

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

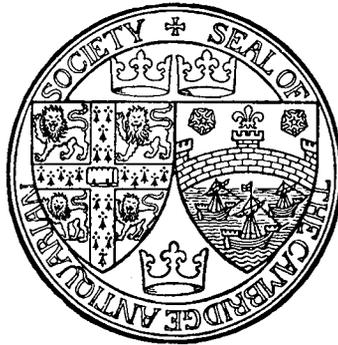


VOLUME LXXIV

for 1985

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CONTENTS

Officers and Council of the Society, 1984-5

Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval artefacts from the Southern Fen Edge, Cambridgeshire. ALISON TAYLOR	1
The Musical Establishment at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1546-1644. IAN PAYNE	53
Cambridgeshire Earthwork Surveys V. A. E. BROWN and C. C. TAYLOR	71
Archaeological Survey at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 1984. KENNETH RAINSBURY DARK	81
A Gold 'hair-ring' from Wimblington Parish, Cambridgeshire. COLIN F. PENDLETON	85
<i>Index.</i>	87

CAMBRIDGESHIRE EARTHWORK SURVEYS V

A. E. BROWN AND C. C. TAYLOR

This paper is a continuation of four earlier ones, in which earthworks mainly in the former county of Huntingdonshire are described. All the plans have been produced by students attending extra mural courses organised by the Department of Adult Education of Leicester University; they have been drawn up for publication by E. Dennison, Davina Longmuir, and Nichola Bannister.

Salome, Leighton Bromswold: settlement remains (TL 121776, Fig 1)

The late seventeenth century map of Leighton Bromswold and Buckworth preserved in the British Museum and printed in the *Victoria County History of Huntingdonshire* (1), shows in an area of old enclosures south-west of Sallam Wood, close to the northern edge of the parish, the site of a building named as Sallam Chapel lying within an enclosure some 50 m square. To the south-east of this, in a field marked as Allicon Payne Close, is a solitary building, the predecessor of the present Salome Farm.

The site of the chapel was discovered by excavation by J. R. Garrood 120 m from the north-west corner of the field shown as Elecampane on a map of Leighton dated 1743 in the Cambridgeshire Record Office at Huntingdon; its position has been marked on Fig 1 from information given in his account. He found the stone foundations of a building some 44 feet long and $18\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide, with buttresses; also three burials, scattered human bones, fragments of stained glass, painted plaster, tiles and other medieval material including thirteenth and fourteenth century pottery. There are documentary references to a chapel here from the third quarter of the twelfth century to the mid fifteenth century (2).

But the documentary sources make it clear that Salome consisted of more than a chapel and was in fact a small settlement; the name, variously rendered as Salne, Sale, Salue, and Salnee, means 'at the willows' (3). An agreement about the ownership of Shitlington church between the abbot of

Ramsey and Autinus of Huntingdonshire and his son Baldwin was drawn up in 1114-1123 at the vill 'quae Sale vocatur'. There are many references in thirteenth century documents to a family known as 'de Sale' or 'de Salue'. It is not mentioned in Domesday Book and was taxed with Leighton Bromswold in the subsidy of 1327 (Leighton cum Salene) but the list does not show its occupants separately; no population figures are available. Salome Wood figures in documents of the twelfth-fourteenth centuries (4).

Salome had its own field system, distinct from that of Leighton. The holdings were assessed in virgates in the usual way – the holding of William de Salue was said to consist of one and a half virgates in 1230. But it is not possible to say what the total number of virgates in the fields of Salome actually was. This is because the Hundred Rolls of 1279, which can normally be relied upon to supply this information, tell us about the villein holdings in the 'hamelett de Salene' (three 'Monendayesmen' and ten villeins, each with a quarter virgate, two and a half in all) but do not differentiate between free tenants holding in Leighton and those holding in Salome – William de Salen is mentioned, with one virgate in demesne, and one virgate and eleven acres held by tenants; this is presumably a Salome holding, but there could have been others. But the *total* number of virgates in Leighton in 1279-77 is almost exactly the same as the total arrived at by looking at the ploughland total given for Leighton in Domesday – $19\frac{1}{2}$ ploughs, *ie.* 78 virgates, divided between the demesne, villeins, three knights and their tenants. On this evidence Salome was almost certainly there at the time of Domesday in 1086, probably held by one or more of the knights (5).

