
Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume XCIX
for 2010

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Proceedings XCVIII, 2009: Price £12.50 for members, £14.50 for non-members

- John Pickles, Peter Gathercole, and Alison Taylor: *Mary Desborough Cra'ster, 1928–2008*
Leo Webley and Jonathan Hiller: *A fen island in the Neolithic and Bronze Age: excavations at North Fen, Sutton, Cambridgeshire*
Aileen Connor: *A fen island burial: excavation of an Early Bronze Age round barrow at North Fen, Sutton*
Hella Eckardt with Amanda Clarke, Sophie Hay, Stephen Macaulay, Pat Ryan, David Thornley and Jane Timby: *The Bartlow Hills in context*
Stephen Yeates: *Senuna, goddess of the river Rhee or Henney*
Scott Kenney: *A reappraisal of the evidence for the 'northern arm' of the Fleam Dyke at Fen Ditton*
Laura Piper and Andrew Norton: *An excavation at Station Quarry, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire*
Duncan Mackay: *Excavations at Scotland Road/Union Lane, Chesterton*
Aileen Connor: *A curious object from Firs Farm, Caxton*
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Philomena Guillebaud: *Changes in the landscape of west Cambridge, Part V: 1945 to 2000*
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Chris Jakes: *Recent Accessions to the Cambridgeshire Collection*

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**Volume XCIX
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Cambridge Antiquarian Society

Report for the Year 2009

Membership: there are now 382 members, 49 Affiliated Societies and 67 subscribing institutions.

Meetings: There were 4 Council meetings and 9 Ordinary meetings, at which the following lectures were given:

Gabriel Moshenska	<i>The School Air Raid Shelter: History, Archaeology and Memory</i>
Prof. Stephen Oakley	<i>How Latin Texts Survived from Antiquity to the Age of Printing</i> (In association with the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies)
Richard Buckley	<i>A Tale of Two Towns: recent discoveries from Roman and Medieval Leicester</i>
Prof. Ronald Hutton	<i>The History of Prehistory: Megaliths and the Modern Imagination</i>
Dr Catherine Hills	<i>Skeletons in the Garden – Romans and Anglo Saxons at Newnham College</i>
Ben Robinson	<i>Revealing Peterborough – New Explorations in an Ancient Cathedral City</i>
Dr Stephen Alford	<i>Finding Nicholas Berden: the career of an Elizabethan spy</i>
Prof. Simon Keynes	<i>John Mitchell Kemble (1807–57): Apostle, Revolutionary, and Anglo-Saxonist</i>
Richard Mortimer & Alex Pickstone	<i>Further Excavations at the War Ditches, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge</i> (In association with the Prehistoric Society)

In addition the following two conferences were held:

21st November 2009 *Recent archaeological work in Cambridgeshire*

17th April 2010 *Past Relations: different approaches to the dead over time*

Excursions: The Programme for 2010 consisted of the following visits:

Chatham Historic Dockyard, Saturday 15 May:

One of the country's foremost naval dockyards for 300 years, Chatham has been in the care of the Historic Dockyard Trust since 1985. As well as three historic vessels – HMS Gannet (1878), HMS Cavalier (1944) and HM Submarine Ocelot (1962) – it has a spectacular Victorian Ropery and a galaxy of other permanent and temporary exhibitions and displays, including 'The Wooden Walls' (a recreation of the dockyard in 1758) and the RNLI Lifeboat Collection. It also has the largest single concentration of listed buildings (military, civil and religious) in the UK.

Cherry Hinton, Saturday 26 June.

A morning was spent exploring the historical and archaeological landscape of Cherry Hinton Hall and its surroundings, under the guidance of Ms Michelle Bullivant. Outwardly Victorian, the park nonetheless has many features that bear witness to former land uses and industrial activity. Also investigated was the Lime Kiln Hill area and the newly-open to the public East Pit.

Spalding, Lincolnshire, Wednesday 14 July.

The highlight of this excursion was a visit to the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, founded in 1710 and one of the oldest learned societies in the country. The Society has the UK's second oldest museum collection, containing many rare items of both local and national interest, and a fine library.

The medieval riverside at Ely, Wednesday 15 September.

The riverside was a centre of activity in the Middle Ages attracting trades dependent on the river, and those requiring water such as brewing. The area was developed after the diversion of the river to its present course, probably in the twelfth century, thereby incorporating Ely into the fenland river network.

This walk, led by Mrs Anne Holton-Krayenbuhl, explored the area between the river and Broad Street, bounded by Waterside to the north, looking at sites of former watercourses, hithes, and buildings. The tour also included two medieval houses in Broad Street.

Moggerhanger Park, Bedfordshire, Wednesday 6 October.

Relatively little-known, perhaps due to its long period of use as a local authority TB sanatorium and then orthopaedic hospital (from 1919 to 1987), Moggerhanger was designed by Sir John Soane for Sir Godfrey Thornton, a director of the Bank of England, and built between 1790 and 1816. Listed Grade 1, it is regarded as perhaps the best complete surviving example of Soane's work, and epitomises many of his architectural ideas. The grounds were laid out by Humphry Repton. Now in the care of a Trust, which stepped in to avert the threatened demolition of the house and construction of a housing estate on the site, this excursion enabled members to see the current state of an ongoing and ambitious programme of restoration.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society Accounts for the Year Ended 31/12/2009

Registered Charity 299211 • Founded 1840

PAYMENTS		2008	2009
	Lectures: Publishing Programme	332.53	310.00
	Expenses	255.44	401.07
	Vol XCVI Delivery	1418.33	
	Proceedings Vol XCVII Publication	6399.28	
	Proceedings Vol XCVII Delivery	911.14	(b)
	Proceedings Vol XCVIII Publication		7692.41
	Proceedings Vol XCVIII Delivery		1083.29
	Conduit	1050.36 (a)	1005.00 (a)
	Conference: March	944.69 (a)	898.35 (b, c)
	: November	437.67 (a)	300.00
	Excursions	2147.09 (a)	285.03 (b)
	Mailings: Delivery Charges	504.65	156.56 (b, c)
	Subscriptions (CBA, Rescue, CRSoc)	102.00	104.00
	Haddon Library: Conservation	100.00	100.00
	Office Expenses, Web Site, Misc	376.17	347.75
	Emolument: Registrar	250.00	250.00
	Publicity		532.65
	Insurance	221.60	241.05
	From capital: new web site	894.83 (b)	1121.25 (h)
	Small Grants Scheme	<u>500.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	Sub-Total	16895.78	14928.41
	Purchase of Investments	6000.00	
	Total Payments	<u>22895.78</u>	<u>14928.41</u>
RECEIPTS		2008	2009
	Subscriptions: Members & Societies	7110.00	6908.50
	Tax Reclaimed	720.71	779.65
	C.U. Archaeology Dept.	800.00	800.00
	Proceedings Vol XCVI: Grants	2369.00	
	VolXCVII: Grants	3370.00	
	VolXCVIII: Grants		2090.00
	Conduit	486.96	162.60
	Conference: March	1197.10	1813.00
	: November	386.00	505.00
	Excursions	1924.25	312.00
	Sales of Publications	173.48	135.90
	Royalties, Misc	416.00	208.05
	Investment Income (gross)	997.59	1174.05
	Interest: NSB (gross)	<u>812.02</u>	<u>67.41</u>
	Total Receipts	<u>20763.11</u>	<u>14956.16</u>
	less Payments (excluding Investment of capital adjusted below)	<u>22895.78</u>	<u>14928.41</u>
	Cash Surplus/Deficit (-)	-2132.67	27.75 (d)
	Fixed Interest Treasury Stock:		
	Capital investment	6000.00	
	less excess cost on purchase/re-investment over maturity values	-997.06	-571.32
	Surplus/Deficit (-) Income over Expenditure	<u>2870.27</u>	<u>-543.57</u>
STATEMENT OF ASSETS			
	Cash Funds: Current A/C	2611.26	2571.60
	: Deposit A/C	23265.03	23332.44 (e)
	Treasury Stock at maturity values	<u>18363.84</u>	<u>17792.52</u>
		<u>44240.13</u>	<u>43696.56 (g)</u>
	Accumulated Fund		
	At beginning of year	41369.86	44240.13
	Surplus/Deficit (-) Income over Expenditure for the Year	<u>2870.27</u>	<u>-543.57</u>
	At end of year	<u>44240.13</u>	<u>43696.56</u>
	Planned Future Expenditure		9840.00 (f)

