

May 2006

**CCC AFU Report Number 871**

## **Monitoring at Manor Farm, Morborne, Cambridgeshire**

---

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Spencer Cooper HND BA**

Site Code MORMAF06  
CHER Event Number: ECB2215  
Date of works: 3rd April 2006  
Grid Ref: TL 1398 9161

Editor: Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu BA PHD  
MIFA  
Illustrator: Carlos Silva MAAIS

## CAM ARC OASIS Report Form

OASIS Number:

PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Monitoring and recording brief at manor farm Morborne			
Short description	On the 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2006 an archaeological recording and monitoring brief was undertaken at Manor Farm, Morborne, Cambridgeshire (TL 1398 9161). The proposed development consisted of ten foundation pits for a barn extension ,located close to the remains of Morborne deserted medieval village,			
Project dates	Start	3/4/06	End	3/4/06
Previous work			Future work	No
Associated project reference codes				
Type of project	Watching Brief			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Agricultural,			
Planned development	Barn			
Monument types / period (list all that apply and use <a href="#">thesaurus of monument types</a> )	HER 004,00630. Ridge and Furrow earthworks. DMV earthworks HER 414067			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply and use <a href="#">MDA object thesaurus</a> )				
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Morborne	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Manor Farm, Morborne, Cambridgeshire			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	1ha			
National grid reference	Easting (6 figure)	1398	Northing (6 figure)	9161
Height OD	Max OD	27m	Min OD	28m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	Cambridgeshire County Council, CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec			
Project design originator	None			
Director/supervisor	Spencer Cooper			
Project manager	James Drummond- Murray			
Sponsor or funding body	Cambridgeshire County Council			
ARCHIVES	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	Cambridgeshire County Store			
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Store		Report	
Digital	CAM ARC		Report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
Full title	Monitoring at Manor Farm, Morborne, :An Archaeological Watching Brief			
Report number	871			
Series title and volume	Grey Literature			
Page numbers				
Author(s)	Cooper, S.			
Date	May 2006			

## **Summary**

On the 3rd April 2006 an archaeological recording and monitoring brief was undertaken at Manor Farm, Morborne, Cambridgeshire (TL1398 9161) by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCAFU). The proposed development consisted of ten foundation pits for a barn extension, located close to the remains of Morborne deserted medieval village.

The results from the test pits add very little to current understanding of these remains. No medieval artefacts or features were recognised in this watching brief.



## **Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Geology and Topography</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Archaeological and Historical Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>8</b>

## **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Site location	2
Figure 2. Plan and sections	5

Drawing Conventions

Sections	Plans
Limit of Excavation - - - - -	Limit of Excavation _____
Cut _____	Deposit - Conjectured - - - - -
Cut-Conjectured - - - - -	Natural Features .....
Soil Horizon .....	Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -
Soil Horizon - Conjectured .....	Sondages/Machine Strip - - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -	Illustrated Section <u>          S.14          </u>
Top of Natural _____	Cut Number <b>118</b>
Top Surface _____	
Break in Section - - - - -	
Cut Number  <b>118</b>	
Deposit Number     117	
Ordnance Datum  18.45m OD N	

## **1 Introduction**

On the 3rd April 2006 an archaeological recording and monitoring brief was undertaken at Manor Farm, Morborne, Cambridgeshire (TL1398 9161) by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCAFU). The proposed development includes ten foundation pits for a barn extension. From the outset it was hoped that this monitoring brief would make a useful contribution to the understanding of adjacent remains of the deserted medieval village. Indeed, the field in which the barn extension is proposed contains a number of eroded earthworks.

This archaeological monitoring brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CCC AFU.

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.

