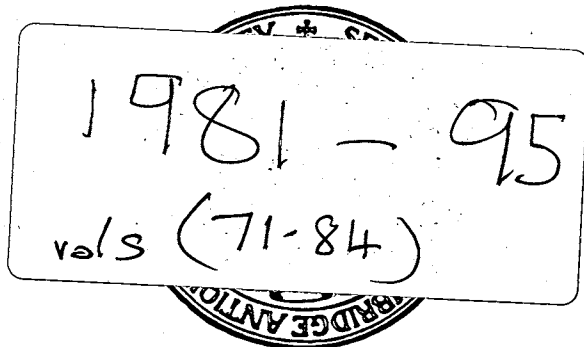

Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological
Society)

Volume LXXXIV

for 1995



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Volume LXXXIV

for 1995

Published by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 1996

ISSN 0309-3606

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Erratum

In volume LXXXIII, p. 6, Journals exchanged with the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*:

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

Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, Manchester

Field-Work in Cambridgeshire: September 1994–May 1996

Edited by
Tim Denham, Christopher Evans, Tim Malim &
Tim Reynolds

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

Tim Denham & Tim Malim

Excavation summaries

Alconbury, Weybridge Farm TL 179 721
(Report no. 115)

Malin Holst & Ken Welsh

In November 1994, an evaluation was conducted over 33 hectares as part of a proposal for gravel extraction. The evaluation area contained the parish boundary between Alconbury and Ellington which is now represented by a relict stream channel. Trenching revealed a concentration of Roman activity on a headland in the northern, central portion of the evaluation area (TL 179 721). This included several small ditches containing Romano-British material and a cremation burial of the same period (possibly third-century). These finds were located outside the area to be directly impacted by gravel extraction.

Balsham, Fleam Dyke TL 548 541

Tim Malim

Further to the note in Taylor *et al.* (1994: 167), six additional radiocarbon age determinations have been obtained in order to construct a chronology of monument construction and use.

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| i) OxA-5349 | cattle mandible | 1530±50 BP |
| OxA-5350 | sheep/goat radius and ulna | 1615±50 BP |

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------|------------|
| OxA-5351 | sheep/goat metatarsal | 1430±55 BP |
| OxA-5352 | small ruminant femur | 1535±50 BP |
| OxA-5353 | small ruminant radius | 1390±45 BP |
| OxA-5354 | small ruminant humerus | 1510±45 BP |

These radiocarbon age determinations have been used to date the sequence of construction at Fleam Dyke using a Gibbs sampling calibration programme (OxCal v.2.17, Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit).

- ii) The first phase of bank construction dated to cal AD 330–530 (92%).
- iii) The second phase bank dated to cal AD 380–560 (95%).
- iv) The third phase bank dated to cal AD 440–630 (95%).
- v) The start of the silting up of the ditch dated to cal AD 410–590 (95%).
- vi) From the series of dates, the start of construction of the monument (first dated event) was cal AD 330–510 (92%). The end of use of the monument (last dated event) was cal AD 590–720 (94%).

Burwell, Low Road (Report nos. 116 and A88)

Scott Kenney

In May and August 1995, an evaluation and excavation were undertaken at 95/97 Low Road (TL 5860 6682). These investigations revealed a high density of archaeological features including possible palisade trenches, gullies or beam slots for sill-beams, and several pits. The linear features indicated several phases of a boundary with an entranceway for a drove or track, possibly a precursor for 'The Leys'. Only

residual, abraded Roman pottery, burnt flint and animal bone were collected and the features are Roman or later.

In January 1996 during a recording brief for a foundation of a new house at 106 Low Road (TL 5852 6678), a large ditch of seventeenth-century date was uncovered running along the southern edge of the plot. This ditch was probably related to the house and moat of Tunbridge Farm which stood on the adjoining property. A contemporaneous pit was found in the northern part of the site.

Several other features were excavated, including: pits, two postholes and a slot for a possible sill-beam. The only finds from these undated features were pieces of burnt flint and non-local stone. The pits were probably dug to extract clunch (similar quarries have been located on the eastern side of Burwell), although two of the pits appeared to be earlier and may originate to the Iron Age.

Caldecote, Highfields TL 349 583 & 354 587
(Report no. 125)

Niall Oakey

Aerial photographs and documentary evidence indicated that both evaluation areas had been open fields under ridge-and-furrow cultivation, some of which has survived as upstanding earthworks. Two field systems were identified during trial trenching beneath the ridge-and-furrow, both on heavy boulder clays. One appeared to date to the later Iron Age/Romano-British continuum and probably focused on a settlement or farmstead. The other (in a different location), judging by the pottery recovered from ditch fills, was in use between the second and fourth centuries AD. The presence of an almost complete jar within one of the ditches suggested an associated settlement had been present nearby, probably beneath the modern settlement of Highfields.

Cambridge, Castle Street
(Report no. A78)

Judith Roberts & Tim Malim

In August and October 1994 a test pit beneath the floor of Castle Inn (TL 4458 5919) revealed a possible medieval floor layer or wall, pottery dating from the thirteenth century to the present, post-medieval features together with building debris, and domestic refuse. Archaeological deposits continued beneath the base of excavation. A borehole survey located the Castle

Ditch to the east.

Excavations of a basement to the rear of 73 Castle Street (TL 4442 5928) in April 1995 revealed a large feature at least 3 m by 5 m and 4.5 m deep. The feature was filled with dark earth dumped deposits with increasingly wet, dark grey clayey silts with depth. Human bones and Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery were observed. It is suggested that this feature might have been a defensive ditch for the castle which dates to the Civil War.

Cambridge, Hobson Street TL 4507 5862 & 4508 5855

Tim Malim

Observation of major sewerage works showed disturbance from previous pipe installation to a depth of 2.8 m below ground surface into the underlying natural sands and gravels. Such stratigraphy shows no evidence for the cut or fills of the massive King's Ditch which is represented on Richard Lyne's map of 1574 as running along the line of Hobson Street.

Cambridge, Perse School for Boys TL 4629 5570
(Report no. A89)

Stephanie Leith

Evaluation trenching was conducted in advance of construction works in the vicinity of a postulated Roman road (RCHM 1959). Results showed that the road did not exist on this alignment and was probably located further to the west in line with Walker's (1910) proposed route.

Croydon, Church of All Saints TL 315 496

Bob Hatton

Recording work of pipe trenching in 1995 revealed two buttresses to the chancel of probable medieval date.

Duxford, Duxford Mill TL 482 461
(Report no. 113)

Duncan Schlee & Ben Robinson

In 1995 an evaluation along a proposed bypass relief channel adjacent to Duxford Mill exposed deposits associated with the floodplain of the River Cam. These consisted of two alluvial deposits overlying a layer of peat and palaeochannels. Although no features were present, an *in situ*

scatter of worked flint waste flakes dating to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period was recovered on top of the peat layer at the edge of a palaeochannel. A pollen assessment of the major stratigraphic units indicated that the pollen signal was dominated by local aquatic and floodplain vegetation, with a woodland component derived from drier ground within the catchment.

Duxford, Moorfield Road TL 479 463 (Report no. 110)

Tim Sutherland & Paul Sperry

In 1994 evaluation trenching revealed several features, many of which contained a small number of pottery sherds, including some dating to the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. The most significant features were possible boundary ditches on the periphery of the site which have been dated to the late medieval period. It is possible that the ditches represent the formalisation of plots along the edge of a pre-existing routeway.

Ely, Broad Street TL 5433 8001

Simon Bray

In March 1996 a watching brief conducted during the extension of an existing shop revealed 1.04 m of post-medieval make-up overlying three waterlogged layers. These latter deposits overlay the natural Kimmeridge Clay and contained fragments of wood, reeds, unabraded medieval pottery, animal bone and a leather shoe, and possibly represented the top of a large feature, e.g. a pit or pond.

Ely, Chantry Lane TL 5394 8035

Ben Robinson

A section of foundation trench observed during a recording brief in June 1994 revealed a sequence of post-medieval deposits which were interpreted as garden soils. No medieval features or deposits were identified although these may survive at greater depth.