Notes

The presentation of the accounts conforms to guidance provided by the Charity Commission. Comment on some of the entries is given in the following notes:

- a. The cost of mailing details to members has been attributed to the event.
- b. A credit of £894.83 with Mailing Distributor arose in 2008 and was used in 2009.
- c. Adding the attributable postage credit makes the 2009 figures comparable to earlier years.
- d. This figure is influenced by a credit with the mailing distributor (b) and the exceptional expenditure on redesigning the Web site (h); excluding these amounts the surplus from the normal activities of the Society in the year 2009 is £254.17.
- e. In 2005 the Council reviewed the policy for the reserves held by the Society and concluded that the cash funds less liabilities (f) should be maintained in the range £10,000 to £20,000; on 31 December 2009 the reserves were £16,064
- f. Planned expenditure; PCAS Vol XCIX £8000, Ladd's Bequest (g) £840, Small Grants £500 and a grant of £500 to Cambridgeshire Archives towards the cost of purchasing the Fen Drainage Papers; total £9,840.
- g. Includes Ladd's bequest earmarked for events associated with Huntingdon; with interest the sum is now £840.
- h. Exceptional expenditure on the design of a new Web site.

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Earthwork Survey at Huntingdon Mill Common

Michael Fradley

An analytical earthwork survey of Mill Common in Huntingdon was undertaken during April 2009. The survey results potentially stem from the pre-medieval period to the present, whilst the sub-surface archaeological remains could feasibly stretch back further in time. The following report will therefore outline and interpret the breadth of this landscape development in order to direct future investigations in Mill Common, with discussion focusing specifically on its impact on the interpretation of the medieval townscape.

Background

The open area of Mill Common measures roughly 6.17ha in area (Fig.1), but prior to encroachment during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries it encompassed a much greater extent of land. Currently it is used as light pasture on the perimeter of the town centre and is open to the general public. The history of the town and the archaeological potential of Mill Common, particularly in relation to the early medieval development of the settlement has been covered extensively and need not be repeated (Spoerry 2000).

Pre-later medieval (Fig.2)

Several linear features were identified as pre-dating the establishment of the medieval open field system. A short 2m wide south-facing scarp, surviving in three short sections was identified in the furrowed area beneath the later medieval plough ridging (Fig.2: a), indicative of a linear feature orientated a little off E-W and measuring 40m in length and a probably related small section of scarp was located on a similar alignment 7m to the north. The surviving ridge and furrow to the west is orientated WSW-ENE which would suggest that these scarps were not part of an earlier form of the open field system with longer ploughing tracts continuing eastwards into this area.

The importance of this identification is heightened by the fact it appears to correspond to a larger

complex to the south. The linear feature matches the orientation of the headland 17m to the south at the end of the furlong, although this alignment is heavily disturbed to both the east and west by later post-medieval activity. The implication of this relationship is that the layout of the medieval field system may have been influenced in part by an arrangement of earlier features. Immediately south of the headland is a terraced 4m wide track way (Fig.2: b). Of particular interest is that the alignment of this track appears to link with that of St. Mary's Lane whose line ends somewhat abruptly a little over 100m to the east. The intervening area between these routes has been heavily disturbed by post-medieval activity, and so it remains a distinct possibility that the two features were part of the same track in the medieval period.

To the south-east another fragment of a medieval furlong survives, but to the south-west is a large rectilinear cut feature, potentially a complex of early settlement (Fig.2: c). Measuring 35m by at least 35m and up to 1m deep, the southern end of this feature is encased by the embankment of the A14 carriageway. It too matches the alignment of the pre-ridge and furrow linear feature to the north, while internally a number of low linear scarps were recorded, principally on an N-S alignment. On first inspection it was assumed that such a deep cut feature related to some form of quarrying, but the neat square form of the earthwork would suggest a more complex function as would its internal features, although the latter give little immediate indication of that function. A building platform terrace was recorded on the north-west side of the feature measuring 12m by 10m, while demarcating the southern side of the terraced track way on both the east and west side of the principal rectilinear depression are two sections of low bank measuring roughly 30m in length respectively.

This combines to form an interesting complex of earthworks, the date and function of which are not immediately apparent. Unfortunately there is no clear relationship surviving with the medieval ridge and furrow to the east and north, which may in itself imply a construction date after the abandonment of

