceramic	
4	Cut	1.48	0.48	Cut of ditch	-	-
5	Fill	1.48	0.48	Fill of ditch 4	-	-
24	Cut	0.59	0.28	Cut of ditch (=13)	-	Post-medieval
25	Fill	0.4	0.13	Lower fill of ditch 13 (=14)	-	Post-medieval
26	Fill	0.59	0.15	Upper fill of ditch 13 (=15)	-	Post-medieval

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Artefacts

B.1.1 The majority of artefacts recovered were from the subsoil (2) and topsoil (3) as part of the characterisation of the deposits. The only artefacts recovered from archaeological features came from the upper fill of a single ditch (fill 15 of ditch **13**). As such, the finds have been grouped together.

B.1.2 The material that was recovered was entirely of 19th century date, and consisted of ceramic fragments, clay pipe stems, ceramic building material and shell. A summary of the material is presented in Table 1.

Trench	Context	Artefact	Weight (kg)	Date
1	3	1 piece of glazed white earthenware	0.011	Late 19 th century
		1 piece of transfer printed blue and white ceramic	0.004	
		2 pieces of post-medieval roof tile	0.055	
		1 clay pipe stem	0.006	
		1 fragment of oyster shell	0.006	
2	3	1 piece of glazed red earthenware	0.004	Late 19 th century
		1 piece white glazed earthenware	0.011	
		1 fragment of CBM	0.004	
		1 red brick fragment	0.012	
3	3	1 shard green glass bottle base	0.028	Late 19 th century
		1 piece glazed red earthenware	0.004	
		4 pieces undateable CBM	0.013	
4	2	1 small fragment of CBM	0.001	Late 19 th century
	3	1 clay pipe stem	0.002	Late 19 th century
		1 fragment of brick or tile	0.009	
	15	1 piece of English stoneware jug handle	0.014	19 th century
		1 fragment of glazed red earthenware	0.005	
		1 piece of clay pipe stem	0.005	
5	3	1 piece of grey stoneware	0.003	19 th century
		1 fragment of post-medieval peg tile	0.017	
		1 fragment of clay pipe	0.002	
6	2	3 scraps of undateable brick	0.012	c.19 th century
	3	1 piece of glazed red earthenware	0.012	19 th century
		1 fragment of clay pipe stem	0.001	
		1 piece of post-medieval roof tile	0.047	

Table 1: Post-medieval finds (Mortimer pers. comm.)

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remains

By Angelos Hadjikoumis BA MSc PhD

Introduction

- C.1.1 The study of the faunal assemblage yielded only eight fragments of animal remains. All were recovered through hand collection and were studied to evaluate the preservation, condition and overall potential of zooarchaeological remains at the site.

Methodology

- C.1.2 Identification and full recording was attempted on each specimen. Besides anatomical and taxonomic identification, data on the fusion state of postcranial elements, eruption and wear of dental remains, fragmentation, level of erosion, taphonomy, butchery and biometric measurements were also recorded, wherever available. Identification was carried out with the use of relevant osteological atlases (e.g. Barone 1976; Pales and Garcia 1981; Schmid 1972).
- C.1.3 Besides anatomical and taxonomic identification, age-at-death was estimated based on dental eruption and wear, as well as the epiphyseal fusion state of selected postcranial anatomical elements. Eruption and wear of mandibular dental remains were recorded following Grigson (1982) and Halstead's (1985) adaptation for cattle, which was the only taxon that yielded age-at-death data.

Quantification

- C.1.4 The basic unit for the quantification of this sample is the Number of Identified Specimens (NISP).

Results

- C.1.5 Animal remains were recovered from contexts that are yet to be assigned to a chronological period. All identified mammal remains are presented in Table 2. The sample is too small for any further analyses to be based on it. Moreover, preservation condition (excluding the single sheep/goat specimen) is particularly bad. Extensive and deep erosion has removed all bone surfaces thus erasing any information on them and inhibiting any biometric measurements. From the four specimens identified to some degree, three belonged to cattle and one to sheep/goat. This cannot be considered even an approximation of the importance of each animal at the site, although it is probable that cattle was important. Despite the unfavourable preservation condition, the two cattle mandibles could be assigned into age categories. One belonged to an old animal (7-20 years). The other was of unknown age, although it was adult as the alveoli suggest that the third molar had been fully erupted and in wear.
- C.1.6 The only other information worth mentioning was the presence of a chopping mark on the sheep/goat tibia, which suggests that butchery marks may have been more common if erosion had not erased most of them. The absence of gnawing marks could also be due to the preservation condition, besides the small sample size.

Context	Collection method	Element	N	Taxon	Erosion	Butchery	Gnawed
7	hand	Mandible	1	Cattle	5		
7	hand	Mandible	1	Cattle	5		
2	hand	Scapula	1	Cattle	5		
3	hand	Tibia	1	Sheep/Goat	3	√	
5	hand	Indeterminate	4	Indeterminate	5		

Table 2: All recorded animal remains at the site

Erosion grades (simplified version of Brickley & McKinley 2004, 14-15): 0 (surface morphology clearly visible, fresh appearance), 1 (light and patchy surface erosion), 2 (more extensive surface erosion than grade 1), 3 (most of bone surface affected by some degree of erosion), 4 (all of bone surface affected by erosive action), 5 (heavy erosion across whole surface, completely masking normal surface morphology).

