## Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume LXXXIII

for 1994



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### **E**DITORIAL

This volume of the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* is the first by a new editor. I would like to thank, both the previous editor, Sarah Bendall, and the present officers and council members for their support and assistance.

Alert readers will observe that the style has been changed somewhat to simplify it and

to bring it in line with the more usual modern practice,

This volume is predominantly archaeological. It is my hope that forthcoming volumes will also include papers of wider interest. I encourage our members — and others interested in Cambridgeshire — to submit papers with the kind of material they would like to read.

### THE LIBRARY

Members of the C.A.S. are reminded that, by agreement with the University of Cambridge, they are entitled to read in the Haddon Library, Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Downing St. The Library holds a large number of British and foreign serials exchanged for the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, together with a wide range of archaeological and topographical books. Intending readers should apply to the Faculty Librarian, Mr Aidan Baker, and for access to, or information about, specialised collections to the Society's Librarian Dr J.D. Pickles, The Old Schools, Trinity Lane.

### Journals Exchanged with the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(British Isles Only)

Antiquaries Journal, London

Archaeologia Aeliana, Newcastle

Archaeologia Cambrensis, Cardiff

Archaeologia Cantiana, Maidstone

Berkshire Archaeological Journal, Reading

Bradford Antiquary, Bradford

Bulletin Annuel de la Societé Jersiasie, St Helier, Jersey

Bulletin, Institute of Archaeology, London

Collections, History of Staffordshire, Stafford

Derbyshire Archaeological Journal, Derby

Durham Archaeological Journal, Durham

Essex Archaeology and History, Colchester

Flintshire Historical Society Journal, Deeside, Clewyd

Glasgow Archaeological Journal, Glasgow

Hertfordshire Archaeology, Ware, Herts.

Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society, Chester

Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Dublin

Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Lincoln

Montgomeryshire Collections, Welshpool, Powys

Norfolk Archaeology, Norwich

Oxiensia, Oxford

Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society, Exeter

Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, Dorchester

Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, Winchester

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Edinburgh

Proceedings, Bournemouth Natural History Society, Bournemouth

Review, Cambridgeshire Local History Society, Cambridge

Somerset Archaeology and Natural History, Taunton

Staffordshire Studies, Keele, Staffs.

Surrey Archaeological Collections, Guildford

Sussex Archaeological Collections, Lewes, E. Sussex

Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Carlisle

Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, Macclesfield, Cheshire

Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, Leicester

Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, London

Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society, Shrewsbury

Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire, Nottingham

Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalist's Field Club, Herefordshire, Leominster

Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society, Worcester

Transactions, Anglesey Antiquarian Society and Field Club, Bangor

Transactions, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society, Birmingham

Transactions, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, Bristol

Transactions, The North Staffordshire Field Club, Stoke-on-Trent

Ulster Journal of Archaeology, Belfast

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine, Devizes

Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, Leeds

### Field-Work in Cambridgeshire: October 1993– September 1994

### Alison Taylor, Tim Malim & Christopher Evans

The following field-work has been carried out by the **Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council**.

Alison Taylor & Tim Malim

### **Excavation Summaries**

Balsham, Fleam Dyke TL548541 (see PCAS LXXXI)

Paul Spoerry & Tim Malim, for English Heritage

Cattle pelvis from first phase bank C14 dated to 1580±55 BP (OxA-4066) which puts construction of the Dyke into the early Anglo-Saxon period.

Cambridge, Old Addenbrookes Hospital TL45105787 (Report no. A43)

Ken Welsh, for Lynxvale Ltd

Five skeletons were disturbed during building work. They represent two females, one male and two too fragmentary to determine. One female, aged about 16 showed signs of severe stress (starvation or feverish illness) by her teeth, and the strain of carrying heavy loads in youth by her vertebrae. One indeterminate skeleton had a tropical ulcer on its leg, a common disorder of the period. Documentary evidence suggests that they were patients of the hospital, buried in the 1770s.

Ely, The Maltings TL546798 (Report no. 96)

Tim Reynolds, for East Cambridgeshire District Council

The area assessed was in the vicinity of the medieval waterfront, and background research had suggested warehouses, hythes and lanes

would lie on the site. A single trench was excavated by machine to reveal medieval deposits which were then hand-excavated. Two superimposed medieval banks were discovered overlying deposits of a former foreshore into which a single pit had been dug. The pit and banks were all medieval, dating between 1200 and 1400 AD on pottery evidence. In front of the banks the waterfront had been pushed further east by dumped layers of building material (tile, limestone rubble, and small fragments of burnt clay) interspersed with layers of clay. The rear of the upper bank had eroded during its lifetime and was refurbished by dumping limestone rubble and tile over the puddled area.

