



Archaeological Excavations at Newnham College, Cambridge, 2010

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with contributions from Catherine Hills



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Front cover image: view of trench 1 prior to excavation (copyright ACA)



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1 Summary

A small scale archaeological excavation was undertaken by Access Cambridge Archaeology at the University of Cambridge in collaboration with Newnham College in September 2010. Two small trenches were opened within the grounds of the College to try and locate a group of skeletons excavated in 1939. Ditches and pits producing mid to late Roman pottery were excavated, further evidence of significant Roman activity within this area. Pottery dating from the 13th to the 20th century was found in the topsoil, with a concentration in trench 2 of post-medieval pottery and artefacts, suggesting that pre-college buildings existed nearby, despite the presumption that this was arable land, part of the West Field of Cambridge, throughout the medieval and early modern periods.

2 Introduction

A small scale archaeological excavation was undertaken by Access Cambridge Archaeology at the University of Cambridge in collaboration with Newnham College over one week from the 13th to the 17th of September 2010. The excavation was carried out by 20 Year 12 students from five different schools in London, Walsall, Peterborough and Romford in Essex. It was funded by Newnham College, donations from alumnae and by ACA.

Two small trenches were opened within the grounds of Newnham College, in the west of Cambridge, to try and locate a group of skeletons that were excavated in 1939 during digging for a World War II air raid trench. The trenches were sited using photographs and written documents from the original excavations in conjunction with old aerial photographs of the college and a recent geophysical survey.

The aims of the dig at Newnham were to locate the air raid trench and to identify the original locations of the skeletons excavated in the 1930's as well as establishing if they were part of a larger cemetery and their date. It was also part of the widening participation programme of both Newnham College and ACA, to provide an inspiring educational experience for the students who took part in the excavation and to encourage them to think seriously about applying to university

3 Location and Topography

The city of Cambridge is situated in south Cambridgeshire, c.80km north of London, and c.49km south east of Peterborough centred on OS TL 465585. The city grew up at a crossing point of the River Cam, from which Cambridge gets its name. The city is situated on the southern edge of the fens that extend north towards the Wash through most of north Cambridgeshire and into both Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

Newnham College is situated in west Cambridge along Sidgwick Avenue. Prior to the construction of the college the land was part of the West fields of Cambridge and the first recorded buildings, shown on the Baker map of 1830, appear to have been small sheds and fenced enclosures (Bendall 1999, Guillebaud 2006). The first college building, Old Hall, was opened in 1875 and successive buildings have been constructed since to the north and west. The trenches were sited towards the western end of the college, on the lawn east of the Peile building, north-west of the Old Labs and immediately south of the mound for the old observatory which now lies under the Eleanor Sidgwick memorial (figure 3). The north-west corner of trench one measured 48.8m south-east from the south-eastern corner of the Peile building and 19.2m directly south from the southern retaining wall of the mound. The north-west corner of trench two measured 29.8m south-east from the south-eastern corner of the Peile building and 18.6m directly south from the southern retaining wall of the mound

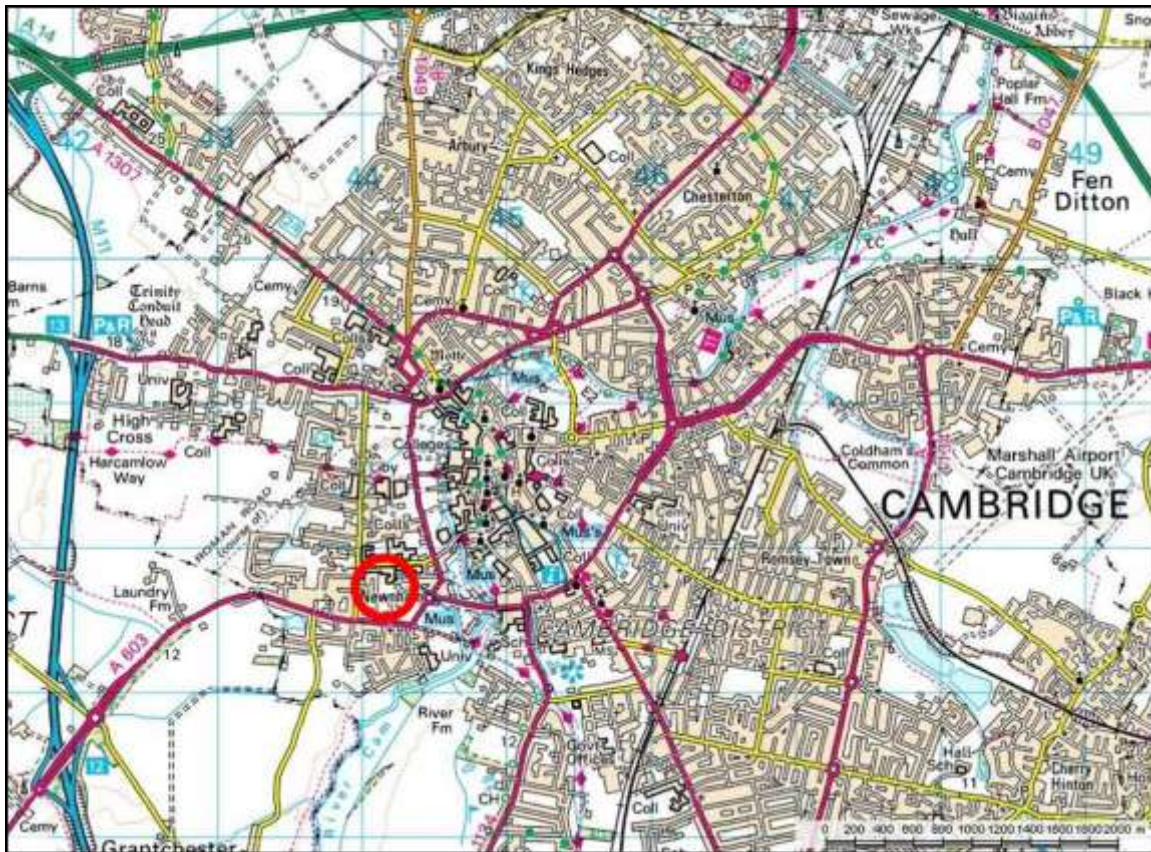


Figure 1: The city of Cambridge with Newnham College circled in red (May copyright Edina Digimap)