Preservation

C.1.7 As mentioned above, the overall preservation of the material is poor (see column 'erosion' in Table 2).

Contamination

C.1.8 No obvious contamination has been noted in this assemblage.

Sampling Bias

C.1.9 The scarcity of faunal remains at the site and the inevitably small sample size render any results produced tentative and of limited reliability at the present stage.

Statement of Research Potential

C.1.10 The study of the faunal sample suggests that the potential of a more detailed study of animal remains from the site is low, mainly due to its poor preservation condition, but also due to the insufficient volume of material from well-dated contexts. Unless contexts significantly richer in better-preserved faunal material are located and excavated, the faunal assemblage from this site is of limited value in shedding light into human-animal interactions in the area.

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.2.1 Two bulk samples, totalling 70 litres, were taken from undated features; fill 12 of ditch terminus **11** and fill 35 of pit **34** in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

C.2.2 Twenty litres of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A

magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

Results

- C.2.3 Both of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and occasional charcoal fragments.

Discussion

- C.2.4 The scarcity of preserved plant remains can probably be explained by the nature of the site in that food was not being prepared or, more significantly, discarded on site. It can also be due to lack of preservation due to soil type and taphonomy.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-251499		
Project Name	Post-Medieval and Undated Features from the Perse School, Cambridge		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	09-05-2016	Finish	11-05-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMPUS16	Planning App. No.	15/1857/FUL
HER No.	ECB 4719	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB 925, 2949, 3864, 4514

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Public Building

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 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
Ditch	Uncertain	Clay pipe stem	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
Ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
Pit	Uncertain	Animal bone	Uncertain

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Cambridge City	The Perse School, Hills Road, Cambridge,
Parish	Queen Ediths	
HER	Cambs Historic Environment Record	
Study Area	324m sq	National Grid Reference TL 4618 5580

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart (CCC HET)
Project Design Originator	Tom Phillips (OA East)
Project Manager	Tom Phillips (OA East)
Supervisor	Robin Webb (OA East)

Project Archives

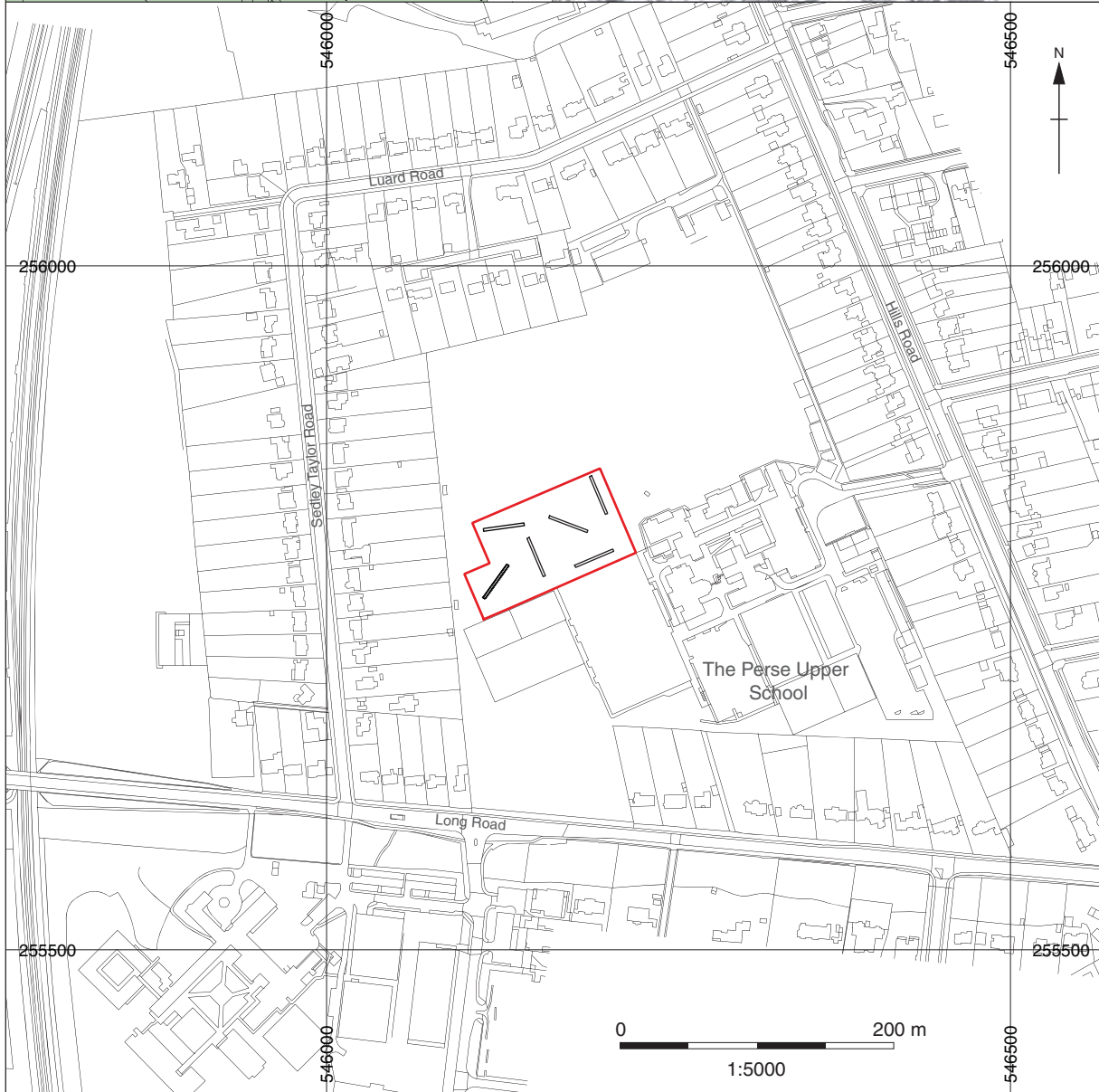
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores	OA East	CCC Stores
CAMPUS16	CAMPUS16	CAMPUS16

