

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXXII

for 1982 and 1983

IMRAY LAURIE NORIE AND WILSON

1984

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THE PROCEEDINGS

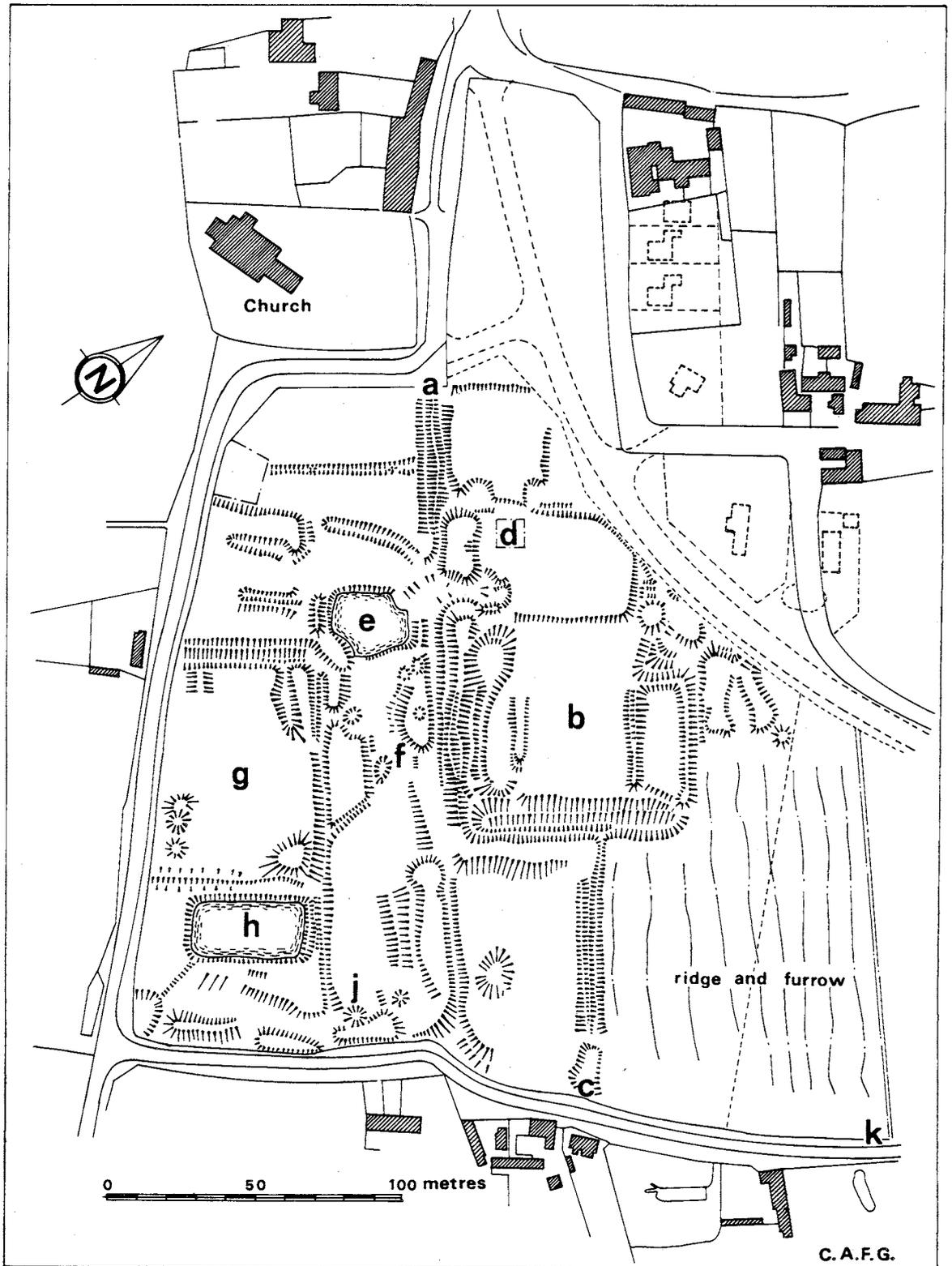
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Members might like to know that a considerable stock of back numbers of the *Proceedings* can be obtained from the publishers, Imray Laurie Norie and Wilson, and that the Honorary Librarian has copies of many publications in the Quarto and Octavo series for sale.

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Dry Drayton Park

A SURVEY OF DRY DRAYTON PARK, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

Dry Drayton Park (TL 381619) lies to the east of the church on the southern side of the village of Dry Drayton at 30m O D on the lower western end of a slope. The site is currently a meadow containing extensive earthworks which are the remains of the Manor Houses of 12/13 - 15 century and 16 - 19 century. The rectangular road pattern of Dry Drayton is evident in the Park as a trackway. Later farm buildings and landscaping have contributed to the complications of the site.

A new survey of this site has been made by the Cambridge Archaeological Field Group. Figure 1 shows the results of the survey with the layout around the Park based on late nineteenth-century maps. Major changes since then, mainly post 1940, are shown in broken line for roads, buildings and Park boundary. The interpretation that follows is based on information supplied by Mr M.F. Sekulla, some of which was published in his excavation report in *P.C.A.S.* LXX, 1980, 13-45. A prominent feature is the trackway ('a' on the plan) which is an extension of the roadway adjacent to the church. This forms part of a rectangular system of roads on this side of the village and is pre sixteenth-century but may be very much earlier. The 12/13 century Manor House stood at 'b'. This house probably had an associated moat to the south and east but 17/18 century landscaping has significantly modified its outline. The ditch running south east to 'c' may be an overflow channel from the moat.

The Manor House was rebuilt between 1670 and 1678 and in the excavations at 'd' by Mr Sekulla, he found remains which seem to represent this phase. The earthworks to the east and north are probably landscaping for gardens around this house. The pond 'e' possibly predates this building phase and brickwork in its northern corner may be part of a structure associated with this Manor House. There is evidence that 18/19 century farm buildings stood at 'f'. Features 'g' and 'h' are probably post medieval landscaping but 'j' may be the remains of an Ice House.

As part of the survey a study was made of the hedges surrounding the Park. Substantial hedges remained on western, southern and eastern sides from 'a' to 'k' on the plan. In the twenty lengths of hedge of 30m each starting at 'a' there were an average 4.5 species of tree and shrub. (maximum 6, minimum 2).

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number of 30m length in which present</i>
Elm	19
Hawthorn	18
Blackthorn	13
Ash	13
Rose	10
Elder	8
Field Maple	5
Privet	2
Lime	1
Plum	1

In accordance with the theory of hedgerow dating this would suggest that the boundaries were established in the sixteenth or seventeenth century, which from the documentary evidence, is a period of landscaping following the rebuilding of the Manor House between 1670 and 1678.

We gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of Mr M.D. Sills and his tenants in allowing us access to this site.