

The Grafham Resilience Scheme, South of Perry, Cambridgeshire

Phase 1 Archaeological Fieldwalking Results



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**THE GRAFHAM RESILIENCE SCHEME, SOUTH OF
PERRY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Phase 1 Archaeological Fieldwalking Results

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Event No. ECB 3766

Report No. 1090

May 2012

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Summary

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) to the south of Perry, Cambridgeshire along the proposed route of a pipeline forming part of the Grafham Resilience Scheme. The fieldwalking survey produced very few finds and no notable concentrations of artefacts. Artefacts recovered were limited to six prehistoric struck flints, six sherds of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of post-medieval tile. The quantities of artefacts present are consistent with 'background levels' likely to be present across the landscape and are not considered to reflect the presence of contemporary occupation remains within the proposed development route.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) to the south of Perry, Cambridgeshire along the proposed route of a pipeline forming part of the Grafham Resilience Scheme. The proposed pipeline route runs from the southern edge of Perry in a U-shape, skirting the southern boundaries of Gayle Hall and Littlehey, before terminating at Grafham Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW). At the time of the survey (April 2012) only one field (centred on TL 148 655) along the proposed route was found to be suitable for fieldwalking. Within this field, an area of 4.1 ha - a corridor 50m wide and c.900m in length - centred on the proposed route, was subject to fieldwalking.

The fieldwork was undertaken as part of an archaeological evaluation designed to assess the potential impact of the proposed scheme on archaeological remains. The work was carried out on behalf of Mott MacDonald Ltd. for Anglian Water Services. Work was undertaken in accordance with a specification produced the CAU (Gibson 2012) in response to a brief issued by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (Thomas 2012).

Geology and Topography

The section of the proposed pipeline route subject to fieldwalking is situated at a height of between *c.* 30m and 50m AOD. It is located to the south of Grafham Water in a gently undulating landscape. The underlying geology comprises glacial till overlying Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS GeoIndex accessed April 2012).

Archaeological Background

Evidence for prehistoric activity along the proposed pipeline route is sparse. A single findspot of worked flint is recorded from Grafham WTW and traces of Iron Age occupation have been recorded during limited archaeological investigation at Littlehey Prison and Highfield Farm. Roman activity was also recorded at these two sites and at Highfield Farm archaeological remains included a kiln and cremation cemetery. Roman and Saxon metalwork has also been recovered from Highfield Farm as well as from metal detecting surveys at West Perry, to west of the proposed pipeline route.

The proposed pipeline route straddles two medieval parishes, Dillington and Great Staughton. The site of a medieval hamlet is recorded at Great Staughton and there is extensive evidence of medieval agriculture in the surrounding landscape in the form of cropmarks of ridge and furrow. Gaynes Hall (see below) is located within 75m of the proposed pipeline route and is situated within the upstanding earthworks of a medieval moated site.

Much of the proposed pipeline route – and all of the fieldwalked area - lies within the former parkland of Gaynes Hall. The park was first recorded in 1599 but may have earlier medieval origins. Gaynes Hall itself dates to the early 19th century and is Grade II* listed. The hall and park were requisitioned for government use during the Second

World War and, post-war, were used as a borstal until 1988 when Littlehey Prison was built.

Field survey methodology

Within the area suitable for fieldwalking, the survey area was defined by a 50m wide corridor centred on the proposed pipeline route (see Fig. 2). Within this area, fieldwalking was undertaken along transects spaced at 10m intervals with artefacts collected according to 10m 'collection units'. All artefacts, with the exception of modern brick/tile and concrete, were collected.

RESULTS

Weather conditions were varied throughout the fieldwalking survey with sunny periods of good visibility interspersed with outbreaks of rain. Ground surface visibility over the majority of the field was good (see Fig. 3). The exception to this was an area to the north of the pond, which was left fallow (see Fig. 2); visibility in this area was very poor. The field sloped from north to south, with the gradient increasing slightly to the south.

A total of 13 artefacts were collected from the fieldwalking. The finds assemblage comprises six worked flints (see Billington, below), six sherds of post-medieval pottery (see Hall and Newman, below) and a single fragment of post-medieval tile. The artefact distribution plot is shown in Figure 3. Artefacts were collected from across the proposed pipeline route, albeit in extremely low densities, and no concentrations of artefacts were recorded.

