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(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological
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EDITORIAL

This is the last *PCAS* I shall edit (having decided that I should concentrate on my own research until senility overtakes me). The new Editor will be Alison Taylor, Cambridgeshire County Archaeologist for more than twenty years, and probably the first local archaeologist I met on my return to the 'old country' after many years in Australia. Alison's kindness and friendship, and her organisational abilities, I value highly, and I am delighted to edit this volume in her honour, at a time when she is beginning a new career as a consultant.

Many of the articles in this volume have been written by Alison's colleagues at the County Council, others by friends who have been associated with her and Cambridgeshire archaeology over many years, and this volume therefore concentrates on areas which I hope she will find of interest: around the massive piece of work on the Cambridgeshire Dykes are several shorter (but not small or insignificant) papers; all concerned with sites investigated in Cambridgeshire since 1974, and since Alison's appointment as County Archaeologist.

With our good wishes for future blossoming.

AUDREY MEANEY

Field-Work in Cambridgeshire: April 96–July 97

Christopher Evans, Gavin Lucas, Tim Malim,
Tim Reynolds & Twigs Way

Introduction

For the first time, the field-work summary is in alphabetical order (of town or parish) this year, instead of being listed under the units which carried out the work. We hope that this will make it easier to find and compare information on specific sites.

The field-work listed has been carried out by the following units and individuals:

Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire
County Council (AFU)

Birmingham University Field Archaeology
Unit (BUFAU)

Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU)

Cambridge Mesolithic Project (CMP)

Adrian Challands

Kate Fearn

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT)

Royal Commission on the Historic Monu-
ments of England (RCHME)

Tempvs Reparatvm

Trust for Wessex Archaeology/English
Heritage

Information on work by AFU was compiled by Tim Malim and Twigs Way, that for CAU by Christopher Evans and Gavin Lucas, and all other information by Tim Reynolds. Please note that not all summaries cover the same period, so some work carried out up to July 1997 will appear in the next issue.

Summaries

Babraham, Babraham Hall

TL 5108 5070 (Report no. A109)

Andrew Hatton for AFU

During the laying of a water main to the north east of Babraham Hall human remains were encountered, necessitating emergency excavations, which resulted in the recovery of further archaeological material and the excavation of a number of pits and ditches. Artefacts included animal bone and pottery sherds with a date range 1200–1550 AD. This evidence may be associated with the original village prior to emparkment in the 16th century. The burial was of an adult female; the date remains unknown, but was not Christian.

Barnack TF 055 068

AFU

A geophysical survey was conducted.

Barrington, Challis Green

TL 3990 5000 (Report no. A101)

Judith Roberts for AFU

Archaeological evaluation in October 1996 indicated that the western part of this area was occupied between the 12th and early 16th centuries, with evidence for considerable activity, including building materials and a cobbled yard, together with pits, ditches and dumps. The bulk of pottery dated to between the mid-

13th and late 14th centuries. The northern part of the site was quarried for coprolites in the late 19th century.

Bassingbourn, Church Close

TL 330442 (BUFAU Project no. 456)

H. Roberts for BUFAU

Trial trenching revealed 13th to 14th-century ditches, pits and gullies, despite unsuccessful geophysical survey. A single stray Roman sherd might suggest activities of that period nearby, but all features recovered were medieval. No evidence post-dated the fifteenth century, suggesting the site was permanently abandoned then. The features suggest a settlement, and environmental data show both domestic refuse and grassland (possibly pasture) nearby.

Bourn, Bourn Hall

TL 3219 5624 (Report no. B5)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Brampton, The Old Rectory

TL 214 708 (Report no. 188)

P. Whittaker for CAU

A watching brief revealed nothing of significance.

Burghley House, Ash Yard

TF 0495 0611 (Report no. A98)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Burwell, Pembroke Farm

TL 6602 5897

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Caldecote, Highfields

TL 349 583 (Report forthcoming)

Stephanie Leith for AFU

In November and December 1996, open area excavations were undertaken to the west of Highfields, south of Caldecote Community School, designed to investigate features revealed during earlier evaluation (Oakey 1996).

Four main periods of activity were recovered: late Iron Age, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval. Features attributed to the late Iron Age included a number of ditches, a pit, and a group of post-holes which probably represent part of a structure. A Roman field system identified during the evaluation was investigated and it was discovered that the system was relatively long-lived, with ditches re-cut and realigned in several areas. The pottery recovered from these ditches spanned the 2nd–4th centuries.

An area of medieval activity (1200–1350) was in the south-east corner of the site, represented by a boundary ditch, a possible fence line running beside it, several pits, and part of a timber structure with post-in-trench foundations. The structure, parallel to the ditch, continued out of the excavation area.

Cambridge, Adams Road TL 438 585

Mark Hinman for AFU

Part of an articulated human skeleton (possibly a shroud burial) was found during building works at 17 Adams Rd at c. 0.5 m below present ground surface, but with no accompanying grave goods. Proximity to an extramural Roman road suggests a contemporary date.

Cambridge, Addenbrooke's Hospital

TL 463 551 (Report no. 189)

R. Regan for CAU

Evaluation trenching in advance of a new Clinical Research Unit found no evidence of any archaeological remains.

Cambridge, 19–37 Castle Street

TL 444 592 (Report no. 191)

M. Alexander for CAU

Evaluation trenching beside the Methodist church showed that the archaeology was severely truncated, only the deeper features having survived; the majority were interpreted as quarry pits for sands and gravels, a practice widespread in the city. Most of the features appear to be medieval or post-medieval, although the discovery of Saxon pottery is evidence for limited activity in the period, and establishes for the first time a middle Saxon presence on Castle Hill; middle Saxon occupation in Cambridge had previously remained elusive.

A high proportion of Roman pottery in many fills indicated that the pits were dug through a considerable build-up of Roman material. Even the latest features contain a large quantity, suggesting that truncation to natural sands and gravels was post-medieval. It is possible that the site suffered earlier episodes of (less severe) truncation, associated with Roman terracing or Norman castle construction. These findings indicate a previously unrecorded focus of first-century Roman occupation.

Cambridge, Chesterton Park

TL 475 615 (Report no. 138)

AFU

An archaeological study, including archaeological and historical research, field visits and geophysical survey, was carried out as part of the planning process for development proposals.

Cambridge, Corpus Christi College – The Master's Garden

TL 4489 5815 (Report no. 185)

D. Edwards for CAU

Excavations in the Master's Garden at Corpus Christi College were carried out to assess the archaeological impact of a possible development along its west side. Test trenches revealed the relatively well preserved floor levels of the 16th century tennis court known to have occupied the site. Below this, less than a metre of medieval deposits survived, most of which seemed to relate to use of this area as gardens after the College acquired it. A gravel surface within these deposits seems likely to be 15th-century. The garden soils directly overlay one or more

early medieval pits, probably relating to gravel extraction. Their fills included significant quantities of well preserved Saxo-Norman pottery, the earliest likely to be 10th-century, as well as bones and botanical remains, indicating early medieval domestic activity, although it is unclear what impact gravel extraction may have had (for instance, truncation of earlier deposits).

