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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICE
1991/2**



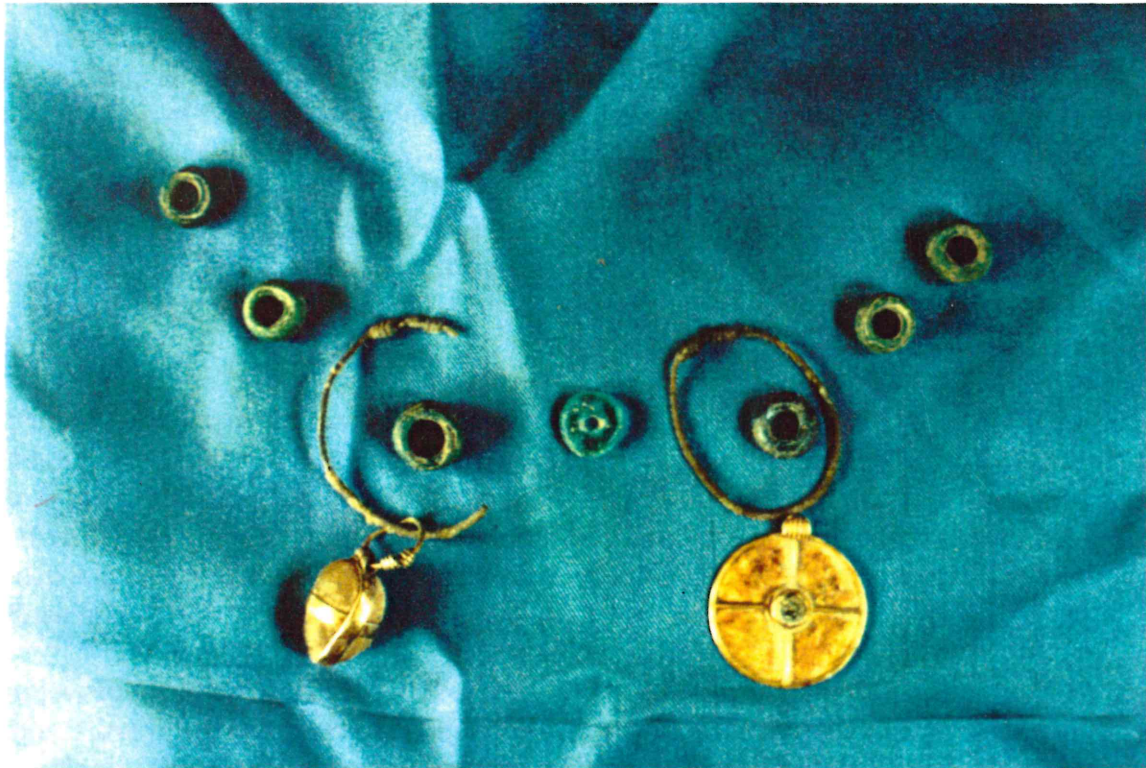
Cambridgeshire
County Council

Rural Strategy

ANNUAL REPORT 1991/2

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Report no. 56

7th Century Necklace from Barrington

ISBN 1 870724 72 0



cambridgeshire
archaeology

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICE 1991/2

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 As noted in last year's Annual Report, recent changes in Planning policies have made archaeology more integral to planning decisions than ever before, leading to much greater involvement in development control work and a corresponding (and very welcome) increase in the number of excavations and surveys that can be carried out, thanks to the funding provided by developers. More importantly, it has also proved possible to protect archaeological deposits on many sites for the benefit of future generations.

1.2 Rapid growth in archaeological projects has meant that we have had to work hard this year to develop workable policies to deal with new situations. These include competitive tendering for projects, recommending technical solutions to problems of assessing importance of sites at minimum cost, giving physical protection to important monuments and archaeological deposits, and rapid publication and dissemination of information on large numbers of sites.

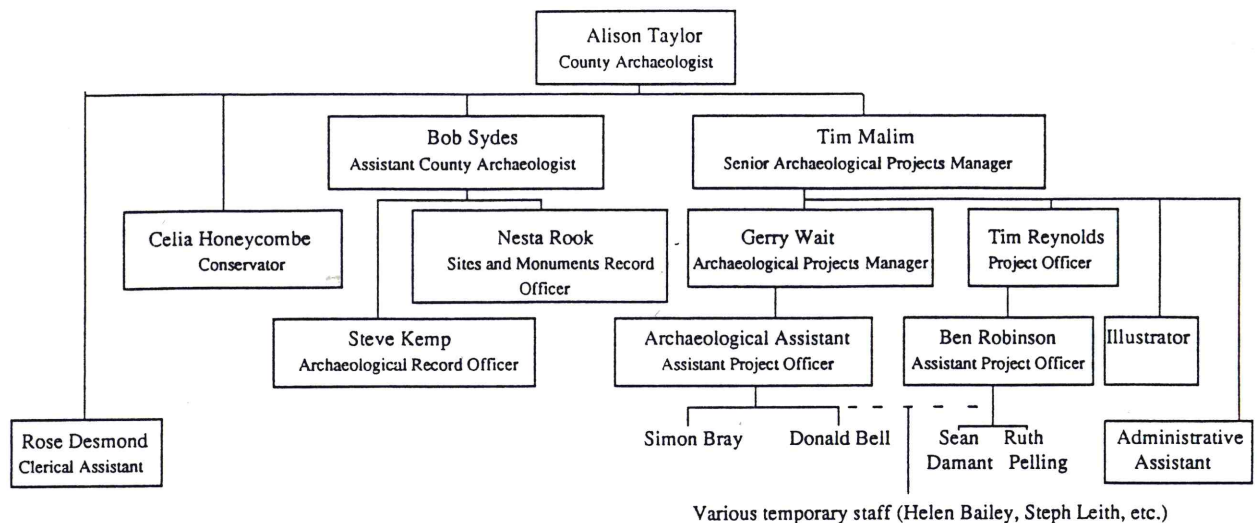
1.3 Wider involvement in heritage management has also increased this year. Funding through the County Council's capital programme has enabled us to undertake positive management and interpretation programmes on some of Cambridgeshire's most important sites; Countryside stewardship is opening possibilities for long-term management of other field monuments; and a combination of National Curriculum recommendations and an exciting excavation at Barrington Anglo-Saxon cemetery helped to develop much interest from schools.

1.4 1991 was also the year we were at last able to tackle, with some success, long-term problems of conservation and storage of archaeological artefacts.

2.0 STAFF

John Ette, Assistant County Archaeologist, resigned in December to take a post as Ancient Monuments Inspector. He has just been replaced (1st April) by Bob Sydes. Nesta Rooke and Rose Desmond have continued (part-time) as Sites & Monuments (SMR) Officer and administrative support, respectively. The SMR has been strengthened by the addition of Steve Kemp, since August, who also helps with development control work and prepares occasional reports for consultants.

Project-funded work continues to be led by Tim Malim, who built up a strong team for excavations, surveys etc. last summer, which we were able to maintain, though at a lower level, through the winter. We are fortunate to have Gerry Wait and Tim Reynolds as Project Officers, and also to have specialist expertise from Corinne Duhig (human bones) and Celia Honeycombe (conservation). Ben Robinson and Simon Bray have been with us now for over 2 years. Ben has not only been running excavations, but has been taking aerial photographs of archaeological sites from his micro-lite aeroplane.



Staff Structure - April 1992

3.0 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

3.1 Since November 1990, local planning authorities have been expected to consult their County SMR and seek archaeological advice before determining applications that could affect archaeological sites, under PPG No 16 "Archaeology and Planning". Developers also need to understand how their proposals could affect sites, and are required to take measures to protect particularly important sites and to excavate others. The County Archaeological Office is responsible for implementing this DOE guidance, and for monitoring standards of work carried out. With planning applications even now running at nearly 10,000 a year, plus numerous new road proposals, pipelines and public inquiries in progress on Local Plans and out-of-town shopping centres, and more than 100 archaeological field projects carried out last year by various organisations, this element of our work has necessarily become an almost full-time commitment for the Assistant County Archaeologist, with a lot of support from other members of the section.

3.2 Statistics for 1991 are:-

Total planning applications:	9126
Applications checked in detail:	400
Further action recommended:	150
Field assessment/excavation:	53

In addition there were consultations over:-

Proposed roads:	9
Mineral extraction sites:	14
Pipelines:	7
Out of town shopping centres:	4

3.3 Evidence was given at public inquiries on South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire's Local Plans, and was provided for the Structure Plan Officer for the 4 out-of-town shopping proposals.

4.0 EXCAVATIONS

The following excavations were carried out by the County Archaeological Office's project team between January 1990 and April 1992. All the sites were rescue excavations in advance of development or plough damage, except for Stonea, Harston and Fowlmere where small trial-excavations were used to help with long-term management and preservation. Funding was provided by English Heritage, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Anglia Water Services, National Rivers Authority, British Gas and developers, as indicated.

Prehistoric Sites

4.1 **Barnack TF057068** - Early prehistoric buried agricultural landscape, burials and ancient stream-channels, excavated by Tim Reynolds, on behalf of Star Quarries.

Fieldwalking recovered very little surface material and test pits confirmed the lack of finds in the topsoil. Trenching revealed a series of ditches and, more rarely, pits but material for dating these was lacking. It can be confirmed that the majority of features predate, or are contemporary with the late Iron Age/early Roman periods because a ploughsoil of this date was found in many of the trenches and can be used as a marker horizon. It is assigned this date because the furrows preserved in its base require a well-developed mouldboard plough to form them, which was first available at this date. It is also dated by the presence over it of a sealing alluvial deposit which has, elsewhere in the Welland Valley, been dated to the Late Roman/post-Roman period.

One trench yielded preserved wood in an ancient channel stream at its eastern end, overlain by more than 1m thick fluvial clays. Many samples were taken for environmental assessment, notably dendrochronology, pollen and sediment analysis. A single flint flake-blade was recovered from this trench adjacent to one of the larger pieces of preserved wood. Any further work should aim to establish the relationship of the archaeological evidence to this palaeostream channel across the eastern part of the site.

