



Archaeological Field Unit

**Middle Iron Age Occupation on Land off Crowland Road, Eye,
Peterborough:
An Archaeological Investigation**

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**Middle Iron Age Occupation on Land off Crowland Road, Eye,
Peterborough:
An Archaeological Investigation
(TF 2295 0332)**

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SUMMARY

In September 2000 the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted an archaeological investigation on land adjacent to Crowland Road, Eye Green, Eye, Peterborough (TF 2295 0332), in advance of housing development. The aim of the intervention was to record and assess the nature and character of any archaeological remains encountered prior to ground works.

Within some 250sqm of undisturbed soil, evidence emerged for a round house and associated ditch with terminus marking a possible entrance facing NNE. Inside the house there were pits of uncertain function. Most features produced pottery dating to the Middle Iron Age.

Evidence also survived of a boundary ditch which ran parallel to Crowland Road and may have represented the limit of the built-up area in post-medieval times.

Sequences of levelling and disturbance associated with quarrying in modern times were observed in the southern portion of the site.

The traditional location of a Saxon inhumation cemetery in close proximity to the proposed development area was not confirmed.

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Middle Iron Age Occupation on Land off Crowland Road, Eye, Peterborough: An Archaeological Investigation (TF 2295 0332)

1 INTRODUCTION

In September 2000 the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an archaeological evaluation on land off Crowland Road, Eye, Peterborough. The work was carried out to satisfy a planning condition in advance of development of the land. The evaluation showed the presence of possible prehistoric remains. Therefore, an additional area was excavated to establish the character and chronology of those remains.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning Background

The proposed development entails the construction of dwellings. Given the known archaeological background of Eye (below), the possibility of there being prehistoric and, in particular, Saxon remains within the application area determined the requirements for an archaeological evaluation.

The work was carried out by the AFU on behalf of Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd, in accordance with a Project Specification produced by Aileen Connor (JUN315/00) in response to a brief issued by Mr Ben Robinson of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Services (PCCAS), Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery (April 2000).

2.2 Topography and Geology

The development site is located in the southern portion of Eye Green, off Crowland Road, Eye, Peterborough (Fig. 1).

At the time of the archaeological investigation the development site comprised some 1.2 hectares of grassed open land located to the west of a former quarry site (part of which is presently occupied by an artificial lake), and to the north of a disused brickwork area.

Within the site, a public footpath followed the west edge of the lake and the south perimeter of the proposed development. A further path crossed the site from north to south.

Centred on NGR TF 2295 0332 at an average height of 5m OD, the evaluation area sits on a peninsula which runs north from the main settlement and is presently occupied by Eye Green and Northolme Farm. Artificial layers of brick debris in the southern portion of the site have caused the present ground level to rise to some 6.30m OD.

