

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
181514

OFFICE COPY.

# Field 6700 Catworth



Cambridgeshire  
County Council

Rural Strategy



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE  
FULBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
HAGG'S GAP, FULBURN  
CAMBRIDGE, CB1 5HD Tel: 881614

# FIELD 6700, CATWORTH.

An Archaeological Assessment  
TL 0865 7496

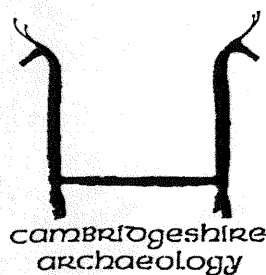
L. Hoyland

Archaeology Section  
Property Department  
Room 303, Shire Hall  
Castle Hill  
Cambridge CB3 0AP  
Tel. (0223) 317312



*Report No. 30*

*Field 6700: looking North.*



## ABSTRACT

Archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in August 1991 to establish the archaeological potential of a proposed borrow-pit in Field 6700, north of the B660, in the parish of Catworth.

Earthworks in this field were proven to be of geological origin, but traces of Medieval ridge and furrow were discovered in the field.

Based on the above results, there are no further requirements for archaeological assessment in this field.

# THE FOX, CATWORTH: FIELD 6700

## INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Archaeological Section of Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Henry Boot Southern Limited, in order to establish the archaeological potential of Field 6700. The area north of the A604 and west of the B660 is a proposed borrow-pit for stopping up the new A604 - B660 junction improvements and as such any archaeological remains would be obliterated. Work was carried out on site between 19th and 23rd of August 1991.

## TOPOGRAPHY

Field 6700 lies on a hill which slopes down to the north from 41.476 OD to 32.402 OD (Fig 1). The underlying geology is Oxford clay with First Terrace gravels occurring on the upper part of the hill, and both are overlaid by slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. The natural slope of the field has been truncated by the modern B660, and the road running to Brington. Work was undertaken after cereals were harvested when the stubble was c. 0.20m high.

## AIMS

The assessment was in response to a requirement accompanying the planning application for further information regarding the archaeological potential of the area. To fulfill the brief it was decided that an earthwork survey be undertaken at 1:1000 so as to tie in directly with other earthwork surveys done in the vicinity, and that these earthworks be investigated by selective trial trenching and the field sampled in order to establish the presence of archaeological remains lying under, and therefore obscured, by ridge and furrow. The condition of the field meant that fieldwalking techniques could not be used.

From information received from Henry Boot Southern Ltd, the earthwork platforms in the field south of the road to Brington were as a result of recent surplus fill from the B660. No investigation was therefore undertaken in this field.

## HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Field 6700 lies at the northern most edge of Catworth parish is therefore not included in many of the estate and tithe maps pertaining to the parish.

An Inclosure Map of Great Catworth c. 1795 shows no boundary on the west side of the area in question, the northern edge being defined by the river. The area around Field 6700 is shown as belonging to "Trustees of Frances Child".

An 1844 Estate map of Great Catworth showing land belonging to the Duke of Manchester shows Field 6700 as belonging to "Dr. Kings Charity" and the northern boundary between Field 6700 and Field 7114 is not shown.

On the OS. First Edition Six Inch maps of 1887, Field 6700 shows boundaries which correlate to those seen today. The field on this map has been subdivided north-south about 158m from the north-western edge. The field was still divided on the 1:10,560 OS map of 1958 and the B660 now runs along this boundary.

Aerial photographs of Field 6700 showed no information because of shadow and the field being under crop. They did reveal however that that the field is surrounded to the north and east by very well preserved ridge and furrow.

The SMR held in Cambridgeshire County Council showed the ridge and furrow to the east of Field 6700 as very well preserved and are an important example of the type in the county.

Thus initial research has yielded little information about the archaeological potential of Field 6700 due to the insubstantial nature of the available evidence. It was therefore felt that the

nature of the earthworks would be best investigated by trial trenching.

## EARTHWORKS

Several traces of earthworks (Fig 2) were found, all of them severely damaged by ploughing and warranting further investigation into their exact nature.

