

186-188 Histon Road  
Cambridge  
Cambridgeshire



**Archaeological  
Evaluation Report**



November 2016

**Client: HTS Estates Ltd.**

OA East Report No: 2015

OASIS No: oxfordar3-269311

NGR: TL 4437 6002

186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

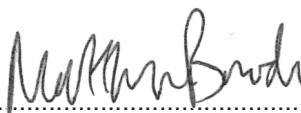
*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Report Date: November 2016*

**Report Number:** 2015  
**Site Name:** 186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire  
**HER Event No:** ECB4680  
**Date of Works:** November 2016  
**Client Name:** HTS Estates Ltd.  
**Client Ref:**  
**Planning Ref:** 15/0129/FUL  
**Grid Ref:** TL 4437 6002  
**Site Code:** CAMHIR16  
**Finance Code:** CAMHIR16  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores  
**Accession No:** ECB4680  
**Prepared by:** Stuart Ladd  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** November 2016  
**Checked by:** Matt Brudenell  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** November 2016  
**Signed:**  .....

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## **Summary**

*On 16th-17th November 2016, following demolition of 20th century houses, Oxford Archaeology East opened two trenches totalling 20m in length at 186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge (TL 4437 6002) within the footprint of the proposed development area.*

*Two small presumed post-medieval ditches were found paralleling Histon Road. Most of the rest of the evaluated area was truncated to depths exceeding 1m by large backfilled pits. These are thought to relate to the 19th century brickworks which lay some 250m to the west.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (Thomas 2016; Planning Application: 15/0129/FUL), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East (Brudenell 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 site is located immediately east of Histon Road, c. 600m north of Huntingdon Road. approximately 1.6km north west of Cambridge City centre. The underlying bedrock geology is Gault clay, overlain locally with surface deposits of River Terrace sands and gravels. The current site surface is level, resting at c. 18m AOD following the demolition of two semi-detached inter-war houses.
- 1.2.2 The site occupies an area of c. 640m<sup>2</sup>, with the development footprint being c. 420m<sup>2</sup>. The plot is rectangular, orientated east-west and running parallel with Akeman Street. To the north is the corner property of 190 and 192 Histon Road. To the west, the plot fronts Histon Road, whilst the southern boundary is formed by a private lane, 'French's Mill Access'. To the east the plot backs on to an area of hard standing, used for parking and servicing adjacent commercial units to the south.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential as recorded by information held by the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It is located in northern hinterland of the Roman town of Cambridge, approximately 300m to the west of the route of the Roman road Akeman Street. Finds and evidence for associated Iron Age and Roman settlement have been identified to the west, north west and north east (e.g. CHER no. MCB17974; 11970; 08712; 05191-2; 17974; 17820; 17709). To the south and west Prehistoric finds have been recovered, including a Neolithic chert axe (CHER 04513). The closest recent archaeological work to the west uncovered post-medieval pits (CHER ECB3749 / MCB20070) and a flint flake and sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery (CHER ECB4466 / MCB20433).
- 1.3.2 The Ordnance Survey maps of 1888-1927 show the site located in the south west corner of a field on the fringes of Cambridge, adjacent to a Boundary Post. The site was developed in the 1930s as part of a wider scheme of urban expansion, which included the lay out of and housing in fill of plots along Akeman Street, Windsor Road, and Gilbert Road.



## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The work was undertaken for HTS Estates Ltd. Gemma Stewart monitored the site on behalf of Andy Thomas from CCC. Anlian Demolition provided the plant for the work. Stuart Ladd supervised and recorded the trenching, Dave Brown surveyed the site and Matt Brudenell managed the project.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that two 10m trenches be excavated within the development area (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 14 tonne tracked 360 type excavator using a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 RTK GPS.
- 2.2.4 The site surface comprised garden soil subject to recent disturbance during demolition of houses on the site. This layer produced only modern finds, which were discarded.
- 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 Conditions were cold and overcast during the works, rain only following the completion of the work prior to monitoring.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Results are listed in trench order (Figure 2) and by relative date of feature, beginning with the earliest.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 lay at 45 degrees to Histon Road. It was 10.5m in length and 1.8m wide. The surface comprised garden soil of dark grey loam, mixed with recent demolition debris. This layer, 0.4-0.5m thick, was removed by machine. No subsoil survived.