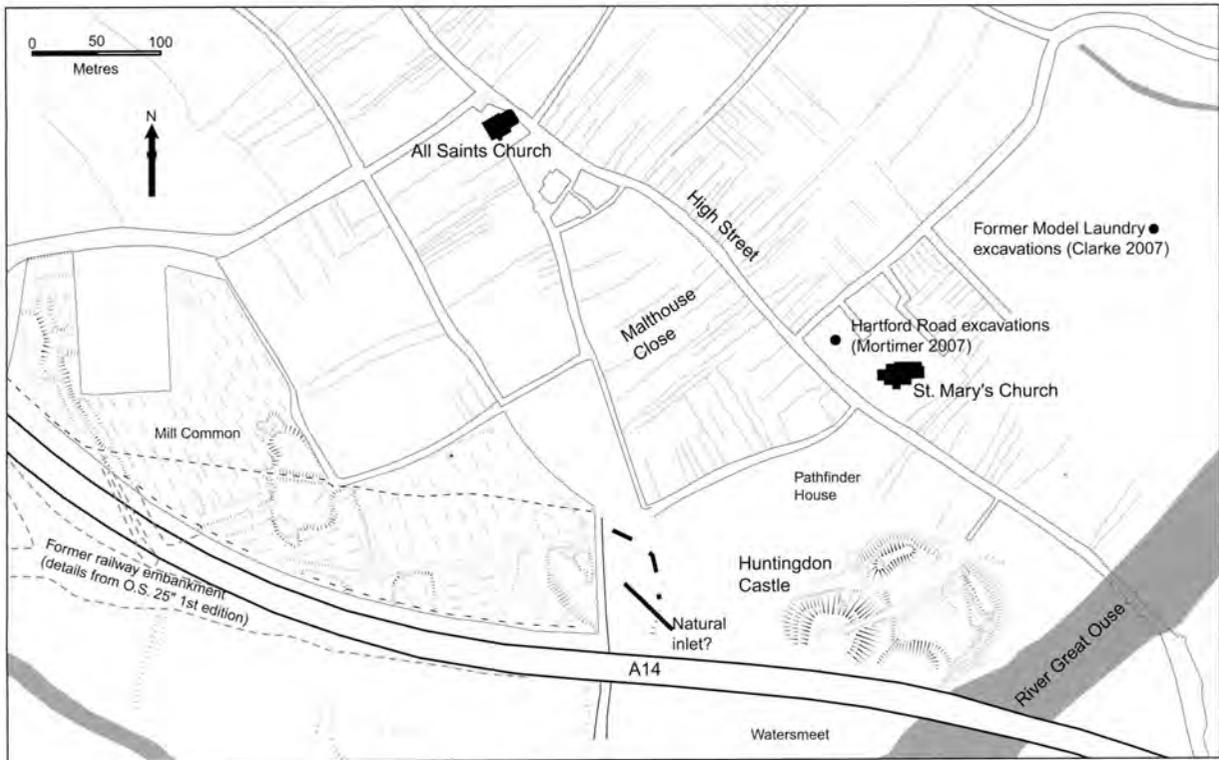


Figure 1. Huntingdon Mill Common survey area and the historic core of the town. Huntingdon Castle earthworks redrawn from NMR 622089, held at the NMR, Swindon.

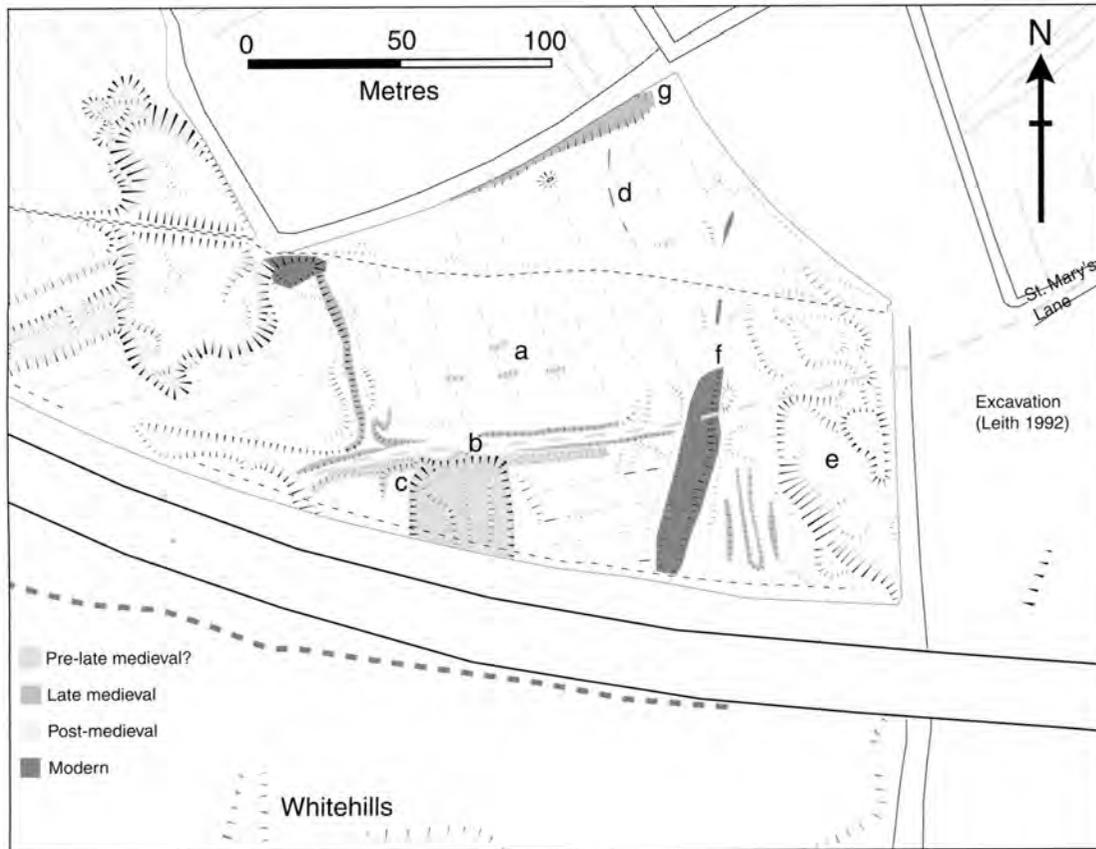


Figure 2. Detail of eastern Mill Common.

the open field system. However, this complex does mirror the alignment of the pre-ridge and furrow linear to the north, and the proposed link between the track way and St. Mary's Lane whose curving route leading directly toward the early church of St. Mary would support the interpretation that it formed an early component of medieval Huntingdon's settlement form. If this track to the earthwork complex had been abandoned by the early post-medieval period, as implied by depictions of cartographers from John Speed onwards, then it lends itself to the interpretation that this earthwork complex is indeed of medieval date and potentially part of an early settlement focus.

The Bar Dyke (Fig.3)

The earthwork feature known as the Bar Dyke is located at the western end of the survey area, consisting of a large ditch principally orientated NNW-SSE. Recent excavation across the feature has confirmed the existence of multiple phases of construction on this alignment, including two medieval ditches predating the extant ditch earthwork (Mortimer 2006, 20–2). The ditch as it survives at present fades out before reaching the northern limit of the survey area. The ditch itself can be divided into distinct sections; a sharply cut, straight southern segment and a more amorphous northern stretch.

The degraded northern section of ditch is the older of the two and relates to its development in the medieval and early post-medieval period. The ditch is about 70m in length, 12–20m in width and slightly meandering in its course before fading out at its northern end. A large break in the eastern side of the ditch (Fig.3: a) about 23m wide was recorded, and there is no indication that this branch of the ditch continued further eastwards. The form of the present ditch has been tentatively dated to the Civil War period by excavation, and in this context it is possible to suggest that the ditch in this area was cut in order to protect a series of independent bastions and thus the break separates these two units. This interpretation has the added benefit of explaining why there is no evidence of the ditch continuing further north as it would suggest that it never did, but in fact curved around the northern flank of the bastion. It would also imply that there was never an internal bank to the ditch, with these features instead functioning as slightly raised, open platforms. Parallels of similarly crude Civil War defences can be identified as sites such as at Northampton Castle and the northern perimeter of Wallingford Castle (Oxon.), providing entrenched positions for artillery units (Christie *et al* 2008, 53–4; Chapman 1985, 51). At Newark amongst the more sophisticated fortified position identified are a number of simple raised battery positions which could also be viewed as a possible parallel with those recorded at Huntingdon (RCHME 1964). As with the defences of the medieval settlement it is not necessary to consider the Civil War defences of Huntingdon as

a single, continuous perimeter, but instead may be a heterogeneous combination of elements such as these potential fortifications.

