

71 New Road, Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation



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With a contribution from Richard Newman.

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A single evaluation trench within the residency of 71 New Road, Haslingfield, partially revealed two large sub-circular features. These are both associated with 10th to 13th century AD pottery and butchered animal bone with burnt clay daub, and appear to be an extraction pit later used for refuse storage, and a deep saturated pit or well. A single abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery further testifies to earlier occupation within the area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Mr. Tim Waldock. The assistance of the Waldock family during the project is gratefully acknowledged. Dan McConnell of the Historic Environment Team at the Cambridgeshire County Council oversaw and monitored the development control of the investigation. Alison Dickens (Cambridge Archaeological Unit) was the Project Manager, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author. Graphics were produced by Jane Matthews.

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at 71 New Road, Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire, on 8th January, 2013, to address a condition placed upon planning consent for the erection of a dwelling and ancillary works.

1.1 Location, Topography, Geology

Lying approximately 7.5km southwest of Cambridge (Figure 1), the village of Haslingfield forms a rough east-west oblong, and is bounded to the north and east by Bourn Brook and the River Cam, and is overlooked from the south by the elevated chalk of 'White Hill'. The land within the Proposed Development Area (PDA) is currently an open grassed lawn in the rear garden of the No.71 New Road residency (TL 4055 5230) which lies at approximately 18m OD.

The geology across Haslingfield village is a Gault Formation mudstone which in the PDA is overlain by West Melbury Marl Chalk that is comprised of a mix of marl, chalk and sand (British Geological Survey 2002).

1.2 Archaeological Background

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken directly within the grounds of the PDA, although a number of trench and open area investigations have been carried out within the vicinity at Haslingfield Hall and along New Road, and to the north at Cantelupe farm. Detailed outlines of the archaeology within the environs of the PDA have been compiled in Cooper (2003) and Atkins (2011). In the following a brief outline of the broader context of the local archaeology is presented with more focused background pertaining to archaeology most relevant to the results from the current programme of works.

1.2.1 Prehistoric

Prehistoric material of later Mesolithic to Bronze Age date has been documented from a 1km radius of the PDA as individual artefact finds, largely without context, and a number of which are reported to have been made during nineteenth century coprolite quarrying. These illustrate sporadic and small-scale transient activity, although evidence for funerary monuments on Money Hill (CHER 04718) overlooking the village from the south perhaps indicates that this activity was not altogether insignificant.

Iron Age activity is somewhat more abundant with a moderate assemblage of pottery having been recovered during evaluation of 30 New Road to the east (Barlow and Thompson 2010), and a Late Iron Age enclosure and possible dwelling identified during follow-up open investigations (Atkins 2011). Evidence for funerary activity has also been noted from Haslingfield, although not clearly located (Clark 1895). The broader region is abundant with Iron Age settlement activity, particularly to the north along the hinterland of Cambridge around Cantelupe Farm (Newman 2009; Pullinger

et al. 1982: 25-40) and Trumpington Meadows (Patton 2012). It therefore appears that the south Cambridgeshire landscape comprises a network of small Iron Age farmsteads (Evans *et al.* 2008) with which the community at Haslingfield may have been connected.

1.2.2 Romano-British

Romano-British pottery has been observed from within the subsoil during archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of No.65 New Road (Roberts 2000), almost directly to the rear of the PDA in the southeast, and from Haslingfield Manor to the southwest (Timberlake, in Hutton 2011). In both instances this has been considered as suggestive of nearby habitation, although considerable truncation had obscured the overall picture. During the excavations at Trinity Hall Farm to the northeast a total of 81 sherds of Early Roman pottery dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD were recovered from ditches (Adkins 2011), providing the most securely contextualised evidence for Romano-British inhabitation within the environs of the PDA. The presence also of three Late Romano-British sherds from the 3rd to 4th centuries AD may be indicative of continuous settlement. This is further supported by finds of Constantine coin in or around All Saints churchyard and Money Hill, both to the south of the PDA (CHER 4347; CHER 4348; CHER 4718), thereby inferring that an unbroken line of activity from the later Iron Age through to the terminal Romano-British era may have occurred within the environs of the current PDA. Romano-British settlement has again been located at Trumpington Meadows (Patton 2012), Cantelupe Farm (Newman 2009) to the north of Haslingfield village, and towards the south at Barrington (Dickens *et al.* 2006), in each case representing small to moderate sized farmstead communities on the Cambridge hinterland. Roman burials have also been identified within the vicinity of Cantelupe Farm (Liversidge 1977), and individual finds of pottery have been noted throughout Haslingfield environs (Fox 1923: 209-11). As with the Iron Age community at Haslingfield, the status of these communities is unlikely to have been greater than any other hinterland farmstead of moderate size, although a possible household of higher status may lie less than a kilometre to the north (CHER 8961).