Cambridge, Homerton College

TL 460 562 (Report no. 198)

M. Alexander for CAU

Evaluation trenches revealed several linear features of uncertain date, including one ditch which may be prehistoric and others which are probably medieval.

Cambridge, 138 Huntingdon Road

TL 4377 5990 (Report no. 203)

R. Mortimer for CAU

A watching brief led to a rapid response excavation of a sequence of middle and later Iron Age ditches, which appeared to form part of a large enclosure with internal banks. No interior settlement features were recovered, but such activity was attested by the quantity of finds from the ditches, including pottery, fired clay and bone. The significance of the site lies in its size and proximity to Iron Age settlement on Castle Hill and contemporary activity at New Hall.

Cambridge, Sydney Street – Joshua Taylor

TL 5451 2586

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Cambridge, Trinity College – Angel Court

TL 4489 5861 (Report no. 171/199)

R. Regan for CAU

Excavation revealed two (possibly three) truncated Saxo-Norman pits, reflecting domestic activity. From the 13th to the 16th century, the land to the east of the existing Bursary Range had been open plots and had evidently been cut through periodically to extract gravel.

**Cambridge, University Library -
Western Bookstack Range**

TL 4405 5846 (Report no. 172)

D. Gibson for CAU

Evaluation trenching uncovered one ditch of unspecified date, which could be associated with the Iron Age or Romano-British field system in Burrell's Field.

Cambridge, Willow Walk and Fair Street

TL 455 586 (Report no. 200)

P. Whittaker for CAU

Evaluation trenching revealed only a few 18th or 19th-century features including a rubbish pit, garden wall foundation and ditch.

Castor, Clay Lane

TL 1226 9877 (Report no. A113)

Stephen Macaulay for AFU

Evaluation trenching in April 1997 produced evidence of some Roman, late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Roman remains were two ditches, several pits and post-holes. The evidence of late Saxon/Norman occupation was confined to a deep, steep sided pit (well?). The medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains included a large boundary ditch and disturbed ridge and furrow. Artefactual recovery was poor, suggesting that the area was outside Roman Castor.

Castor, Salters Tree TL 1367 9938

Adrian Challands

Proposals for a hangar and agricultural building prompted archaeological investigations. Geophysical surveys identified a single linear feature, which trial trenching suggested is of modern agricultural origin. No other features were identified.

Cottenham, Broad Lane

TL 4493 6829 (Report no. B2)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Cottenham, Crowlands

TL 449 681 (Report forthcoming)

R. Mortimer for CAU

Excavation was carried out in advance of housing development on a ten hectare site immediately north-west of the village centre, alongside Crowlands Moat, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Initial excavation in late summer 1996 was supplemented by a second phase in early 1997.

The appearance of the site-plan, crossed by a dense network of ditches, tells of re-organisation on a grand scale and dynamic interaction between manor and village. Against a background of later Mesolithic activity and a scatter of early Iron Age features, the site was essentially early Saxon to medieval. The earliest occupation, of the later 5th or early 6th century, consisted of square-plan post-hole buildings in small ditched enclosures, with a ditched boundary on the fenward side; the same line, with slight variations, was kept as a major village-fen-edge divide through to the 13th or 14th century. This basic plan, with an extensive and sinuous ditch system containing post buildings, pits, wells and sunken-floored buildings, continued into the middle Saxon period, extending south and east from the earliest nuclei to cover c. 1.5 ha. The settlement developed both internal divisions and extensions; unfortunately its 'heart' lies beneath two occupied houses and thus remains unexcavated.

In the later Saxon period (9th and 10th centuries) the focus of the village shifted south. The alignments of the majority of the ditched features and structures converge on a point just south-east of the site. This larger paddock system continued in use after the Conquest (12 or 13th century), and lay off the modern street alignment. Several ditches have deep V-shaped profiles of characteristically defensive type, and may reflect attempts to protect the town from attack in either the later Viking or Conquest period. By the 12th or 13th century, settlement had thinned out and was aligned closer to the modern High Street. By the 14th century, features are reduced to a few large-scale field boundaries linked with the manorial lands of Crowlands to the east. After the establishment of the new Manor house, the layout appears to have altered little.

A wealth of artefacts was recovered, including evidence of craft specialisation such as metalworking. With its uninterrupted sequence spanning the 6th to 13th centuries, the site will improve our understanding of the region's pottery assemblage, and the animal bone and plant remains will increase our knowledge of the early fen-edge economy.

Cottenham, Denmark Road

TL 452 673 (Report no. 140)

Richard Heawood for AFU

Three phases of archaeological evaluation were conducted along the south side of Denmark Road between July 1996 and February 1997 in advance of a proposed housing development. Areas of greatest interest were concentrated in St John's College Field (TL 4515 6730) and the northwest part of Graves' land (TL 4505 6727). In St John's College Field a variety of pits, ditches, and gullies were recorded, most of which were medieval. An enclosure ditch and the foundations of a timber building were located, as well as boundary ditches and evidence for quarrying and rubbish disposal. The remains may be associated with the medieval Jacque's Manor known from documentary sources, although the quantities of pottery and animal bone found were not substantial. More medieval pits were revealed near the street front on Graves' land (TL 4505 6727) as well as a small oven and a possible timber structure, not yet dated. A number of boundary ditches were located, many of which tied in with cartographic evidence; the finds from these features confirmed their date as mostly post-medieval. Further back from Denmark Road, the density of archaeological features declined.

Diddington, Little Paxton Field 2

TL203 656 (BUFAU Project no. 219.08)

L. Bevan for BUFAU

Test pitting in advance of quarrying recovered late Neolithic to early Bronze Age flints in the north of the field. Pot sherds of Iron Age and Roman date were also recovered.

Duxford, Heathfield Estate

TL 455 463 (Report no. 210/216)

A. Dickens and N. Dodwell for CAU

Mitigation excavation was carried out on land near Duxford Airfield. Previous evaluation had revealed a low background density of flint with a concentration of worked and burnt pieces at the north-west end of the field. A later Neolithic pit, with highly decorated sherds of pottery derived from six or seven vessels, was excavated, and an unrelated large ditch located running roughly east to west across the south-western corner of the site. The second phase of ex-

cavation revealed that the flint spread was concentrated around a natural feature, probably a solution hollow, which had served as a source of raw lithic material and a focus for primary processing from at least the early Neolithic. Similar activity had taken place in the later Neolithic, and the spread of pottery already found around the pit suggested either domestic or midden activity. The ditch produced ambiguous dating evidence, but was certainly pre-Conquest, probably Roman or Saxon. In the course of investigating its line, a large subterranean structure (probably an air-raid shelter) was discovered, dating to the end of the Second World War or shortly afterwards.

