

Roman, Post-medieval and Undated Features at 109 Glebe Road, Cambridge



Archaeological Evaluation Report



December 2011

Client: Hill Residential

OA East Report No: 1314

OASIS No: oxfordar3-115064

NGR: TL 4659 5600

Roman, Post-medieval and Undated Features at 109 Glebe Road, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation

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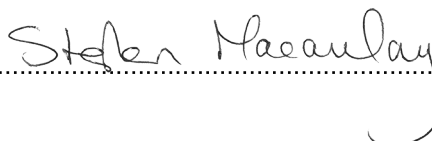
Illustrator: Stuart Ladd MA

Report Date: December 2011

Report Number: 1314
Site Name: 109 Glebe Road
HER Event No: ECB 3693
Date of Works: November 2011
Client Name: Hill Residential
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 10/0418/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 4659 5600
Site Code: CAMGLR11
Finance Code: CAMGLR11
Receiving Body: CCC Stores
Accession No: CAMGLR11

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Date: December 2011

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Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: December 2011
Signed:



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Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	7
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography.....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	7
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	8
2 Aims and Methodology.....	9
2.1 Aims.....	9
2.2 Methodology.....	9
3 Results.....	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 2).....	10
3.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Plate 1).....	10
3.4 Trench 4.....	10
3.5 Trenches 3, 5 and 6.....	10
3.6 The Finds Assemblage.....	11
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	12
4.1 Ditches 103 and 105.....	12
4.2 Ditch 115.....	12
4.3 Natural features.....	12
4.4 Significance.....	12
4.5 Recommendations.....	12
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	13
Appendix B. Bibliography	16
Appendix C. OASIS Report Form	17

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map showing instigation area (red)
Fig. 2 Trench plan, showing proposed development area, at 1:300
Fig. 3 Sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 2 from the north-east
Plate 2 Ditch **113** from the south

Summary

Between 28th November and 30th November 2011, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at 109 Glebe Road Cambridge. This evaluation was carried out in advance of the demolition of a single house to make way for the construction of a proposed residential development. Three ditches were identified, along with two tree throws. One of the ditches contained a sherd of Roman pottery and this cut an undated ditch. The other ditch contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery. These ditches probably represent field systems of different dates, potentially Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval, similar to others recorded nearby.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East, at 109 Glebe road, Cambridge (TL 4659 5600). This was conducted on behalf of Hill Residential in advance of proposed residential development.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 10/0418/FUL), 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 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). 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 proposed development area is situated on relatively flat ground to the south of Cambridge, adjacent to Glebe Road and overlies West Melbury marly grey chalk (British Geological Survey 2002). It stands at a height of approximately 11.2m OD and is currently occupied by a single large house and garage, with an extensive garden, bounded by mature hedges and trees. The ground itself was covered with long grass, a couple of upstanding tree stumps were also observed.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies in an area where widespread Iron Age and Roman remains have been discovered. Most notably, an evaluation at 90 Glebe Road, very close to the site, produced Middle Iron Age pottery from a small number of features including a pit and ditch in addition to several undated features (Connor 2000a; 2000b). An evaluation undertaken at 95 Glebe Road in 2007, whilst producing no datable artefactual material, revealed archaeological features thought to date to the Iron Age (Muldowney 2007). Extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement are also known in the vicinity of Addenbrookes hospital to the south-west (Cra'ster 1969).
- 1.3.2 To the west of Hills Road, at the Perse School, various interventions over the years have revealed the presence of a Roman road (HER 04819; Walker 1910) and other chance finds of Roman material (HER 04735; 04824) as well as post-medieval activity (HER 11902; Leith 1996).
- 1.3.3 A little further north, on the west side of Hills Road, a two phase evaluation at Homerton College produced multi-period remains, including prehistoric, Roman and medieval ditches as well as a Roman enclosure (HER 11958; Alexander 1997; Webb and Dickens 2006).
- 1.3.4 A Roman cremation (HER 04820) and undated inhumation (HER 07972) have also been found close to Hills Road.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Hill Residential who commissioned and funded the work. Additional thanks go to Louise Bush for survey, Jon House for excavation assistance and to Stuart Ladd for producing the illustrations. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay. The brief for archaeological works was written by Dan McConnell.

