

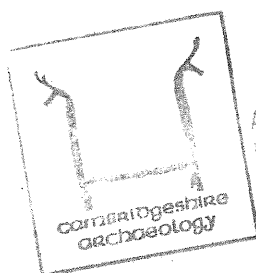
① Report 22

OFFICE COPY.

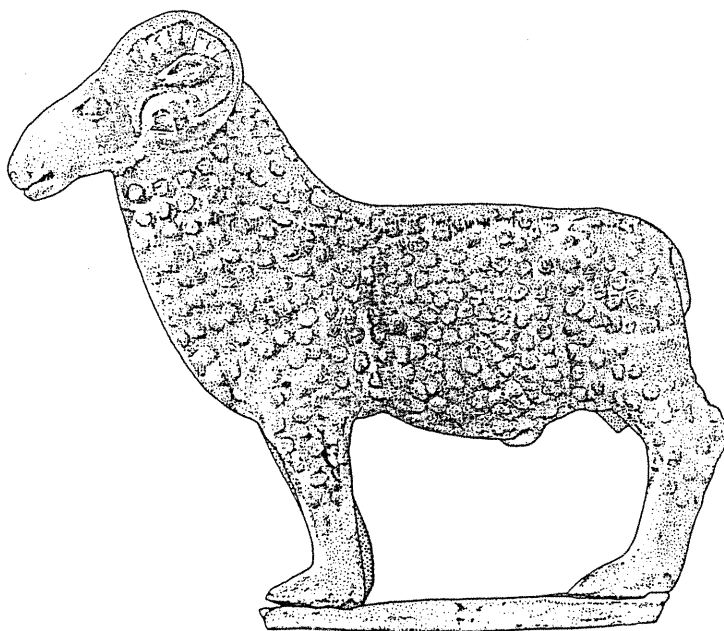
ANNUAL REPORT 1990

Alison Taylor

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICE,
Cambridgeshire County Council
Rural Management Section
Department of Property
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE
FULBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE
HAGGIS GAP, FULBURN
CAMBRIDGE CB1 5HD Tel: 081614
(Fax)



Figurine from Roman child's burial at Arrington



ANNUAL REPORT 1990

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICE, Cambridgeshire County Council

Alison Taylor

INTRODUCTION

1990 was the year when it has at last possible to use various planning policies to ensure that developers took archaeology into account before planning permission was issued. This lead to a great increase in the numbers of excavations in Cambridgeshire and also to formal archaeological assessments which have been able to influence the design of schemes to preserve sites. Much of this work has been undertaken by consultant archaeologists. There has also been support from English Heritage, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough District Council and for the first time, South Cambridgeshire and Fenland District Councils. The role of the County Archaeology Section, and in particular that of John Ette, the new Assistant County Archaeologist, has therefore developed rapidly to include considerable monitoring and liaison work with independent archaeological groups who are in some cases competitively tendering for schemes. At the same time the County Archaeological Section has been able to attract funds to carry out a wider range of excavations than has been possible.

STAFF

Gerry Wait left at the end of January and was replaced on 1st April as Assistant County Archaeologist by John Ette. Nesta Rooke continued as part-time SMR Officer, and Rose Desmond as part-time Clerical Assistant. Using project funding it was also possible to employ Tim Malim as Project Officer, and Ben Robinson and Simon Bray as Archaeological Assistants throughout the year. Gavin Lucas was with us until August and Steve Kemp since November. There have also been many staff on short term contracts, especially during the summer and autumn.