Earith, Colne Fen

TL 3757 8825 (Report forthcoming)

R. Regan for CAU

Evaluation trenching on the site of a Romano-British settlement known from aerial photographic records, in advance of an ARC gravel quarry, confirmed the density of crop-marks in the field. The NE–SW oriented system consists mainly of interlinked sub-rectangular enclosures approached from the SW by a major driveway or minor road, whose orientation the system respects. The site was extensively plough-damaged, with no horizontal stratigraphy surviving. Apart from several modern features, the overwhelming majority date to the Roman period. These mainly comprised linear ditches or slots with pits and post-holes; no upstanding walls were noted, although rough Barnack stone blocks suggest the possibility of robbed masonry foundations. Several ditches and pits were, however, filled with a sandy matrix much lighter than the very dark organic material in the definitely Roman features, and may represent an earlier phase of activity (?Bronze Age). The most striking feature was a possible canal inlet, perhaps leading to the Cranbrook Drain.

Easton, Grange Farm

TL 139 715 (Report no. 220)

M. Alexander for CAU

Evaluation trenching uncovered a 12th or 13th-century channel, possibly a boundary ditch or moat surrounding a medieval building of high status. At least two further phases of activity were found: the channel was cut by a deep pit with waterlogged fills containing early 15th-

century pottery, and this was backfilled before the foundations of an 18th or early 19th-century building were laid. Post-holes suggested other fairly substantial structures, although they formed no obvious pattern and were not necessarily contemporary; a tile fragment in one indicated a date in the 15th century or later, and two post-holes post-dated the channel. A fence line was also undateable, although the preservation of the wood suggests a relatively recent date, possibly contemporary with a 19th-century cesspit; two linear features were of unspecified date.

Ellington, Yew Tree Farm

TL 161 718 (Report no. N1)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Elsworth, Brockleys Farm

TL3160 6355 (HAT Report no. 222)

J. Murray for HAT

A recording brief in advance of house construction did not identify any archaeological features in the foundation trenches. A single late Saxon or early medieval sherd was recovered from stockpiled spoil. The site is on the western edge of the historic core of the village and may always have been predominantly yards.

Ely, 54 Broad Street

TL 5434 8002 (Report no. A110)

Simon Bray and Jonathan Last for AFU

In March 1996 a recording brief revealed a series of post-medieval yard surfaces, sealing earlier waterlogged deposits. These contained medieval pottery, animal bone, mussel shells and a leather shoe sole, spanning a date range between the 12th (at the earliest) and 16th centuries AD. No structural remains were encountered but the artefacts represent domestic rubbish, suggesting that the site has contained dwellings since at least the fourteenth century. The work did not reach the base of archaeological deposits.

Ely, Ely Cathedral – South Choir Aisle

TL 542 803 (Report no. 180)

P. Whittaker for CAU

Excavation along the western end of the south choir provided evidence for the underpinning of Buttresses 5, 6 and 7. In the area around Bays 7 to 9, where no restoration work was carried out, intact graves were found, disturbed only by Victorian pipes. A brick feature in Bay 5, probably the cistern built by the cathedral to provide water for the public, demonstrates early use of brick.

Ely, Ely Cathedral – South Porch and Song School

TL 542 803 (Report no. 176)

M. Alexander for CAU

A watching brief on a contractor's trench revealed the tile and mortar footings for a garden wall, one of the cathedral buttresses and a brick-built cistern or sump.

Ely, Gas Lane TL 5419 7965

Ben Robinson for AFU

Occasional visits were paid during February 1997 to the redevelopment of the old gasworks, near or within the Potters Lane medieval pottery production site. The ground had been greatly disturbed by gasworks structures and landscaping. Sherds of Medieval Ely ware were recovered in small quantities but no good views of the stratigraphy or *in situ* features were obtained.

Ely, Little Thetford to Cawdle Pipeline

TL 5348 7617 – 5380 7793 (Report no. 173)

D. Edwards for CAU

Evaluation trenches along a c. 1,500 m length of the proposed route of a pumping main revealed limited archaeological remains. No significant features were recovered at the north end near Braham Dock, save a number of depressions and possible earthworks, probably relating to post-medieval ponds or similar features. Midway along the route, the southern side of a lode was revealed, identified from aerial photography, running between the Great Ouse and the Braham Farm earthworks complex,

again probably medieval or later. Two clusters of posts and stakes may be revetments or other features defining the bank. An unusually dense concentration of late Neolithic lithics was found further south, in an area where a number of stone tools have previously been found. The peat sequence indicates significant Bronze Age accumulations sealing the well preserved Neolithic deposits. At the south end of the corridor, on the gravels and clays surrounding Little Thetford, a single ditch, probably Romano-British, forms part of a field system identifiable from aerial photography. This may relate to scatters of Romano-British pottery recovered from the field immediately to the south.

Ely, Old Bishop's Palace

TL 542 803 (Report no. 215)

M. Alexander for CAU

Excavation alongside the present Palace uncovered the footings of a 13th–14th century building which may be the former Abbot's House.

Ely, Old Gaol TL542 805

Kate Fearn

Relocation of the Ely Museum to the Old Gaol necessitated building works which have been subject to a watching brief. Monitoring of test pits revealed a 'floor' of sandstone slabs and recorded the section to a depth of c. 2 m. The slabs lay at a depth of 0.3 m and could be part of a yard, path or floor. No date is available for this feature but sizeable fragments of two thirteenth-century jugs were recovered, along with animal bone and other sherds, from a clay deposit c. 1 m below it.

Ely, Prickwillow Road

TL 551 812 (Report nos 208 and 214)

A. Dickens and P. Whittaker for CAU

Evaluation and subsequent excavation was carried out at a site designated for housing development on the north-east side of Ely. A general flint scatter indicated later Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, whilst a single isolated feature contained earlier Neolithic flint, perhaps associated with some degraded sherds of contemporary pottery. A series of drainage ditches, late Iron Age or Romano-British, contained a distinctive pottery assemblage of the 1st or 2nd

century AD. These were superseded by a droveway (also dated to the 1st or 2nd century AD) suggesting a change of land-use from arable to pasture. There was no indication of settlement of any period, but it seems likely that Romano-British settlement in particular is not far away.

English Rivers Project, Region 9, Great Ouse Drainage (English Rivers

Palaeolithic Project, Report no. 2)

Trust for Wessex Archaeology/English Heritage

Survey of the river gravel systems of Cambridgeshire and other areas, placing known finds in the context of recent changes in dating and understanding of the Palaeolithic sequence in Britain.

Fen Ditton, Greenhouse Farm

TL 4920 5940 (Report forthcoming)

Mark Hinman for AFU

An open area excavation was conducted between November 1996 and January 1997 on this important middle Iron Age settlement site, following earlier evaluation by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

Excavation revealed a series of enclosure ditches, concentrated mainly towards Newmarket Road to the south, and approximately 200 pits. The pits extended in a band from the south-western to the north-eastern corner of the area. The vast majority were used for domestic rubbish; evidence for ritual deposition is limited. Post-holes indicating possible structures occur across the area, although feature density suggests a focus of settlement to the south. Preliminary study of the ceramic assemblage suggests that the bulk of it dates from between 300 and 100 BC.

Comprehensive environmental sampling was employed to compare the contents of individual pits as well as primary and secondary ditch fills. An assessment of samples processed during the excavation indicates that preservation of faunal remains, seeds and other carbonised material is good.

Fenstanton, Grove House

TL 3132 6845 (HAT Report no.213)

J. Murray for HAT

An evaluation was carried out at the moated site of Grove House, prior to its redevelopment. A single trial trench was excavated and revealed

a substantial post-medieval deposit beneath which was a deep deposit of silty clay, which may represent an arm of the moat. Finds of tile and brick from this deposit suggest a medieval building, possibly within the moated area.

Folksworth, Elms Farm

TL 144 897 (Report no. A106)

Andrew Hatton and Stephanie Leith for AFU

In August and September 1996 and January 1997, archaeological investigation revealed a post-medieval ditch and modern pond at the site of Elms Farm. A brick built barn dating to the late 19th century, but on earlier stone foundations, was recorded prior to demolition. Although it has been suggested in the past that the site was originally moated (RCHM, 1926: 98), no evidence for a moat was revealed, despite four trenches being deliberately located to find it.

Fordham, Block Farm TL 605 707

Tim Malim for AFU

A resistivity survey on the site of a Roman villa did not give a clear picture of the building(s). Three small test pits were dug by hand where resistivity was highest, revealing 0.4 m of plough-soil above a subsoil containing artefacts.

Fordham, Hillside Meadows

TL 632 707 (Report forthcoming)

Ben Robinson and Scott Kenney for AFU

In June 1996, archaeological evaluation was carried out on an area adjacent to the cemetery, in advance of a proposed housing development. Abraded Romano-British sherds were encountered alongside unabraded sherds of vegetation-tempered hand-made fabric, confirming a Saxon date for these vessels, an assignment hitherto problematic in the region (cf. Evans 1993; Robinson and Guttmann 1996; Connor 1996). The association of these sherds with middle Saxon Ipswich ware and late Saxon Thetford ware on this site is intriguing, and suggests that activity on the site dates from the middle to late Saxon transition. A single structure was exposed at the east end of the site, although, at only just over 2 m wide, this would appear to be too small for a dwelling. The greatest density of pottery and animal bone

occurred in features at the western (lower) end of the site, suggesting that this end is closer to the focus of domestic activity. The presence of middle Saxon material in the medieval core of the village, and continuity to the present day of boundary alignments indicates that this site would reward further investigation.

Gamlingay, Station Road

TL243 519 (HAT Report no.195)

J. Murray for HAT

A desk top study and 23 trial trenches were used to investigate a 3.92 hectare site south of Station Road prior to development. Aerial photographic study revealed a series of enclosures, and trial trenching exposed part of an inhumation cemetery dating from the middle to late Saxon period. The graves are oriented east to west. Other features, mostly ditches, dated from the prehistoric and Saxon periods. Field walking prior to trenching recovered traces of a Mesolithic hunting camp.

Girton, Church of St Andrew

TL 4237 6235 (HAT Report no. 214)

J. Murray for HAT

A recording brief during construction of a parish room on the north side of the church did not identify any trace of a north porch. A door was unblocked and recorded, and appears to be thirteenth-century. No archaeological deposits were found below the disturbance level from the building and demolition of a Victorian boiler house.

Girton, Girton Road

TL 424 615 (Report no. 196)

D. Edwards for CAU

Assessment excavations were carried out at Girton Road in order to clarify the nature and extent of previously recorded features and determine whether other remains existed in a proposed development area. The results indicated that a number of the more prominent crop-mark features are natural. Moreover, the absence of significant archaeological features, other than those indicated by crop-marks, and the very low density of associated finds and other material suggests that Iron Age and Roman, or indeed other, activity was small-scale.

The focus of late Iron Age and Roman occupation probably lay to the south, although early and middle Iron Age activity, of which there were slight indications, may have been centred elsewhere.

Glington, Werrington to Glington Bypass

TF 540 440 (Report forthcoming)

Stephen Kemp for AFU

The Roman site at Glington, near Peterborough, was discovered in 1993, during investigations linked to the A15 road improvements (PCAS LXXXIV: 172).

Open area excavations in June and July 1996 recovered the remains of a Roman farmstead enclosure dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, although Roman activities on the site can be traced back to the 1st century AD. Rubbish dumps, or middens, and ponds of Roman date were also recovered and a Roman limestone-lined well recorded. Post-excavation analysis of charred plant material has demonstrated that cereals were being grown locally and processed on site.

Godmanchester, Earning Street

TL 8450 4450 (Report no. A103)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

**Great Abington, Abington Park,
The Welding Institute**

TL 522 488 (Report no. A105)

AFU

An archaeological study, including archaeological and historical background research, field visits and geophysical survey, was carried out as part of the planning process for development proposals.

Great Ouse, Cam and Ten Mile Rivers

(various locations) (Report no. 193)

L. Lloyd-Smith for CAU

A watching brief on the machining of several cattle drinking points revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

Great Wilbraham, High Street

TL 547 572 (Report no. 133)

Tim Denham and Jonathan Last for AFU

In June and September 1996 two phases of archaeological work were conducted within an L-shaped plot of land fronting onto the High Street, on the south side of the village near Frog End. Evidence of various periods was recovered, including Roman or post-Roman field boundaries and ditch sections or elongated pits, of which some cut through an earlier buried soil and some were sealed by a later subsoil. An area of medieval activity was located, consisting of a central pit with four surrounding post-holes, and a variety of post-medieval features, including land drains, soakaways, a ditch, pits and post-holes.

**Heydon, Heydon Grange Golf Course –
Bran Ditch** TL 417425 (Report no. 181)

L. White for CAU

Field-work was carried out prior to landscaping changes and construction of a driving range. Previous investigations had indicated the likelihood of Neolithic activity, and Bran Ditch, an Anglo-Saxon defensive ditch, was known to lie along the eastern edge. Test pits and stations across the site yielded no archaeological features, but bucket sampling indicated three main clusters of lithic activity dating to the middle to late Bronze Age. Trench excavations across Bran Ditch showed the remnant bank and associated features, as well as the full ditch profile. The section revealed evidence of late 19th-century and earlier backfilling and a possible turf layer, as well as the original weathered and eroded chalky fills at the base of the square cut. No finds were recovered from the ditch, apart from post-medieval material in the upper horizons.