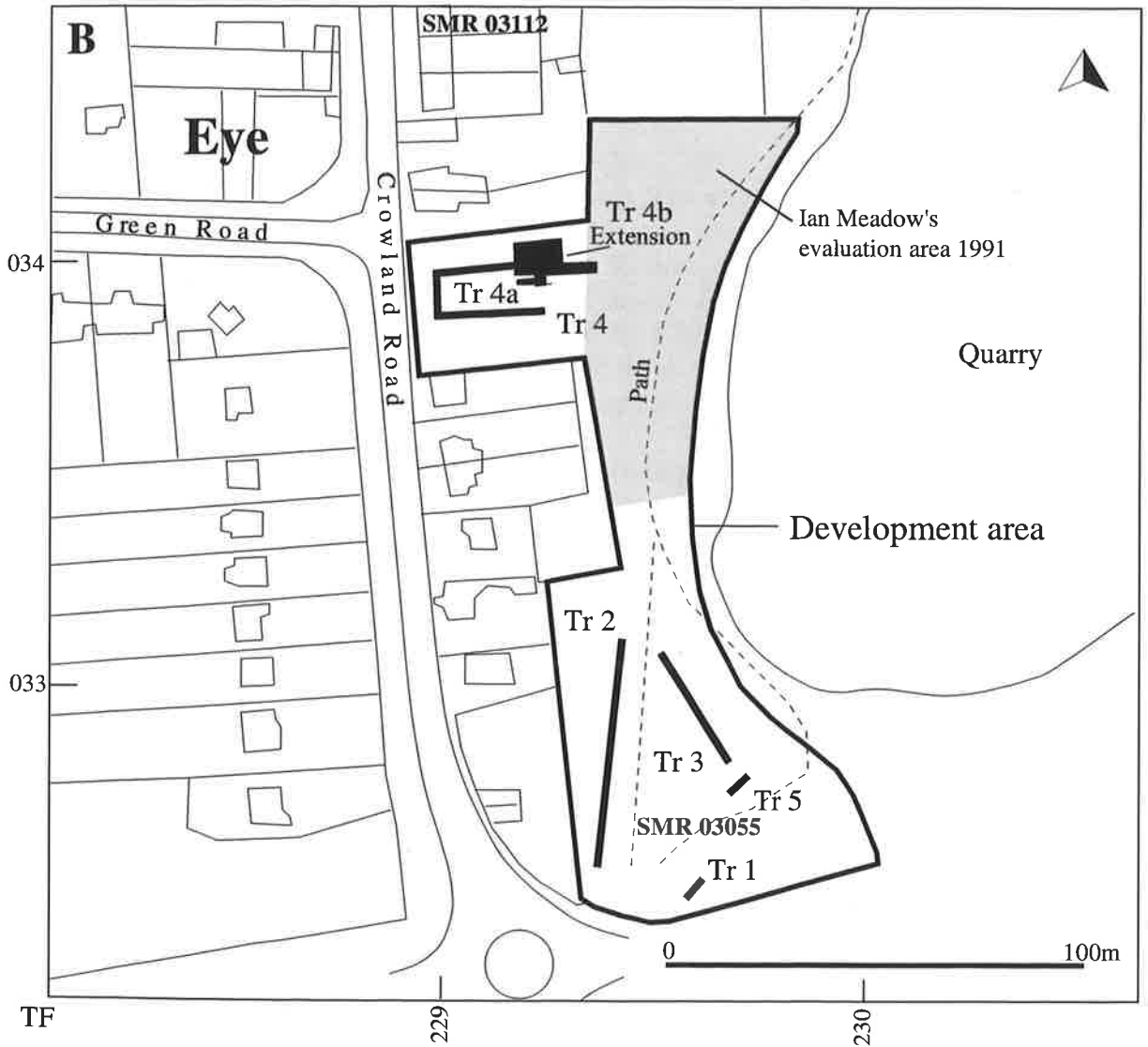
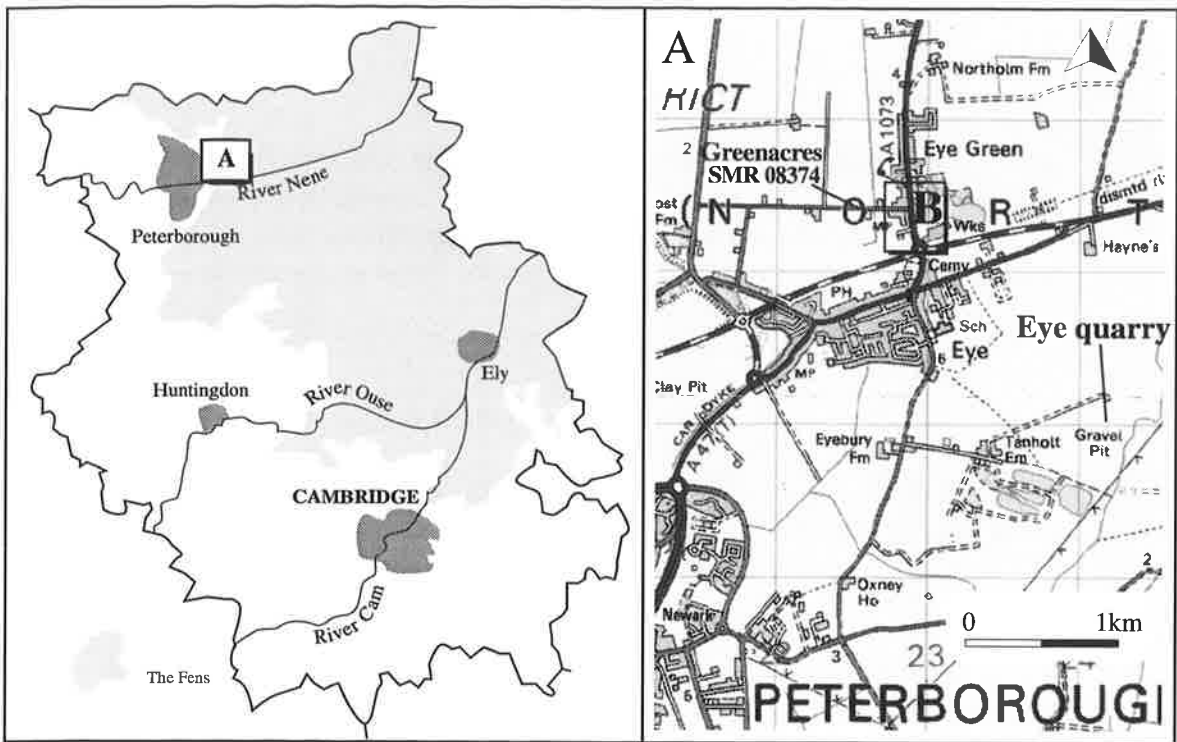


Figure 1 Trench location plan

Based upon Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (Cambridgeshire County Council licence No. LA 07/649X 1999)

The local geology presents the characteristics of a fen-edge 'island'. The underlying bedrock is Oxford Clay which is overlain by March Gravel deposits (Horton 1989). To the north east of the village part of the original Borough Fen approaches, and there is a small extent of Flandrian Barroway Drove deposit (Hall 1987, 30-31).

2.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

Eye was known as Aege (10th century) and later as Eya (Eia) (11th century), meaning 'island' in Old English. The village developed along one long street (Crowland Road) on one of the three gravel peninsulas that forms the 'island' of Eye.

Eye is not referenced in the Domesday Book. It is however mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle where the settlement was confirmed to Peterborough Abbey in the charter of Wulfhere, and included in the confirmation of King Edgar (10th century). After the Conquest, by the beginning of the 12th century, Peterborough Abbey was holding land in Eye that was confirmed by Richard I and Henry III. Due to the dominance of the Abbey, four separate monastic settlements developed away from the village *nucleus*, i.e. Eyebury (12th century, later to become the village Manor), Northolme Grange (early 14th century), Singlesole (originally a 12th century hermitage later developing into a grange), and Tanholt (mainly used for grazing). The land was later divided among a number of small holders. At the dissolution the monastic sites were granted to John bishop of Peterborough, and were later leased to Queen Elizabeth and sold. The parish was enclosed at the beginning of the 19th century (Enclosure Award of 1820 and Map of 1821). The monastic sites returned to the Bishop of Peterborough in 1862 (Page 1906, 490-492, *passim*).

The extant church of St Matthew's was built around the middle of the 19th century, on the site of an earlier chapel. The latter may have been already in use by the 16th century, as suggested by the dates of the entries in one of the books of registers (Page 1906, 490-492, *passim*). The church also contains a 14th century octagonal font (PCCSMR 50728) the presence of which could indicate a medieval foundation.

The history of the medieval monastic sites at Eye is confirmed by earthwork remains (moats and ditches) that are still visible near Northolme Farm (PCCSMR 0310a and 04235) and Eyebury Farm (PCCSMR 1042).

The post-medieval period is documented by extant buildings dating from the 17th century. In addition, ruined windmills to the south and north of the proposed development, together with quarry and brickwork areas to the west and south west respectively, attest to the success of the post-medieval agricultural and industrial economy of Eye.

By contrast, pre-medieval Eye remains often elusive.

Scattered finds would indicate some activity from the Mesolithic (or even Palaeolithic) period onwards. The PCCSMR records Mesolithic and Bronze Age

stray finds (lithic implements and metal spear and axes respectively). In relation to Eye the closest finds' spots (PCCSMR 08226, 02979, 50494, 50495, 08225 and 08247) appear to be clustered to the south of the development area, at the junction of Crowland Road with Eyebury Road. Further away from Eye, the Bronze Age landscape is characterised by the presence of round barrows as part of a dispersed barrow field that stretches across the Catswater towards the Thorney Fen Edge (Hall 1987, 49, 50).

All around the development site undated cropmarks (namely ditches and enclosures) visible in aerial photography (PCC SMR 50257, 50256, 10101 and 08347), and excavated features (PCCSMR 1072, Welsh 1992) are also indicative of occupation.

Some 1.5 Km further south, near Tanholt Farm, recent excavations have revealed the presence of a late Bronze Age-early Iron Age enclosed settlement (droveways, round houses, oven/hearths and wells), and later Romano-British enclosures on new alignments that were part of a farmstead complex to the east of the excavation area (Gibson & White 1998; Mc Fayden 2000). Roman activity is well documented with sites occurring regularly spaced in the parish (Hall 1987, 33, 35).

By contrast, Saxon remains are scanty. Uncertainty rests on the dating of the Catswater, an artificial banked drain that seems to follow the Saxon/Medieval Fen Edge, in contrast with the straight cuts of the Roman Car Dyke across the south-east portion of Eye (Hall 1987, 36-37).

More securely dated are Saxon funerary remains. In close proximity to the development site, less than 100m to the north at TF229- 035- (PCCSMR 03112), two Saxon inhumation burials (mid 6th century?) were recovered (Peterborough Museum Records). The burials were accompanied by grave goods in the form of pottery, iron spearhead and knife, ivory ring and sleeve clasp. They may have been part of a more extensive inhumation cemetery of uncertain location known from stray finds (grave goods?) and from antiquarian observations (late 19th century). Hall locates an early inhumation cemetery found during gravel extraction in 1908 by the west side of Crowland Road, at TF 2275 0360 (Hall 1987, 35, Site 16).

Attempts were made in the past to locate the Saxon cemetery. To this aim, an archaeological investigation was conducted in 1991 in the northern portion of the development area. The results revealed that quarrying had disturbed the eastern side of the site. Further to the south, the area appeared to be undisturbed. However, it produced negative evidence (Meadows 1991).

A possible female inhumation burial was located immediately to the south east of the development site in the former brickwork area, at TF 2305 0324 (PCCSMR 03055) (Howe 1980, 28). The inhumation was furnished with iron knives and spearheads, a 'small long' bronze brooch with arrowhead design, and a globular pot. It was assigned to the middle of the 6th century. Cremations of uncertain chronology were also recorded (Mr GW Abbott's notebook, Peterborough Museum).

3 METHODS AND AIMS

Due to the site's position in an area of archaeological potential, with particular reference to the evidence for Saxon funerary activity (above), the aim of the investigation was to determine the presence/absence and quality (i.e. degree of preservation and significance) of archaeological remains within the subject site.

