

Archaeological Field Unit

**Newgate Street, Doddington Pocket Park
An Archaeological Desktop Study & Measured Site Survey**

Stephen Macaulay

November 1999

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. A152

Commissioned by Estate Management Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council

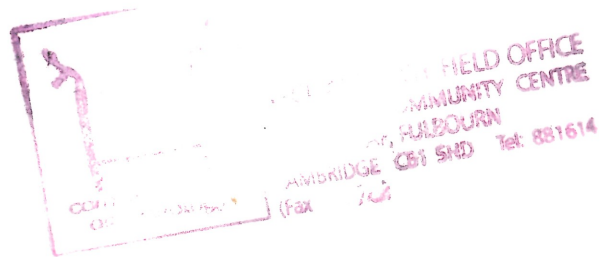
OFFICE COPY.

**Newgate Street, Doddington Pocket Park
An Archaeological Desktop Study & Measured Site Survey**

Stephen Macaulay BA (Hons), MPhil, AIFA

November 1999

Editor Dr P. Spoerry
Illustrator J. Cane



Report No. A152

©Archaeological Field Unit
Cambridgeshire County Council
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap, Fulbourn
Cambridgeshire CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 881614
Fax (01223) 880946

Arch.Field.Unit@libraries.camcnty.gov.uk
<http://www.camcnty.gov.uk/library/afu/index.htm>

Summary

A proposed development located to the east of Newgate Street in a triangular piece of land adjacent to the County Farms Pocket Park at Doddington, lies within an area of potentially rich archaeological remains. There are remains of Neolithic/Bronze Age and Roman periods in the vicinity, although these are not known from the site itself. The field contains well preserved medieval ridge and furrow maintained under pasture which extends into part of the development area. The site is likely to have been part of a medieval field, although earlier remains may be present.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction
2	Topographical and Geological background
3	Methodology
4	Measured Site Survey
5	Archaeological and Historical background
6	Archaeological potential
7	Impact of proposed development
8	Conclusions
Appendix	A - Sites and Monuments Gazetteer
	B - Notes on Ridge & Furrow from Hall (1982) - Medieval Fields

References

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Location Map and Sites and Monuments Record numbers.**
- Fig. 2 Detail plan and vertical aerial photograph of survey area.**
- Fig. 3 Ridge & furrow earthworks (Measured Survey data).**

**Land adjacent to pocket park,
Dykemoor Loomes Farm, Newgate Street, Doddington
An Archaeological Desktop Study & Measured Site Survey**

1 Introduction

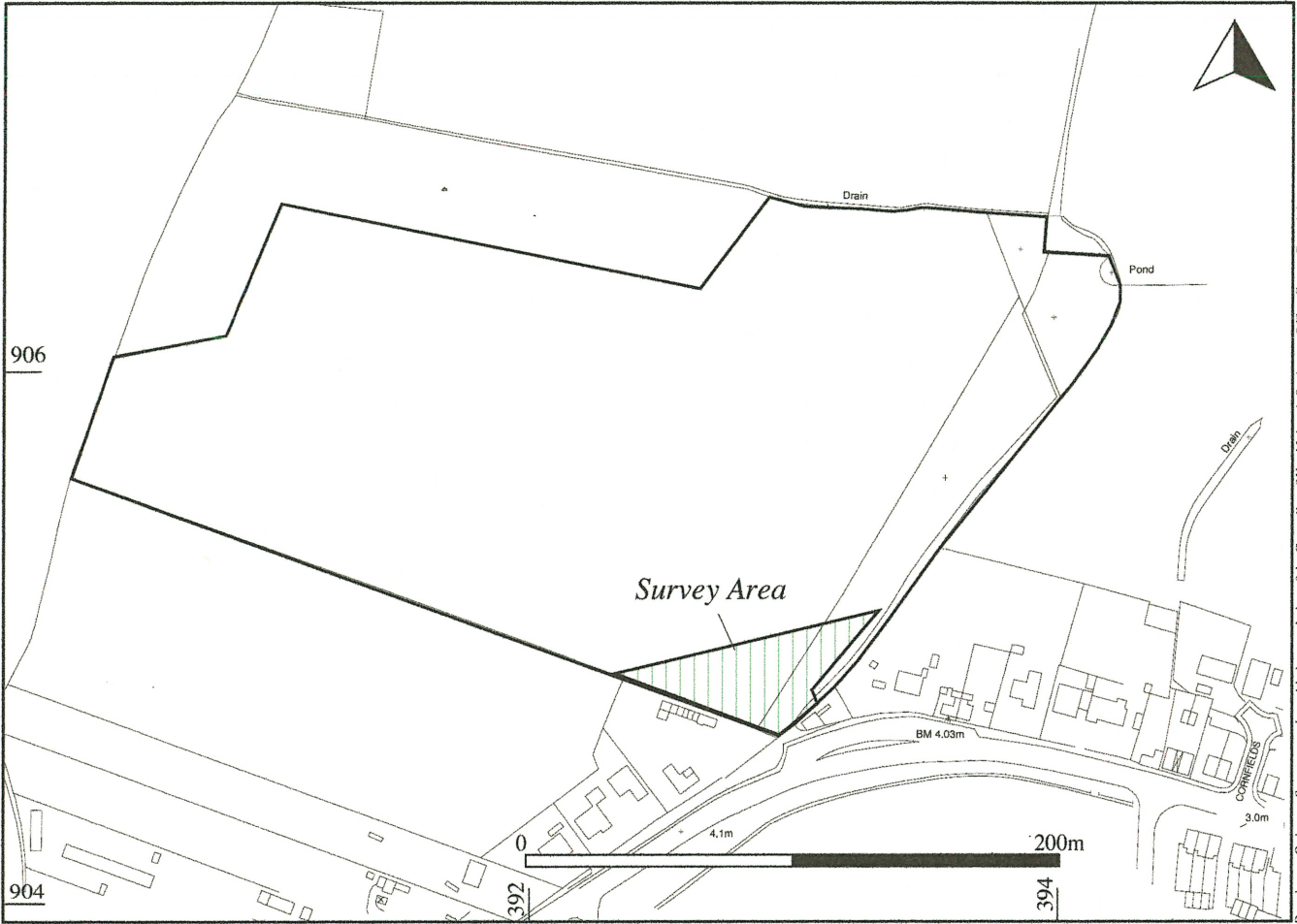
- 1.1 This study was commissioned by the Estate Management Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council in advance of a proposed residential development. This desktop study aims to define the archaeological potential of the land likely to be affected by the development. It has been carried out in accordance with a specification drawn up by Stephen Macaulay in response to a design brief by Simon Kaner of the County Archaeology Office (CAO).
- 1.2 The site is located to the east of Newgate Street in the western part of the village of Doddington, in a triangular piece of land adjacent to the County Farms Pocket Park. The proposed development area is an irregular parcel of land (roughly triangular) which lies to the south of the site. The site is centred on TL 393 905.

2 Topographical and Geological background

- 2.1 Topographically Doddington is a island/peninsula, which during the medieval period was a spur of higher land extending into the fens. The underlying geology at Doddington is Ampthill Clay, however most of the island surface consists of March Gravels (Hall 1992;55). The interface between the Ampthill Clay and the Barroway Drove Beds (Tidal Clay/Silt fens) is the 0m O.D. contour. To the north of Doddington (and the site) Nordelph Peat deposits formed, again on the 0m O.D contour line.
- 2.2 The site is located in the southern corner of a field containing well preserved medieval ridge & furrow (SMR No: 9674). The known ridge & furrow extend into the proposed development area, although it may have been disturbed and is not as clear as the adjoining field. The fenland survey (Hall 1992) identifies the fields in use from the medieval period and on the dry land of Doddington.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 In order to map the potential for archaeology at Newgate Street, Doddington the investigation centred on the accessible archaeological and historical resources held by Cambridgeshire County Council Sites & Monuments Record and the Fenland Project. In addition to these sources historic map were consulted. Finally, given the nature of the site, which includes surviving earthworks (ridge & furrow), a measured site survey was undertaken.



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 07649X 1999)

TL



1997/98 Aerial Photographs © Cambridgeshire County Council & Crown copyright

Figure 2 Detail plan and vertical aerial photograph of survey area

3.2 Aerial Photographic Records

Following discussions with specialists an aerial photographic re-assessment was not undertaken (Rog Palmer pers comm.). Vertical photographic records were consulted however to aid in tracing the orientation and extent of the ridge & furrow present within the field. No other archaeological features were identified in, or close to, the assessment area. Pasture and the ridge and furrow may have masked any pre-medieval features. The ridge & furrow present within the field was orientated both north-south and east-west. Significantly the triangular shape of the development area only had ridge & furrow present along its western edge. The absence of ridge & furrow earthworks within the remaining area is probably not a factor of later destruction or flattening of said features. Triangular-shaped land occur in the open field system occasionally in order to fill odd areas that could not be accessed by the plough team, these are called *gores* (Hall 1982;6). It is likely that this is the function of the proposed development area (see below).