1.2.3 Medieval / Post-Medieval

Important Early Medieval finds have been documented from the parish of Haslingfield, most notably from the spoils of nineteenth century coprolite quarrying in the vicinity of Cantelupe Farm. Here an inhumation cemetery of the 5th – 6th centuries AD, along with Roman cremation burials, was uncovered between c.1865-1876 (Fox 1923: 255-7; Lethbridge 1967; Meaney 1964: 66-7). Many of the burials were richly decorated with rare and valued objects, and other artefacts have been recorded as having been found elsewhere across the village, perhaps having also originated from cemetery or other funerary contexts. A form of socio-economic continuity between Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon communities has been postulated (Oosthuizen 1996: 13-14), and remains to be substantiated. Furthermore, whilst references to a ‘great Green’ have been noted from the 14th century AD, it is possible that the layout of the large green within Haslingfield upon which the current PDA currently lies also originated during the early to mid Anglo Saxon period (Atkins 2011: 11). The use of this space is debateable, but meadowland has been suggested (Oosthuizen 1996).

Late Saxon pottery is sparse from within the Haslingfield village, with only a single sherd having been recorded during excavation of a drain slot about 500m to the southeast of the PDA (CHER 5008). Medieval activity is much more clearly represented, with pottery having been collected from the subsoil of No.65 New Road (Roberts 2000) at the southeast rear of the PDA. This includes a St. Neots sherd and Ely Ware. Broadly contemporary with this, to the southwest of the PDA, a boundary ditch dated between the 10th and 11th centuries AD was found at Well House Meadow upon a course perpendicular to Broad Lane (Atkins 2005). Also to the southwest of the PDA, and within the boundary of the moated enclosure to the southwest a stratigraphic sequence producing substantial finds assemblage of the 12th – 14th century AD has been identified and possibly relates to a manor on the site predating the Tudor Hall (Mackay 2003). However, there is also a possibility that this relates to part of a more widespread settlement that stretches beyond the present limit of the moat (ibid: 19; Timberlake 2006). This has been confirmed by investigations into the Hall's moat which does not appear to predate the sixteenth century (Timberlake 2006), and the discovery of five 13th to 14th century AD pits outside the southwest corner of the moat (Atkins 2005). Whilst All Saints church was consecrated in 1352, the chancel walls are thought to date from the 12th century (RCHME 1968), and Clunch quarrying is thought to have been practiced in the down south of the village from the 13th century (Erlington 1973). Earthworks to the south of Back Lane may represent Medieval house platforms (CHER 11242), although only three sherds of pottery to the east of this area have been found in confirmation of this (CHER 05006).

Various site and plot ownerships can be traced from the 15th century onwards. Post-Medieval land use is directed by the establishment and changing ownership of Haslingfield Hall to the immediate southeast of the PDA. With the land acquired in 1541, the Hall was built around 1550 by Dr. Thomas Wendy (b.1499/1500 d.1560), Court Physician to Henry VIII and lord of the manor at that time (Erlington 1973). A chimney-piece in Bourn Hall, removed from its original position at Haslingfield Hall, is inscribed with the date 1555. The Hall was set within a rectilinear enclosure moated on three sides with a southern bridged access, together serving as an enhancement of the setting and status of the house which stood at its centre. A seventeenth century brick wall completes the enclosure to the north. The moat is supported by an inner wall (Hutton 2011), and is supplied by a spring to the northeast and regulated by a small dam. Monitoring during cleaning of the moat has noted evidence that indicates the incorporation by the moat of an earlier pond or springhead along its western arm, which may account for the asymmetrical form of the moat (Timberlake 2006; Hutton 2011). The Hall originally consisted of a central hall flanked by two projecting turrets, with additional east and west wings thought to project to the rear of the house. The Hall underwent substantial remodelling, particularly during the seventeenth century when the Hall was in the ownership of Sir Thomas Wendy (b.1614 d.1673), but fell into disrepair after the death of his widow, Lettice, in 1696, and was classed as ruinous in 1726. Nevertheless, illustrations by Relhan from around 1814 show a formal garden layout within the interior of the Hall's 'island' arranged in a grid pattern of walkways, rectangular plaits and orchards (Figure 3). This shows the area of the PDA as open land at this time. Between 1814 and 1819 the property was mostly demolished by George Sackville-West, 5th Earl de la Warr, from which materials were used in the construction of (amongst other buildings) Cantelupe Farm to the north of the village. Only one end of the eastern wing of the Tudor house remains today. The seventeenth century circular brick pigeon house remains in its original position and