A number of small, amorphous earthworks were recorded to the east and west of the Bar Dyke feature. Few can be interpreted with any confidence and the majority may be contemporary with or post-date the construction of the Civil War-period Bar Dyke. To the north of the surviving section of the Bar Dyke the ground drops down before rising up once more at the southern edge of the modern road embankment. Explaining this drop in ground is difficult as it is not linked directly to the Bar Dyke system. Within this area a low meandering linear east-facing scarp aligned roughly N-S survives and is apparently matched by a smaller raise of ground some 7m to the east on the edge of the survey area which may represent the two sides of a degraded ditch feature (Fig.3: c).

The Bar Dyke excavation revealed that the Civil War-period ditch followed the line of a late medieval ditch. This in turn followed the alignment of a hollow-way immediately to the east whose date of origin could lie anywhere between the seventh and the thirteenth century and may link to the slight linear ditch feature identified to the north (Fig.3: c; Mortimer 2006, 21, 28). Importantly, while confirming the probable antiquity of this alignment the excavations demonstrate conclusively that the Bar Dyke does not form part an earlier burh enclosure associated with an embryonic urban focus. Instead it only appears to have become a significant boundary in the thirteenth or fourteenth century at a time when it would have apparently been contemporary with and enclosed the extensive arable fields to the east, before being used as a hollow way. The excavated evidence is ambiguous as to whether the earlier lane and later medieval ditch were utilised at least for a time together, as what dating evidence exists for the later stages of use of the hollow-way may be intrusive (Mortimer 2006, 21). Given that the two are apparently aligned so carefully in parallel it is highly suggestive that they did function together for a period, which in turn provides weight to the proposition that there was never a bank on the eastern side of the medieval ditch.

In contrast the southern section of the Bar Dyke ditch (Fig.3: b) is prominent and sharply cut, measuring about 12m in width with a corresponding bank on its eastern side 10m wide. This section of the earthwork runs for a length of 80m, although by including the evidence of the Ordnance Survey 25" 1st edition (1888) it is possible to demonstrate that it continued for a further 50m, at which point it was joined at a right angle by a linear feature to the east aligned WSW-ENE. The latter feature (Fig.3: d) appears to have originated as a long medieval track way running between furlongs of medieval ridge and furrow, but at a later date this western section was deepened, widened and linked into the Bar Dyke ditch, which created an embankment on its north-western side.

The rectangular form of this layout, with its apparent internal embankment has led to speculation as to whether it may be a surviving remnant of a Danish

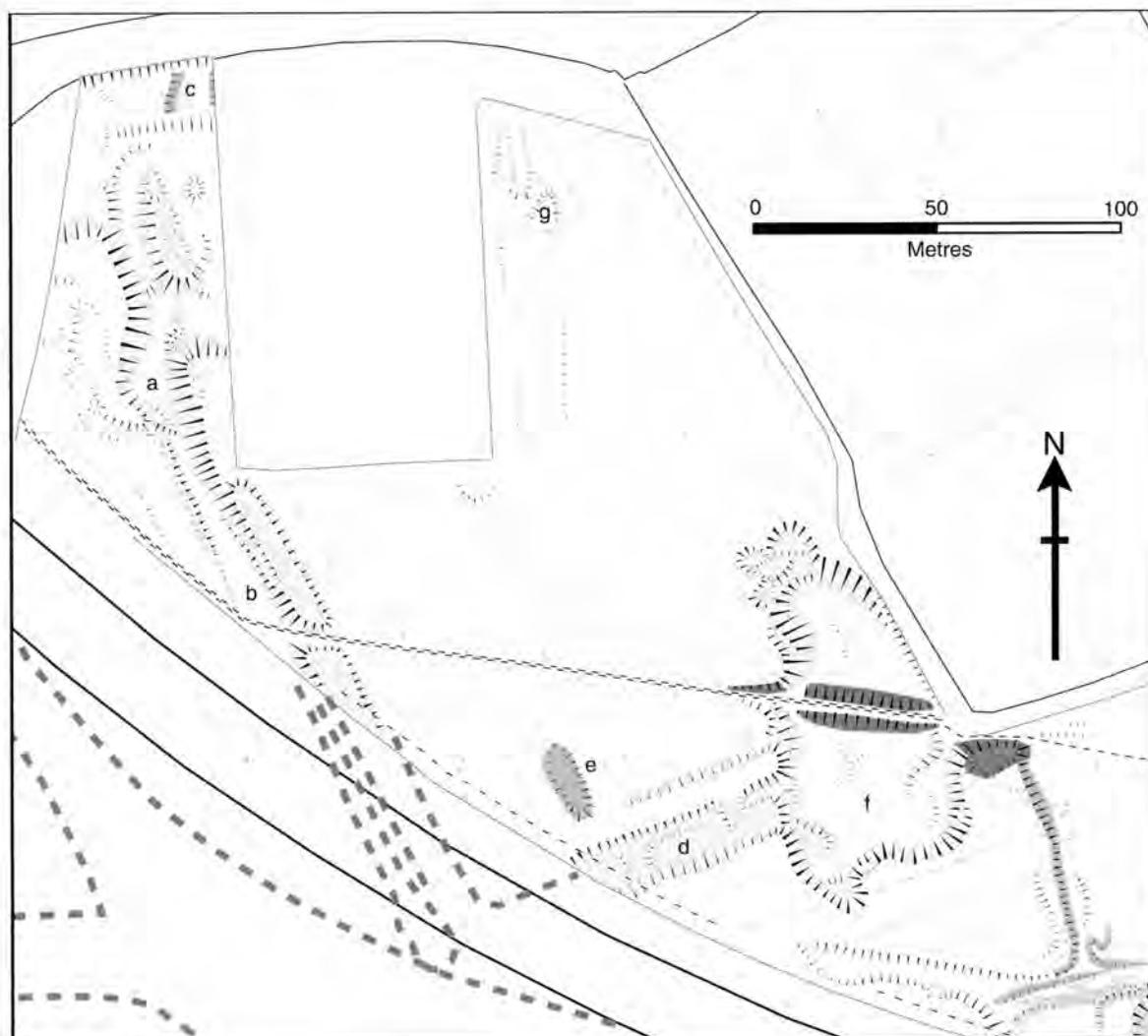


Figure 3. Detail of western Mill Common.

burgh thought to have been located at Huntingdon (Spoerry 2000, 44). This idea is demonstrably incorrect, as the two alignments recorded are two separate features re-cut and joined at some point in the post-medieval period. The alignment to the east was heavily re-cut to provide drainage to the large quarry area at its north-eastern end, and therefore both of these sections are either contemporary with or post-date the abandonment of that quarry. It is possible that this work was undertaken alongside the construction of the railway embankment raised in the 1840s, necessitated by the need to control the water flow as it passed beneath the railway without destabilising its bank. To the south of the point where the two drainage courses meet the early Ordnance Survey editions show a bank and probable ditch continuing south of the railway embankment on a NNE-SSW alignment. This may have fed the drain down to the river, although there is no evidence as to whether this too utilised an earlier feature.