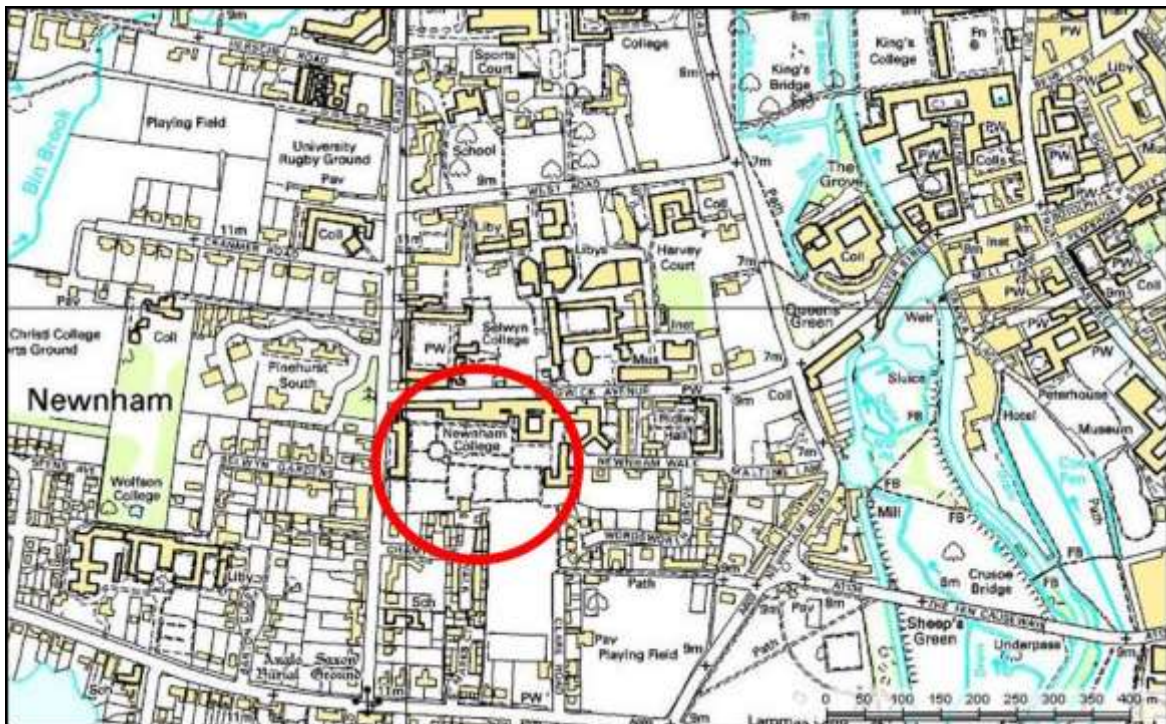


Figure 2: Close up map of the west of Cambridge with Newnham College circled in red (Map copyright Edina Digimap)

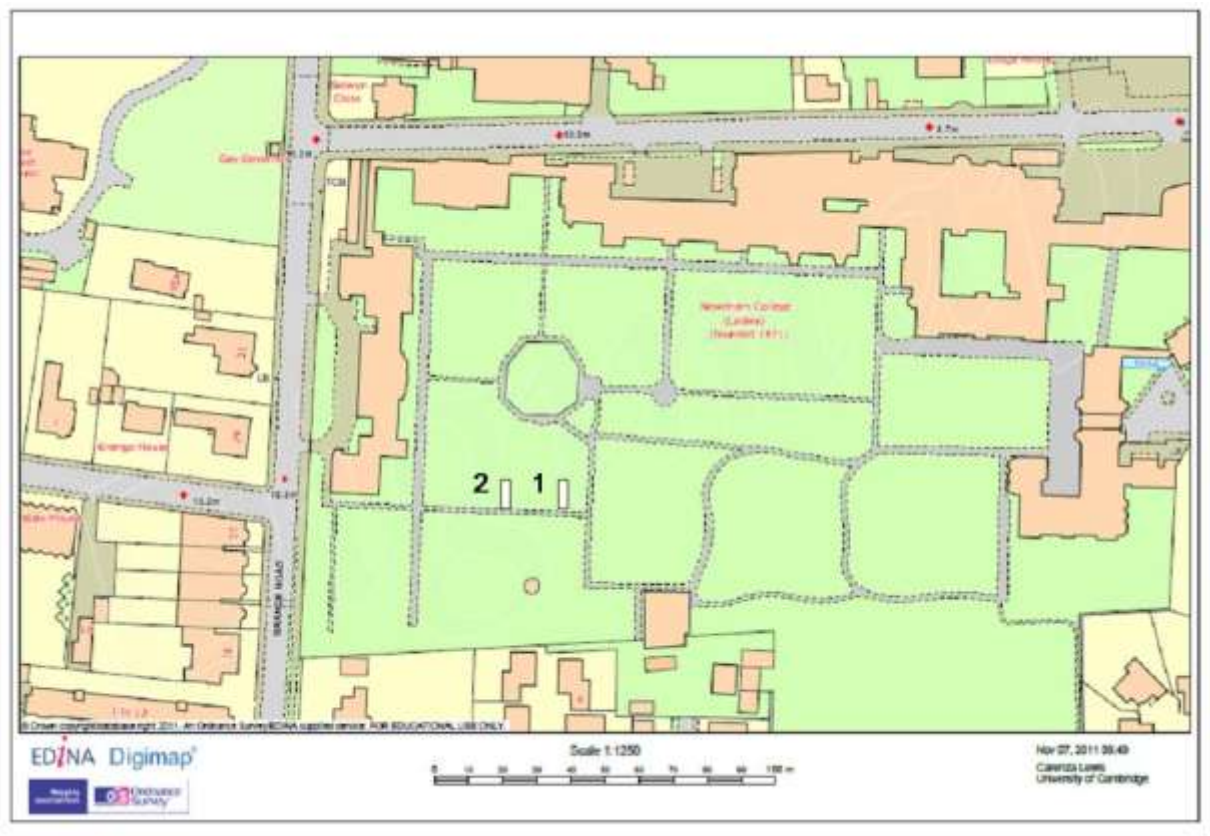


Figure 3: Location map of the two trenches within Newnham College grounds (Map copyright Edina Digimap)

The underlying geology consists of chalk to the south and east of the city with upper greensand and gault to the north and west¹, with second terrace river gravels. The area around Cambridge is generally low lying at between 6-24m OD with Newnham College at c.10m OD.

¹ <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2F0D5E30-F308-406B-9455-86B9EDDD50EC/0/soe98physical.pdf> (Accessed December 2010)

4 Methodology

The open area excavation followed standard procedures for trial trench excavations as suggested by the standards set for field archaeology in the east of England (Gurney 2003).

- The location of the two trenches within the college grounds was determined by using photographs and written documents of the previous excavations and oral accounts given by participants in the 1930s excavations. Both trenches excavated in 2010 measured 9m by 2m, and ran parallel to each other at a distance of 17m; with trench one as the eastern of the two
- All excavation, including removal of turf and topsoil and backfilling, was carried out by hand.
- 50% of bulk-removed spoil was sieved by hand through a 10mm mesh to ensure maximum retrieval of archaeological finds.
- A register was kept, detailing all photographs taken including feature/context number, direction of shot and date and time of day.
- Cut features, if encountered were excavated sequentially in the normal way.
- Masonry walls, if encountered, were carefully cleaned, planned and left in situ.
- At the end of the excavations, the trenches were hand backfilled and the turf replaced neatly by hand to restore the site.

On-site finds identification and retention

- Non-metallic inorganic finds and bone (unless in very poor condition) were washed on site where possible, thoroughly dried and bagged separately for each context in the trenches. Either on site or during post excavation the animal bone, pottery, burnt clay, flint and burnt stone are bagged separately, ready to be given to specialists.

On-site archaeological supervision

- Professional archaeologists from ACA were on hand for the duration of the excavations, with one supervisor specifically assigned to each of the trenches, to direct the excavations and provide guidance for each of the volunteers.

Trench closing and backfilling

- A member of the archaeological team inspected each trench before it was declared finished confirming whether or not natural has been reached.
- After the excavations were completed the archaeological records and finds have been retained by the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HER's, publication and on-going research. Finds will be returned to Newnham College after analysis is complete if they are requested; otherwise they are curated by the University of

Cambridge.

Recording

- The trenches were recorded following a Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990); whereby numbers (fill) or [cut] were assigned to individual contexts and feature numbers F. to stratigraphic events. Sections were drawn at 1:10 and base plans at 1:20, with a photographic archive consisting of digital images.
- The site code is NEW/10.

Finds processing and recording

Finds appropriate for recording, analysis, reporting, retention and curation

- All pottery has been retained.
- All faunal remains, worked and burnt stone have been retained
- All other finds from contexts pre-dating 1800 have been retained.
- All finds pre-dating 1900 have been retained

Finds appropriate for disposal after recording and reporting

- The following finds which are not considered to warrant any further analysis have been discarded after they have been photographed and their weight and number by type has been recorded,: Slate, coal, plastic, Perspex, modern glass, modern metal objects (including nails), concrete, modern mortar, modern fabric, shoes and other modern items (including batteries and shotgun cartridges), naturally occurring animal shells, unworked flint and other unworked stone (including fossils).
- 20th century window and vessel glass has been discarded after sorting, counting and weighing.
- 19th and 20th century CBM has been discarded after counting and weighing. One sample of any hand-made, unusual or older type of CBM was kept with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.
- Most fragments of 20th century metal whose use can be identified has been discarded and the same is true for any unidentifiable object of ferrous metal, aluminium or modern alloys from contexts containing other material of post-1900 AD date. Modern nails have also been discarded but handmade nails were retained.
- 20th century tile (floor, roof and wall) have been discarded after counting and weighing, with a sample of each type of pre-modern tile retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing. Any decorated examples have been retained unless these have been recovered in very large quantities in which case representative samples were retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.
- Modern wood was weighed and counted but was also discarded.

Legal ownership of finds

- Ownership of objects rests in the first instance with the landowner, except where other law overrides this (e.g. Treasure Act 1996, 2006, Burials Act 1857).
- Owners of private unscheduled land where trenches have been excavated who enquire about the final destination of finds from excavation on their property will be informed that ACA prefers to retain these in the short term for analysis and ideally also in the longer term in order that the excavation archives will be as complete as possible.
- NB: Most land-owners are not concerned about retaining ownership of the finds and are happy to donate them to ACA.
- Any requests by owners for the final return of finds to them will be agreed. Finds will be returned after recording, analysis and reporting is complete, accompanied by a letter inviting them to treat the finds with care, retain them in association with identifying documentation and to consider donating them to ACA/University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology should they ever change their minds about wishing to have possession of them.
- If the landowners are unwilling, for whatever reason, to donate any or all of the finds from the excavation on their land to ACA, the requested finds are returned to them after recording and analysis is completed, safely packaged and conserved (if required), accompanied by a letter explaining how they should be cared for and asking for them to be returned to the University of Cambridge if for any reason the owners no longer wish to retain them, and that if they are moved from the address to which they were returned the ACA should be informed. The location of such finds will be stated in the site archive.

Curation of Archaeological Finds

- All finds which are not discarded or returned to owners are retained and stored in conditions where they will not deteriorate. Most finds are stored in cool dry condition in sealed plastic finds bags, with small pierced holes to ventilate them. Pottery, bone and flint have been bagged separately from other finds.
- Finds which are more fragile, including ancient glass or metal objects, are stored in small boxes protected by padding and if necessary, acid free paper. Metal objects are curated with silica gel packets if necessary to prevent deterioration.
- All finds bags/boxes from the same context have been bagged/boxed together, and bags from all test pits excavated in the same settlement in the same year will be kept together. All the trench finds have also been stored together. All bags and boxes used for storage will be clearly marked in permanent marker with the site code (which includes settlement name code and year of excavation code), test pit number and context number.

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Previous archaeological work has been undertaken at Newnham College. The first was in 1939 when digging air raid shelters, five inhumations were encountered. The exact locations of these have since been lost, but they were thought to have been in front of the Peile Building in the west of the college grounds. The “front” of Peile is not Grange Road as has sometimes been suggested but the garden side, as originally the college buildings fronted onto Newnham Walk. The skeletons were described in 1939 as “Saxon” but no associated finds of that period were recorded, whereas Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of one or more graves. They have been tentatively dated as either late Roman or Anglo-Saxon (Hills 2010). Burials marked in Newnham College grounds on a map of archaeological finds in Cambridge may be intended to record these skeletons (Browne 1974). It was hoped that the 2010 excavation would confirm the location of the 1939 discovery.

A desktop study was carried out ahead of the College Library construction by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) (Whittaker 2000). Archaeological work was also carried out at the front of the college, close to Sidgwick Avenue, also the CAU, in advance of the construction of the Buttery in late 2005 to early 2006. Several phases of Romano-British ditches were excavated, dating to both the 1st – 2nd century AD and the 3rd – 4th – 4th centuries AD, thought to be associated with a nearby farmstead or settlement. A medieval plough soil was also identified covering all the features (Webb, Timberlake and Armor 2006).

Next door to Newnham College to the east sits Ridley Hall, founded in 1881, a few years after Newnham, as a theological college. The CAU undertook an evaluation within the college grounds in 2009 as part of a proposal for construction work at the college. Two of the three trenches were sited in the Principal’s Garden to the south of the grounds, with the third set between the Moule Hole Lawn and the Lecture Hall Lawn. The prehistoric evidence identified was mainly residual but more extensive human activity was identified dating to the Late Iron Age and Roman period in the form of both ditches and pits, with further post medieval remains also excavated (Brittain 2009). Access Cambridge Archaeology also undertook an excavation at Ridley Hall in 2012. This was sited in the former principal’s garden to the south of the college site, in advance of the construction of a new college building and found evidence dating to the early Anglo-Saxon period included a spread deposit of 5th – 6th century date which appear to be derived from domestic settlement on or immediately adjacent to the excavated site. This supports the notion that the intensity of settlement along this part of the Cam Valley in the 5th – 7th century AD was very high, and raises the likelihood that this area may have been of some importance in this period. By the 8th century, however, the area appears to have been abandoned and was thereafter used for arable, meadow or pasture, with some small enclosures and buildings noted in 1830, until the existing college was built in the late 19th century.

Further work by the CAU was undertaken across the road on the Sidgwick Site at the Institute of Criminology in 2002, in advance of a new building. The open area excavation was focused on the footprint of the building and an Anglo Saxon settlement, dating to the 6th and 7th centuries was identified. The main features identified include one large hall, with two probable ‘sunken featured buildings’, two other buildings, a number of pits and a later ditch (Armour, Evans & Tipper 2003).

A little further to the north, along West Road, the CAU recorded an undated ditch system at No.5, although pottery was found dating to the Early and middle Anglo Saxon period

including Ipswich Ware, also with a single piece of lava quern stone. These finds have been related to the Early Anglo Saxon settlement recorded at the Sidgwick Site (Mackay 2002). Potentially also related to this settlement is the Anglo Saxon cemetery excavated at Kings College Hostel, prior to extension work, which was dated to the 7th century AD. Twenty-one burials were excavated, five had grave goods and a mix of ages and sexes was identified (Dodwell 2001 and Dodwell, Lucy & Tipper 2004).

6 Results of the excavations in Newnham College

A number of ditches and two pits were excavated from both trenches in Newnham College and will be discussed in trench order below. Across the two trenches a soft, light to mid brown with fine sand mixed into a coarse silty loam top soil and a soft mid brown sandy silt sub soil were observed. The underlying natural is a brownish orange sand and gravel, with chalk outcropping to the north-east.

6.1 Trench 1

Trench one was the easternmost of the two trenches excavated and was orientated north-south. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m in the south of the trench and 0.9m deep in the north. The entire 9mx2m trench was excavated through the top soil to the start of the sub soil, at which only the western half of the trench was further excavated, as a 9m x 1m trench. The top soil measured between 0.35m and 0.6m in depth, the sub soil between 0.12m and 0.35m in depth with natural reached at c.0.64m.

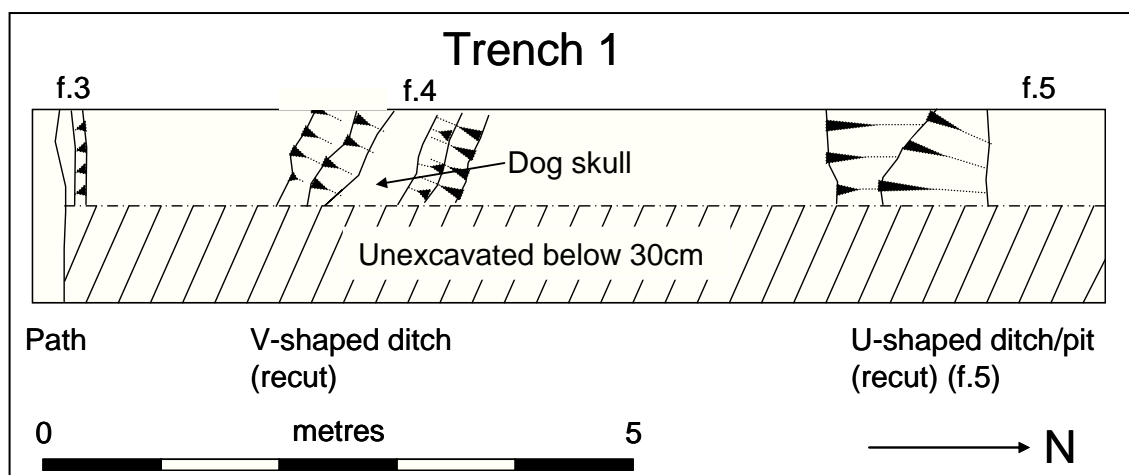


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 1

A single-layer red brick path (c.0.2m in width) (3) was partially exposed close to the surface at the very southern end of trench one. It was oriented east-west and was situated less than 0.3m north of the current gravel path that runs through the college grounds. It was also seen to continue through the southern end of trench two (4).

A shallow east-west orientated linear feature (F.3) was excavated in the far south of the trench and continued under the baulk. The width visible in the trench measured 0.43m, and was 0.11m in depth. Due to the limit of the excavations, only the northern side of the feature was evident, which had a steep, almost vertical, straight profile, with a gentle basal break of slope to a flat horizontal base [12]. The feature contained a single fill of orange/grey coarse sandy silt (10) with only a few pieces of both oyster and mussel shell found.

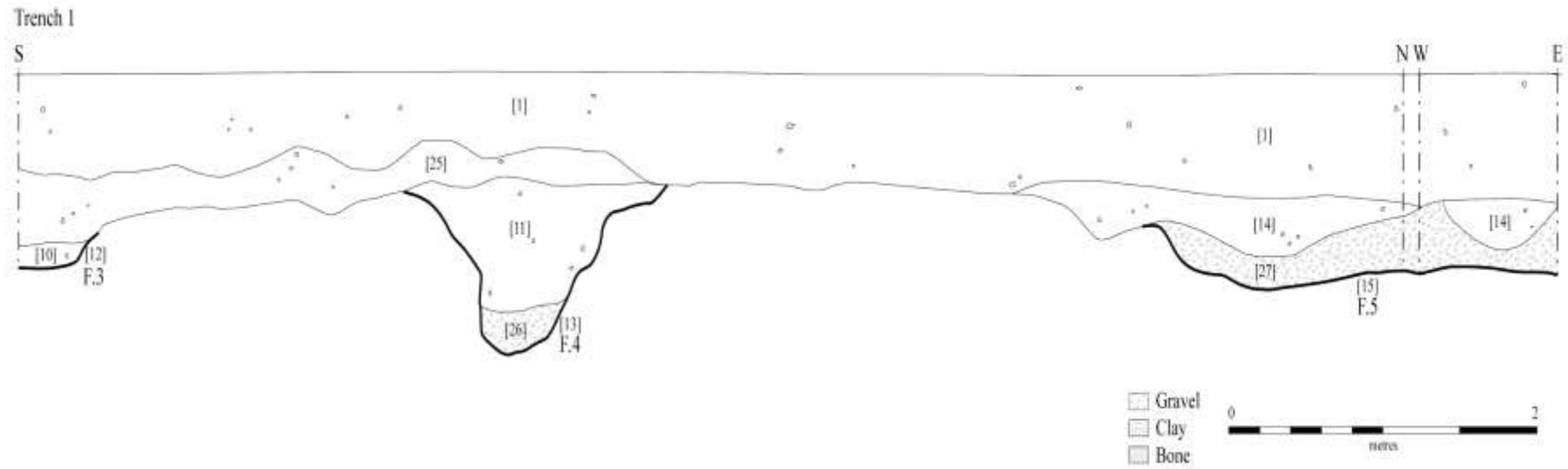


Figure 5: Section through Trench 1

A second, much larger, east-west orientated linear feature (F.4) was also excavated in the southern half of trench one. It measured 1.71m in width and 0.82m in depth, with irregular steep sides to a rounded base [13]. It had two fills; the main fill was a light grey brown silt with occasional small stone inclusions (11) and a basal pea grit gravel layer with fine sand (26). A small number of finds were only recovered from (11), consisting of coal and iron nails. A complete dog skull associated with signs of burning was encountered in the bottom of F.4. It was inferred that F.4 must either turn or terminate between the two trenches excavated in 2010 as it was not visible in trench two.

