

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LIX

JANUARY 1966 TO DECEMBER 1966

CAMBRIDGE
DEIGHTON BELL

1966

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LIX

JANUARY 1966 TO DECEMBER 1966

CAMBRIDGE
DEIGHTON BELL

1966

*Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (incorporating the Cambs and Hunts
Archaeological Society) by Deighton Bell, 13 Trinity Street, Cambridge*

Printed in Great Britain at the University Printing House, Cambridge

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---------|
| <i>Officers and Council of the Society, 1965-66</i> | page iv |
| The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Little Eriswell, Suffolk By PATRICIA HUTCHINSON | I |
| St Neots Priory By C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A. | 33 |
| Waterbeach Abbey By M. D. CRA'STER, F.S.A. | 75 |
| A Medieval Windmill, Honey Hill, Dogsthorpe By S. V. PEARCE | 95 |
| The Church of St Mary, Huntingdon By CYRIL HART | 105 |
| Some Twelfth-century Documents Concerning St Peter's Church, Babraham By EDWARD MILLER | 113 |
| Notes on the Early Career of Thomas Thirlby, Tudor Bishop of Ely By SIR JOHN GRAY | 125 |
| The Street and Ditch Ways in South-East Cambridgeshire By MARGARET SPUFFORD | 129 |
| Review Note: <i>A Cambridgeshire Community: Chippenham from Settlement to Enclosure</i> , by Margaret Spufford By M. D. CRA'STER | 133 |
| Archaeological Notes By A. R. EDWARDSON, W. LILLER, C. F. TEBBUTT and G. RUDD | 135 |
| <i>Index</i> | |

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

A. R. EDWARDSON, W. LILLER, C. F. TEBBUTT
AND G. RUDD

BEAKER AND RUSTICATED SHERDS ASSOCIATED WITH RED DEER ANTLER SOCKETS

Burnt Fen Cambridgeshire. Grid Map Ref. 615860

Butt ends of red deer antler, having the brow tine removed and the shaft of the antler bored with a hole either circular or oval, occur as surface finds in the general area of the Fens.

Since evidence exists for the use of such artifacts over a very long period from the Mesolithic to the Anglo-Saxon, the dating of such stray finds cannot be determined.

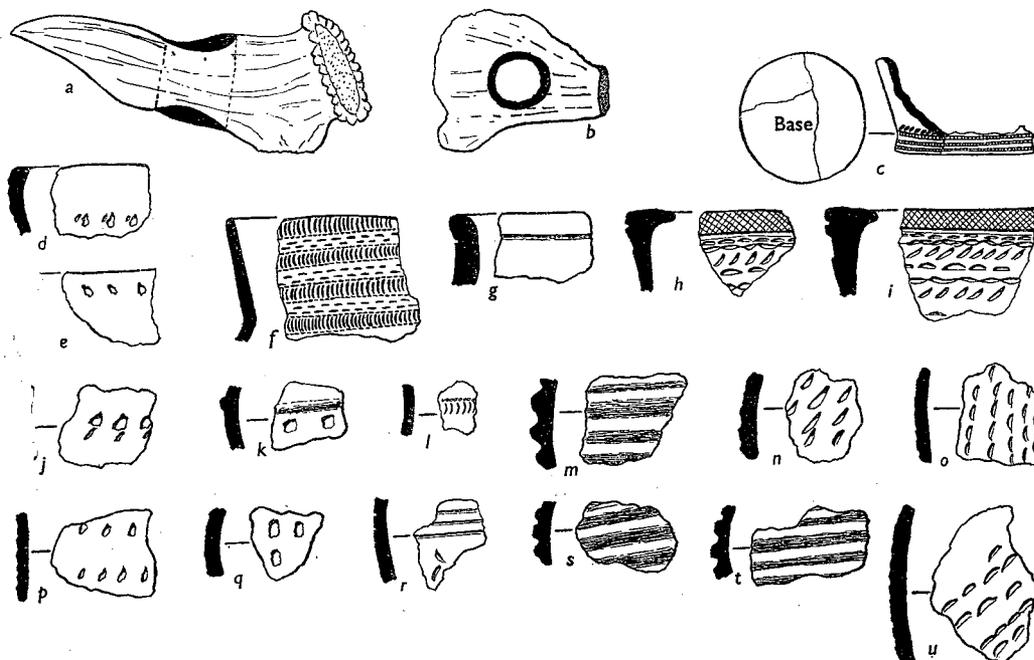


Fig. 1. Burnt Fen, Cambridgeshire: antler artifacts (*a*, *b*) and potsherds; (*d*)-(*i*) rim sherds. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

In the spring of 1965 the use of a machine to cut drainage trenches at Burnt Fen, resulted in the discovery of a number of Beaker and Rusticated sherds of the earlier portion of the second millenium B.C., in association in a pit with two red deer antler

butts, one having an oval hole cut through the shaft and the other having a circular hole. Soil conditions in the Fen favourable for the preservation of bone material, have here provided evidence of the use of antler sockets in the Beaker period. Sherds of eight different vessels are present (Fig. 1).