Ridge and Furrow

A complex of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks survive from at least four furlongs of the town arable open fields, with some variation in ridge width and possible evidence of subdivision of cultivation strips. In addition to these four fragments of furlongs a possible fifth section of ridge and furrow was recorded toward the south-east corner of the survey area just off a N-S alignment. These ridges appear to measure between 7–9m in width, but too small an area survives to be able to confirm whether this was in fact part of the medieval field complex. Interestingly in the small area beyond the Bar Dyke feature at the far west side of the survey area there was no conclusive trace of ridge and furrow surviving, although arguably two fragmentary linear scarp sections roughly 25m in length on the same alignments as the plough marks east of Bar Dyke could potentially provide contrary evidence.

In addition to the terraced track way located between medieval furlongs discussed above (Fig.2: b),

a second long track (Fig.2: g), again running between arable furlongs was identified running across a large section of Mill Common. Beginning in the north-east corner of the survey area as a shallow hollow-way measuring 9m in width, the track continues south-west for 80m at which point it merges with a modern pathway. It is unclear why the course of the modern path, in its present position from at least the later nineteenth century, has diverged so slightly from the course of the earlier hollow-way. The path continues to the south-west for a further 60m where its course is abruptly cut by a large open post-medieval quarry, at which point the present surface track turns and continues to the north-west. A large causeway of probable twentieth century date crosses the quarry, but is aligned E-W and joins with an informal track way continuing westwards. However, to the south-west on the far side of the quarry the line of the medieval track way can be seen continuing on its original alignment. At this stage its form has been heavily altered as it has been adapted as part of a post-medieval drainage system as discussed above in relation to the Bar Dyke. The route of the track beyond its meeting with the Bar Dyke is unknown.

In total the course of this track way runs for a distance of nearly 300m. It is presumed that given its close relationship with the medieval field system that it is near contemporary, and there is currently no evidence to suggest that it pre-dates the later medieval period. An interesting addition to this picture is that the line of the track way if continued to the north-east appears to align with a passageway leading directly on to the High Street. This possibly follows the line of an earlier, informal passage that is today elaborated in the form of the made road of Malthouse Close and the access way of Literary Walk alongside the Commemoration Hall. This would suggest that this access route may have been carefully laid out in relation to, and perhaps even simultaneous to the formal laying out of the medieval High Street. A direct link is therefore provided between the commercial hub of Huntingdon's main street and the arable holdings of the towns inhabitants through which we can begin to understand in detail how the latter moved between the two seemingly distinct zones.

Quarrying

Mineral extraction has had a dramatic impact on the earthwork evidence of Mill Common, most notably in the form of the large open quarry pit in the centre of the survey area. Earlier small scale quarrying can possibly be detected in the form of a small oval pit (Fig.3: e). It is possible that the pit was quarried when there was a partial abandonment of arable cultivation in this area at a time when the strips were still individually owned, and its confinement to this single ridge may be explained by it being dug by the owner of the strip.

The major quarry in the centre of the survey area (Fig.3: f) is of a completely different scale, and con-

sists of a large central pit with several minor pits dug at its edge to the north and south. The earthwork of this quarry measures around 100m in length, 40m in width and 2m in depth. The quarry, at least in its present enlarged form, post-dates the abandonment of individual strip ownership of the medieval fields as it cuts through a swathe of the visible ridge and furrow earthworks. The Ordnance Survey 25" 1st edition (1888) suggests that quarrying may have continued further to the north in an area at present developed with residential housing. As discussed above the former track way that continued through this area on a NE-SW alignment was heavily re-cut to the south-west in order to provide drainage for the quarry which would otherwise have presumably held water.

One final area of significant quarrying has been identified on the eastern periphery of the survey area (Fig.2: e), although contrary to earlier views on the basis of the present survey work it is argued that its form may be the combined result of quarrying, natural topography and possible earlier archaeological features. There has been significant earth movement in this area, principally evidenced by spoil heaps rather than discrete quarry pits. However, the principal feature in this area, consisting of a broad scarp up to 12m wide beginning in the extreme south-east corner of the survey area and heading out on a north-westerly alignment, is probably natural in origin. Adjoining on the west side of this scarp is an L-shaped terrace measuring 8m by 10m which may even the remnant of a building platform overlooking this slope rather than evidence of quarrying. To the north evidence of quarrying and spoil is more marked; a minor archaeological trench was excavated in this area which demonstrated the extent of dumped material in the vicinity from the medieval period onwards, but failed to reach a natural surface and ultimately was too small to contribute significantly to the interpretation of the area (Mortimer 2006, 22-3). To the east of the survey area on the far side of this depression archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that the present topography is in many places the result of post-medieval ground make-up, and that occupation layers and at least one ditch with dates potentially spanning the tenth-thirteenth centuries have been identified below (Leith 1992, 7-10; Fig.1). This demonstrates clearly that the fall on the eastern side of this area relates to natural topography rather than extensive quarrying, and this is likely to also be the case on the west side of the survey area. The overall impression presented by this topographical evidence is that this area was marked by the existence of a large bulbous inlet of land leading south to the river and perhaps linked to a now-redundant water course (Fig.1). An arrangement of wide channels and water management dating from the medieval and Romano-British periods has also been revealed by excavation to the east of Mill Common around Hartford Road and the west end of Montagu Road (Clarke 2007; Mortimer 2007). This work has highlighted a lack of understanding of the hydrology and river tributaries around the urban

core of Huntingdon and how this may have influenced settlement development. The features identified on the east side of Mill Common suggest similar evidence of water systems and river inlets.

Landscaping

To the east of the County Hospital site a number of linear features were recorded that have been interpreted as part of a garden landscape attached to the former hospital building. A number of these features were previously identified by geophysical survey in this area but were construed to be land drains (Mortimer 2006, 14). However at the northern end of and integrated into this complex is a large, bulbous earthwork with exposed areas revealing what appears to be a brick-chambered rabbit warren (Fig.3: g). The majority of the scarps aligned N-S may represent the remains of slight former garden terraces. One land drain was encountered during excavation but was aligned on the same orientation as the ridge and furrow to the east and south (Mortimer 2006). Importantly this suggests that the grounds to the County Hospital plot formerly extended further eastwards and included an ornate garden system and a small managed rabbit warren, although whether this relates to the construction of the present structure in the mid-nineteenth century or an earlier building is not clear. The present study was not able to identify any cartographic material that would support this interpretation, although the form of the surviving earthworks is relatively conclusive.

Transport

A major development in the later nineteenth century was the construction of the railway line, encasing a linear swathe of land with its embankment and dividing what remained of the Mill Common area into two discrete sections. The southern section has been the subject of increasing development during the course of the twentieth century to the extent that no large open areas survive at present. Following the closure of the railway line in the 1960s the A14 carriageway was developed in the early 1970s, further encasing part of Mill Common.

One particularly interesting use of the Mill Common in the modern period has been the stationing of a squadron of the Royal Flying Corps in this area in the latter stages of World War One. This squadron was primarily based to the east of the survey area on land that has now been largely developed. However, they may have been responsible for some of the activity in the eastern extremity of the survey area, including fragments of a low, broad embankment measuring up to 12m wide, aligned NNE-SSW and apparently running over all visible earlier features and largely ignorant of their orientations (Fig.2: f). The fragmentary remains suggest a length of at least 130m; possibly the remains of a crude runway.

