

Worts Meadow, Landbeach

Archaeological Monitoring of Drainage Refurbishment



David Webb

Worts Meadow, Landbeach, Cambridgeshire

Monitoring of refurbishment of a pipe and culvert

David Webb

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University of Cambridge
HER No: ECB4153
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Report No. 1223

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit at Worts Meadow, Landbeach, Cambridgeshire (TL 4746 6505), during groundworks to refurbish a drain and culvert. The work was commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council under the archaeological framework agreement.

Worts Meadow is a Scheduled Monument (SAM82, CHER No: 01262) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and as such is deemed to be of the highest quality and of national importance. The moat is situated in a grass close, 185m southwest of the cross-roads in Landbeach village and immediately west of the reputed site of Landbeach Hall. The enclosed area is 90m square and level; round it is a wet moat averaging 2m wide and 1.2m deep. The site is now covered by a small orchard and was probably the Manor of Bray.

The work took place on 5th November 2013, and was completed in the day. All work in the archaeologically sensitive area was carried out under supervision of the author. The excavation on the pipe and culvert was conducted the using a mini digger equipped with a 1.5m toothless bucket.

Observations and Results

The works commenced at the northeast corner of the moat and followed a course running in a northerly direction and on the western side of an adjacent fence and gate. The pipe line cut extended for 8.5m to link to an open ditch running north to south across the site towards Cockfen Lane. After removal of rich humic topsoil, a thin layer of dark brown silty clay loam subsoil was exposed, this covered a grey silty clay material that contained modern debris and the existing concrete drainage pipe that was to be replaced. At this point it was realised that the limits of the proposed works were entirely contained within the profile of the previous pipe trench cut. Monitoring was continued to ensure that the previous works had not disturbed archaeologically sensitive contexts, however no archaeological material or layers were exposed during the rest of the works. The oldest material recovered during the monitoring was a radiator cap from a 1920's-1930's Austin vehicle.

Discussion

No archaeological artefacts or features were revealed during the groundworks. All works took place within previously disturbed ground.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to David Wheatley who co-ordinated the groundworks. Observations were made by the author.

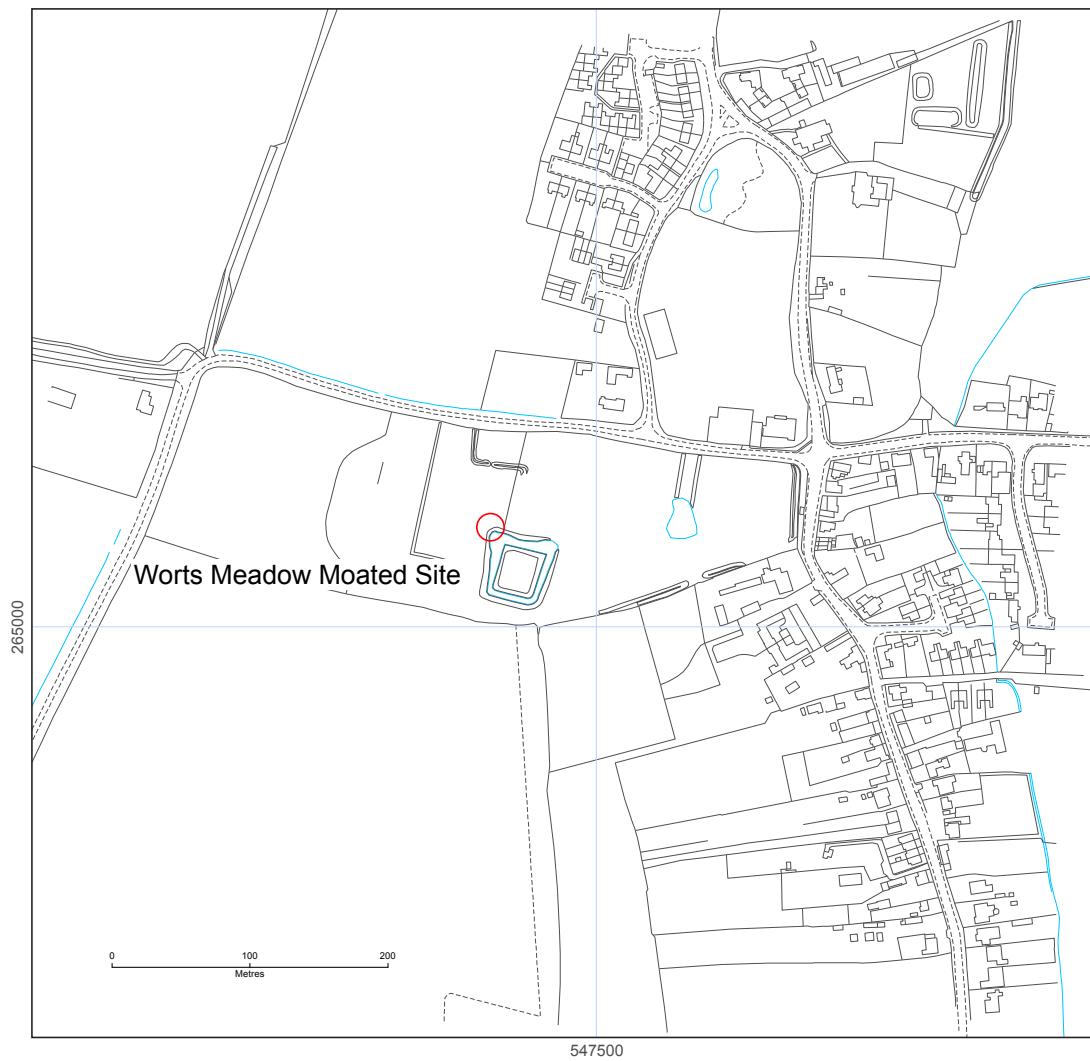


Figure 1: Location of observations and photograph of works underway

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Project details

Project name	Monitoring at Worts Causeway, Landbeach
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit at Worts Meadow, Landbeach, Cambridgeshire (TL 4746 6505), during groundworks to refurbish a drain and culvert. All works were contained within previously disturbed ground and no archaeology was revealed.
Project dates	Start: 05-11-2013 End: 05-11-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WML13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4153 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Field observation""
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LANDBEACH Worts Meadow
Postcode	CB25 9FG
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 47463 65057 52.2634572876 0.161069192018 52 15 48 N 000 09 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.35m Max: 7.35m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Alison Dickens
Project director/manager	Alison Dickens
Project supervisor	David Webb
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cambridgeshire County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

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