3.3 Documentary & Historical Records

The known archaeological resource was investigated through the County's Sites and Monuments Record held at Cambridgeshire County Council. Additional published resources such as the Victoria County Histories, Fenland Research, Fenland Survey covering the Parishes of Benwick and Doddington (Hall 1992), and the Royal Commission inventories were all consulted. Finally the survey of the archaeology on the Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate was also studied (Malim 1990).

The historical records held at the County Council's Record Office in Cambridge were investigated. It holds copies of the 1840 Tithe Map (P56/Dod - Surveyed in 1939). This work was supplemented by the use of the subsequent detailed Ordnance Survey maps of the area (the 1 inch map published in 1886 and first OS 25' maps from 1888). The 1839 Inclosure Map was also consulted for the awards to Doddington, Wimblington and Manea.

4 Measured Site Survey

- 4.1 The project brief called for a measured site survey to record all extant earthworks within the proposed development area. In addition the survey recorded earthworks (ridge & furrow) which lay outside the development area and these were plotted to understand their continuation into the site.
- 4.2 The site survey was conducted through a site walk-over survey and feature identification. Subsequently earthworks were measured and tied into the existing field boundaries to record dimensions and orientation.

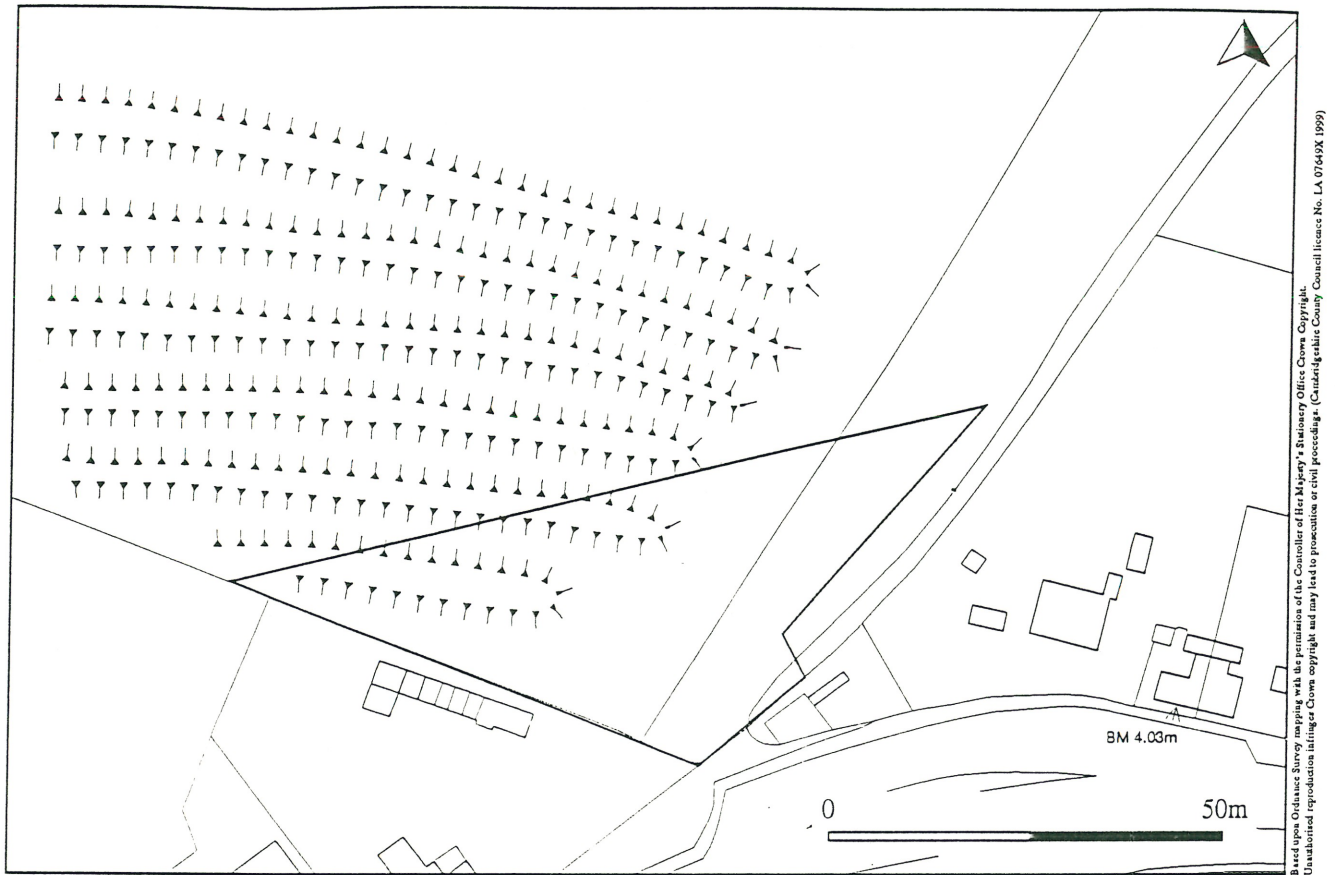


Figure 3 Ridge and furrow earthworks (measured survey data).

- 4.3 The survey (Fig 3) does not add any additional information to the archaeology identified from vertical aerial photographic evidence. The site survey and aerial photographic data indicate that the ridge & furrow do not extend far into the area. Indeed the ridge & furrow terminate between 23-30m to the west of the eastern field boundary. Identifiable *heads or butts* are visible and present (see Appendix B below). This is however of some potential interest and importance. The proposed development area is a triangular-shaped piece of land in the corner of the field. It does not have any identifiable earthwork features, other than the extension of the ridge & furrow from the west. It seems quite probable that there may never have been any ridge & furrow within the development area. The termination of the other ridge & furrow suggests that this has historically been the corner (and end) of the field and as such this triangular area of land might be a *gore*.

5 Archaeological and Historical background

