The New Pavilion Site, Girton College, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client: Girton College
OA East Report No: 1060
OASIS No: oxfordar3-48071
NGR: TL 4236 6122
The New Pavilion Site, Girton College, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation

By Taleyna Fletcher, BA, AIFA

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Illustrator: Severine Bezie, MA

Report Date: September 2008
Report Number: 1060
Site Name: The New Pavilion Site, Girton College
HER Event No: ECB 3022
Date of Works: September 2008
Client Name: Girton College
Client Ref: none
Planning Ref: S/1019/06/F
Grid Ref: TL 4236 6122
Site Code: GIR LAG 08
Finance Code: GIR LAG 08
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No:
Prepared by: Taleyna Fletcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: 20-10-08
Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date: 20-10-08
Signed:

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Table of Contents

Summary...............................................................................................................................................5

1 Introduction.........................................................................................................................................6
   1.1 Location and scope of work........................................................................................................6
   1.2 Geology and topography.............................................................................................................6
   1.3 Archaeological and historical background................................................................................6
   1.4 Acknowledgements....................................................................................................................7

2 Aims and Methodology.......................................................................................................................8
   2.1 Aims..............................................................................................................................................8
   2.2 Methodology...............................................................................................................................8

3 Results................................................................................................................................................9
   3.1 Trench 1.......................................................................................................................................9
   3.2 Trench 2.......................................................................................................................................9
   3.3 Trench 3.......................................................................................................................................9
   3.4 Trench 4.......................................................................................................................................9
   3.5 Trench 5.......................................................................................................................................9
   3.6 Finds Summary............................................................................................................................10
   3.7 Environmental Summary...........................................................................................................10

4 Discussion and Conclusions..............................................................................................................11
   4.1 Discussion...................................................................................................................................11
   4.2 Recommendations.......................................................................................................................11

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.................................................................12
Appendix B. Bibliography ..................................................................................................................15
Appendix C. OASIS Report Form .......................................................................................................16
List of Figures
Fig. 1  Site location map
Fig. 2  Plan showing Trenches 2 and 3 and Sections 1-6

List of Plates
Plate 1  Trench 1
Plate 2  Trench 2
Plate 3  Trench 3
Plate 4  Trench 4
Plate 5  Trench 5
Summary

OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Girton College, Cambridge in early September 2008. The investigation consisted of 5 trenches, 45m in total length, within the proposed redevelopment area of a new sports pavilion adjacent to the Girton College playing fields with an associated access road.

Archaeology was recorded within Trench 3 only which consisted of a small pit which, despite 100% excavation, remains undated.
1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Girton College playing fields (TL 4236 6122)

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Gore of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application S/1019/06/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

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 and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, 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 on an area of Gault Clay, overlain by head gravels (Institute of Geological Sciences 1978) at a height of approximately 23mOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

A number of archaeological interventions have taken place close to the site over the years. A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record is summarised in the points below:

1.3.1 In 1881 an Anglo-Saxon and Roman cemetery was uncovered during the construction of tennis courts 250m to the south of the Sports Ground (ECB862).

1.3.2 To the north of the Sports ground an Iron Age and Roman settlement was identified from cropmarks in 1975 (ECB980) and further elucidated from air photographs in 1996 (ECB979). However assessment revealed little archaeological evidence (ECB982).

1.3.3 To the east of the Sports ground, archaeological evaluation at Wellbrook Way produced no archaeological remains (ECB268) – though another evaluation on the same road did produce evidence of a medieval field system with residual finds from earlier periods (ECB267).

1.3.4 An evaluation at Girton College, close to the Chapel and library produced one undated pit (ECB888).

1.3.5 Evaluation at 2 Girton Road revealed only post-medieval and later features (ECB2058) whilst an evaluation at Howes Close in 1991 produced no archaeological evidence (ECB 152).

Stray finds have also been made in the vicinity:

1.3.6 Palaeolithic flints were found at The Travellers rest gravel pit – HER05299.
1.3.7 Prehistoric stone objects were recorded in 1878 – HER 05301 and a neolithic axe was found off the Huntingdon Road - HER 05169.

1.3.8 Iron Age pottery and animal bone and a Saxon spindle whorl and comb was found during the construction of a garden pond in Girton - HER 08980/A.

1.3.9 Roman coins and other finds have also been recorded – HER 05178/ 05185.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank John Gant of Pleasance, Hookham and Nix who commissioned the work and to Girton College who funded it. Thanks are due to Eliza Gore of CAPCA who monitored the evaluation. Acknowledgements also go to the College grounds staff and to Vic of Lattenbury’s who excavated and backfilled the trenches. The site was excavated and surveyed by the author and managed by James Dumond-Murray.
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 location of the trenches was agreed with CAPCA prior to work commencing, with the approval of a trench design.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 13 ton rubber-tracked 360 excavator using a 1.80m wide 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.