Discussion

The measured analytical earthwork survey of Mill Common has enabled a detailed analysis of its surviving archaeotopography. Despite the increasing encroachment of this area since the nineteenth century, this earthwork survey has still been able to make an important contribution to current understanding of both the site and its relationship with the wider landscape.

Previous absence of evidence of the prehistoric period is notable, to which this survey can make little significant contribution. Excavation has provided limited evidence of the era on Mill Common, equating to little more than the encroachment of agricultural regimes into this area, although the limited scale of excavation may belie more intensive and extensive patterns of prehistoric activity.

More substantial evidence is available for the Romano-British period, which is unsurprising given the proximity of the town of Godmanchester and the course of Ermine Street. Notable amongst this evidence is the excavation of the villa site at Whitehills and the cemetery and agricultural evidence from the Watersmeet area (Grant and Wilkins 2003; Cooper 2003; Cooper and Spoerry 2000; Nicholson 2004; 2006; Woodhouse and Sparrow 2007). Unfortunately due to the extent of the later medieval field system over the survey area it has not been possible to identify any specific features that can be tied into this earlier phase of settlement. One point of interest is that previous investigations, namely those at the Pathfinder House site identified a spur road from Ermine Street which was presumed to lead to the Whitehills villa site with a conjectured course crossing the south-eastern corner of the survey area. No evidence of any such road was identified, unless it related to the fragments of terraced E-W track way identified by the survey which in turn could suggest that elements of the earthwork complex identified in this area could potentially relate to Romano-British settlement rather than early medieval as asserted in the present study (Fig.2:b).

Those features north of the Whitehills site appear to pre-date the later medieval field system, although their more detailed interpretation is currently conjectural. The Whitehills villa was subsequently redeveloped as a medieval burial ground and church site, with radiocarbon dating of the cemetery evidence recording the majority as tenth or eleventh century inhumations, in addition to a small number of earlier eighth and ninth century internments (Vincent and Mays 2009). There is a strong indication that this was the focus of early medieval settlement, albeit one apparently in decline by the post-Conquest period. The proximity of this site to the earthwork complex to the north in Mill Common is highly suggestive that the two are linked. This may therefore be characterised as a small focal settlement to the north of the Whitehills site and connected to the core of the later medieval town by a continuation of St. Mary's Lane.

The position of a pre-Conquest church above

the river terrace is mirrored by the location of another burial ground identified on the eastern side of the castle site during rescue recording in the 1970s (CHER: 01774). Traditionally this Christian burial ground has been interpreted as being linked to a documented castle chapel, but such an establishment is highly unlikely to have had burial rites, while there are numerous documented examples of urban castles being constructed over pre-Conquest church sites as at Cambridge, Norwich and Newark (Carroll and Spoerry 2004, 13–4, 18; Ayers 1985, 18–25; Marshall and Samuels 1994, 53–4; RCHME 1959, 306–7). It therefore seems probable that this little-studied feature in fact relates to a pre-Conquest burial ground and an as yet unidentified church. The archaeological evidence however does not suggest a continuous swathe of early urban settlement along the riverfront but two elements of a likely multi-foci settlement pattern at the castle and Whitehills site, as well as including other identified areas of pre-Conquest settlement such as the area around St. Mary's Church.

The major development during the later medieval phase was the creation of an arable open field system consisting within the survey area of fragments of a number of furlongs and their constituent ridge and furrow. In part this field system incorporated fragments of existing features such as the terraced track way and possible contemporary earthwork complex north of the Whitehills site. New track ways were also created within the field system such as the long ENE-WSW track way which survives in fragments across the survey area and apparently leads through the field system on to the medieval High Street. There is also differentiation in the size of ridges within the furlongs, although the exact chronological or functional implications of this variability are not clear. The abandonment of the open field system may have occurred at least in part from the later fourteenth century as the excavated evidence indicates a dramatic fall in manuring spreads from this period onwards, with the area presumably having been given over to pasturage and localised quarrying.

The line of the Bar Dyke was first established by a pre-thirteenth century track way to the east of the present earthwork, and a section of this route was possibly recorded at the northern edge of the survey area. Contrary to the conjectured excavation interpretation, it is the opinion of the present survey that this track way remained in use contemporaneously with a later medieval ditch whose heavily truncated remains were identified during the excavation of a section across the Bar Dyke. It is difficult to reconstruct the scale, extent and function of this ditch given its almost complete destruction by the post-medieval cutting of the Bar Dyke, but it seems unlikely to have functioned as an urban perimeter given that it would have enclosed such a large area of arable land. This is also a date by which any vestige of settlement in the vicinity of the Whitehills site is likely to have been abandoned. Instead the later medieval ditch may have been a division between arable regimes or a drainage feature, although the excavated evidence

suggests that it quickly filled and was itself used as a track way, presumably replacing the smaller parallel track to the east.

Excavations in the north-eastern part of the survey area did reveal a large ditch (Fig.2: d) whose line has been confirmed by investigations to the north beyond the survey area and dated tentatively to the later twelfth century (Mortimer 2006). The line of this feature was not identified during the earthwork survey in an area dominated by broad ridge and furrow, in part because the line of the ditch appears to quickly fall into the alignment of the ploughing regime. The ditch as it was recorded in Mill Common may have been as much as 4m wide and 2.5m deep with a broad V-shaped profile, and continued to the south-east, presumably feeding into the wide channel located on the eastern periphery of the survey area. The relationship between this ditch and the open field system is not immediately clear: did it cut through an extant system before being infilled and returned to cultivation; did it immediately precede the laying out of the field system; or did it even remain open for a time while the field system remained in use before finally being levelled and ploughed over? Burnt material has been recovered from the base of the ditch which has attracted the suggestion that it may be linked to defences created in the context of the conflict between Henry II and his sons in 1173–4 which culminated in the partial demolition of the castle. It may be more profitable however to consider this ditch as part of a sequence of elements that were created to enclose and define the spatially and temporally fluid urban settlement of medieval Huntingdon.

Subsequently the arable cultivation on Mill Common would be abandoned, potentially as early as the fourteenth century. In the aftermath Mill Common would appear to have become a less central element in the lives of the inhabitants of Huntingdon. Instead the area is marked by sporadic and occasionally dramatic events, as can be identified in its use as a quarry and in housing the Royal Flying Corps. It is this shift in intensity that has enabled the survival of fragments of earlier activity and settlement that have allowed this reinterpretation.

Conclusion

Measured earthwork survey of the Mill Common area has enabled for the first time a detailed assessment of its historic environment and a preliminary account of its history, and builds on recent work that has flagged the archaeological potential of urban commons (Bowden *et al* 2009). Of all the elements identified a number of areas can be highlighted where further research may help develop understanding of Huntingdon prior to the late medieval period. Foremost amongst these is the complex of earthworks on the southern edge of the survey area which stands out with regard to their scale of preservation and position. The large broad channel conjectured on the east side of the survey area warrants further atten-

tion, not least in the sense of how such a large, natural feature influenced the development of settlement in Huntingdon across all periods. The northern section of the Bar Dyke also requires more detailed investigation to ascertain its relationship with the settlement of medieval Huntingdon. Finally it is worth noting how effective and efficient the method of analytical earthwork survey has been in assessing the archaeological potential of Mill Common. Contemporary archaeological projects rarely undertake such work, even where earthwork evidence is clearly visible, and it is to their detriment that this highly effective and accessible methodology goes unutilised.