The boundary between the fields of Salome and Leighton would have been the division between the open fields of Leighton and the enclosed ground to the north-west of them, as on the late seventeenth century map. These enclosures were originally the work of Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, who in 1548 became the owner of the manor of Leighton, some time

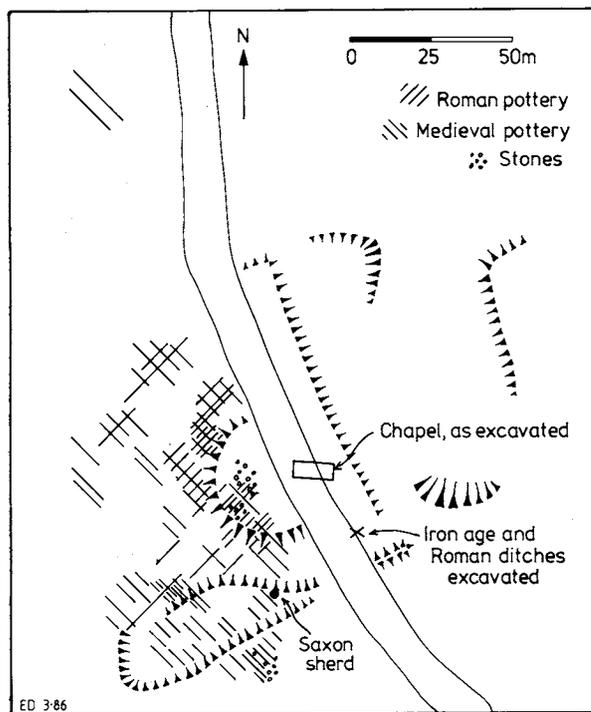
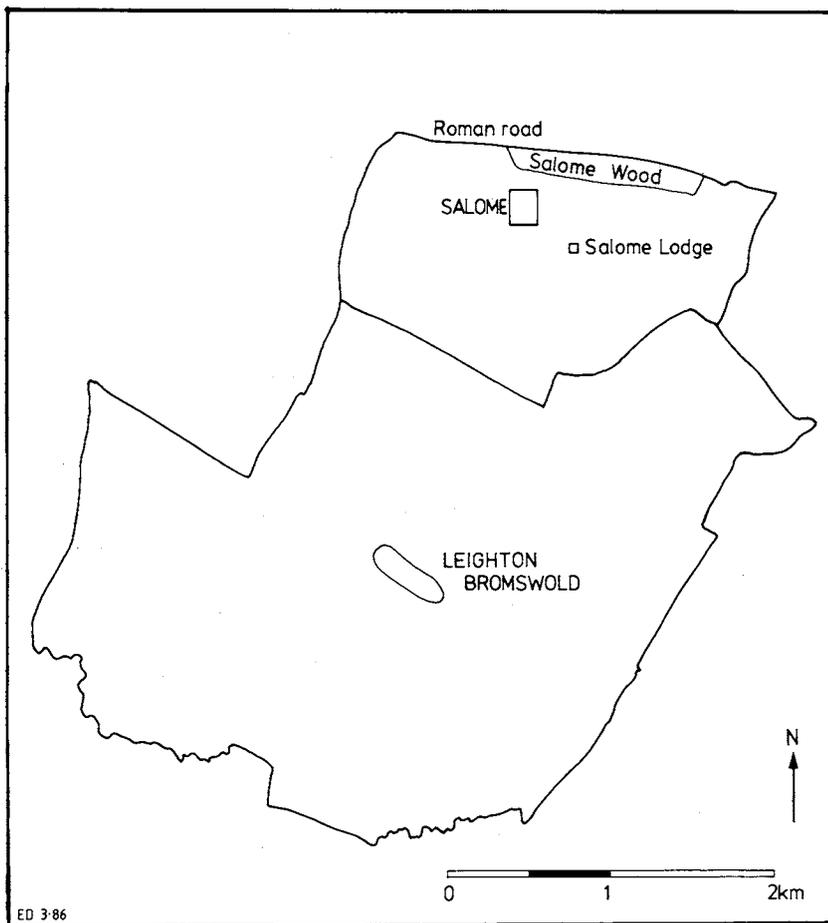


Figure 1. Site of Salome.

around the middle of the sixteenth century. There were objections and Salome field was converted back to tillage, but not permanently. Presumably the hamlet had long since disappeared (6).

The site of the hamlet lies in ploughed land on boulder clay at 200 ft OD. It is bisected by a now disused track, and is marked by a series of low scarps. A roughly semi-circular one to the west of the track may correspond to the enclosure around the chapel on the seventeenth century map, but the others, which are very slight and greatly denuded by ploughing, make no coherent pattern. A pottery scatter in the southernmost field, which was the only one which could be walked, produced mainly shelly, limestone tempered and green glazed wares of the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries. To the north of this was a scatter of Roman pottery, in general indeterminate grey ware fragments. This observation corroborates the discovery by J. R. Garrood of Roman pottery during his excavation of the chapel, and also some subsequent work of his south of the chapel which uncovered a Roman ditch yielding Samian and Nene Valley colour-coated ware as well as other Roman pottery (7); some of the pieces are illustrated in his paper on late Saxon and early medieval pottery, where they can be seen to be fourth-century calcite gritted bowls. The main point of interest in the present work was the discovery of a single sherd of shelly Iron Age scored pottery and of several pieces – butt beakers and cordoned jars – which have Belgic affinities and clearly belong to the very beginning of the Roman period; this again is in agreement with J. R. Garrood's discovery of an Iron Age ditch close to the Roman one. This survey also produced a single fragment of hard black sandy pottery which could be early or middle Saxon in date. This is not much to go on, but it does at least raise the possibility that the site of Salome, on heavy clay, has in one way or another been occupied for almost two thousand years.