Ely, St Mary's Lodge TL53788032 (Report no. A71)

Ben Robinson, for Hereward Housing Association

A recording brief was carried out during the redevelopment of a property bordering the postulated tenth- to eleventh-century planned market at Ely. A cluster of twelfth- to thirteenth-century pits were recorded on the street front, suggesting a post-thirteenth-century change of alignment in St Mary's Street. Residual Ipswich and St Neots Ware confirmed a mid and late Saxon presence. A short length of 'L'-shaped beam slot was located (on the street front, but on a different alignment to the present buildings) possibly indicating a pre-thirteenth-century building.

Folksworth TL16109035 (Report no. A58)

Stephen Kemp, for Cambridgeshire County Council Transportation Department

Two flint cobble layers overlying made-up ground were found to form the agger of Roman

Ermine Street which was found to the west of a prominent hollow way. No roadside ditches were detected.

Godmanchester, Sweetings Road TL246698 (Report no. A31)

Stephen Macaulay, for Galliford Sears

A Palaeolithic hand-axe was found in a post-medieval quarry. Roman burials were also noted on the site, but were not excavated.

### Hinxton Hall TL496448

Paul Spoerry, for the Wellcome Trust

Prehistoric quarries and pits containing Neolithic and Bronze Age flints were excavated. One of a number of Neolithic curvilinear pits was excavated and distinctive soil layers of late Neolithic–early Bronze Age date were sampled. A chalk shaft 1.8 m deep contained bone and worked flints in the lower fills and Beaker pottery at the top.

Evaluation trenching and magnetometer survey had indicated the approximate extent of the Anglo-Saxon settlement. This was followed up by an area excavation. Close to localised Roman quarrying a middle Saxon settlement comprising a loose cluster of four or more grubenhauser, and at least one other timber structure, was identified. Domestic craft material in the form of spindle whorls, bone needles, knives, loom weights and possible loom timbers, were recovered from the grubenhauser. A late Saxon sequence of occupation followed which was characterised by several buildings of the 'hall' type, the largest of which was over 15 m long. Most of the major structures were located within a roughly rectilinear enclosure which was approximately 45 m across east to west, and which may have had a second enclosure adjoining it on its west side. Several phases of re-building and construction were identified. However, all buildings within the main enclosure were constructed on a formal alignment, perhaps suggesting continuity of occupation. Other features identified within the 'domestic' enclosure include two ovens, three wells and many rubbish pits. Only part of the possible second enclosure was excavated, the remainder being under a tree belt. This contained evidence for a much less substantial wooden building, plus one or more probable retting pits. The discovery of a sizeable deposit of carbonised flax seed elsewhere on the site may support this latter identification. The final phase to activity on the site seems, from ceramic data,

to date to the twelfth century. An oven, or drier, with a flue several metres long which is cut into the almost completely filled main enclosure ditch, is the most obvious feature of this last, post-Conquest phase.

Hinxton Grange TL511464

Richard Heawood & Ben Robinson, for Department of Transport

A salvage excavation in advance of the A11 widening on a site located by metal detectors uncovered a high status building of which a short length of robbed-out stone wall and a small section of intact flint rubble foundations survived. The rest of the building had been quarried away — possibly during construction of the adjacent highway in the mid-nineteenth century. The robbing of materials from the building's foundations also seems to have occurred at this time.

Hinxton/Stumps Cross TL505441

Ben Robinson, for the Department of Transport

Trenching of the area around Stumps Cross roundabout for the A11 dualling scheme produced a very limited array of archaeological features, mostly ditches of Romano-British date. A bronze hoard was reputed to be found by illegal metal detecting just south of the county border, in Essex.

Huntingdon, Hartford Road, High Street TL24067167 (Report no. 105)

Ken Welsh, for Paul Bancroft, Architect & Marshalls

Three trenches were excavated, all of which revealed a variety of archaeological deposits. The earliest of these were dated by pottery evidence to the thirteenth or fourteenth century and included a gravel surface, perhaps part of a yard. The next period of activity recognised archaeologically was an apparently deliberate raising of the ground surface, perhaps to combat problems of flooding. Large quantities of clay and other materials much of it burnt, were observed in all three trenches and may have been dumped there at the end of the medieval period.

Following this, a cellared building was constructed on the High Street frontage, perhaps around 1500. This building may well be one of the three inns mentioned in a document dating to 1572. Evidence of a seventeenth-century building, probably fronting onto Hartford Road, was also recorded, These buildings seem to have

survived until the early nineteenth century, when they were demolished to make way for St Mary's Vicarage.