Hinxton, Hinxton Hall

TL 496 448 (Report forthcoming)

Stephanie Leith for AFU

Post-excavation work following the major excavations of 1993–4 is in progress (PCAS LXXXIV: 172). To aid the construction of a chronology for the site, the following radiocarbon age determinations have been obtained (all on charred material):

Beta-100147	1030±50 BP
Beta-100148	870±60 BP
Beta-100149	1270±70 BP
Beta-100150	1410±60 BP

Following calibration, these determinations have been used to date structures to particular phases of occupation and activity:

Structure 6A	AD 970-1165	(95%)
Well planks	AD 1035-1280	(95%)
Grubenhaus	AD 650-960	(95%)
Grubenhaus	AD 590-775	(95%)

Hinxton, Riverside

TL 500 443 (Report no. 139)

AFU

An archaeological study, including archaeological and historical background research, field visits and geophysical survey, was carried out as part of the planning process for development proposals.

Huntingdon, Stukeley Road - Stanton Butts

TL 23 72 (Report no. 192)

R. Mortimer for CAU

Evaluation trenching revealed a dense concentration of pits and ditches, and a possible timber building, all dating to the 12th to 13th centuries.

Ickleton, Abbey Farm

TL 490 437 (Report no. 217)

R. Regan for CAU

Evaluation trenches on the site of a former Benedictine convent found evidence of a building associated with industrial activity, possibly of medieval date and marking the limits of the convent precinct. The remaining archaeology consisted of a patchwork of post-medieval chalk floors.

Kirtling Tower

TL 686 575 (Report no. 179)

A. Dickens for CAU

An investigation was carried out on a length of wall within the south-west corner of the mound. No direct dating evidence was recovered but stratigraphic and comparative evidence was

sufficient to attribute it to the walled gardens around the Tudor hall which stood on the mound until 1801.

Landbeach, Car Dyke Farm

TL 4750 6616 (Report no. 141)

Stephen Macaulay for AFU

Following aerial photographic survey, investigations were conducted in September 1996 at Akeman Street Roman road and an associated Romano-British farmstead, enclosure ditches, and droeways. The Roman road was proven to have undergone extensive erosion due to modern farming, with little of the *agger* surviving, although the roadside ditches were still evident. The total width between ditches was 14 m and the *agger* survives as a 10 m wide soil and gravel mound 0.35 m high. The ditches of an earlier trackway had been backfilled before the construction of Akeman Street diagonally across it. Recovered pottery dates the trackway and settlement to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, giving a *terminus post quem* for the construction of Akeman Street. Evidence for a timber building, in the form of a sub-rectangular ring-ditch, was located in the north west of the area.

Little Downham, Bishop's Palace

TL 51935 84200 (Report no. A99)

Stephen Membery and Jonathan Last for AFU

An archaeological evaluation and recording brief was conducted in August 1996, in advance of the construction of an orangery. The site lies within the grounds of the former palace of the Bishops of Ely, which dates back to the 10th century and was in use until the Civil War. Remains of buildings from the 15th-century palace are incorporated into the present farm buildings. Stone building foundations, probably medieval, and a later brick-built extension or renovation were revealed. A metallised surface was identified which is related to a track on a 19th-century Ordnance Survey map. The remains were preserved in situ after recording, using a protective covering.

Littleport, Camel Road

TL 5660 8715 (Report no. 114)

Judith Roberts for AFU

Evaluation on this site revealed ditches and gullies containing a considerable quantity of Roman pottery, including samian, Horningsea Ware, Nar Valley Ware and Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware, and some briquetage fragments. The pottery gives a late 3rd to 4th-century date for the site. Features were cut into the Old Croft roddon as it skirts the Littleport highland. The site may be related to Romano-British salterns along the Old Croft to the north. Extensive metal detecting failed to find any Romano-British coins.

Mepal, Block Fen B

TL 433 834 (Tempvs Reparatvm Report ref. TR 31010DFA)

M. Coxah and I. Lisboa for Tempvs Reparatvm

Work has been undertaken in advance of gravel extraction, with several phases of field evaluation. Aerial photographic survey revealed a barrow complex (with northern and southern barrow groups) and some possible enclosures. The area was subjected to geophysical survey, which was not very successful, and field walking. The southern barrow group consisted of three ring-ditches, of which two had residual mounds. A further barrow was suggested by a partial ring ditch identified in aerial photographs. Two other barrows in this group, one outside the development area, are Scheduled Ancient Monuments; neither was investigated.

Two barrows in the northern group were investigated and were better preserved than those in the southern group. The possible enclosures are thought to be a field system dating to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age, when the area of Block Fen B was the edge of a fen island. There is an early Bronze Age barrow superimposed upon the field system, suggesting a change from agricultural to ritual functions as fenland water levels rose. Lithic scatters are evidence of earlier occupation, but later occupation is absent.

Milton, Butt Lane

TL 465 632 (Report no. 135)

Aileen Connor for AFU

Further excavations at Milton Landfill Site were carried out between 15 July and 23 August 1996 as part of the AFU Training Excavation.

Excavation was concentrated in two areas, with archaeological features present in both areas, although a higher density of material was recovered to the south. The site was characterised by earthfast features representing small timber structures, a hearth, several pits and working hollows, and at least one cremation. The majority of these features date to the later Iron Age. Small quantities of pottery were recovered from a cremation and hearth possibly as early as the early Bronze Age, although the pottery in the hearth is likely to be residual. A small flint assemblage suggests a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age component, but appeared peripheral and may indicate denser activity beyond the excavation.

Needlingworth, Barleycroft Farm,**ARC Quarry** TL 3510-3620/7140-7220 (Report forthcoming)

M. Knight and C. Evans for CAU

Following excavation of a major later Bronze Age field system and settlement at the northern end of the quarry extension (*The Barleycroft Paddocks*, CAU Report 218), in 1996 excavation shifted to the southern fields. Because of the high density of Neolithic and early Bronze Age artefacts recovered during evaluation, the sample grid was intensified to a 50 m (and locally 25 m) interval, revealing early 'non-feature' settlement activity (the type of evidence that usually escapes open-area stripping).

Of a pair of ring-ditches on a prominent floodplain knoll, Butcher's Rise, the westernmost proved to be simple, with only an unaccompanied complete Food Vessel deposited in its interior. In contrast, the eastern was 'double', with two concentric circuits; an inhumation accompanied a C or horseshoe-shaped predecessor, associated with fragments of Collared Urn. Thirty-five cremations, approximately a third urned, were found in the southern zone; the centre was marked by an in situ pit-pyre cremation.