DISCUSSION

The fieldwalking survey along the proposed pipeline route produced very few finds and no notable concentrations of artefacts. The quantity of flint recovered can be considered consistent with 'background levels' present across the landscape. As such the small quantity present is unlikely to represent occupation of the site although it may be related to nearby archaeological sites such as the Iron Age remains recorded at Littlehey prison to the north-east. The small amount of post-medieval pottery present at the site is to be expected and almost certainly arrived at the site through manuring of the fields.

Acknowledgements

The work was commissioned by Maurice Hopper of Mott MacDonald Ltd. for Anglian Water Services. Fieldwalking was carried out by the Jonathan Tabor and Lawrence Billington. Bryan Crossan was responsible for field survey and graphics. The project was managed by David Gibson.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

The struck flint – *Lawrence Billington*

A total of six worked flints were recovered from the excavations. The only technologically diagnostic piece is a secondary flake from transect O470; heavily patinated with opposed blade like dorsal scars this is a product of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic technologies. The remainder of the assemblage consists of poorly diagnostic generalised flake based waste. A crudely flaked thermal flake with multiple incipient cones of percussion probably reflects later prehistoric (Bronze Age/Iron Age) flint working, and it is likely that most of the assemblage relates to activity during this time.

Transect	Type	Date
J 170	tertiary flake	prehistoric
J 220	worked thermal flake	prehistoric
L 120	flake core	prehistoric
O 470	secondary flake	Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic
P 420	tertiary flake	prehistoric
P 420	secondary flake	prehistoric

Table 1: Struck flint recovered from the fieldwalking

Post-medieval pottery and tile – *Andrew Hall and Richard Newman*

A total of six sherds of post-medieval pottery and a single fragment of post-medieval tile were recovered from the fieldwalking and are detailed in the Table 2.