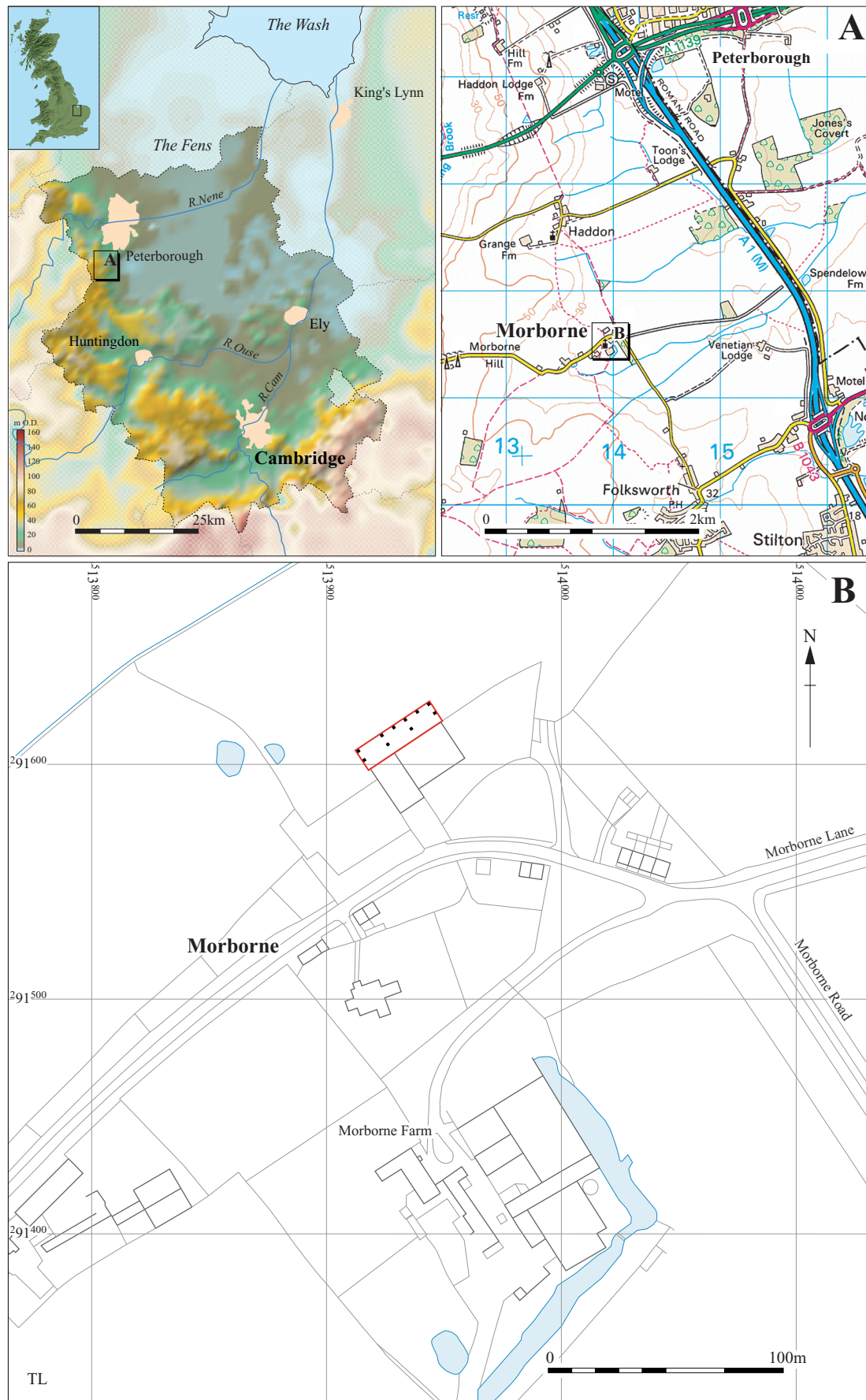
The site archive is currently held by CCC AFU and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

## **2 Geology and Topography**

The site is located on a ridge of Oxford Clay capped in places by drift deposit (BGS 1981) at 27m OD, 2 km west of the Great North Road.

## **3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

Morborne was originally settled in the Saxon period and is mentioned in the Domesday Book (Page and Proby, 1926). The site lies adjacent to the boundaries of SAM 247, relating to the deserted medieval village of Morborne. Extensive ridge and furrow earthworks relating to the village are visible in the area (eg HER 0004, 00630). Manor farmhouse (HER 01861) itself is a Grade II listed building and there is a moat associated with the farm (HER 01027).



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Cambridgeshire County Council 100023205 2006

Figure 1: Site location showing position of trenches (black) and development area (red)



To the west of the subject site a large area of surviving earthworks indicates evidence for a deserted medieval village (HER 414067). These earthworks are extremely well preserved and included pillow mounds, crofts, drove ways and rectangular boundary enclosures. The preservation of these remains is due to the lack of development in the area since its decline in the medieval period and the whole area of visible remains is protected as a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 247). These earthworks probably represent one of the best examples of a deserted medieval village in Cambridgeshire.

## **4 Methodology**

The objective of this recording and monitoring brief 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.

The Brief required monitoring of ten 1m square foundation pits for a new dutch barn extension.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CCC AFU's *pro-forma* sheets. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

## **5 Results**

### **Foundation pit 1**

Foundation pit 1 was 0.62m deep, 1m square and located in the eastern part of development area. The earliest deposit encountered was deposit 3, which was an orange brown natural clay. Deposit 2 was a dark greyish brown silty clay which was 0.40m deep and contained no artefacts. Deposit 1 was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained modern rubble.

**Foundation pit 2**

Foundation pit 2 was 0.52m deep, 1m square and located in the eastern part of the development area. The earliest deposit encountered was a dark greyish brown silty clay (4) which was 0.42m deep and contained post-medieval building material. Deposit 1 was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained modern rubble.

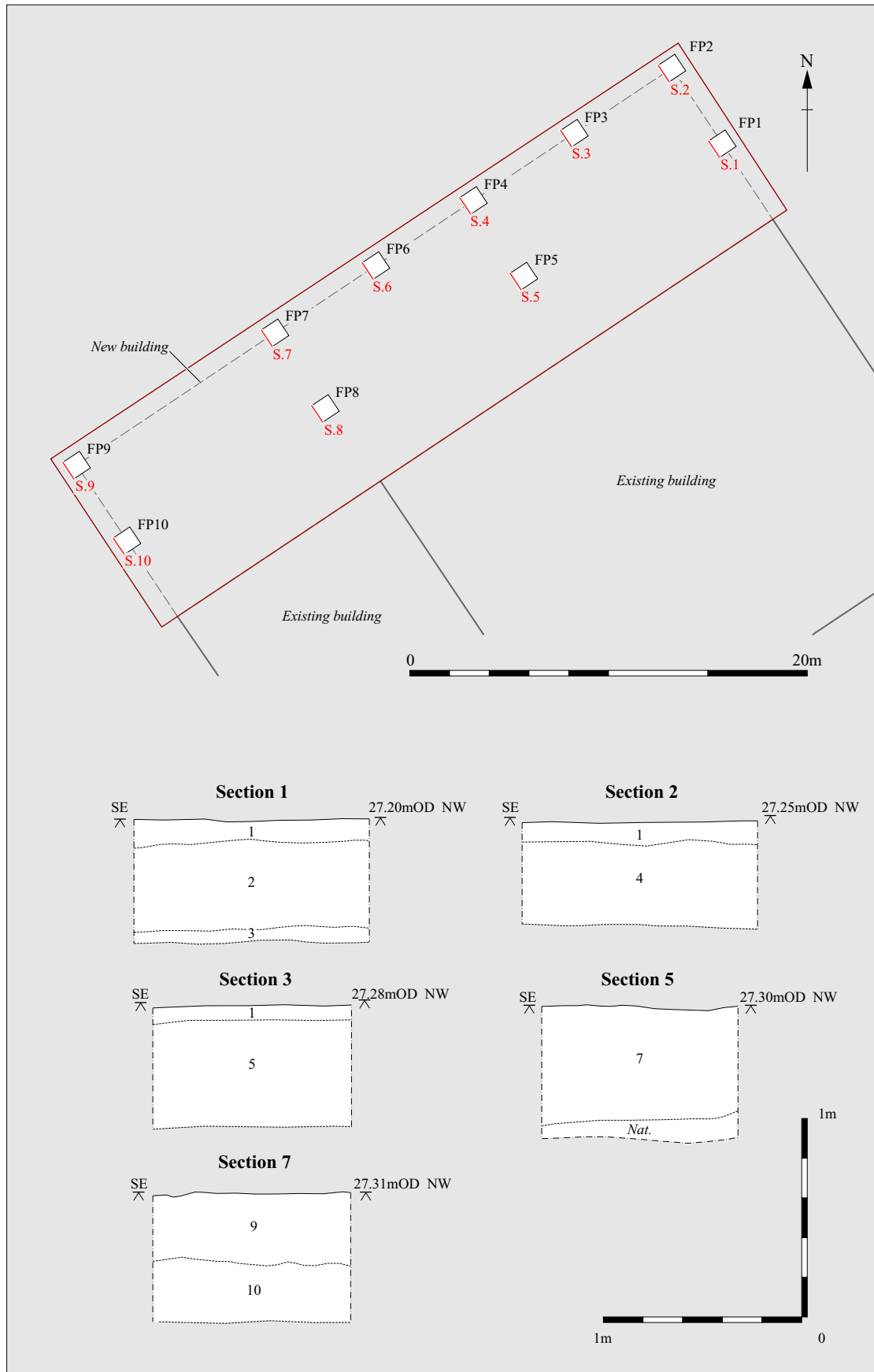


Figure 2: Plan and selected sections

**Foundation pit 3**

Foundation pit 3 was 0.60m deep, 1m square and located in the eastern part of the development area. The earliest deposit encountered was a dark greyish brown silty (5) clay which was 0.50m deep. Deposit 1 was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained modern rubble.