Prior to field work, an informal desktop assessment was produced as part of the requirements for the archaeological evaluation (Robinson 2000). It aimed to provide information necessary to determine archaeological strategies prior to fieldwork, with particular reference to the location of evaluation trenches. The results have been incorporated in the present report.

Based on the information from the background research, the archaeological evaluation targeted areas that were not covered by previous investigations (Meadows 1991) (above). To this aim, trenches were located in the southern portion of the development site (Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5), and in the square area opposite Green Road and fronting Crowland Road (Trenches 4, 4A and 4B).

With reference to the square area, a 'U' shaped trench offered coverage of both the frontage of Crowland Road and the area away from it. Following the discovery of prehistoric remains in Trench 4B, an additional area was excavated (Trench 4B Extension) in order to establish the presence of further remains of the same period (Fig. 1).

In the southern portion of the development site linear trenches were located between the footpaths and along the site perimeters, in order to provide maximum coverage of the proposed development area and to overcome the obstacle represented by the footpaths across the site (Fig. 1).

The trenches were excavated using a toothless ditching bucket 1.80m wide and planned at 1:100 scale. Within the trenches, each feature and deposit was allocated a unique reference number (single context recording). Relevant vertical sections were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 scale. A general scale plan of the site was also produced (at 1:1250) to show the location of the excavated trenches within the development site. Finally a photographic record was compiled which consisted of colour slides, colour and monochrome prints.

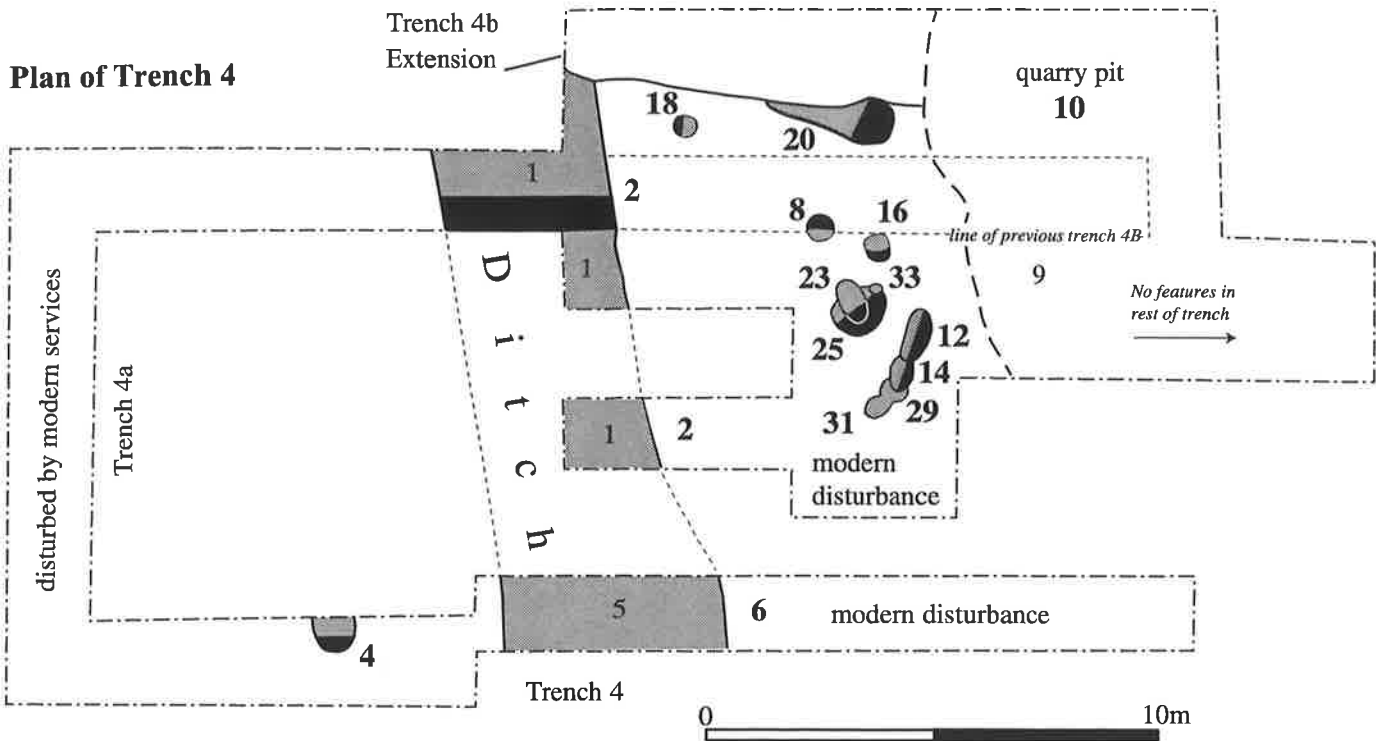
The only soil sample taken on site produced no macro-environmental evidence.

The recording system and the post-excavation procedures followed the standard AFU practice.