Descriptions of surveyed features are as follows:

- 1) A subcircular hollow, in the north-west corner of the field, which extends into Field 7114. Profile rounded and concave, with a slight rise towards the corner of the field. The south-western edge of the hollow merges into the slope of the field. Top of slope 33.383m, base of slope 30.596m.
- 2) Bank, 60m north of southern field boundary, which runs east-west across field. It is very low and flattish in profile with unclear edges. Southern edge 36.888m OD, northern edge 35.302m OD.
- 3) Scarps, 80m north of the southern boundary, which run east-west across slope .
- 4) Ridge and furrow: faint traces of ridge and furrow were located at the northern boundary between Field 6700 and 7114.

## METHOD

Seven trenches, a total of 250m, were opened using a toothless ditching bucket 2.5m width. Archaeological features would then be dug by hand and fully recorded.

## RESULTS

Trench 1 was positioned running east-west to investigate the hollow in the north west corner of the field. It appeared to be geological in nature. The topsoil is grey brown silty clay loam with grey brown boulder clay subsoil with intermittent gravel intrusions on top of the slope. At the base of the slope the boulder clay was dark grey brown and more cloddy, possibly a product of slope wash. Excavations to a depth of 0.60m showed yellowish brown boulder clay again re-occurring.

Trench 2, placed over the scarps, comprised silty clay loam lying on boulder clay and showed the scarps again to be natural and the product of soil creep.

Trench 3 was positioned in the northeast corner of the field to sample the archaeological potential there. No archaeological features were found.

Trench 4 was machined north-south across the bank. The depth of topsoil was c. 0.30m lying on a lightish yellow brown sandy clay loam. In the west facing section, a narrow band of burnt vegetation appeared c. 0.20m below the surface of the topsoil and around 0.008m above the subsoil: the depth ranging from 3mm to 30mm and the deposit could be traced intermittently along the section. This was interpreted as being evidence of previous stubble burning .

Trench 5 ran east-west across the southern end of Trench 4, parallel to Trench 7. It had the similar subsoil matrix as Trench 4. It was possible to see the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow in section.

Trench 6 ran east-west across the top edge of the field in order to sample the archaeological potential of that area. The geology was butter clay and boulder clay with numerous erratic pebbles and chert with sand and gravel intrusions. Faint remains of ridge and furrow could be seen in plan running north-south at the east end of the trench, thus establishing the direction and presence of ridge and furrow in the top part of the field.



Trench 7 runs east-west joining Trench 4 at its southern end and again faint traces of ridge and furrow could be seen in section. No other archaeological features were present.

## FINDS

Eleven pieces of Post-Medieval pottery and 3 struck flints all from unstratified contexts were found, and therefore have little archaeological implication.

## CONCLUSION

The assessment has established that there are no significant archaeological remains in Field 6700, and that the earthworks noted prior to investigation are geological in nature. It has however confirmed the presence of the ridge and furrow, now ploughed out, running north-south across the eastern part of the field. The information gained from this assessment will therefore enhance understanding of the surrounding landscape of field systems.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above results from Field 6700, there are no further requirements for archaeological work in this field.



