

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY



VOLUME XLII

JANUARY 1948 TO DECEMBER 1948

CAMBRIDGE  
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1949

THE CHURCH OF  
ST MARY THE GREAT

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH  
AT CAMBRIDGE

by

W. D. BUSHELL, M.A.

with a Foreword by

PROFESSOR G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M.

*Master of Trinity College, Cambridge*

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The Church of Saint Mary the Great, in Cambridge, may justly be described as one of the most interesting in the country, deeply associated as it is with the growth and spread of the Reformation in England, with the history of the University of Cambridge and with the great scholars who have preached in it. Mr Bushell has written not merely an architectural history of the church, but has done full justice to the many aspects of its story, social, political and religious.

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From the  
**FOREWORD**

by PROFESSOR G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M.

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THIS INTERESTING AND VALUABLE RECORD of the history and antiquities of Great St Mary's, in all aspects architectural and human, should receive a warm welcome both from town and gown. As High Steward of the borough as well as Master of a college, indeed of the college which holds the patronage of St Mary's, I may be allowed to speak for both the two sides of Cambridge life, to whom St Mary's is respectively the University church and the central church of the borough.

The assiduous scholarship of Mr Bushell has been admirably employed in collecting and ordering this large mass of material, all of it interesting in one way or another to Cambridge folk. An old Trinity man, Mr Bushell spent the greater part of his life in arduous and valuable public service, but since his retirement the historical and antiquarian instincts which he has inherited from his father the Reverend W. D. Bushell, F.S.A., of St John's College and of Harrow School, have prompted him to this labour of love, by which he has put Cambridge greatly in his debt.

G. M. TREVELYAN

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# CONTENTS

<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1948-1949</i>	page vii
<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1947-1948</i>	viii
<i>Report and Summary of Accounts for the Year 1946</i>	ix
<i>Report and Summary of Accounts for the Year 1947</i>	xi
<i>Editorial Note</i>	xiv
Railways to Cambridge, Actual and Projected: a Centenary Review <i>By</i> Canon R. B. FELLOWS, M.A., LL.M.	I
Andrew Doket and his Architect <i>By</i> ARTHUR OSWALD, M.A.	8
The Authorship of a Seventeenth-Century Harvests' Account Book from Fowlmere <i>By</i> W. P. BAKER, M.A.	27
The Cambridgeshire Properties of the Nunnery of St Mary Clerkenwell <i>By</i> W. O. HASSALL, M.A., D.PHIL., F.S.A.	33
The Clergy of Sawston, 1197 to 1948 <i>By</i> F. J. BYWATERS, M.A.	41
<i>Iconomania</i> in Eighteenth-Century Cambridge. Notes on a newly-acquired Miniature of Dr Farmer and his interest in Historical Portraiture <i>By</i> PROFESSOR G. R. OWST, LITT.D., D.LIT., PH.D., F.S.A.	67
Combined Beaker and Iron Age Sites at Lakenheath, Suffolk <i>By</i> GRACE BRISCOE, M.B., B.S.	92
An Early Iron Age Site at Lakenheath, Suffolk <i>By</i> A. S. R. GELL	112
Further Excavations at the War Ditches <i>By</i> T. C. LETHBRIDGE, M.A., F.S.A.	117
Archaeological Notes <i>By</i> C. I. FELL, M.A., T. C. LETHBRIDGE M.A., F.S.A., and G. H. S. BUSHNELL, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A.	128
<i>Index</i>	131



# AN EARLY IRON AGE SITE AT LAKENHEATH, SUFFOLK

A. S. R. GELL

DURING the years 1934-7 some excavations were carried out near the old track leading from Lakenheath to Wangford, about 300 yards south of Pashford Wood.<sup>1</sup> The site is on the 20 ft. contour at the very edge of the Breckland sand, close to the fens bordering the Little Ouse. It is the property of Sir Charlton Briscoe, who very kindly gave us permission to excavate.

