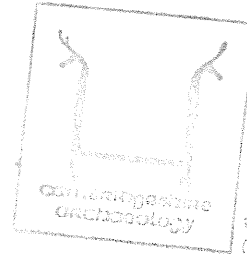
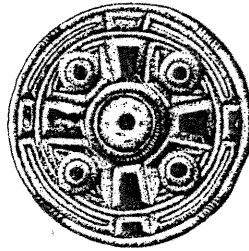


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ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE
FULBORN COMMUNITY CENTRE
HABEGGS WAY, FULBORN
CAMBRIDGE CB1 5HD Tel 881614
(fax)

Archaeological Field Unit

Prehistoric Field Systems at Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation

Joe Abrams

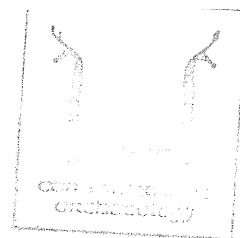
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Report No. 176

Commissioned by Long Road Sixth Form College & Bland, Brown & Cole



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE
FULBOURN COMMUNITY CENTRE
HAGGIS GAP, FULBOURN
CAMBRIDGE CB1 5HD Tel: 881614
(Fax)

Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation

Joe Abrams BA, PIFA

2000

Editor: Stephen Macaulay BA, MPhil, AIFA
Illustrator: Jon Cane BA



Report No. 176

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Cambridgeshire County Council
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap, Fulbourn
Cambridgeshire CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 881614
Fax (01223) 880946

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge to inform the planning process in advance of the construction of a new building. The work was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council between 25th September to 2nd October.

A total of 6 trenches were excavated and although all contained archaeological features no artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the trenches despite thorough excavation. A series of ditches were observed which run northeast-southwest, east-west and north-south. These appear to be part of a co-axial field system. These features fit well within the immediate landscape of known linear ditches and enclosures, which are dated to the Iron Age and Romano British periods.

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Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge: An Archaeological Evaluation

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1 INTRODUCTION

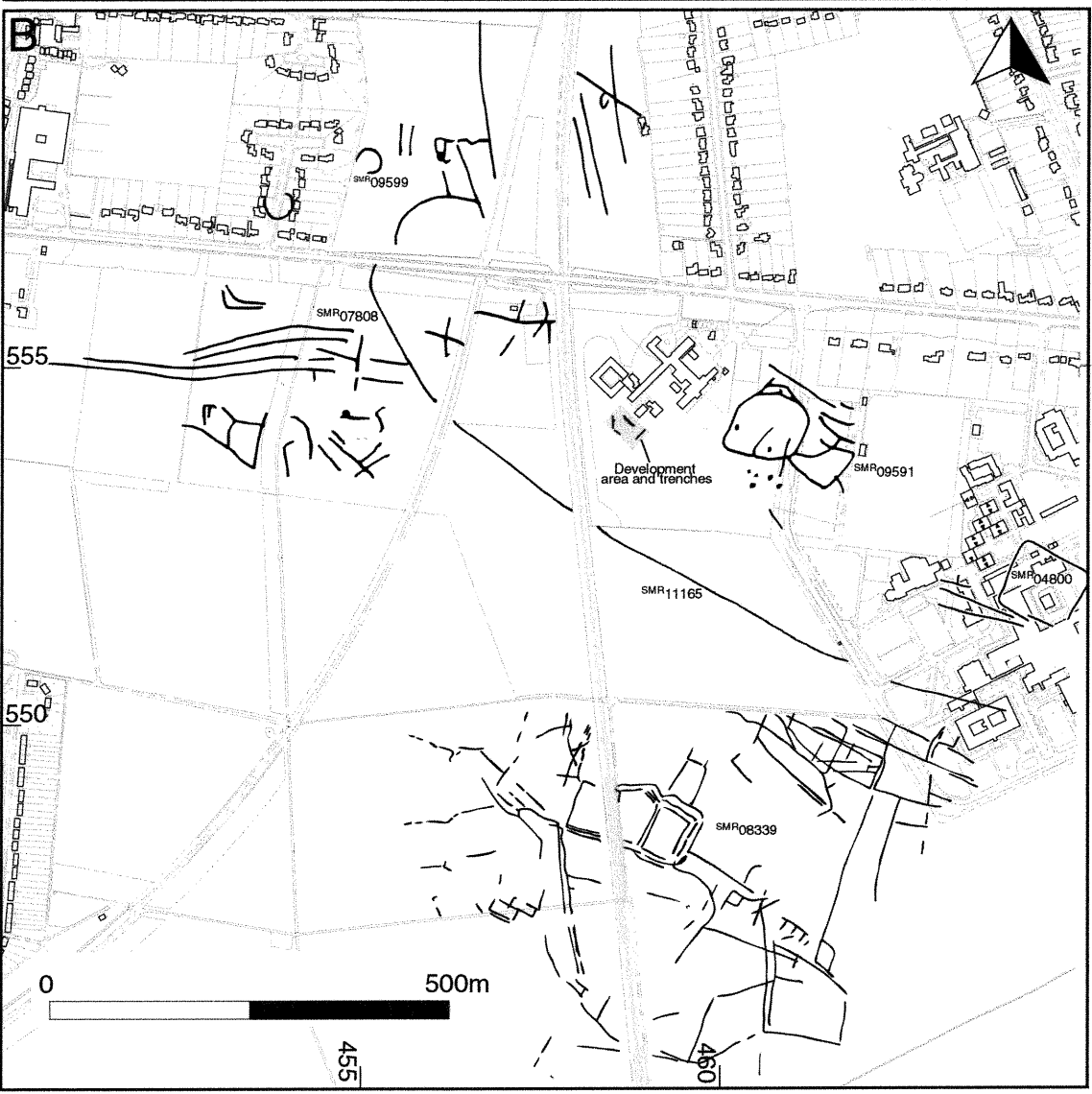
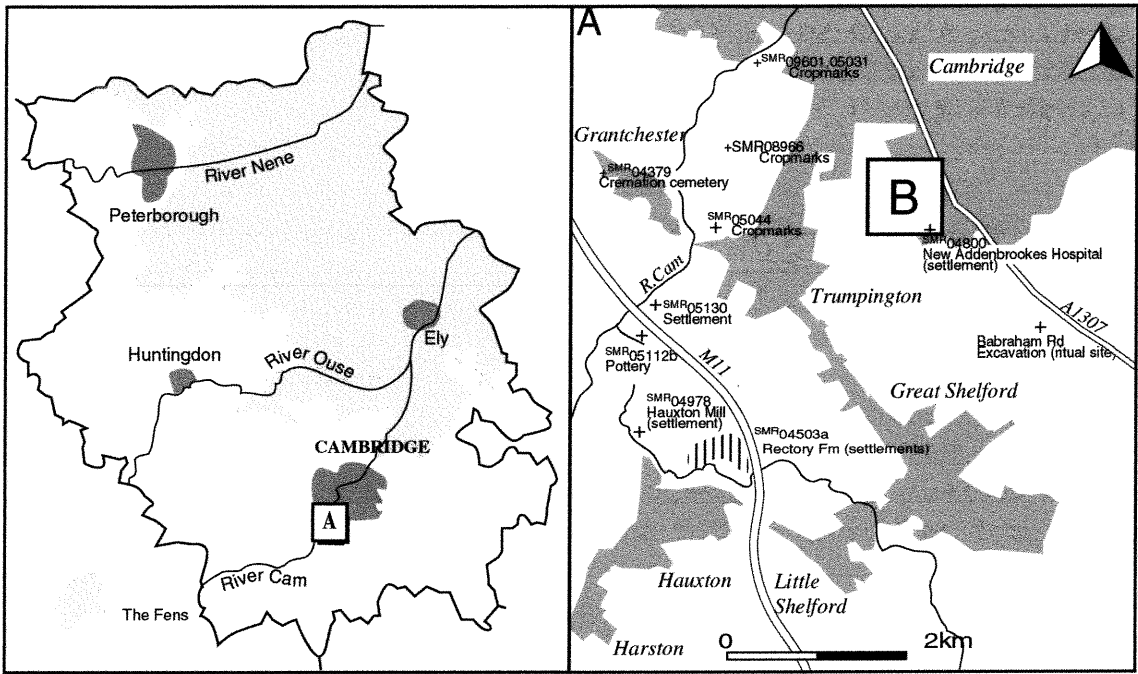
An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge to inform the planning process in advance of a new educational building development. The work was carried out by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council on the 25th, 26th and 29th of September, and the 2nd October 2000.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The subject site is located within the grounds of Long Road Sixth Form College. The site slopes gradually from southeast-northwest, the highest point being adjacent to Trench 1 which is 14.24m above Ordnance Datum. The central part of the site adjacent to Trench 2 is 13.73m above OD, and the lowest part of the site is adjacent to Trench 3, which is 13.63m above OD. This appears to follow a general slope from Long Road and Addenbrookes hospital, as the benchmark on Long Road is 14.90m above OD. The topography of the subject site, appears to have been fundamental to the formation of the archaeological remains we encountered, this is detailed below.

