



**CAM ARC Report Number 1035**

**Corner Farm, Flaggrass  
Hill Rd, March, Cambs.**

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**Archaeological Evaluation**

Jonathan House

June 2008

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Site Code: MAR FHR 08  
CHER Event Number: ECB 2933  
Date of works: 13th May 2008  
Grid Ref: **TL 4286 9827**

Status	Approved		
Author	Jonathan House		
Checked By	Richard Mortimer		
Authorised By	Richard Mortimer		

Editor: Richard Mortimer MIFA  
Illustrator: Caoimhín Ó Coileáin BA

## CAM ARC OASIS Report Form

OASIS Number: cambridg1-43426

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>			
Project name	Corner Farm, Flaggrass Hill Rd.		
Short description	The evaluation comprised of two trenches, one trench was positioned to establish the presence/absence of the Fen Causeway Roman road, however the road was not observed. A second trench, to the south, had been heavily disturbed by modern intrusions. No archaeological features or archaeological deposits of any significance were uncovered.		
Project dates	Start	13/05/08	End 13/05/08
Previous work			No
Associated project reference codes	MAR FHR 08 F/YR07/1075/F		
Type of project	Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Current land use (list all that apply)	Waste land		
Planned development	Housing		
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	None		
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	March
HER for region	Cambridgeshire		
Site address (including postcode)	Corner Farm, Flaggrass Hill Rd., March, Cambs. PE15 8SD		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	1690sqm		
National grid reference	County (Grid Ref): TL 4286 9827		
Height OD	Min OD		Max OD
<b>PROJECT ORIGINATORS</b>			
Organisation	CAM ARC		
Project brief originator	Eliza Gore		
Project design originator	Richard Mortimer		
Director/supervisor	Jonathan House		
Project manager	Richard Mortimer		
Sponsor or funding body	A. Hills		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location and accession number</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)</b>	
Physical	MAR FHR 08	None	
Paper	MAR FHR 08	Drawings, Project Notes.	
Digital	MAR FHR 08	Photos, Survey, Plans.	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Full title			
Author(s)	J.P. House		
Report number	1035		
Series title and volume	Corner Farm, Flaggrass Hill Rd, March.		
Page numbers			
Date	2008		

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## **Summary**

The evaluation comprised of two trenches; one trench was positioned to establish the presence/absence of the Fen Causeway Roman road, however the road was not observed. A second trench, to the south, had been heavily disturbed by modern intrusions. No archaeological features or archaeological deposits of any significance were encountered.

## **1 Introduction**

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Gore of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application F/YR07/1075/F, supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

## **2 Geology and Topography**

The site lies on the edge of March Island where the sands and gravels give way to Tidal Flat Deposits and Fenland peats overlying Amphill Clay. The site is at a height of approximately 1.00m AOD.

The immediate area is very flat but there is a water course to the southeast and the ground here drops away very slightly.

## **3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

March sits on an island of high ground in the fens and has been extensively settled and exploited, particularly in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The Romano-British (or Romanised) 'Fen Causeway' (CHER 15033) crosses the northern tip of the Island half way along its route across the fens from Peterborough to Norfolk. The Fen Causeway route has been extensively settled and exploited, particularly in the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods and the area is rich in archaeological remains. Its precise route is relatively well known from cropmark evidence, passing through the northern end of the current development area. In the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site are the remains of a Romano-British settlement represented by enclosures, field systems and a water course (CHER 09376, 08449, 09378, 08451). Deposits and features/finds of this date may potentially survive within the area, as could those of earlier, prehistoric periods.

The site has been occupied by farm buildings since before the first edition OS map of 1886.

## **4 Methodology**

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological deposits were recorded using CAM ARC's *pro-forma* sheets. No archaeological features were observed. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Two trial trenches were excavated, both running north to south. Trench 1, the northernmost trench, was 9m long and 1.5m wide. This was within the footprint of the proposed domestic building. The southernmost trench, Trench 2, was located in the footprint of the proposed garage, and was 1.5m wide by 5m in length.

The weather was warm and dry, the water table was not reached in either of the trenches.

## **5 Results**

### **5.1 Trench 1**

The trench contained a topsoil and an underlying subsoil but no archaeological features were recorded. The topsoil was 0.33m in depth, and the subsoil, a mid yellowish brown sandy silt, was 0.14m in depth. No significant finds were recovered. The trench was excavated down to the natural geology, a compact sandy clay.

### **5.2 Trench 2**

Trench 2 was located in heavily truncated ground, with the ground being made up of broken tarmac and demolition material, 0.75m in depth. There was no visible topsoil or subsoil within the trench and no archaeological features were observed. No significant finds were seen; all modern finds were discarded. The trench was excavated to the natural geology, which had been truncated by the modern activity.

## **6 Discussion**

No evidence for the Roman road was seen in either of the trenches, despite its putative course running through the site. Either the evidence for the road has been removed where the development is located or the development area misses the course of the road. The northern trench, which targeted the roman road, appeared to have little or no modern disturbance and it is perhaps most likely that the trench lay south of the road line rather than the remains of the road having been removed. The modern disturbance seen in Trench 2 can be attributed too a previous owner of the land, who used the area to dump demolition materials relating to his work. (Alan Hills pers. comm.)