On the south-western margin of the knoll, a later Bronze Age ditch system was found to delineate the flank of the knoll and be deflected around a major boundary, which aerial photographs reveal extends south-westwards to the White Bridge Farm ring-ditch complex beside Needlingworth.

Excavations continue on a later Bronze Age settlement enclosed by a fence or stockade in the eastern fields. A riverside field system, also probably late Bronze Age, appears to be the one found across the south-western margin of the

Over quarry site (Site 2; see entry below). This would indicate that the Ouse did not flow along its present line in later prehistory.

Newmarket, July Racecourse

TL 613 618 (Report no. A91)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Over, ARC Quarry

TL 3710-3820/7180-7340 (Report no. 213)

C. Evans and M. Knight for CAU

The first five-year 'pull' of the quarry (115 ha) was evaluated by intensive field-work in autumn 1996. Lying north-west of the village, it extends for 1.6 km along the eastern side of the River Great Ouse. Its western margins border the riverside fields in which the Over barrow cemetery lies; one outlier of the southern group falls within the investigation area.

This investigation employed the same sampling methodology as on the opposite bank of the Ouse at Barleycroft Farm (see entry above). The palaeo-topography, buried by up to 3.50 m of alluvium and peat, consists of linear east-west gravel terraces divided by Quaternary channels and pools filled with heavy clay. Test pit sampling indicates that prehistoric activity was generally confined to these terraces; detailed recording of the soil sequences coupled with monolith sampling will permit palaeo-environmental reconstruction in depth. (GIS modelling has already been attempted.)

Apart from the outlying round barrow (Site 1), five major complexes were discovered:

Site 2: A later Bronze Age field system with a settlement on its northern terrace-edge margin. Geophysical survey demonstrates that the field system extends west into the riverside fields – the area of the main barrow cemetery. Its orientation and narrow double ditches, probably flanking hedges, suggest that it is the system found in the extreme south-eastern fields at Barleycroft Farm.

Site 3: An early Neolithic scatter and later Bronze Age feature complex on the edge of the Site 2 field system, east of the Site 1 barrow. A round structure was identified, probably associated with the latter phase of usage. Nevertheless, quantities of early Neolithic flintwork were present, and some of the features may be contemporary.

Site 4: Dispersed Neolithic activity was found across the Burling Peninsula Terrace in the south-eastern corner, including a knoll surrounded by a channel, effectively an island, and adjacent features including 'select assemblage' Grooved Ware pits.

Site 5: A late Bronze Age settlement and enclosure complex, possibly with an early Iron Age component. Internal features were dense; round and possibly rectilinear buildings were identified. Although it has not yielded great quantities of artefacts, the buried soil within the enclosed area was blackened by occupation.

Site 6: A ring-ditch east of Site 5 on the Church Rise terrace; either a later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age ritual complex, or a later Bronze Age stock enclosure. Probably later Neolithic features were identified on the northern terrace margin.

Peterborough, Dogsthorpe

TF 217 025 (BUFAU Project no.475)

A. Jones for BUFAU

Desktop assessment and trial trenching of an area of proposed clay extraction did not reveal any anthropogenic features, despite the proximity of Car Dyke. This is of interest for the reconstruction of the Roman landscape around Car Dyke.

Peterborough, Eyebury Quarry

TF 237021 (Report forthcoming)

D. Gibson and L. White for CAU

Excavations were carried out in advance of quarry expansion. An area of 9.4 ha was investigated by trial trenching and open-area excavation. Evidence of intensive land use from the Bronze Age to the Roman period was uncovered, including field systems, post-hole structures, pits, wells and burials. Bronze Age activity is represented by an east-west aligned field system and driveway, several large well features and a pit containing a cremation and a child burial; post-hole features may attest to contemporary structures. The axis of the field system was shifted towards north west-south east in the Iron Age, and there appears to have been more settlement activity, including several four-post structures, storage pits and wells or watering holes. Roman features were restricted to the south-east corner, where a farmstead or villa is located outside the quarry. The field system seems to follow the Iron Age alignment at a 45° angle, running north west-south east. An inhumation was found, severely plough

damaged. Excavations in the 1950s found several burials including a large stone coffin. Both artefactual and eco-factual data were recovered, mainly pottery, flint and bone, but also burnt clay, brick and tile, and worked wood.

Peterborough, Fengate – Tower Works
TL 206 987 (Report no. 206)

G. Lucas for CAU

Evaluation trenching was carried out on a former industrial site, adjacent to earlier gravel quarrying and the findspots of Wyman Abbott's 'rescue' work earlier this century, which first highlighted the importance of Fengate's prehistoric remains. Field-work identified two main areas of activity, with occupation dating to the later Bronze Age or early Iron Age, and associated field systems. A Romano-British field system, possibly associated with a settlement c. 200 m north-east, beyond the site, was also found. The prehistoric material is significant in terms of the quantity of settlement refuse, including a large assemblage of pottery and bone; settlement features included part of a linear structure defined by stone-lined post-holes.

Ramsey, Ramsey Abbey School
TL 2925 8515 (Report no. 129)

Stephen Macaulay for AFU

An archaeological evaluation within a proposed development area in the grounds of Ramsey Abbey School proved conclusively the survival of archaeological remains dating to the late Saxon and medieval periods.

A late Saxon ditch and pit (infilled with building debris) were sealed beneath a medieval layer to the north. Partially robbed foundations of two walls were revealed, and a robbing trench for a third. All of these were sealed by a demolition layer dating to the 16th century, perhaps to the Dissolution. These walls are thus likely to be part of the medieval abbey complex. A fragment of floor tile likely to have been produced on site was also recovered.

St Ives, 10 Priory Road
TL 3146 7103 (Report forthcoming)

Ben Robinson for AFU

A recording brief, undertaken in October 1996, during the construction of a foundation behind

the brick retaining wall of the old river, revealed post-medieval dump deposits to a depth of 1.6 m below existing ground level. This is an area where waterfront remains pertaining to the priory might be anticipated.

St Neots, Cedar House Car Park
TL 1870 6035 (Report no. B6)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

St Neots, 43–45 Church Street
TL184 600 (BUFAU Project no.391.01)

A. Jones for BUFAU

A watching brief recorded demolition deposits dating from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. No Saxon or medieval features were recorded.

St Neots, Tan Yard
TL 182 604 (Report no. A111)

Judith Roberts for AFU

In April 1997 archaeological evaluation noted a ditch running north-east to south-west and a further shallow feature, either a pit or the butt end of a ditch, containing locally made grey wares, some fine wares and a sherd of colour coated pottery, all dated to around the 3rd century ad. Quantities of animal bone and a fragment of Roman roof tile were also recovered.

