

Archaeological Monitoring
of Construction Works
at
Homerton College, Cambridge

Lee A. White MA

©University of Cambridge
Cambridge Archaeological Unit
August 1997

Report No. 224

**Archaeological Monitoring
of Construction Works at
Homerton College, Cambridge.**

This report details the archaeological monitoring carried out at Homerton College, Cambridge between July 28-29 1997 by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit on behalf of AMEC Construction Ltd. in advance of the construction of a student residence (Phase IIB). The work was conducted by the author.

An Archaeological Brief was issued by the County Archaeology Office (CAO) to fulfil the planning condition imposed on the development. The site lies within the grounds of Homerton College just to the west of Hills Road, centred at TL 4815 5420 (Figure 1). Previous archaeological work on the College grounds at TL 460562 (Alexander 1997), and the abundant prehistoric activity in the vicinity (Cra'aster 1969; Dickens 1994; Gdaniec 1993 & 1994; and White & Dickens forthcoming) indicated the likelihood of archaeological activity on this area of the River Cam terrace gravels.

An area of concrete capping on the site of the building footprint was removed and the site was backfilled with Type 2 hogging above 150mm of old backfill (D. Mason pers. comm.) prior to archaeological cover. Foundation trenches were mechanically excavated with a 1.00m trenching bucket. Their depths ranged from 1.00m - 1.20m and bottomed out in either fine clay or fine sands and gravels. No archaeology was visible in either the trench bases or their sections. Dumps of 19th-20th Century bricks were visible in the upper 0.85m in section. The inclusion of wood, roots, coal and slate within these matrices indicated that they were recent, probably as a result of levelling prior to construction. A few (2) flint flakes were collected from the surface of the site, but again these likely result from the importation of backfill and are purely fortuitous. The foundation trenches have now been filled with concrete.



Figure 1: Site location in Cambridge

Bibliography

- Alexander, M. 1997. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Homerton College, Cambridge.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 198, University of Cambridge.
- Cra'aster, M. 1969. New Addenbrooke's Iron Age Site, Long Road, Cambridge. In *PCAS LXII*: 21-28.
- Dickens, A. 1994. *Archaeological Investigations at Land off Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 116. University of Cambridge.
- Gdaniec, K. 1993. *Archaeological Investigations at Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 83, University of Cambridge.
- Gdaniec, K. 1994. *An Archaeological Investigation at Fulbourn Hospital.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report No. 95. University of Cambridge.
- White, L and Dickens, A. 1997. *Excavations at Cherry Hinton Barrows, Cambridge.* Forthcoming Cambridge Archaeological Report. University of Cambridge.

L. White
1 August 1997