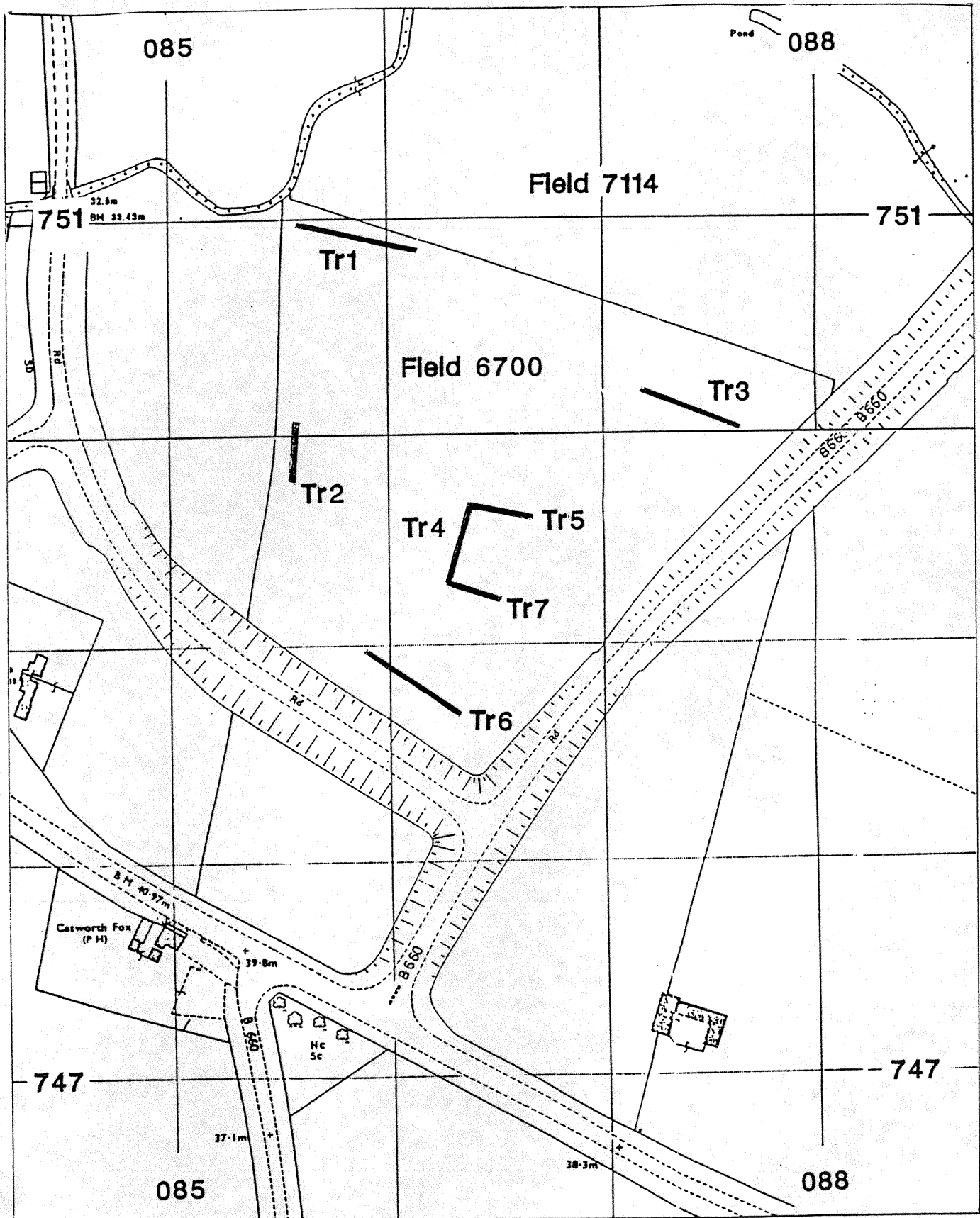
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Mr Stobbs, Senior Project Manager, of Henry Boot Ltd for his help regarding storage and equipment, and to the staff of Huntingdon Record Office for their help.

## FINDS

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Trench 1 | 1 struck flint flake, hinge termination, some cortex remaining and patinated. Unstratified. |
| Trench 4 | 1 broken struck flake, some abrupt retouch down lateral side. Unstratified.                 |
| Trench 6 | 6 well abraded Post-Medieval pottery sherds. Unstratified.                                  |
| Trench 7 | 1 Post-Medieval sherd. Unstratified.<br>1 struck flint flake. Unstratified.                 |

Four unstratified Post-Medieval sherds were found c.27m north of Trench 2.



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. (Edit):  
with the sanction of the Controller of H.M.S.O [Licence No LA 07649 X]

For identification purposes only



Cambridgeshire  
County Council

Department of Property  
Archaeology Section

**CATFOX 91**

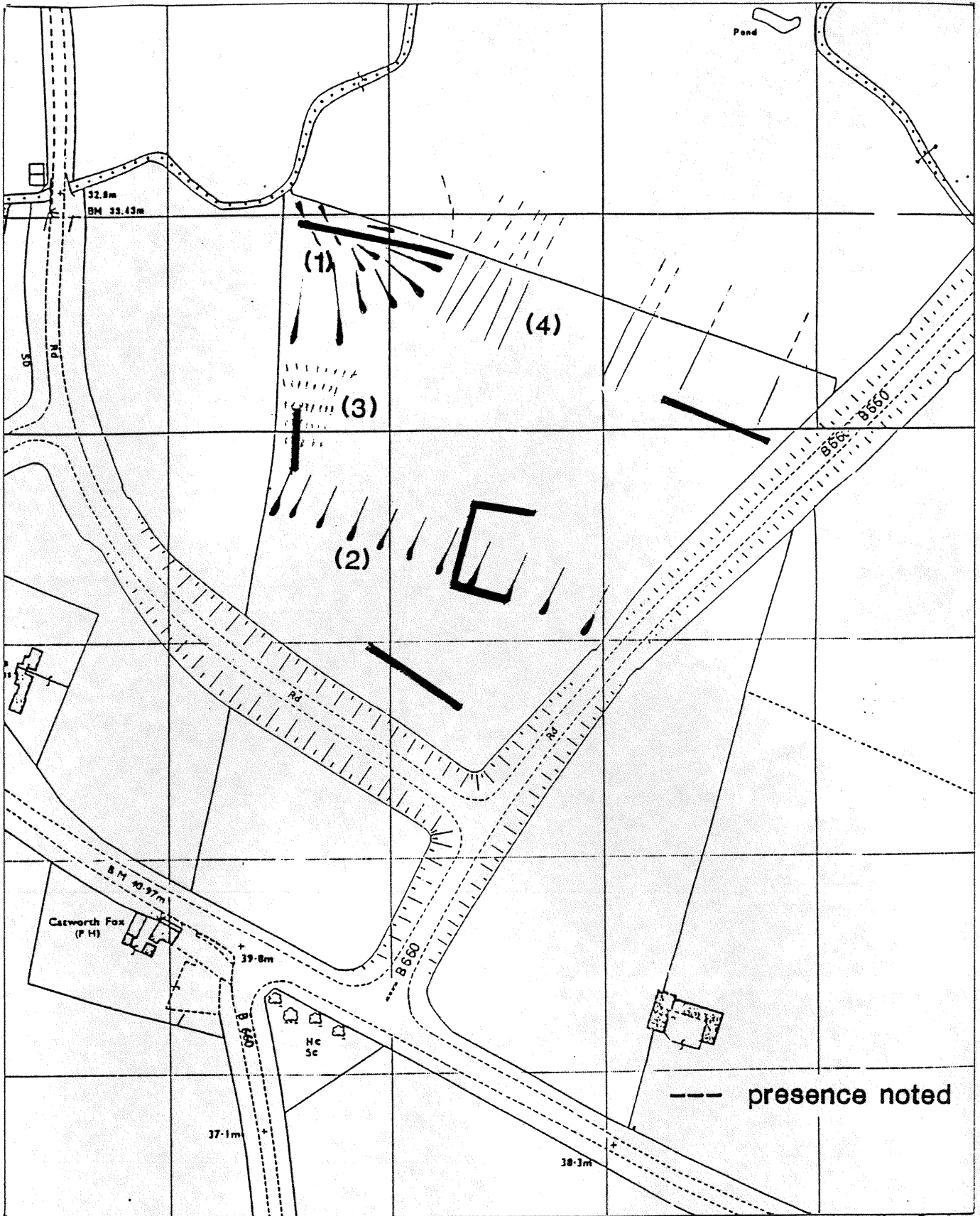
**Trench Locations**

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

PREPARED BY: DATE:

SCALE: **1 : 2500**

PLAN NO: **Fig 1**



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. (Editt):  
 with the sanction of the Controller of H.M.S.O [Licence No LA 07649 X]

For identification purposes only



Cambridgeshire  
 County Council

Department of Property  
 Archaeology Section

**CATFOX 91**

**Earthworks**

**(trenches superimposed)**

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

PREPARED BY:      DATE:

SCALE:              **1 : 2500**

PLAN NO.            **Fig 2**

Rural Management Division  
Department of Property  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge  
Tel. (0223) 317404