2.2.5 The site survey was carried out by the author using a Leica GPS which is located on the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were also recorded on the top and bottom of each trench with the GPS.

2.2.6 Drawn plans were incorporated with the survey data to accurately plot the position of the trenches.

2.2.7 Colour, monochrome and supplementary digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.8 Weather conditions were good, with constant sunshine and no rain.

2.2.9 Although service plans were consulted and the area was scanned using a CAT scanner, a disused water pipe running from the nearby water tower to the old laundry site was encountered in Trench 2.
3 RESULTS

The results will be presented below, trench by trench. Cut numbers will be displayed in **bold** text, all other context in normal text. Appendix B provides descriptions of topsoil and subsoil depths. The location of all trenches can be seen in Figure 1.

3.1 Trench 1
3.1.1 Trench 1 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented north to south.
3.1.2 This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.95m where natural gravels and silt were encountered (Figure 2, section 1).
3.1.3 No archaeological features were present within this trench.

3.2 Trench 2
3.2.1 Trench 2 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented east to west.
3.2.2 This trench formed a “T”-shape in plan with Trench 3.
3.2.3 This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.0m where natural gravels and silt were encountered (Figure 2, section 2).
3.2.4 No archaeological features were present within this trench.

3.3 Trench 3
3.3.1 Trench 3 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented north to south.
3.3.2 This trench formed a “T”-shape in plan with Trench 2.
3.3.3 This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.95m where natural gravels and silt were encountered (Figure 2, section 3).
3.3.4 A single small pit was recorded within this trench (**304**). This pit was circular in plan with rounded edges and a concave base (Figure 2, section 6). The fill of this pit was a light brown silt with moderate rounded stone inclusions. Despite 100% excavation, no finds were retrieved. A 10 litre soil sample was taken from the deposit of this pit (303) which did not contain any artefacts or ecofacts.
3.3.5 Pit **304** was the only feature recorded within this trench.

3.4 Trench 4
3.4.1 Trench 4 measured 10m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented north to south.
3.4.2 The depth of this trench varied from 0.68m at the northern end to 1.0m at the southern end.
3.4.3 Two layers (401 and 402) were encountered at the southern end of the trench (see Appendix B for descriptions), which were associated with the construction of Grange Cottage approximately 10m to the west (Figure 2, section 4).
3.4.4 No archaeological features were present within this trench.

3.5 Trench 5
3.5.1 Trench 5 measured 5m in length, 1.8m wide and was oriented east to west.
3.5.2 This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.80m where natural gravels and silt were encountered.

3.5.3 One modern layer (501) was encountered at the eastern end of the trench (see Appendix B for descriptions), which was probably associated with the construction of Grange Cottage (Figure 2, section 5).

3.5.4 A modern feature cut from just below the topsoil was noted (505), which contained modern glass and plastic.

3.6 **Finds Summary**

3.6.1 No artefacts were recovered during this investigation.

3.7 **Environmental Summary**

3.7.1 The only sample taken for analysis was from a pit in Trench 3. No artefacts or ecofacts were present.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion
4.1.1 Investigations at Girton College playing field have provided a small amount of evidence of surviving archaeological features within the development area, represented by a single undated pit in Trench 3.

4.1.2 This investigation confirms that there is no continuation of the Saxon and Roman cemetery (ECB862) discovered in 1881 within this area of the college.

4.2 Recommendations
4.2.1 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

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<th>Avg. depth (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Height(mOD) top of trench</th>
<th>Height(mOD) base of trench</th>
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APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

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Project Reference Codes

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Type of Project/Techniques Used

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Please select all techniques used:

- [ ] Aerial Photography - interpretation
- [ ] Aerial Photography - new
- [ ] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] 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

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”.

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Project Location

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### Project Originators

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<th>Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Eliza Gore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>James Drummond-Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>James Drummond-Murray</td>
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<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Taleyna Fletcher</td>
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### Project Archives

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<th>Paper Archive</th>
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### Archive Contents/Media

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### Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

### Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey

### Notes:
Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation
Evaluation Trench
Deposit - Conjectured
Natural Features
Sondages/Machine Strip
Test Pit
Intrusion/Truncation
Undercut
Illustrated Section
Archaeological Feature
Excavated Slot
Cut Number

Sections

Limit of Excavation
Cut
Cut-Conjectured
Deposit Horizon
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured
Intrusion/Truncation
Top Surface/Top of Natural
Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing
Cut Number
Ordnance Datum
Stone

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Figure 1: Location of trenches (red)
Figure 2: Trench plan and section drawings
Plate 5: Trench 5
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