the moat survives at 120m by 75m to the south to a depth of 2m and a maximum width of 10m. The site was sold in 1900 to John Chivers with parts of the estate either being sold off or used as orchards for his jam business. The remaining earthworks are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27107); the bridge and northern enclosure wall are Listed Grade II*.

The earliest cartographic evidence of the PDA is available from the 1810 Enclosure map (Figure 3). This shows the PDA as lying within open land. The village grew during the nineteenth century from 65 dwellings in 1801 to 135 in 1841, slowing in its spread up to the first quarter of the twentieth century. Coprolite quarrying was carried out extensively in the 19th century, but was abandoned by 1900 (Fisher 1871; O'Connor 1999), and is unlikely to have impacted directly within the grounds of the PDA. By 1842 the plot housing the PDA was further enclosed to the east, but seemingly still lying within a comparatively open space (Figure 4). This continues to be the case in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century (Figure 4), and it is not until the 1960s that a sharp rise in the number of dwellings may be identified (Figure 5), reaching 289 in 1961 with street lighting installed along the main streets by 1969.

1.3 Methodology

The work followed specifications previously outlined in a Design Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by the office of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (McConnell 2012).

The evaluation comprised of one T-shaped trench totalling 10m in length and 2m width (Figure 2). Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed under archaeological supervision of a small tracked 360° machine using a 1m wide toothless bucket. Work was undertaken in accordance to statutory Health and Safety guidelines detailed under the recommendations of SCAUM (Allen and Holt 2007). All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand and recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS recording system (Spence 1990). Trenches and features were digitally photographed and then planned at a scale of 1:50, with trench and feature sections planned at 1:10. All plans were correlated with fixed points on the OS grid using a Global Positioning System. Progress of the evaluation was monitored by the Historic Environment Assistant of the Cambridgeshire County Council.

1.4 Archive

Information detailing the character of the trench was recorded on a data sheet that, along with the digital photographic record, has been catalogued together within an archive following the procedures outlined in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006). These are being stored with the processed material finds record at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit offices. The site code was NRH13.

2. RESEARCH DESIGN

The principle objective of the evaluation process was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to establish their character (e.g. chronological range and quality of preservation) and the site's depositional history. Furthermore, the site's potential local, regional and national significance was assessed.

3. RESULTS

Turf and topsoil coverage was consistently uniform with a thickness of 19-22cm and underlying subsoil varying between 5-17cm. The topsoil was sticky dark grey-brown clayey silt, and the subsoil presented as a lighter mid brown clayey silt. Brick, metal and glass fragments relating to 20th century construction of the New Road residences were noted during machining. A lead water pipe within a small linear cut filled with mid bluish-grey silty clay was encountered along a north-south axis through the centre of the PDA and was avoided throughout the programme of investigations. This may once have been connected with a natural spring to the south.

Two archaeological features were identified (Figures 2 and 6; Table 1). These comprised of substantial sub-circular pits with multiple fills. In section it was possible to suggest that F.1 cut the outer edge of F.2, but this could not be verified in plan. A slot measuring 1.75m x 2.2m was opened across **F.1** at the north of the trench. It was clear that only a fraction of the feature was exposed. This was excavated to a safe depth of 1.2m, and there was no indication that this was close to its basal limit. The sides had clearly slumped inwards from the top of the feature which would otherwise have appeared as steep to vertical, and six separate fills dipped diagonally towards the centre at the north. These comprised variations of soft to moderately firm mixed chalky marl and grey silty clay, although the lowest fill (6) was considerably wet and void of marl content. This contained three fragments of cow bone (two mandible, one maxilla) and a sheep metacarpus, two of which show clear signs of clean chop and cut marks, as well as and two sherds of 10th to 13th century AD pottery. Furthermore, the water table was encountered at a depth of 1m. There is a strong possibility that this feature is a well that upon disuse has facilitated the deposition of domestic refuse.