Ely, Chapel Street TL 5390 8046
(Report no. A86)

Mark Hinman

During an evaluation in 1996, two late Saxon or Saxo-Norman rubbish pits containing pottery dating from AD 900–1150 (St Neots and Thetford Ware), sealed by early fourteenth-century

deposits, were excavated. In addition, a later quarry pit was found which contained a high level of residual late Saxon material.

Ely High Barns TL 5497 2810 (Report no. A87)

Steve Kemp

In January 1996 an evaluation was conducted ahead of residential development. The trenching exposed four ditch alignments of possible Roman or Saxon date. The absence of other features and artefacts indicated that the site was some distance from a settlement at the time the ditches were in use.

Ely, Jubilee Terrace TL 5435 7981 (forthcoming)

Niall Oakey & Ben Robinson

A programme of excavation and observation was undertaken ahead of residential development. A little residual pottery of Romano-British and late Saxon date suggested activity in the vicinity of the site during those periods. The first major phase of activity dated to the thirteenth century when domestic refuse was dumped to raise the ground surface in advance of the construction of a building measuring at least 25 × 10 m. Probably of timber-framed construction on rubble sill walls, the building had an uneven floor and the absence of domestic activity or daily wear suggested that it had been a warehouse located at the rear of a property fronting onto Broad Street. A thick layer of lime or chalk which sealed parts of the floor were relict materials, probably imported along the recently diverted River Great Ouse, used for the manufacture of mortar for the construction of stone buildings probably associated with the Cathedral. Secondary use of the warehouse was indicated by a number of small hearths, ovens or kilns of unknown function and date. Running alongside it was a ditch which probably marked a property boundary.

The lifetime of the building was short and after demolition the sill walls were robbed and the site remained as waste ground or gardens until the later twentieth century. Post-excavation work continues.

Ely, Lisle Lane TL 5463 8025
(Report no. A72 and forthcoming)

Niall Oakey

Evaluation and subsequent recording excavation took place in late 1995/early 1996 on the

periphery of medieval Ely. Activity on the site was concentrated between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries. Two possible boundary ditches (backfilled in the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries) were contemporary with a series of rubbish pits. These were separated from the modern Lisle Lane frontage by an enigmatic feature, which was either a boundary ditch with a succession of dumps backfilling it or a small-scale linear quarrying episode to extract the natural sands, clays or gravels. To the south-east a large water-filled feature was backfilled with domestic rubbish in the earlier fourteenth century. No remains of buildings were found on the site, which was probably located in the backyards of properties lining Lisle Lane. All the pottery from these deposits derives from wares that are thought to have passed out of use locally before the middle of the fourteenth century. The cessation of activity on the site may be a result of decreasing pressure on land as a function of the general population decline in the fourteenth century.

Later activity on the site was represented by the plough furrows associated with ridge-and-furrow of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century date. Thereafter the site remained open ground until the later twentieth century.

Ely, Old Birch's Garage Site, St Mary's Street,
TL 5397 8039

Ben Robinson

A recording brief was carried out during the refurbishment of the old garage site during February 1995. A nineteenth-century cellar was revealed on the street front and shallow, narrow drainage gullies at the rear of the property encountered a post-medieval brick tile floor. Medieval deposits may survive at greater depth.

Ely, Potters Lane TL 5410 7969

Ben Robinson

An evaluation in 1995 encountered a rich pottery assemblage dating to the medieval period and the medieval/post-medieval transition, as well as a possible medieval building with associated ditched enclosure and rubbish pit. The pottery represented a waste assemblage from a production site, although no kilns or features associated with the production process were definitely identified. The street's name, first recorded in the late thirteenth century, and fifteenth-century references to the

tenement of a pottery, suggests that such remains can be anticipated nearby.

Ely, Road Improvements TL 540 803

Niall Oakey

During a field visit to observe resurfacing work at Minster Place a stone forming a double arch, possibly a window head or part of an arcade, and a piece of column (unfluted) were collected.

Ely, Station Road, Old Trigon Garage Site
TL 5420 7972

Ben Robinson

The presence of contaminants and lack of an access condition prevented all but the briefest examination of the exposed archaeology. Foundation trenches revealed medieval or early post-medieval gravel surfaces near the Station Road street front. Sealed beneath these deposits was a very large pit (c. 2.5 m deep, 13 m long) whose basal organic mud produced straw, wood chips, a fragment of medieval shoe leather and medieval pottery. A second pit off the Potters Lane frontage, though of similar size, was less productive in terms of finds. The dumps of pottery revealed nearby at no. 14 Potters Lane were not apparent here. A near complete Baluster-shaped small drinking jug of late medieval Ely ware was, however, recovered by a contractor during site works.

The limited observation undertaken on this site confirms the anticipated character of the archaeology in the area. It is to be hoped that further development will permit better examination than has been achieved so far.

Eynesbury, Barford Road TL 184 583
(Report forthcoming)

Steve Kemp

During September 1994, an area excavation encountered a series of ditches on three alignments. Two of these ditches were a continuation of the late Roman trackway exposed in 1993 and visible on aerial photographs. The other alignments probably represented field boundaries which pre-dated the trackway. Medieval strip cultivation furrows were also visible in plan and section cutting into the terrace gravels. The absence of remains associated with prehistoric activity was surprising given the previous artefactual and cropmark evidence for the area, although a palaeochannel was identified.

Fordham, Block Farm TL 605 707

Tim Malim & David Trump (for Board of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall)

Fieldwalking by a Cambridge University Extra Mural class in March 1996 collected Roman pottery and tile from a 'villa'. Analysis of the finds suggested a typical rural Romano-British assemblage dating from the second to fourth centuries AD, with much reuse of materials, evidence of a local tile kiln and tesserae. At least two phases of construction are hypothesised from the burnt and distorted material, as tesserae and structural tile were suggestive of two different manufacturing processes. The building itself has been pinpointed and is also visible as a low earthwork, with an associated midden area to the east.

Fordham, Landwade Road TL 631 683
(Report no. A85)

Aileen Connor

Late Bronze Age enclosures and Early Iron Age settlement were discovered during extensive investigations in a field to the south of Landwade Road. The site lies on approximately four hectares of a well drained south facing chalk slope with the River Snail 500 m to the east. Following evaluation, full excavation exposed more than 2.5 hectares with archaeological features cut into the chalk. Four phases of flat-bottomed, V-shaped enclosure ditches in the northwest portion of the field may date to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age. The earliest was probably a sub-rectangular enclosure represented by two ditches, these are undated, but may be associated with a subrectangular post built structure on the same alignment. A series of similarly aligned shallow field boundary ditches to the south may also be associated with this earliest phase of activity. The earliest enclosure ditch was replaced by an interrupted subcircular enclosure ditch, approximately 40 m north-south, with evidence for an internal chalk bank. Several small pits were located within the enclosure and may be associated with it; one of the pits contained an almost complete, but broken, Late Bronze Age vessel with cordoned decoration around the rim. The enclosure ditch was later recut, possibly in the Early Iron Age. A final phase of enclosure was constructed 50 m to the west, with a north-south dimension of 50 m. Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from this latest ditch. This was the deepest of the ditches at

1.4 m, and there was evidence of burnt wood along its edges and a possible internal bank. Within, and possibly associated with, the latest enclosure ditch were a subrectangular six post structure dated to the Early Iron Age and an undated post built circular structure.

To the east of the enclosures, pits and post-holes dated to the Early Iron Age occurred in dense clusters along the top of the slope. Several structures have been identified including one round house and a number of four and six post structures. Quarry pits, storage pits and pits containing placed deposits were excavated, as well as numerous other pits whose function is as yet unclear. Large quantities of pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains were recovered from the pits, and disarticulated human bone was collected from more than one of them.

Towards the foot of the slope, pits containing large quantities of burnt flint were located with a further area of pitting containing waterlain deposits which might have been associated. All these features were sealed beneath two layers of colluvium and two buried soil horizons. It is hoped that thermoluminescence will provide dating for these deposits, particularly as they also sealed boundary ditches at the southern edge of the site.