The subject site was bordered on its northern and eastern edges by college buildings, on the west by the college playing fields and a Railway line. College playing fields bordered its southern edge.

South Cambridge lies on the Middle chalk and the natural geological layer encountered in all six trenches varied from white/ yellow fine sand to seams of orange gravel and coarse sand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.55m in all of the trenches except Trench 3 (which was the located in the lowest lying part of the subject site), here the natural geology occurred at 0.80m below the present day ground surface.



TL

Figure 1 Site Location Map showing local SMR records and cropmarks in the vicinity

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3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although the subject site is south of the Roman, medieval and modern cores of the city of Cambridge, it is located in an area of intense occupation from the prehistoric period onwards (see Fig 1).

Prehistoric

Paleolithic flints were found in a gravel quarry in Hauxton Road, c2 km SW of the site. Numerous flint scatters and stray finds, including polished axes, have been found to the SSE of the site running eastwards along the chalk below Clarke's Hill, and to the north of Granham's Farm, towards Little Trees Hill, Wandlebury and onto the Gog Magog Golf Course (SMR 04882, 04880, 04893, 04971 04891, 04892, 05058, 00969, 05059, 05016, 04851, 05012, 05011, 10944, 05088, 05052, 05017).

The area on the south side of modern Cambridge is rich with archaeological finds and sites of periods from the Mesolithic onwards. Early sites in the area include a causewayed camp and bowl barrow at Little Trees Hill c3.5 km SE of the subject site (SMR 24422, SMR 05056).

Iron Age

The site lies just northwest of the site of an Iron Age settlement (SMR 04800) which was recorded during the construction of Addenbrookes hospital in the 1960's (see Fig 4 Cra'ster 1969). Further settlement sites in the vicinity include Rectory Farm (SMR 04503a) c2km to the SSW of the subject site and Hauxton Mill (SMR 04978) c 2.75km to the SW, two further probable settlement sites lie c2.5km to the WSW of the subject site (SMR 05112, 05130). The Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record identifies a number of archaeological finds in land surrounding the proposed development area. A rectilinear enclosure, recorded as a cropmark (from aerial photographs), lies to the southeast of the site, possibly of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date (SMR 09591). To the south of the site further cropmark data indicates a multi-ditched rectilinear enclosure (SMR 08339), also presumed to date to the Iron Age or Roman periods. Similarly further to the west lie enclosures and trackways (SMR 07808), and other linear features (SMR 09596, 09599).