3.2.2 In its northeastern half, two small gullies paralleling Histon Road survived (Section 1, Figure 2; Plate 1) and these were excavated by hand. Gully 1 was 0.3m wide and a depth of 0.13m survived below the level of modern demolition. Gully 3 was 0.25m wide and 0.05m deep. Both had curved concave bases and moderately steep sides. Gully 1 produced a small fragment of coal but their fills were otherwise sterile, comprising a brown clayey silt, only slightly darker than the natural geology itself.

3.2.3 Much of the rest of the trench, to the north, west and southwest was truncated by large pits, backfilled with very light greenish-grey clay and white chalk-marl. A test pit at the southwestern end of the trench was dug by hand to a depth of 0.7m. This reached a change in material from clay to mixed sandy chalk-marl but produced no finds and no certain natural deposits. The pits are thought to be 19th to early 20th century quarry pits.

#### 3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 ran perpendicular to Histon Road. It was 9m long and 1.8m wide. The surface was the same garden soil/demolition deposit as Trench 1 (and most of the site), 0.3-0.4m thick. This was removed by machine. No subsoil was present.

3.3.2 Below the modern soil the entire trench area comprised deposits of the same back-filled material as the modern quarry pits in Trench 1. A sondage was excavated by machine at its eastern end to a further 1m, revealing a tip pattern of clay and chalk-marl with a silty soil layer between them. No natural material was encountered.

3.3.3 A modern drain cut across the centre of the trench.

#### 3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 Only modern finds were encountered and primarily within the garden soil/demolition layer. None were retained.

#### 3.5 Environmental Summary

3.5.1 No samples were taken.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Post-medieval to Modern

- 4.1.1 The two gullies surviving in Trench 1 are probably post-medieval, paralleling Histon Road. The extensive quarry truncation is probably associated with the late 19th century brick works that stood 250m to the west, back-filled possibly with discarded clay.

### 4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The features uncovered do not represent significant archaeological remains.

### 4.3 Recommendations

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

## APPENDIX A. MAPS CONSULTED

Date	Title	Description
1888	Cambridgeshire XL.14 (includes: Cambridge)	Surveyed: 1885 Published: 1888 <a href="http://maps.nls.uk/view/114486898">http://maps.nls.uk/view/114486898</a>
1903	Cambridgeshire XL.14 (includes: Cambridge)	Revised: 1901 Published: 1903 <a href="http://maps.nls.uk/view/114486901">http://maps.nls.uk/view/114486901</a>

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brudenell, M. 2016 186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire WSI, Project Number 19095

Greef, A. 2015 Evaluation at No. 149 Histon Road, Cambridge, OA East Report 1784

Thomas, A. 2016 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation 186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge Planning Application 15/0120/FUL

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-269311		
Project Name	186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	16-11-2016	Finish	17-11-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMHIR16	Planning App. No.	15/0129/FUL
HER No.	ECB4680	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Housing Estate

### 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
Ditches	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
Quarrying	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Cambridge City	186-188 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Parish	Cambridge City	
HER	Cambridgeshire	
Study Area	640 sp.m	National Grid Reference
		TL 4437 6002

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas, CCC HET
Project Design Originator	Matt Brudenell (OA East)
Project Manager	Matt Brudenell (OA East)
Supervisor	Stuart Ladd (OA East)

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
None	OA East	CCC Stores
CAMHIR16	CAMHIR16	ECB4560

## Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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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
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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