PLANNING

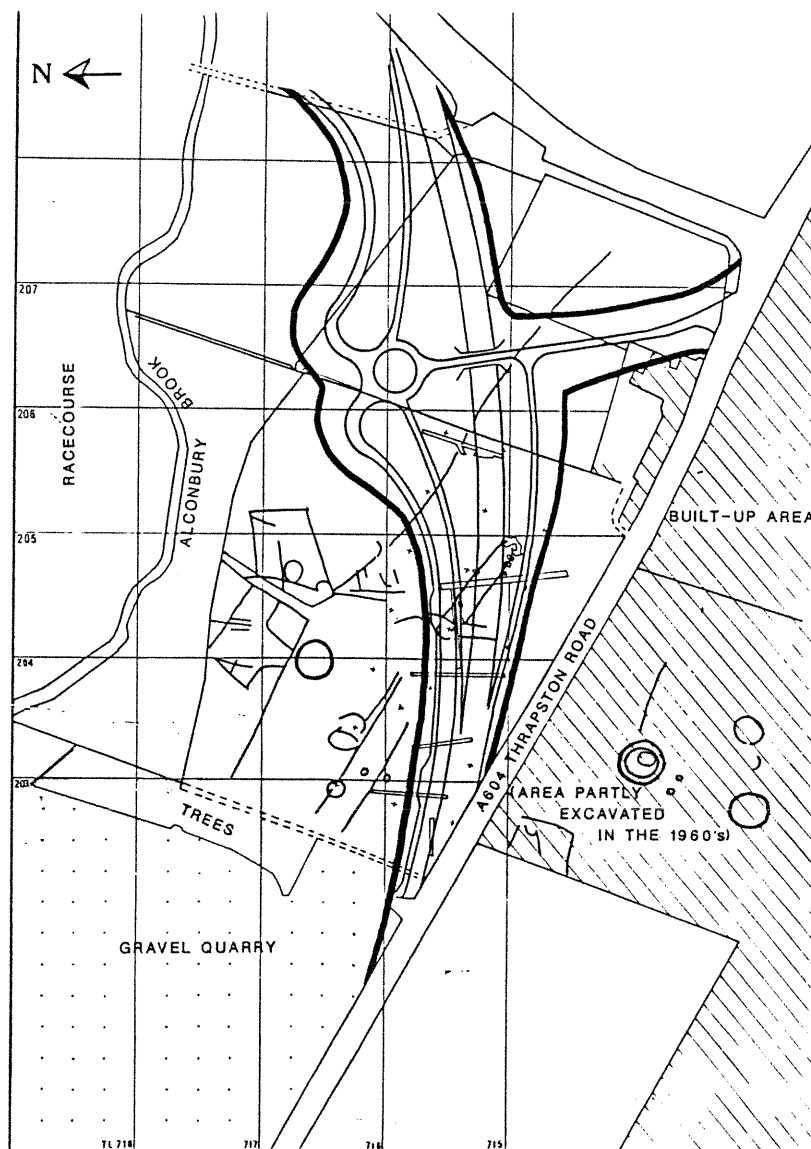
As described in the Introduction, there have been great advances in the acceptance of archaeology as a material consideration for planning decisions and therefore, although there has been a significant drop in the number of applications, John Ette has been dealing in considerable detail with large numbers of cases. In some, it is possible to preserve archaeological sites by avoiding sensitive areas and in others "preservation by record" is ensured. Where environmental statements are required, we ensure archaeological assessments are included.

In late November the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance No 16, "Archaeology and Planning" was published. This formalised many of the measures we had been

developing and made it much easier to explain our position to developers, planners and consultants. There are still areas, such as the centre of Ely, where best archaeological practise is not yet applied but the position is rapidly improving. In 1990 117 applications were checked in detail. In addition to planning applications processed by district councils, road schemes (national and county), gas and water pipe-lines and electricity cables are monitored on behalf of the relevant bodies. Co-operation, especially with regards road schemes and water pipelines, is improving steadily. Mineral applications are determined by the County Council, and the policies included in the Cambridgeshire Aggregates Local Plan, 1989, have ensured that most are preceded by archaeological field evaluation and all have legal agreements to cover programmes of archaeological work, fully funded by the applicant.