4 RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 1)

Trench 1 (6.0m x 1.80m) was located near the south perimeter of the development site, parallel to the public footpath, in the former brick-work area. It



Sections

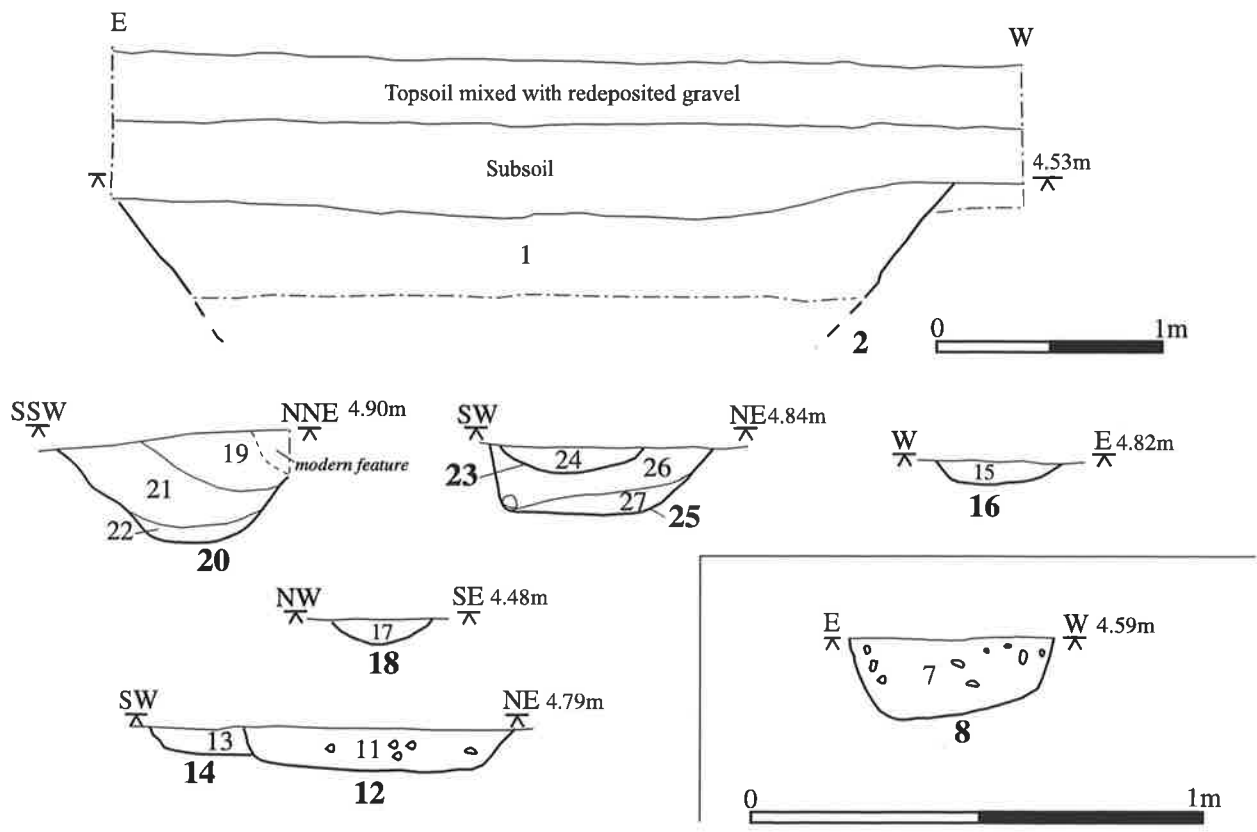


Figure 2 Plan of Trench 4 and Sections

was excavated to an average depth of 0.50m . The removal of imported grassed clay topsoil (0.30m thick) revealed an earlier phase of levelling (tarmac and brick debris) associated with the back-filling of former quarry pits for clay extraction. The trench could not be extended further nor excavated to a deeper level due to the presence of a gas main flanking the south edge of the site.

Trench 1 produced no archaeological remains due to the high degree of disturbance caused by quarrying.

Trench 2 (Fig. 1)

Trench 2 (53m x 1.80m) was located along the west perimeter of the development site, almost parallel to Crowland Road. It was excavated to a minimum depth of 1.30m below the present ground surface (south portion of the trench), and a maximum depth of 2.20m (north portion of the trench). In the southern portion a thin layer of grassed topsoil (0.30m thick) overlay the same fill of brick debris and tarmac that had been recorded in Trench 1. Further to the north, the topsoil (0.20m deep) sealed a thick deposit of clay and gravel (1.50m deep) and, beneath it, a layer of brown silty sandy clay. This latter represented the remains of the former subsoil and topsoil deposits which were probably re-employed to backfill a very large and deep quarry pit for gravel extraction.

Trench 2 produced no archaeological remains due to the high degree of disturbance caused by quarrying.

Trench 3 (Fig. 1)

Trench 3 (30m x 1.80m) ran parallel to the east side of the development area, on a north-west to south-east alignment. At the north-west end of the trench a test pit 0.35m long was excavated to a depth of 2.20m. Trench 3 revealed the same stratigraphic sequence that had been observed in trench 2, suggesting that the quarry pit(s) (above) extended across the development site, towards the edge of the present lake.