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Plate 1. Iron Age inhumation, Bluntisham.



Plate 2. Thirteenth century parish church at Kingston from the southwest, its antiquity accentuated by its raised churchyard and the hollow-way which approaches it.



Plate 3. Kingston: surviving open fraction of the central green looking north across its southern end.



Plate 4. The Old Rectory, Kingston from the south: the aisled hall faces the road, and the stone hall appears as a cross-wing on the left-hand side of the building.

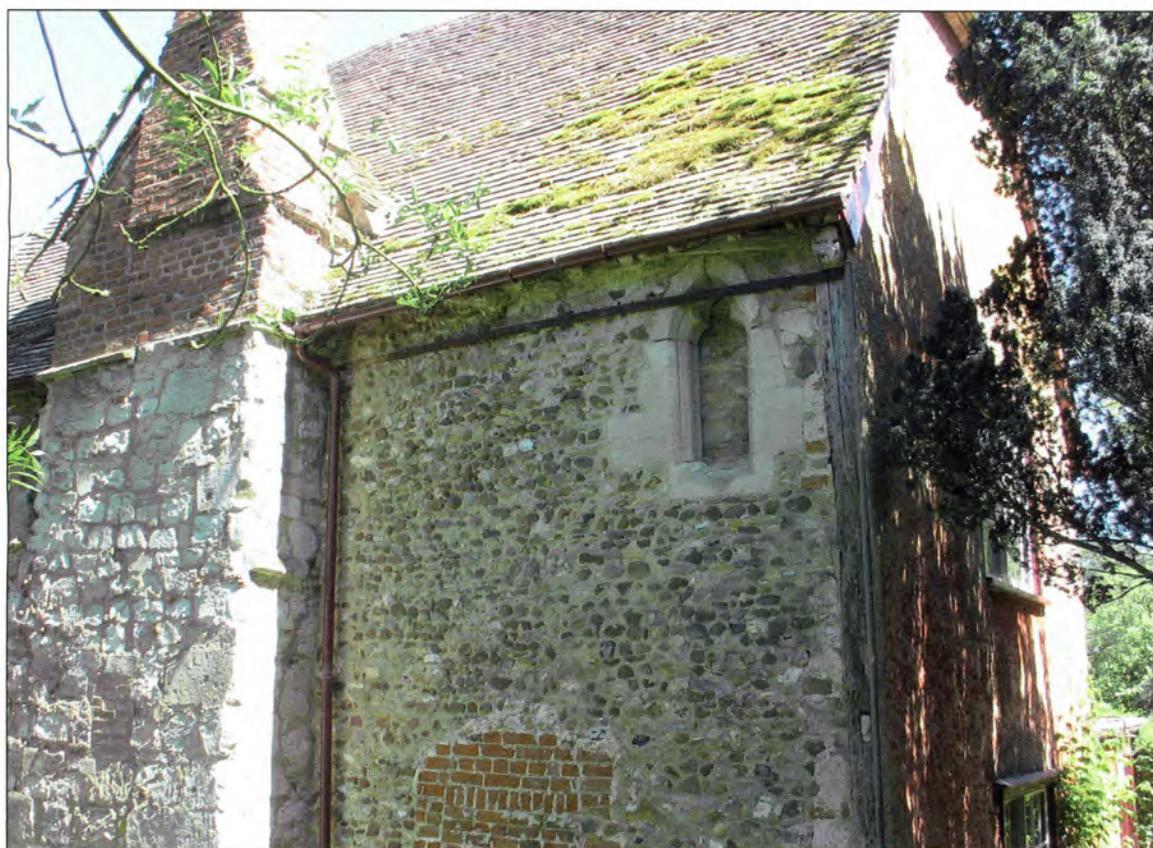


Plate 5. External view from the west of the stone hall at the Old Rectory, Kingston, showing fieldstone and rubble walling and clunch thirteenth-century window opening.



Plate 6. 6: A Street View of Soham, Cambridgeshire August 16/22. 'The Birthplace of James Chambers an itinerant Poet 1748'.



Plate 7. 7: View on the river Cam near Ely, 17 August 1822.



Plate 8. 10: March in the Isle of Ely Cambridgehire, Market day. August 21 1822 [Wednesday].

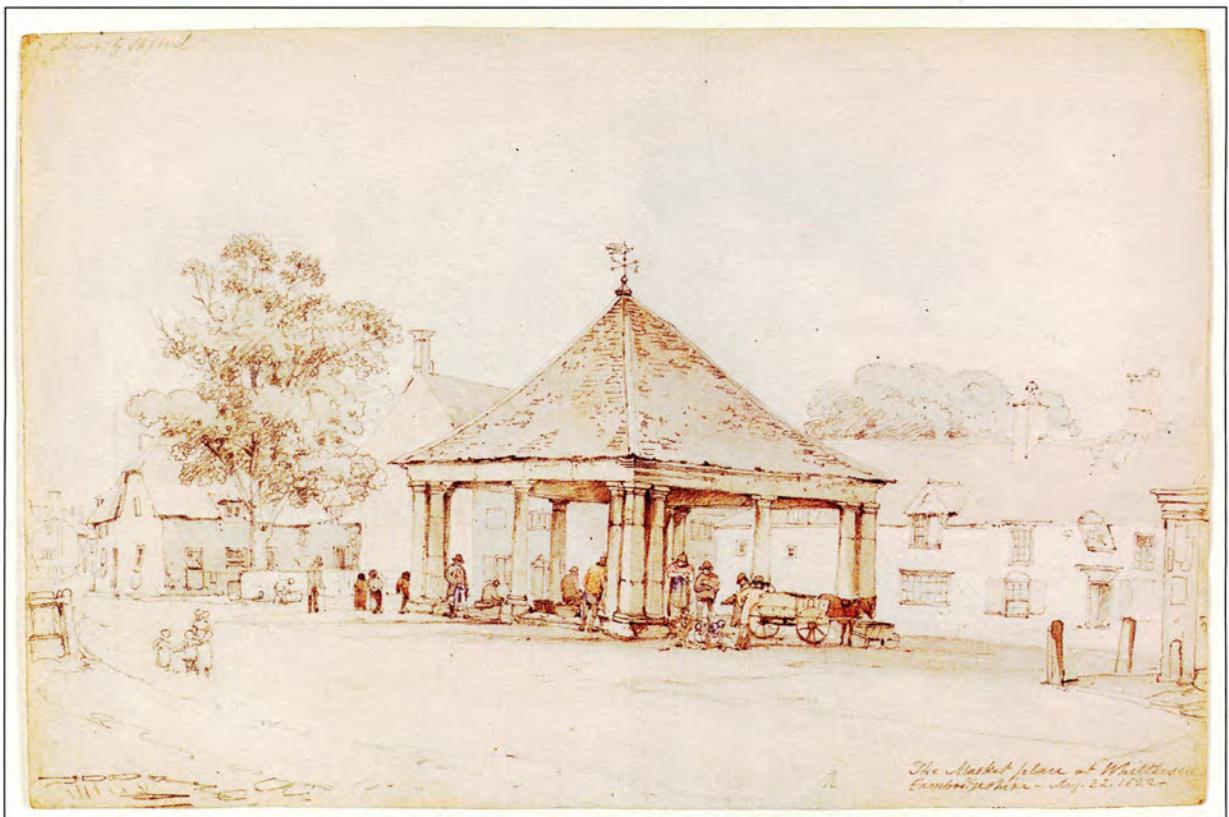


Plate 9. 11: The Market place at Whittlesea Cambridgehire. August 22 1822.