A further east-west orientated linear feature (F.5) was excavated in the far north end of trench one. F.5 measured 2.5m in width and 0.47m in depth and had uneven moderately sloping sides, a gentle basal break of slope to a very slightly rounded base [15]. It had two fills; the main fill was a light brownish grey silt with occasional to frequent pea grit and stone inclusions (14) yielding a number of fragments of CBM, tile, shell, half a horse shoe and a large smooth stone, and a basal pea grit gravel layer with fine sand (23) that contained no finds. Within the confines of the trench, the ditch also seemed to turn to a north-south orientation, although further excavation would be needed to confirm this. Like F.3 and F.4, F.5 must also either turn or terminate between the two trenches as it does not appear in trench two.

6.2 Trench 2

Trench two was excavated parallel to trench one to its west. It was also orientated north-south and measured 9m in length and 2m in width. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.44m in the south of the trench and to 0.65m in the north of the trench. As in trench one, the entire 9m x 2m trench was excavated through the top soil to the start of the sub soil, at which only the western half of the trench was further excavated, as a 9m x 1m trench. The top soil was between 0.3m and 0.35m in depth and the sub soil between 0.18m and 0.45m in depth with natural reached at c.0.55m.

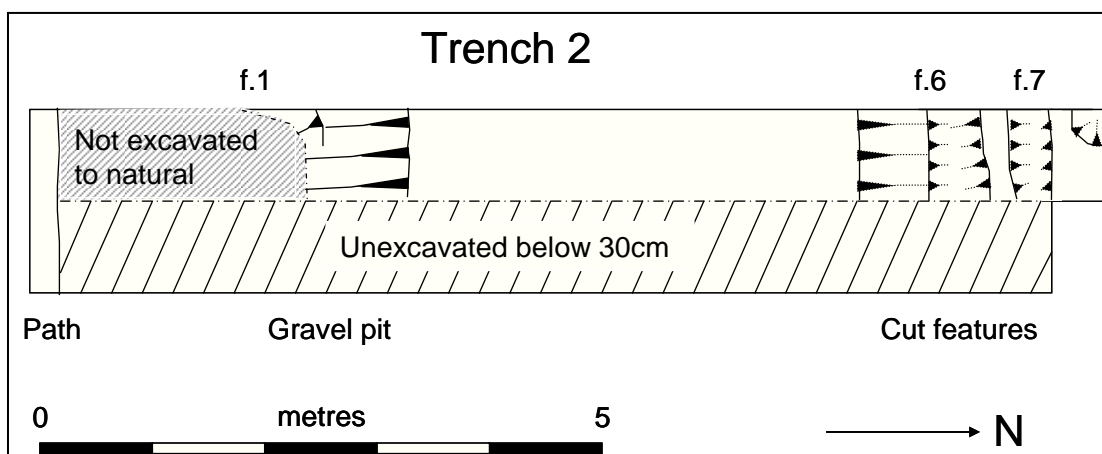


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 2

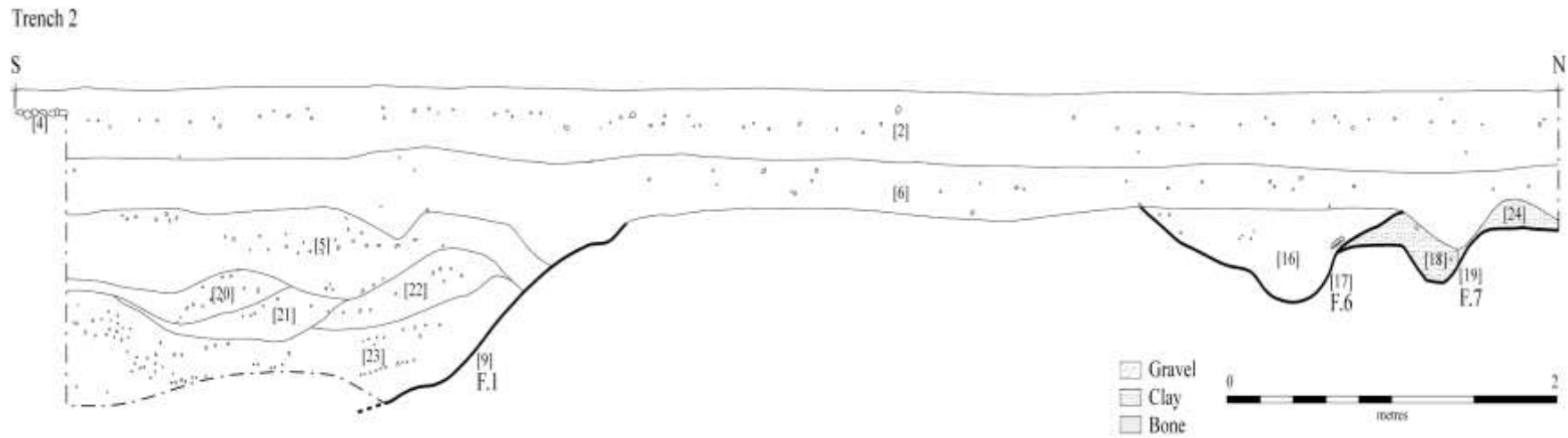


Figure 7: Section through Trench 2

A single-layer red brick path (4) was partially exposed (c.0.3m in width), close to the surface at the very southern end of trench two. It was oriented east-west and was situated less than 0.3m north of the current gravel path that runs through the college grounds. It also appears to be a continuation of the brick path (3) that was visible in the far south of trench one.