Old Weston: settlement remains (TL 095773; Fig 2)

The village of Old Weston is now situated on the north side of a small south-east flowing stream on boulder clay between 180 ft and 220 ft above OD. The present layout of the village has two distinct parts. Close to the stream is an L-shaped arrangement of two streets which meet to encircle a small area of land in which the Model Farm is situated. Both streets are lined by houses, cottages and farms lying close to the existing road; the properties along the road to Winwick had back lanes behind them, to judge from a map of 1843 in the Cambridgeshire

Record Office and from the (admittedly somewhat inaccurate in detail) first edition of the Ordnance Survey one inch map (published in 1835). The second part of the village lies further north beyond the Black Swan public house. Here, apart from modern infill, the houses are set further apart and, in particular those on the east, are set well back from the road on the rising ground. They include two good seventeenth century buildings (8). The 1843 map shows that these houses had a common building line towards the road and were separated from the road by a strip of ground, then divided into small closes, which was broadening out in a funnel-shape towards the north. This may have been in function some form of green. The scarp shown on the plan to the east of the road to Winwick in this area represents modern dumping. This somewhat curious plan is made even more unusual by the fact that the parish church lies on the southern side of the stream on the adjacent hillside, quite isolated except for the former parsonage. Apart from one small field of earthworks, immediately south of the stream, and the paddocks between the church and the old parsonage, almost all the land around the church and the village is now permanent arable. It was thus hoped that careful fieldwalking of the area might produce evidence to help in the interpretation of the village development. The results of this fieldwalking, and survey, can be summarized as follows.

From the field immediately south of the church and solely confined to it, came a large number of early-mid Saxon sherds of pottery. There is also a quantity of medieval pottery, mostly of thirteenth century date, though not in an amount to suggest any former occupation. In the large field to the east of the church between it and the new road constructed in the 1940s is a general scatter of medieval pottery, as with the previous field, probably the results of manuring the area in medieval times. In addition a single early-mid Saxon sherd and one Roman sherd were also found.

Immediately north of the parsonage is an old lane running west from the present road. This is deeply hollowed and is presumably a medieval trackway leading into the fields. On its northern side the two small fields sloping down to a tributary stream produced very large quantities of medieval pottery, concentrated in two main areas, associated with large pebbles and stone rubble. The pottery was of twelfth-fourteenth century date and certainly indicated the former existence of occupation here. To the south-east, the parsonage, in the only surviving pasture field, is another hollow way only 0.5m-1m deep which runs along the southern edge



Figure 2. Old Weston, settlement remains.

of the field and then curves north-east down to the stream. It may have once run on across the stream and joined the present village street near the Manor House; it is shown as doing something like this on the first edition OS one inch map. On the northern side of this hollow way are some slight earthworks including what are perhaps four rectangular building platforms.

Further north-west another trackway extended north-west along the north-east side of the main stream. Its north-east edge is a scarp up to 2m high and, further north-west, it becomes markedly hollowed. It is undoubtedly another medieval trackway. The field on its north-east side was formerly divided into six small paddocks though the hedges bounding them (shown in Fig 2) have now been removed. Buildings are shown in the paddocks nearest to the village on both the maps referred to above. At the bottom ends of all these paddocks, close to the road, are large quantities of medieval pottery of thirteenth-fourteenth century date together with much stone rubble. Again this suggests that there was once a line of medieval houses along this track.

To the south-east of the village in what is now a single large field south-east of the new road and between it and the present isolated cottages more medieval pottery was found in large quantities. This was not close to the road, where the land is low-lying and liable to floods but on the lower slopes of the hill to the south. This pottery, of thirteenth-fourteenth century date, also indicates the sites of medieval houses.

These discoveries suggest that the history and development of Old Weston was very complex, and yet completely unrecorded in the documented history which indicates little more than that the land there was held by Ramsey Abbey from before the Conquest and until 1539.

It is nevertheless possible to combine the limited documentary evidence with that from fieldwork to produce a tentative explanation for the topographical development of the village.

In 1086 Domesday Book records that Ramsey Abbey held Old Weston, Brington and Bythorn as separate manors (9). By 1279, as the Hundred Rolls indicate, these three manors had been merged into one with the administrative centre at Old Weston (the ecclesiastical head was sited at Brington) (10). The Ordnance Survey place the Manor House of Old Weston north of the stream and immediately south of the oval area containing Model Farm. If this site is indeed that of the medieval manor then it could have been deliberately placed here for administrative convenience, at the junction of three

roads. The Hundred Rolls certainly imply that at some stage in its, perhaps recent, history the manor had been the cause of some reorganisation of the village: the manor with gardens and other things, enclosed by a ditch, contained 10 acres, 'for which place the freemen of Weston were given in exchange ten acres taken out of the demesne because the manor site used to be common pasture'.

This, together with the evidence from the 1843 map, especially that indicating the existence of back lanes on either side of the section north-east of Model Farm, might suggest a replanning of the village at some time between 1086 and 1279, associated with the changes in manorial administration, perhaps in the early thirteenth century. The circular area occupied by Model Farm could have been a green in front of the manor and occupying the south-west quadrant of a rectangular planned village layout. Subsequent but short-lived expansion then may have occurred to the north-west and south-east, as indicated by the archaeological evidence.

The distinct area north of the Black Swan could represent a later planned expansion, or merely a shift in the location of settlement consequent upon changes in the relative importance of different roads, the north-west to south-east access becoming less important and the north-east to south-west one, the present main street, becoming more so, or at least maintaining its role.

On the other hand, the archaeological evidence for early-mid Saxon settlement near the church implies that the late Saxon village lay elsewhere. As yet there is no indication of where this was, unless it was in the area of Model Farm and was indeed replanned in the early thirteenth century.

Much of the foregoing may be regarded as unproved speculation, but whatever the true sequence of development at Old Weston there can be little doubt that it was extremely complicated. In view of recent studies on village morphology elsewhere this is not unexpected.

Coppingford: moated site (TL 173804; Fig 3)

This small sub-rectangular moated site is defined by a moat 7 m wide and 0.5 m deep and encloses an area of 700 sq.m. There are traces of an old archaeological excavation inside it. It lies on the north side of a stream close to the northern boundary of Coppingford in a wood marked as Hermitage Grove on the OS six inch map and as Hermitage Wood on a map of 1716, a copy of which is in the Cambridgeshire Record Office at Huntingdon.

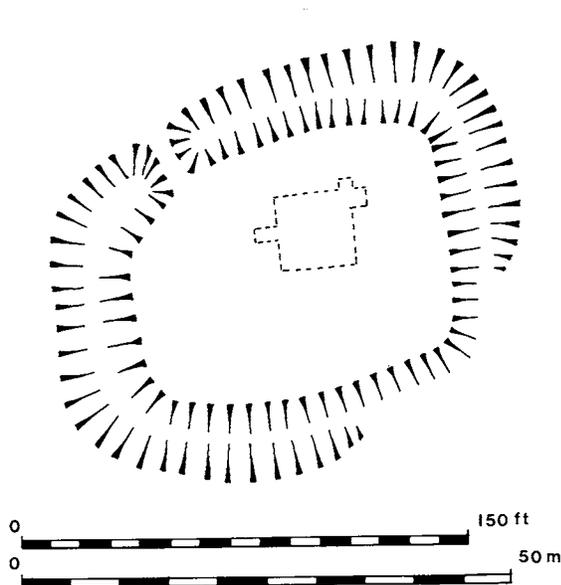


Figure 3. Coppingford, moated site.

The site is very overgrown and difficult of access.

The moat presumably marks the site of the hermitage at Coppingford which was granted *c* 1225-33 by the lord of Coppingford, Simon Costentin, to the Augustinian Priory of Bushmead in Bedfordshire, for the maintenance of a priest there to pray for the souls of himself, his wife and son. An occupant of the hermitage, Joseph *capellanus*, became the first prior (*c* 1215-33) of the newly constituted regular priory. The grant specifies the hermitage, its chapel, buildings, ditches (perhaps moat?), and hedges together with sixteen and a half selion (plough ridges) of the grantor's assart next to the hermitage with the right to take wood outside the gate of the building. This grant was confirmed by subsequent lords of Coppingford, but in 1314 the obligation laid on the priory to hold the services at the hermitage was relaxed in favour of a provision that they could be held at Bushmead itself; this could have marked the end of the hermitage as a functioning institution (12).

Kimbolton: Stonely Priory (TL 115675; Fig 4)

The fragmentary remains of the Priory of Stonely lie on the crest of a west facing hillside, 1.5 km east of Kimbolton and a little north-east of Stonely village at about 200 ft above OD.

The Priory, a house of Augustinian Canons, is said to have been founded in 1180 by William de Mandeville but this is uncertain and the earliest documented reference to its existence is not until 1279. It was always a small house, there never

being more than seven canons and little is known of its history. It was dissolved in 1539 (13). Only one building remains, an existing farmhouse known as the Priory House. This has been much altered both in the past and more recently but is apparently the only part of the monastic buildings to survive. It is of two storeys, of stone rubble and eighteenth century and later brick, and probably dates from the fifteenth or early sixteenth centuries. It is impossible to suggest its original function (14); it is marked as a barn on a map of Stonely of 1764 in the Cambridgeshire Record Office, Huntingdon. Other buildings of the Priory apparently remained until the late seventeenth century for materials from them were used in the construction of Kimbolton Castle in 1707-8 (15). A dovecote is shown on the 1764 map as well as the barn.

The remains are in poor condition as a result of ploughing and apart from the moat ditches and the field to the east of the Priory House, all the land is now permanent arable. The main feature is a group of long ponds which are all that remain of what was presumably once a rectangular moat encircling the monastic precinct on the west, north and east. The ponds forming the western and northern arms still exist, although now separate, and enough evidence remains to indicate that they once formed a continuous ditch at least 1.5 m deep.

There is no trace now of an eastern side to the moat though the sharp bend at the eastern end of the ditch on the northern side suggests it once ran south from this point. Its presumed line is occupied by a series of low mounds and banks generally rectangular in form, all less than 0.5 m high. What these represent it is impossible to discover and even their shape may be fortuitous. They have all been ploughed over in very narrow ridge-and-furrow only 3 m across, probably of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date; this land was shown as pasture on the 1764 map. The ridges run north-west-south east and thus may have altered the underlying features to follow the direction of ploughing.

To the east of the moated site is an L-shaped pond almost 2 m deep with a well-marked outer bank and a rather spread inner one. It is not clear what this is. It could be the north-eastern corner of the original moat or, and perhaps more likely, it is part of an outer moated enclosure. All these ponds are shown on the 1764 map with the exception of the westernmost section of the northern line, although this must have been clearly visible at that time. The ponds are probably best regarded as fishponds rather than as moats in the true sense.

There is no indication that the moat continued

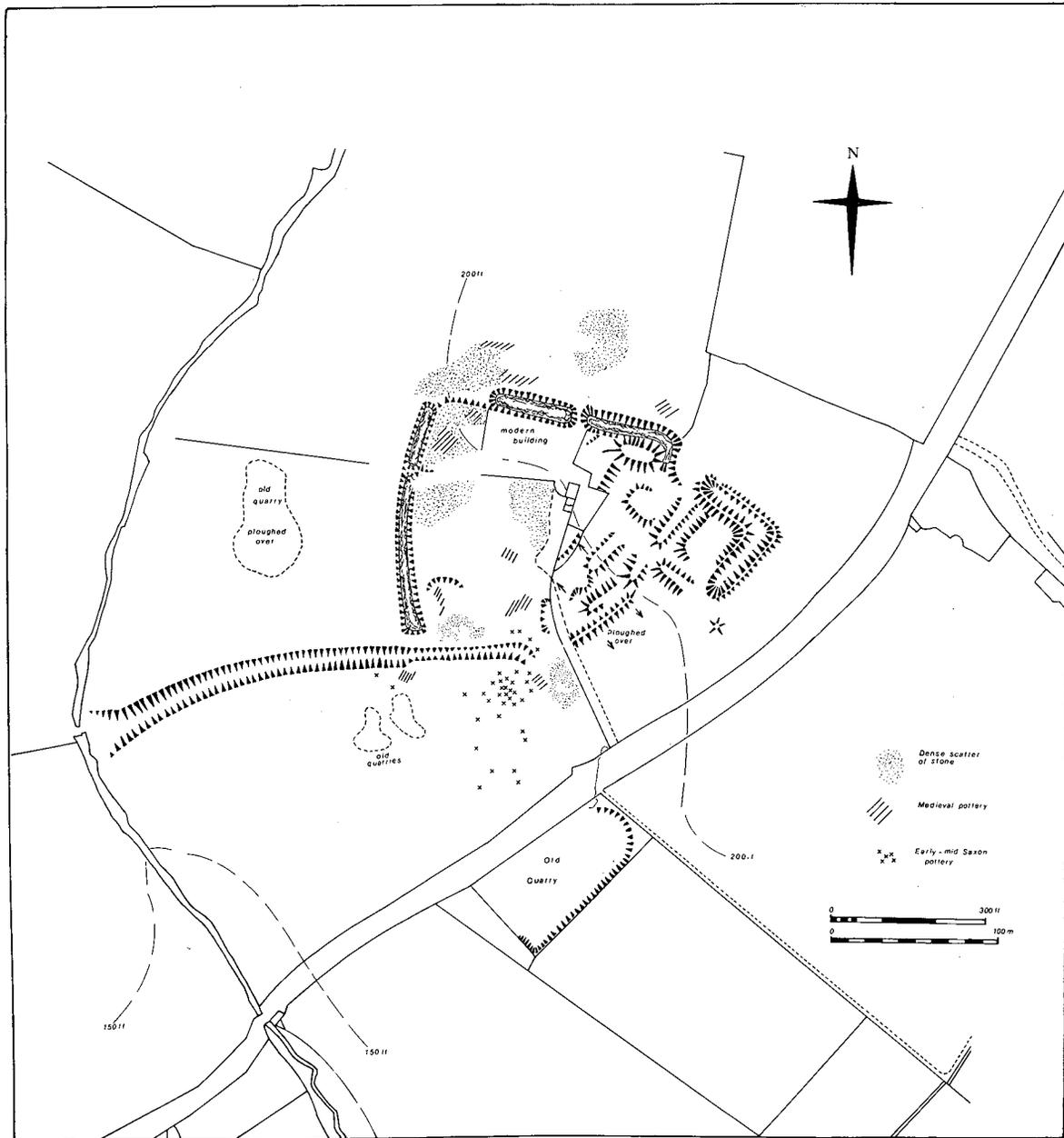


Figure 4. Stonely Priory, Kimbolton.

around the south of the Priory. Instead there is a long shallow depression here, almost ploughed out and only 0.25 m deep. This continues to the west down the hillside as a hollow way which represents a track from Kimbolton to the Priory; beyond the confines of the Priory grounds its course is traceable between the open field furlongs shown on the 1764 map and on another of 1769, also in the Record Office.