Little Linton TL556473

Simon Bray & Tim Malim (see PCAS LXXXI)

No concensus on pottery could be obtained and to resolve whether the pottery dated to the Anglo-Saxon or Iron Age period a number of sherds were sent to the Oxford Research Laboratory for thermoluminescence dating. Results showed the pottery was pagan Anglo-Saxon: i) 1535±120 BP, ii) 1515±105 BP, iii) 1380±105 BP, and iv) 1485±125 BP.

Milton, Landfill Pit TL464624 (Report no. 104)

Tim Reynolds, for East Waste Ltd

Emergency excavations in advance of clay extraction to create waste pits revealed several periods of Iron Age and Roman settlement that can be summarised as follows:

- Phase 1. An Iron Age settlement of at least four buildings was placed on a gravel ridge, with agricultural boundaries around it and some gravel extraction taking place to the east and northeast of the settlement itself.
- Phase 2. The northeastern area of gravel pits was infilled and a timber building built over it. This building was rebuilt on approximately the same site and a further building placed to the east of it.
- Phase 3. An enclosure ditch was dug around these buildings together with a system of at least three other enclosures running south of it. A timber mortuary enclosure was constructed inside the northern enclosure and the timber buildings of Phase 2 demolished. Four cremations were placed inside the mortuary enclosure together with at least three other pots. The settlement itself was then dismantled.
- Phase 4. The dismantling of the settlement was followed by extraction of gravel from the ridge the houses were placed on.
  A Roman villa estate was laid out, disregarding existing field boundaries.
- Phase 5. The villa estate ditches were realigned, and the site of the Iron Age settlement was ploughed over.
- Phase 6. The villa estate was destroyed, building remains appear in the tops of

ditch fills, a regular series of new ditches are laid out — possibly showing the reallotment of land to local residents.

Phase 7. A timber barn was built (probably of two stories) with an external access ladder and a corn drier nearby. A pond has formed over the intersection of infilled ditches and two dumps from a corn drier are thrown into it, as are a large amount of broken pottery and an old boot. A latrine positioned behind the barn is probably contemporary with it.

Excavations on adjacent sites will continue in 1995.

Oakington, Anglo-Saxon Cemetery TL416646

Stephen Macaulay, for South Cambridgeshire District Council

Following the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon grave (female, accompanied by one annular and one small-long brooch and a copper alloy buckle) in 1993, a larger part of the cemetery was investigated before further earth disturbance in 1994. There were 24 burials (including 1993 discovery), of which nine were children, eight female, five male and two too fragmentary for identification. An unusual number of females and children were accompanied by grave-goods, giving overall totals of 78 beads (65 amber, 11 glass, 2 silver-on-glass), 20 brooches (5 annular, 1 applied disc, 4 cruciform, 1 disc, 8 smalllong, 1 great square-headed), 11 knives, 1 ivory bag ring, 1 spear, 2 shield bosses, 3 buckles, 4 pins, 1 spindle whorl, 4 pairs of wrist-clasps (not all complete) and 3 keys. Eleven graves had large potsherds or almost complete pots and 2 contained sheep bones, apparently deposited as grave-goods. One of the burials, a girl in early teens, was accompanied by 47 amber beads, 2 small-long brooches, 2 buckles, an ivory bag ring with 3 keys, a small ivory ring, iron chain, copper alloy belt end and sheep bones. Another young girl, about 11 years was buried with the gilded great square-headed brooch with a detached catch-plate, 2 bone pins and one iron nail. All graves appear to fall within the sixth century.

Pampisford, Brent Ditch TL51454753

Ben Robinson & Tim Malim, for English Heritage (see *PCAS* LXXXI)

Human pelvis fragment C14 dated to 2105±55 BP (OxA-4065); this date suggests the sample was a residual piece of Iron Age bone, found in

basal ditch deposits which also contained coins of the second century AD in a fairly unworn state.

Parson Drove, Throckenholt Farm TF355090 (Report no. 109)

Simon Bray, for English Heritage

During November 1993 an evaluation excavation of detailed cropmarks was carried out as part of a continuation of a survey of the archaeology of the County Farms Estate (Malim 1990). The site is located on a slight rise on siltland, reclaimed during the late first century AD, and from cropmark and field-work evidence it seems to represent an extensive agricultural and settlement landscape. Excavated evidence supported this functional interpretation for enclosures studied, but the dating suggests a short period of occupation in the late second to mid third centuries. The remains of pottery vessels, domestic tools and two rubbish pits were identified. Abandonment of the site was possibly attributable to rising water levels, and the subsequent flooding of the site during the late second or third century. Later activity on the site was identified in the form of two post-medieval ditches possibly forming part of a later drainage network.

Peterborough, The Still, Cumbergate TL19109880 (Report no. 101)

Ken Welsh, for Lambert, Scott & Innes

The site is close to the medieval core of Peterborough, and lies behind the street frontages of Westgate and Cumbergate. Initial historical research indicated that the area consisted of orchards and gardens in the post-medieval period, but specific references to Cumbergate were rare.