EXCAVATIONS

Brampton prehistoric cropmarks, TL205715
Tim Malim, for English Heritage



BRAMPTON A1-M1 LINK ROAD 1990
SAM 121

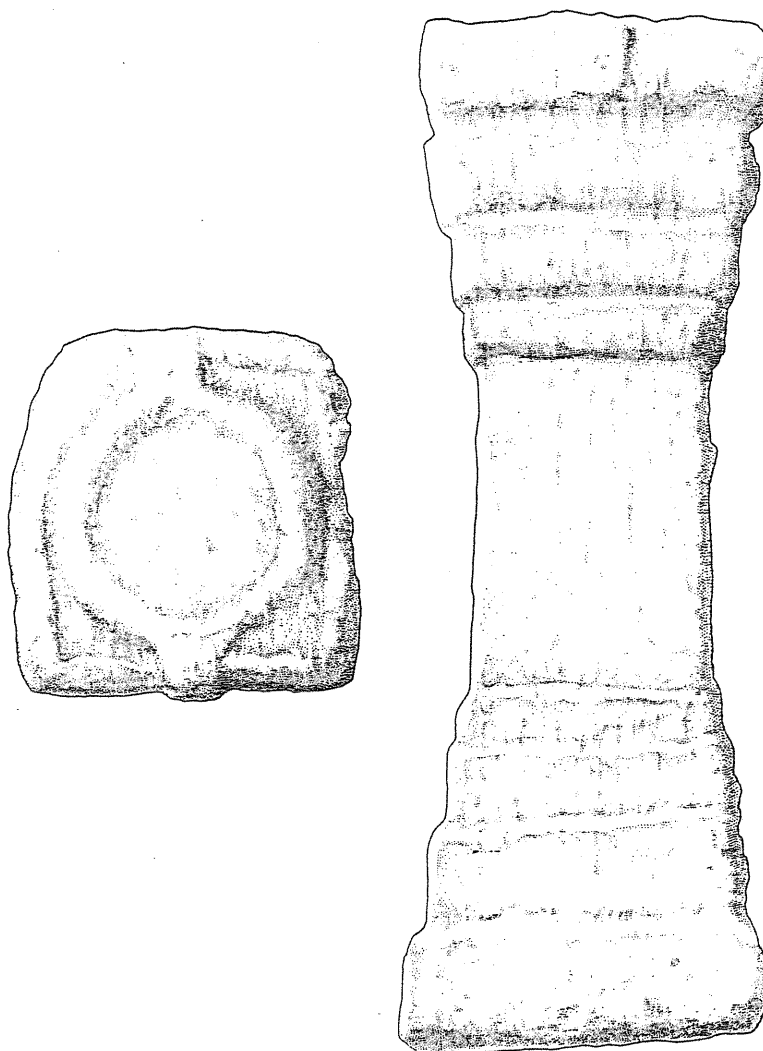
PLAN SHOWING
LINE OF NEW ROAD

Excavations in advance of the A1-M1 link road to assess the archaeological potential of this scheduled monument succeeded in locating the cropmarks seen on air photographs. They were 70 cms below the top of the ploughsoil and showed as yellow alluvial filled features which had been cut into gravel. Pan-buster scour marks could be seen even at this level. Parallel ditches 10 metres apart were traced to their in-curving butt ends. One contained a large posthole with some charcoal. Other features may be present in the "entrance" area, to await excavation at a later date. No finds were found in the ditches but there is a background of Neolithic flintwork in the ploughsoil. Beaker barrows and an Iron Age settlement were excavated in the 1960s just south of this field, and it is possible that the double ditches briefly examined this year are those of a cursus. 800 metres of the area were trenched and the only other features found were some Roman ditches further east. It is hoped English Heritage will fund further work to elucidate the site more fully before the road destroys this part of the scheduled monument.

Gt. Wilbraham Roman villa,

John Ette, for National Rivers Authority

0 4cm.



A trench stripped for construction of a water pipe-line cut through a site where Roman finds had been reported. Only 5m wide, the trench contained 2 rectangular rooms. One had a rammed chalk floor and massive flint mortar foundations and the other had evidence for timber posts and wall slots. Near this building, a circular pit cut into a square shaped chalk platform containing an intact Roman altar, architectural fragments including the base of a column, and a mass of iron-work (so far unidentified). Tile, pottery, bone, a spoon and pewter plate were also recovered from the site.

Linton Roman villa,

John Ette, for National Rivers Authority

Excavation in advance of a water pipe-line uncovered an extensive range of Roman buildings, associated ditches and yard surfaces, about 50m from a wealthy Roman villa excavated by R C Neville in 1846-1850. The walls had coursed flint rubble foundations. One building was subdivided into at least 5 small rooms. Pottery dated from 2nd to 4th century AD.

Elsewhere in the trench were a collapsed length of Roman walling, Iron Age pits and gulleys and field ditches of Belgic date. In places the buildings were buried by 1.5m of colluvial hillwash and will be preserved intact, except where cut by a narrow trench to insert the water pipe.