## **7 Conclusions**

The lack of any visual sign of a road surface, or roadside ditch, within Trench 1 suggests that the road lies further to the north. The groundworks seen in Trench 2 were considered to be modern and of no archaeological significance.

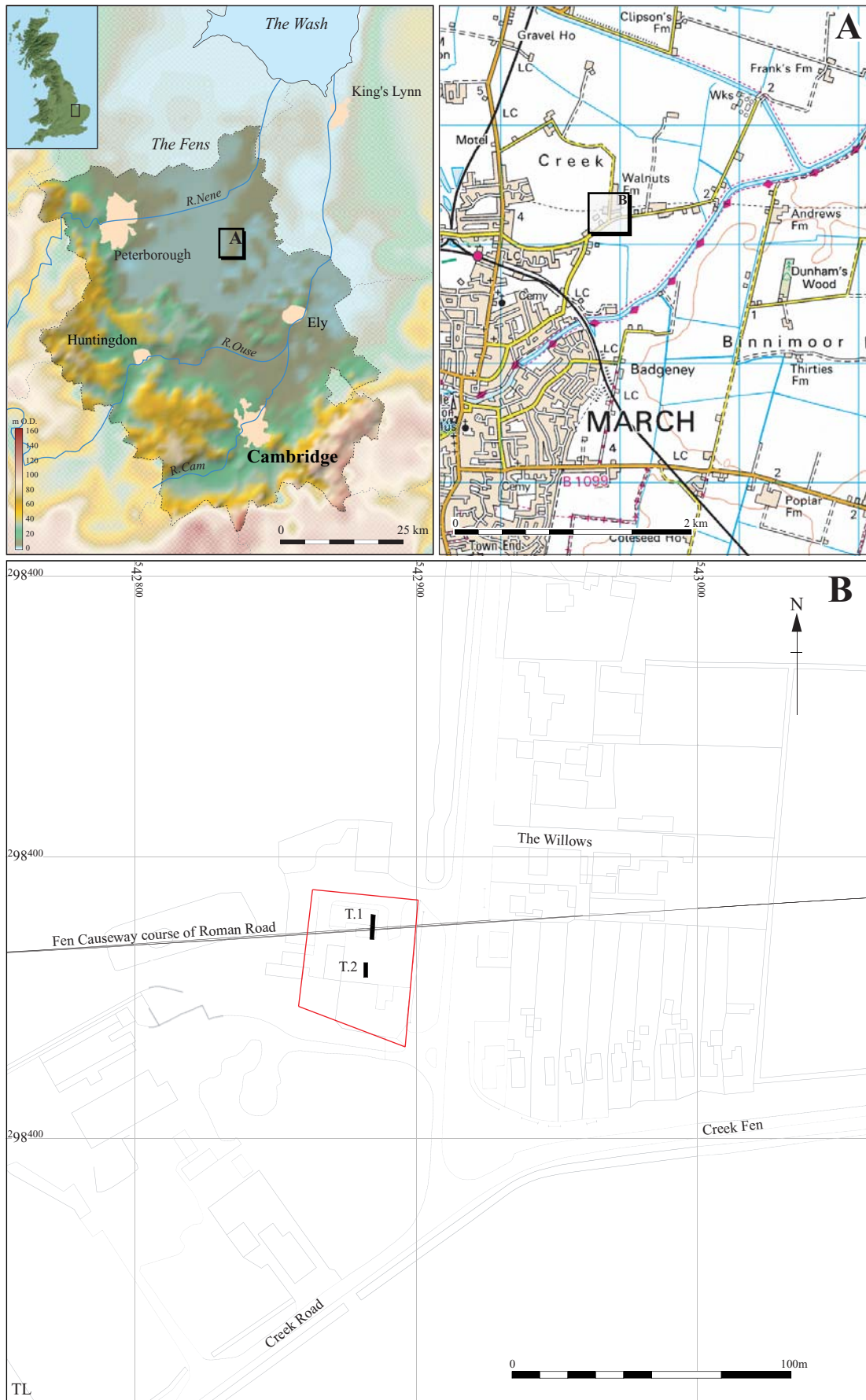
Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.



## **Acknowledgements**

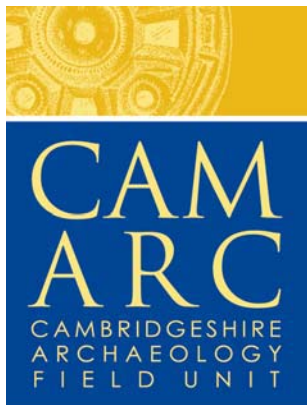
The author would like to thank K L Elener Architectural Design who commissioned the works and Alan Hills who funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and the illustrator was Caoimhín Ó Coileáin.

The brief for the archaeological works was written by Eliza Gore, who monitored the evaluation.



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Figure 1 Location of trenches with the development area outlined (red)



CAM ARC,  
Cambridgeshire County Council,  
15 Trafalgar Way,  
Bar Hill,  
Cambridgeshire,  
CB3 8SQ

General Enquiries: 01954-204191  
Fax: 01954-273376

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology>