

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXX

1980

IMRAY LAURIE NORIE AND WILSON

1981

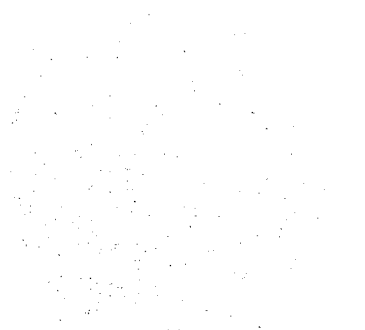
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
FOR THE YEAR 1964-1965

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1965



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THE CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

The group has been involved in a range of activities in the past year, mostly continuations of existing projects referred to in the previous annual reports of the group. These activities are dealt with under individual headings below.

Fieldwalking. In the winter of 1979/80 walking continued in the Stapleford parish area. A stage was reached where most of the readily available land in the area had been covered and it was decided that this would be a useful point at which to review the methods and aims of the exercise.

The technique used was to mark out with poles a 100m grid on the field, corresponding to the National Grid. Each square was then walked at an approximate 2.5m spacing, all finds from a square being collected and placed in a bag marked with the six-figure grid reference for that square. The bags were then taken by 'volunteers' who washed and marked the finds, returning them to a central point where members of the group meet weekly to sort and record the finds on cards for each 100m square. The intention is that these records can be plotted on large scale maps and correlated with other information including the extensive documentary survey carried out by Mrs D. Berrios and the hedgerow survey organised by Mrs P. South, both members of the group.

This technique gives a very detailed picture of an area, but has many disadvantages for a routine survey. The main problems are that it is very slow and time-consuming, requiring a great deal of effort in marking out fields and in recording finds or the lack of them at a very high intensity. In fact, surprisingly few artefacts, other than the inevitable large quantities of 'Victoriana' and 'Woolworth ware', and very few significant sites were found in this area.

For the future it has been decided that for the general survey type of work normally being undertaken by the group, it would be better to use a more normal strip-walking system, collecting only significant finds which are taken directly to a central meeting place for processing and recording. This is less time consuming than the method previously used, means that a much greater area can be effectively covered in the very limited time made available by modern agricultural techniques and also reduces the chances of material being lost when not returned promptly.

With most of the readily available land in Stapleford having been covered, work in the winter 1980/81 has shifted, initially to land adjacent to the site on Newmarket Road (TL 311687) previously reported (*PCAS* LXIX 1979 xv) and subsequently to an area at Cottenham which is likely to show evidence of Romano-British occupation.

Earthwork survey. The survey of the moated site at Stapleford was completed and a survey of further earthworks in fields adjacent to those already examined at River

Farm, Haslingfield (around TL 412518) was also carried out. In conjunction with the trial excavation carried out by Mr Michael Sekulla at the manor house site at Dry Drayton, a survey of the earthworks at this site was carried out this summer. In view of the apparently slow progress with survey work, it should be pointed out that the surveys undertaken are not of the "fill in a record card and do a quick sketch-plan" type, but aim at producing a detailed large scale plan of each site examined.

Excavation. The group does not itself undertake any excavations but is usually able to provide a limited number of volunteers to help with excavations in the area when required. This year members of the group assisted with the Sawtry Archaeology and Conservation Group's excavations at the important Sawtry Judith site, with a rescue excavation undertaken by the County Archaeology Officer at the site of St Bene't's church, Huntingdon, and with Mr H. J. M. Green's excavation at Godmanchester. The group also received an offer for members to take part in the Extra-Mural Board's Training Excavation, but unfortunately the majority of the active members of the group were already heavily committed at the time of this excavation and we were unable to take real advantage of this generous offer.

In addition to these practical activities the group has continued to hold a series of monthly meetings and lectures which have proved very successful and the group seems to have established a useful role for itself in the area.

R. J. Flood

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