Aerial photographs showed that these boundary ditches continued for at least 600 m as multiple ditches on an approximately east-west orientation following the foot of the slope. Excavation has shown that they are interrupted and vary from two to as many as six parallel ditches in places. They were up to 3 m wide and 1.5 m deep with steep sides and flat bases. These ditches define the southern boundary of the site, and no archaeological features were located in trenches further south. The ditches are on a similar alignment to prehistoric field boundaries and the earliest of the enclosure ditches. Preliminary dating suggests an Early Iron Age date for the infilling of the ditches.

Preliminary examination of the pottery by Dr J.D. Hill suggests that the pottery from the enclosure ditches is Middle to Late Bronze Age, c. 1200-800 BC. Pottery from the remainder of the site indicates that occupation was limited to the Early Iron Age, probably the fifth to fourth centuries BC. The assemblage has affinities with material from the Thames Valley and southeast England. Of particular interest are several perforated bases, a large proportion of 'rusticated' sherds, including two largely complete vessels, and a lid.

The combination of a large, well preserved pottery assemblage, excellent bone and

carbonised plant remains suggests that this is one of the most important Early Iron Age sites excavated in the region in recent times. A scattering of fifth-century AD pottery was also found in the top of several Iron Age features, suggesting a Saxon presence near the site.

Glington, A15 Glington to Werrington Bypass
TF 159 038 (Report no. 111)

Ken Welsh

A field evaluation was conducted prior to the upgrading of the A15 between Glington and Werrington. The evaluation occurred in two stages in September and November 1994. The findings along the majority of the road corridor were limited except at its northern end. Features indicative of Romano-British settlement, including a gravel surface or path and a midden deposit relatively rich in charred cereal and weed seeds, were identified. The midden deposit survived as a relatively diffuse positive feature within the ridges of the strip cultivation and was interpreted as having derived from secondary crop-processing. A number of cross-cutting ditches were surveyed immediately to the north of the Romano-British remains, although their age and function have not yet been determined. Further excavations at this site will occur in June and July 1996.

Godmanchester, Earning Street TL 249 704

Steve Kemp

During a watching brief in March 1996, two ditches (one Roman and one post-medieval) and two post-medieval quarry pits were documented.

Godmanchester, London Road TL 249 699
(Report no. 123)

Mark Hinman

In March 1996 an archaeological evaluation was conducted at the site of a proposed new school. Trenching revealed the presence of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits (one of which contained grooved ware) and ditches sealed beneath ridge-and-furrow. Such finds are suggestive of settlement which is particularly interesting given the site's proximity to the massive contemporary ceremonial complex to the north at Rectory Farm (excavated by the Central Excavation Unit 1989–90). The majority of features on the site, however, derived from a well-preserved Roman roadside settlement

dating from the late first to the fourth centuries. A well-stratified sequence of features contained evidence for specialised industrial functions; domestic and agrarian activity was also found.

Hinxton, Hinxton Hall TL 496 448
(forthcoming)

Stephanie Leith

Post-excavation work following the major excavations of 1993–4 (Taylor *et al.* 1994: 168) is ongoing. Pottery analysis has revised the dating of the site. Four *grubenhäuser* and a timber hall have been dated to the early Saxon period. Middle Saxon occupation was only definitely identified in a few pits. The late Saxon/early medieval settlement consisted of a series of timber halls, which were surrounded by a ditched enclosure by the late eleventh century.

Analysis of plant macrofossils revealed an abundance of charred flax seeds from a late Saxon hearth, and throughout all periods cereals, especially wheat, formed a major part of the economy. Faunal remains were surprisingly sparse indicating that bone was taken off-site for disposal or processing. Most bone was derived from domestic animals, cattle being used principally for milk production and slaughtered late in life, while sheep and pigs appear to have been raised for meat.

Hinxton, Hinxton Hall, New Lake Site
TL 496 445 (Report nos. A45 and A69)

Stephanie Leith

In December 1994 and June 1995, two phases of recording were conducted during the excavation and landscaping of an artificial lake adjacent to the previous excavations at Hinxton Hall. This recording work revealed: two rectilinear enclosures containing an assemblage of abraded Roman pottery (dating from the third to fourth centuries), a timber building of probable early Saxon date, and a series of ditches, a fence line and a chalk wall which all followed similar alignments to one another and were suggestive of a continuity in land division from the post-Roman period through to the nineteenth century.

Hinxton, Hinxton Hall, North Parkland
TL 498 449 (Report no. A94)

Scott Kenney

During an evaluation in May 1996, eighteenth-century or later garden features were uncovered

in two trenches and undated, isolated features were recorded in a further two.

Hinxton Hall to Great Chesterford TL 498 442
(Report no. A81)

Judith Roberts

During October and November 1995, evaluation excavation and subsequent recording were conducted along the proposed route of a water main to the south of Hinxton Hall in an area of cropmarks adjacent to the River Cam. Cobbled surfaces, possible pitting, linear features and a redeposited chalk platform were found. There was no firm dating evidence from the features but Roman ceramics were present beneath the alluvium, indicating that alluviation along this section of the Cam post-dated the cobbled surfaces and the Roman period. Prehistoric worked flints, Roman ceramics and post-medieval building materials were present in the topsoil either as a result of having been washed down and redeposited there, or through post-medieval levelling.

Huntingdon, Hartford Road TL 2410 7178
(Report no. 122)

Aileen Connor

Evaluation identified three distinct phases of medieval activity including structures and a sequence of pitting possibly dating from the eleventh to fourteenth centuries. Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman St Neots ware and later variants dominated the pottery assemblage although a key group of post-1200 AD sherds were also present. The results indicated the area was part of the medieval town prior to the settlement's contraction during the fourteenth century.

Huntingdon, Orchard Lane TL 2420 7160
(*Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, forthcoming)

Niall Oakey & Scott Kenney

English Heritage funded excavations at this site, close to the bridging point across the River Great Ouse and 70 m from the High Street, revealed rubbish and cesspits dating from AD 900–1150. Information was obtained on the diet of the Saxo-Norman population and advances were made in the production of a pottery typology for early medieval Huntingdon. Probably in the eleventh century the site became a cemetery and remains of over twenty

individuals were excavated. The cemetery may have formed part of the churchyard of the lost church of St Clement's and burial had ceased by the fifteenth century. Apart from a quarrying episode in the sixteenth or seventeenth century, thereafter the property remained open or was used as a builders yard.

Impington, Cambridge Road TL 445 612
(Report no. A35)

Tim Reynolds

An evaluation in 1994 revealed a series of post-Roman drainage ditches.

Little Downham, Feoffees Primary School
TL 524 841 (Report no. 126)

Jonathan Last

Evaluation trenches within a school playing field revealed a scatter of Late Mesolithic flints from a buried and heavily disturbed land surface beneath the modern plough soil. The lithic scatter may be associated with a number of small cut features of uncertain origin. A few sherds of later prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery also derived from this level.

Longstanton, Cambridge Golf Club TL 398 674
(Report no. A95)

Bob Hatton

During a recording brief in April 1996 carried out after the excavation of a parking area, a substantial ditch was found which had been frequently recut. It probably formed part of a Romano-British enclosure system which had been investigated by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Any other features relating to Romano-British activity would have been destroyed by the excavation of the car park.

Milton, East Waste Landfill TL 4635 6240
(forthcoming)

T. Reynolds

Rescue excavations following those of last year continued into two new areas, MILEW III and MILEW IV. MILEW III contained a Roman burial mound with a series of both inhumations and cremations in it. A total of nineteen inhumations and three cremations were buried in the mound which also had a series of pits within it and was surrounded by an enclosure ditch. The

enclosure ditch linked the mound into a wider landscape of structures including a possible smithy, an oven and at least two other buildings. In addition, there were numerous enclosures, a ring-ditch and a cattle trough. The evidence dates from the early second century until the close of the Roman period. A single Saxon wrist clasp was found by metal detecting but no other Saxon remains were present.

MILEW IV had a continuation of the Romano-British enclosure systems in its northern part but then an exclusively Iron Age series of features occurred. The ring-ditches found in MILEW II last year continued into this area and could be seen to comprise three pairings of a larger with a smaller ring-ditch. Boundary ditches lay to the south of this with an entrance which led into a beam slot/ditch into which two cremations had been placed. A third cremation lay just to the south of the slot/ditch.

Milton, Milton Landfill Site TL 4640 6330
(forthcoming)

Simon Bray & Tim Reynolds

Between August and October 1995 an evaluation excavation over 38 hectares, adjacent to previously investigated parcels at the landfill site, revealed four discrete areas of archaeology. Evidence of occupation and structural activity was found including postholes, beamslots, daub fragments and associated complex pitting activity. The remains dated to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. A Late Bronze Age deposit, either a midden or the collapsed remains of a wattle and daub building, was found and is of particular significance given that positive archaeological features rarely survive above the level of the subsoil. Fragments of waterlogged wood were found in some of the deeper features which have a high potential for future environmental interpretation and dating.

Milton and Waterbeach, Cambridge Rowing Lake TL 482 620 to 493 649 (Report no. 120)

Ben Robinson & Erika Guttmann

Following comprehensive aerial photographic interpretation, a preliminary evaluation was undertaken over 100 hectares of low-lying land on the west bank of the River Cam. Trial trenches and test pits were placed in order to intercept cropmark complexes, test areas devoid of cropmarks and to fully characterise artefact scatters. Preservation characteristics across the area varied between waterlogged

alluvial and fen stratigraphy to plough truncated dry gravel terrace. Pieces of wood within the basal organic mud of a small mere or meander produced a radiocarbon age of 2380 ± 60 BP (Beta-88004).

Prehistoric periods were represented by flint scatters associated with alluvial soils and clusters of settlement related features located off the flood plain. Little prehistoric ceramic or lithic material was recovered during field-walking.

Two Romano-British inhumation cemeteries and a Horningsea Ware pottery production site were located. Abundant evidence for Romano-British cereal processing and animal husbandry existed in association with a cropmark complex representing a linear settlement on the fen edge/river terrace. Romano-British activity had intensified during the second to third centuries AD, and in some areas continued into the fourth century.

Test pits excavated over early Anglo-Saxon artefact scatters, identified from fieldwalking, revealed two earth-fast post-built structures in association with other features. There was also evidence for a sunken featured building and the post-Roman recutting of substantial Romano-British ditches. Despite the inability to clearly differentiate features attributable to either the Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon periods, the cumulative evidence of pierced Romano-British coins, abundant Anglo-Saxon pottery and associated animal remains, suggested that both sites are representative of early Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Newborough, Borough Fen Ringwork TF 192 073
(Fenland Research No. 8)

Tim Malim & Ron McKenna, for Peterborough Museum

Dyke clearance along Redcow Drain in 1992 facilitated the recording of defensive ditch and bank sections of the Iron Age Fort. One hundred and eighty three sherds of well-preserved pot confirmed a Middle Iron Age date for the site. The northern ditch was 2–3 m deep, 10.5 m wide at the top and 4.4 m wide at the base, and contained waterlogged deposits. The molluscs, macrofossils and pollen reflected a deep and well-oxygenated freshwater ditch and indicated the fort built into an environment of damp weedy grassland. Cereal pollen was present in every environmental sample although no middens were found. However, a complete horse's skull with a large pottery sherd on its nose, but no other bones, was found in the basal fills of the ditch. Cut marks on the skull

suggested it had been removed prior to burial and defleshed, and it seemed probable that this was a deliberate 'placed' deposit.

The northern bank survived to a height of 0.8 m and a width of 13 m. It showed signs of revetting or rampart construction and sealed an intact relict ploughsoil. This ploughsoil, which continued across the site and was sealed by alluvium, contained domestic and occupation debris. The southern bank and ditch were of a similar scale, whilst an outer ditch was 3.5 m wide and 1.3 m deep.

Offord D'Arcy, St Peter's Church TL 217 664
(Report no. A77)

Bob Hatton

In 1996, undated human skeletal remains and a sherd of St Neots ware were recorded during a watching brief.

Peterborough, The Still Public House
TL 1910 9880 (forthcoming)

Ken Welsh & Mark Hinman

Following on from an evaluation in April 1994, a team led by Ken Welsh conducted a full excavation from January to May 1995. The site lies between Cumbergate and Westgate, two medieval streets which were apparently established when the town was refounded in the mid twelfth century.

The excavation revealed some evidence of settlement prior to the twelfth century with Stamford and St Neots ware (AD 950–1150) being present. The earliest surviving features across the site were a series of quarry pits for the extraction of the local cornbrash. Evidence for domestic activity was most pronounced in the back yards of the properties fronting onto Westgate. From the twelfth to sixteenth centuries a number of activities were revealed including ovens and wells set within well established property boundaries. Elsewhere the site was characterised by a high degree of pitting either for quarrying or domestic rubbish disposal continuing from the twelfth to the late seventeenth century after which the area was given over to orchards and gardens.

The considerable quantities of pottery recovered are currently being studied in order to provide a comprehensive type series for Peterborough and the surrounding area. This analysis forms part of the ongoing post-excavation programme being undertaken by Mark Hinman and Paul Sperry.

Ramsey, Ramsey Abbey TL 2928 8506
(Report no. A74)

Richard Heawood

During a recording brief in 1995, a stone wall possibly associated with a pre-nineteenth century undercroft was recorded.

Sawtry, Tort Hill TL 174 845
(Report no. A60)

Judith Roberts

Excavations were conducted in 1995 ahead of the installation of a water pipeline. A range of Roman features including hearths/ovens, ditches, postholes and cobbled areas were revealed. These contained or were associated with predominantly domestic refuse. The finds were interpreted to represent activities occurring in the plots to the rear of Roman roadside settlement along Ermine Street.

Soham, Pratt Street TL 5927 7346
(Report no. 128)

Ben Robinson & Bob Hatton

During September 1995 field evaluation followed by limited excavation was undertaken at 9–13 Pratt Street, Soham. Late Saxon/early medieval boundary ditches were revealed, their presence here conforming to the occurrence of similar remains behind properties on the opposite street front. The combined evidence clearly indicates settlement outside the assumed nucleus of early medieval Soham, and suggests that Pratt Street was a significant thoroughfare.

Somersham, High Street TL 358 779
(Report no. 92)

Judith Roberts

In March 1996, evaluation trenches and a test pit revealed late Saxon/early medieval property boundaries, medieval rubbish pits, post-medieval demolition and modern orchard clearance.

Spaldwick, Thrapston Road TL 128 729
(Report nos. 127 and A79)

Duncan Schlee & Paul Sperry

In 1995 an evaluation and excavation were undertaken ahead of a residential development. Late Saxon structures were identified adjacent

to Thrapston Road. Medieval remains consisting of boundary ditches and refuse deposits were also identified and these were believed to be indicative of an adjacent settlement. Interpretation of these remains suggested that the site was on the edge of the settlement in the medieval period, and that prior to the twelfth-century realignment of the village it had been more centrally located. These results support a hypothesis that the village morphology changed during the twelfth century when the Bishop's Palace and demesne estate centre were founded. Post-excavation work continues.

Stow Longa, Spaldwick Road TL 110 710
(Report no. A96)

Paul Spoerry & Jonathan Last

During an evaluation in January 1995, the partial remains of a house platform was recorded as an upstanding earthwork on the street frontage. Trenches placed through this platform indicated it had been built in the late medieval period. Other earthworks behind the street frontage were the result of nineteenth- to twentieth-century dumping and make-up which continued until the plot was reclaimed as pasture.

The Stukeleys, Huntingdon Racecourse
TL 200 723 & 206 720

Stephen Macaulay

Three seasons of large-scale excavation have revealed the remains of extensive Neolithic and Bronze Age activity sealed by alluvium to the north of Alconbury Brook, within the flood plain of the Great Ouse.