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.
- 2.1.2 In the event that archaeological remains are present the evaluation will seek to consider appropriate methodologies and suitable resourcing levels for excavation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that 60m of trenching were excavated.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB 3CX excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica 1200 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 overcast but dry weather.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Dimensions of each trench, together with topsoil and subsoil depths are given in Appendix A. Descriptions of excavated features are given below.

3.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 contained a single tree throw (**106**), however, the southern end of the trench was truncated by modern disturbance, which may have removed any archaeological deposits. Tree throw **106** was sub-oval in plan, with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. It continued out of the excavated area, but had a visible length of 1.40m and was 0.86m wide, with a depth of 0.20m. It was filled by 107, which was a pale yellowish-brown, silty-clay with frequent chalk gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

- 3.3.1 Two ditches (**103** and **105**) and a tree throw (**109**) were identified in Trench 2. Ditch **105** (**105/ 111**, Fig.3 S.4) was the earliest feature in this sequence as it was cut by both ditch **103** and tree throw **109**. Ditch **105** continued through the trench on an east-west alignment, with a width of 0.82m and a depth of 0.18m. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Ditch **105** was filled by a single deposit (104/ 110), comprising a pale brownish-grey, silty-clay, which contained no finds.
- 3.3.2 Ditch **103** (**103/ 113**, Fig.3 S.3; Plate 2) was perpendicular to ditch **105**, on a north-south alignment. Ditch **103** had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.78m and depth of 0.44m. It was filled by a single deposit (102/ 112), which was a mid brown, silty-clay, with rare chalk gravel inclusions. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the base of this fill, along with a single residual struck flint.
- 3.3.3 Tree throw **109** (Fig. 3 S.3) was irregular in plan, with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained a single fill (108), which comprised a dark greyish-brown, silty-clay. Two small fragments of ceramic building material and a sherd of post-medieval pottery were recovered from this fill.

3.4 Trench 4

- 3.4.1 A single ditch (**115**, Fig. 3 S.5) was recorded on a north-west to south-east alignment across Trench 4. Ditch **115** had steeply sloping sides and rounded base, with a maximum width of 0.28m and depth of 0.12m. It was filled by a single deposit (114), which was a dark brownish-grey, silty-clay, with rare chalk gravel inclusions. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from this ditch.

3.5 Trenches 3, 5 and 6

- 3.5.1 None of these trenches contained any archaeological finds or features. However, there was an area of modern disturbance towards the south-east end of Trench 3 and a two recent tree throws in Trench 5.

3.6 The Finds Assemblage

- 3.6.1 There were very few finds recovered from any of the features, or the topsoil or subsoil, on this site. However, four sherds of pottery, two fragments of ceramic building material and a single struck flint provide dating evidence of some of the features.

Pottery

- 3.6.2 A single sherd (5g) of Roman pottery was recovered from ditch **103** this comprises a sandy oxidised ware of Verulamium type, which dates to the 1st-2nd century AD (S. Wadeson pers. comm.). This single body sherd was only slightly abraded.
- 3.6.3 A sherd (5g) of post-medieval redware was found within fill 114 of Ditch **115**. This had been glazed internally with a brownish-yellow glaze, and externally with a brownish-green glaze.
- 3.6.4 A further sherd of abraded redware (3g), which was not closely datable, but is most likely of post-medieval date, came from fill 108 of tree throw **109**.

Ceramic building material

- 3.6.5 Two fragments of ceramic building material (weighing 9g in total) were recovered from fill 108 of tree throw **109**. These were both in a hard red sandy fabric and had no original surfaces surviving. They are likely to date to the post-medieval or modern periods.

Lithics

- 3.6.6 A single struck flint (2g) was found in fill 102 of Ditch **103**. This small flake was in a slightly greyish-white flint. A small amount of the cortex was present at the distal end of the flake, while two flake scars are present on the exterior surface. This single flint is residual within the ditch and is difficult to date in isolation, however, it appears to have come from a small core, more typical of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic technologies.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Ditches 103 and 105

- 4.1.1 Ditch **105** contained no dating evidence, however, it appeared to be cut by Roman ditch **103**. It is, therefore, likely that it is of pre-Roman in date, although it could still be Roman or later as the relationship was uncertain. Ditch **105** may well be related to the undated ditches uncovered at 90 and 95 Glebe road (Connor 2000a, Connor 2000b and Muldowney 2007). It has been suggested that at least some of these undated ditches are Iron Age and represent outlying field systems (Connor 2000b, 6) associated with site recorded under Addenbrookes hospital (Cra'ster 1969).
- 4.1.2 Ditch **103** probably represents a Roman boundary ditch, most likely part of a field system. A Roman road was recorded c.450m to the south-west of this site (HER 04819; Walker 1910), at the Perse School, along with other finds of Roman material (HER 04735, 04824). It is possible that ditch **103** is a part of a field system relating to a small-scale settlement in this area.