A. R. E.

THE ROMAN ROAD OUT OF CAMBRIDGE LEADING TO ST NEOTS

The Roman road leading from Cambridge through Caxton Gibbet and St Neots to Bushmead Priory has recently been described in considerable detail by R. W. Bagshawe and D. E. Johnston.¹ According to these authors this road, no. 231 in I. D. Margary's system,² left Cambridge from the same gate as Roman Road 23*a* and travelled almost due west, probably through the grounds of Churchill College and the University Observatories (Nat. Grid Ref. TL 428593). The first clear trace of the road appears south of Trinity Conduit Head where it coincides with the present Madingley Road (A 45).

During my year's stay in Cambridge as a Guggenheim Fellow, a sewer trench was dug from Madingley Road to the Observatories building. It ran roughly parallel to and a few yards west of the main drive and directly across the inferred path of the Roman Road.³ The depth of this trench varied from 3 to 8 ft. and permitted a careful search for metalling, mortar, and other signs of Roman road construction. A thorough inspection of the trench walls revealed nothing other than normal geological stratification.

The course of Roman Road 231 past the Observatories must be along the Madingley Road. From the Observatories to its termination in Cambridge, the Madingley Road never deviates more than a hundred yards from a straight line, and thus it seems quite possible that the Roman Road followed this route, turning into Durolipons with Road 23*a* just west of what is now Lady Margaret Road.

W. L.

DIDDINGTON RESERVOIR (GRAFHAM WATER)

Roman period

In October 1964 a large trench was dug mechanically south of, and parallel to, the new road from Perry to Buckden. Watch was kept on the work when it approached the vicinity of the Roman period finds recorded in the last Proceedings.

At a point (TL 163663) where the pipeline was 182 ft. from the centre of the new road and 375 ft. east of the hedge running north from Hangmans Spinney (i.e. the Diddington and Grafham parish boundary) it was noticed that many large stones had been turned out. Through the good offices of the Consulting Engineers the area was kept clear of spoil so that it could be excavated.

¹ R. W. Bagshawe and D. E. Johnston. *Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands*, by the 'Viatores' (London: Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1964), p. 264.

² I. D. Margary. *Roman Roads in Britain* (1st edn., 1903), p. 26.

³ R. W. Bagshawe and D. E. Johnston. *Op. cit.* p. 49.

It was found that the stones had come from a road foundation about 9 in. below the present surface. We were able to expose a length of 25 ft. of this road that was undisturbed.

The construction consisted of two layers of large stones, set in clay with a surface of smaller stones also set in clay. The width remaining was 10 ft. Among the large foundation stones were two fragments of beehive querns and in the surface layer many sherds of first century pottery. Lying on the actual surface was a silver *denarius* of Tiberius (A.D. 14-37) from the mint of Lugdunum, in almost unworn condition.

As the road was pointing north-north-east, almost at right-angles to the pipeline trench, roadside ditches were looked for in its vertical section. None could be seen on the west side but on the east a parallel ditch could be seen 24 ft. from the east edge of the road. It was 3 ft. wide at the top and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep. This ditch had many stones from the road filling its upper levels; near the bottom was a fourth-century coin in bad condition.

Further trenching and probing were done on the line of the road, both to the north and south, without finding more metalling. It seems probable that the road, dating from the first century, was destroyed while its accompanying ditch was still open.

About 150 ft. west of the above the black fill of a large ditch could be seen, in section, crossing the pipeline trench. Part of this was dug out by Mrs Lovell of the nearby Highfield Farm cottages and was found to contain much first-century pottery. Also recovered from it was a large bronze pin, 4 in. long, with a slightly swelled head, a plain bronze bracelet, a bronze brooch (Collingwood Group M, first-century type), and a coarse bone needle.

In making a car park on the north side of the new Perry road, nearly opposite the above site, a cremation burial, in a small wooden box, was destroyed. Sherds from a Samian vessel were all that could be recovered. Mr B. Hartley, M.A., F.S.A., kindly examined these and describes the vessel as Form 18/31 Central Gaulish (probably from Les Martres de Veyre). The mark is]F[ELI]X.F[, and early Antonine.

The implication of the discovery of this Roman road is of some interest in view of the recently published work *Roman Roads in the South East Midlands* by the Viatores, (Gollancz, 1964). In this book the authors trace the line of a supposed Roman road from the neighbourhood of Bedford to Alconbury Hill, Huntingdonshire (173 d. ps. 435,436.). On the right-hand map on p. 436, at Rushey Farm, the authors have suggested a new alignment northward to bring their road to Gaynes Hall and on through Grafham. I suggest that had the alignment south of Rushey Farm been continued it would have brought their road to the place of our discovery from where our excavated length pointed north-north-east to Model Farm, Grafham, a mile away. Further evidence for this new line came from the aerial survey of the Diddington Reservoir area, kindly lent me by the Consulting Engineer. This showed a white streak, starting from Gaynes Lodge Farm and continuing north-east to Hangmans Spinney, and pointing directly at our section.

Late Medieval

In 1965 Mr P. G. Dickinson, F.S.A., told me of a large scatter of tiles and brick-kiln rubbish at the west end of the reservoir. On visiting the site (TL. 133681) I found an acre or so of thickly scattered brickyard waste as well as remains of laid brick floors and circular areas of burnt clay representing kiln bases.

The main bulk of waste material consisted of broken plain tiles, 7 in. wide with two nail holes punched with square hole, 2 in. building bricks, 9×9 in. and $4\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ in. floor tiles, and half-round ridge tiles. Among a number of unusual items were 9×9 in. green-glazed floor tiles, two crude crucible-like vessels, and what appeared to be a trial firing of a tile moulded in relief with the figure of an heraldic falcon.

A quantity of pottery was found among the rubble, all unglazed of fifteenth- to sixteenth-century date.

Finds from both sites are in the Norris Museum, St. Ives.

C. F. T.

EARTHWORKS ON TORT HILL, SAWTRY, HUNTINGDON

Early in 1965 Mr E. W. Joyce of Sawtry drew our attention to an unusual earthwork in a field called Hodges Close which encloses the summit of Tort Hill in Sawtry (52/173842). This field is in the south angle formed by the road leading out of the north end of Sawtry village to the A 1 road, and the northbound carriageway of that road. In 1939, when the earthworks for this carriageway were excavated, a number of finds of the Roman period were made by Dr Garood (*Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc. Trans.* VI (1943), p. 178). Since then Mr Joyce has found Roman pottery in the west bank of this cutting.

The earthwork itself comprises an approximately circular bank (the diameter varies from 84 to 100 ft.) surrounding a hollow from which the soil to form the bank may well have come. From its prominent position on top of the hill it commands extensive views both to the north and south and over the fenland to the east.

The circle is enclosed, at some distance, by a square bank and ditch, of which the south-east corner was destroyed by the road cutting. Air photographs of the site show another small square ditched enclosure, outside the main enclosure, but attached to the west side of its north ditch and extending into the roadside hedge (Pl. X).

In June 1965, with the kind permission of the Heathcote Estate and the tenant Mr Hunting, and with the help of Mr Joyce and his family and friends, a trial excavation was done to test the suggestion that the earthwork might be a Roman signal station.

First a cutting was made through the north bank of the large square enclosure, near the north-east corner. Here the bank was found to be a slight one with a shallow ditch on each side. A few small sherds of Roman pottery were found in the turf core of the bank, showing that it could not be of pre-Roman date.

The next cut was made from the approximate centre of the hollow circle northward to half way through the enclosing bank. The bank was found to be of clay,