A large, possibly circular feature (F.1) was excavated in the far south of the trench that also continued for an unknown distance south under the brick path. The width of the feature visible in the trench measured 3.28m and was excavated to a depth of 0.86m (natural was not found). Only the northern side of the feature was identified and constituted a steep straight-sided slope angled at about 45 degrees [9]. Only the upper fills of the feature were excavated and five fills were recorded, the uppermost of which was a quite compact dark greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent stones and pea gravel inclusions (5) that covered the pit and also included medieval, post medieval and 19th – 20th century pottery. Fragments of both oyster shell and snail shell were also recovered with a single piece of coal. Three slump fills were also identified, firstly (20) which was a mid-grey compact sandy silt with numerous gravel inclusions and small chalk lumps, secondly (21), a mid-brown sandy silt, gravel and chalk flecks with more gravel inclusions than (20) and thirdly (22) which was a mid-grey compact sandy silt with a greater quantity of both pea gravel and chalk flecks compared to both (20) and (21). The lowest fill to be excavated was an orangey grey, very compact silty clay with frequent stones, chalk, and pea gravel and rare charcoal flecks (23) and like (5) covered the width of the feature. No other finds were recorded.

Two small parallel linear features, both oriented east-west were excavated in the far north of trench two. Both these cut into chalk which was found to outcrop at the northern end of the trench. F.6 was the southernmost and larger of the two features. It measured 1.6m in width and 0.42m in depth and had moderately sloping upper sides with much steeper sides towards the rounded base [17]. It contained a single fill of a dark brown soft sandy silt with few small stones and charcoal flecks (16), and only 19th – 20th century pottery was recovered with a single small piece of coal. F.6 also appeared to cut F.7 that run parallel immediately to the north which measured 0.3m in width and 0.2m in depth and had moderately sloping straight sides to a rounded base [19]. It was also filled with a single fill of a light grey compact clay with few stone and chalk inclusions (18) and yielded both a clay pipe bowl and an iron nail. Both of these features must either turn or terminate between the two trenches as they do not appear in trench one.

7 Discussion and conclusion

The excavation confirms that there was Roman period activity in this part of the college grounds, probably part of the settlement already known from the more substantial pottery assemblage recovered from the CAU excavation near to Sidgwick Avenue. The medieval and later pottery from the topsoil may have arrived through manuring when it was part of the West field of Cambridge, or through occasional rubbish disposal associated with Newnham village. The concentration of post medieval pottery and finds, including a seventeenth century trade token issued by W Coe, might indicate unrecorded buildings in the vicinity. The air raid shelters were not discovered, despite their apparent location through aerial photographs and accounts of the 1939 excavation. The date of the skeletons therefore remains to be established, possibly through the 14th century.

8 Acknowledgements

Thanks go to Newnham College for allowing the excavation to proceed, including in particular the then Principal Patricia Dodgson, and the Governing Body, the Admissions Tutor Ute Stock, and the Development Director Penny Hubbard. The head gardener, Tony Arnold provided help and equipment and the ground staff assisted with the removal of the turf and carried out the backfilling of the trenches. The excavations were directed by Dr Carenza Lewis of Access Cambridge Archaeology and the trenches were supervised by Catherine Ranson and Gary Mariner. Additional onsite support was from Jessica Rippengal, Clemency Cooper and Dr Catherine Hills of the University of Cambridge. Thanks also to all the Year 12 students who also took part in the excavations from the five different schools in London, Walsall, Peterborough and Romford in Essex.

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10 Appendices

10.1 Roman Pottery Report – *Katie Anderson*

An assemblage of Roman pottery, totalling 312 sherds, weighing 4116g and representing 2.85 EVEs (estimated vessel equivalent) were recovered from the Newnham excavations. All of the material was analysed and details of fabric, form, decoration and use wear evidence were recorded along with any other information deemed important.

Assemblage Composition

The assemblage comprised primarily small to medium sized sherds, with a mean weight of 13.2g. The pottery broadly ranged in date from the mid-late Roman period (2nd-4th century AD); however, there were a number of sherds which could be more specifically dated to the Late Roman period, including two Hadham red-slipped wares (one from Feature 4 and one from Feature 5).

A number of sherds were noted as being abraded, which suggests that they had not been deposited immediately after breakage, but rather may have been left on the surface for some time before being deposited. There were several examples of sherds from a single vessel (although not refitting) occurring within the same context. Feature 5 for example contained seven sherds from a single coarse sandy greyware vessel.

A range of vessel fabrics were identified (see Table 1). Coarseware fabrics dominated the assemblage, representing 95% of the total assemblage, which is typical of Roman rural sites in Cambridgeshire. Sandy greyware fabrics were the most commonly occurring, with vessels from the Horningsea kilns, located approximately 4 miles northeast of the site, well represented. The remainder of the greywares were unsourced.

Fabric	No.	Wt(g)
Black-slipped (Horningsea)	14	100
Buff sandy ware	3	9
Coarse sandy greyware	206	1435
Fine sandy greyware	8	77
Hadham red slipped ware	2	22
Horningsea greyware	57	2090
Nene Valley colour-coat	9	104
Oxidised sandy ware	4	78
Red-slipped ware	2	4
Reduced sandy ware	1	2
Shell-tempered ware	4	110
Whiteware	2	85
TOTAL	312	4116

Table 1: All Roman pottery by fabric

Finewares were limited and included nine Nene Valley colour-coated sherds (dating mid

2nd-4th century AD) and two Hadham red-slipped wares, dating 3rd-4th century AD. No imported wares were identified, which may be a reflection of the wealth/status of the site. However this is more likely to be due to the date of the assemblage, which appears to peak in the Later Roman period, a time when the number of imported wares had decreased.

Form	No.	Wt(g)
Beaker	1	30
Bowl	3	129
Dish	2	25
Jar	60	2159
Mortaria	2	85
Unknown	244	1688
TOTAL	312	4116

Table 2: All Roman pottery by form

The range of vessel forms was limited, which is largely due to the size and condition of the assemblage. Diagnostic sherds represented 22% of the assemblage, with jars being the most commonly occurring form. Within this category there were a range of different sized jars, with rims ranging from 14cm to 32cm in diameter, reflecting a range of different functions. There were a number of large Horningsea greyware jars, which were combed both on the exterior and interior, which would have been used as storage jars.

Other vessels forms were limited, with three bowls, two dishes, two mortaria and one beaker identified. However, this still allows an insight into the ways in which pottery was being utilised on the site.

Decoration occurred on 10% of the sherds, with horizontal and vertical combing being the most frequently occurring. Two vessels were noted as having burnished line decoration. Use wear evidence was limited to a single sherd with burnt residue on the interior.

Contextual Analysis

Pottery was recovered from three different features, as well as topsoil from both trenches. Linear Feature 4, Trench, contained the largest quantity of pottery, totalling 132 sherds (1236g), all of which was recovered from context [11]. Pottery dated 2nd-4th century AD, with a small number of sherds which dated 3rd-4th century AD, including a beaded, flanged bowl. Pottery was mixed in terms of composition, with small, fragmented sherds, to large, unabraded examples. This therefore suggests that vessels deposited within this context may have gone through different post-breakage processes.