A slot measuring 1m x 2m was opened into **F.2** in which four distinct deposits were recorded to a depth of 1.2m where the sides of the feature were shown as having a gradual slightly stepped and concave inclination but clearly continuing towards a greater depth to the south of the trench. Again, only a fraction of F.2 was exposed during the investigations. Four fills were recorded as gradual accumulation horizons (as opposed to tipping or slumping patterns) of firm clayey silt deposits with a washed marl capping. Towards the base fills (11) and (12) together produced six sherds of 10th to 13th century AD pottery and one lump of burnt clay daub; a single sherd of abraded Romano-British pottery was also recovered. The full character of F.2 is uncertain, but it may have initially served as a marl extraction pit that was later filled with domestic refuse.

3.1 Discussion

The results from 71 New Road are comparable with those presented from investigations within the grounds of 65 New Road to the east where both Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered, with, most notably, St. Neot's wares being found from within both properties. However, whereas the context of data within 65 New Road was severely disturbed, that within 71 New Road appears to be comparably well-preserved. With only a single sherd of abraded Romano-British pottery, and no features pertaining to that period, the archaeological component is firmly set within the Early Middle Ages, confirmed by pottery broadly spanning the 10th to the 13th centuries AD. This provides weight to the speculation for medieval settlement predating the manor, and spread beyond the limits of its moat. However, as to what the character of this settlement form may be has so far remained in doubt. Resulting from excavations within the grounds of the manor Mackay (2003) suggested that its precursor may have been of high status, based primarily on the depth and richness of the deposits. Perhaps by contrast Atkins (2005) proposed that five pits excavated to the southwest of the moat, each filled with domestic debris, may have been situated within a back plot, presumably of comparatively moderate status. However, each of these contexts related to the 12-14th centuries AD, and whilst potentially related to the deposits within the PDA, they may be set within the latter phases of its sequence. Instead, the findings from the PDA are more suitably aligned with the earliest phases of All Saints church and the boundary ditch observed at Well House Meadow, both spanning the 11th to 12th centuries AD, and located to the south and east of the PDA. Nonetheless, both the large pit (F.2) and a potential well (F.1) from these centuries would certainly not be out of place within an interpretation of a back plot to a rural or semi-rural dwelling. The question therefore, is with regards to the type of rural settlement with which such a plot is connected. Is this of moderate to high status and directly connected to the establishment of the church foundation? The distribution of this settlement may cover considerable ground, as perhaps indicated by a single abraded sherd of 11th-12th century pottery from within an excavated gully to the northeast at 26 New Road (Pozorski 2012). In what way therefore, does this settlement character and distribution compare with the growing evidence for the late Saxon community and village layout, and is this distinct to the subsequent development of the pre-manor Haslingfield community?

4. CONCLUSION

Evidence for medieval inhabitation of Haslingfield has emerged in recent investigations, but north of the manor's moated enclosure this has so far been exposed to post-depositional disturbance. However, within the PDA at 71 New Road the condition of the archaeological deposits appears to be good, and two substantial features dated to the 10th to 13th century AD have been identified. Both contain a range of domestic material culture, and one of these appears to contain potentially saturated deposits at a depth beyond the limitations of the current investigation. Moreover, the presence of additional features remains a possibility. In light of the results outlined above, and in consultation of the research framework for the east of England (Medlycott 2011), as well as research guidelines issued by the Medieval Settlement Research Group (MSRG 2007), there is limited but nonetheless clear

potential within the PDA for enhancing understanding of the medieval settlement of Haslingfield.

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6. APPENDICES

6.1 Specialist Reports

6.1.1 Pottery

by Richard Newman

A small ceramic assemblage, totalling nine sherds weighing 85g, was recovered. All of the material was derived from two discrete features, **F.1** and **F.2**. In the first instance, a single sherd of residual, abraded Roman greyware – weighing 14g – was present. More significantly, however, five sherds of St. Neots-type ware, weighing 33g, were also recovered, along with a single sherd of Thetford-type ware (weighing 17g). Both of these fabrics are 10th to 12th century in date, although no diagnostically early material – belonging to the first half of that period – was identified (see Denham 1985; Hurst 1956; Hurst 1957; Rogerson and Dallas 1984). Finally, two sherds of brown coarseware, weighing 21g, were recovered. This material most probably dates to the 12th or 13th century. Overall, therefore, this small group indicates that activity took place at the site during the early Middle Ages.