4.2 Ditch 115

- 4.2.1 The post medieval ditch **115** could represent agricultural activity from the period shortly before the early 20th century, when this area was first developed. It is of note that no artefacts (other than modern ones) were recovered from the topsoil or subsoil. It is therefore likely that little activity took place on this site between the Roman and the late post-medieval periods. This is a similar pattern to that noted at 95 Glebe Road (Muldowney 2007)

4.3 Natural features

- 4.3.1 Two tree throws were identified (**106** and **109**). Tree throw **106** did not contain any datable finds, but the fact that it was filled by a pale, leached-out, deposit suggests it may be early in date, possibly prehistoric.
- 4.3.2 Tree throw **109** was relatively recent in origin and contained later post-medieval material. This may derive from clearance of the land prior to development in the early 20th century, or relate to land management prior to this.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 This archaeological evaluation has shown that little archaeologically-visible activity took place on this site. Two ditches identified are likely to be part of Iron Age and Roman field systems, which have previously been recorded in the area.

4.5 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a single tree throw and modern feature. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					Max. depth (m)	0.50
					Width (m)	1.50
					Length (m)	9.80
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
106	Cut	0.86	0.20	Tree Throw	-	-
107	Fill	0.86	0.20	Fill of Tree Throw 106	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two ditches and a tree throw.					Max. depth (m)	0.48
					Width (m)	1.50
					Length (m)	9.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
102	Fill	>0.40	>0.26	Fill of Ditch 103	Flint	-
103	Cut	>0.40	>0.26	Ditch	-	-
104	Fill	>0.38	0.16	Fill of Ditch 105	-	-
105	Cut	>0.38	0.16	Ditch	-	-
108	Fill	0.88	0.32	Fill of Tree Throw 109	Pottery, CBM	Later Post-medieval
109	Cut	0.88	0.32	Tree throw	-	Later Post-medieval
110	Fill	0.82	0.18	Fill of Ditch 111	-	-
111	Cut	0.82	0.18	Ditch	-	-
112	Fill	0.78	0.44	Fill of ditch 113	Pottery	Roman
113	Cut	0.78	0.44	Ditch	-	Roman

Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, modern intrusion to the south-east.					Max. depth (m)		0.52
					Width (m)		1.50
					Length (m)		8.90
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-	
101	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-	

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single ditch.					Max. depth (m)	0.56
					Width (m)	1.50
					Length (m)	9.20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
114	Fill	0.28	0.12	Fill of ditch 115	Pottery	Later Post-medieval
115	Cut	0.28	0.12	Ditch	-	Later Post-medieval

Trench 5							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of Archaeology					Avg. depth (m)		0.59
					Width (m)		1.50
					Length (m)		9.80
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-	
101	Layer	-	0.29	Subsoil	-	-	

Trench 6							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of Archaeology					Max. depth (m)		0.51
					Width (m)		1.50
					Length (m)		8.20
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-	
101	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-	

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-115064		
Project Name	Roman, Post-medieval and undated features at 109 Glebe Road, Cambridge		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	28-11-2011	Finish 30-11-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMGLR11	Planning App. No.	10/0418/FUL
HER No.	ECB 3693	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Small Scale (e.g. single house)

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 checked="" 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	Roman 43 to 410	pottery	Roman 43 to 410
ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
ditch	Uncertain		Select period...

Project Location

County	cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Cambridge City	109 Glebe Road, Cambridge CB1 7TE	
Parish	Cambridge		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	2000sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 4659 5600