The assessment revealed, in the courtyard of The Still, a series of intercutting rubbish pits, containing pottery dating from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. In the northern part of the site, behind the Westgate frontage, a large quarry pit was found. It contained pottery indicating that it was filled in the mid to late thirteenth century. Further medieval features had been dug into the top of this pit and date from the mid thirteenth to early fourteenth centuries. A stone-lined cesspit, probably in use during the fifteenth century, was also recorded.

Further deposits recorded across the site, seem to confirm that the area was then given over to gardens and orchards. This situation persisted (although apparently as formal gardens in the nineteenth century) until the early

years of this century when the adjacent arcade was built. The area now forms the garden of The Still and a service area for the Queensgate Centre.

St Neots, Eynesbury, Ernulf School TL182588 (Report no. A41)

Stephen Macaulay, for Huntingdonshire District Council

A shallow ditch was identified as part of a Neolithic cursus, after expectations derived from aerial photographs. A ditch producing Roman pottery was excavated and this appear to relate to a north-south trackway ditch identified from cropmarks. Two other north-south ditches were investigated which yielded no artefacts, however one of these may be the eastern ditch of the Roman trackway. Within the trench, it was not possible to locate the western ditch of the cursus. Stripping of the pitch and laying of drainage/service trenches was watched. The shallow depth at which soil disturbance ceased over the pitch (i.e. topsoil) meant that no archaeology was revealed, however a raised gravel bank was identified. A service trench revealed the continuation of four of the five linear features recorded, and the western cursus ditch, on the north side of the site.

Sawston, Borough Hill TL47174948 (Report no. 95)

Simon Bray, for Spicers Ltd

A pipeline crossed an Iron Age hillfort where it was possible to record survival of the bank and ditch of the hillfort with a preserved buried soil beneath the bank. The bank was shown to be on a slightly different alignment to the surviving earthwork as a result of soil creep outwards and downslope from the bank. Inside the hillfort a thick silt layer was recorded, protecting any internal features from modern agricultural practices. Later activity was identified outside the fort in the form of a well-defined, shallow ditch and a square-cut pit or ditch.

Sawtry, Tort Hill TL17208460 & TL17208485 (Report no. 103)

Ken Welsh, for Cambridgeshire County Council Transportation Department

On the west side of the A1 a small ditched enclosed and various pits and ditches were revealed,

probably representing a farmstead. Pottery from some of these features indicate that settlement initially occurred in the period immediately before the Roman invasion of Britain in the first century AD, and possibly continued well into the Roman period.

To the east of the A1, pits, ditches and other features were recorded. These produced a large quantity of mainly second- to fourth-century Roman pottery, as well as iron objects, coins and other domestic refuse. These deposits probably represent a peripheral area of the Roman roadside settlement, where activities such as rubbish disposal and perhaps small-scale industrial processing took place.

Stukeleys, Huntingdon Race Course TL200723

Stephen Macaulay, for Tarmac Quarry Products

Features of the prehistoric environment, including burnt-out tree boles and a palaeochannel were excavated.

Thorney, Dog-in-a-Doublet TL27469947 (Report no. 106)

Ken Welsh, for Cambridgeshire County Council Transportation Department

Assessment revealed the original road, constructed on a causeway to raise it above the surrounding peat as it approached the bridge. A sub-structure of wooden planking and uprights formed the foundation of the causeway, with layers of redeposited peat, silt and gravel being used to build up the road. Finally, the road was surfaced with limestone cobbles.

Pottery, clay tobacco pipes and glass bottles found within the road structure date its construction to the first part of the eighteenth century. It appears to have remained in use until the present bridge over the Nene was built in 1932.

### Whittlesford Moat TL42159304

David Mitchell, for Mr & Mrs Wareham

Excavations within a well-preserved moat close to the village church revealed occupation layers to a depth of 2.5 m below the surface. Fifteenth-, sixteenth- and eighteenth-century occupation horizons were noted overlying deposits of an earlier date, the latter possibly associated with the original medieval Manor of Whittlesford.

Wimblington, Bridge Lane TL421927 (Report no. A27)

Ben Robinson, for Finnpave Ltd

Evaluation excavations revealed a late Iron Age ditch and traces of the medieval hamlet of Eastwood End. The ditch is an out-lying remnant of a previously known Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, situated at the southern headland of a medieval field. The earlier medieval features on the site represent structures that were erected during the fourteenth to fifteenth century. This activity was probably succeeded by a period of cultivation. Rubbish filled ditches, dated by pottery to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, indicate the proximity of the dwellings at this date.

