Evaluation of Land to the rear of 17-19 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA East Report No: 1991
OASIS No: oxfordar3-264040
NGR: TL4277 6073

Client: DPA Architects on behalf of Dean and Dean Construction Ltd.

October 2016
Evaluation of Land to the rear of 17-19 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

By Anthony Haskins MSc BSc ACIfA AIOSH

Editor: Richard Mortimer MCIfA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie

Report Date: October 2016
Report Number: 1991
Site Name: 17 Bandon Road, Girton
HER Event No: ECB 4802
Date of Works: September 2016
Client Name: DPA Architects on behalf of Dean and Dean Construction Ltd.
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: S/0849/16/FUL
Grid Ref: TL4277 6073
Site Code: CAMBRG16
Finance Code: CAMBRG16
Receiving Body: CCC Stores
Accession No:
Prepared by: Anthony Haskins
Position: Fieldwork Project Officer
Date: 7/10/2016
Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 10/10/2016
Signed:

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East excavated three trenches on land to the rear of numbers 17 – 19 Bandon Road, Girton Cambridgeshire (TL 4277 6073) over two days in September 2016. A small number of modern features were revealed including a ditch and a modern glass and plastic bottle dump.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the rear of numbers 17-19 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridgeshire (TL4277 6073).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/0849/16/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Mortimer 2016).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development 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 within an area of housing on the outskirts of Girton and Cambridge close to Huntingdon Road. The site lies at c.25m OD and is on a bedrock of gault formation with overlying superficial deposits of silt, sand, clay and gravels (BGS).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential as recorded by information held by the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It is located in the hinterland of the Roman town of Cambridge and adjacent to one of the town's principal access roads. The surrounding landscape contains extensive evidence for prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval activity.

1.3.2 Prehistoric activity includes the identification of substantial Bronze Age enclosures and monuments during excavations in advance of the University of Cambridge North West development to the south. Iron Age activity is also evident from excavations undertaken in advance of the proposed development of Darwin Green to the east, and cropmarks to the north-east.

1.3.3 Roman activity is suggested by the proximity of the road linking the Roman town at Cambridge with Godmanchester (the current version, Huntingdon Rd, being just 35m to the south of the site) and the extensive areas of settlement identified by the excavations of the University site to the south side of Huntingdon Road. Further evidence of Roman activity is evident from Darwin Green and includes a cemetery and a feature interpreted as a shrine or temple. Burials of Roman date are also recorded at Girton College to the west.

1.3.4 An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery is recorded at Girton College to the West. The excavations at the University North West development identified an area of Medieval settlement to the south east. This probably relates to a small area of settlement known as Howes Close, which was abandoned in the late medieval period.
1.3.5 The Ordnance Survey maps from 1885 show the site lying within fields until residential development in the post-war years.

1.4 Acknowledgements
1.4.1 The author would like to thank Nicole Close of DPA Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of Dean and Dean Construction Ltd. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team monitored the works. The site work was carried out by Anthony Haskins and site survey by Dave Brown.
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 a 5% sample of the site was excavated through linear trenching. Three trenches 1.8m wide and measuring 35m, 25m and a 17m in length were excavated across the site.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GS08.

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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 No environmental sampling was carried out as all excavated features were modern. Bucket sampling as specified in the brief was carried out on site on the deposits within the area but these proved largely sterile with only obviously modern material recovered.

2.2.7 The site was a derelict area around the back of Bandon Lane. It was largely covered with dense scrub. The site was excavated in good light.
3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All three trenches were similar in formation, with a reduced topsoil generally c. 0.20m deep overlying a natural of reddish-brown to reddish-yellow sandy clay. No finds other than the very modern were recovered from any of the trenches and a description of the trenches is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 Modern Features

Trench 3

3.2.1 A single unexcavated feature was revealed in this trench. The feature was circular in plan and contained a number of glass and plastic jars and bottles.

Trench 2

3.2.2 The trench contained a modern service run made from salt glaze pipe, a water pipe and two field drains. One of the two field drains (4) was truncated by ditch (2). Ditch 2 was a linear feature, which had steep sides and a V-shaped profile was 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep. The ditch was filled with a reddish-brown sandy clay.

3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 The only artefactual remains (bricks and bottles) were obviously modern and have not been retained.

3.4 Environmental Summary

3.4.1 No environmental samples were taken.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Modern Features
4.1.1 The only identified features were in trenches 2 and 3. These comprised a small modern bottle dump, which contained glass and plastic bottles, a modern ditch and two land drains.

4.2 Significance
4.2.1 No significant archaeological features or finds were recovered from the excavation.

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: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

## Trench 1

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<th>General description</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
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APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Mortimer, R. 2016 Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Evaluation, 17 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire Unpublished

Thomas, A. 2016 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, 17 Brandon Road, Girton Unpublished
APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM
All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

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- [ ] 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
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [x] 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 Originators**

- **Organisation**: OA EAST
- **Project Brief Originator**: Andy Thomas
- **Project Design Originator**: Richard Mortimer
- **Project Manager**: Richard Mortimer
- **Supervisor**: Anthony Haskins

**Project Archives**

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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
Figure 2: Trench plan and section drawing
Plate 1: Trench 1, looking South

Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-west
Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north

Plate 4: South-east facing section of Field Drain 4 and Ditch 2 in Trench 2
Plate 5: Modern bottle dump in Trench 3
Head Office/Registered Office/OA South

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