Trench 3 produced no archaeological remains due to the high degree of disturbance caused by quarrying.

Trench 4-4A-4B (Figs. 1, 2)

The trench was located further to the north, in the square area opposite Green Road. It was a 'U' shaped trench, the branches of which followed the perimeter of the square area where the trench was located.

The stratigraphic sequence revealed that the area had been only moderately disturbed. The topsoil was some 0.30m thick. It overlay a subsoil (0.40m thick) over natural gravel and outcrops of Oxford Clay.

Trench 4A (11.8m x 1.80m) was located along the road frontage (Figs.1, 2). It produced no archaeological remains. It was scarred by trenches of disused service pipes associated with former dwellings recently demolished.

Trench 4 (25m x 1.80m) ran along the south perimeter of the square (Figs. 1, 2). It revealed the presence of a ditch, 6, 3.70m wide on a north to south alignment,

i.e. parallel to Crowland Road, and the footings for a modern dwelling the construction of which was never completed (Local Source). The footings run north to south, and were backfilled with sand. Further to the west a small feature, 4, was interpreted as representing a pit of uncertain function rather than the terminus of a ditch, based on the fact that it did not seem to continue in trench 4B further to the north. The pit was c. 1.0m in diameter and only 0.10m deep. It contained a greyish brown sandy clay fill, 3, with no associated finds.

Trench 4B (24m x 1.80m) ran parallel to Trench 4, along the north perimeter of the square (Figs.1, 2). It revealed the continuation of ditch 6, referred to as 2 in Trench 4B. Ditch 2 was excavated to a partial depth of 1.20m. It contained a compacted clay fill with mottles of sand and lenses of clay, 1, that produced animal bone, pottery, an iron nail and the fragment of a clay pipe. Based on the artefactual evidence, the ditch was assigned to the post-medieval/pre-Victorian period. Near the east end of the trench there were remnants of a quarry pit of uncertain shape, 10 (Fig. 2). Feature 10 had been partially truncated by the modern footings observed in Trench 4A. Finally, to the east of ditch 2, a small posthole some 0.45m in diameter and 0.18m deep, 8 (Figs. 1, 2), contained a light brown silty clay, 7, with sherds of shelly ware dating to the Middle Iron Age (*Appendix*) and fragments of burnt bone. A soil sample from fill 7 confirmed the presence of small pottery sherds and burnt animal bone. It did not produce any significant macro-environmental evidence.

Trench 4B Extension (Figs. 1, 2)

Trench 4B Extension was excavated at a later stage to allow the investigation of the area around posthole 8 in Trench 4B. It incorporated some 11m x 1.80m of the former linear trench, and covered an area of approximately 138sqm.

The eastern portion of the site had been disturbed by the quarry pit, 10, that was observed in Trench 4B. The western portion of the area was bounded by the medieval ditch 2/6 also recorded in Trenches 4A and 4B. As a result, some 90sqm of the area had been obliterated by post-medieval and modern interventions.

Where the site survived undisturbed, evidence emerged for the presence of six postholes, 12, 14, 16, 18, 29, 31 and, possibly, 33. Their diameter ranged between 0.40m and 1.18m, and their depth between 0.10m and 0.20m. Together with posthole 8 (originally uncovered in Trench 4B), they may have represented the remains of a round house with a projected diameter of at least 7.5m. Postholes 12, 14, 29 and 31 were multiple features clustered together and indicating at least two phases of excavation/replacement. Features 8 and 18 were set 3.5m apart, in contrast with the average distance of 1m between the other postholes of the same structure. The gap between 8 and 18 could represent an entrance at the NNE end of the NNE-SSW axis of the round house.

Each posthole contained one fill that consisted of dark brown to pale grey silty clay. Sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (*Appendix*) and fragments of animal bone were uncovered from fill 11 of 12 together with a possible iron hook. Burnt bone was also found in fill 17 of posthole 18.

Outside the round house, to the north of it, a ditch was uncovered, 20. It had been severely truncated by a modern trench on a west to east alignment. The

ditch appeared to terminate in correspondence to the 'entrance' of the house. Due to the high degree of truncation, it was not possible to establish its layout in plan, i.e. to determine whether the feature was linear or curvilinear. However, its location in close proximity to the house and the position of the terminus in relation to the entrance makes it possible that 20 was originally associated with the house itself. The ditch was 1m wide and 0.50m deep. It contained three fills, two of which, 21 and 22 produced bone and Middle Iron Age pottery (*Appendix*). Fill 22 also produced iron slag.

Finally, inside the building there was evidence of two intercutting pits, 23 and 25, located less than 1m away from postholes 16 and 12. The later pit, 23, was oval in shape and very shallow (0.12m deep). It contained a very dark organic soil that produced no finds. The earlier pit, 25, was circular, with a diameter of 0.95m. It was some 0.30m deep. It contained two fills. The upper one, 26, consisted of light brown silty clay that produced Middle Iron Age pottery (*Appendix*) and burnt stones (pot-boilers?). The lower fill, 26 was made of a light grey silty clay and produced no finds. Charcoal flecks were present in both fills in small quantities. There was no evidence of burning *in situ* to suggest that the pit may have represented a hearth.