Cambridge, Kings Hedges Roman site, TL457618

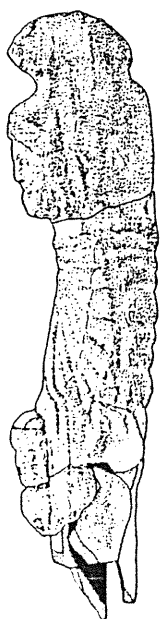
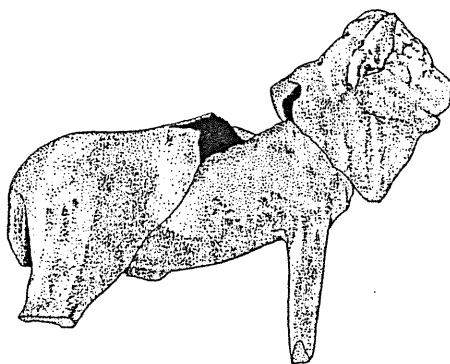
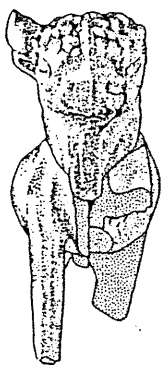
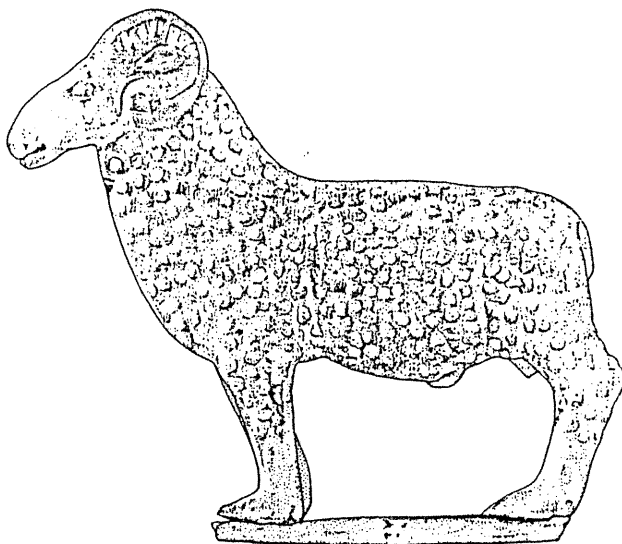
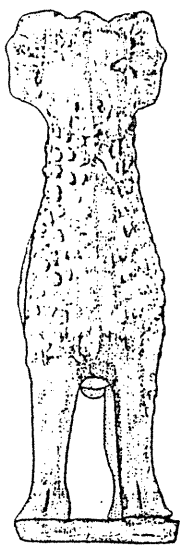
John Ette, for Cambridgeshire County Council

Nine hectares needed for Cambridge Regional College were trenched to determine whether Iron Age or Roman sites at Arbury and Arbury Camp extended to this area. Little was found, apart from a Roman cremation and 9 Roman vessels, all in one small area of ditch adjacent to the Roman Road. No traces of Kings Hedges camp were located.

Arrington, TL32905049

Alison Taylor, for Cambridgeshire County Council

A lead-lined wooden coffin containing a baby was discovered by accident during construction work near Ermine Street. Apparently on top of the coffin was a box containing terracotta statuettes consisting of one mother goddess, 2 rams, 1 bullock, 1 seated male "thorn puller", 2 busts of children, one male eastern god and several fragments. No other structures or burials were noted. The statuettes are dated to circa 130-160 AD but it could have been some years later when they were deposited with the child.



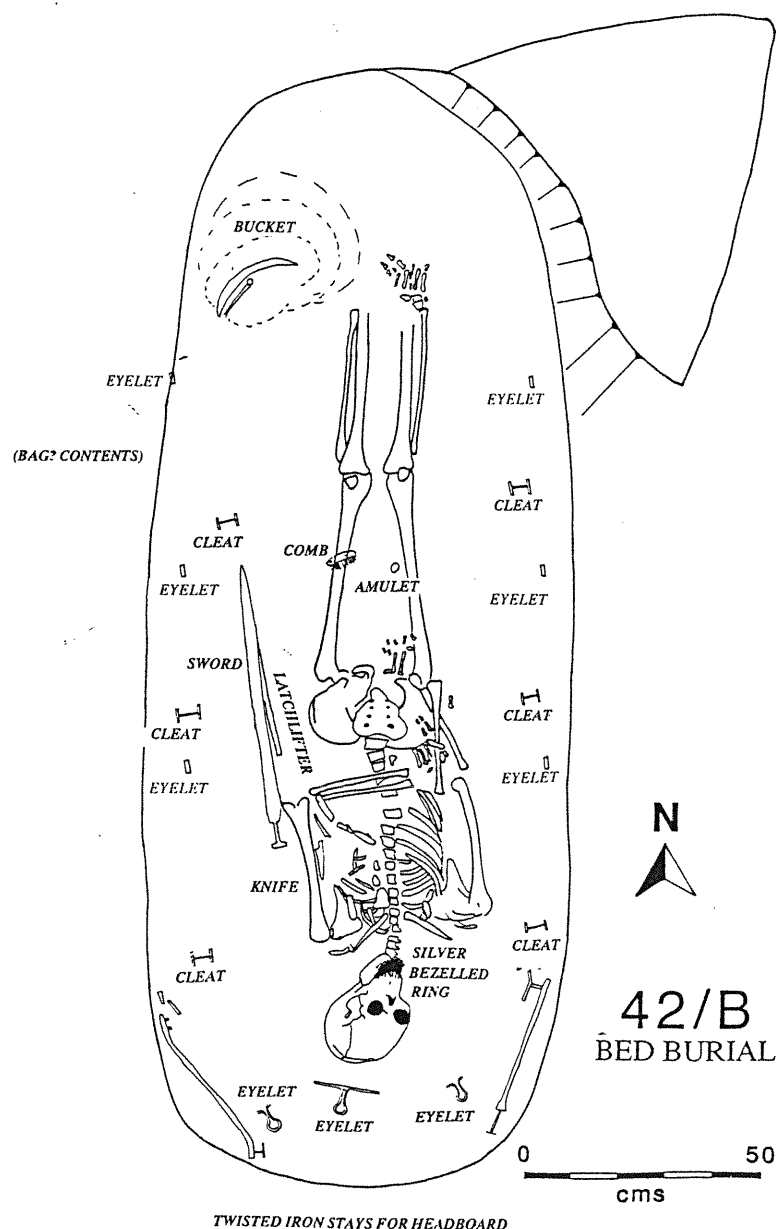
Roman terracotta figurines from Arrington