**Foundation pit 4**

Foundation pit 4 was 0.65m deep, 1m square and located in the eastern part of the development area. The earliest deposit encountered was a dark greyish brown silty clay (6) which was 0.55m deep. Deposit 1 was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained modern rubble.

**Foundation pit 5**

Foundation pit 5 was 0.60m deep, 1m square and located in the western part of the development area. A single deposit (7) was observed in this foundation pit which consisted of a silty clay which was 0.50m deep.

**Foundation pit 6**

Foundation pit 6 was 0.64m deep, 1m square and located in the western part of the development area. A single deposit (8) was observed in this pit which consisted of a brownish grey silty clay which was 0.50m deep.

**Foundation pit 7**

Foundation pit 7 was 60m deep, 1m square and located in the western part of the development area. The earliest deposit observed in this pit was deposit 10 which was a dark greyish brown silty clay 0.30m deep. Deposit 9 was a dark brown silty clay which was 0.30m deep.

**Foundation pit 8**

Foundation pit 8 was 0.70m deep, 1m square and located in the western part of the development area. The earliest deposit observed was context 11 which was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.50m deep. Deposit 1 was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained modern rubble.

**Foundation pit 9**

Foundation pit 9 was 0.70m deep, 1m square and located in the western part of the development area. The earliest deposit

encountered in this foundation pit was deposit 12 which was a dark grey silty clay 0.60m deep. Deposit 1 was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained modern rubble.

### **Foundation pit 10**

Foundation pit 10 was 0.58 m deep, 1m square and located in the western part of the development area. The earliest deposit encountered in this pit was deposit 13, which consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay which 0.48m deep. Deposit 1 was a dark grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep and contained modern rubble.

## **6 Discussion**

The aim of the project was to establish the character, date, and state of the preservation of archaeological remains within the development area. The limited nature of the investigations makes any tangible interpretation extremely difficult.

The main observation from the ten test pits is that the deposit sequence is very similar in many of the test pits. There is a common sequence in test pits 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 consisting of topsoil (1) sealing a subsoil. The only dating evidence from these pits was the modern building material observed in the topsoil. Deposits 2,4,6,11,13 and 14 may represent a subsoil or some form of occupation layer.

In foundation pits 5 and 6 the overburden consisted of one deposit (8 and 7). These deposits may represent post-medieval occupation material. Understanding of these deposits is limited by the small-scale nature of the investigation.

## **7 Conclusions**

The development area is located on the edge of an area of earthworks relating to a deserted medieval village. The earthworks present in the village of Morborne represent some of the best-preserved examples in Cambridgeshire. Therefore this project was important in respect that it represents one of the first professional archaeological investigations within the village of Morborne. Unfortunately the results from the test pits add very little to current understanding of these remains. No medieval artefacts or features were recognised in this watching brief.

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

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr N. Rome who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec.

## Bibliography

British Geological Survey	1981	Sheet 188	
Page,W and Proby,G	Eds 1926	The Victoria County Huntingdonshire. Volume1	History of

Cambridgeshire County Council's **Archaeological Field Unit** undertakes a wide range of work throughout the county and across the eastern region.

Our key purpose is to increase understanding of the rich heritage of the region.

We are keenly competitive, working to the highest professional standards in a broad range of service areas. We work in partnership with contractors and local communities.

We undertake or provide:

- ☐ surveys, assessments, evaluations and excavations
- ☐ popular and academic publications
- ☐ illustration and design services
- ☐ heritage and conservation management
- ☐ education and outreach services
- ☐ volunteer, training and work experience opportunities
- ☐ partnership projects with community groups and ☐ research bodies

**contact**  
•cambridgeshirearchaeology  
•archaeological field unit

Fulbourn Community Centre Site  
Haggis Gap  
Fulbourn  
Cambridge  
CB1 5HD

Tel : 01223 576201  
Fax: 01223 880946  
email: [arch.field.unit@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:arch.field.unit@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
web: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology)



Printed on recycled paper