Feature 5, Trench 1 contained a smaller quantity of pottery, totalling 29 sherds, weighing 649g dating mid 2nd-4th century AD. Six sherds of pottery (34g) were recovered from Feature 6, Trench 2. These sherds comprised sandy grey and reduced wares, all of which were non-diagnostic and therefore could only be dated 'Romano-British'. There is a possibility that these sherds and consequently this feature may be earlier than the other two Roman features.

Feature	Trench	No.	Wt(g)
5	1	29	649
4	1	132	1236
6	2	6	34
TS	1 and 2	145	2197
TOTAL	x	312	4116

Table 3: All Roman pottery by feature

A relatively large quantity of pottery was recovered from the topsoil, particularly that from Trench 1, which totalled 135 sherds, weighing 2197g. The quantity of material recovered from the topsoil is of interest, particularly because the mean weight of this material is greater than that recovered from the features (15.2g versus 9.36g from Feature 4).

Discussion

Overall, the Roman pottery recovered from this excavation is useful in providing an insight into the nature and function of the settlement. The fabrics and forms identified in this assemblage suggest a fairly typical (for Cambridgeshire) Roman, rural, domestic site, occupied between the mid and later Roman period (2nd-4th century AD). There is however, a possibility that the pottery from Feature 6 is earlier in date. The quantity of pottery recovered, from what was a small excavation, is of particular interest, and suggests that these features were part of a larger Roman settlement.

10.2 Post Roman Pottery Report – *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 532 sherds with a total weight of 2380g. It consisted of a range of medieval and later material which indicates that there was more or less unbroken occupation at the site from around the 13th – 14th century onwards, although the bulk of the material is post-medieval. The following fabric types were present.

EMW: Miscellaneous Medieval Sandy Coarsewares. A range of quartz-tempered coarsewares that are found throughout the east midlands and East Anglia. 2 sherds, 3g.

HG: Hertfordshire Grey ware, reduced sandy wares, probably from a number of sources, some of which are as-yet unknown. Mid 12th – 14th century (Turner-Rugg 1993). 1 sherd, 62g,

MG: Mill Green Ware. Red, slightly sandy fabric. Glazed jugs are characterized by having a white-slipped outer surface, over which is a copper-spotted green glaze. Mid 13th – mid 14th century. 1 sherd, 2g.

CSW: Cambridgeshire Sgraffito Ware. 14th – 15th century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 424-5). Fairly hard, smooth red fabric, outer surface of vessels covered in a white slip through which designs were incised to reveal the body clay, the whole covered in a yellow glaze which occasionally has green copper-spotting. Production source is as yet unknown. 1 sherd, 1g.

SIEG: Siegburg Stoneware, mid 14th – mid 15th century (Gaimster 1997, 165-6). Hard, pale grey stoneware made at Siegburg in Germany. 1 sherd, 2g.

BD: Bourne 'D' Ware: c. 1450-1637 (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409). Production as the 'A' ware. Fairly hard, smooth, brick-red fabric, often with a grey core. Some vessels have sparse calcitic inclusions up to 2mm. Full range of late medieval to early post-medieval vessel forms, jugs, pancheons, cisterns etc. Vessels often have a thin, patchy exterior white slip, over which a clear glaze had been applied. 1 sherd, 27g.

MP: Midland Purple ware: 15th – mid 17th century. Hard-purplish grey ware, purple to black glaze (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 427). 3 sherds, 64g.

CW: Cistercian Ware: c. AD1470-1550. Hard, smooth fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner. Few visible inclusions, except for occasional quartz grains. Range of vessel forms somewhat specialized, and usually very thin-walled (c. 2mm). Rare white slip decoration. Manufactured at a number of centres, including Potterspury in Northamptonshire (Mayes 1968) and, during the 16th and 17th centuries, at Ely (Hall 2001, 7). 1 sherd, 1g.

GS: Frechen/Cologne Stonewares. AD1550-1750. A range of hard, grey, mottled brown salt-glazed fabrics, vessels usually in the form of mugs or bottles (Gaimster 1997). 14 sherds, 123g.

GRE: Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 71 sherds, 478g.

MB: Midland Blackware, late 16th – 17th century. Similar fabric and range of vessel forms

as GRE, although has a black, iron-rich glaze. 6 sherds, 52g.

TGE: Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware 17th – early 18th century (Orton 1988). Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration. Range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases. 3 sherds, 15g.

WCS: Westerwald/Cologne Stoneware. Hard, light grey stoneware with a clear glaze on both surfaces (Gaimster 1997). Manganese purple and cobalt blue decoration common along with ornate mould decoration. 17th – 18th century. 9 sherds, 29g.

EFW: Ely Fine Ware (Hall 2002, 90). Similar to Red Earthenware, but with a paler, softer fabric. Fairly bright copper green glaze on the outer surface, yellow to orange glaze on the inner. Late 16th - 17th century. 7 sherds, 85g.

SS: Staffordshire Slipware. AD1680-1750. Fine cream fabric with white slip and pale yellow lead glaze, commonest decoration is feathered dark brown trailed slip. Chiefly press-moulded flat wares, although small bowls and mugs etc. are known. 10 sherds, 63g.

CP: Chinese Porcelain, mid 17th century +. Hard, slightly translucent white fabric with a clear glaze, often with hand-painted polychrome decoration. Known in Europe from the 13th century, but did not become common until the 16th century. Wide range of table- and decorative wares. 5 sherds, 15g.

SMW: Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware. Late 17th – 18th century. Hard buff fabric with distinctive purplish-brown glaze. Usually fine drinking pottery, but chamber pots and other more utilitarian vessels also known. 3 sherds, 17g.

NDS: Nottingham/Derby Stoneware. 1700-1850. Hard, grey fabric with a glossy chocolate-brown glaze. Range of utilitarian vessels, particularly bowls.

SWSG: Salt-Glazed Stoneware, AD1720-1780 Hard, white fabric with a distinctive white 'orange peel' textured glaze. Range of fine tablewares such as mugs, tea bowls and plates. 7 sherds, 7g.

CRM: Creamware. c 1740-1880. A cream-coloured earthenware, made from a calcinated flint clay (Jennings 1981, 227), and with a lead glaze, resulting in a rich cream colour. Range of tableware forms. 1 sherd, 11g.

LES: Late English Stoneware, Very hard, grey fabric with white and/or brown surfaces. First made in Britain at the end of the 17th century, became very common in the 18th and 19th century, particularly for mineral water or ink bottles and beer jars.

MPWE: Mass-produced white earthenwares, often with transfer-printed decoration. Wide range of domestic wares. 19th – 20th century. 296 sherds, 689g.