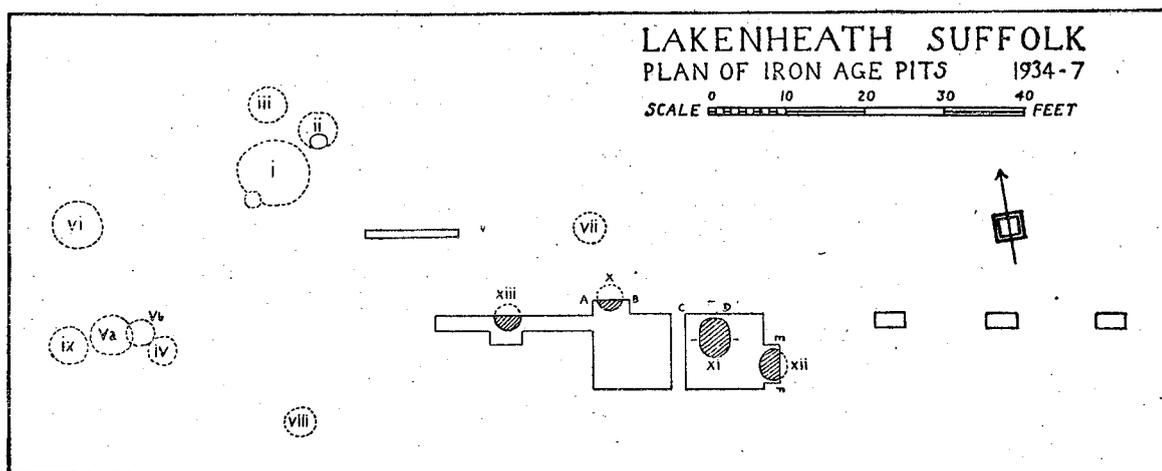


Fig. 1. Plan

Of the fifteen pits discovered, nine were excavated in the years 1934-5 and the remaining four were found during a more careful examination of the site in 1937. This number may represent a fairly large proportion of the pits in the immediate group, but only a few hundred yards away both to north and south are other groups of pits showing many of the same characteristics.

The pits varied originally in depth, averaging perhaps from 3 to 4 ft., though this measurement is uncertain owing to the shifting surface of the sand. In several of the pits examined no more than the bottom few inches remain, all the rest having been blown away by the wind. In plan the measurements are almost as indefinite, for rabbits have succeeded in mixing the blackish sand with which the pits are filled with the yellow sand of the warren, obscuring the outline near the surface. Lower down there is better definition, and results seem to indicate that the average pit was about 6 or 7 ft. across at the top and had sides sloping down at a considerably steeper angle

<sup>1</sup> 6 in. Ordnance Survey, Suffolk (West), Sheet 12, N.W., 100 yards E. of the intersection of lat.  $52^{\circ} 25' N.$  with long.  $0^{\circ} 33' E.$



Pit X. Section

PLATE X



Pit XI. Lower part showing broken quernstone *in situ*

than might be thought likely in pure sand. The floors of the pits are sometimes flat but more often depressed in the centre.

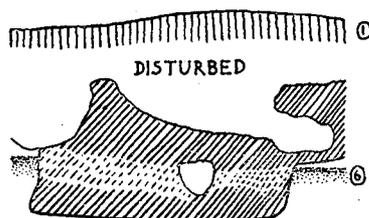
The lower parts only remained of the 1934-5 pits. Those found in 1937 were more complete, but unfortunately contained very little pottery. There was more, however, in the blackish-yellow sand which covers the area at the level of the top of the pits. This represents the occupation level, though in a somewhat disturbed condition. It is covered by 6 in. to 1 ft. of recent sand, liable to constant shifting by wind and marram grass roots. It is worth noting that the upper sand contained several Roman and a few Iron Age sherds, whereas the lower level produced one Roman among a number of Iron Age sherds.

The pits were cut through a number of naturally produced layers (see Sections C-D and E-F, Fig. 2, and Plates IX and X). Beneath the recent (1) and occupation (2) layers are dirty-yellow sand (3), a thin strip of black sand caused by burning or humic decay of a former land surface (4), white sand (5) and red iron pan (6), the result of leaching from layer (4). Layers (3) to (6) are sterile and under all is clean yellow sand.

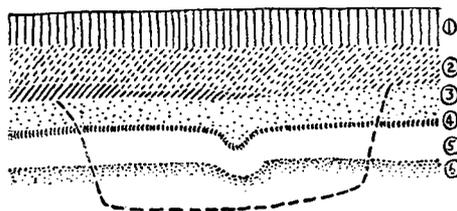
The finds consist of sherds, animal bones, much used flint hammer-stones, flint flakes and fire-fractured red pebbles. A broken quernstone was found at the floor of Pit XI, another in the first trial trench to the east and a third on the surface.