Wimblington, Stonea Camp TL446931 (Report no. A27)

Stephen Kemp, for Cambridgeshire County Council Farms Estate

Excavations of the mere to the south of the Camp revealed a peaty layer above clays, with occasional finds of animal bone and Iron Age pottery, at one point in association with a pit. The insertion of a plastic membrane to impede drainage revealed a peat layer buried beneath rodden silts, and this was sampled by monolith for pollen analysis and carbon dating.

Tim Malim, for English Heritage

Three further C14 dates have been received in addition to the one reported in *PCAS* LXXXI.

- i) 2210±90 BP: Oak leaves from basal fill of outer defensive ditch (Gu-5331).
- ii) 2110±50 BP: Oak leaves from basal fill of outer defensive ditch (Gu-5332).
- iii) 1985±55 BP: Human bone from skeleton deposited in upper silt fill of outer defensive ditch (OxA-4064).
- iv) Overall all four dates put construction and use of Stonea Camp into the Mid-Late Iron Age with 95% confidence:

Gu-5331

cal вс 510–90

Gu-5332

cal вс 360-30

OxA-3620

cal вс 340-50 cal AD

OxA-4064

cal BC 100-130 cal AD

Assessments which revealed no significant archaeological remains were carried out at:

Ely, RAF Hospital TL548819

Ely, Ship Lane TL54497996

Ely, Witchford Road TL527796

Foxton, High Street TL411483 Godmanchester, London Road TL25106974 Impington, Histon Road Allotments TL445612 Littleport, Camel Road TL563877 St Neots, Eynesbury, Barford Road TL184583 Yaxley, Parsonage TL17649189

Archaeological studies, including background research into archaeological and historical records, field visits and geophysical surveys were published for the following areas, in order to mitigate effects of development proposals: A15 Werrington–Glinon upgrading Abbey Farm, Ickleton Weybridge Farm, Alconbury A142 Fordham by-pass A47 Thorney by-pass

Construction of the following pipelines was observed:
A1-Norman Cross
Bluntisham-Colne (2 palaeoliths found)
Bourn
Peterborough South
Grafham
Stapleford-Wandlebury

Archaeological recording was also carried out before demolition of part of the tower of St Mary's Church, Shudy Camps (Ben Robinson, for English Heritage).

Reports on all of the above projects are available from the Archaeology Section, Cambridgeshire County Council, and can be consulted in the Haddon Library, or the Cambridgeshire Collection.

# Cambridge Archaeological Unit, University of Cambridge, Excavation Round-up: October 1993–September 1994

Christopher Evans

Bury, Owl's End Road TL28375284

C. Begg

Assessment investigations across a 3.5 ha plot recorded earthwork banks, ditches, in-filled ponds and at least one house platform. To date, subsequent excavation has revealed multi-period settlement activity interrupted by at least three periods of alluviation. Although evidence for an early Neolithic presence was recovered (in situ flint knapping), no contemporary features indicating settlement were recorded.

The earliest phase of settlement was represented by a series of narrow ditches/gullies,

including a ring-ditch, from which Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery was recovered. The majority of the features represent medieval settlement activity: ditches, pits/tanks and substantial post-holes, ranging in date from the twelfth to fourteenth century; a small number of sherds of Saxon pottery were also recovered. These are potentially associated with the medieval hamlet of *Hepmangrove*. The earthworks represent the final phase of activity and relate to medieval/post-medieval floodplain management; fieldwork continues at the time of writing.

Cambridge, New Hall TL44005950

C. Evans

Large-scale excavations were undertaken over three and half months in the winter-spring. This is the largest exposure of extra-mural Roman Cambridge (c. 3000 sq. m) with more than 300 major features excavated. Two areas were investigated: south behind the Nuffield Building (I); and in the main parking lot west of the College, from the Huntingdon Road frontage back to the coachouse.

Although Bronze Age flintwork and pottery was found throughout, the intensity of Roman activity had truncated any contemporary features. The singularly most important discovery was a 7 m wide, E-W oriented ditch-flanked road in Area I. Of early Roman date (mid first century), its projected line would run east to the known 'Cam ford' near Bridge St. Major ditches, some with deep 'V'-shaped/anklebreaker profile, ran parallel with the road. One extended north beneath Huntingdon Road (the line of the Roman road to Godmanchester), where it was truncated by a later first-century roadside ditch, thus indicating that the Godmanchester route was secondary. Thereafter these two alignments — the 'Back College' and 'Godmanchester' - co-existed, the former evidently dictating the alignment of a series of late Roman/Saxon inhumations.

