The Scout Hut
Perse Upper School
Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation Report

December 2011

Client: The Perse School

OA East Report No: 1317
OASIS No: oxfordar3-115349
NGR: TL 4627 5603
Report Title

Archaeological Evaluation at the Scout Hut, Perse Upper School, Cambridge.

By James Fairbairn

Editor: Stephen Macaulay BA MPhil MIfA

Illustrator: Stuart Ladd MA

Report Date: December 2011
Report Number: 1317
Site Name: The Scout Hut, Perse Upper School, Cambridge
HER Event No: ECB 3699
Date of Works: December 2011
Client Name: The Perse School
Client Ref: Pleasance, Hookham and Nix
Planning Ref: 110532FUL
Grid Ref: NGR TL 4627 5603
Site Code: CAMPUS11
Finance Code: CAMPUS11
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No:
Prepared by: James Fairbairn
Position: Supervisor
Date: December 2011

Checked by: Stephen Macaulay
Position: Acting Regional Manager
Date: December 2011
Signed: 

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Summary

On the 5th of December 2011 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation on land in front of the Scout hut at the Perse Upper School, Cambridge (TL 4627 5603). This evaluation was carried in the advance of the building of a new Outdoor Pursuit Centre. Two seven metre trenches were opened but no archaeological features were identified in either.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at The Scout Hut, The Perse School, Cambridge. NGR TL 4627 5603

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 110532FUL), 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 evaluation area is situated on relatively flat ground to the south of Cambridge adjacent to Launds road and Hills road and overlies West Melbury marly grey chalk (British Geological survey 2002). It stands at a height of approximately 15.20m and is currently occupied by a wooden building used by the local scout group. It is bounded to the west and north by a mature conifer hedge and to the east by an asphalt path leading to the Perse school buildings. The ground itself was covered in short grass.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site lies in an area where there have been widespread Iron Age and Roman remains discovered. Off Hills Road, and at the Perse School itself, various interventions over the years revealed the presence of a Roman road (CHER 04819 - Walker 1910, MCB5834), and other chance finds of Roman material (HER 04735, 04824) as well as post-medieval activity (HER 11902 – Leith 1996).

1.3.2 Immediately to the east of the school off, Glebe Road, produced Middle Iron Age pottery from a small number of features including a pit and ditch as well as several undated features (Connor, A 2000: Iron Age Pits and Post-medieval Ditches: Archaeological Evaluation at 90 Glebe Road, Cambridge CCC AFU Report No. A158), whilst an evaluation at 95 Glebe Road in 2007, although producing no datable artefactual material, revealed archaeological features thought to date to the Iron Age (Muldowney, M. 2007: Undated Remains to the Rear of 95 Glebe Road, Cambridge CAMARC Report no. 966).

1.3.3 A little further north up Hills Road, also on the west side 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.

1.3.5 In recent years large archaeological investigations during the re-development of Addenbrookes Hospital and the southern Cambridge fringe (Clay Farm, Trumpington Meadows, Trumpington Park & Ride and Guided Bus Scheme), have identified the remains of extensive prehistoric and Roman settlements and field systems in the area.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Pleasance, Hookham and Nix and the Perse Upper School who commissioned and funded the work. Additional thanks go to Nick Gilmour for excavation assistance, to Stuart Ladd for producing the illustrations. Thanks also to Adrian Roberts of the Perse Upper School Archaeology Club for his enthusiastic interest. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and the brief for the archaeological works was written by Dan McConnell.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims
2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological 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 At least 10m of linear trenching were to be excavated to provide a sample of the development area, ultimately 14m of linear trenching were opened.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 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.

2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 Weather conditions were good, being cold and dry.
3 Results

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 Trenches are listed in numbered order. Both were positioned directly in front of the existing scout hut on a nww-sse orientation and were excavated by machine to the upper geological horizon.

3.2 Trench 1
3.2.1 Trench one was orientated nww-sse directly in front of the present Scout hut at its eastern end. It measured 7.0m x 2.10m and was excavated to a depth of 0.63m. No archaeological features were found. A layer of mid orangey brown silty loam (101) with occasional gravel and small stones was overlain by a dark brownish grey silty loam (100) which contained occasional pieces of flint. Small pieces of CBM of a post medieval and modern date was present in both layers.

3.3 Trench 2
3.3.1 Trench two was orientated nww-sse directly in front of the present Scout hut at its western end. It measured 7.0m x 2.10m and was excavated to a depth of 0.65m. No archaeological features were found. A layer of mid orangey brown silty loam (201) with occasional gravel and small stones was overlain by a dark brownish grey silty loam (200) which contained occasional pieces of flint. Small pieces of CBM of a post medieval and modern date was present in both layers. Both trenches were capped by a layer of turf.

3.4 Finds Summary
Small amounts of Tile Ceramic Building Material (CBM) consisting mainly of brick and tile was found in the subsoil and topsoil layers of both evaluation trenches. All CBM was of a post-medieval or modern date. All finds were thought to be of an intrusive nature.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Trenches 1 & 2
4.1.1 Neither trenches produced any evidence of archaeology. Small amounts of CBM were found in both trenches in subsoil and topsoil layers.

4.2 Significance
4.2.1 Although nothing of archaeological interest was found during the evaluation at the scout hut it may add a little to the knowledge of the extent and limits of archaeology in the area.

Recommendations
4.2.2 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

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APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY


British Geological Survey 2002: Solid and Drift Geology Sheet 205 1:50,000 series


Muldowney, M. 2007: Undated Remains to the Rear of 95 Glebe Road, Cambridge. CAMARC Report no. 966


APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

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- Annotated Sketch
- Augering
- Dendrochronological Survey
- Documentary Search
- Environmental Sampling
- Fieldwalking
- Geophysical Survey
- Grab-Sampling
- Gravity-Core
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Survey
- Metal Detectors
- Photographic Survey
- Photogrammetric Survey
- Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- Sample Trenches
- Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- Targeted Trenches
- Test Pits
- Topographic Survey
- Vibro-core
- Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

**Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods**

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- ☐ Text
- ☐ Virtual Reality

### Paper Media

- ☐ Aerial Photos
- ☐ Context Sheet
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- ☐ Diary
- ☐ Drawing
- ☐ Manuscript
- ☐ Map
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- ☐ Plans
- ☐ Report
- ☐ Sections
- ☐ Survey

### Notes:

[Blank space for notes]
Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Trenches 1, 2 and sections
Plate 1: Trench 1 from the south
Plate 2: Trench 2 from the south