Trench 16 was opened specifically to examine the state of preservation of cropmarks and to ascertain dating for these features. It was revealed that the tops of the features were being affected by ploughing whilst pan-busting will certainly cause severe damage. The features themselves were remarkably clean, with few finds. The dating of these features, therefore, depends upon analogy with similar features known elsewhere in the Welland Valley, and on position within the stratigraphy. On this basis, the earliest feature is an irregularly shaped ring ditch, which was apparently dug as a series of short, c. 5m-long trenches, which formed the foundation for a series of posts of c. 25cm diameter. Similar features are found to the east of the site along the Welland at Maxey and during recent excavations by C French at Market Deeping, where they are dated to the Neolithic period. The ring ditch appears to have been recut without the posts being present at a later date.

A series of three postholes of subrectangular shape run outside the ring ditch and may relate to it. They are 3m apart and some 40cms diameter, but their depth very variable, ranging from a few centimetres to some 40cms. Within the ring ditch is a large post pit, c. 60cms deep and 1m across. This held a large post which was subsequently removed. A line of consolidated charcoal marked this event from which a sample was taken for C14 dating. Associated with this large post pit were two smaller postholes, each c. 30cms wide and 45cms deep. These were to the north of the pit.

Crossing the ring ditch was a long, linear, V-shaped section, but flat bottomed ditch of probably Iron Age date. It contained some animal bone and intrusive Roman pottery in its uppermost fill - the ditch was already defunct when the last deposit formed. A parallel ditch of identical form also ran to the ring ditch (N-S) but respects its western edge, suggesting that: 1) it post-dates the ring ditch, and 2) the ring ditch was still a feature in the landscape when the linear ditch was dug.

The western part of trench 16 bisected a double ring ditch which was exposed to study supposed butt ends of the ditches possible entrances to the feature revealed by geophysical survey but these were non-existent, the ring ditches were continuous but masked by a very shallow linear feature which cancelled out the geophysical survey readings. Soil samples of all features were taken for the Bradford geophysical team.

Trench 2 provided soil samples of the ploughsoil for environmental study, particularly micromorphology, to be undertaken by Dr C French.

Quarry Section Burials

Work on the quarry section revealed a linear ditch, shown on aerial photographs. It is a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed ditch which ends some 2m into the section. Study of the exposed part of the feature recovered a series of three burials in a ditch which was cut into the underlying natural gravels. The first burial was backfilled with the upcast gravel from the ditch and could, by analogy from further along the Welland, be Neolithic in date. The second burial was disturbed by the cutting for the third burial. The latter was a crouched inhumation. All burials appear to have been young men. The crouched burial seems most likely to be of Bronze Age date. The bones were studied by C Duhig and samples will be taken for C14. Further study of the dentition of the second burial is likely to be worthwhile should funds be available.

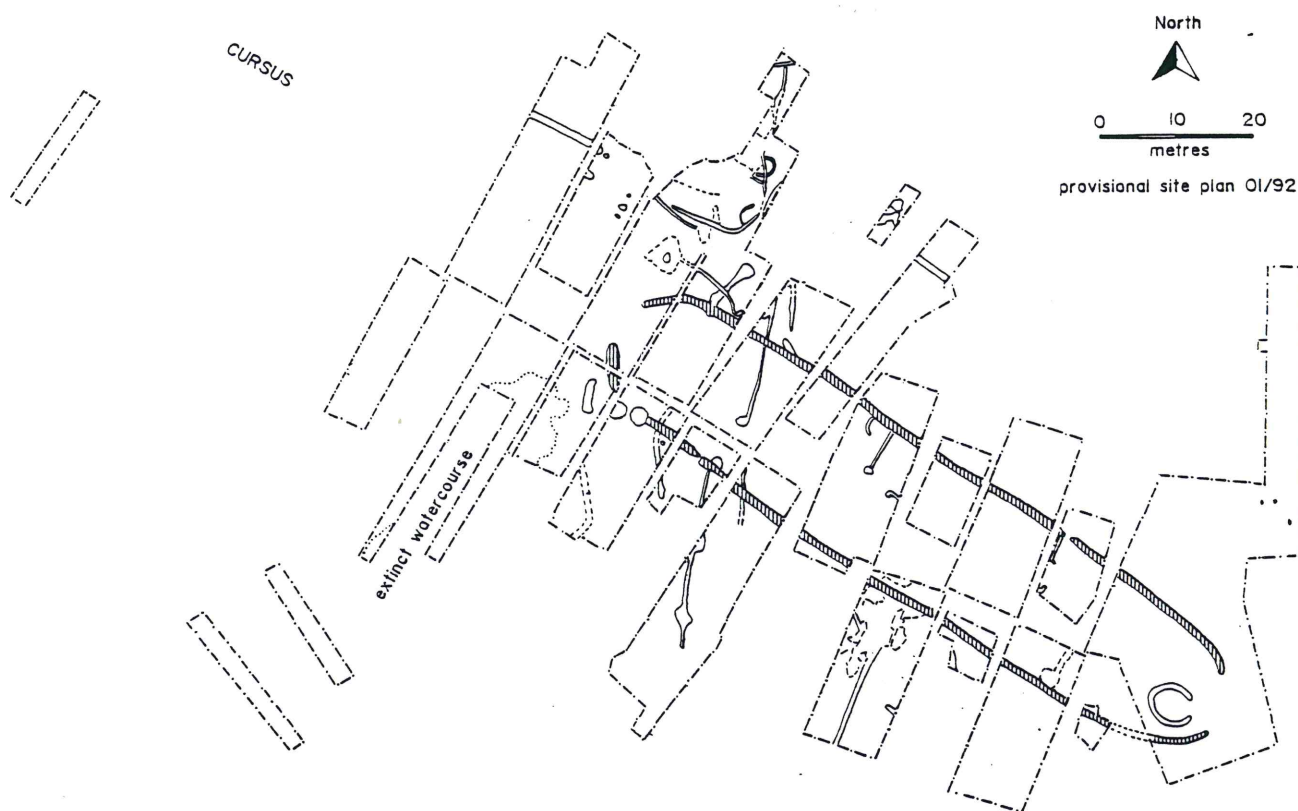
4.2 **Brampton TL204716** Neolithic enclosure, excavated by Tim Malim, on behalf of English Heritage

Excavations in advance of construction of a trunk road at a known cropmark complex (Scheduled Monument Cambs. 121) gave a complete plan for a discrete Neolithic monument, interpreted as a mortuary enclosure at the eastern end of a cursus. One metre wide parallel ditches enclosed an area 90m long by 17-20m wide. Orientation was northwest-southeast, and the enclosure ditches curved in at both ends leaving openings of 5 and 7m wide respectively.

A shallow horseshoe-shaped ring ditch was located within the eastern terminals, but no obvious monumental details were noticed at the western end. However, a number of narrow gullies crossed the monument, spreading out from it as antennae ditches, and these appeared to terminate internally as large post-holes. Several pits with evidence of burning were found on the west side, two of them cutting the original main ditch of the monument.

The main ditches of the monument were cut into the natural gravel to a depth of 0.3m and were generally U-shaped in profile. They seem to have been cut in segments, as occasional narrow causeways, and abrupt changes of direction were noted. Soil assessment within the monument suggest the presence of a buried land surface, and vestiges of a mound towards the western end. Samples have been taken for micromorphological analysis.

Finds were few, and their absence is significant, suggesting deliberate cleaning or a lack of domestic activity in the vicinity. However, small sherds of Neolithic pottery came from charcoal-filled pits and the ring ditch. No human bone was found. Extensive bulk soil samples were floated on site for carbonised seeds and other macrobotanical remains. Recovery was poor, except from distinct features that contained high charcoal content. From one pit large thin pieces of burnt wood were lifted. Pollen and mollusc samples were considered inappropriate in the sandy-gravel conditions of the site (pH value 6.5), even though an alluvial overburden of some 0.5m covered much of the site. Nonetheless this had not succeeded in protecting it, as agricultural pan-busting was found to have penetrated deep into the Neolithic features.



Neolithic Enclosure at Brampton, 1990-1

4.3 Stonea Camp, Wimblington TL448931 Iron Age fort, excavated by Tim Malim, on behalf of English Heritage, Cambridgeshire County Council and Fenland District Council

Archaeological investigation included 15 hand-excavated trenches across the lines of the filled-in ditches. These revealed substantial original ditches, 5m wide, steep-sided with flat bases, and 1.8m deep, on the northern (island side), and less stable U-shaped ditches on the south side (fen side). The northern ditches were dug into sands and gravels, and the southern into peat and silts. Original causeways through the defences, and two additional lines of ditch were found in the north part. Environmental conditions within the ditches were disappointingly dry, with only very

desiccated organic fills remaining at the bottom of the ditches.

Conditions of preservation within the southern defences were of much greater interest, because the water-table was still reasonably high and thus good organic survival was found. These fills were sampled by Peter Murphy of UEA who has completed a rapid preliminary assessment that shows detrital deposits with many tree and shrub macro-fossils, as well as evidence that the ditch was wet throughout the period that deposits accumulated within it. He commented on the abundance of thorn species (as also found at the late Iron Age site of Coveney) and suggests that this may indicate deliberate use of thorn hedging as an extra form of defence. Pollen samples gathered at the same time by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (March 1991) have been provisionally put into a work-programme for 1993. Of exceptional interest within these same deposits was the discovery of human bone, including a child's skull which clearly shows two sword-cuts (verified by scanning electron microscope photography). This is the first supporting evidence for actual use of Stonea Camp, of occupation and its military role, apart from small areas of pottery scatters discovered by Tim Potter's British Museum project in 1980-1.