A dense network of ditches and cluster of early quarry pits were found across the main area of excavation (II), and, in its northwestern corner, a series of enormous water storage/processing tanks or wells. These had been backfilled with midden-like deposits, whose extraordinary abundance of pottery, including many imports, suggests a military-type assemblage of later first-century date. These features were flanked by lines of intercutting pits. Of distinct lobate/'troughed' form, these were probably for tanning. Great quantities of large bone waste were recovered throughout the site and, as these pit groups were set within a regular net-

work of ditch compounds, the area appears to have functioned as stockyard/tanning complex.

Given an extra-mural situation, the density of features found was remarkable. There is evidence of a military presence (ankle-breaker ditches and pottery assemblage) which either suggests that this was the site of an army supply centre/marching camp and/or the army was involved in laying-out the framework of the Roman town's hinterland.

### Cambridge, Sidney Sussex College TL45015867

### D. Hind & I. Marsden

Assessment excavations, south of the Master's Garden and west of Garden Court, revealed a clay-lined fish tank/pond, dating to between the thirteenth and fifteenth century. Evidently monastery-associated, this was sealed by successive dumped layers including demolition debris deriving from the Grey Friars, dating shortly after its dissolution in 1538.

### Cherry Hinton, Fulbourne Road TL49105600

### A. Dickens

An assessment was carried out for Peterhouse College in August 1994. Analysis of aerial photographs and a resistivity survey confirmed the presence of three ring-ditches thought to be ploughed-out barrows. The trenching and test pitting programme revealed a very low level both of archaeological features and artefacts. The only definite features identified were the ditches of the three putative barrows. Excavation revealed the northern arc of a northern(most) ring-ditch which was not visible in either the aerial photographs or geophysical survey. On excavation, a high density of post-medieval material was recovered from it. Further excavation of the southernmost ring-ditch produced flint and Bronze Age pottery and a central cremation was exposed. With the features confirmed as prehistoric, the high incidence of post-medieval material in ring is thought to be the result of rabbit or root activity.

### Cottenham, Lordship Lane TL44906810

### R. Butler

Evaluation established the extent of a Saxon site in the Crowlands/Lordship Lane area. Saxo-Norman and medieval activity was notably absent immediately adjacent to Crowlands

Moat; any remains evidently having been truncated through subsequent ploughing following the demise of the manor lands. The area was subject to intensive post-medieval activity.

### Earith, The Minnaar Site TL38107490

#### A. Dickens & G. Lucas

Twenty burials of probable early twentieth-century date, which must relate to a former Quaker Meeting House to the east of the site, were discovered during assessment trenching. These were removed by undertakers and re-interred (Old Borough Cemetery, St Ives). No other archaeological remains were found.

### Ely Cathedral TL54208030

### M. Alexander

Excavation of a pipe trench to the south of Ely Cathedral revealed the footings of the inner wall of the twelfth-century cloister. The fifteenth-century cloister foundations appear to have been used to support the existing garden wall, its outer wall was robbed away. Deep foundations, probably associated with the 'Bishop's Parlour' mentioned in documentary sources, were found to the west. There was considerable evidence for occupation prior to the construction of the cathedral including mortared surfaces and a substantial stone foundation possibly relating to the Saxon church. Structural remains of a medieval covered gallery were anticipated, but not satisfactorily identified.

### Ely Sewage Treatment Works and the South Sewer Pipeline, Cawdle Fen TL52907870 & TL53407860

### M. Alexander

Evaluations were conducted along a pipeline route and in a field designated for a new treatment plant south of Ely. Although no archaeological features were present, sporadic finds of prehistoric flints and abraded Roman and Medieval pottery were recovered.

### Hinxton, Hinxton Quarry-Mid Field Arm TL48884646

### M. Alexander

A late Iron Age cremation cemetery was excavated in advance of gravel extraction. Eight cremation burials, five of which were centrally

located within ring-ditches, were recovered. All, including those without encircling ditches, were placed within roughly circular pits and accompanied by one or more complete pots. The pottery is provisionally dated between 50 and 10 BC; three (secondary) inhumations are provisionally assigned to the Roman period.

### Impington, St Andrew's Church TL44806320

#### D. Gibson

An evaluation was conducted within the footprint of the proposed extension to adjoin the existing vestry of the medieval church. The remains of ten inhumations were identified and recorded; associated artefacts included six sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery. Although residual in its present context, the pottery possibly derives from features disturbed by grave digging. These truncated features could relate to structures associated with the earlier church of St Etheldreda which the present church replaced in the fourteenth century.