Sawston, Spicers' Estate
TL 4717 4948 (Report forthcoming)

Simon Bray for AFU

In March 1997 a watching brief was undertaken during trench digging for a high voltage cable across the centre of the hillfort. Good archaeological survival was particularly apparent in the northern half of the monument.

The defences were found to consist of an outer ditch at least 4 m wide, a substantial bank 4 m wide sealing a buried soil, and an internal ditch at least 5 m wide. Unfortunately, the trench was dug to a uniform depth of 1 m, so that, although the bank was viewed in entirety, only the tops of the ditches were exposed. The bank was truncated by a large feature contain-

ing at least two very mixed fills, similar to a feature recorded in 1993 (Bray 1993), also cut through the bank, and interpreted as a palisade trench. The northern half of the hillfort covered by a thick, homogeneous dark brown silty clay, as in 1993, which has been interpreted as ploughed-out bank material.

**Shingay-cum-Wendy,
Sewerage Pipeline Project**

TL 325 474 to 332 483 (Report no. A102)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Soham, 9-13 Pratt Street

TL 5927 7346 (Report no. A107)

Andrew Hatton and Jonathan Last for AFU

Evaluation in advance of housing development revealed linear and curvilinear ditches, pits and post-holes of Saxo-Norman date (10th-12th centuries AD). Only limited recording was advised.

Soham, Station Road

TL 5924 7340 (Report forthcoming)

Richard Heawood for AFU

This investigation, prior to residential development, produced late Saxon or Saxo-Norman remains from the 10th to 12th centuries. At least five foundation trenches were located, implying timber structures, which have been dated by associated pottery. Although domestic occupation cannot be conclusively demonstrated, relatively dense activity of this date was also recorded during investigations at Soham County Infants' School. A ditch parallel to Station Road showed that the line of this street has probably been an important feature since the late Saxon period.

Soham, 11 White Hart Lane

TL 5943 7325

Ben Robinson for AFU

At the request of the County Archaeologist, a visit was made to White Hart Lane to investigate the discovery of several human (and animal) bones in back garden flower-beds. The

bones included skull, ulna and femur fragments and probably came from more than one individual. The material was recovered in an area noted for unaccompanied burials, which may confirm the proximity of the 7th to late 9th-century abbey of St Felix.

Somersham, Edwards Farm

TL 3575 8065 (Cambridge Mesolithic Project, Site 1)

T. Reynolds and S. Kaner for CMP

A large Mesolithic flint scatter identified by the Fenland Survey was field walked on a grid. Tools were manufactured and used on the site, on a sandy south-west facing slope close to a water channel. C. 800 pieces were recovered, including 11 microliths and 20 cores. There is potential for waterlogged preservation, and the project will investigate the site further to determine whether such remains exist.

Stapleford, Gog Magog Golf Course

TL 500 538 (Report no. A108)

AFU

Field walking during 1995 produced a discrete cluster of Mesolithic flint probably representing a production site, on which a report was produced in 1996.

Stapleford, Wandlebury Hillfort

TL 4940 5343

P. Pattison and A. Oswald for RCHME

A survey was undertaken to complement work by the University of Cambridge Department of Archaeology training excavation. The survey includes a history and archaeological history, with sections on the house, gardens and stables, and a new survey of the earthworks.

The Stukeleys, Hinchbrook Park Road

TL 5220 2724 (Report forthcoming)

Mark Hinman for AFU

Following an evaluation in January 1997, AFU was commissioned to conduct an open area excavation of a multi-phase Iron Age site.

In the main area the earliest evidence of activity was a pit alignment running east to west,

which appears to define an area, presumably the original settlement, along the crest of the hill. The date of this alignment remains unknown, but it may be associated with an Early Iron Age component. The apparently ritual placing of the upper fore limb of a boar on the base of the largest pit appears to confirm the importance of this boundary.

The pit alignment was truncated along its inner (southern) limit by a c. 20 m long ditch (dateable to the MIA) with a defensive 'ankle breaking' profile. A placed deposit of a ritually defaced quern base was revealed against the northern edge of this ditch at its western terminal.

The final phase of boundary definition maintains the same alignment and takes the form of a shallow unbroken ditch truncating both earlier phases. Two currency bars were found against the northern edge of this ditch, parallel to each other with the socketed ends pointing east.

Despite the lack of direct evidence for dwellings and ancillary structures, initial impressions suggest at least three major phases of MIA activity, associated with a sizeable settlement. A large quantity of MIA pottery was found in a very good state of preservation: sherds were often large and unabraded and many formed virtually complete vessels. Preservation of animal bone was also very good, but the heavy clay was not an easy medium from which to float ecofacts. One of the enclosures to the north of the main site boundary has yielded evidence of iron working.

In a small second area, large quantities of LIA pottery and other domestic debris clearly indicate habitation, suggesting a new site or a shift in settlement focus.

Sutton, Blaby's Drove

TL 404 815 (Report no. 131)

Jonathan Last for AFU

In October and November 1996 an evaluation was carried out over a large area designated for an irrigation lake, forming a significant part of a low gravel 'island' on which several barrows and an important Neolithic flint scatter were located (Fenland Survey Project Sites SUT1–7).

The western margins of the area retained an intact fen sequence, with waterlogged deposits at the base, but across the rest of the area the peat and fen clay horizons have been lost to wastage and ploughing. Field walking and trial trenching revealed a low density of worked flint

of earlier Neolithic type. A concentration around the trench closest to the known lithic site (SUT 1) may mark the periphery of that occupation, but in general the finds are seen as an 'off-site' scatter relating to prehistoric exploitation of the landscape. An air photographic assessment identified some possible barrows, revealed by trial trenching to represent the crests of humps in the pre-Flandrian gravel surface.

Swaffham Bulbeck, The Abbey

TL 558 635 (Report no. 137)

Judith Roberts for AFU

Archaeological excavations in January 1997 adjacent to the Abbey revealed a paved surface, a substantial wall foundation and a possible buttress. The wall is not on exact alignment with the existing building but parallel to it. The floor levels are broadly similar, suggesting they may be contemporary. Stone roof tiles and medieval painted window glass were recovered from immediately above the floor. Residual Roman pottery and a coin were found in the deposit abutting the southern face of the wall and underlying the floor.

Swaffham Bulbeck, Old Mill Drain

TL5310 6690 (Cambridge Mesolithic Project, Site 2)

T. Reynolds and S. Kaner for CMP

Rescue work was carried out in advance of the construction of a dyke through flint scatters identified as potentially of national importance by the Fenland Project, and has further characterised the site as Bronze Age with residual Mesolithic material. The area was field walked on a grid with the help of the Haverhill and District Field Group, and then trial trenched. Twentieth-century claying and ploughing has destroyed most of the 'upland' part of the site, but as the sand terrace falls off into the Cam Valley, a palaeosol is preserved with Bronze Age pottery and flints, and some Mesolithic flint. The boundary between the 'upland' and the valley edge was marked by a Bronze Age ditch. Underground features and waterlogged remains may survive in the Cam Valley part of the site, and a watching brief will monitor this area.

Swavesey, Blackhorse Lane

TL 358 687 (Report no. 136)

Spencer Cooper and Paul Spoerry for AFU

Evaluation trenching in early 1997 produced evidence of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman occupation, including post-holes, beam-slots, and pits which probably represent property boundaries and a timber structure. All these features were located on the terrace gravels. In contrast, the remaining six trenches, which produced alluvial deposits, lie within the extent of the 1947 flood waters, suggesting that the limit of this inundation may mark the historic edge of permanently dry land.

Swavesey, School Lane and Blackhorse Lane

TL 358 687 (Report no. 130)

Paul Spoerry for AFU

During the second part of this three phase evaluation, conducted in July 1996, dense late Saxon to medieval occupation was identified, including pitting and evidence for timber structures of more than one phase. This overlay part of an area of deliberate dumping, which seems to have provided an extension to the natural gravel terrace. The gravel terrace was found to occupy only the north-eastern corner of the field, rather than spreading across the whole of it, as is indicated in the Geological Survey map. The area of occupation represented a sharp contrast with the lower lying, and probably periodically flooded, basin across the rest of the field. Ditches seen in aerial photographs formed a presumably long-lived drainage system, with as many as five different phases of ditch cuts and, in one phase, a bank, probably constructed to keep episodic flooding at bay.

Teversham, Airport Way

TL 4980 5909 (Report forthcoming)

Richard Heawood for AFU

A two phase investigation at this site, in December 1996 and February 1997, recovered evidence for at least two timber structures, a chalk clunch rubble platform, and a number of ditches. Many of the features contained late Roman pottery, and in one post-hole a small bronze coin was found, dated to the reign of the Emperor Constans (AD 337–348). It is prob-

able that most of the features date to the mid to late 4th century.

Together with the results of a geophysical survey conducted in early 1996, this evidence suggests that a Romano-British settlement is centred on the crest of the low hill to the east.

Wansford, Haycock

TL 5077 2990 (Report no B4)

AFU

Assessment revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance.

Whittlesey, Eldernell Lane

TL 3205 9852 (Report no. A112)

AFU

An archaeological study was undertaken, including archaeological and historical background research, field visits and aerial photographic survey.

Whittlesey, King's Dyke

TL 245 980 (Report no. 204)

M. Alexander for CAU

While no archaeological features were found except one ditch of unspecified date, significant amounts of abraded Roman pottery were recovered.

Whittlesey, King's Dyke - Star Pit

TL 247 968 (Report no. 207)

D. Gibson and G. Lucas for CAU

Evaluation trenching revealed no features of archaeological significance, although diffuse prehistoric activity along the fen-edge was indicated by flints.

Wicken, Dimmock's Cote

TL 5463 7239 (Report forthcoming)

Stephen Kemp for AFU

1996 saw a continuation of archaeological excavations recording the prehistoric landscape at Dimmock's Cote (see PCAS LXXXIV: 177). Exca-

vations have been undertaken since 1992, phased to cover the expansion of the quarry eastwards.

Two pit complexes were identified. One was a continuation of a complex partially excavated in 1994, and the other occupied a 12 by 20 m area to the south of the enclosure. A cow skull lay centrally in the large pit complex, and has the appearance of a placed deposit. Fragments of late Bronze Age pottery were recovered during initial cleaning of the large complex.

Other features include a series of east–west and north east–south west ditches, furrows and pits of medieval and post-medieval date.

An interrupted ring ditch with a diameter of 24 m and a single entranceway on its eastern side was found north of an enclosure whose northern side has been much altered by a series of sub-rectangular pits. Excavation was undertaken in the centre of the enclosure, but no archaeological features were recovered.

Willingham, High Street

TL 403 702 (Report forthcoming)

Aileen Connor for AFU

The archaeological potential of this site was identified by a desktop study and evaluation trenching in 1995 by CAU. In December 1996 and January 1997 excavation in advance of and during housing development revealed extensive early to middle Anglo-Saxon settlement remains.

Two areas contained evidence for post-built double-square 'hall' type buildings, the largest c. 10 m by c. 5 m. Eight were complete and discernible in plan, a further two were seen in partial plan, and other post-holes may represent other buildings or fence lines. No definite sunken featured buildings were encountered, and no positive evidence for buildings constructed on earth-fast sill beams. This perhaps lends weight to an early Anglo-Saxon, or at least early to middle date for the main activity. Phases of ditches and gullies could also be broadly assigned to this period and many seemed to define the house plots. Of particular interest was a Saxon well with its wattle lining and other timber surviving intact.

Provisional study suggests an early Saxon date for some of the pottery, although there are certainly pieces dating to the middle (Ipswich ware) and late (Thetford ware and St Neots ware) Saxon periods. The latter is associated with ditches to the north of the area, which appear to define the rear boundaries of properties fronting Church Street. Only isolated features

produced conclusively middle Saxon pottery.

A small number of pits and a ditch are thought to be medieval, although dwellings had shifted elsewhere by this time.

A number of post-medieval boundary ditches and adjacent tree planting pits were also noted. These are thought to represent the boundary to 'Berrycroft', an undeveloped close in the centre of Willingham which existed prior to 1575.

Wing to Peterborough Trunk Main

(Report no. A104)

AFU

An archaeological study, including archaeological and historical background research, field visits and geophysical survey, was carried out. Construction was observed along the pipeline.

Wisbech, Market Mews

TF 4630 0969 (Report forthcoming)

Mark Hinman for AFU

In June and July 1996 evaluation and excavation revealed deeply stratified medieval and post-medieval deposits. The sequence contains conclusive evidence for metalworking in addition to at least eight distinct building phases, the earliest provisionally dated to the 13th century. Associated floors were sealed by extensive accumulations of fine sand and silts deposited during episodic flooding. Excavation more than 3 m below the current ground surface failed to locate the base of the medieval sequence. Varied and rich environmental remains and good ceramic assemblages were recovered. The floors have undergone micromorphological analysis.

The excavation represents the most comprehensive sample of medieval archaeology ever recorded in Wisbech.

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Books: Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Vol.3*, ed. by William Smith (London 1862) pp.23-4.

Theses: Mark Campbell, 'The changing residential patterns in Toronto, 1880-1910' (unpubl. M.A. thesis, University of Toronto 1971).

Articles: K.R. Dark, 'Archaeological survey at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 1984', *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 74 (1985) pp.81-4.

Chapters in books: John Patten, 'Changing occupational structures in the East Anglian countryside, 1500-1700', in H.S.A. Fox & R.A. Butlin (ed.), *Change in the Countryside: Essays on Rural England, 1500-1900* (London 1979) pp.103-21.

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