The pottery can only be dated by regional comparison, as no metal objects or other more closely dateable relics were found with it. The structure of the settlement is of the simplest and does not help in determining the affinities of the site except that it is not unlike other East Anglian habitation sites of the period. The pedestal bases and certain of the rims (Fig. 3 (o) and (r)) show Belgic influence and cannot, therefore, be much earlier than the late first century B.C. or the early first century A.D. The decorated rims and the sherds exhibiting vestiges of a carinated shoulder are typical of the debased Iron Age A of the area. As they were found closely associated with the sub-Belgic ware they must also be brought down in date to that period; indeed, there is no reason to suppose any of the material to be earlier. A late date fits well with the general character of the site, which must always have been uncomfortably damp.

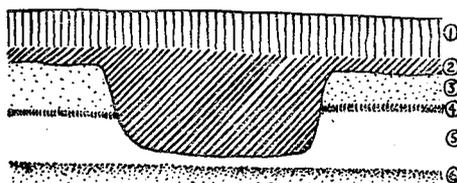
## SECTION A-B PIT X



## SECTION C-D PIT XI (PROJECTED)



## SECTION E-F PIT XII



- ① HUMUS
- ② OCCUPATION
- ③ DIRTY YELLOW
- ④ BLACK
- ⑤ WHITE
- ⑥ IRON PAN

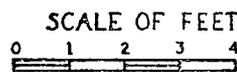


Fig. 2. Sections

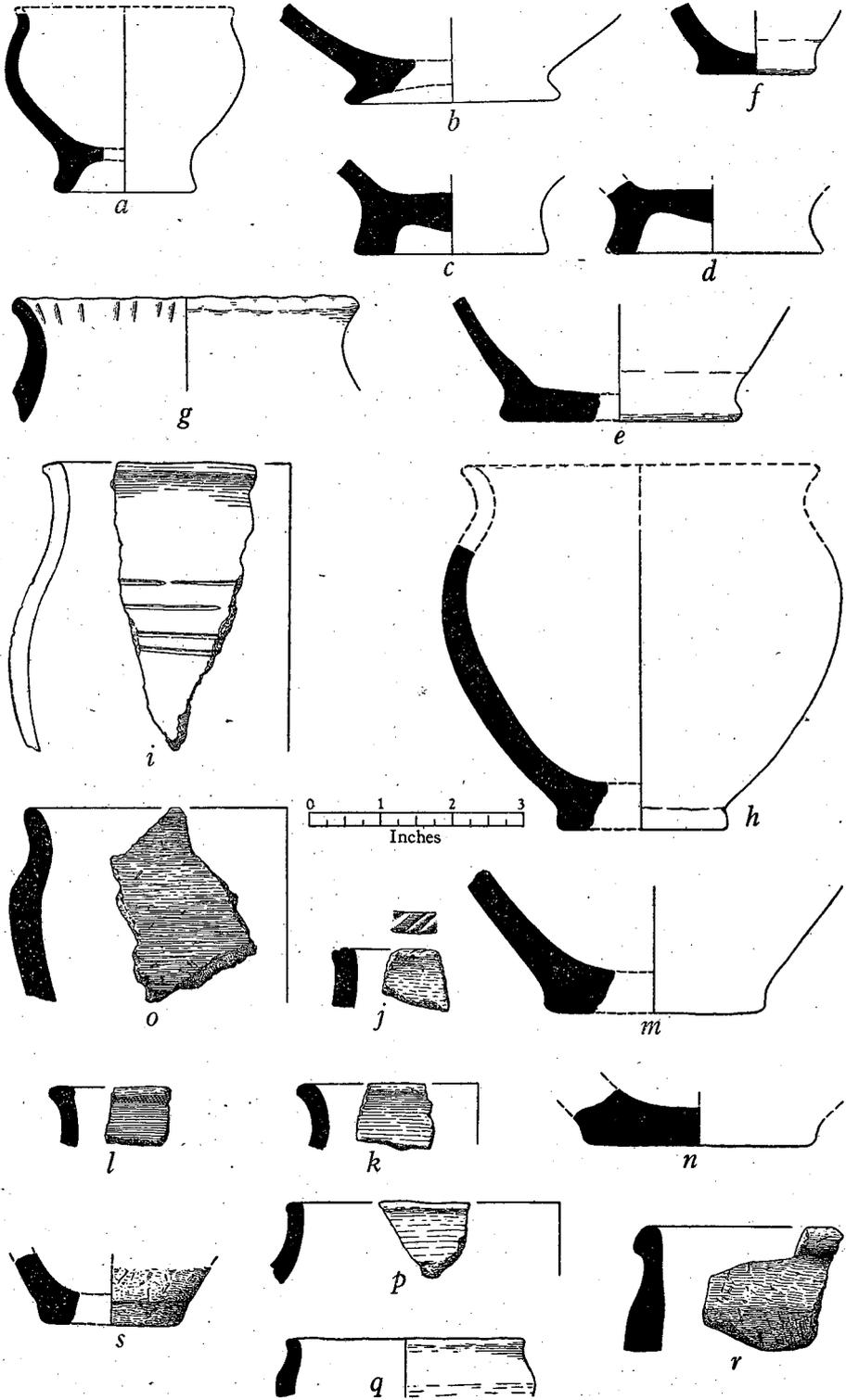


Fig. 3

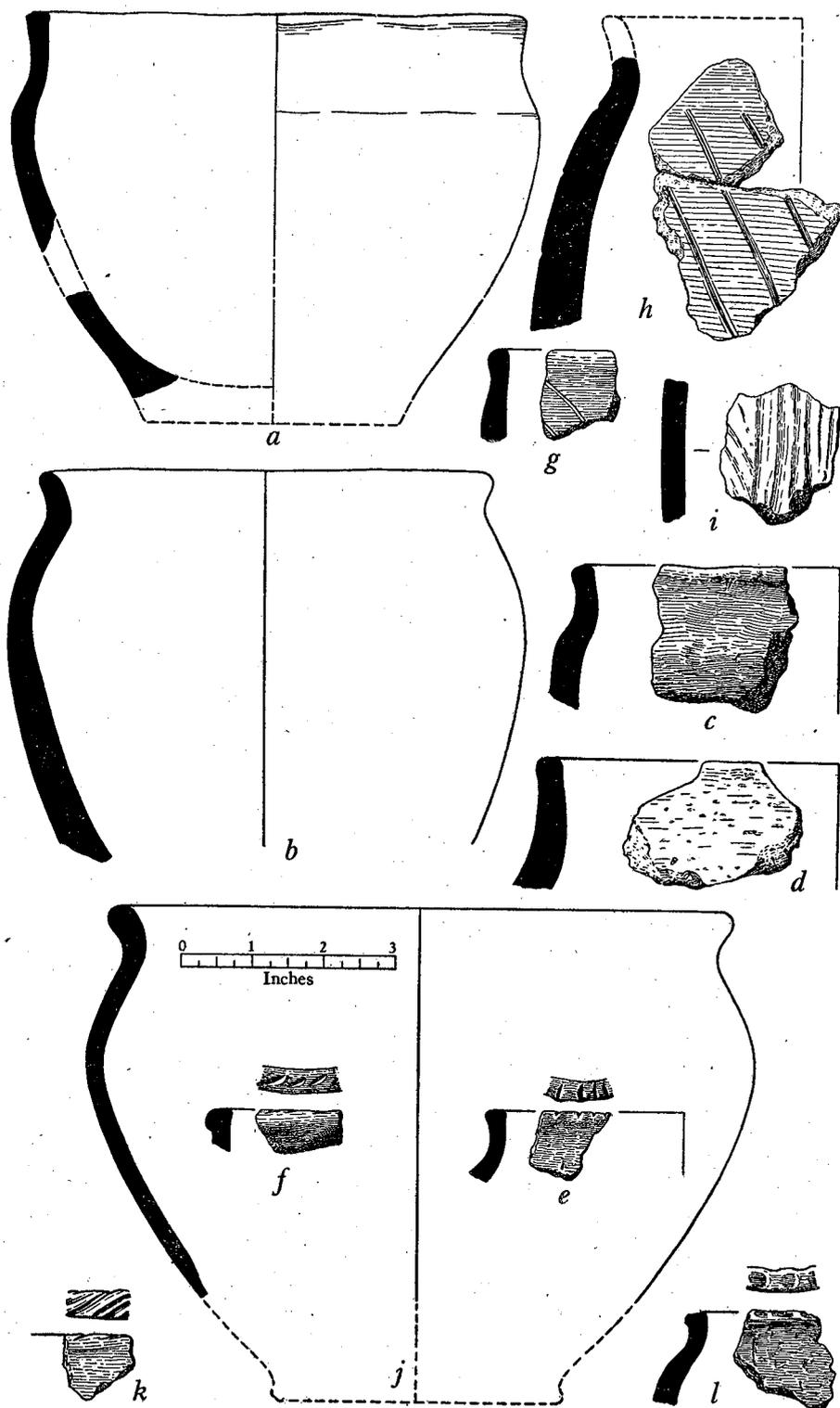


Fig. 4

## POTTERY FROM LAKENHEATH, SUFFOLK

Fig. 3. *Previous to 1937*

- a. Small hand-made pedestal bowl of fairly hard red-brown paste with white flint grits. Polished black interior surface, exterior red slipped (? haematite) and polished.
- b. Pedestal base of hard grey paste, white flint grits. Interior smooth, unpolished exterior (including underneath foot) finely burnished black.
- c. Foot-ring base of hard grey paste, flint grits, some large. Polished exterior surface. Solid but irregularly made.
- d. Foot-ring base similar to (c).