### Isleham-Ely Water Pipeline

### K. Gdaniec

Archaeological survey and excavation was conducted along the route of Anglian Water's Isleham–Ely pipeline. A landscape 'corridor' rich in prehistoric settlement, five major areas required detailed investigation:

- 1) Prickwillow Road, Isleham (TL63797510) An earlier Bronze Age settlement was located on high ground, the presence of which had been recognised as a flint scatter during route evaluation. A round post-built structure was found associated with numerous large intercutting pits, with extensive evidence of specific-artefact deposition, principally involving cattle bone. A miniature antler bow, carved as if strung, was found in the base of one.
- 2) Hall Farm, Isleham (TL63537416) A relict pond was investigated having exhibited cultural activity through its infill sequence and on its banks. While no structural evidence was found, large quantities of burnt flint (worked prior to burning) recovered from all but its lowest layers indicate the use of the water source until at least the middle to later Bronze Age.
- 3) Chalk Farm East (TL62977334) Medieval quarry pits, dug around a field boundary, almost totally truncated a Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlement marked by a dense scatter of flint. Few flint tools were present, but a

large quantity of knapping debris from flint axe production were recovered, and fragments of broken axes and hammerstones.

Two large storage pits, containing pottery, bone and seed remains, represent the first Iron Age features to be found in Isleham parish; no further contemporary settlement evidence was found.

4) Chalk Farm West (TL62667342) Post-medieval field ditches provided evidence of early enclosure. A medieval farmstead was found with pits and possible building trenches containing thirteenth-century pottery.

An Early Bronze Age ring-gully and other associated features were truncated by the later farm-related features.

5) The Snail Palaeo-channel, Fordham Moor (TL62257355) A former channel of the River Snail provided environmental evidence from the early Neolithic. This was complemented by artefact assemblages largely consisting of early Neolithic to early Bronze Age flintwork. Human skull fragments, a dog-gnawed femur, aurochs tibia, Neolithic flint blades and a pygmy cup were recovered from a sondage through the channel. Four pits on its western bank, positioned to naturally infill with water, yielded exceptionally high quantities of burnt flint. Fieldwalking and test pit finds densities had already demonstrated high concentrations of burnt flint in the vicinity of the palaeo-channel with distinctive concentrations of burnt/unburnt flint on each side (see The Snail Valley, below).

### Little Thetford TL52777625

### K. Gdaniec

A multi-period farmstead dating from late Iron Age and Romano-British periods was discovered (sealed beneath well-preserved medieval ridge-and-furrow) during assessment investigations. Numerous ditches, some re-cut several times, contained large bone assemblages. Two distinct alignments of enclosure were recorded. It is not yet clear whether the settlement was only restructured during the Romano-British period or was total re-modelled during the later first century AD. Further excavation is anticipated.

### Pampisford, Bourn Bridge TL517495

### J. Pollard

Following field evaluation in November 1993, excavations were conducted between May and October 1994 on a 6 ha borrow-pit site occupying the 1st to 2nd terrace of the River Granta,

immediately to the west of the new All widening. These revealed evidence for intermittent settlement and ceremonial activity from the Mesolithic to the early Saxon period.

The area was traversed by several marl-filled palaeo-channels of Pleistocene date. The earliest indications of human activity were provided by occasional pieces of Mesolithic flintwork (including microliths and a tranchet axe). A lowlevel scatter of worked flint and pits containing charcoal-rich soil and burnt flint are indicative of episodes of short duration settlement during the fourth to second millennia BC. Perhaps associated with one of these episodes of occupation was a small circular ditched monument (c. 9 m in diameter), with radial external pits, post-settings within the ditch, and a sunken central area with a post-pit containing the cremated remains of an adult. A second cremation came from a pit within 15 m of the monument. Peterborough Ware, sherds of Grooved Ware or urn, animal bone and large quantities of flint debitage came from the ditch and pits, supporting a later Neolithic date. Few analogies are evident for this monument, which seems more closely linked with individual funerary ritual than the kind of communal ceremonial activity normally associated with henges/hengiforms.

Roman activity is represented by the ditches of rectilinear fields and a riverside droveway. Set within the (then abandoned?) field-system were seven early Saxon sunken-featured buildings, six of which were clustered on a terrace c. 50 m to the south of the river. Substantial quantities of bone, pottery, baked clay and other artefactual material were recovered from their 'midden' fills. It is unlikely that all were directly contemporary. Individual structures were evidently replaced upon going out of use and served a secondary function as refuse pits for rubbish generated within the new building(s). Though searched for, no post-built 'halls' were located. The Grubenhauser probably represent a shifting farmstead occupied by a single household unit. Taken in conjunction with the results of work at Hinxton Hall and Hinxton Quarry (Taylor & Evans 1994: 164, 170), the site adds to increasing evidence for extensive early Saxon settlement on the gravel terraces of the southern Cambridgeshire downlands.