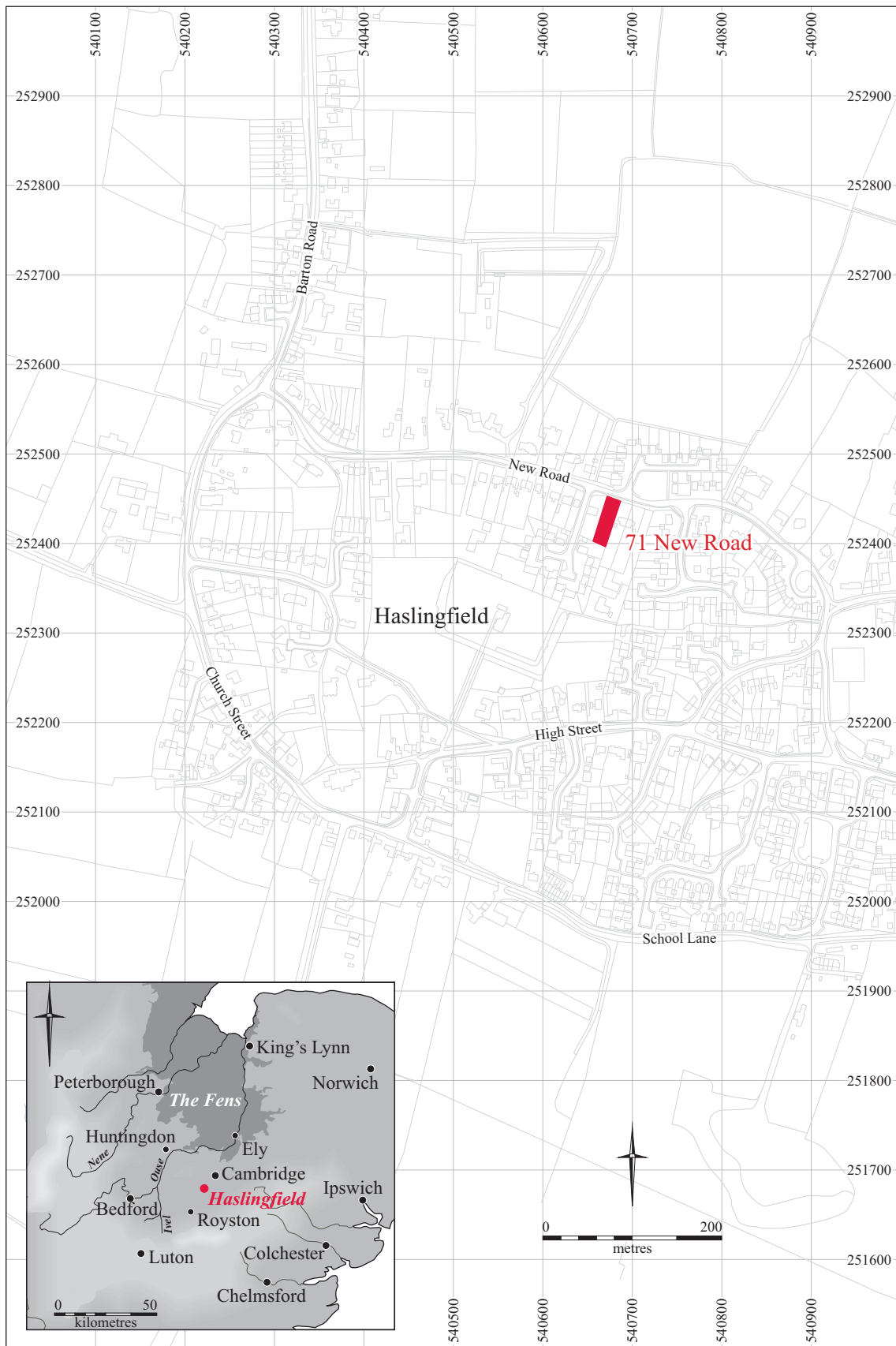


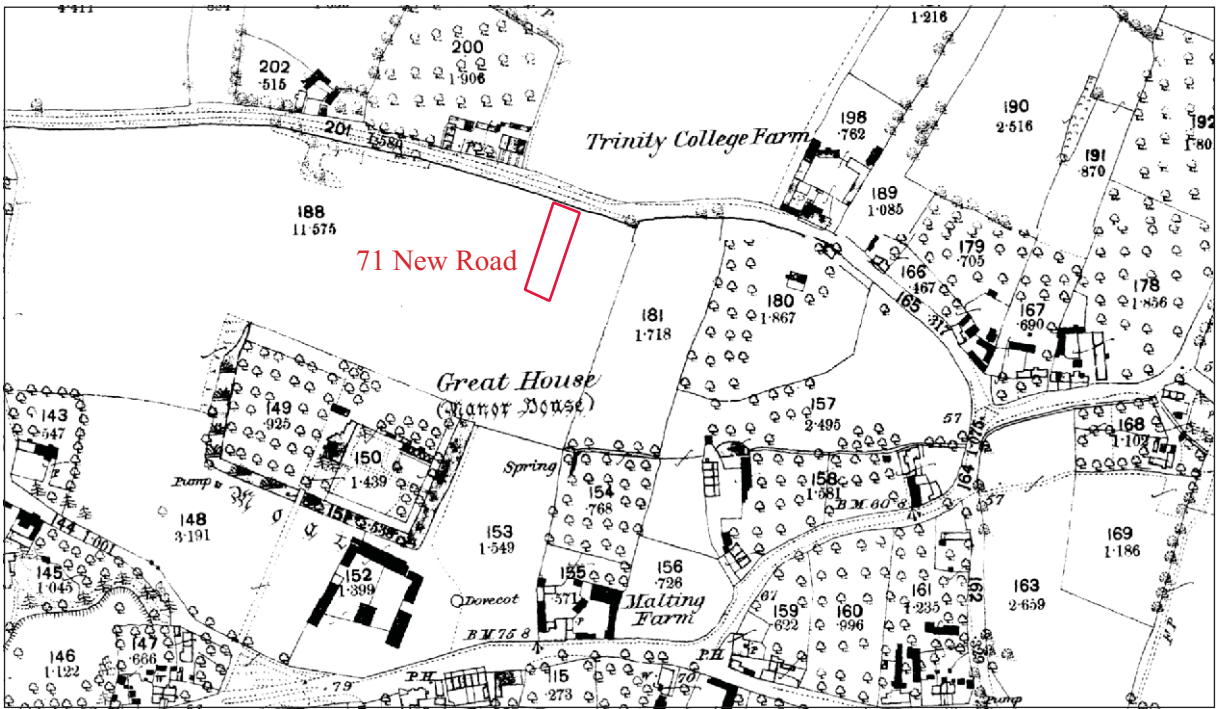
Figure 1. Location map



Figure 2. Trench plan



1842 Tithe Map

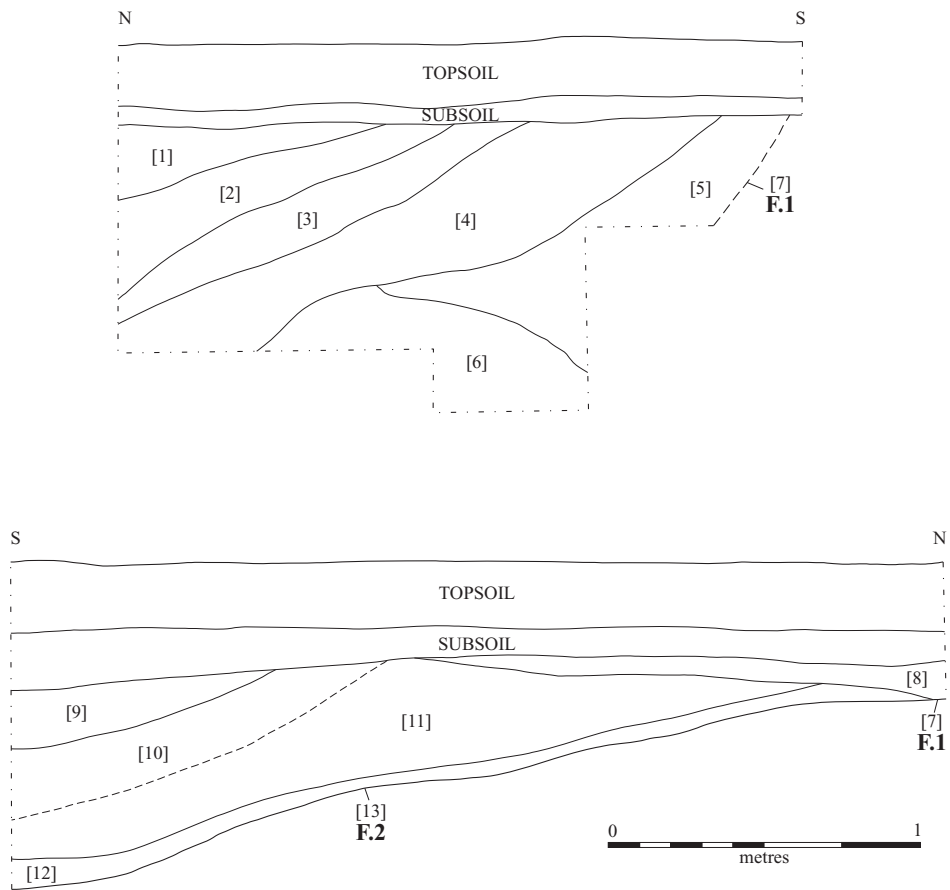


1st Edition 1:2500 OS Map, 1890

Figure 4. 19th century maps



Figure 5. 1:2500 OS Map, 1970



F.2

Figure 6. Sections through F.1 and F.2

TRENCH AND FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1						
General Description						
A T-shaped trench with relatively well-preserved archaeological horizons containing two large pit features. A single shallow pipe represents the only post-medieval intrusion.					Topsoil Depth (m)	0.19-0.22
					Subsoil Depth (m)	0.05-0.17
					Orientation of Trench	N-S
					Width of Trench (m)	2
					Length of Trench (m)	10
Contexts						
F.No.	Type	No.	Cut/Fill	Dimensions (m)	Description	Comments
1	Pit/Well	1	F	Unknown	Soft light grey (moist) silt	Medieval
		2	F		Stiff and firm mid grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones <3cm diam.	
		3	F		Moderately stiff mid-light grey marley clay silt with occasional sandy patches and small sub-angular stones <3cm diam	
		4	F		Moderately firm very light whitish grey silty clay marl	
		5	F		Soft mid grey marly silty clay with gritty sand	
		6	F		Soft and wet mid grey silty clay with pot and bone	