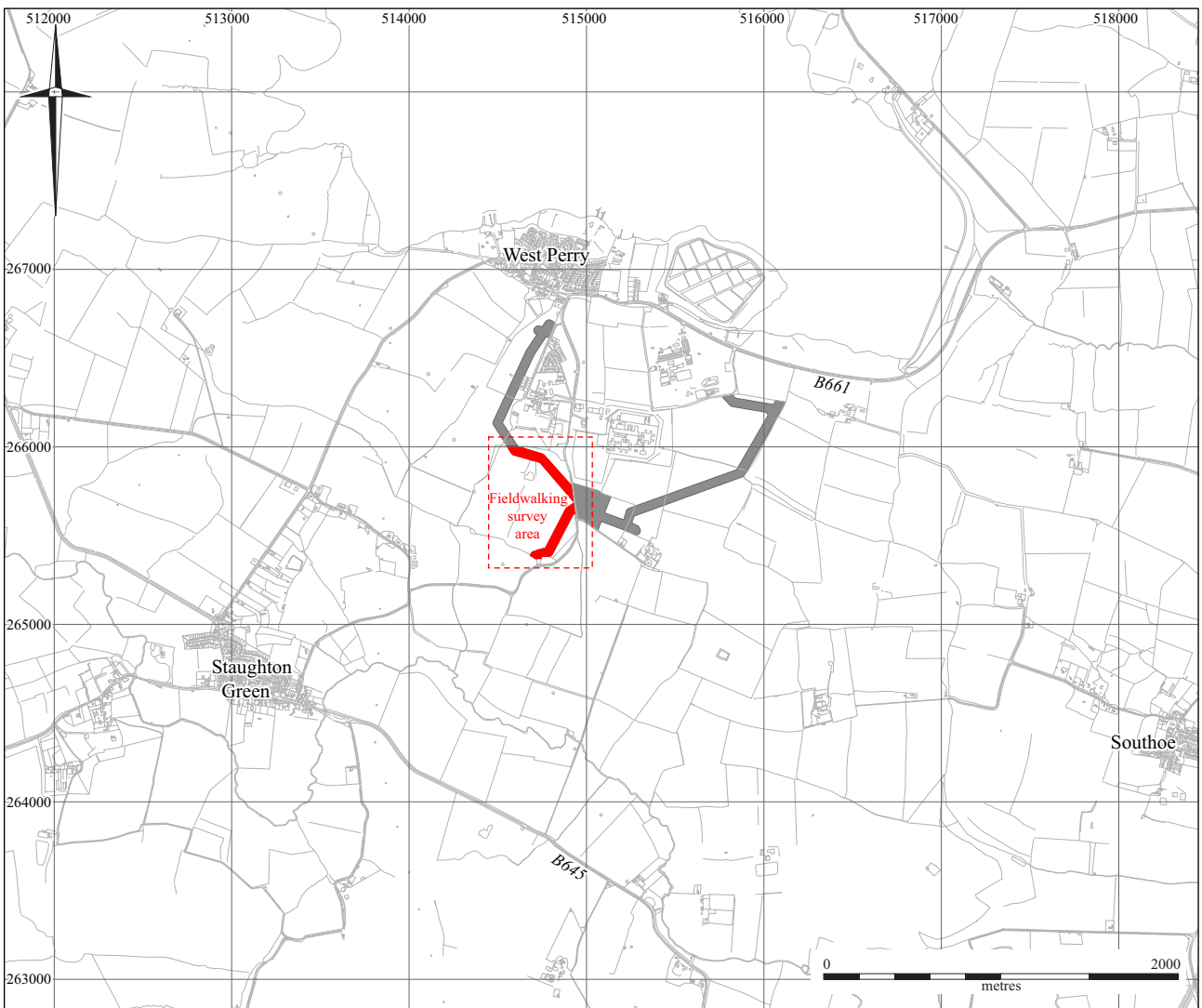
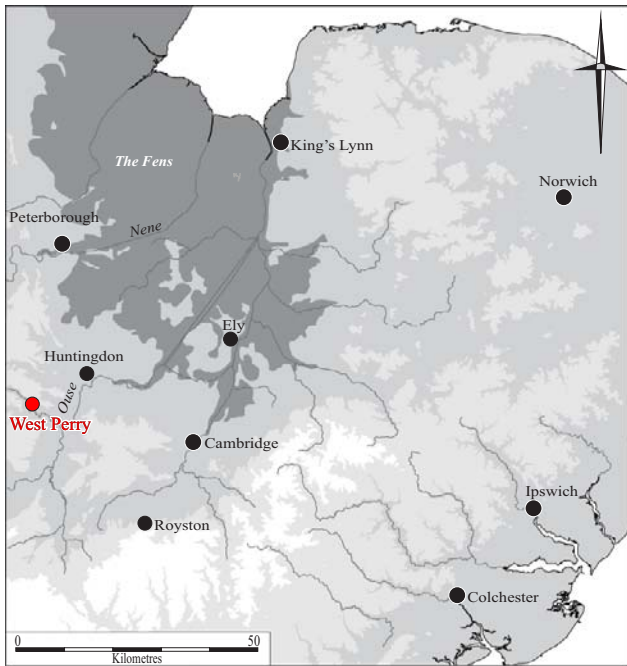
Transect	Fabric	Date
G 310	lead glazed earthenware	17th-18th c.
G 330	lead glazed earthenware	17th-18th c.
I 150	lead glazed earthenware	17th-18th c.
I 270	white glazed earthenware	19th c.
L 30	lead glazed earthenware	17th-18th c.
N 110	tile	post medieval
N 410	lead glazed earthenware	17th-18th c.

Table 2: Post-medieval pottery and tile recovered from the fieldwalking

REFERENCES

Gibson, D. 2012. *A Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Fieldwalking on the Grafham Resilience Scheme*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

Thomas, A. 2012. *A brief for archaeological evaluation on the Grafham Resilience Scheme*. Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire CC.



Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map

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Figure 1. Location plan.

