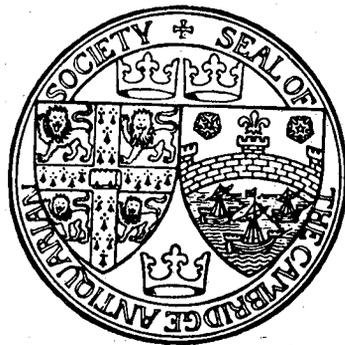

Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume LXXX

for 1991



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Published by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 1992

ISSN 0309-3606

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Field-work in Cambridgeshire

November 1990–June 1991

Alison Taylor

The following field-work has been carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section.

Excavations

Arrington TL32695049

Alison Taylor, for Cambridgeshire County Council.

A lead-lined wooden coffin containing a baby was discovered during construction work near Ermine Street. A box containing terracotta statuettes consisting of one mother goddess, 2 rams, 1 bullock, 1 seated male 'thorn puller', 2 busts of children, one male eastern god and several fragments were found, apparently situated on top of the coffin. No other structures or burials were noted. The statuettes are dated to c. 130–60 AD but they could have been deposited with the child some years later. Also in the coffin were traces of woollen cloth, dyed pink with madder, and pieces of aromatic resin, presumably incense of some kind. The coffin, skeletal remains and artefacts are now in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Cambridge – Shire Hall TL44625928

Ben Robinson, for Cambridgeshire County Council

Trial excavations revealed a Romano-British ditch and occupation debris sealed by post-medieval and modern demolition layers to a depth of 0.6m. A car-park extension was therefore required to disturb layers no deeper than 0.5m.

Harston – Manor Farm TL418498

Tim Malim, for English Heritage and Cambridgeshire County Council

Excavation work during March 1991 at a scheduled cropmark complex has revealed extant ditches and pits dating to four main periods: Bronze Age ring ditches with cremations; an extensive Iron Age/Romano-British field system and occupation; 4th-century re-use of the area; and Saxon activity including a probable *grubenhäuser* and enclosure ditches. The remains were being damaged by ploughing, but as a consequence of the assessment the fields have now been protected by permanent grass cover.

Longstanton – Machine Barn TL403658

Gerry Wait, for TG Building Services

Trial trenches adjacent to St Michael's Church showed that only post-medieval farmyard features survived.

Soham – Pratt Street TL594735

Simon Bray, for Cambridgeshire County Council

Cropmarks in the centre of the village indicated ring-ditches. Trial excavations revealed ditches and stakeholes with unabraded Saxo-Norman pottery indicating substantial settlement remains.

Stretham – The Chequers TL51197465

Jeremy Oetgen and Drew Shottliffe, for Greene King PLC

Trial excavation of a building site adjacent to Strettham Church showed that the area had been disturbed in the 19th and 20th centuries. Residual fragments of human bone and St Neots ware were noted.

Wimblington – Stonea Camp TL448930

Tim Malim, for English Heritage and Cambridgeshire County Council

Management work in April 1991 continued the programme of research and reinstatement of the banks and ditches of this Iron Age fort. This has shown that the defensive ditches were very substantial, steep-sided and flat-bottomed on the north side, had U-shaped profiles on the south and were approximately 1.5m in depth. At least two other ditches previously unknown were discovered, and two original causeways. Phasing of the defences is therefore extremely complex. In addition, a human skull and long bones were found in an organic deposit at the base of undisturbed ditch fills of one of the southern defences. The skull is of a child and shows clear evidence of sword-cuts. Plant macro-fossils are detrital and show an abundance of trees and shrubs. Southern ditch deposits show that the ditch was wet throughout its life.

Banks and ditches have been restored to their condition of c. 1960 and the camp has been taken out of arable cultivation so that long-term protection can be maintained through grass cover and grazing. It is open to the public.