Within the western part of the moated site are large areas of limestone rubble and these extend beyond the site on the north. They may represent

the position of former buildings for there are also large quantities of clay and medieval pottery, mainly of twelfth-fourteenth century date, as well as a few sherds of the fifteenth or sixteenth century.

Extending across the depression south of the moated site at the point where the natural slope steepens, a quantity of early-mid Saxon pottery was found. This clearly has no connection with the Priory and is probably from a small Saxon settlement which once existed here. The pottery is of interest in that it supports the growing evidence for a dispersed pattern of early-mid Saxon settlement

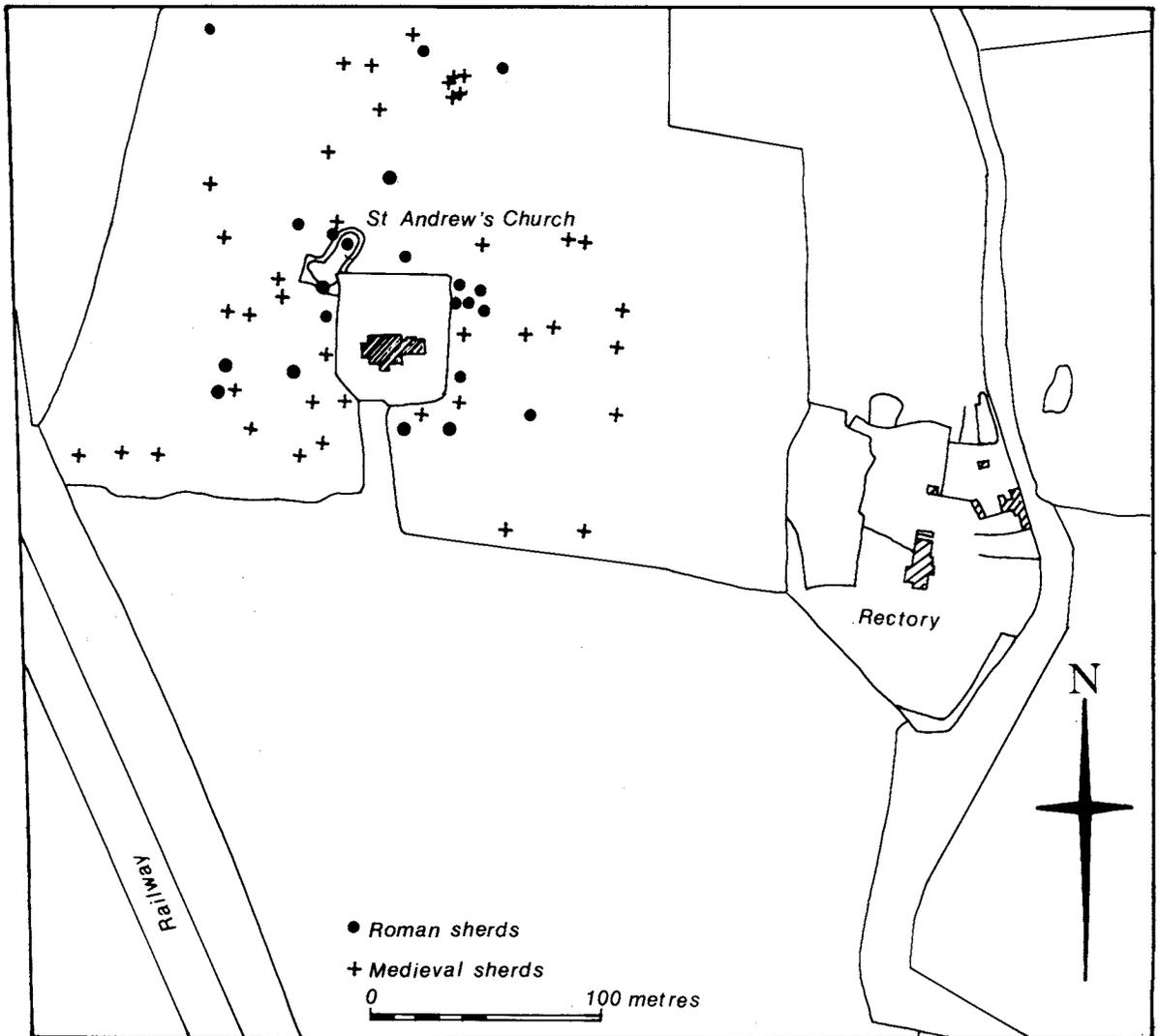


Figure 5. Wood Walton, site of church

over Cambridgeshire and more particularly Northamptonshire. Other finds included a few waste flint flakes and a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery.