Late Neolithic/Bronze Age tree clearance was found in the form of burnt out tree boles and a fragment of a polished axe was discovered within the base of one. The tree clearance post-dates an infilled palaeochannel (OxA-6062 and OxA-6063 yielded a combined AMS radiocarbon age of 4000 ± 31 BP and a calibrated date of 2610–2460 BC), and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction from pollen analysis supports the dating. A Late Neolithic rectangular enclosure (20 × 14 m) was discovered on a gravel spur and a placed deposit containing a broken quernstone, Neolithic Plain Bowl and Grooved Ware pottery was found in the base of the ditch fill on the eastern side. A multi-phase boundary feature consisting of a series of recut sinuous ditches was discovered some 70 m to the east of the enclosure. Unabraded Neolithic pottery was recovered from the fills. Large quantities of

Bronze Age pottery were found in the vicinity which are likely to be associated with Late Neolithic/Bronze Age occupation revealed by a series of pits and postholes.

Laid out over the entire area and overlying the Neolithic enclosure were ditches of a co-axial field system of Early Bronze Age date aligned northeast/southwest. The field boundaries were predominately ditches, although a paired post/pit alignment was identified along the line of a palaeochannel. The rows of 'fields' cut two infilled palaeochannels to the south, although Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age stream side activity respected the vicinities of the channels which had remained seasonally waterlogged. The final fill of the channel produced a calibrated date of 1910–1740 BC (OxA-6060 and OxA-6061 yielded a combined AMS radiocarbon age of 3488 ± 34 BP). The field system respected the earlier multi-phase boundary with a driveway terminating at an entrance through the boundary.

A round barrow was discovered in the southwestern corner of the site, stratified above elements of the field system. A gravel mound of timber construction and postholes/ditches were buried under the alluvium and surrounded by a ring-ditch c. 31 m diameter. Postholes were also discovered outside the ring-ditch at opposing sides, to the north and south. Unfortunately the centre of the barrow had been entirely removed by a twentieth-century rubbish pit and no burials were discovered. Quantities of Beaker and abraded Neolithic sherds were recovered from the ditch and barrow mound.

Sutton, The Brook TL 4415 7908

Erika Guttmann & Ben Robinson

In June 1995 as part of an evaluation, upstanding ridge-and-furrow were recorded approximately 0.5 m high along a north-south alignment. Nothing of archaeological significance was documented during trenching.

Swavesey, School Lane TL 359 685
(Report no. 124)

Tim Sutherland & Bob Hatton

In July and September 1995, evaluation trenches in the southwest corner of the property revealed medieval pottery in a ditch sealed by a post-medieval surface. The finds indicate the presence of settlement close by, perhaps on the frontage of School Lane. Later features on the

site include the filled-in remains of a large L-shaped pond of unknown function which was known to exist in 1887.

Teversham, Pembroke Farm TL 498 582
(Report no. A83)

Steve Kemp

In 1995, an evaluation was conducted on remnants of upstanding medieval ridge-and-furrow. St Neots Ware and small shelly ware pottery sherds collected in the vicinity suggest the area may have been settled as early as the tenth century. Later quarrying activities had disturbed these earlier remains.

Upton, South Farm TL 184 789
(Report no. A62)

Tim Sutherland

Ditches were identified which had been cut as part of a Roman rectilinear field system and contained only one abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery each. This field system was probably associated with the Romano-British settlement at Monks Wood Farm, Sawtry.

West Wrattling, High Street TL 6065 5200
(Report no. A47)

Tim Sutherland

In 1994 an evaluation conducted on two parcels of land fronting the High Street revealed a post-medieval brick floor and a late medieval ditch. Pottery within the ditch indicated that it had been open between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries.

West Wrattling, Oxcroft Farm TL 5916 5132
(forthcoming)

Ben Robinson & Tim Sutherland

A recording brief and building survey were carried out at the site of Oxcroft Manor, West Wrattling during May 1995 in advance of landscaping and refurbishment of a Grade II Listed dovecote.

A medieval ditch was identified parallel to the Balsham/West Wrattling parish boundary which runs adjacent to the site. The dovecote had been reported as possessing a timber frame core beneath later brickwork. Examination during refurbishment established that this was not the case. The near square structure had

been brick built during the eighteenth century. The dovecote, surmounted by its original double gabled (or 'saddle back') roof and plain tiles, had been converted into a dwelling during the nineteenth century. Its history followed the general decline in free-standing purpose built farm dovecotes and the increasing need for labourers' dwellings during the nineteenth century.

Whaddon, Town Farm TL 348 463
(Report no. 121)

Judith Roberts

Excavations indicated two periods of activity, although surprisingly no evidence for either Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods was encountered.

A Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic presence was represented by residual flint tools and a number of irregular features. These features, which were interpreted as tree falls, also contained Iron Age worked flint.

The majority of features on site gave evidence for an Iron Age/early Roman occupation (with a possible Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age component) was defined. A series of steep sided rectangular pits were encountered which contained charred cereal grains and some burnt flints. A domestic clay lined oven, with a pierced shelf or floor and many burnt stones, was also found. The area investigated was bisected by a gully for a fence or a palisade, which was cut by Late Iron Age pits. The Iron Age/Early Roman site of undetermined function appeared to have been on the periphery of a high status settlement, suggested by the presence of a few, fine ware sherds.

Wicken, Dimmock's Cote TL 554 723
(Report forthcoming)

Steve Kemp

During December 1994, excavations were undertaken at Dimmock's Cote as part of a continuing series of investigations (Taylor & Evans 1993: 167). The presence of a Neolithic and Bronze Age landscape with settlement remains identified during previous excavations was confirmed. Remnant archaeological features were revealed in a palaeosol which had been truncated by medieval and modern ploughing. Three main phases of archaeological deposits were identified:

a) Postholes and two sets of intercutting pits dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Pottery and burnt flint samples were taken for

thermoluminescence dating, and the former provided a date range of 2285±390 BC to 1165±260 BC.

b) A single west-northwest to east-southeast orientated ditch, which was probably Roman or later, and two pits containing charred remains including hazelnut shell and abraded Roman greyware pottery.

c) Four furrows and a headland indicative of medieval and post-medieval agricultural practices. Other medieval/post-medieval features include three pairs of sub-rectangular pits and seven post-holes, some of which cut through the fills of the former suggesting a later phase of medieval/post-medieval activity.

Willingham, Earith Road TL 404 712

Tim Malim & Alison Taylor

Three stacked pewter plates with *chi-rho* symbols were found by metal detectorists. A 3 m by 2 m area was excavated and revealed that the plates had been placed on top of cattle skulls in a 0.8 m deep feature. The test pit also revealed the corner of a possible clay floored structure immediately to the northwest of the pit or ditch which contained the plates. Abundant animal bone, Roman tile and pottery sherds dating to the late third to fourth centuries were also found. The hoard of pewter plates may suggest that Christianity had spread into fairly modest levels of society in this area.

Wisbech, Cromwell Road TL 450 077
(Report no. A66)

Steve Kemp

'Darlands', associated with medieval strip cultivation of the silt fen, were discovered. A range of sixteenth- to nineteenth-century pottery was collected from the ditches. It was apparent that by the late nineteenth century the darland system had been abandoned.