Trench 5 (Fig. 1)

Trench 5 (6.50m x 1.80m) was located to the south of trench 3, parallel to the public footpath and on the same north-east to south-west orientation as Trench 1. It was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. As in trench 1, the removal of grassed topsoil (0.20m thick) revealed an earlier phase of levelling (tarmac and brick debris) associated with the back-filling of former quarry pits.

Trench 5 produced no archaeological remains due to the high degree of disturbance caused by quarrying.

5 DISCUSSION

The archaeological investigation produced evidence of occupation at Eye Green during the later Middle Iron Age.

Iron Age occupation is known to have dominated the Tanholt Peninsula further to the south. The presence of Iron Age sites on the high gravels is consistent with the distribution of earlier finds (namely Bronze Age barrows and Early Iron Age occupation layers) uncovered to the north-east and to the south of the development site. In particular, excavations conducted at Eye Quarry have produced evidence for a late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement in the form of a round house, four-post structures and pits of varying sizes (Gibson & White 1998). Similar archaeological features have been identified within the development area, with particular reference to the presence of the round house and associated pits in Trench 4.

The evidence from the development site is indicative of Middle Iron Age domestic occupation, currently the only known evidence of this date on the Northolme peninsula and around Eye in general.

Undated cropmarks located near Green Acres (Newborough, Peterborough), 350m to the east of the development site, may relate to a field-system comprising a square enclosure and associated droveway (PCCSMR 08374). It is tempting to establish a correlation between the excavated site at Eye Green and the cropmarks at Green Acres, and to suggest economic links similar to those proposed for the site at Eye Quarry. Accordingly, the economy of the latter was of a mixed type, with evidence of arable and livestock 'management', as suggested by the presence of field-systems and ditched-enclosures with droveways next to the settlement area (Gibson & White 1998).

In the absence of dating material from the cropmarks, the association between the field-system at Green Acres and the settlement at Eye Green has to remain confined to the realm of the hypothetical.

Similarly, tantalising comparisons with the site at Eye Quarry may suggest continuity between Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Middle Iron Age in terms of settlement type and economy, with an apparent shift in occupation towards the Borough Fen edge, i.e. towards the Northolme peninsula, during the Middle Iron Age.

Continuity in terms of occupation and exploitation of the Fen edge throughout the Iron Age period would not come as a surprise. Whereas vast areas of the Fens had started to be inundated by salt water in the course of the Iron Age, the Fen edge at Eye did not witness any significant environmental changes before the Roman period (Hall 1987, 33). In comparison with Fengate, for instance, where the advancement of the Fen edge was bringing about a change from the live-stock dominated economy of the Bronze Age to a system based on cereal growing on the higher and drier land¹, at Eye the landscape was still offering scope for the traditional form of seasonal activities, with particular reference to the use of the Fen edge for winter grazing.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The results from the archaeological excavation appear to be consistent with the post-medieval/Victorian history of the site. Accordingly, the area to the west of Crowland Road was used for clay and gravel extraction, the former being associated with the production of bricks and tiles in the southern portion of the proposed development.

The enclosure map of 1821 shows the presence of an extensive quarry pit within the site. Evidence of past quarrying is also visible on the ground surface which is characterised by irregular depressions throughout the site. Quarrying continued until very recently, when part of the site was reclaimed and transformed into a 'natural reserve' for public recreation. Brick production also came to a halt in recent times.

The archaeological evaluation revealed the presence of a major ditch flanking

¹ At Fengate this change is testified by the alignment of the new drove-ways which cut across the earlier field-system, as at the Catswater Subsite and Depot Site (Pryor 1984; Evans 1992).

Crowland Road, and located at less than 5m from it. The evidence from both the cartographic material and the excavation seems to suggest that the ditch represented the post-medieval boundary of the built-up area along Crowland Road.

It is uncertain whether Crowland Road was the focus of the Medieval Settlement. The evaluation did not produce any evidence for Medieval occupation. However, the traditional location of the Saxon burial ground (known from antiquarian observation and stray finds to be located in close proximity to the development area, with particular reference to the former Bowling Green in the northern portion of the quarry site), could be indicative of the presence of a Saxon/early-medieval settlement.

Notwithstanding the high degree of disturbance on site due to quarrying in post-medieval time (see Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5), the rate of survival of prehistoric remains in the least affected areas (i.e. Trench 4B and Trench 4B Extension) seems to point to a relatively high density of occupation. Within some 250sqm of undisturbed soil, evidence emerged for a round house and associated ditch with terminus marking a possible entrance facing NNE. Inside the house there were pits of uncertain function. Most features produced pottery (*Appendix*), dating to the Middle Iron Age.

Excavations conducted at Eye Quarry near Tanholt Farm, to the south-east of modern Eye, revealed evidence of occupation which began during the Late Bronze Age and continued throughout the Roman period, and beyond. During the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age the settlement developed a mixed economy with evidence of arable and pasture (Gibson & White 1998).

As with Eye Quarry, Eye Green sits on a gravel peninsula where occupation is now known to have taken place during the Middle Iron Age in unchanged environmental conditions. Whether that occupation had earlier origins or continued much later is not yet known.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ms Sarah Percival produced the pottery report in the *Appendix*.

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MAPS

OS TF 20SW 1978, 1:10000

AP Overlay (based upon OS TF 20SW 1978 1:10000)

BGS 158, 1:50000

Enclosure Map 1821

Appendix: The Prehistoric Pottery (by Sarah Percival)

Summary

Ninety-nine sherds weighing 511g were recovered from four contexts during excavations at Crowland Road, Eye. The pot was recovered from postholes from a putative round house and an associated ditch terminus. The assemblage appears to be of later Middle pre-Roman Iron Age date, and contains both finely made bowls and jars with scored decoration and coarse scored storage jars.

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed using the pottery recording system described in the Norfolk Archaeological Unit Pottery Recording Manual and in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1992). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit.

Condition of the Assemblage

The sherds were in poor condition with softer inclusions leached from the exterior and interior surfaces. No complete profiles were recovered.

Fabric

Two fabrics were identified; one contained grog and quartz-sand, the other contained shell. Shell tempered sherds make up 75% of the assemblage (386g); in some of the thinner walled sherds the shell had leached out, leaving irregular 'platy' voids.

Form

The assemblage contained only three sherds with any diagnostic form, two base angles and a simple, upright rim. One base angle is pinched-out to produce a smooth, concave profile (posthole 12). The second is finely made with beaded rim and highly smoothed finish (ditch 20).

With so few diagnostic sherds it is difficult to speculate about the forms present. The small base angle, from ditch 20, and a decorated bodysherd from posthole 12 (see below) appear to be from small, finely made vessels, perhaps food-serving or tablewares (Barrett 1980). A large, thick walled sherd in coarse shelly fabric, also from ditch 20, has rough diagonal striations to the exterior and may be interpreted as a storage vessel with a straight-sided profile. No wheel-made sherds were present.

Decoration and Surface Treatment

Surface treatment is restricted to burnishing (35g, 7% of total assemblage) and scoring (273g, 53%). Most frequently the scoring forms random striations across the body of the vessel. One sherd from a small, finely made, open bowl has vertical scoring that runs from the shoulder towards the base (posthole 12).

Distribution

The assemblage was recovered from two postholes, 8 and 12, from a possible structure, a pit within the structure and the terminus of a ditch lying to the north (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by context.

<i>Feature type</i>	<i>Context (cut)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
Ditch	20	38	299
Pit	25	15	65
Posthole	8	17	52
	12	29	95
Grand Total		99	511

The sherds recovered from the postholes were smaller and more abraded than those recovered from the ditch. The only large coarseware sherds present were found in the ditch fills. Other than this no meaningful patterning was observed.

Discussion

A later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date can be ruled out for this assemblage as it lacks the fingertip/nail impressed decoration, sharply angular vessel forms or calcined flint fabrics which characterise pottery of this period (Cunliffe 1974, 34-5).

The assemblage comprises the remains of a number of coarsely striated vessels in shell and quartz-sand tempered fabrics, including a large vessel with thick walls, straight sides and scored surface. Large, straight-sided vessels such as these are interpreted as storage jars and form a common component of scored ware assemblages of the later Iron Age in some parts of Cambridgeshire such as that from Haddenham (Hill and Braddock forthcoming, 60). Fine tableware represented by the slack-shouldered body sherd with evenly spaced, vertical scoring (posthole 12) and both the beaded and concave base forms, are also found at Haddenham. A small number of burnished sherds are also present at both sites. Haddenham has been dated to the later pre-Roman Iron Age (300BC to AD43-50: Hill and Braddock forthcoming, 53). The absence of wheel-made pottery from the Crowland Road assemblage suggests that it predates the introduction of Belgic type wares in the first half of the first century AD.

Bibliography

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Cunliffe, B.W., 1974. *Iron Age Communities in Britain*, (London).

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<i>Record</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>surface treatment</i>	<i>Abrasion</i>	<i>feature</i>	<i>feature type</i>
1	7 SI	U			16	51		Y		8 posthole
2	7 U	U			1	1		Y		8 posthole
3	11 SI	B		B1	1	33		Y		12 posthole
4	11 SI	U			10	18		Y		12 posthole
5	11 GI	D			6	20 scored		Y		12 posthole
6	11 GI	D			2	14 scored		Y		12 posthole
7	11 GI	U			10	10		Y		12 posthole
8	21 SI	D			8	45 scored		Y		20 ditch
9	21 SI	U			7	34		Y		20 ditch
10	21 GI	U			7	23		Y		20 ditch
11	21 GI	U			6	28 burnished				20 ditch
12	21 GI	B		B2	1	7 burnished				20 ditch
13	22 SI	D			1	131 scored				20 ditch
14	22 SI	D			8	31 scored		Y		20 ditch
15	26 SI	R		R1	1	3				25 pit
16	26 SI	U			12	40		Y		25 pit
17	26 GI	D			2	22 scored		Y		25 pit
					99	511				



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