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" 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.

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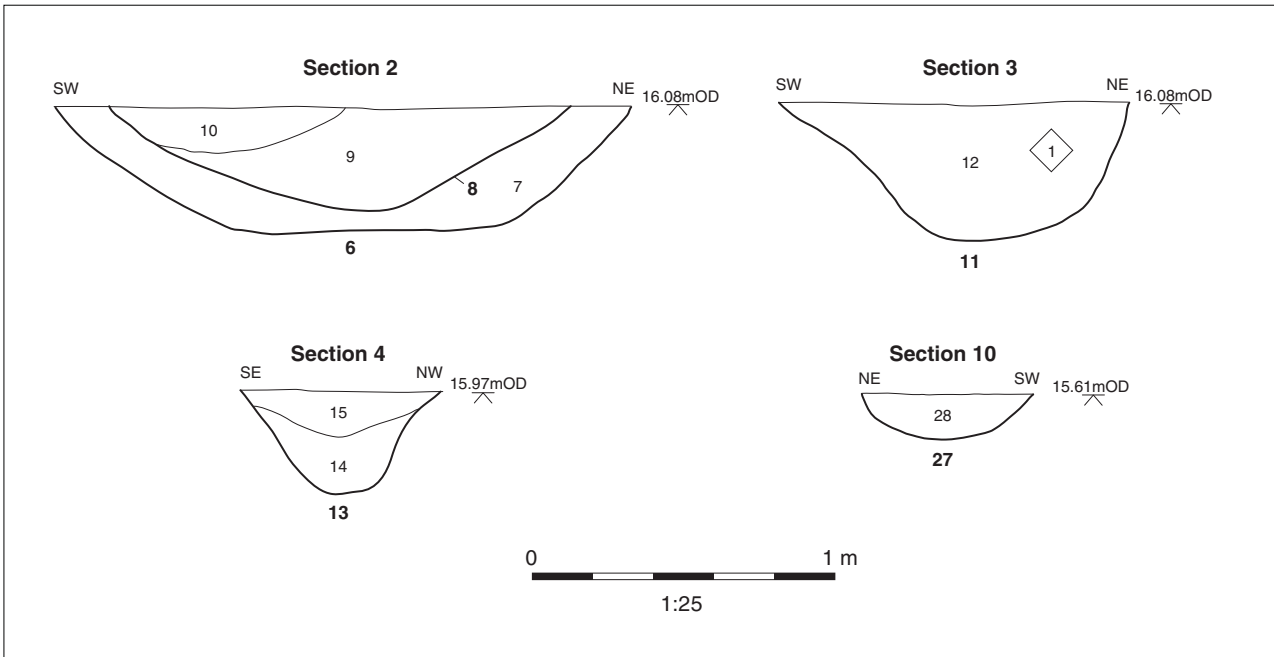


Figure 3: Selected sections



Plate 1: Photograph of Trench 1, taken from the west



Plate 2: Photograph of Trench 2, taken from the south-west



Plate 3: Photograph of Trench 3, taken from south



Plate 4: Photograph of ditch terminus 27, possibly forming part of the prehistoric coaxial field system. Photograph taken from the north



Plate 5: Photograph of Trench 4, taken from the south-east



Plate 6: Photograph of ditch 6 and recut 8, possibly part of the post-medieval field system. Photograph taken from the south



Plate 7: Photograph of ditch **11**, cut by post-medieval ditch **13** and possibly forming part of the medieval field system. Photograph taken from the south-east



Plate 8: Photograph of post-medieval drainage ditch **13**, taken from the north-east



Plate 9: Photograph of Trench 5, taken from the east



Plate 10: Photograph of Trench 6, taken from the south



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