Assessments which revealed archaeological remains of little or no significance were conducted at:

Alwalton, Oundle Road, TL 134 958
Buckden, St Mary's Churchyard, TL 192 676
(Report no. A46)
Chatteris, Kings Farm, TL 456 857
(Report no. A93)
Ely, Kings School, TL 5376 7984
(Report no. A80)
Ely, St Mary's Street, TL 538 803
Great Gransden, Church Street, TL 234 557

(Report no. A44)
Haddon, Toon's Lodge, TL 147 932
(Report no. A59)
Holywell, Hill Farm, TL 339 700
(Report no. A73)
Linton, Meadow Lane, TL 560 468
(Report no. A68)
Little Shelford, Hauxton Road, TL 448 516
(Report no. A75)
Needingworth, Ashton Close, TL 346 717
(Report no. A57)
Offord Cluny, Landfill Site, TL 218 677
Orwell, Malton Farm, TL 367 482
(Report no. A95)
Ramsey, Marriott's Yard, TL 287 853
(Report no. A90)
Sawston, High Street, TL 489 487
(Report no. A54)
Southorpe, Southorpe Quarry, TF 087 015
Stamford, Burghley House, TF 048 061
St Ives, East Street, TL 312 715
(Report no. A70)
St Neots, Eaton Ford, TL 178 601
(Report no. A82)
Waterbeach, Denny Abbey, TL 492 684

Archaeological studies, including background research into archaeological and historical records, field visits and geophysical surveys were published for the following areas, as part of the planning process for development proposals:

Ely, City Centre Redevelopment Project
(Report no. 108)
Ely, Lancaster Way Business Park
(Report no. 117)
Eynesbury, Barford Road
(Report no. A67)
Little Downham, Feoffees School
(Report no. A84)

Construction along the following pipeline sections was observed:

Babraham to Sawston (Report no. A76)
Bourn to Hardwick (Report no. A50)
Grafham (Report no. A52)
Grantchester to Bourn (Report no. A65)
Sawtry (Report no. A60)

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**Cambridge Archaeological Unit,
University of Cambridge, Excavation
Round-up: April 1995–March 96**

Christopher Evans

Babraham, Babraham Hall TL 597550
(CAU Report no. 155)

R. Regan

During October field evaluation took place in advance of the construction within the grounds of Babraham Hall Institute of Animal Physiology; the investigation area located within a walled kitchen garden lying northwest of the Hall, and immediately east of the River Granta. A number of 'early' gravel extraction pits were excavated. Backfilled with domestic refuse of first/second-century AD date, their recovery could suggest Roman settlement within the vicinity. The discovery of silted-up river channels of post-medieval date confirm historical mentions of river shift; an associated 'hard' surface indicating that the Granta was 'worked'. Following silting, the channels were subject to episodes of dumping and levelling. These most likely date to the 1860s when the estate underwent major landscaping and the site became a kitchen garden.

Bartlow, Church Lane TL 584452
(CAU Report no. 151)

R. Regan

No archaeology was found to be present during a watch brief cover of contractor's ground-works.

Buckden, Buckden Tower TL19246772
(CAU Report no. 167)

A. Dickens

A watching brief was carried out on ground-works around the Great Tower of Buckden

Palace. External excavations for drains revealed a high degree of post-medieval disturbance to the east of the Tower. A possible construction trench was observed in section by the southwest corner turret. Inside the basement three drain trenches allowed examination of the internal face of the eastern wall. This revealed at least two phases of construction and alteration work probably dating to the late fifteenth and early nineteenth centuries. No certain pre-Tower features were revealed.

Cambridge, Addenbrookes Hospital
TL 46555534 (CAU Report no. 148)

M. Robinson

A 0.45 ha site, lying only 70 m northeast of the important Iron Age settlement excavated during Hospital's construction in the 1960s, was evaluated. Remarkably enough, no archaeology remains were found to be present.

Cambridge, Arbury Camp TL 444616
(CAU Report no. 154)

M. Knight

Trenches were cut across the enclosure's southern and eastern circuit (50 m interval) and an augering survey undertaken to confirm its exact plan evaluate the survival of its bank. The ditch was only fully excavated in two instances; the remainder, cored only. Samples were taken for the evaluation of plant macrofossils and soil micromorphology.

Cambridge, Clare Hall - Grange Road Residences
TL 43915827 (CAU Report no. 158)

R. Regan

Other than nineteenth-century features, no archaeology was found to be present.

Cambridge, Gonville and Caius TL 447584
(CAU Report no. 153)

M. Alexander

An evaluation took place during the renovation of the Bateman Building. Features containing Roman pottery suggest a small Roman settlement may have occupied land nearby. While there was no evidence of early Saxon occupation, Saxo-Norman pottery was found in a variety of features, including a ditch and a cess

pit (two surfaces of clunch/clay probably date to this period). Documentary evidence indicates the area was a garden before its acquisition by the College in 1353. Although there were no indications of activity between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries, later gardening may have destroyed earlier occupation strata. The foundations of the 1795 stable block survived.

Cambridge, Jesus College TL 452589
(CAU Report no. 150)

A. Dickens & C. Evans

Architectural recording occurred during the refurbishment of the College's Halls and Kitchen. Within the main Hall, the original 'great' fireplace was exposed and observation made of the range's fabric during the removal of panelling (no evidence of pre-College construction). Stripped of late covering, elevations were also recorded within the Upper Hall and Kitchen. Within a contractor's pit (in the angle between the Kitchen Range and Great Hall) a large masonry footing was investigated. Evidently relating to an early tower staircase, it is of probable 'Nunnery-phase' attribution (thirteenth-fourteenth century). Masonry horizons and midden dumps were excavated within a small sondage in Outer Court.

Cambridge, Old Schools TL 44745846
(CAU Report no. 152)

C. Evans & J. Pollard

Extensive areas of the original fourteenth-century fabric were exposed and recorded during refurbishment of the North Range, as well as a fine perpendicular style fifteenth-century arch. From the blocking of the latter, stones with extraordinary figurative graffiti (including medieval Latin inscriptions) were recovered. The evidence of the investigations calls for re-appraisal of the School's building sequence and indicates that the Range originally stood as a single functional entity (The Divinity School), only later incorporated into a courtyard plan.

Cambridge, Pembroke College TL 45045804
(CAU Report no. 147)

M. Robinson

In advance of the construction, an evaluation was carried out in August within the College grounds. Whilst there was no direct evidence of pre-nineteenth-century activity, four sherds

of residual 'early' pottery were recovered: two medieval; another shell-tempered piece that may be of either later Saxo-Norman (St Neots) or possibly even later prehistoric (Iron Age) date; and a Roman sherd. Although these could attest to early occupation within the area, they are highly abraded and probably derive from field manuring.

Cambridge, St Edmund's College TL 44195929
(CAU Report no. 161)

A. Dickens

A evaluation across the College grounds revealed little evidence of Roman activity other than a poorly preserved child's inhumation tentatively dated to that period. A small number of Roman pottery sherds were also recovered from later contexts. To the north of the site there was evidence of extensive chalk and marl extraction which may have removed earlier archaeology if it had been present. To the south, was long-lived plough agriculture which resulted in ridge-and-furrow across the lower part of the site. The small quantity of Roman material within the ploughsoil suggests that Roman features had never been present, rather than having been later destroyed. Subsequently, the ridge-and-furrow was infilled with clean marly clay (possibly derived from the extraction area), and given over to nineteenth-century orchard/nursery activity.

Cambridge, St John's College School
TL 43925888 (CAU Report no. 145)

R. Mortimer

No archaeological features nor any early material was recovered during an evaluation on the proposed site of the New Music Rooms.

Cottenham, Franklin Gardens TL 45016756
(CAU Report no. 135)

K. Gdaniec

Apart from recent cultivation remains, no archaeological features were found to be present.

Ely, Forehill TL 545802
(CAU Report forthcoming)

M. Alexander

Following two phases of evaluation investigations within an area marked for development on the corner of Lisle lane and Forehill, full

excavation occurred along the Forehill frontage. The earliest features were a sequence of ditches beginning in the tenth century, running parallel to the existing road. The excavation found a full sequence of occupation dating back to the thirteenth century with the site divided into tenements running north from the street frontage. Some of the property boundaries were maintained from the earliest occupation phase until when the properties were demolished in the nineteenth century. Early timber-built structures were replaced by brick and stone buildings. The early tenements extended well back from the frontage and only limited 'backyard activity' was found within the excavated area. Leather off-cuts and shoe fragments from a variety of contexts indicated that cobbling and shoe making took place between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries. A complex of sixteenth/seventeenth-century brick-built structures suggests that small-scale industrial activity (possibly baking) was associated with one of the properties.

Ely, West Fen TL 53108087
(CAU Report no. 160)

D. Gibson

Excavations in advance of an Anglia Water pipeline and pumping station produced evidence of Late Iron Age settlement. The surviving evidence consisted mainly of ditches with occasional pits and gullies. The pottery recovered dated the settlement to c. AD 1/10 to AD 50/60. The quantity of finds was high and with the recovery of two decorated artefacts was perhaps suggestive of more than a 'normal' agricultural settlement.