The SMR maps and records show no archaeological remains within and immediately adjacent to the proposed development area, other than ridge & furrow (SMR No: 9674). Ridge & furrow (SMR No: 9674) and two significant finds spots occur within Zone 1 (0-500m see Appendix A). A Neolithic flint knife (SMR No: 8671) was recovered to the north. Of

potentially greater importance is the possible Roman settlement (SMR No: 10888) which lies 500m to the southwest of the site, in the skirtland of the Doddington peninsula. It is also recorded in the Fenland Survey (Hall 1992;56), producing sherds (undated grey wares) and occupational debris. In addition two unidentified finds spots are recorded for Doddington, these are unidentified kiln waste (SMR No: 1501) and Bronze Age pottery (SMR No: 3748). The exact locations are unknown (other than the TL km grid square). These finds represent the only pre-medieval archaeology recorded in Doddington. SMR points within Zone 2 (500-1000m see Appendix A) include medieval ridge & furrow (SMR Nos: 9674, 9675 and 9676) to the north and west of the site and a medieval earthwork moat 900m to the north of the site (SMR No: 1052).

Prehistoric

As indicated above there is a very poor record of Prehistoric remains discovered in the area. The March Museum holds an unprovenanced socketed looped-axe 'from Doddington', while the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology has an unprovenanced Bronze Age Beaker. No Iron Age finds have been recovered, while Roman remains are limited to the potential settlement (see above) and to finds near Primrose Hill (located 1.2km to the southwest) recorded in 1873 and 1882. This site produced Late Roman pottery and settlement evidence buried under the peat (Philips 1970;195).

Medieval

Doddington was until 1700 the chief settlement on the island of March (and Wimblington). Both these settlements were subsidiary to Doddington. Manor Farm in Doddington was one of the most important granges of the Bishop of Ely. The 1630 map of Doddington (Hall 1992;56) shows the whole island covered in strip fields. Doddington was first mentioned in AD975 and by Domesday (1086) it was assessed at 5 hides with fisheries yielding 27,150 eels. On the foundation of the See in 1109, Doddington was confirmed as one of the bishops main residences. Surveys of the Manor have illustrated the economy and land-use at that time (Hall 1992;56). There was a *demesne* of 260 acres with two parks (80 & 70 acres) Cow pastures were outwith the village being located at Stonea and Dartford. The development area lies some 300m west of the medieval core of Doddington (Dudintone), in an area that was arable during that time and has remained in pasture since the post-medieval period.