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

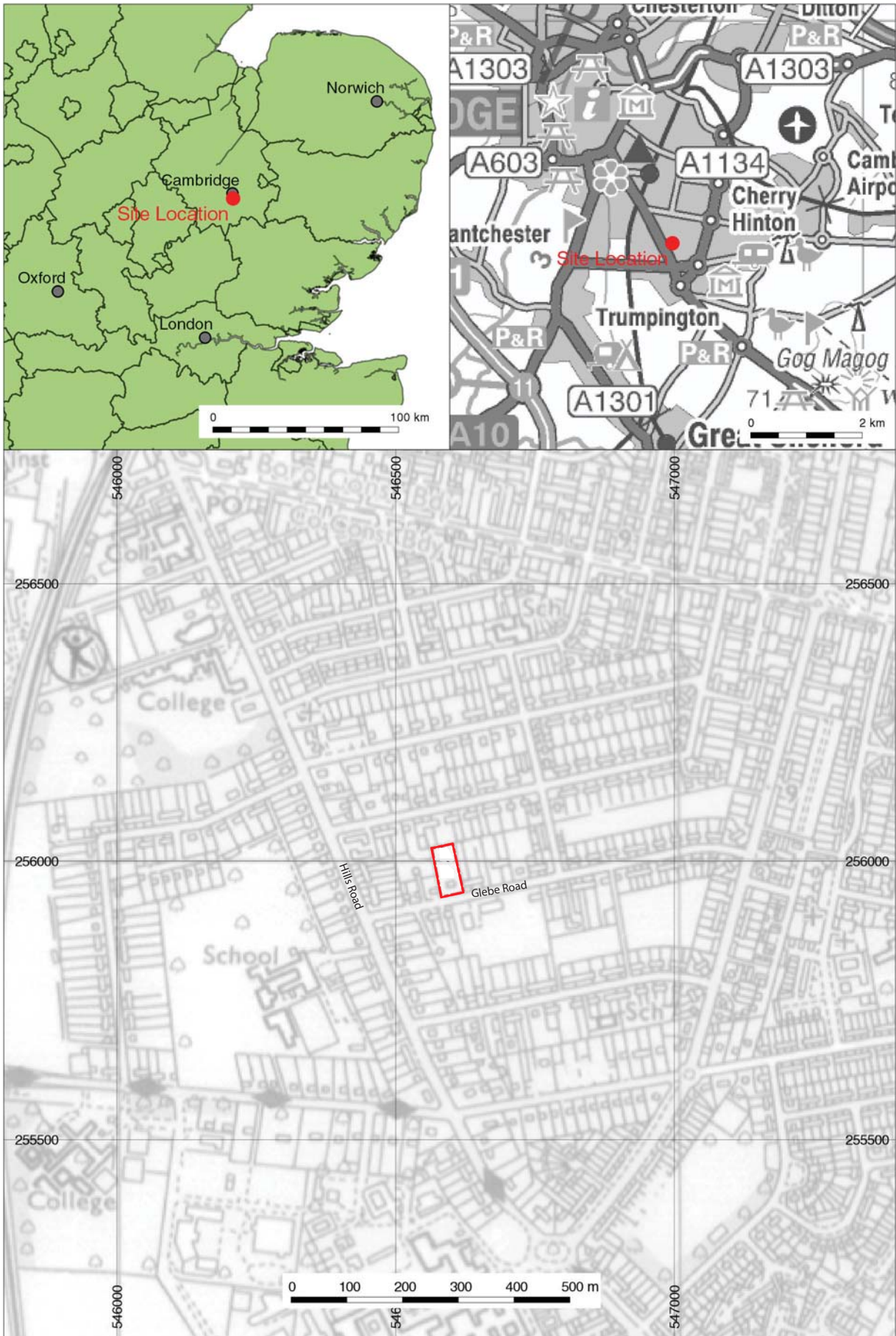
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CCC stores	OA East, Bar Hill	CCC stores
CAMGLR11	CAMGLR11	CAMGLR11