Fen Drayton Quarry TL 33756903
(CAU Report no. 156)

R. Mortimer

Relating to the expansion of the ARC Ltd Quarry, excavations occurred within a c. 3 ha area. Short-term episodes of Neolithic occupation and part of a Bronze Age fieldsystem gave way to phases of Middle/Late Iron Age farmstead enclosures. The earliest enclosure contained two annular house ditches. The focus of settlement subsequently shifted south with the original enclosure being turned over to agricultural use. Overlying the whole, an intricate Romano-British system of ditches or trenches was laid out in parallel and interlocking groups. The system relates to a 'villa'

site to the west and may be horticultural in origin, possibly for the cultivation of vines or fruit trees.

Hemingford Gray, High St TL 294704
(CAU Report no. 143)

K. Gdaniec

Apart from post-medieval features, an evaluation across a 1660 sq.m site revealed two ditches of first-second century AD; the latter probably marking the northern boundary of a minor Romano-British settlement.

Litlington, Manor Farm Barns TL 31284243
(CAU Report no. 146)

M. Robinson & K. Gdaniec

An evaluation was carried out in advance of the proposed re-development of barns into residential units. Substantial quantities of Roman building material confirmed the close proximity of a well-known Roman villa to the northwest, and the presence of a Roman gully suggested that the development area overlies an enclosure or fieldsystem associated with the villa estate. Imported Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered, raising the question of an earlier settlement presence within the immediate vicinity.

Little Thetford, Watson's Lane TL 52777625
(CAU Report forthcoming)

M. Hinman & K. Gdaniec

A 4000 sq.m open-area excavation, commissioned by Persimmon Homes in advance of an extensive residential development, occurred within a 3.7 ha field on the west side of Watson's Lane. Stripping of the medieval ridge-and-furrow system revealed a considerable density of archaeological features including ring gullies, enclosure ditches, pits and postholes. It would appear that the first evidence for the habitation of the site dates from the Late Iron Age (100 BC-AD 50), confirming the results of the first phase evaluation. Features surviving from this date included the remains of at least ten circular drainage gullies, associated rubbish pits and enclosure ditch systems.

During Roman times a more substantial series of enclosure ditches was imposed on the landscape, building on and expanding the Iron Age system. Initial evidence, however, suggests a shift in the focus of habitation away from the

former core probably to the north and certainly to the west. Large quantities of pottery and animal bone were retrieved. Unexpected discoveries included the skeletal remains of three humans, buried in graves (one in hob-nailed boots). Provisional dating evidence suggests all were buried at some time during the third century AD.

A tile-making kiln in an excellent state of preservation was also discovered near to the western limit of excavation. It apparently had not only been used in the production of standard roofing materials, but also rectangular lydion, square *pedalis* and larger square *sesquipedales* tiles.

Needingworth, Barleycroft Farm TL 355725
(CAU Report forthcoming)

M. Knight, C. Evans & D. Gibson

Throughout the autumn excavation occurred over a 5 ha site to investigate the second-millennium BC fieldsystem found through evaluation trenching last year. Following removal of alluvium, the buried soils were ploughed and fieldwalked before stripping down to natural gravels. Early Neolithic settlement activity was attested to by a dense cluster of 'Mildenhall-type' pits containing large quantities of plain and decorated pottery, and worked flint. Importantly evidence for re-visit episodes to the site were discernible from the spatial patterning of the features. Nearby tree-throws were found to contain similar assemblages as well as later Neolithic material. Although some evidence for Early Bronze Age activity was located, it was the Middle Bronze Age that saw the greatest impact on the site. A parallel ditch system oriented north-south/east-west was dotted with post structures, wells and pits. At least two roundhouses were identified. Within the fieldsystem a long rectangular building (16.50 × 5.55 m) was found set within an 'L'-shaped compound. Whilst some Roman pottery was recovered from the northeast corner of the excavation, the only contemporary features found were field ditches.

Over the winter, a small sheepfold (of quasi-concentric plan and Iron Age attribution) was excavated in the lower western half of the northern field.

Earlier in September, evaluation occurred across a 60 ha block of land across the south side of the quarry site. Roman fieldsystems and droeways were found across the area, and sampling revealed dense prehistoric land-use with considerable evidence of Early Neolithic

activity. The recovery of Mildenhall, Grimston, Peterborough/Ebbsfleet, Grooved Ware and earlier Bronze Age wares attests to a long (if dispersed) settlement history. A double ring-ditch, probably first constructed during the later Neolithic, was tested and found to have quantities of later flintwork dumped into its outer circuit. Excavation will continue across these southern fields throughout 1996.

Waterbeach, Denny End TL 49356572
(CAU Report no. 166)

R. Mortimer

Excavations across a c. 1 ha site revealed evidence of occupation from the Early Anglo-Saxon period partially sealed beneath remnant ridge-and-furrow. The principal feature was a shallow Sunken Feature Building, or *Grubenhäuser*, with platform walls and entranceway (in association with pits, a large posthole and worn or cut hollows). The features represent an isolated domestic/work unit, which in part may comprise an element of processing. Lying to the west was a three-sided post-built structure. Finds included substantial pottery and bone assemblages, loomweights, a spindle whorl, a granite grinding stone and bone tools.

Whittlesey, Kings Dyke Quarry TL 245980
(CAU Report no. 166)

D. Edwards

Additional excavations within a 2 ha area, carried out on behalf of Hanson Brick Ltd, provided further useful information on the scale and character of ditch and/or enclosure systems within the area, most of which appear to be of Romano-British date. No evidence was found for significant pre-Roman activity in this area and it is unlikely that any of the ditches or other features are prehistoric. A small open-area excavation revealed part of the denuded remains of a timber structure. Probably of Romano-British date, it is situated close to the west side of the site and extends westwards beyond the edge of the area.

Willingham, High St TL 403702
(CAU Report no. 139)

A. Dickens

A two-phased evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed housing development in

the core of the village. Commissioned by Eagle Homes, the investigation area lay between High Street, Church Street and Long Lane. Whilst scant prehistoric and Roman material was recovered, in the central area intensive evidence was revealed of Early to Middle Saxon settlement (included the remains of at least four timber buildings), which did not relate to the later street layout. Little medieval material was found in the central area, but there was extensive evidence of small-scale medieval and post-medieval gravel extraction in what has remained a marginal area of the village for many centuries.

**Field Work Summaries, External Units.
October 1994–June 1996**

The following works have been carried out by **Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU)**.

Alconbury, Alconbury Hill TL 1885 7800
(BUFAU Project no. 141)

Trial trenching in advance of the A1 widening scheme did not identify any significant archaeological deposits.

Alconbury, Vinegar Hill TL 1875 7780
(BUFAU Project no. 141)

Evaluation in advance of A1 widening revealed a number of Romano-British ditches and a possible circular enclosure. A small abraded pottery assemblage was also recovered.

Chatteris, 36 Bridge Street TL 3895 8690
(BUFAU Project no. 390)

R. Cuttler

Evaluation using trial trenching identified Iron Age activity in the form of a shallow depression and two post holes with associated pottery. A few residual flint flakes were found and some post-medieval property boundaries identified.

Folksworth, Norman Cross TL 1598 9080
(BUFAU Project no. 141)

Evaluation at Norman Cross identified a small Romano-British settlement with stone building remains and a wealth of pottery virtually all from the third century AD. Medieval ridge-and-furrow was found to be overlain by post-medieval quarrying debris.

Littleport, Parson's Lane TL 559 868
(BUFAU Project no. 418)

R. Cuttler

A series of ditches, possibly boundaries, dating from between the Roman and medieval periods were found by evaluation trenching. Traces of ridge-and-furrow were also found.