Wood Walton: church (TL 209822; Fig 5)

The parish church of Wood Walton is situated in an isolated position, on a summit of a low hill, to the north of the village and 500 m south of the site of Wood Walton castle and its associated hamlet of Church End. This not uncommon feature of the English landscape has been interpreted in a number of ways. In some cases it has been proved that the church was once at the centre of a village which has since been abandoned or moved away (see Old Weston). In other cases it has been suggested that the churches were established at such places

because there was an older, pre-Christian religious site there.

The present church has little architectural merit. The earliest part is the south aisle, which was built around 1250, presumably enlarging an earlier building. About 1330 a new chancel was erected and the north aisle rebuilt, and a clearstorey was added in the early sixteenth century. The building was ruthlessly restored in 1856-9 (17). More important is the fact that the church certainly existed in the late eleventh century for it is specifically mentioned in Domesday Book (18).

At Wood Walton the land surrounding the church is now permanent arable and thus the opportunity was taken to fieldwalk the area with a view to discovering evidence which would explain the site of the building at this point.

The whole of the field surrounding the church

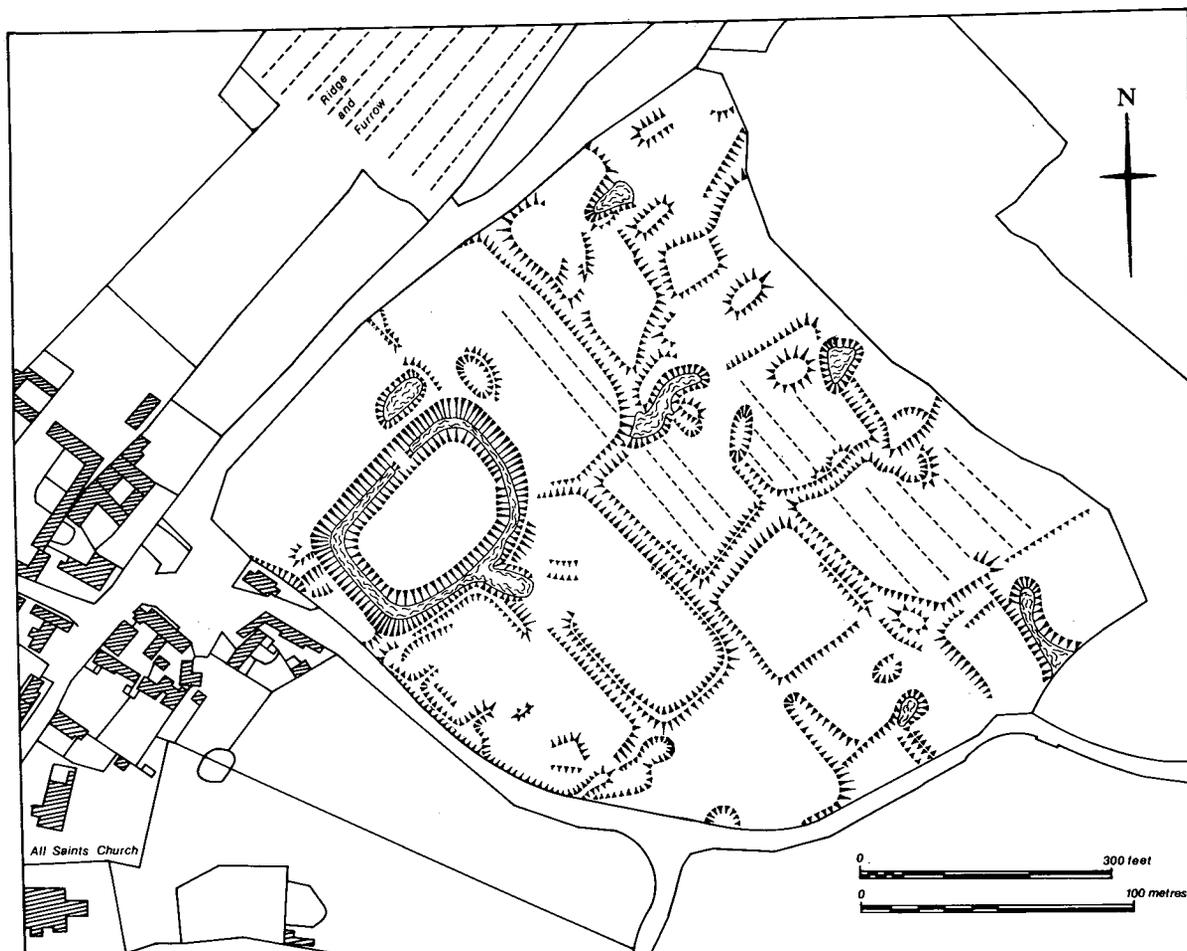


Figure 6. Winwick, moated site.

was carefully examined in two successive years, though in the end little was discovered. There was a general thin scatter of medieval pottery over the whole area mostly of thirteenth and fourteenth century date, and all the sherds were abraded. This indicates that there was certainly no medieval village around the church and the pottery of this period is the result of manuring the arable land there. The pottery would have been incorporated in the manure when it was collected from the cow sheds and stock yards in the village. No early-mid or late Saxon pottery was discovered. Although the difficulties of finding this kind of pottery are well known this probably also indicates that there was no earlier settlement around the church and that it has therefore always stood isolated in the field.