Field-walking

A1 Widening Scheme, Alconbury – Fletton Parkway

Gary Evans and Drew Shotliffe

The route proposed for widening this road was field-walked and recommendations were made on all archaeologically sensitive areas. Several Roman finds scatters were identified.

Malton Farm, Orwell

Steve Kemp, for D. Gandy Esq.

An area of 91 ha was field-walked, and historical records of the area were consulted. A few prehistoric flints, sparse scatters of Iron Age and Roman sherds, two early Saxon sherds, and slightly denser scatters of medieval pottery were recovered, but no buildings or other

identifiable features were noted. These results gave a general impression of slight concentrations of prehistoric activity in the west of the study area, and a Roman and medieval settlement site to the south-west of Malton Rook Grove, partially preserved by alluvial deposits from the River Rhee.

On the south side of the river, a concentration of Roman pottery and an unusual late Saxon key were found, suggesting settlement. Historical records give a picture of a small medieval village, deserted during the 15th century except for Malton Farm itself, which has been used ever since as a farmhouse.

Milton – Waste Disposal Site

Jeremy Oetgen, for Cambridgeshire County Council

An area of 47.5 ha, located at the western boundary of the parish of Milton, was systematically field-walked. Finds dating to Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval periods were collected, but not in sufficient concentration to suggest sites of occupation.

Earthwork Surveys

March – The Sconce

Tim Malim, for English Heritage

An earthwork survey was made of the medieval field system (ridge-and-furrow and possible house platforms) cut by Civil War fortifications originally surveyed by RCHM (PCAS 1980). It appears that this fort was situated on the south-eastern fen edge of March island, in recently-enclosed land. It would have commanded approaches from the south and along Doddington leam immediately to the east of it.

Shingay cum Wendy

Steve Kemp, for Sydney Bath Farms

The earthwork survey has shown that several major components of the medieval landscape associated with the Knights Templar/Hospitallers preceptory are still in existence. These include evidence for the control of water within the area feeding water meadows, mills and moat; three furlongs of medieval ridge-and-furrow with associated hedge baulks (now largely marked by trees) and contemporary settlement in the form of moated

sites. These areas have been recommended for preservation as an integrated part of an historic, economic and social landscape, within a proposed golf course.

Full reports on all the above projects are available from the Archaeology Section, Cambridgeshire County Council, price £2.50.

The following excavations and assessments were carried out by other archaeological bodies between October 1990 and June 1991.

Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Arbury East (Unix) and Gypsy Ditches Sites TL45/61

Assessment excavations and a ditch survey uncovered sparse archaeological remains. The course of Akeman Street Roman Road and associated ditches and pits were uncovered. There was little evidence for other finds or activity in the areas which were examined.

Cambridge – Churchill College TL4355/5940

Assessment works located a series of post-medieval features dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Cambridge – Fitzwilliam College TL4439/2595

Archaeological assessment revealed only early 19th-century landscaping works.

Cambridge – King's College TL448584

Excavations in front of King's College for computer cables revealed medieval tenements and lanes and the early 14th-century Provost's Lodge. Where two deep moleing pits were excavated, evidence of Saxo-Norman timber buildings was found.

Cambridge – Trinity College TL444585

Excavations between the River Cam and Trinity College, on an area of waterfront known to have been an important area of medieval Cambridge before the college was built, revealed buildings and waterlogged deposits dating from the 12th to 16th centuries.

Caxton – St Peters Street TL3015/5848

An archaeological assessment uncovered traces of Saxo-Norman settlement sealed beneath medieval ridge-and-furrow.

Ely – Cathedral Precincts TL541802

A small trial excavation revealed a Middle Saxon ditch system and foundations of the 14th-century Monk's Dormitory.

Ely – Town centre TL544805

Large-scale excavations just north of the market revealed a Middle Saxon well and extensive late Saxon and medieval field boundaries.