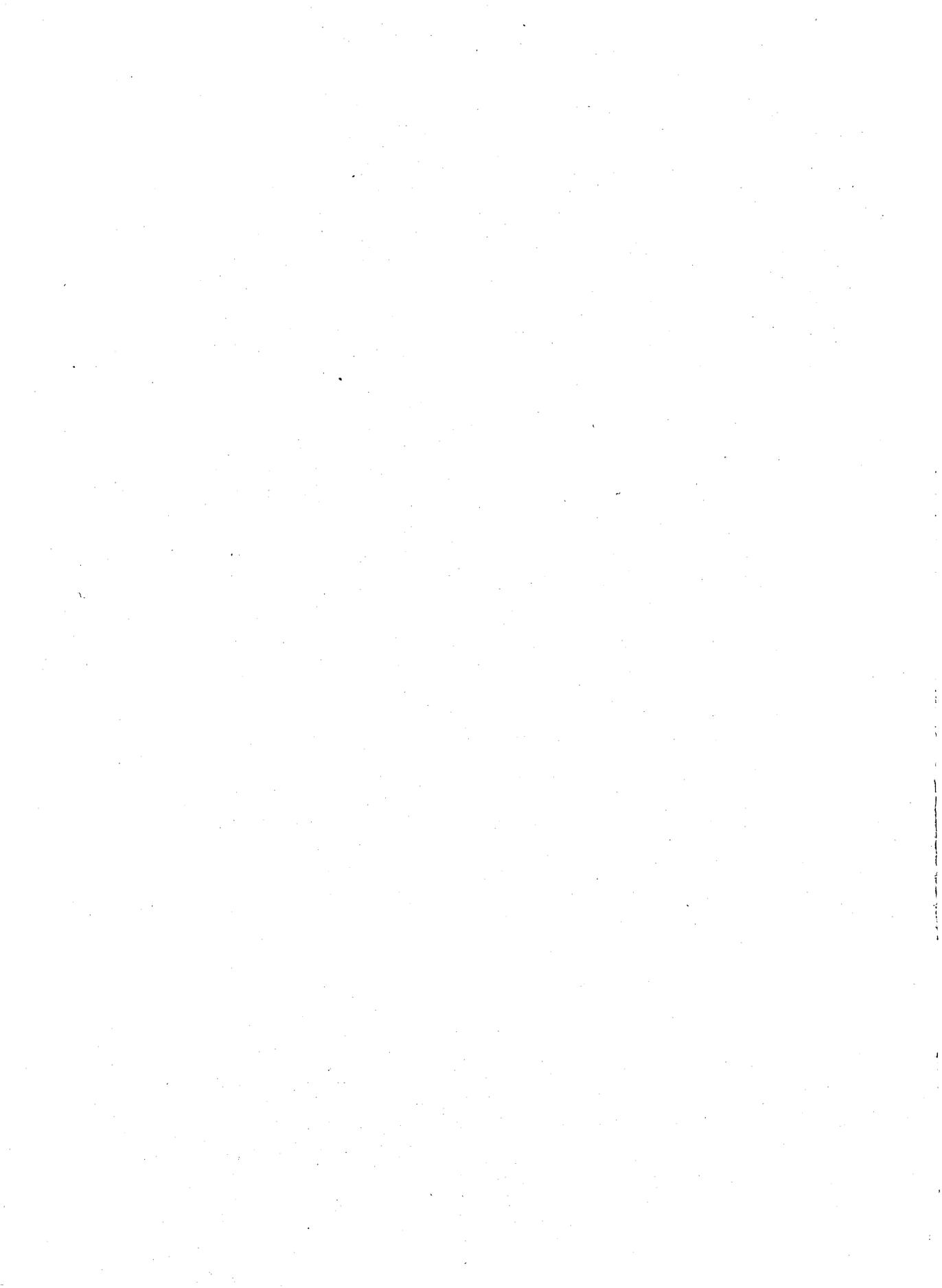
sealing an old land surface. From this old surface came several sherds of a green and yellow glazed medieval jug, and one of green Stamford ware, all of the thirteenth century.

A third cut was made across the west ditch of the small square appendage enclosure, but nothing datable was found.

The evidence from the excavation would seem to show that this complex of earthworks, which appear to be homogeneous, cannot be earlier than the thirteenth century, and—from the complete absence of any finds actually associated with them—are probably not of a domestic character. From their dominant position overlooking the Great North Road it seems likely that they have some connexion with it, and it has been suggested that they may date from the Civil War. C.F.T and G.R.



Tort Hill, Sawtry, winter 1963. The earthwork can be seen at the intersection of the marginal arrows.



PROCEEDINGS OF
THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

VOLUME LIX
JANUARY 1966 TO DECEMBER 1966

40s. net.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Officers and Council of the Society, 1965-66</i> | <i>page iv</i> |
| The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Little Eriswell, Suffolk By PATRICIA HUTCHINSON | i |
| St Neots Priory By C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A. | 33 |
| Waterbeach Abbey By M. D. CRA'STER, F.S.A. | 75 |
| A Medieval Windmill, Honey Hill, Dogsthorpe By S. V. PEARCE | 95 |
| The Church of St Mary, Huntingdon By CYRIL HART | 105 |
| Some Twelfth-century Documents Concerning St Peter's Church, Babraham By EDWARD MILLAR | 113 |
| Notes on the Early Career of Thomas Thirlby, Tudor Bishop of Ely By SIR JOHN GRAY | 125 |
| The Street and Ditch Ways in South-East Cambridgeshire By MARGARET SPUFFORD | 129 |
| Review Note: <i>A Cambridgeshire Community: Chippenham from Settlement to Enclosure</i> , by Margaret Spufford By M. D. CRA'STER | 133 |
| Archaeological Notes By A. R. EDWARDS, W. LILLER, C. F. TEBBUTT and G. RUDD | 135 |