Slightly further afield are the two Iron Age hillforts of Wandlebury (SMR 24406, SMR 04636) c2.5 km to the ESE and War Ditches (SMR 04963) c1.5km to the E, on the chalk uplands. To the SE is a recently discovered ritual site at Babraham Road, which has its origins in the Neolithic, but persists into the Iron Age (Hinman 1999).

Roman

A Roman road **241e** (Margary 1967) is reported to have run east-west approximately 50m to the south of the subject site (see Fig 4). This formed a T-junction with another Roman road which runs parallel to the modern day Hills road (Walker 1910).

To the southwest of the subject site there are extensive cropmarks across a swathe of landscape, both to the north of Hauxton and Great Shelford, and to the southwest of Trumpington. Some of these have been positively dated to the Roman period (SAMs 57, 58, 74 and 75), and others which remain undated (SMR 05044, 08966, 09601, 05031).

Medieval and Post Medieval

The expansion of Cambridge to its present southern limits is part of 20th century development and therefore subject site has been outside the settlement core during the medieval and post-medieval periods, clearly seen as farmland on the OS map of 1810 (see Fig 4). There are a number of locally important communication routes in the vicinity. Immediately to the south of the subject site is a very long linear crop mark (SMR 11165), which is likely to have a very recent origin as the SMR suggests it may be part of a water main laid down in the 1950's. For this reason it should not be viewed in the same way as the other crop marks on Figure 1, which are considered broadly contemporary and are all linked to an Iron Age or Romano-British rural landscape.

The density of remains clearly suggests that the immediate vicinity of the subject site is rich in archaeological remains.

4 METHODOLOGY

Three trenches (1, 2 and 2B) totalling 58.55m in length, were located within the area of a proposed building footprint. This gave a 9.12% sample of the affected area. Following this a further three trenches (3, 3B and 4) were located within the development area outside the building footprint, in order to answer specific archaeological questions raised by trenches 1, 2 and 2B. Trenches 3, 3B and 4 totalled 33.50m in length. Topsoil and modern overburden were removed in the trenches using a wheeled mechanical excavator with a flat bladed ditching bucket to a width of 1.80m in the case of trenches 1 and 2, and to a width of 1.50m in the case of Trench 2B, 3, 3B and 4. This was carried out under the full time supervision of an archaeologist. Trenches were located to give a representative sample of the available area.

After machining each trench was photographed. A sample of every archaeological feature was excavated by hand in order to determine date and character. The AFU's single context based recording system was used to record all the archaeological features and deposits, sections were hand drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 for features, and 1:50 in the case of entire evaluation trench sections. Plans were hand drawn at a scale of 1:50. In addition all the spoil heaps from the trenches were scanned for artefacts by eye.

In this report deposit numbers are shown in plain text and cut numbers are in **bold** text.

5 RESULTS

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 20m long 1.80m wide and 0.65m to 0.80m deep and aligned northeast-southwest (see Fig.2).

The topsoil 1 was a blackish dark brown fine sand layer 0.20m to 0.25m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, an orange-ish mid brown compacted clay/ fine sand layer with moderate amounts of rounded flint pebbles was 0.35m deep. The natural geological layer 3 varied from white/ yellow fine sand to seams of orange gravel and coarse sand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.55m in Trench 1.

Trench 1 located two ditches **101** and **103**, cutting into the natural geology these were parallel approximately 7m apart and were aligned southwest-northeast. These features were stratigraphically isolated and sealed below subsoil 4. In dimensions, alignment and fill composition they were very close. Ditch **103** has the same northwest-southeast alignment as ditch **310** in Trench 3. Please note, the section drawing of **310** is at a slightly oblique angle, which has given it a slightly elongated appearance, (see Fig. 3). Considering the two trenches are over 30m apart these features have retained striking similarities in depth and fill composition. If these two features are part of the same ditch linear, then their continual alignment across the site is of significance they could be described as a possible drove way and compared to some of the Iron Age parallel ditches recorded during the nearby Addenbrookes excavations (Cra;ster 1969) (see Fig 2). It is possible that the parallel ditch alignment first revealed in Trench 1, is a continuation of that recorded at Addenbrookes and shown to be extending towards the subject site. Further examples of nearby parallel ditch alignments are clearly visible as cropmarks (see Fig 2).

101, 2.10m wide, 0.60m deep, linear ditch in plan, steep sided and slightly convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 100, a mid brown fine sand. The fill contained occasional rounded flint pebbles. No finds recovered.