Scale 1:2

Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery 1990, TL37464959

Tim Malim, for English Heritage, Cambridgeshire County Council &
South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Committee.

A further season's excavation took place in June-July 1990. Forty-four skeletons were examined, several of them already damaged by ploughing although a few were in deep-cut graves. Of great interest was the discovery of two 7th century "bed burials" of women and their grave goods. The first was in a grave that was sufficiently deep to preserve iron fittings (cleats, eyelets and head-rails) of the bed. Grave-goods included an iron-bound bucket, the contents of a probable bag consisting of a bronze buckle, bone comb, glass bead and fossilized sea-urchin, an iron "latch-lifter" and a short sword or weaving baton. There may be other items in the "bag" which will be excavated in the laboratory.





Roman terracotta figurines from Arrington

Scale 1:2

The second bed-burial was less deeply buried and so had been more disturbed by ploughing but the iron-work that survived showed that the original bed had been very similar. The woman wore 2 delicate bronze buckles on her thighs, a ring of twisted silver on her right shoulder and a bronze pin on her left shoulder.

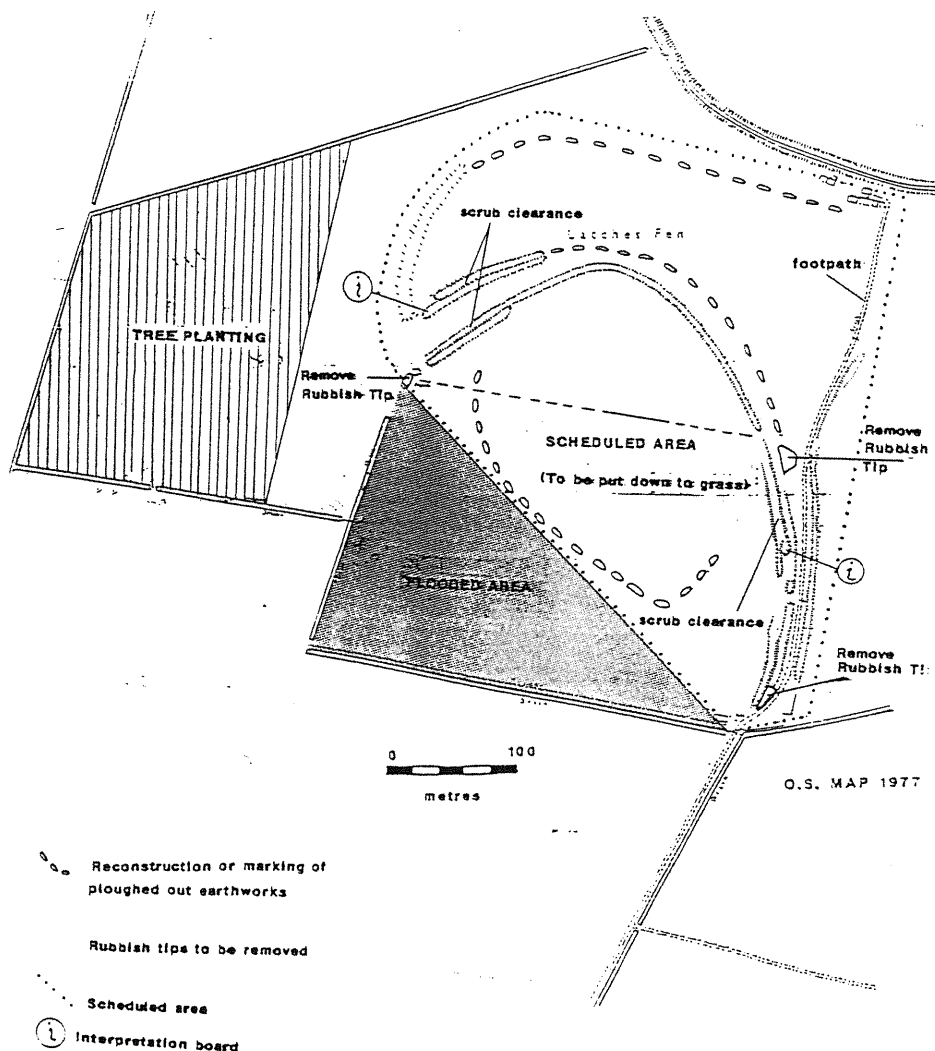
6th century burials were accompanied by a total of 11 spears, 5 shields, assorted iron shield fittings, 12 buckles, 2 pairs of wrist-clasps, 33 knives and one other latch-lifter. 5 women wore necklaces of glass or amber beads, one of whom also had a pair of small-long and another a pair of penannular brooches. One unusual burial, probably of a young man, wore a tinned or silver-plated Kentish belt-suite and a disc brooch. Another, unusually for East Anglia, was a middle-aged woman with an early 7th century gilt disc-brooch set with 4 cabochon and 4 key-stone garnets and 4 rectangles of blue glass. (This object is currently being conserved, and so its description may be altered subsequently).