The Snail Valley TL62257355

K. Gdaniec

English Heritage funded a programme of fieldwalking and test-pitting to enhance the

data recovered from the Isleham–Ely Pipeline around the Snail palaeo-channel. The results of fieldwalking, undertaken in September, show highly variable densities of material across the area suggestive of a palimpsest of sites from the early Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

St Ives, Meadow Lane TL32907060

J. Pollard

In advance of gravel extraction, fieldwork was undertaken on a 8.5 ha site within A.R.C. quarries to the east of St Ives during the summer and autumn of 1994. The area lies on the 1st to 2nd terrace of the River Great Ouse; and was bisected by two palaeo-channel systems (ultimately of Pleistocene origin), probably former courses of the Ouse. Because of the 'wet' nature of the site it has been part of a marginal landscape throughout its history. This was reflected in the character of the archaeology: boundary and settlement-edge features of later prehistoric and Roman date sealed under deep alluvial deposits. These were probably associated with a later Iron Age — Roman farmstead known from salvage excavations during the 1950s on high gravels to the west of the site.

Context for a low density scatter of later Neolithic flintwork across the dry margins of the site was provided by a deposit of burnt material, bone (including a bear claw) and flint in the fill of the west palaeo-channel. This is considered to represent short-lived task-specific activity rather than settlement.

The west channel provided a natural boundary, the social appropriation of which becomes archaeologically visible with the digging of two pit alignments during the early - mid first millennium BC. Both ran parallel with western edge of the channel for a distance of over 110 m. Rather than forming a double system, differences in specific alignment and the morphology of pits (one set rectangular, the other round) indicate they were successive. Due to its location on the channel edge, the eastern alignment was waterlogged, demonstrating it was covered by floodwater over much of the year. The pits produced a rich assemblage of environmental remains and worked wood (sharpened roundwood, split lengths and hedge trimming debris). Neither alignment could have served as an effective physical barrier.

Redefinition of this boundary during the late first millennium BC and into the Roman period is seen in successive ditches upon the same line, providing evidence for prolonged landscape continuity. Settlement-related features, includ-

ing pits, gullies and a well preserved midden, can be linked to a dry phase during the first to second centuries AD. Following a pattern seen in floodplain sites elsewhere in the region, conditions became wetter during the later Roman period, resulting in renewed alluviation.

An exceptionally fine Penard phase bronze spearhead was found by a member of the quarry staff in a field to the south of the excavation. Trial trenching around the findspot revealed only lake deposits of probable Ipswichian date. Though the specific context is ambiguous, the spearhead clearly comprised a votive deposit.

### Wandlebury Hillfort TL49405340

### C. French & K. Gdaniec

Permission was granted by the Cambridge Preservation Trust and English Heritage for a programme of survey, geophysical prospection and excavation as a student training exercise, coordinated by the Department of Archaeology, Cambridge. This had two main aims: non-intrusive survey within the interior of the hillfort and investigation of possible remains exterior to the rampart. The excavations conclusively demonstrated Iron Age settlement features occurring outside the eastern circuit. Great quantities of bone, pottery and environmental remains were recovered from ditches, gullies, post-holes and large under-cut storage pits, and confirmed extensive occupation of the hill crest. Mesolithic to Bronze Age flint, Neolithic polished flint axe fragments and Beaker pottery indicated that this area had also been the focus of earlier prehistoric activity of, as yet, unknown form and extent.

### Yaxley, Vicarage Way TL17809200

### C. Begg

Anticipating residential development, an assessment was conducted on land adjacent to the site of a medieval and post-medieval manorial complex at Manor farm. Trial trenches revealed ditches and pits reflecting agricultural land-use associated with the original six acre home close of the manorial complex to the west. A few struck flints recovered from the site indicate prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

The following excavations were carried out by other organisations:

#### Foxton TL400484-402479

John Price Engineering Archaeological Service, for British Gas

A rich and intensive group of Roman features were excavated adjacent to Shepreth villa. These included a Romano-Celtic temple, burials of first- and third-century and possibly Anglo-Saxon date (including one lead coffin), military style ditches, farming enclosures and a pit containing a hoard of iron work.

#### Haddon

Stephen Upex, for Peterborough Regional College

Excavations continued on a Roman bath-house that was also occupied very early in Anglo-Saxon times.

### Wimpole TL343495

John Price Engineering Archaeological Service, for British Gas

Three circular gullies 12 to 13 m in diameter representing Iron Age round houses were excavated with pottery dating between the first century BC to first century AD. A rectilinear enclosure  $19 \text{ m} \times 21 \text{ m}$  was also found.

### Wittering

Ian Meadows, for Peterborough Archaeology Group

A massive Roman tile kiln is currently being excavated.

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Malim, T. 1990. Archaeology on the Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate (Cambridgeshire County Council & English Heritage).

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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', Pro-

ceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 74 (1985) pp.81-4. Chapters in books: John Patten, 'Changing occupational structures in the East Anglian countryside,

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