Longstanton – Hattons Farm TL40/66, 40/67

Archaeological assessment of a c. 79 ha area in advance of permission for a new golf course uncovered extensive archaeological remains. Two major Romano-British settlement complexes were investigated. A medieval windmill site and previously unknown Late Iron Age settlement were also discovered. Recommendations were made securing the preservation of these sites within the development area.

Madingley Hall TL394604

Watching brief recording during construction of a new sewer exposed deposits dating to the early medieval period, as well as remains of the 18th-century formal garden landscape of Capability Brown.

Milton – Coles Lane TL4762

A walking brief during construction of tennis courts uncovered no archaeological features or deposits.

Sawston Hall TL488491

Assessment suggests that the original manor was not contained within a moated enclosure. The surviving moated arms may have been constructed as 'landscape' features in the 16th century.

Swavesey Castle TL359689

An assessment excavation within the 13th-century castle ramparts uncovered a medieval

agricultural landscape including ridge-and-furrow, formal ponds and an embanked stock enclosure. Trenching south of the castle located a number of larger Saxo-Norman pits and ditches. An important Iron Age site was located in the Blackhorse Lane area of the castle, comprising a kiln and large numbers of pits and ditches.

Fenland Archaeological Trust

Eye – Thorney TF5260/3065

Archaeological assessment of a c. 200-ha area in advance of proposed gravel quarry applications provided details on various sites and landscapes. These include Bronze Age barrows as well as Romano-British farmsteads and field systems. A phased programme of archaeological works is anticipated to record these systems prior to extraction.

Fenland Project – David Hall

The Fenland Evaluation Project has led to an ongoing programme of scheduling proposals.

Flag Fen

English Heritage have continued funding the ongoing excavations at Flag Fen.

Guyhirn – Chapelfield Road TF40050418 *Waverly Close* TF40230407

Assessment of Romano-British farmsteads and field systems exposed largely post-medieval ditch systems. Cropmarks of field systems and droeways were visible in standing crops adjacent to the site.

Maxey TF5130/3070

An archaeological assessment was carried out on a c. 50-ha area in advance of proposed extension to gravel quarry. Geophysical survey and trial trenching provided extensive evidence for important prehistoric (Neolithic and Bronze Age) features and landscapes. A detailed phased programme of archaeological works is planned, should this area be subject to extraction.

Mepal – Broadpiece Farm TL5415/2807

A dyke survey located a Neolithic occupation site on a small gravel island by the Hammond Eau.

Anne Holton-Krayenbuhl

Ely – Cathedral Precincts TL54/80

A watching brief during excavation of service trenches adjacent to the cathedral revealed medieval wall foundations, although the 0.5 m deep trenches were mainly constructed through made ground.

Ely – Walsingham House TL540/801

A small assessment trench was excavated prior to an application to extend Walsingham House, a largely 19th-century building incorporating a 12th-century infirmary and 14th-century hall. Make-up levels were recorded dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. Further archaeological excavation works will take place by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Peterborough Museum – Ian Meadows

Castor School TL124984

Excavation took place in advance of construction of a small extension to Castor School within the site of a scheduled Roman settlement. Roman structural remains were encountered including part of a Roman inhumation burial with hobnail boots.

Eye TF22950345

Trial trenches were excavated to attempt to assess the location of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. No burials were encountered in the disturbed soils which were investigated.

Norman Cross TL155911

Limited trial trenching was undertaken to attempt to locate the putative Napoleonic prisoner of war cemetery in advance of widening works to the A1. No human remains were encountered. Further assessment works are likely further to the south.

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 of subventions towards the cost of printing their paper would inform the Editor of this when submitting their manuscript.

3 Illustrations must be of high quality. They should not be more than twice the size intended for publication and they should be accompanied by a list of captions.

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The *Proceedings* are produced for the Society by Christopher & Anne Chippindale
Printed and bound in Great Britain by Warwick Printing Company Ltd., Theatre Street, Warwick CV34 4DR

Proceedings Volume LXXX, 1991

Price £10 for members, £12 for non-members

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