- e. Flat base with projecting foot. Hard grey ware, smooth interior, imperfectly polished exterior.
- f. Small flat base with tendency to projecting foot. Hard grey ware, red-brown surfaces, smooth but unpolished.
- g. Rim with thumb-nail incisions inside, of hard grey ware with large white flint grits. Hand-made polished surfaces.
- h. Lower part of pot of hard grey black ware with large flint grits. Buff patches on surface.
- i. Grey-black ware, small flint grits. Highly polished surface. Tooled horizontal lines round upper body.

*From 1937 pits*

- j. Cable pattern rim of hard unpolished brown ware containing flint and finely pounded quartz(?) grits.
- k. Slightly everted plain rim. Hard grey paste, polished brown exterior.
- l. Flattened rim, hard black paste, burnished black exterior.
- m. Thick base, hard grey paste, smooth interior surface, exterior brown-black, polished. For shape compare (f).
- n. Thick base of crumbly brown-black paste, much quartz and some flint grits. Smooth but unpolished black exterior.
- o. Thick rim and shoulder of hard ware containing flint and quartz. Burnished red-brown exterior.

*From lower part of occupation layer*

- p. Plain rim of hard grey ware, buff polished exterior.
- q. Rim of hard grey paste; red unsmoothed surfaces.
- r. Rolled rim and heavy shoulder of brown paste containing quartz and some flint grits. Brick-red unsmoothed surfaces.
- s. Base of coarse paste containing quartz and flint. Buff surfaces, unsmoothed.

Fig. 4. *Occupation layer*

- a. Sherds of a bowl of hard dark brown paste containing quartz and some flint grit. Brown-black polished exterior.
- b. Thick rim of smooth grey paste, interior surface red, exterior red-black, very smooth but not highly polished.
- c. Rim and shoulder of very hard grey paste containing quartz. Irregular unsmoothed surface. Rough.
- d. Heavy rim of light grey smooth paste containing large white flint grits. Pale buff smooth exterior.