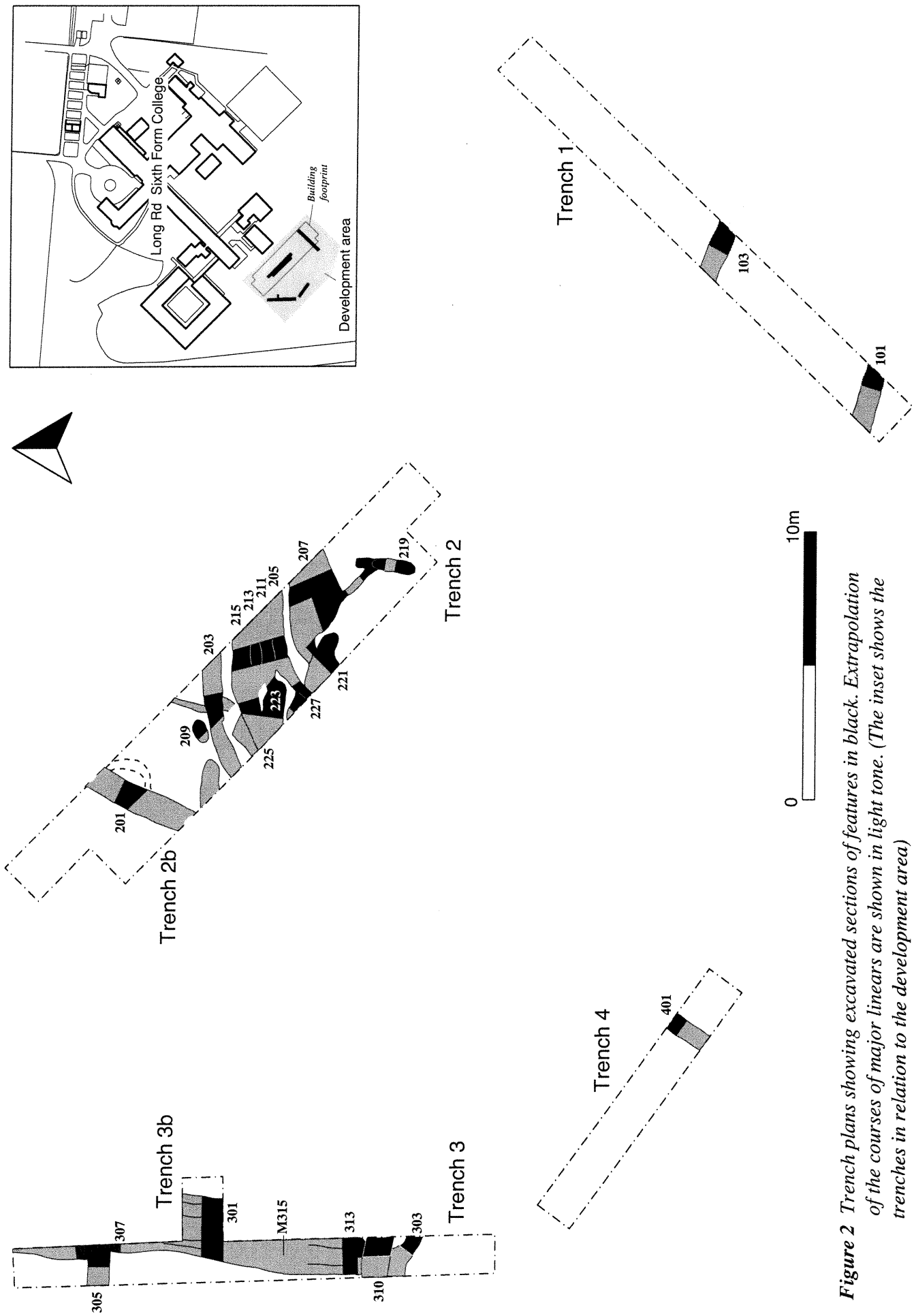


Figure 2 Trench plans showing excavated sections of features in black. Extrapolation of the courses of major linears are shown in light tone. (The inset shows the trenches in relation to the development area)

103, 1.05m wide 0.60m deep, linear ditch in plan, steep sided and slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 102, a mid brown fine sand. The fill contained occasional rounded flint pebbles and occasional lenses of redeposited natural sand. No finds recovered.

Trench 2 and 2B

Trench 2 was 21.80m long 1.80m wide and 0.60m to 0.80m deep and aligned northwest to southeast (see Fig.2). The topsoil 1 was a blackish dark brown, fine sand layer 0.25m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, an orange-ish mid brown compacted clay/ fine sand layer with moderate amounts of rounded flint pebbles was 0.25m deep. The natural geological layer 3 varied from white/ yellow fine sand to seams of orange gravel and coarse sand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.50m in Trench 2. All the features discussed below were sealed below subsoil 4.

Seven ditches and one pit were identified cutting into the natural geology with the exception of **201** which was aligned broadly north-south (although slightly northeast-southwest), these all ran parallel, aligned broadly east west (slightly northeast-southwest). Features **217, 207, 205, 211, 213, 215, 203, 209, 225, 223, 221, 219** and **227** all share almost identical fills and the dimensions of the features although having a variety of forms, share broadly similar depths all being between 0.13m – 0.30m deep. No certain stratigraphic relationships could be seen between any of these features, and for this reason they should be considered as contemporary. Their function may have been as horticultural beds, or as drainage features following the gradual southeast-northwest sloping of the subject site. Certainly features **203, 215, 213, 211** and **205** share a remarkably similar alignment and proximity. It is possible that ditch feature **207** and pits **219** and **209** may have functioned as a form of very localised drainage for the horticultural beds consisting of **203, 215, 213, 211** and **205**. The lack of any animal bone or other household rubbish associated with manuring may suggest that these drainage channels rather than having any horticultural application. Perhaps intended to make the surrounding area dry enough to be used intermittently as pastureland.

Feature **201** shares an alignment and similarity in dimensions with ditch **401** in Trench 4, the north south alignment of this ditch and its distinctive fill, different from all the other features in Trench 2, suggests it may have a different purpose to the other features in this Trench. It is also likely that it represents a different phase of activity on the site. It was stratigraphically isolated and therefore any relative phasing remains unproven.

201, 1.0m wide, 0.50m deep, linear ditch in plan, steep sided and slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 200, a mid grey medium sand. No finds recovered.

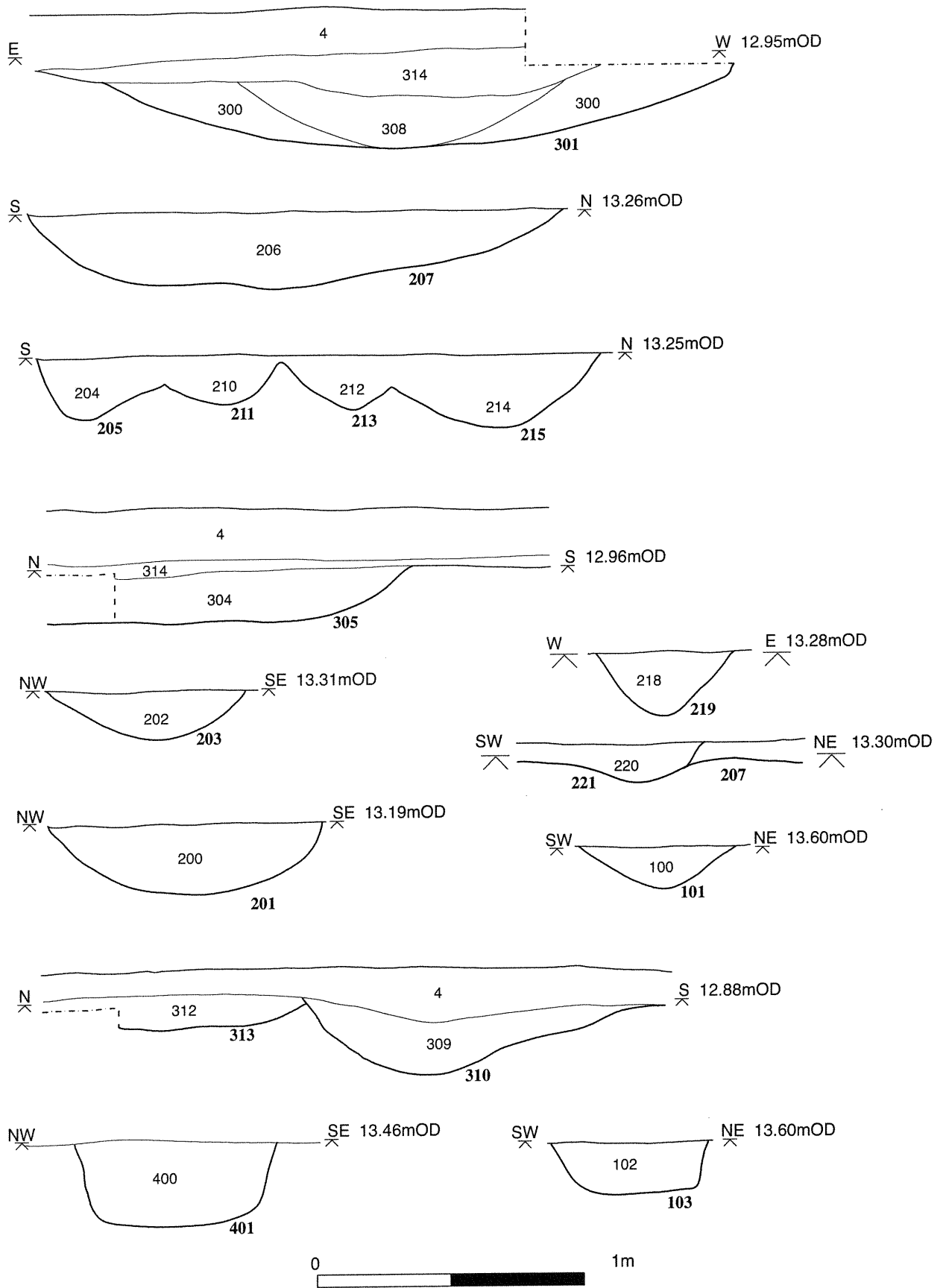


Figure 3 Sections

203, 0.72m wide, 0.18m deep, linear in plan, convex sloping sides with flat base, contained one fill:
Fill 202, a light brown fine sand, occasional rounded flint pebbles. No finds recovered.

205, 0.45m wide, 0.23m deep, linear ditch in plan, steep sided and slightly convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 204, a light brown fine sand fill, occasional rounded flint pebbles. No finds recovered. This fill was indistinguishable from fills 210, 212, 214 and 206, which occurred in adjacent ditch cuts.

207, 1.5m wide, 0.30m deep, linear ditch in plan, convex sloping sides and a flat base, contained one fill:
Fill 206, a light brown fine sand fill, occasional very large rounded cobbles. No finds recovered. This fill was indistinguishable from fills 210, 212, 214 and 204, which occurred in adjacent ditch cuts.

209, 0.80m long, 0.50m wide, 0.25m deep, sub circular pit in plan, gradual sloping sides and a slightly convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 208, a light brown fine sand fill. No finds recovered.

211, 0.45m wide, 0.19m deep, linear ditch in plan, steep convex sides with flat base, contained one fill:
Fill 210, a light brown fine sand fill, occasional very large rounded cobbles. No finds recovered. This fill was indistinguishable from fills 206, 212, 214 and 204, which occurred in adjacent ditch cuts.

213, 0.40m wide, 0.20m deep, linear ditch in plan, convex sloping sides with a slightly convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 212, a light brown fine sand fill, occasional very large rounded cobbles. No finds recovered. This fill was indistinguishable from fills 206, 210, 214 and 204, which occurred in adjacent ditch cuts.

215, 0.78m wide, 0.26m deep, linear ditch in plan, steep convex sides with a narrow convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 214, a light brown fine sand fill, occasional very large rounded cobbles. No finds recovered. This fill was indistinguishable from fills 206, 210, 212 and 204, which occurred in adjacent ditch cuts.

217, (same as 218, **219**), 1.70m long, 0.50m wide, (not excavated at this point):
Fill 216, a light yellowish mid brown, occasional fine gravel, occasional chalk flecks. No finds recovered.

Trench 2B was 16.75m 1.50m wide and 0.60 to 0.80m deep, and aligned northwest - southeast (see Fig.2). The topsoil 1 was a blackish dark brown fine sand layer 0.20m to 0.25m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, an orange-ish mid brown compacted clay/ fine sand layer with moderate amounts of rounded flint pebbles was 0.35m deep. The natural geological layer 3 varied from white/ yellow fine sand to seams of

orange gravel and coarse sand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.50m in Trench 2B.

Trench 2B was located in order to clarify the alignment of the above features. It saw the continuation of the above features, but also recorded the existence of two more pits and a ditch terminal end. All the features discussed below were sealed below subsoil 4.

219 (same as 216, **217**), 1.70m long, 0.50m wide, 0.24m deep, linear pit with rounded terminal ends in plan, steep sided becoming gradual and convex in terminal ends, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 218, a light yellowish mid brown fine sand, occasional fine gravel, occasional chalk flecks. No finds recovered.

221, 2.30m long, 0.80m wide, 0.13m deep, irregular/ oval pit in shape (only partly revealed by machining), gradual sloping sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 220, grey/ yellowish brown with some orange mottling, clay/silt, occasional fine gravel, occasional chalk flecks. No finds recovered.

223, 0.85m wide, 0.17m deep, semi-circular ditch terminal end in plan, gradual sloping sides, convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 222, yellowish mid brown with some orange mottling, sandy silt, occasional fine gravel, occasional medium gravel, occasional chalk flecks. No finds recovered.

225, 0.75m wide, 0.13m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, gradual sloping sides, convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 224, yellowish mid brown with some orange mottling, sandy silt, occasional fine gravel, occasional medium gravel, occasional chalk flecks. No finds recovered.

227, 0.60m wide, 0.20m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, gradual sloping sides slightly convex base, contained one fill:

Fill 226, yellowish mid brown silty sand, occasional fine gravel, and occasional large gravel. No finds recovered.

Trench 3 and 3B

Trench 3 was 20.00m long 1.50m wide and 0.80m to 0.95m deep, and aligned north-south (see Fig.2). The topsoil 1 was a blackish dark brown, fine sand layer 0.30m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. Subsoil 2, an orange-ish mid brown compacted clay/ fine sand layer with moderate amounts of rounded flint pebbles was 0.25m deep. Below this was subsoil 4, a light brown medium sand layer, containing frequent lenses of re-deposited natural chalk/ sand material. Below this only occurring in the lower central and northern parts of Trench 3 was layer 314 a mid grey fine sand/ silt layer likely this sealed several of the features discussed below and is likely to represent the final 'silting up' of the ditches in this area. The natural

geological layer 3 varied from white/ yellow fine sand to seams of orange gravel and coarse sand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.55m in the southern end but at 0.80m in the central and northern parts of Trench 3.

Trench 3 was located in order to clarify the alignment of the features encountered in Trenches 1 and 2, it contained three ditches and one gully. All features discussed below were sealed by subsoil 4, with the exception of ditch **M315** (master No for 301, 307, and 313), and **305** which were sealed by layer 314, which itself was sealed by subsoil 4. None of the ditch features revealed in Trench 2, were picked up in Trench 3, instead a comparatively large ditch feature **M315** ran 9.5m in a north south alignment, with a width of 2.20m defined in Trench 3B, it was clearly a major feature. Also, stratigraphically it was the earliest feature being truncated in the north by ditch **305** and in the south by ditch **310**. Its function may be understood from its topographical position and unusual north-south alignment. It may have acted as a sump for the numerous drainage ditches, which were recorded as heading in this general direction from trench 1 and 2 from the higher eastern area. Alternatively or in conjunction with this, it may have had a boundary function, marking the low lying wet part of this area from the drier more useful land to the east closer to the settlement at Addenbrookes.

Feature **305** and **310** both truncate **M315**, and they may share a contemporary date. Representing a later phase of activity when long parallel ditches were cut across the area of the subject site. In dimensions, northwest-southeast alignment and fill composition ditch **310** is very similar to ditch **103** in Trench 1, if these two features are part of the same linear ditch, then their continued alignment over the subject site is of significance. As it means this feature has maintained a similar alignment over 30m of the subject site, which it has been able to pick up with selective trenching. Please note, the section drawing of **310** is at a slightly oblique angle, which has given it a slightly elongated appearance, (see Fig. 3). Considering the two trenches are over 30m apart these features have retained striking similarities in depth and fill composition.

Ditch **305** turns at a sharp right angle as it truncates ditch **M315** running at a right angle to it. This suggests that although truncating the earlier ditch it is maintaining its line and possibly re-using this as a sump area, to which excess water from the surrounding land was drained, possibly to create conditions more suitable for cattle pasture.

301 (part of ditch M315), 2.25m wide, 0.20m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, convex sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained two fills:

Fill 308, (same as 311), mid blue fine sand. No finds recovered.

Fill 300, (same as 306,312), mid grey coarse sand, frequent small gravel. No finds recovered.

Feature **M315** was aligned north-south.