The excavation also uncovered a late Iron Age double-ditched enclosure, with a wide outer ditch 1.5m deep.

Clear evidence for progressive plough damage necessitates further work on this site.

MONUMENT MANAGEMENT

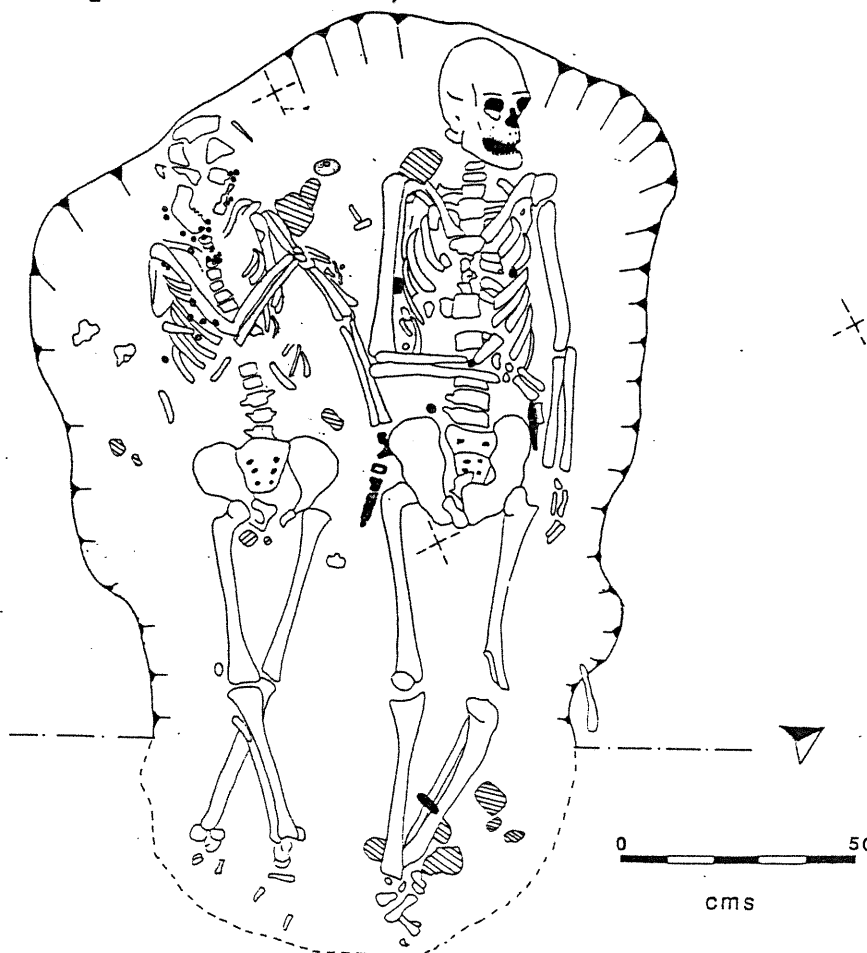
Tim Malim completed his survey of all archaeological sites on Cambridgeshire County Farms estate, which included recommendations and management plans for 36 farms with important archaeological sites and a catalogue of 425 sites and finds on or adjacent to County owned farms. The report, which was funded by English Heritage, has already lead to radically improved management on some sites, with promise of further action in the future as tenancies change. At Devil's Dyke adjacent fields were taken out of plough last year and are now grazed by dairy sheep, which prevent damage by scrub growth and plough encroachment. At Isleham, permanent pasture is being reinstated on the site of an important Bronze Age hoard and prehistoric occupation. At Landbeach, a moat and medieval village earthworks are planned to become a Pocket Park, with good management and access. Scheduled cropmarks at Harston are now for sale, but with a covenant to stipulate that, if archaeological investigations in March 1991 show they are being damaged by ploughing, they must be converted to permanent pasture. On the Roman Road (Wandlebury to All) a formal management plan has been produced by the Countryside Section and scrub control and other measures are in hand.