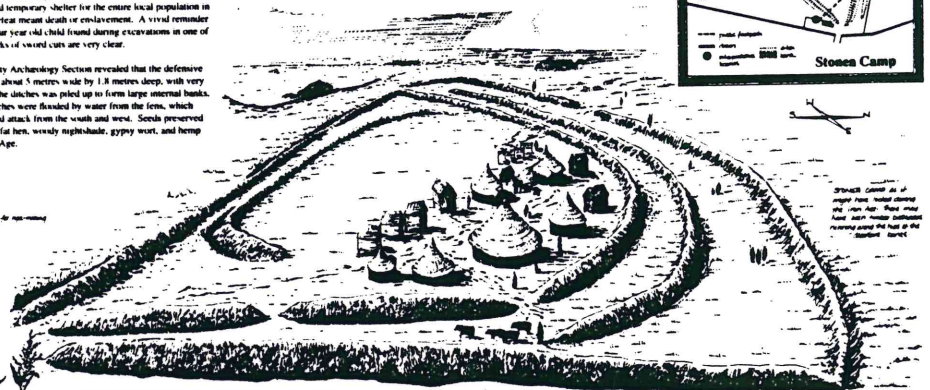
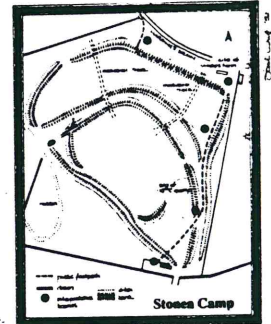


Iron Age Stonea

You are now standing on the inner defensive bank of an earthwork which has survived over 2000 years. The trees on the horizon grow on the next fen island, at Wimblington. In the Iron Age the fenslands were flooding, surrounding these islands with reeds, sedge, alder scrub, and a network of meres and streams. Fenland settlements were sparse, for most people had retreated to higher sites on the edge of the fens. As in Medieval times the fens had become a wilderness, impassable by outsiders and giving shelter for rebel armies.

THE EARTHWORKS WHICH PROTECTED Stonea at the time of the Roman attack were the third phase in the development of the Camp. Excavations elsewhere in Britain have shown that only a privileged few lived permanently in the fort, drawing on supplies and labour from a wide area to maintain and improve the defences. Like Medieval castles, hill-forts provided temporary shelter for the entire local population in times of trouble, when defeat meant death or enslavement. A vivid reminder of this is the skull of a four year old child found during excavations in one of Stonea's ditches; the marks of sword cuts are very clear.

Excavations by the County Archaeology Section revealed that the defensive ditches in the north were about 5 metres wide by 1.8 metres deep, with very steep sides. Earth from the ditches was piled up to form large internal banks. The smaller southern ditches were flooded by water from the fens, which themselves also prevented attack from the south and west. Seeds preserved in the wet soil show that fat hen, woad, nightshade, gypsy wort, and hemp all grew here in the Iron Age.



THE ROMANS INVADED BRITAIN in 43 AD, and the East Anglian Iceni submitted easily to Roman rule to become a favoured "client kingdom", with financial privileges and social prestige. Loss of this status resulted in a ferocious rebellion in which the Iceni were led by their king Prasutagus (father of Boudicca). The Roman historian Tacitus recorded one of the final battles "... the neighbouring tribes now chose a battlefield in a place protected by a rustic earthwork, with an approach too narrow for cavalry... (the Romans) broke through the embankment. The enemy, unopposed by their own banner, were overwhelmed." His description of the site of this battle fits the characteristics of Stonea.



EXCAVATIONS by the British Museum in 1980 on a well-preserved section of bank suggest that the Romans deliberately destroyed some of the defences. After that the earthworks survived untouched for nearly 2000 years before the increase in agricultural production resulted in their destruction. Even features well before ground are threatened by the deep ploughing and chemical applications of modern agricultural practices, and artefacts which reveal the history of the site are also at risk from metal detectors. Sadly, the stones to archaeological uses in East Angles will exist.

BCIAD									
PALAEOLITHIC	MESOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	BRONZE AGE	IRON AGE	ROMAN	SAXON	MEDIEVAL	POST MEDIEVAL	
7500		3500	2000	700	43	410	1066	1500	

One of 5 interpretation boards, designed for Stonea Camp

Roman Sites

4.4 Worsted Street Roman Road, TL519828, excavated by Gerry Wait, on behalf of English Heritage

Three sections (totalling 48.3sq.m) were excavated, two to the west of the A11 and the third to the east. The Roman road and flanking ditches were well-preserved west of the A11, showing

the agger to be composed of the pre-Roman soil horizons, a foundation of rammed chalk and gravel metalling. Southeast of the A11 no evidence of a Romanised road was found, and no certain evidence of ditches. Along the course of the modern track, the top of the natural chalk is heavily worn and eroded. Although no dating evidence was recovered (except from the imprint of a third century coin outside the southwest ditch), soil samples for palynology, molluscan and micromorphological analysis were collected, to be completed in 1993. Pollen preservation was poor, but preliminary results indicate that the molluscan and micromorphological analyses are likely to produce valuable new evidence for local environment and land-use for the period when the road was built. Limited field walking and auger survey continued to trace the course of the road to the southeast, and will allow for more informed speculation about the original destination and purpose of the road.

Preliminary conclusions are that a fully romanised road existed from Cambridge to Worsted Lodge, and that this survives in very good condition. To the south east of Worsted Lodge a trackway may have been partly romanised, though this is unproven, and the use of chalk layers for road surfaces may be medieval in date. There is no certain destination as Horseheath and Streetly are now seen, after further investigation, to be relatively insignificant settlements probably not worthy of a of a romanised road. It may therefore be speculated that Worsted Street as a Roman road was intended to link Cambridge to the Roman road from Great Chesterford to Caistor-by-Norwich, now the A11 trunk road.



Section through Worsted Street Roman Road, 1991

4.5 Mere Way (Akeman Street) Roman Road, excavated by Richard Ozanne, on behalf of Cambridge Water Company

The course of the Roman road has shifted slightly to the west, where it survives as a green lane. The flanking ditches of the Roman road were 16m apart between centres, and were 1.2-1.4m wide and 60-70cm deep. The agger was 45cm high and 10m wide, made up of hard-packed clay

silt probably quarried from a nearby surface outcrop. This was covered by 15m of sandy gravel metalling, probably derived from the flanking ditches. Soil samples were taken and tested for surviving pollen which might have indicated land-use for the surrounding area, but these tests proved negative.

4.6 **Hinxton** cropmarks TL487466, excavated by Gerry Wait, on behalf of Mineral Planning Services.

These cropmarks proved to be unusually regular enclosures with little trace of settlement. One burnt-clay and stone structure is thought to be a corn-drying kiln. There seems to be no earlier occupation and it is thought the site was used for purely agricultural activities associated with a nearby villa. Following this site assessment, Mineral Planning Services agreed to withdraw areas where significant remains were found from their application for extraction, and so these will now be preserved.

4.7 **Godmanchester, London Street**, Roman burials, TL24707020, excavated by Lesley Hoyland, on behalf of Twigden Homes

Emergency excavations following the discovery of human bones during development revealed 13 skeletons, other miscellaneous bones, 2 ditches, 2 pits, several unexcavated features and large quantities of unabraded Roman pottery, indicating both settlement and a cemetery along a major road leading from the Roman town at different times within the Roman period. The burials were strikingly regular, laying west-east, equally spaced in rows. Three of them lay in nailed coffins and all graves were quite deeply cut. One coin and an oyster shell were the only possible grave goods noted in graves, but a bronze bangle and iron knife which occurred as stray finds had probably accompanied burials. Many features were noted in house foundations, but were not excavated further.

Large areas of open ground adjacent to this site contained low and irregular earthworks. As it was assumed that Roman settlement and burials existed here, Huntingdonshire District Council agreed to level up the site with imported soil, (for use as a playing field) following a survey by the Archaeology Office, rather than levelling it down, which would have destroyed the earthworks and the deposits below them.

4.8 **Brampton III** Rural settlement, TL206715, excavated by Ben Robinson, on behalf of English Heritage

Trenches adjacent to the Neolithic monument (see 4.2 above) revealed ditches and 13 pits, which, because of their distinctive yellow-brown alluvial fill, are thought to belong to the same Neolithic period. However, one pit contained late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, and there was a nail in another. Otherwise fills were sterile except for a small quantity of animal bone. Elsewhere, all features had dark humic fill and were Roman in date.

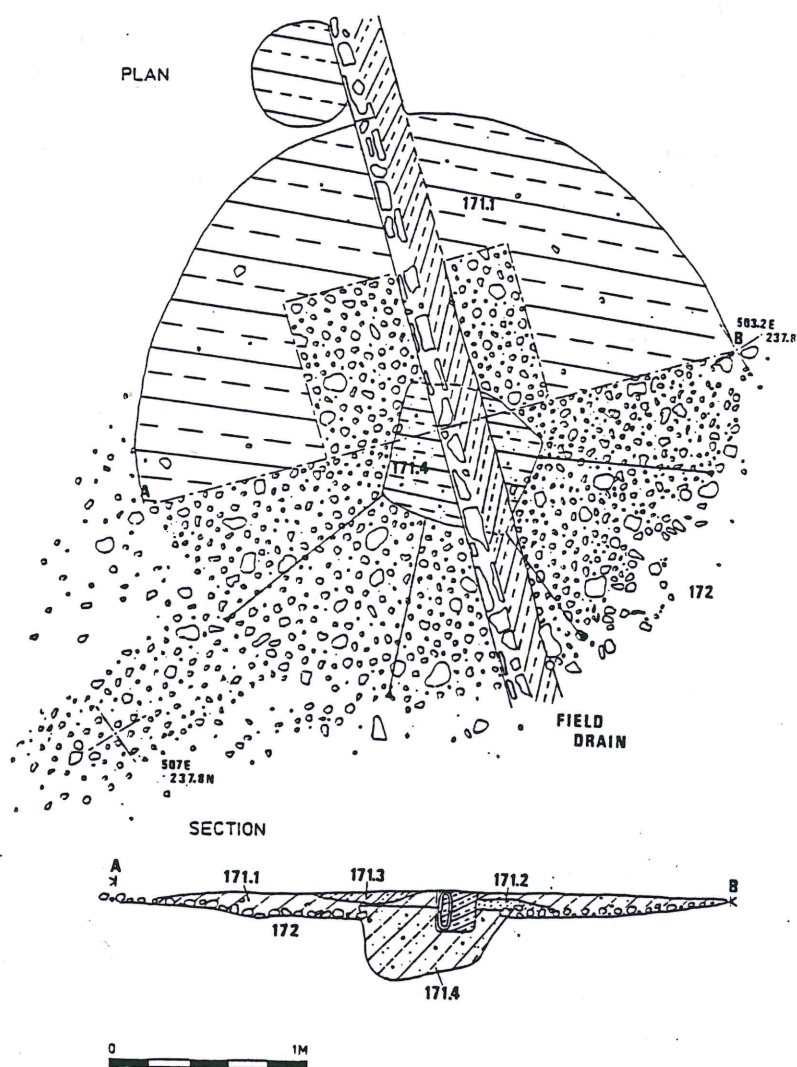
Roman features included 2 large parallel ditches delineating a droveway (one of which was palisaded) onto which backed small rectangular enclosures. North of these was an area of intensive farming-related activity, badly damaged by ploughing. A circular patch of fine cobbles 3.2m in diameter had a hole 0.7m square in the centre and is thought to be the floor of an animal-powered grinding machine. Other, more disturbed, cobbled areas may have had a similar function. Four small charcoal-filled gullies were possibly grain-drying kilns. One shallow pit or pond, 3m in diameter, held quantities of 4th century pottery and animal bone. There were many postholes but they did not make a coherent pattern in the minimal expanses of the open trenches,

but they, and possible timber-slots suggest buildings may have surrounded the areas of agricultural processing. Evidence for a substantial domestic building, including building stones, flue-box tiles and roof tiles was noted over much of the site, but no building was discovered. The site was also crossed by numerous boundary ditches.