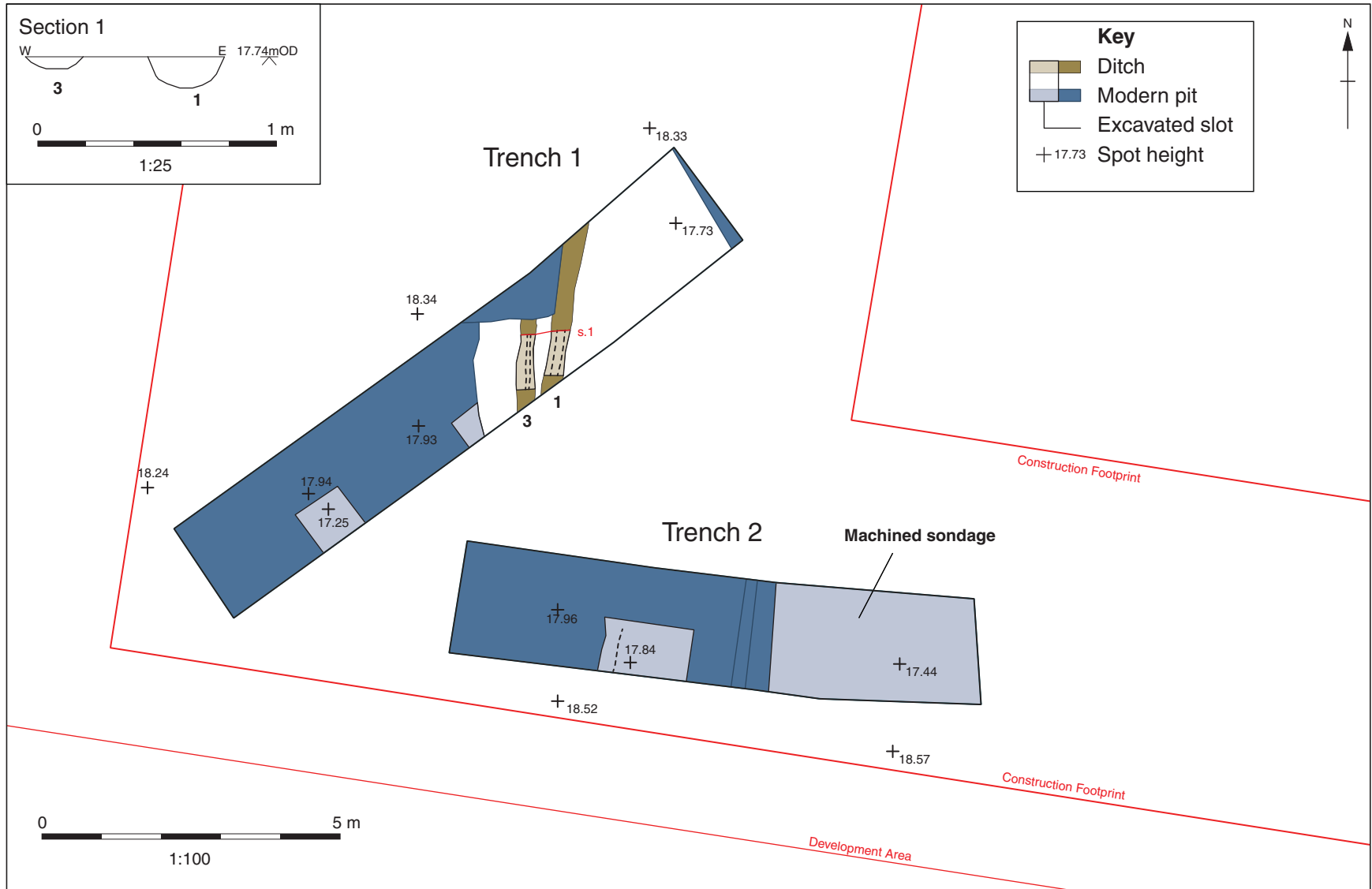


Figure 2: Trenches 1 and 2



Plate 1: Gullies 1 and 3. View south.



Plate 2: Trench 1. View southwest.



Plate 3: Trench 2. View west.



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