Proposed management of Stonea Camp

Haddenham Anglo-Saxon Burials, TL46487547

Simon Bray & Ben Robinson, for Cambridgeshire County Council



Emergency excavations took place when 2 burials were uncovered during site clearance in the village centre. One (male) was accompanied by a spear, knife, shield boss and buckle (iron) and tweezers (bronze), and the other (female) by 27 amber, one glass and 3 "silver in glass" beads, a square-headed small-long brooch and a bone spindle whorl. A larger area was cleared and fragments of 9 skeletons were noted.

Stretham Rectory, Medieval Stone Building, TL51127455

Wendy Horton & Gavin Lucas, for Ely Diocesan Board of Finance

An early 12th century building, 9m x 11m with stonefaced walls 1m thick and surviving up to 1m high was excavated in the garden of Stretham rectory, adjacent to the churchyard. It was almost certainly an ecclesiastical enterprise, possibly a tower house, built to give suitable protection to the incumbent, who had been sent from Ely, at a time of insecurity in the Fens. By the 14th century this building was replaced by a rectangular ashlar faced parsonage, portions of which survive in the present (now redundant) rectory. Most of the pottery was Saxo-Norman. Almost all pottery was pre-13th century, with 3 Pagan Saxon sherds.

The most spectacular success so far is Stonea Camp. This Iron Age "hill-fort" in the Fens has been ploughed for about 30 years, and in the 1960's its banks were deliberately levelled and the ditches filled in with imported soil. It has also been regularly raided by metal detectors. This autumn it was at last possible to take the site out of arable production and to prepare it for sheep pasture. With help from English Heritage, Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, Tim Malim was also able to excavate sections of the ditch and to reinstate large sections of the bank and ditch. Work will continue in 1991, with further scrub clearance, bank reinstatement, creation of flower-rich meadow and sensitive planting with fenland species. There will be full public access and on-site interpretation. All the various works on County Farms has been possible due to co-operation and hard work by Rural Management colleagues, including David Nutticombe, John Megginson, Patrick Joyce and Chris Burton. The report, "Archaeology on the Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate", was published in December and was publicly launched with considerable publicity and a reception for councillors and Rural Management staff. At present, plans are being made to begin management on a number of other monuments, if funding becomes available, as expected, in 1991/2

EDUCATION

The summer excavation at Barrington was linked to a display of Anglo-Saxon artefacts at Wimpole Hall, which proved very popular with many visitors. We also ran an educational programme for schools. All schools in Cambridgeshire were invited, and tours and worksheets were provided. Much of the work for this was by Ashley Hathaway as a project for a degree in Education. Approximately 1000 children came to the site in early July. A Visitor Centre with constantly updated displays was maintained on site at Barrington. This helped greatly in keeping our 7000 visitors (including many repeat-visits) fully informed.

Loan Packs for prehistoric and Roman Cambridgeshire, which were prepared last year by Debbie Hill, a teacher seconded by Bretton Woods School, have been in great demand. Sets of display boards have been so heavily used we should be replacing them soon, but it is unlikely this will be possible.

Advice and information on existing resources has been given in relation to the National Curriculum for History, which stresses the need to visit sites and handle original artefacts. It is difficult to see how these aims can be realistically achieved for all school children without any funding.

ASSESSMENTS

Cambridge - St. Mary the Less, TL44865799

Gavin Lucas, for St Mary the Less Parish Church Council

Small trenches were hand dug in the churchyard in advance of a vestry extension. Saxo-Norman pottery was retrieved but Victorian "make-up" extended 2m depth and so was not pursued.

Stretham, The Chequers Public House

Jeremy Oetgen & Drew Shotliffe, for Greene King PLC

A small potential development site adjacent to St James Church (and also close to an earlier excavation by Cambridgeshire County Council, see above) was examined by trenching. Fragments of human bone and saxo-norman pottery were recovered but there were no features of archaeological significance.

Orwell, Malton Farm

Steve Kemp & Tim Malim, for D Gandy

Ninety-one hectares of land adjacent to the deserted medieval village of Malton were field-walked and assessed as part of a pre-planning application evaluation for a new golf course. There were thin scatters of prehistoric, Roman and medieval material and one area of denser medieval finds. Recommendations were made to protect all recognized remains.

M11 Widening Programme

Steve Kemp, for W S Atkins (Environmental Consultants)

Archaeologically sensitive sites within the area of search for the proposed widening of the M11 were identified. Recommendations were made for protection of sites and for further archaeological work when the choice of route has been narrowed.

Chatteris, Manor Park

John Ette & Chris Place, for Abbey Homes.

Four hectares of medieval ridge and furrow were surveyed and planned in advance of residential development and an area for preservation as open space was identified.