Pottery and coins give a date of 1st to 4th century AD, with a peak in the 3rd century, after which the crop-processing area was abandoned. Finds include pottery, animal bone, 13 coins, 6 hobnails and numerous other nails.

Samples from the "corn-drying kilns" will be analysed for charcoal and charred grain. Pollen samples from large ditches will be tested to help determine neighbouring land-use.

Road construction at this point has involved use of geotextile surfaces and ballast, thus protecting most of the archaeological deposits.



Plan of Floor of Animal-powered Grinding Machine

4.9 Cambridge, Roman town, (Shire Hall car park) TL44625928, excavated by Ben Robinson, on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council

Trial excavations revealed a Romano-British ditch and occupation debris sealed by 0.5m of Post Medieval and modern demolition layers. Construction of a car park was therefore limited to 0.4m disturbance, so that archaeological layers were preserved.

4.10 **Bottisham**, Whitelands Springs, TL558606, excavated by Ben Robinson, for National Rivers Authority

A fieldwalking survey located a small scatter of chalk clunch rubble, tiles and pottery which had been noted in the SMR as a "Roman building". This was situated on a slight spur projecting from a chalk slope into low-lying peat deposits.

The pipe route was diverted to an area where less substantial remains were anticipated. An 8m wide easement was stripped and a number of pits and ditches encountered. The largest ditch had a causeway formed by unexcavated chalk marl, postholes and a gully slot for a threshold beam indicating a gate structure. Sill beam slots for timber buildings were located. The area uncovered suggested two concentric square or rectangular structures (20m in length) with a circular structure (10m in diameter) at one end. Unfortunately the area likely to contain the eastern portions of these features lay outside the ground available for investigation. A magnetometer survey of this area gave inconclusive results - the foundation slots may have been too slight to register as magnetic anomalies. There were no other features associated with these structures and no internal surfaces had survived. Truncation of this area by ploughing had been severe. The suggested complete plan of these structures conforms closely to buildings described as rural shrines or temples. An adjacent pit contained iron objects resembling a ladle and a broad sharply-curved knife, and several small sheets of copper alloy, some with rivets, as if used to repair an item such as a large bowl.

A geophysical survey of the area adjoining the pipe trench enabled us to relate the excavated features to the wider area, particularly the dense finds scatter. A small rectangular stone and mortar building (16m x 8m) surrounded by a rectangular ditched enclosure was located. The excavated gated entrance was aligned with a causeway in the inner enclosure ditch.

Pottery recovered suggests a late 3rd/early 4th century date for the building, though earlier residual material was also recovered.



Archaeology on Pipelines: National Rivers Authority's Pipeline at Whitelands Springs, Bottisham revealed a possible Romano-Celtic Temple

Anglo-Saxon Sites

4.11 Barrington cemetery, TL37464959, excavated by Tim Malim, on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council and English Heritage

Approximately 2000sq.m in 5 trenches were opened by mechanical digger. Most burials were immediately apparent once the ploughsoil was removed and all features were planned after hoe-cleaning. A magnetometer survey completed in April 1991 had already given a useful plot of major ditches, although smaller features such as graves could not be located. All graves that were uncovered were excavated, but Iron Age features were only sampled, as the threat from ploughing was limited to their upper level.

The earliest feature was a ring ditch 18m in diameter and severely truncated by ploughing, on the brow of Edix Hill. It is thought to belong to a Bronze Age barrow which was presumably visible in Anglo-Saxon times and perhaps helped attract the cemetery to this site. However, extensive evidence for settlement remains dated only to the Iron Age. This included gullies and ditches, the largest still surviving to 1.5m wide by 1m deep, postholes and pits, with one large area containing possible storage-pits of which 28 were sampled. These were surprisingly uniform, with flat-bottoms, straight or beehive sides and were approximately 0.3m to 0.5m deep by 1.5m in diameter, though some were smaller and several up to 2.5m in diameter. Small quantities of pottery and animal bone were the only finds, apart from one large jet ring and a ritual deposit of a complete dog skeleton with a cow skull over its head. Ritual dog deposits are not uncommon in Iron Age pits, but the association with cow skull has not been previously recognised. All features other than graves appeared to belong to this Iron Age phase, but our strategy of minimal sampling, and the complications of dating both Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon features where domestic pottery is scarce leave some question marks.

Sixty-five Anglo-Saxon burials were excavated. Their state of preservation varied from approximately 5% of bone surviving in graves within ploughsoil, to rare instances of 100% survival in chalk-cut graves. Bone itself was superbly preserved, so that even the smallest infant bones were retrieved, but there had been substantial damage by coprolite mining (which had removed the southern limits of the site), 19th century land drains and excavations, metal-detecting and ploughing. Metal-work was normally in good condition but organics only survived as mineralised deposits. The date range is early 6th to late 7th century.

As in previous years, almost all the richest graves were those of women. One very early grave contained a pair of silver wrist-clasps (Hines A) with a pair of "marigold" design saucer brooches, 18 amber and 2 crystal beads. Slightly later, c.620 AD, was a woman with a pair of very small saucer brooches (one gilded) and a record number of beads for this cemetery (189 amber, 3 glass, 2 "white substance" and 1 crystal), plus a latchlifter and pair of wrist-clasps. She was part of a double burial with a man, who was accompanied by a spear (Swanton H2), knife and buckle.

Two burials later in the 6th century had bags of objects with large purse-rings of ivory (or possibly mammoth tusk). One of these burials also had a great number of beads (146 amber and 9 glass) and a pair of 6-spiral decorated saucer brooches.

Other grave goods in this cemetery included a bunch of 4 keys, 2 small-long brooches and one cruciform, 5 pairs of bronze wrist-clasps, 2 pots.

The latest 7th Century burial had been virtually destroyed by ploughing, but its jaw area survived, accompanied by a necklace of 7 silver rings, 5 blue and green beads and 2 gold pendants. One was circular with a garnet (?) setting and the other was a crystal in a gold sling.

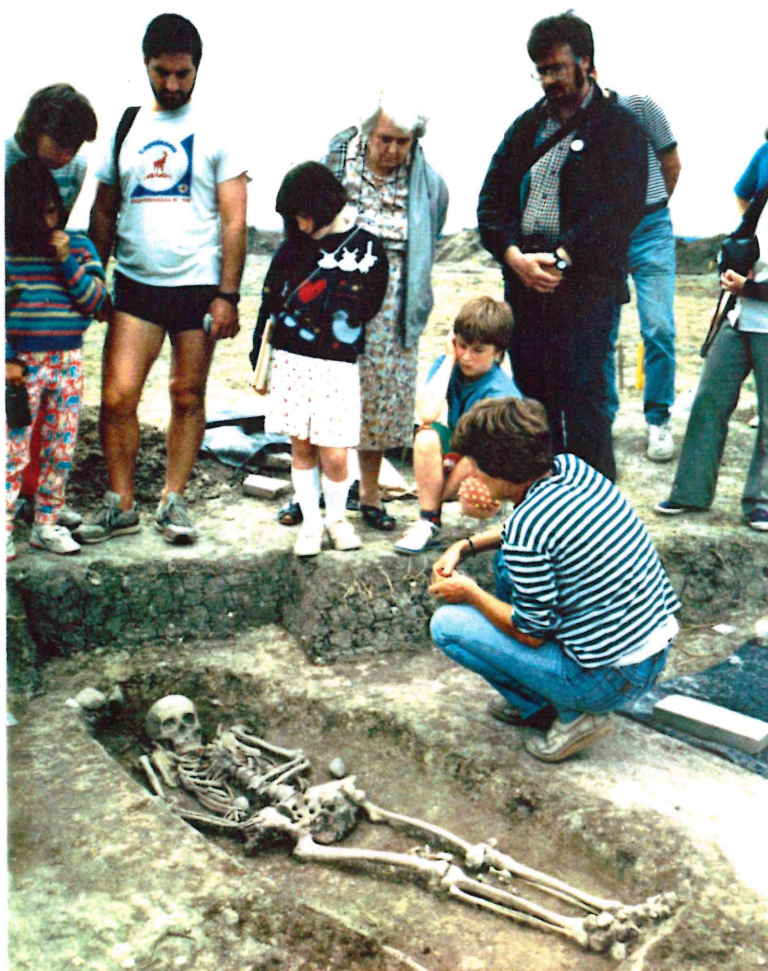
This year only 6 men still had spears, and only one grave had a shield-boss. An unusually deeply cut grave contained the only shield boss plus a spear, knife, buckle and bronze bucket.

Child bones normally had no grave goods, but one infant of c. 3 years had a plain pot and 8 glass beads. A neonatal infant was under the head of a slightly built young woman, probably the mother, and another infant lay on a man's pelvis. A rare find was a child burial, which had a small spear by his head. One part of the cemetery had a concentration of 6 children close together.

In one area an Iron Age ditch, in-filled by Anglo-Saxon times, was used for a string of 12 burials, of which 8 were in double graves. Plague of some kind is a possible explanation, the re-use of a ditch in an area of scarce burials being explained by ease of digging graves compared with excavating chalk marl in dry conditions.

Graves on the brow of the hill were most thickly packed and had suffered considerable disturbance. An interesting aspect of work this year was recognition of graves excavated in the 19th century in this area, where artefacts had been removed and bones replaced, sometimes very neatly. Shallow burials were severely damaged and artefacts were scarce.

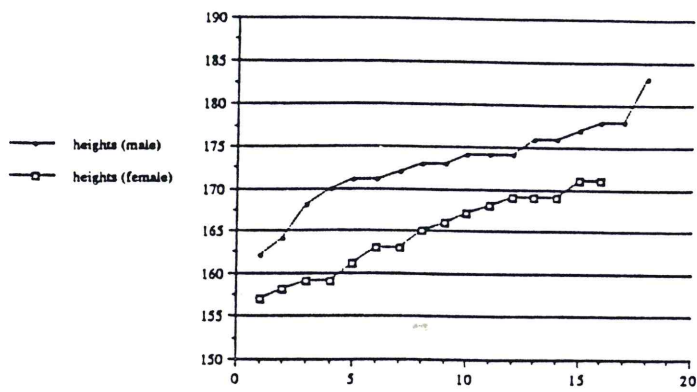
Study of human bone, which will be one of the most rewarding aspects of this cemetery, has produced very interesting results such as leprosy, cancer, high levels of osteoarthritis, lack of trauma and evidence of good overall health and diet. Conservation of artefacts will continue during 1992.



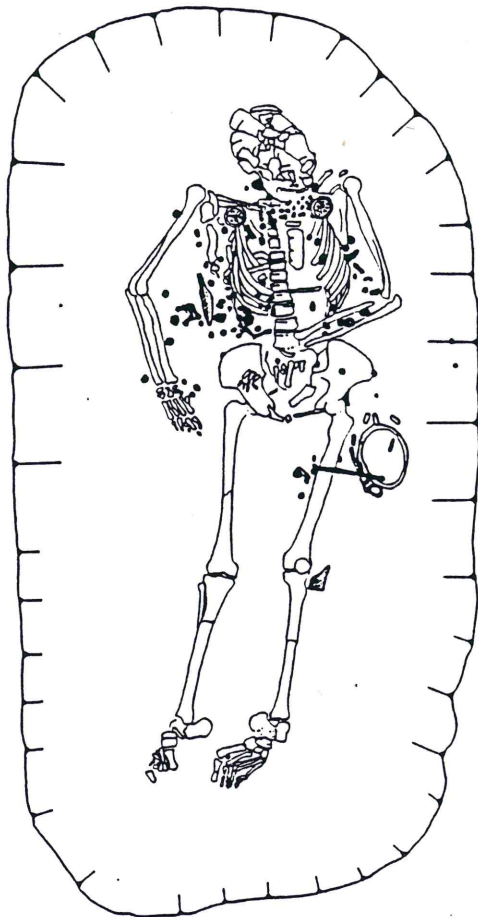
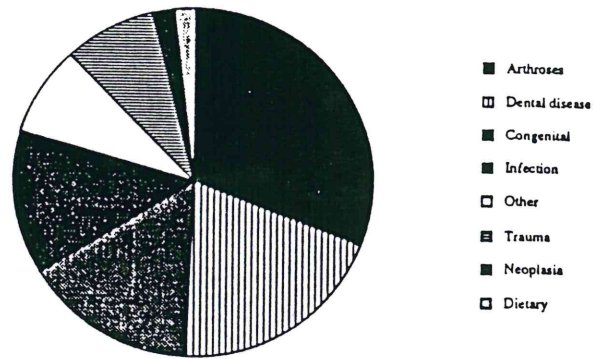
*Archaeology & the Public:
Whenever possible, visitors are
welcome to see work in
progress.*

*At Barrington, about 5000
people saw the Anglo-Saxon
cemetery, including organised
groups and many casual week-
end visitors*

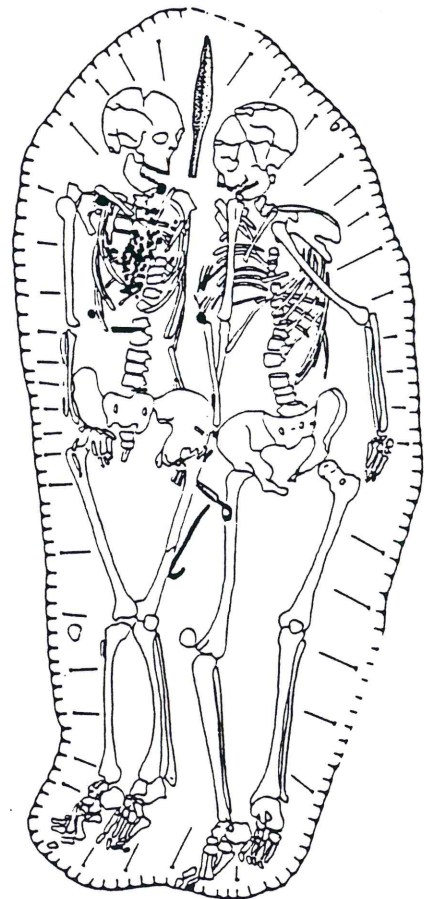
Heights of Barrington skeletons (female and male)



Barrington skeletons: percentages of diseases



Female burial with 146 amber beads, 9 glass beads, pair of saucer brooches, buckle, key and an ivory purse-ring supporting a bag of miscellaneous objects



Double burial with 189 amber, 1 crystal, 3 glass and 2 "white substance" beads, 2 small saucer brooches, a buckle, latchlifter, 2 knives and a spear

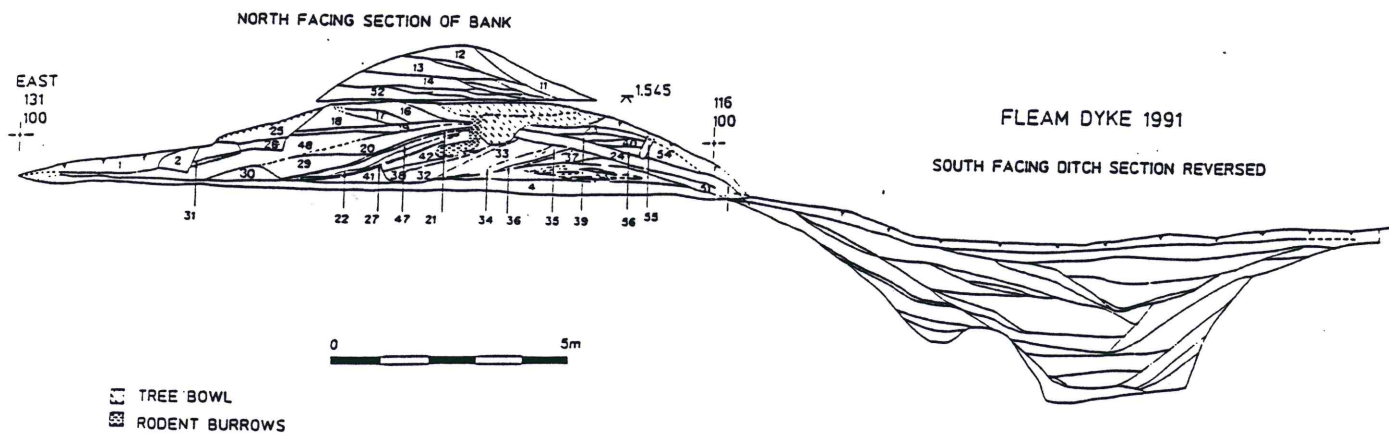
4.12 Devil's Dyke TL58456438, excavated by Gerry Wait, on behalf of Cambridge Water Company

A small section (8 x 3m) was excavated across the lower fill of the ditch. The ditch proved unexpectedly shallow (only 0.75m at the centre), as ditch fill had accumulated extremely slowly. It was also unexpectedly flat bottomed and steep sided. Three phases representing initial fill, stabilization in open (grazed) conditions and a recent elder-dominated scrub growth, were documented. Preservation of land molluscs was excellent.

4.13 Fleam Dyke, TL548541, excavated by Gerry Wait, on behalf of English Heritage

The goals of the excavations included a reconsideration of the dating and construction of the dyke and particular attention was directed toward the buried soils below the bank of the dyke. The methodology employed made use of the artificial terminus left by previous roadworks (and excavation by C Fox in the 1920's) to achieve a "stepped" section across the bank exposing about 35sq.m of buried soil. The bank as revealed was about 15m wide and 3.5 to 4.0m high. The excavated section was carried across the ditch (14m long by 3.5m wide).

Fleam Dyke was revealed as an unexpectedly massive defensive earthwork - the apparently unimpressive ditch was originally 4.5m deep and 8m wide. With its near vertical sides and flat bottom it was an effective barrier. At least two phases of ditch were observed with an earlier V profile ditch (5m wide by 3m deep) close to the bank, replaced by the major ditch described above. The section across the bank was equally fruitful. Three phases of bank can be distinguished, the last representing a long period of ditch maintenance and cleaning. Artefacts were not numerous, but nonetheless sufficient to confirm a post-Roman date (many small abraded sherds of Roman pottery, and a 3rd - 4th century coin were sealed in the buried soil below the bank). A few animal bones were recovered from layers within each of the bank phases, as well as from layers within the ditch fill, and may be used for radiocarbon dating. More significantly, the buried soil was extensively sampled for molluscs and botanical remains, which should provide new information about the environment of the area when the Dyke was built (P Murphy, for English Heritage). It is hoped that carbonised remains, such as nuts and seeds, will be recovered and can be used to provide a good radiocarbon date. Soil micromorphology samples were also taken from the buried soil (Dr C A I French). Molluscan samples from the ditch fill should allow for a reconstruction of the environment of the ditch during the silting process. No evidence for retention of an original causeway to carry a Roman road through the dyke was found, confirming the conclusions that Fox reached that the Dyke was a complete barrier.



Medieval Sites

4.14 **Colne** pottery kiln, TL37057603, excavated by Kit Watson, on behalf of THN & B Bluff Esq.

Trial excavations within a farmyard on the outskirts of the present village revealed the first clear evidence for a Medieval pottery kiln in this county. Two stoke-pits and large dumps of pottery sherds, including several obvious 'wasters' were discovered. A full report is awaited, but provisional notes by Hilary Healey revealed 3 fabric types, of which type 1, and possibly type 2, seem to belong to the 13th century, and type 3 to the 16th century. Type 1 (dark-brown to black surface, red and grey core) included jugs, pipkins, bowls, "ginger jars" and at least one bung-hole jar; type 2 (harder fired, grey sandy ware) included jugs, bowls and a flat base, probably of a jug; type 3 (red, sandy fabric, some with white slip covered by glazed) included jugs, bowls, jars and 2-handled jars with bung-holes. Glazed roundels on some of these sherds are strikingly like sherds from Bourne, Lincolnshire. This may suggest activities by itinerant potters around the Fen-edge.

The location and varied date-range of this kiln site are interesting. The site is close to the fen-edge, suggesting peat would be used for fuel, and it is conveniently situated (half mile distant) from the Bishops Palace at Somersham, which probably provided a market for the glazed 16th century pottery. The market town of St Ives is also not far distant (about 5 miles) and accessible by the River Ouse. The present village of Colne has shifted its centre about 500m eastwards, leaving the kiln-site, an adjacent manorial moat, and a ruined church on its outskirts, although originally they were probably all fairly central.

4.15 **Linton**, shifted village, TL556473, excavated by Drew Shotliff, on behalf of Anglian Water Services

Investigations along a pipeline affecting Medieval village earthworks identified new sites of various date. A substantial late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint scatter was recorded. Possible middle Iron Age occupation was identified. Further evidence for the presence of Roman buildings on the western outskirts of Linton was uncovered. A cobbled street surface was found to be an integral part of the earthworks representing the site of the deserted Medieval village of Little Linton. Dating evidence recovered from the latter indicated that houses surviving as earthworks were built at some point during the 9th - 11th centuries.

4.16 **Soham**, Pratt Street, TL594736, excavated by Simon Bray, on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council

Saxo-Norman and early Medieval boundary ditches and occupation were found in a well-preserved condition in the centre of the village.

4.17 **Stretham Rectory** TL511746, excavated by Lesley Hoyland, on behalf of the Church Commissioners

Saxo-Norman and early Medieval ditches were found west of the present village, adjacent to a 12th century stone building excavated in 1990, indicating a gradual shift of this village away from the Roman road.

4.18 **Wisbech** market place, TL462096, excavated by Lesley Hoyland, on behalf of Fenland District Council

Small trial holes were excavated to determine whether proposed construction works associated with pedestrianisation of the town centre would disturb archaeological deposits. Features associated with 19th century market stalls were noted, and traces of a 16th century dump. Signs of Medieval occupation were only apparent in sondages 1m in depth. Construction work limited to 0.4m in depth will therefore not affect archaeological deposits.

4.19 **Fowlmere** Moat, TL424458, excavated by Gary Haley, on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council

A trial-trench was excavated in the moat ditch to assess whether water-logged deposits survive, and whether removal of recent silts would enable water to be restored. The ditch profile (which was unexpectedly steep-sided and flat-bottomed) was recorded, but all deposits were completely dry. Unfortunately, this seems to be typical of moats in Cambridgeshire, with most of them ceasing to hold water over the last 5 years, due to the fall in the water-table.

Multiperiod Site

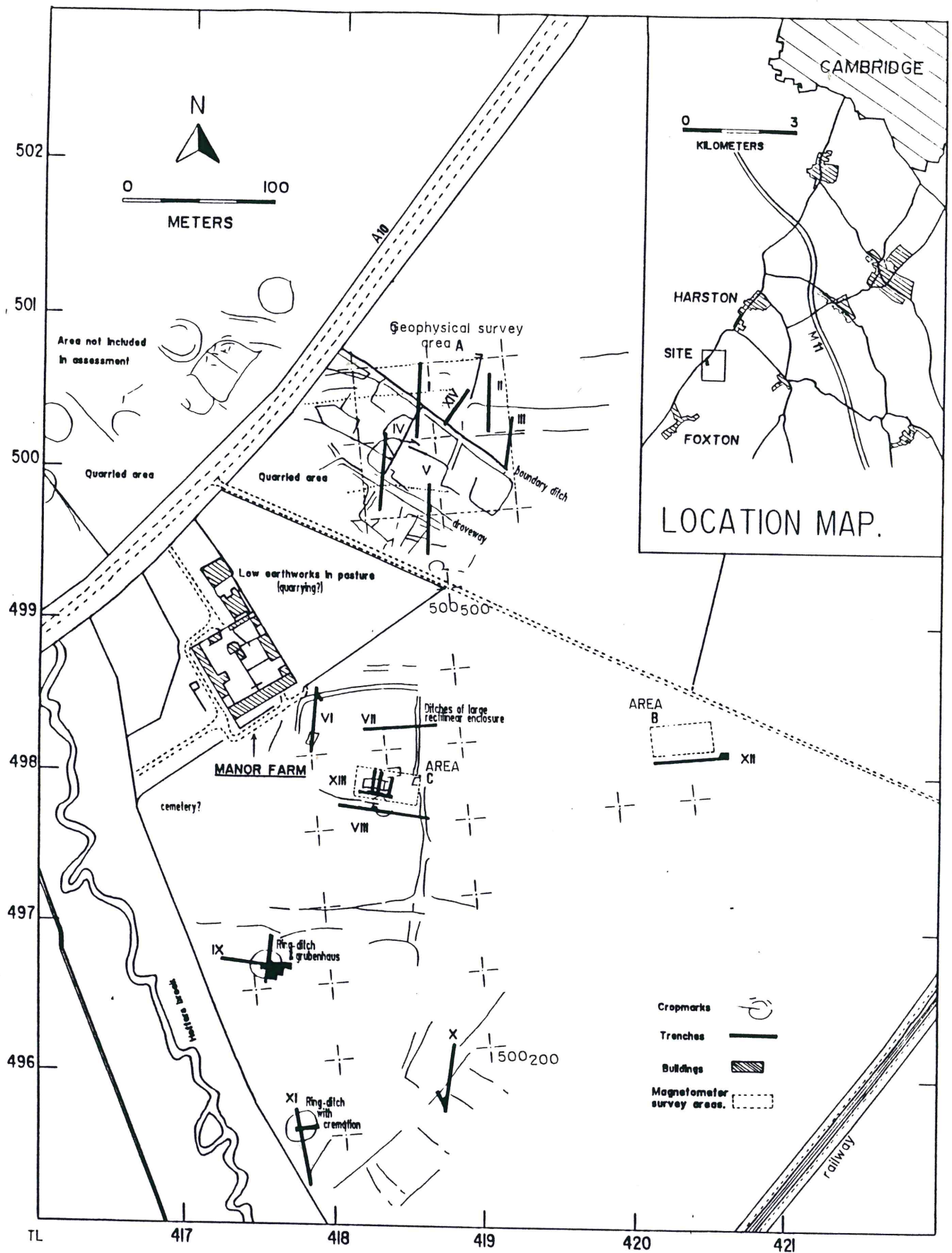
4.20 **Harston** Manor Farm, TL418498, excavated by Tim Malim, on behalf of English Heritage

Fieldwork has shown that a cropmark complex scheduled as an ancient monument in 1978 retains substantial features immediately below shallow ploughsoil. Four main periods of occupation can be assigned: Bronze Age, 1st century AD, 4th century AD and Anglo-Saxon. Apart from the Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork found during fieldwalking, the earliest features are two Bronze Age ring ditches, one containing cremated bone. A group of field ditches may also be a product of Bronze Age activity. Iron Age and Romano-British occupation can be seen from an extensive field system that contained two discrete assemblages. The earlier one dates to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, when it appears that a reasonably wealthy community lived on the site with locally produced pottery in late Iron Age tradition. There is little indication of activity in the immediate area during the 3rd century, but it was occupied again in the 4th century. The character of settlement in this period was different from that of earlier times, with all pottery being imported to the area, and it is possible that this occupation continued into early Saxon times. The fourth main period of occupation was represented by the finding of a possible grubenhaus reusing the central part of a ring ditch. Medieval and Post-Medieval land-use was recognised from fieldwalking finds and can be attributed to manuring, but does not seem related to specific features.

Trial-trenches showed clearly that regular ploughing was progressively damaging archaeological features. The County Council therefore sowed grass instead of an arable crop on the scheduled site and sold it with a covenant to prevent any disturbance or ploughing in the future.

Negative Assessments

4.21 Trial-trenches which showed an absence of archaeological features were excavated at **Catworth** (TL08657496, for Henry Boot, Southern Ltd) and **Ely** (TL550815, for Wilcon Homes)



HARSTON MANOR FARM 1991.

PLAN SHOWING CROPMARKS AND ASSESSMENT TRENCHES.

Location map and site plan showing cropmarks, areas surveyed with magnetometer, and position of archaeological assessment trenches

5.0 SURVEYS

5.1 Measured surveys were carried out to record the following sites:-

March, the Sconce

Detailed historical background and management plan were prepared for this Civil War Fort, which belongs to Fenland District Council.

Meldreth, Malton Farm

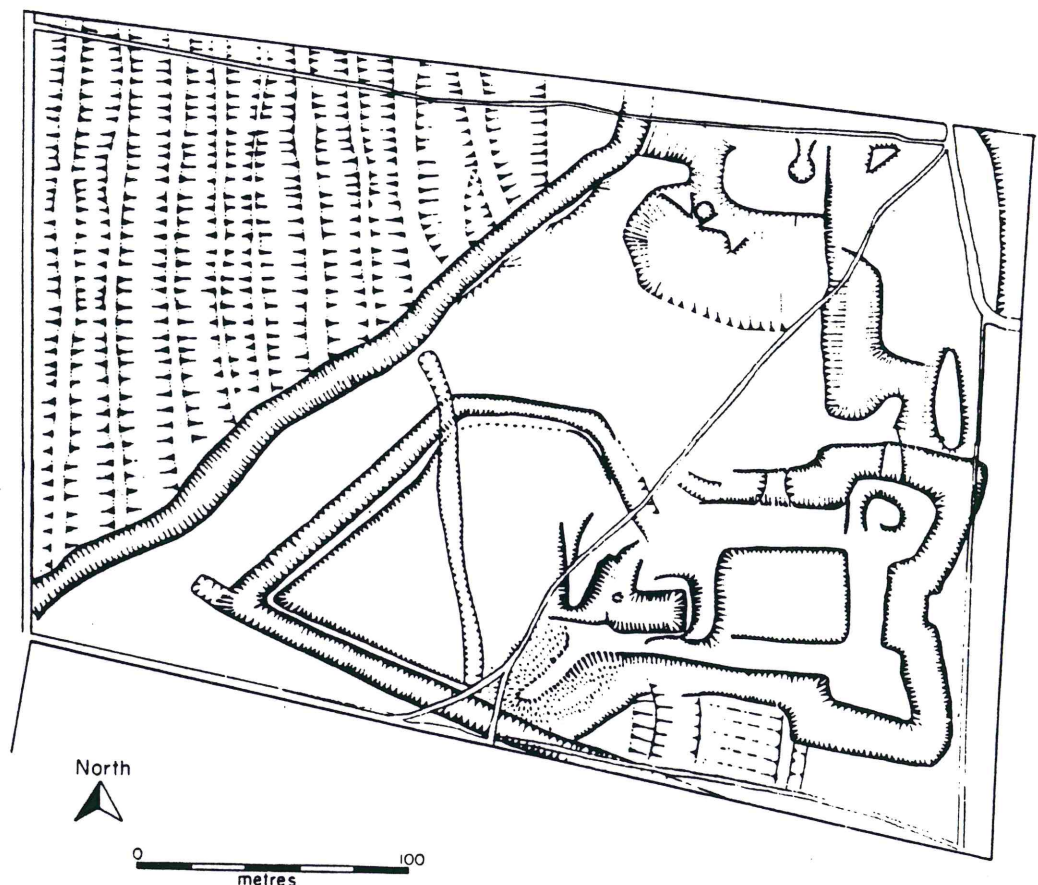
Fieldwalking revealed a Roman site, which will be preserved within a golf-course, as earth-moving operations have been arranged to avoid it.

Godmanchester, Buttermel Meadow

Slight Medieval and Post Medieval earthworks and Roman deposits in a playing field were recorded and were then sealed beneath imported soil to give a level surface without destroying archaeological deposits.

Shingay

Medieval earthworks were recorded before they were damaged by a golf-course.



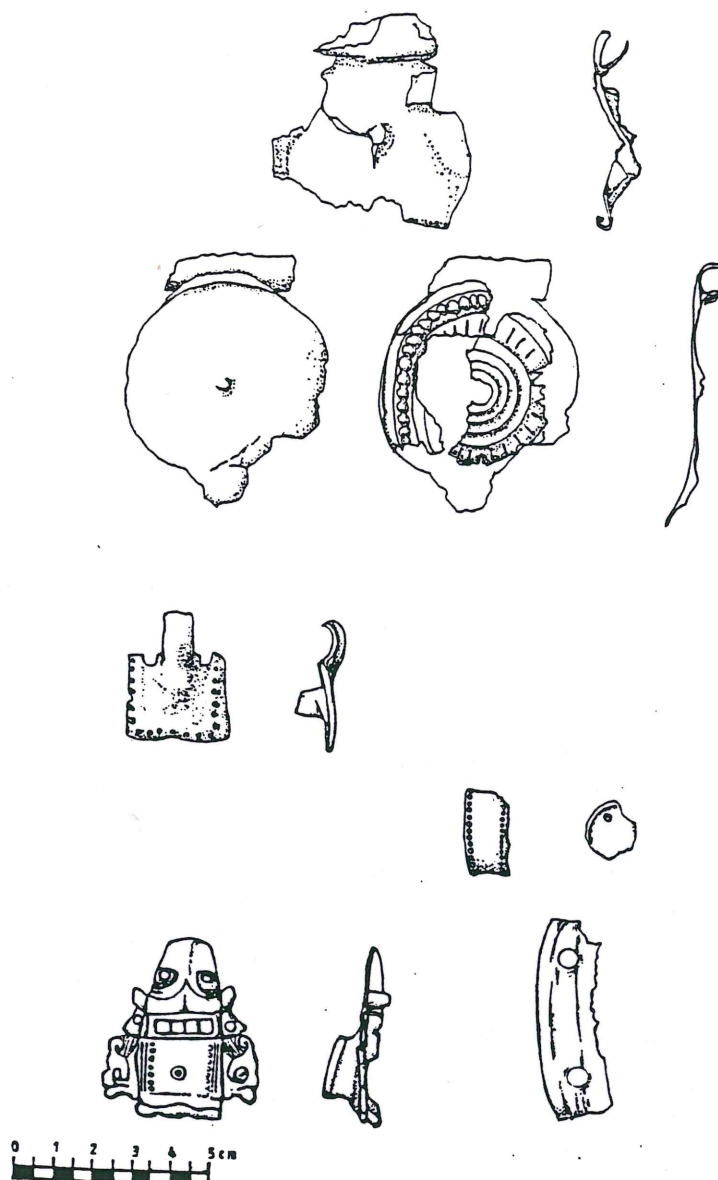
The Sconce, March, Civil War fort

5.2 Village earthworks

A programme of inspections of villages in South Cambridgeshire was started on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council and English Heritage. The aim is to identify all surviving earthworks (mostly Medieval) within selected villages, so that they can be recorded and, where important, preserved. Earthworks in the following villages have been recorded so far:- *Balsham, Bassingbourn, Barrington, Duxford, Fulbourn, Girton, Hardwick, Haslingfield, Histon, Knapwell, Landbeach, Linton, Longstanton, Melbourn, Oakington, Orwell, Over, Papworth Everard, Sawston, Stapleford, Whittlesford, Willingham, Whaddon.*

5.3 Finds identification and recording

Numerous artefacts are brought to the Archaeology Office for identification and recording, including these found by metal detectors. As well as assisting members of the public, many of these items reported are of considerable archaeological importance. All artefacts are photographed and some are drawn, in addition to their entry onto the Sites and Monuments Record.



Anglo-Saxon artefacts found at Hildersham, by metal detector

6.0 WATCHING BRIEFS

Various pipelines were subject to watching briefs during construction. These were: *Longstanton-Bluntisham* (Roman features recorded); *Hemingford-Huntingdon* (middle Iron Age and Roman features); *Gamlingay*; *Childerley* (deer park); *Linton* (see above) and Linton market place; *Milton-Impington* (see Mere Way above); *Cambridge-Thetford* (in progress).

7.0 MONUMENT MANAGEMENT & INTERPRETATION

7.1 Management plans, including designing interpretative notice boards, are now in progress for *Bartlow Hills* (Roman burial mounds); *Burwell Castle*; *Stonea Camp* (Iron Age fort), *Landbeach moat* and shrunken Medieval village; the *Roman Road*; *Doddington* (ridge & furrow) and *Cambridge Castle*.

7.2 *Stonea Camp* was converted from arable agriculture in 1990, has now been accepted in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and is starting to function as a small country park for Fenland.

7.3 During the continuous review of County Farmland, archaeological recommendations are included, to give long-term management for all sites on County Council land.



Archaeology from the Air: Stonea Camp after reconstruction work, photographed from Ben Robinson's micro-lite, which is being used to record earthwork sites and other archaeological features

8.0 EDUCATION

8.1 Artefact Loan Packs for Roman and Prehistoric periods were extremely popular throughout the year with Cambridgeshire schools.

8.2 Two INSET courses were given to groups of Cambridgeshire teachers, to introduce the use of Archaeology in schools, which is now included in the National Curriculum.

8.3 Our Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavation at Barrington was timed to attract maximum school visits in June & July. Despite a very wet June (when the site was unreachable by car), we were able to welcome 5000 visitors. All schools in Southern Cambridgeshire were invited, and worksheets were designed for 3 age-groups. Guided tours were given throughout the week-ends. An on-site Visitor Centre was used to display photographs of the latest finds and the techniques being used, and a secure display of artefacts from the site was held in nearby Wimpole Hall, courtesy of the National Trust.

8.4 An open day, including Neolithic cooking and weaving for children, was held at **Brampton**, unfortunately on a day of incessant rain. The Visitor Centre at Hinchingsbrooke was used for children's activities and also for displays on Neolithic life and Brampton excavation

BARRINGTON
ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY

Welcome to the excavation of a cemetery where villagers from Barrington and Orwell were buried about 1500 years ago.
Many of the people buried here were dressed in their best clothes, with jewellery or weapons.
These are some of the objects found here last year.
CAN YOU NAME THEM?


Immigrants bring many new ideas.
Tick things that might have changed due to the Anglo-Saxon settlement.

LANGUAGE
CLOTHING
LAWS
RELIGION

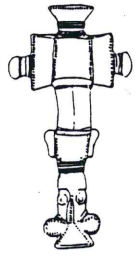
Which of these made lasting changes?


EXCAVATION TECHNIQUES
Once we have discovered a site, such as the ploughsoll, archaeologists also use modern techniques.

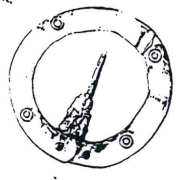
HOUSES
WARFARE
FARMING
SETTLEMENTS




BARRINGTON
ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY



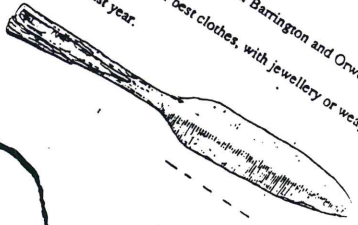





used to remove
of work.



Female



Shield boss
Spear
Brooch
Skull
Buckle
(Fill in the spo



L. OWEN-CROCKER

Welcome to the excavation of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Barrington. Here people from the area buried their dead nearly 1500 years ago. This is the third season of work and will tell us yet more about the people who once lived here.

To learn more about the excavation and about the Anglo-Saxons in Cambridgeshire look at our Visitor Centre and go to the exhibition at Wimpole Hall. There are also leaflet to buy which you can read and take away with you once your visit is over.

Your guide will be able to answer most (but probably not all!) of the questions you may want to ask

REMEMBER DON'T HESITATE TO ASK

Worksheets prepared for Barrington excavation

8.5 Lectures were given throughout the year by members of the County Archaeological Office.

Alison Taylor

"Soils and Archaeology" - Historical Associations Teachers Meeting
"Management of Archaeological Sites" - Countryside Commission
"Recent Archaeological Finds" - Rampton Local History Society
"Giants Hill Rampton" - Rampton Parish Council
"Local Resources for Archaeology" - Teachers at Hinchbrooke
"Archaeology in Schools" - INSET (St Ives)
"Archaeology in Schools" - INSET (Cambridge)
"Anglo-Saxon Cambridgeshire" - Cambridgeshire Local History Society
"Romans to Car Parks:
Archaeology of Shire Hall Site" - Heritage Officers Group, County Council Officers
"Angles, Saxons and Boundaries in Cambridge Antiquarian Society (CAS)
Cambridgeshire: who was living where and when"
"Roman Child Burial at Arrington" - CAS Archaeological Panel Annual Meeting
Three interviews on Radio

Tim Malim

"Archaeology in Cambridgeshire" - Duxford Historical Society
"Excavations at Barrington, Stonea & Brampton" - CAS Archaeological Panel Annual Meeting
"Archaeology in the Fens" - March Probus Club
"Barrington Excavations" - Haslingfield Village Society
"Barrington Excavations" - Kimbolton Local History Society
"Barrington Excavations" - Soke Metal Detecting Club
"Brampton Excavation" - Hunts Local History Society
"Archaeology on the Farm" - Council for British Archaeology
"Archaeology and Farming" - Cambridge Archaeology Field Group
"Brampton Excavation" - Brampton Local History Society
"Archaeology in Fenland" - Fenland Farm Machinery Club
Archaeology in Cambridgeshire" - Cambridgeshire Young Professionals
"Leprosy, Cancer and Wealth; - Cambridge Antiquarian Society
Excavations of the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Edix Hill, Barrington"
"The work of an Archaeologist" - Priory School, Cambridge & Fowlmere Junior School
"Barrington Excavation" - Bar Hill Junior School
10 radio interviews
2 TV interviews
20 press interviews

John Ette

"Archaeology & Planning" - Cambridge Archaeology Field Group
"Excavations at Great Wilbraham & Linton" - CAS Archaeological Panel Annual Meeting

Gerry Wait

"Iron Age and Roman Religion" - Haverhill & District Archaeology Society
Ely & District Archaeology Society
3 radio interviews

Celia Honeycombe

Radio interview

Corinne Duhig

3 radio interviews

2 TV interviews

6 press interviews

9.0 EXHIBITIONS

The following exhibitions were created and displayed:

"Archaeology in South Cambridgeshire"

Cambridge Central Library

"Barrington Excavations"

Wimpole Hall

"Recent Excavations"

South Cambridgeshire Hall

"Archaeology in Huntingdonshire"

Pathfinder House, Huntingdon

"Neolithic Cambridgeshire & Excavations at Brampton"

Hinchingbrooke Visitor Centre

Reconstructions of Stonea Hill Fort"

Fenland Hall

10.0 PUBLICATIONS

The following reports were published and available from the Archaeology Office (price £2.50)

- 23 Middle Level Barrier Banks: Archaeology
- 24 Shire Hall Car Park Extension 1991
- 25 Machine Barn Farm, Longstanton, An Archaeological Assessment
- 26 Glatton Hall & Roundhill Farms 1991
- 27 Manor Farm Shingay, Earthworks Survey
- 28 Medieval Settlement at Pratt Street, Soham 1991
- 29 Market Lane, Linton 1991
- 30 Field 6700, Catworth 1991
- 31 The Orchard, Stretham Rectory 1991
- 32 Worts Farm Barn - A proposed County Archaeological Store
- 33 Cambridge Southern Relief Road, Archaeological Desk-top
- 34 The Sconce, March, Civil War Fortifications
- 35 Buttermel Meadow, Earthwork Survey 1991
- 36 Hemingford to Huntingdon Pipeline
- 37 Kings Hedges Farm, An Archaeological Assessment
- 38 Roman Settlement at Hinxtun 1991
- 39 Mere Way Roman Road at Milton
- 40 Chippenham Park & Fen River Pipeline, An Archaeological Assessment
- 41 The Medieval Kiln Site, Old Church Lane, Colne 1991
- 42 Chippenham/Kennett Borrow Pits - An Archaeological Desk-top Study
- 43 Longstanton to Bluntisham Pipeline 1991
- 44 Worsted Street Roman Road, Mount Farm Fulbourn 1991
- 45 Ely High Barns, An Archaeological Assessment
- 46 Medieval Village & Deer Park at Childerley
- 47 Wisbech Market Place An Archaeological Assessment and Historical Survey
- 48 Cambridge Road Ely An Archaeological Assessment
- 49 Fleam Dyke 1991
- 50 Assessment of land near Sutton, Peterborough

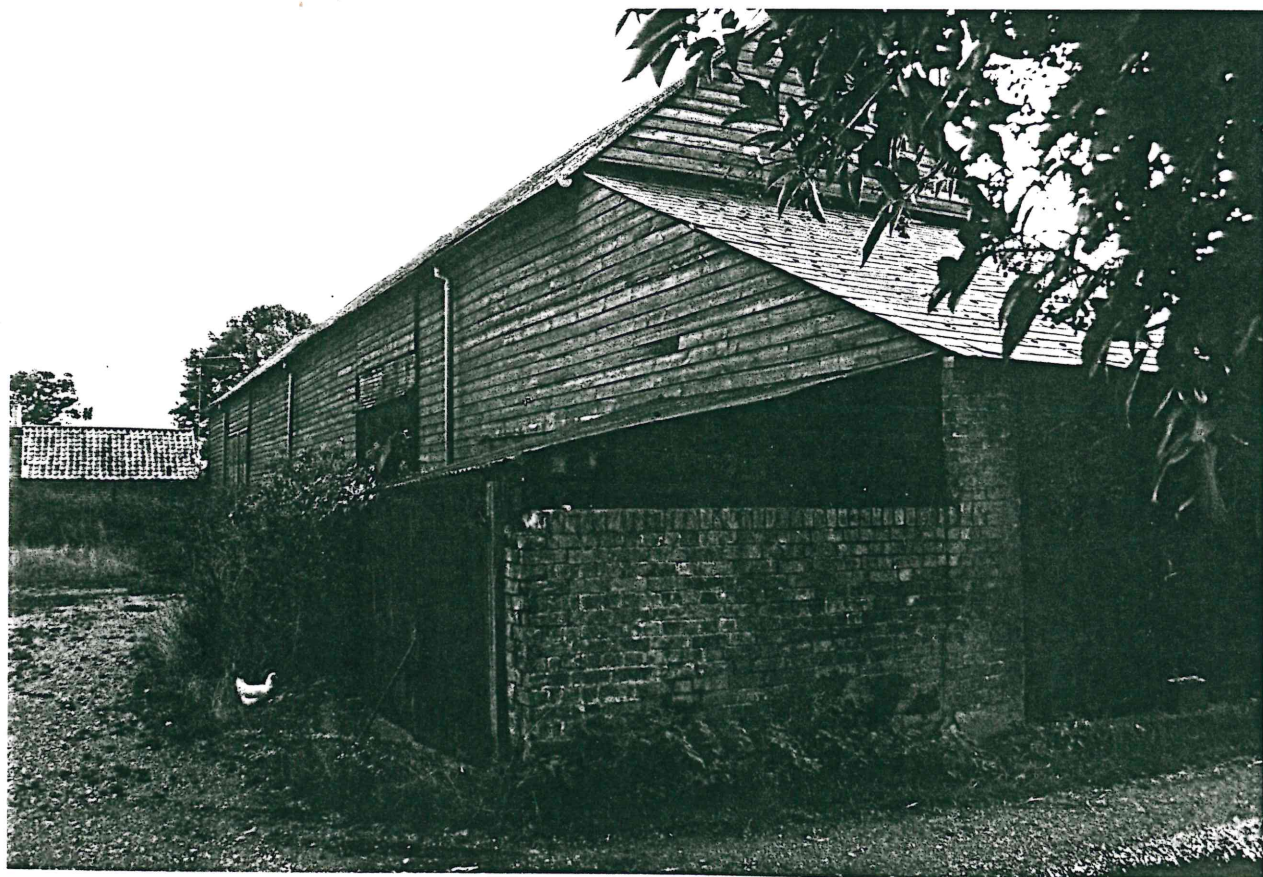
- 51 Archaeology of Little Linton Farm Pipeline
- 52 Devil's Dyke Excavations 1991
- 53 Anglo-Saxon Burials at Haddenham
- 54 An Investigation of cropmarks at Manor Farm Harston
- 55 Roman Burials at London Street, Godmanchester

11.0 STORAGE & CONSERVATION

11.1 The Archaeological Store, which is shared with office space in Fulbourn Community Centre, was reorganised, with extensive racking, security grills on all windows and a special environmentally-controlled store for metal objects.

11.2 A costed scheme was prepared for conversion of a County Council owned barn at Landbeach for archaeological storage. Some funding has been raised and we are awaiting the outcome of a planning application for this conversion in relation to a development of the surrounding farmyard.

11.3 Grants from the Area Museum Service, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Cambridge) and South Cambridgeshire District Council have enabled us to appoint a conservator Celia Honeycombe, for one year in the first instance. She is working in laboratory space kindly provided by the Fitzwilliam Museum. Her principle responsibilities are Anglo-Saxon artefacts from Barrington, artefacts from small museums in Cambridgeshire, important artefacts from emergency excavations, and assistance within Fitzwilliam Museum.



Worts Farm Barn, Landbeach, Proposed Archaeological Store

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