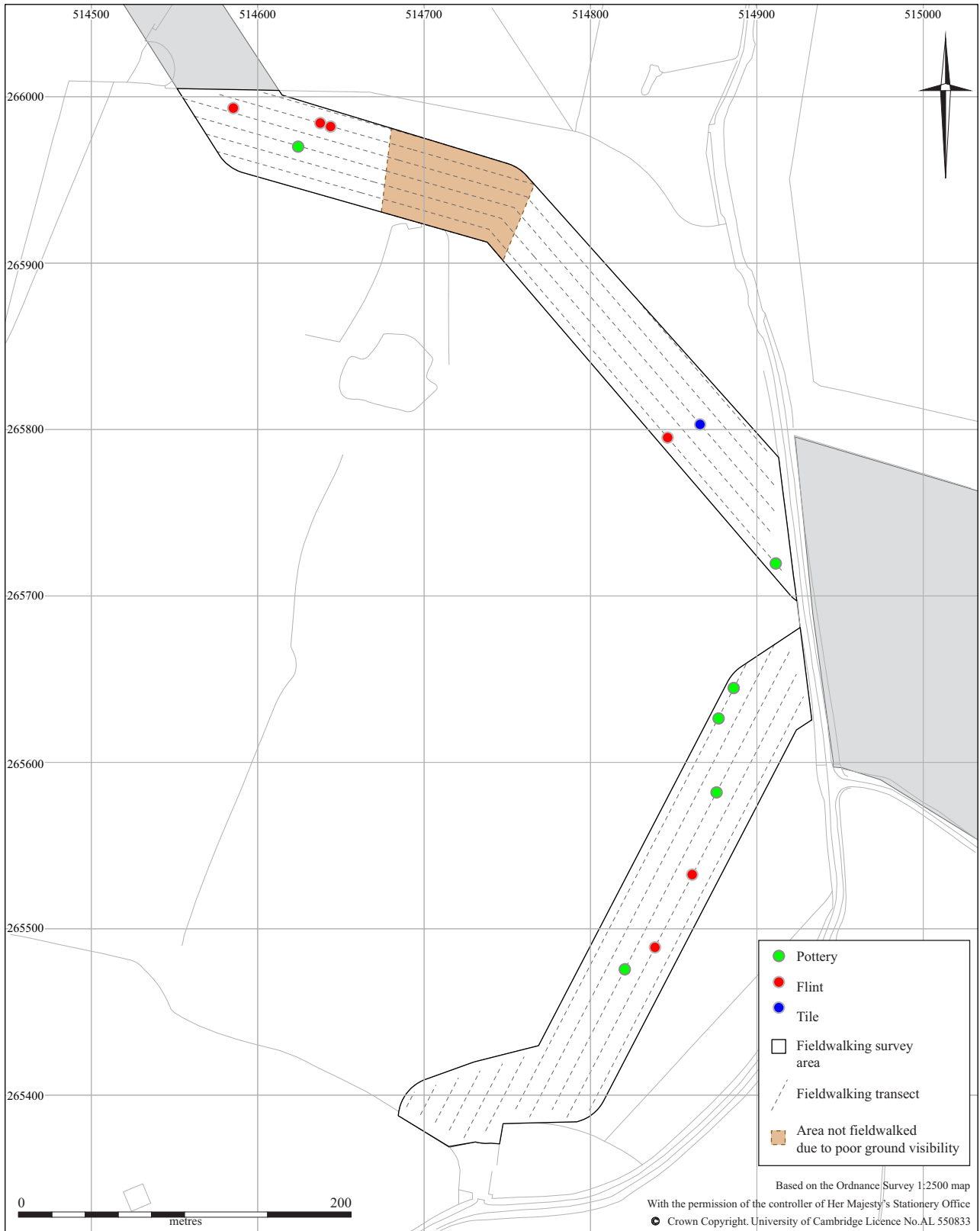


Figure 2. Fieldwalking results.



Figure 3. The southern section of the field walked area looking south (top).
The northern section of the field walked area looking north-west (bottom).

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-126968

Project details

Project name	Grafham Resilience Scheme, South of Perry, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological fieldwalking survey was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) to the south of Perry, Cambridgeshire along the proposed route of a pipeline forming part of the Grafham Resilience Scheme. The fieldwalking survey produced very few finds and no notable concentrations of artefacts. Artefacts recovered were limited to six prehistoric struck flints, six sherds of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of post-medieval tile. The quantities of artefacts present are consistent with 'background levels' likely to be present across the landscape and are not considered to reflect the presence of contemporary occupation remains within the proposed development route.
Project dates	Start: 18-04-1012 End: 19-04-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GRS12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3766 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Fieldwalking','Geophysical Survey'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE PERRY Grafham Resilience Scheme, south of Perry

Postcode PE19 5DJ

Study area 4.10 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 148 655 52.2752448970 -0.317200651922 52 16 30 N 000 19 01 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 30.00m Max: 50.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator David Gibson

Project director/manager David Gibson

Project supervisor Jonathan Tabor

Type of sponsor/funding body Water Authority/Company

Name of sponsor/funding body Anglian Water Services

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Physical Archive ID GRS12

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Digital Archive ID GRS12

Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Media available 'Spreadsheets','Text'

Paper Archive ID GRS12

Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'

Paper Media available 'Photograph','Report','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Grafham Resilience Scheme, South of Perry, Cambridgeshire. Phase 1 Archaeological Fieldwalking Results

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Billington, L. and Tabor, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 1090
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	10 pages, 2 colour plates. A4, wire bound, plastic laminate cover.

Entered by	Jonathan Tabor (jlt42@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	22 May 2012

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