Archive Contents/Media

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Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" 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"/>
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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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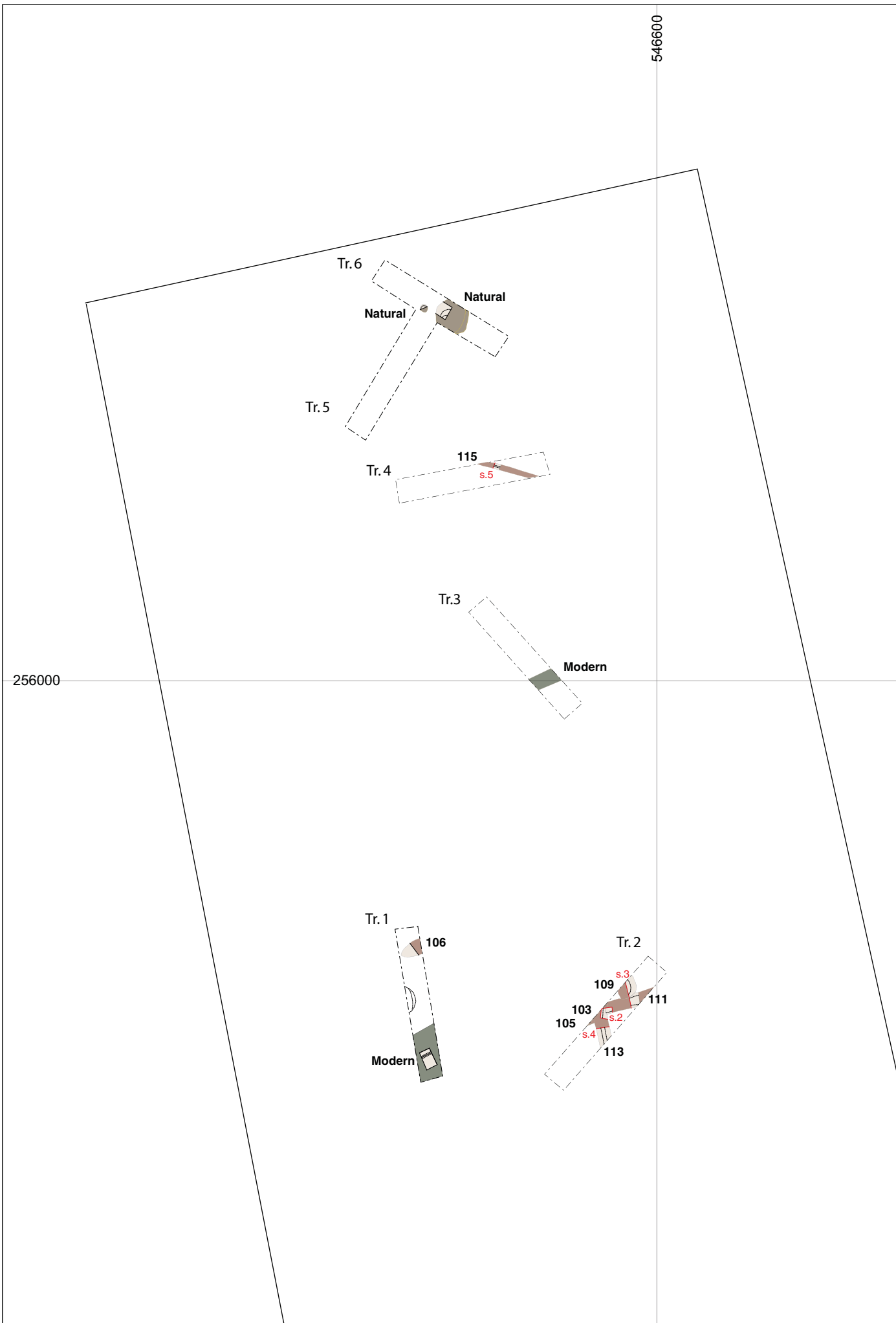
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<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
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<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
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Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing the investigation area (red)



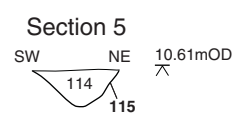
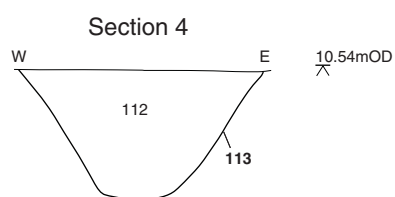
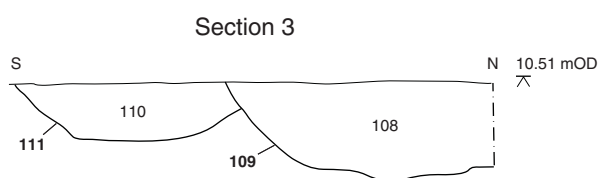
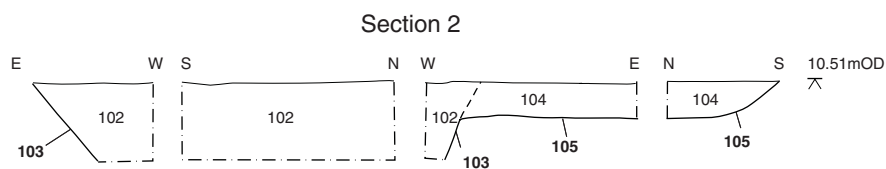


Figure 3: Sections



Plate 1: Trench 2 from the north-east



Plate 2: Ditch 113 from the south



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