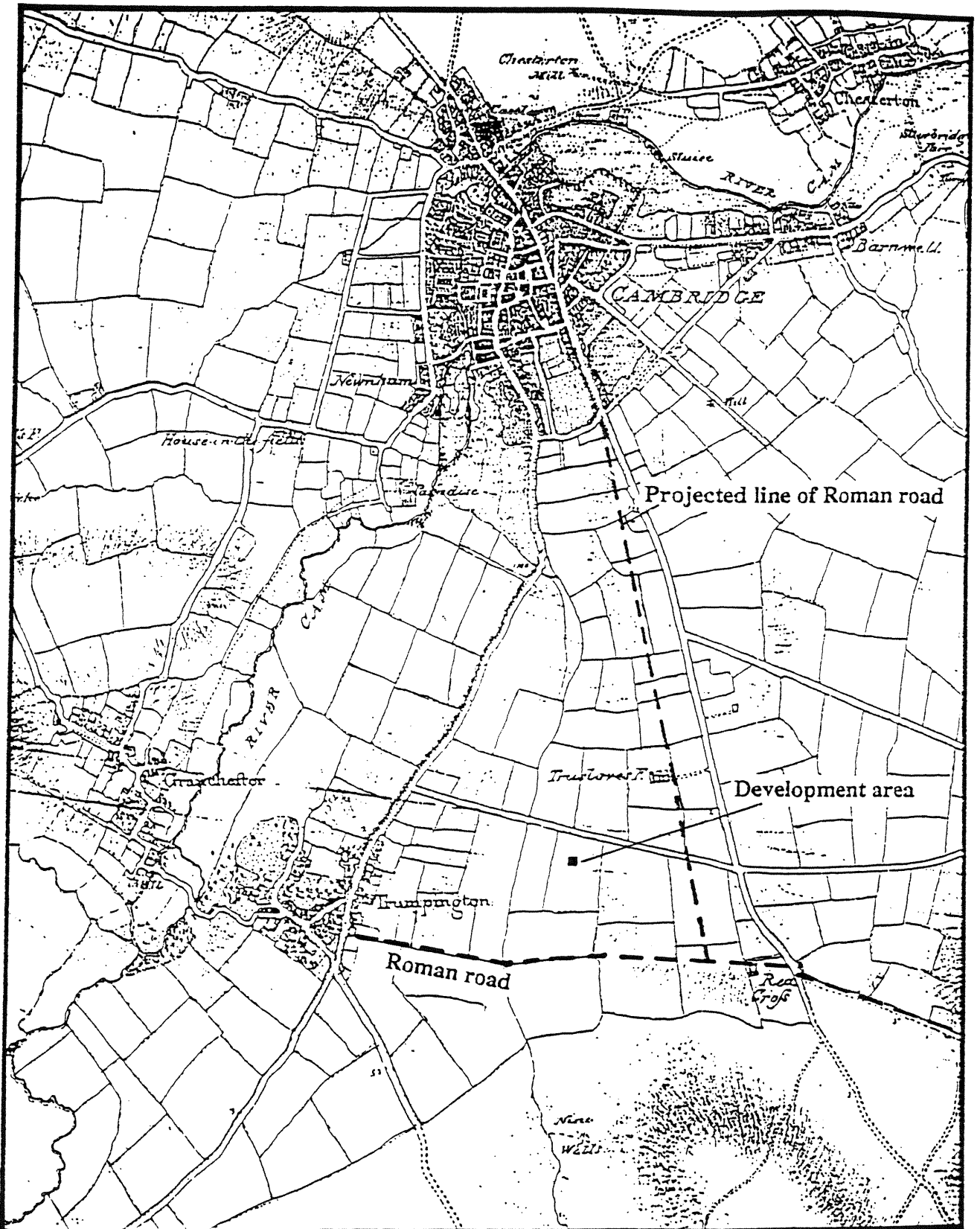


Figure 4 Draft of 1st Edition OS Map (1810) with Projected Line of Roman Road

303, 1.35m wide, 0.16m deep, linear gully shape in plan, convex sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 302, mid blue clay. No finds recovered.

303 was aligned broadly northwest-southeast. It appears to have been a natural gully rather than a drainage ditch.

305, 0.80m wide, 0.20m deep, linear ditch aligned east west turning at right-angle to north-south in plan. Convex sloping sides, slightly convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 304, grey becoming blue at base, clay/fine sand, occasional medium pebbles. No finds recovered.

307, (part of ditch M315), 0.30m wide, 0.20m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, convex sloping side, not fully excavated. No finds recovered.
Fill 306, mid grey coarse sand, frequent small gravel. No finds recovered.

Feature **M315** was aligned north-south.

310, 1.15m wide, 0.20m deep, linear ditch shape in plan, steep sloping sides, convex base, contained one fill:
Fill 309, Blue-ish light grey, coarse sand, occasional small pebbles. No finds recovered.

313, (part of ditch M315), 1.40m wide, 0.14m deep, sloping sides, flat base, contained two fills:
Fill 311, (same as 308), mid blue fine sand. No finds recovered.
Fill 312, (same as 300), mid grey coarse sand, frequent small gravel. No finds recovered. This ditch appeared to terminate where it was cut by ditch **310**.

Feature **M315** was aligned north-south.

Trench 3B was 2.50m long 1.50m wide and 0.75m deep, it was aligned east-west (see Fig.2). The topsoil 1 was a blackish dark brown, fine sand layer 0.30m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, an orange-ish mid brown compacted clay/ fine sand layer with moderate amounts of rounded flint pebbles was 0.25m deep. Below this was subsoil 4, a light brown medium sand layer, containing frequent lenses of re-deposited natural chalk/ sand material. Below this was layer 314 a mid grey fine sand/ silt layer, this sealed feature **301 (M315)** discussed below and is likely to represent the final 'silting up' of this ditch. The natural geological layer 3 varied from white/ yellow fine sand to seams of orange gravel and coarse sand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.50m in Trench 3B.

Trench 3B was located in order to clarify the full width of ditch **M315** encountered in Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was 11.00m long 1.50m wide and 0.65m to 0.90m deep, and aligned northwest – southeast (see Fig.2). The topsoil 1 was a blackish dark brown, fine sand layer 0.25m deep, this was an organic rich garden soil of recent origin. The subsoil 2, an orange-ish mid brown compacted clay/ fine sand layer with moderate amounts of rounded flint pebbles was 0.30m deep. The natural geological layer 3 varied from white/ yellow fine sand to seams of orange gravel and coarse sand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.60m in Trench 4.