- e. Thumb-nail printed rim of hard black ware, containing quartz, grass tempered.
- f. Slightly rolled rim bearing oblique thumb-nail marks. Hard grey paste, smooth.
- g. Rim and thickening shoulder of hard grey paste, containing quartz. Fairly smooth buff exterior with (probably) decoration of oblique incised lines.
- h. Shoulder of very heavy pot of fairly hard brown ware containing quartz. Smooth red-brown surface decorated with parallel oblique lines produced by drawing a pointed object over the wet clay.
- i. Sherd of hard grey paste containing flint and sand. Buff outer surface deliberately furrowed.
- j. Upper part of large jar of hard dark brown paste, containing some large white flint grits and sand. Smooth black surfaces, exterior finely polished. Might be wheel-made.

*From humus*

- k. Cable rim of unsmoothed hard grey ware.
- l. Thumb-printed rim of hard black ware, grass tempered, unpolished.

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## CONTENTS

<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1948-1949</i>	page vii
<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1947-1948</i>	viii
<i>Report and Summary of Accounts for the Year 1946</i>	ix
<i>Report and Summary of Accounts for the Year 1947</i>	xi
<i>Editorial Note</i>	xiv
Railways to Cambridge, Actual and Projected: a Centenary Review By Canon R. B. FELLOWS, M.A., LL.M.	i
Andrew Doket and his Architect By ARTHUR OSWALD, M.A.	8
The Authorship of a Seventeenth-Century Harvests' Account Book from Fowlmere By W. P. BAKER, M.A.	27
The Cambridgeshire Properties of the Nunnery of St Mary Clerkenwell By W. O. HASSALL, M.A., D.PHIL., F.S.A.	33
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Combined Beaker and Iron Age Sites at Lakenheath, Suffolk By GRACE BRISCOE, M.B., B.S.	92
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<i>Index</i>	131