		7	C		Only partially exposed. Sub-circular plan with probable steep sides having slumped to interior of the feature. Excavated to a depth of 1.2m; base not encountered.	
		8	F		Moderately soft mid greyish brown clayey silt mixed with whitish grey marl	
2	Pit/quarry	9	F	Unknown	Moderately Soft mid-light grey silty clay marl	Medieval
		10	F		Moderately firm mid grey brown clayey silt mixed with clay marl and small sub-angular stones <3cm diam	
		11	F		Moderately firm mid grey silty clay silt mixed with clay marl and small sub-angular stones <3cm diam	
		12	F		Moderately compact dark grey brown clayey silt with occn sub-rounded stones <2cm diam; with pot and bone	
		13	C		Only partially exposed. Sub-circular plan with gradually inclined and slightly stepped sides. Excavated to a depth of 1.2m; Lowest point not encountered to the south.	

Table 1. Detailed trench and feature descriptions

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: cambridg3-142575

Project details

Project name 71 New Road, Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire. An archaeological evaluation

Short description of the project A single evaluation trench within the residency of 71 New Road, Haslingfield, partially revealed two large sub-circular features. These are both associated with 10th to 13th century AD pottery and butchered animal bone with burnt clay daub, and appear to be an extraction pit later used for refuse storage, and a deep saturated pit or well. A single abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery further testifies to earlier occupation within the area.

Project dates Start: 08-01-2013 End: 08-01-2013

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes NRH13 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type PIT Medieval

Monument type PIT Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds BONE Medieval

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
HASLINGFIELD 71 new Road
Postcode CB23 1LP
Study area 20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 4055 5230 52 0 52 09 02 N 000 03 16 E Point
Lat/Long Unknown
Datum
Height OD /
Depth Min: 18.00m Max: 18.00m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief
originator City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design
originator Alison Dickens
Project
director/manage
r Alison Dickens
Project
supervisor Marcus Brittain
Type of
sponsor/funding
body Developer
Name of
sponsor/funding
body Mr Tim Waldock

Project archives

Physical
Archive
recipient Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical
Archive ID NRH12
Physical
Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
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