Trench 4 was located in order to clarify the alignment of the features encountered in Trenches 1 and 2. It contained one ditch, which was on a northeast to southwest alignment. Ditch feature **401** was sealed below subsoil 4, it shares a north south alignment and similarities in form with ditch feature **201** in Trench 2. This feature is separated from its counterpart in Trench 2 by 22m. Given the size of the subject site and the size of Trench 4 (11m long), this means that this ditch feature maintained a predictable alignment over a considerable distance, which we were able to pick up with selective trenching.

401, 0.70m wide, 0.30m deep, linear in plan, convex sloping sides, flat base, contained one fill:

Fill 400, light brown fine sand, occasional small pebbles. No finds recovered.

6 DISCUSSION

No dating material was retrieved from any of the features in the six trenches excavated which makes giving a firm date to them impossible, although their stratigraphic position, sealed below 0.55m of topsoil, and subsoil deposits, suggests they are of considerable antiquity. It is reasonable to suggest that they were visible in the landscape for a considerable time before becoming buried beneath later soil layers, because they all had phases of construction, use, disuse, re-cuts and as they all appear to have been filled by natural silting processes, rather than by deliberate back filling

Where possible stratigraphic relationships between features were confirmed, making some phasing of the site possible, however this is a task which is limited without open area excavation. There is a great deal of information known about the immediate vicinity through excavation, the SMR, cropmarks revealed through aerial photography and field walking of the area. These sources suggest an inferred date of Iron Age or Romano-British as the most likely for the features found on the subject site, given the intensity of activities from both periods in the vicinity and the similarity of features from those periods (see above and Fig 2). The features fit well within the landscape of known linear ditches and enclosures in the surrounding landscape. (See Section 3 - Archaeological and Historical Background)

Settlement activity was not picked up despite the close proximity to the recorded settlement at Addenbrookes Hospital. However the parallel ditch alignment picked up in Trench 1 and again in Trench 3 shares an alignment with the parallel ditches shown extending from Addenbrookes towards the subject site (see Fig 2).

The relatively low lying position of the subject site may be responsible for its apparent lack of settlement evidence. The site slopes gradually from southeast-northwest, the highest point being adjacent to Trench 1, which is 14.24m above Ordnance Datum. The central part of the site adjacent to Trench 2 is 13.73m OD, and the lowest part of the site is adjacent to Trench 3, which is 13.63m OD. This appears to follow a general slope from Long Road and Addenbrookes hospital, as the benchmark on Long Road is 14.90m OD. The trend for the majority of ditch features to run in a broadly western direction (following the downward slope) suggests that these features were drainage channels, designed to drain water into this lower area, best represented by Trench 3 at the extreme northwest of the site. The fact that they become shallower the further west they were excavated suggests that the ground may have been becoming boggy and that extending the ditches further was pointless. Two ditches in particular **M315** and **201/401** run on a very distinctive north-south alignment contrary to the majority of the other features on site. These ditches may have functioned as boundary ditches between the wetter western area and the more useful eastern land closer to the settlement. If this were the case, the subject site can be placed at the very periphery of the settlement locale, in an area of low-lying wet, marginal land. This interpretation would explain the apparent lack of settlement features and artefactual evidence.

7 CONCLUSION

The natural topography of the site appears to have been fundamental to the formation of the archaeological remains encountered. Unattractive as a location for settlement due to its low lying, wet character, this area may have been used as pasture land, close to Iron Age settlement (SMR 04800) and to Romano British communication routes. Further work in the vicinity may by association confirm the likely date of these features through artefactual evidence, which was unfortunately lacking in this case.

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Appendix I Context List

Trench No	Context No	Fill of	Filled by	Context type	Master No
All	1	-	-	Topsoil layer	-
All	2	-	-	Subsoil layer	-
All	3	-	-	Natural Chalk/sand	-
3/3B	4	-	-	Subsoil	-
1	100	101	-	Ditch fill	-
1	101	-	100	Ditch cut	-
1	102	103	-	Ditch fill	-
1	103	-	102	Ditch cut	-
2	200	201	-	Ditch fill	-
2	201	-	200	Ditch cut	-
2	202	203	-	Ditch fill	-
2	203	-	202	Ditch cut	-
2	204	205	-	Ditch fill	-
2	205	-	204	Ditch cut	-
2	206	207	-	Ditch fill	-
2	207	-	206	Ditch cut	-
2	208	209	-	Ditch terminal end fill	-
2	209	-	208	Ditch terminal end cut	-
2	210	211	-	Ditch fill	-
2	211	-	210	Ditch cut	-
2	212	213	-	Ditch fill	-
2	213	-	212	Ditch cut	-
2	214	215	-	Ditch fill	-
2	215	-	214	Ditch cut	-
2	216	217	-	Linear pit fill	-
2	217	-	216	Linear pit cut	-
2B	218	219	-	Pit fill	-
2B	219	-	218	Pit cut	-
2B	220	221	-	Pit fill	-
2B	221	-	220	Pit cut	-
2B	222	223	-	Ditch terminal end fill	-
2B	223	-	222	Ditch terminal end cut	-
2B	224	225	-	Ditch fill	-
2B	225	-	224	Ditch cut	-
2B	226	227	-	Ditch fill	-
2B	227	-	226	Ditch cut	-
3	300	301	-	Ditch fill	-
3	301	-	300, 308	Ditch cut	M315
3	302	303	-	Gully fill	-
3	303	-	302	Gully cut	-
3	304	305	-	Ditch fill	-
3	305	-	304	Ditch cut	-
3	306	307	-	Ditch fill	-
3	307	-	306	Ditch cut	M315
3	308	301	-	Ditch fill	-
3	309	310	-	Ditch fill	-
3	310	-	309	Ditch cut	-
3	311	313	-	Ditch fill	-
3	312	313	-	Ditch fill	-
3	313	-	311, 312	Ditch cut	M315
3	314	-	-	Layer	-
4	400	401	-	Ditch fill	-
4	401	-	400	Ditch cut	-