Milton, Proposed Waste Disposal Site

Jeremy Oetgen, for Cambridgeshire County Council

An area of 47.5 hectares adjacent to Mere Way was systematically field-walked. There was artefactual evidence in small quantities dating to Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and post medieval remains.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

There was very wide local coverage (press and radio) for most of our excavations and also for the Farm Survey. Barrington and Arrington were featured on regional television and Arrington on national television (Channel 4's "Down to Earth") and in The Independent. Tim Malim gave many interviews on Barrington, Stonea and the Farms Survey and Alison Taylor talked on general archaeological topics and Arrington.

Talks were given to:- RSVP (pensioners), District Councillors Society, Cambridge Guide Lecturers, Swavesey Local History Society, Cambridge Family History Society, Cambridge Professional and Businessmen's Club, South Cambridgeshire Conservation Committee, Cambridge Round Table, Haverhill and District Archaeology Group, M. Phil Students, Archaeology undergraduates, Officers and councillors of Cambridgeshire County Council (via Heritage Officers Group) and Cambridge Archaeological Field Group (Alison Taylor); Cambridgeshire Local History Society, Colchester Museum and South Cambridgeshire Conservation Committee, (Tim Malim) and Haddenham Museum (Ben Robinson).

A stall was held at the Local History Fair at Wimpole, and a public talk was also given on that occasion. An exhibition on "Archaeology in South Cambridgeshire" was held in South Cambridgeshire Hall for a month.

RELATIONS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

Cambridgeshire was represented on the following national and regional bodies:-

- Association for County Archaeological Officers (meetings secretary)
- Council for British Archaeology
- East Anglian Environmental Group
- Regional Archaeologists Group

County archaeological interests were represented on the following local bodies:-

- Cambridgeshire Archaeological Committee
- Cambridge Antiquarian Society
- Cambridge Archaeology Unit (Management committee)
- Countryside Advisory Working Party
- Curators Panel
- County Museum Service Advisory Group
- Cambridge Preservation Society
- Haverhill & District Archaeology Group (Vice-President)
- Diocesan Advisory Committee

The commitment of District Councils to archaeology increased during 1990, though this is still uneven. All Districts are represented on Cambridgeshire Archaeological Committee. They were all invited to a demonstration of the Sites and Monuments Record early in 1990 and have since, (apart from Peterborough) been formally approached for financial contributions towards improvements to this Record because of its importance to Development Control.

South Cambridgeshire District Council are now contributing annually to archaeology, in addition to giving generous support in 1990 and 1991 to excavations at Barrington. Fenland District Council are supporting management work at Stonea Camp. Peterborough District have their own archaeologist (Ian Meadows) in Peterborough Museum and take considerable responsibility for archaeological work in their district. Huntingdonshire hope to give an annual grant from 1991.

There has been considerable co-operation and several joint projects with English Heritage. Most notable projects were the Farms Survey, Barrington Anglo-Saxon cemetery and Brampton prehistoric cropmarks. We were grant-aided to provide recommendations and "scorings" of sites for the Monuments Protection Programme. There have been many discussions over individual case-histories.

Anglian Water Services and the National Rivers Authority are both involved in substantial pipe-laying work. Both have been working on improving their provisions to protect archaeological remains and so there has been considerable liaison and some joint projects. NRA funded excavations at Great Wilbraham and Linton and are increasingly willing to support field-walking and watching briefs on their routes. Anglian Water Services were involved in discoveries at Arrington. They have supported field-work on one new route and are currently looking at their whole range of provisions for heritage issues.

PUBLICATIONS

Reports on the following have been published and copies are deposited in Cambridgeshire or Huntingdonshire Local Collections, Haddon Library, County Records Office, Local Government Information Service and National Monuments Record. Where appropriate they are also sent to the relevant local library and parish council. Most are available for sale (£2.50) from this office (the Archaeology Section, Shire Hall, Cambridge):-

Anglo-Saxon burials, Haddenham	Simon Bray & Ben Robinson
Stretham Rectory	Gavin Lucas
Manor Park Chatteris	John Ette & Chris Place
Malton Farm, Orwell	Steve Kemp, Tim Malim & Alison Taylor
The Chequers Public House, Stretham	J Oetgen & D Shotliff
Brampton A1 - M1 Link Road	Tim Malim
St Mary the Less, Cambridge	Gavin Lucas
M11 Widening, An Archaeological Assessment	Steve Kemp
Barrington Anglo-Saxon cemetery, 1990	Tim Malim
Proposed waste disposal site at Milton	Jeremy Oetgen

In addition, the following major survey was published (£10)

Archaeology on Cambridgeshire	
County Farms Estate	Tim Malim