A small quantity of Roman pottery was found, with a marked concentration in the area around the church. This was not in sufficient quantities to suggest the existence of a major Roman settlement

though it could mean that there was some Roman occupation of the present churchyard and church site. What this occupation was and how it related, if at all, to the later establishment of the church is unknown. It is just possible that, on this low, but well-marked hill, overlooking both the fens and surrounding clayland there was a Roman temple. However, only excavation could prove this; the site could simply have been a farm settlement of the kind commonly found in fen-edge situations.

Winwick: manorial site (TL 106809; Fig 6)

The presumed site of one of the medieval manor houses of Winwick lies on the north-eastern edge of the village, on clay, at 200 ft above OD. The earthworks, which are in good condition, lie in a pasture field which slopes gently to the south east. The main feature is a small moated site in the western corner. It consists of a roughly D-shaped

area bounded by a broad ditch up to 2 m deep. The interior of the island is flat and featureless. The moat appears to lie within and along the south-eastern side of a rectangular enclosure bounded on the north-west and south-west by the existing roads and the north-east and part of the south-east by a shallow ditch. A small pond and a small depression to the north of the moat appear to be secondary features.

To the south-east and east are a series of small generally rectangular paddocks, all bounded by shallow ditches or low banks and scarps no more than 0.5 m high or deep. At least eleven such paddocks can be identified and with one exception all are either devoid of any features or have minor depressions or mounds within them which appear to be relatively recent. They overlie earlier ridge and furrow. The largest paddock, in the northern corner, is different. It has a number of shallow ditches or low scarps within it and at least four sub-rectangular raised platforms which may be the sites of former buildings.

Nothing definite can be said about the date and history of the site, but it presumably represents the home of one of the under-tenants of one of the main manors of Winwick; the fields around it are marked as Hall Closes on the Enclosure Map of Winwick preserved in the Cambridgeshire Record Office at Huntingdon. The manorial arrangements of Winwick are confused and difficult to unravel and the difficulties are not eased by the fact that some land in the parish was deemed to belong to Northamptonshire (19). There were two main overlords; Peterborough Abbey and (in 1086) Eustace the Sheriff, whose land passed to the Lovetots and ultimately the Earls of Gloucester. The Cardun family held land under the Lovetots here until replaced in the late fourteenth century by the Knyvets. In the earlier thirteenth century the Carduns held their manor in demesne; the site of their manor house might be the Manor Farm on the western side of the road to Great Gidding. But perhaps in the late twelfth century part of this estate had been detached and is found in the tenancy of the Caxton family. This family (who also called themselves by the name of de Winwick apparently, implying that they actually lived there) also held land under Peterborough Abbey. The Caxton holding in Winwick can be traced until the mid fourteenth century. Various documents pro-

duced in connexion with its descent refer to a capital messuage and land varying in acreage from 42 to 140. It is possible that this site represents this messuage.

Archaeologically the site has a certain interest as another example of a moated site which can be shown to post-date earlier ridge and furrow; other examples occur at Little Gidding, Graffham and Sawtry (20).

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THE PROCEEDINGS

- (1) The Editor welcomes the submission of articles on the history and archaeology of the County for publication in the *Proceedings*, but in order to avoid disappointment potential contributors are advised to write to the Editor, to enquire whether the subject is likely to be of interest to the Society, before submitting a final text. The Editor, if necessary with the advice of the editorial committee, reserves the right to refuse to publish any papers even when an earlier approval of the subject has been given.
- (2) Authors are reminded that the cost of printing is high and that, all other things being equal, a short and succinct paper is more likely to be published than a long one. It would also assist the Editor if contributors who know of possible sources for subventions towards the cost of printing their paper would inform the Editor of this when submitting their manuscript.
- (3) Illustrations must be high quality. They should not be more than twice the size intended for publication and they should be accompanied by a list of captions.
- (4) The copyright of both text and illustrations will normally remain with the author, and where relevant the photographer and draughtsman, but to simplify future administration contributors are invited to assign their copyright on a form that will be supplied by the Editor.

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CONTENTS

Officers and Council of the Society; 1984-5

Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval Artefacts from the Southern Fen Edge, Cambridgeshire.	ALISON TAYLOR	1
The Musical Establishment at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1546-1644.	IAN PAYNE	53
Cambridgeshire Earthwork Surveys V.	A. E. BROWN and C. C. TAYLOR	71
Archaeological Survey at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 1984.	KENNETH RAINSBURY DARK	81
A Gold 'hair-ring' from Wimblington Parish, Cambridgeshire.	COLIN F. PENDLETON	85
Index.		87