HE: Horticultural Earthenwares. Flower pots, troughs, trays etc., is unglazed fine red earthenware. 19th – 20th century. 60 sherds, 444g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Tables 4 and 5. The two largest assemblages are both from topsoil contexts, and therefore are all unstratified. The material from Trench 1, context [1] has a range of wares which indicate a virtually unbroken run of activity from the 13th or 14th centuries to the present. The other main group, from Trench 2 context [2], appears to start later, with just a single sherd having the potential to be of medieval date, although it could just as likely date to the 16th or 17th centuries. This would suggest that Trench 1 is nearer to any potential focus of medieval activity at the site.

The medieval pottery is fairly unremarkable, apart perhaps from the sherd of Siegburg Stoneware, which is fairly rare in Cambridge, although is known from contexts as early as the mid-late 14th century in the city (e.g. Hall 2009, 11).

The sandy coarsewares are typical of sites of the period in the region, and are likely to be of fairly local manufacture. The sherd of Mill Green Ware is far beyond the main distribution zone of the material (Pearce et al. 1983, Fig. 2), although the material does occur in small quantities in the city. Similar comments apply to the Hertfordshire Greyware, which takes the form of a handle and rim from a jug. Cambridge Sgraffito Ware has been noted at many sites in the city, such as at Angel Court, Trinity College (Addyman and Biddle 165, 114). Other evidence of possible late medieval activity comes in the form of the Midland Purple and Bourne 'D' wares, although these could be as late as the 17th century. These are again relatively common finds.

The post-medieval pottery is all types which have been recognised in Cambridge before (e.g. Hall 2002) The tin-glazed earthenware sherds are from good-quality but typical painted vessels, one a plate with floral decoration on the rim, and the other a drug jar or similar with blue and ochre designs. They are most likely London products of the 17th century. This is the only post-medieval pottery type which occurred in Trench 1 but not Trench 2, but is unlikely to have any great significance. Conversely, the only type which was noted in trench 2 but not Trench 1 was the Midland Blackware, but the same comments apply. Generally the picture from the pottery from the 14th – 17th/18th centuries is that of a fairly well-to-do household, although not one of exceptional status. The post-medieval assemblage comprises a typical combination of utilitarian earthenwares such as GRE and MB, and finer tablewares, such as SS, MET, SMW, CP and SWSG.

Perhaps the most unremarkable assemblage is that dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. It comprises a wholly ordinary group of white earthenwares, many with blue transfer-printing, with tea-wares, tablewares, horticultural earthenwares and a few fragments of cheap decorative objects. It certainly does not give the impression that the college was particularly wealthy at the time, or if it was, it was not investing in expensive ceramics. It is an assemblage which could be paralleled at just about any ordinary domestic dwelling of the period.

Tr	Cxt	EMW		HG		MG		SIEG		BD		CSW		MP		CW	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	1	2	3			1	2	1	2	1	27			3	64		
2	2															1	1
2	5 F1											1	1				
2	6			1	62												
	Total	2	3	1	62	1	2	1	2	1	27	1	1	3	64	1	1

Table 4: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, medieval fabrics

Tr	Cntxt	GS		GRE		MB		EFW		TGE		WCS		NDST		SS		CP		SMW		SWSG		CRM		LES		MPWE		HE		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
1	1	9	85	39	260			4	72	3	15	7	24	4	19	2	8	2	12	2	5	5	5	15	57	2	14	112	217	22	83	
2	2	5	38	31	214	5	42	3	13			2	5	3	7	8	55	3	3	1	12	2	2	3	8	3	96	182	463	36	355	
2	5 F1			1	4																							1	5	1	5	
2	6					1	10																					1	4			
2	16 F6																												1	1		
	Total	14	123	71	478	6	52	7	85	3	15	9	29	7	26	10	63	5	15	3	17	7	7	18	65	5	110	296	689	60	444	

Table 5: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, post-medieval fabrics

10.3 Other Finds – Catherine Ranson

Trench 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
(1) Top Soil	clay pipe stem x85 =283g, clay pipe bowl fragments x12 =32g, red flat tile x24 =538g, red CBM x164 =1229g, yellow flat tile x9 =416g, yellow CBM x15 =191g, pink/yellow CBM x16 =233g	green bottle glass x17 =279g, clear container glass x3 =23g, clear flat glass x18 =33g, blue container glass x2 =8g, very degraded glass x3 =2g, small round degraded green glass bottle base (with a crown emblem on the base?) =18g	slag x12 = 102g, square corroded metal nails x6 =33g, end of a shotgun cartridge? =8g, very worn coin =8g, half penny coin dated 1862 =5g, corroded round nails x16 =78g, corroded iron scraps x7 =58g, scrap copper x2 =1g, tiny token? =2g ("RVLBEC WC SWAFFHAM")	coal x104 =289g, grey sandstone tile? x6 =381g	oyster shell x190 = 401g, mussel shell =4g, cockle shell =<1g, child's bumblebee brooch =5g, slate x8 =65g, mortar x2 =29g
(10) F.3					oyster shell x6 =63g, mussel shell =<1g
(11) F.4			corroded iron nails x2 =29g	coal x4 =6g	
(14) F.5	red CBM x2 =61g, flat yellow and grey tile =15g, yellow/orange CBM =9g		half a horseshoe? =13g	large grey smooth stone =1974g	sea shell =5g

Table 6: Other finds excavated from Trench 1

Trench 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
(2) Top Soil	clay pipe stem x75 =254g, clay pipe bowls x3 =39g, clay pipe bowl fragments x3 =17g, red CBM x118 =1739g, pink/orange flat tile x6 =110g, pink/orange CBM x9 =50g, black and red modern tile x3 =111g, red flat tile x29 =883g, yellow flat tile x16 =422g, yellow CBM x7 =186g	green bottle base "YARMOUTH" =369g, clear container glass x12 =278g, degraded ancient glass? x2 =1g, green bottle glass x16 =106g, clear flat glass x24 =66g	slag =61g, corroded round metal nails x11 =50g, square corroded metal nails x7 =31g, part of a horseshoe? =18g, modern nails x2 =5g, unidentified metal fragment =3g, corroded metal scraps x7 =34g, spoon 'head' =13g, quarter of a two pence piece =2g, twisted lead? =11g, aluminium circular band? =12g	coal x51 =217g	oyster shell x161 =490g, sea shell =18g, mortar x2 =82g, slate x6 =38g



(6) Sub Soil	red and grey flat tile x3 =31g, yellow and grey flat tile =72g, red/brown flat tile =45g, yellow flat tile =9g, yellow CBM =6g, red flat tile =39g			coal x5 =21g	mussel shell x2 =7g, oyster shell x7 =18g
(5) F.1				coal =3g	oyster shell x9 =19g, snail shell x3 =6g
(7) F.2					oyster shell =14g
(16) F.6				coal =2g	
(18) F.7	clay pipe bowl =20g		corroded iron nail =9g		

Table 7: Other finds excavated from Trench 2