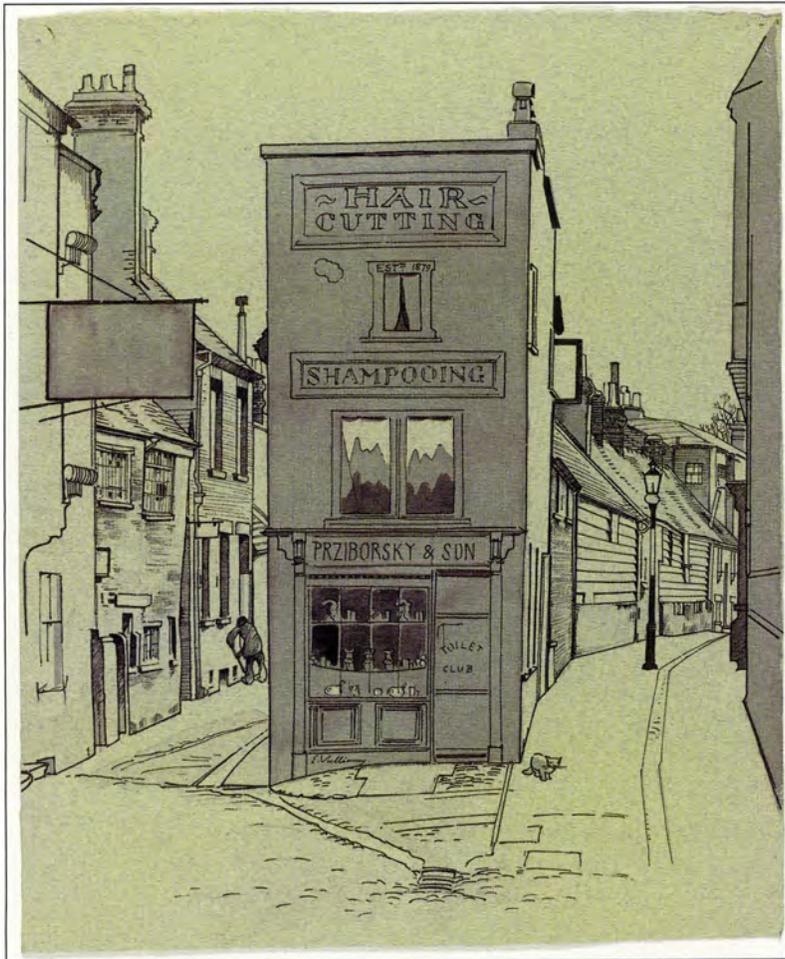


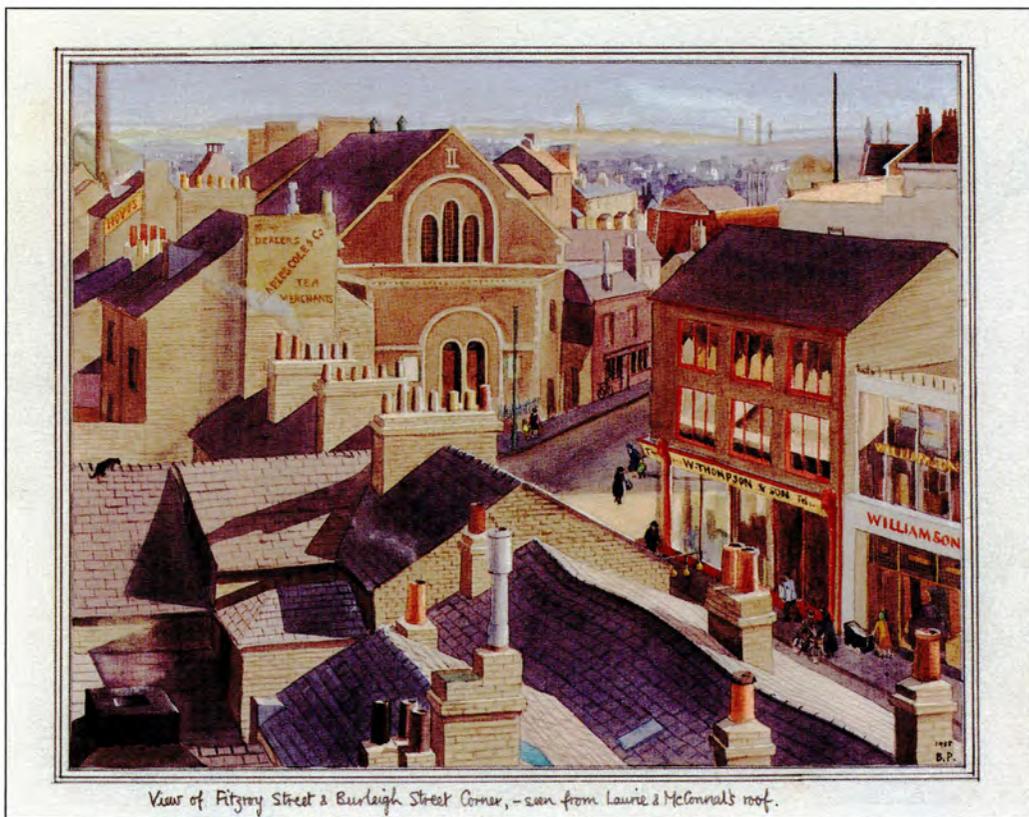
Plate 10. 17: Prziborsky & Son, hairdressers. At 10 Round Church St in 1925. Watercolour by Edward Vulliamy.



Plate 11. 20: The building of the new Guildhall, 1938 from Rose Crescent. Watercolour by Edward Vulliamy. 1938.



Plate 12. 30: *The Three Horseshoes Madingley before rebuilding. Watercolour by Louis Cobbett. Undated; c. 1929?*



View of Fitzroy Street & Burleigh Street Corner, - seen from Laurie & McConnal's roof.

Plate 13. 31: *View of Fitzroy Street & Burleigh Street Corner, seen from Laurie & McConnal's roof. Watercolour by Beryl Pickering. Signed B.P. 1938.*



Plate 14. 34: *The Little Rose Inn, Trumpington St. Watercolour (unsigned) by Grace Pollock before July 1943.*



Plate 15. 35: *The Yard of the Little Rose, Trumpington St. Watercolour, signed GIP before July 1943.*

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