Peterborough, Boongate, Marshall's Garage
TL 210 988 (BUFAU Project no. 341)

R. Cuttler

Evaluation produced a series of postholes, two gullies and a stakehole thought to represent settlement evidence. Finds of a single flint blade and an abraded pottery sherd have been used to tentatively date the site to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

St Neots, St Mary's Street TL 184 600
(BUFAU Project no. 299A)

A. Jones

Evaluation during 1994 and 1995 included trial trenching, area excavation and a watching brief. Four phases of activity were identified. The earliest, Phase 1, was a series of sands and gravels representing the position of an earlier channel for the Hen Brook. The second phase had dumping deposits and cut features representing responses to flooding, a pit with charred plant remains and a yard surface. This phase dates to the medieval period. Additional features from this phase include a number of rubbish pits and a marsh deposit adjacent to the Hen Brook. Phase 3 dates mostly to the seventeenth century and includes further alleviation, tanning pits and brick footings. A lime kiln also belongs to this phase. Phase 4 includes all the more recent activity on the site when it was used as a builders' merchants yard.

St Neots, 43–45 Church Street TL 185 600
(BUFAU Project no. 391)

A. Jones

Cartographic study and evaluation attempted to understand the Saxon occupation of the site. A sequence of deposition for the Hen Brook sediments was established but no Saxon remains or finds were found. The site did have evidence of tanning activities, some of which dated back to the late seventeenth century.

The following work was undertaken by the **Fenland Archaeological Trust (FAT)**.

Castor, 16 Church Hill TL 123 985
(FAT Project no. 124/1)

M. Olney

A watching brief was carried out on a development site close to a Roman settlement (scheduled ancient monument 93). No significant archaeological remains were observed.

Peterborough, Newark Road, Fengate
TL 216 996 (FAT Project no. 125/1)

M. Olney

Test pitting on the site to establish the degree of truncation of deposits with potential for archaeology identified significant survival of the B horizon. Any further works would therefore need archaeological monitoring.

Peterborough, Padholme Road, Fengate
TL 215 991 (FAT Project no. 126/1)

M. Olney

No archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

Peterborough, Third Drove Cambridgeshire
TL 21-98- (FAT Project no. 130)

Seven areas around the above grid reference were examined. The boreholes produced no archaeological material. Only in test pit 12 was there any archaeological evidence. A piece of stone which probably dates to the Neolithic.

The following sites were investigated by **Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust**.

Shepreth, Moor End Lane TL 3925 4745
(Report no. 135)

C. Walker

Three Roman ditches were found. These probably represent enclosure ditches. A pair of postholes found were undated and a slot contained Roman pottery.

St Neots, Great North Road, Eaton Socon
TL 1700 6002 (Report no. 115)

J. Murray

No archaeological features were found in the area

of proposed development. No evidence of the presence of a former medieval headland was found.

Girton, Cambridge Road TL 4237 6249
(Report no. 161)

J. Murray

Archaeological evaluation revealed features dating to the Mid Saxon period and the tenth-twelfth centuries. These features were a series of recut ditches, probably being the remains of field or enclosure boundaries.

Hilton, Graveley Road, College Farm
TL 2860 6652 (Report no. 140)

J. Murray

A three-phased investigation took place using a desk top study, recording of the standing buildings and then archaeological evaluation. The site is moated and has four buildings parts of which date from the late sixteenth century. Evaluation identified a number of features, principally the northern extension of the moat itself. The moat was not excavated but is overlain by buildings of the mid-seventeenth century and so must have been infilled by then. A few other ditches were found, mostly of post-medieval date.

Burwell to Eriswell Proposed Overhead Line
TL 6150 7160 to TL 6530 7280

J. Murray

Plans for an overhead power line running through Burwell, Fordham and Isleham parishes gave rise to a desk top study and evaluation. Pole locations were checked and areas of significant archaeology identified. The latter are the villa at Block Farm and the flood plain of the River Snail. Further work will be needed at some of the pole locations.

The following work was undertaken by **John Samuels Archaeological Consultants**.

Ely, Central Area Development TL 543 804

J. Samuels

Plans for development of the commercial centre of Ely gave rise to an archaeological evaluation using trial trenching. The main archaeological

deposits identified comprised medieval backyards with rubbish pits and some postholes but no floors. A few boundary ditches were found as were ovens. The latter may be domestic or small light industrial in purpose.

The following site has been excavated by the **Peterborough Archaeology Group**.

Wittering, Church Farm TF 0629 0151

I. Meadows

A Roman tile kiln cut into the underlying limestone was found to be placed within a massive six post structure, possibly an aisled barn.

The following work was undertaken by **Northamptonshire Archaeology**.

Eastrea, Coates Road TL 295 973

I. Meadows

A watching brief examined foundation trenches and recorded modern deposits.

Air Photo Services undertook the following work.

Peterborough, Orton Malborne, Clayton School TL 1660 9580 (Report no. R95)

R. Palmer

Assessment of the aerial photographic evidence for the site identified medieval field systems (ridge-and-furrow). No earlier remains were noted except possibly discrete enclosures and a drove way at TL 1585 9528.

Tempus Reparatum undertook the following work.

Cambridge, Kings Hedges School TL 614 455 (Report no. NA)

I. Lisboa

Re-investigation of the Roman villa revealed possible Iron Age postholes, pits and ditches preceding the building, two phases of construction of the stone building, demolition layers

and later medieval disturbance. There were also a number of features that could be either late Roman or Saxon occupation and pits. The villa activity was dated to between the late second and third centuries. Very little material came from sealed contexts.

The following site was investigated by **Anthony Baggs**:

Chippenham, St Margaret's Church, Romanesque Sculptured Head

Anthony Baggs

St Margaret's, Chippenham was badly damaged by fire in 1447 and its effects are clearly visible on the chunch voussoirs of the nave arcades which are cracked and spalled. During the winter of 1993–4 the external rendering of the mid fifteenth-century tower was removed and it was evident that the lower stages had been built out of reused material much of which shows signs of burning. Amongst the architectural fragments there are bits of fourteenth-century window tracery, twelfth-century shafts, a twelfth-century window head similar to those



Figure 1. Romanesque sculptured man's head at St Margaret's Church, Chippenham.

which survive in the north wall of the chancel, and part of a sculptured head of a man (Fig. 1).

The man's head lies on its side about 14 feet above the ground on the south face of the tower. Initially only part of the nose was visible but removal of the surrounding mortar revealed the forehead, eyes, cheeks and mouth. The right-hand side has been broken away and the back of the block is not visible so that it is not possible to determine its overall shape. It is carved on two principal planes and is probably a voussoir or a corbel. The length is about 7½ inches and the maximum width just over 6 inches.

The forehead is high and has a lens-shaped vertical feature which is defined by deep furrows. At its centre it is on a plane with the nose which is narrow at the top and widens out into a twin-lobed 'dog bone' termination. The only complete eye, on the left, bulges and has a rough central depression. The cheek below it also bulges but less markedly. The upper lip rises at the centre like a moustache and there is a narrow groove for the mouth. A narrow strip represents the lower lip and chin below which the stone is cut back sharply. The

bulging eyes, furrowed forehead and twin-lobed nose are strongly stylised and they do not appear to have any close affinities with other Romanesque sculpture in Cambridgeshire, but are very similar to the voussoirs on the west doorway of Lincoln cathedral which has been dated to c. 1145.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Faith Johnson, who has compiled the Courtauld Institute inventory of Romanesque sculpture in Cambridgeshire, for her comments on the first draft of this report.

References

- Illustrations of the Lincoln voussoirs are in:
- ZARNECKI, G. 1953. *Later English Romanesque Sculpture 1140-1210*. London, pls. 54 & 55.
- ZARNECKI, G. & P. KIDSON. 1976. *Lincoln Romanesque West Front*. (Courtauld Institute Illustration Archives, Part 1.) Pls. 63, 65, 84 & 86.

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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 and R.A. Butlin (eds), *Change in the Countryside: Essays on Rural England, 1500-1900* (London 1979) pp.103-21.

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The *Proceedings* are produced for the society by Dora A. Kemp. Printed and bound in Great Britain by Warwick Printing Company Ltd., Theatre Street, Warwick CV34 4DR.

Proceedings Volume LXXXIV, 1995

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

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