Post-medieval

There are no significant Post-Medieval remains in the development area. A pond and windmill (SMR No: 3786) are located to the northwest and a building to the northeast (SMR No: 3785). There has not been any Post-Medieval activity on the development site.

6 Archaeological potential

From the study of known archaeological and historical records and remains, the land adjacent to the pocket park, at Dykemoor Loomes Farm, Newgate Street, Doddington has the *potential* for archaeological deposits. The adjacent field contains some of the best preserved medieval ridge & furrow cultivation in the Cambridgeshire fenland and in all probability the development area is also part of this ancient agricultural system, being a remnant *gore*. The importance of ridge & furrow is in its *visual* preservation, rather than the value of information gained through excavation. The physical and topographical nature of the land, having been potentially excluded from the ridge & furrow cultivation, might suggest that the site was used for other activities. Whether this was directly related to agriculture or occupation is uncertain, although it is more likely that it was just a piece of pasture. However the field is located close to the skirtland (island edge) of Doddington and to the road/track (Newgate Street) linking Doddington to Benwick Mere and Chatteris.

In addition to the potential for medieval archaeology on the site, the nature of the site and the fact it has remained undisturbed since the medieval period suggests that it might be archaeologically important. The site's proximity to a Roman settlement (SMR No: 10888) might indicate such remains could be present however these have remained undetected beneath the preserved pasture and ridge & furrow. The additional Roman remains at Primrose Hill might suggest that Roman activity in this area was concentrated to the south of Doddington, along the southern edge of the fen 'island'.

Finally, the recovery of a Neolithic flint artefact close to the site when considered with the unprovenanced (but locally discovered) Bronze Age axe and beaker might indicate that Prehistoric archaeology is preserved beneath the pasture.

The field is an important archaeological monument from the medieval period containing well preserved ridge & furrow. It is an area of land which has remained in agricultural use from the medieval period through to the present day. Its location on higher (and dryer) land might suggest that it has been in use (agriculturally) from the Prehistoric period. The site might also have been occupied from the Neolithic through to the Roman period, although little direct evidence of this is available today.

7 Impact of proposed development

Given the requirements of a residential development and the depths of ground works, the proposed development will impact on all archaeology it encounters. The development is planned in an archaeologically sensitive area.

The local topography and geology suggest that archaeology may be encountered at ground level with the proximity of medieval earthworks, as well as buried deposits from medieval or earlier periods.

Although proposals for mitigation strategies are considered to be beyond the scope of this report, a few salient points are worthy of note. The site has a *moderate* archaeological potential. Given the nature of the site, investigation may uncover remains or demonstrate that no archaeology exists (and that the site has always been in agricultural use), however without physical investigation this cannot be predicted. The site is located at the fenland interface (skirtland) along the southern edge of the peninsula of Doddington and might be the area most likely to produce archaeological remains.

A final note of importance, archaeologically the ridge and furrow is the key component and its importance is as an upstanding (and preserved) earthwork. Such well preserved examples such as Doddington are rare in the fens and therefore its landscape value must not be dismissed. Any future development must take this factor into account.

8 Conclusions

In summary, the archaeological potential of the development at Dykemoor Loomes Farm, Newgate Street, Doddington can be described thus:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Palaeolithic, Mesolithic | low/unknown |
| • Neolithic and Bronze Age finds scatter | moderate |
| • Romano-British settlement | moderate |
| • Anglo-Saxon remains | low/unknown |
| • Medieval ridge & furrow, field systems | high |
| • Medieval settlement | low/unknown |

This study has demonstrated that the subject site lies within an archaeological landscape, with Prehistoric finds and Roman sites close to the site, however not immediately adjacent to it. The site contains well preserved ridge & furrow the remains of medieval cultivation and its archaeological potential must be considered moderate to high. The site is located on what has always been an area of dry land, close to the fen edge. If archaeology is encountered on the site the conditions for preservation are poor, as the depth of deposits is likely to not be great.

References

Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

Coles, J and Hall, D. (1998). **Changing Landscapes: The Ancient Fenland.** Cambridgeshire County Council.

Darby, H.C. 1983. **The Changing Fenland.** University Press Cambridge.

English Heritage (1997). **English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda.** Draft.

Fox, C. (1923). **The Archaeology of the Cambridgeshire Region.** University Press Cambridge.

Glazebrook, J. ed (1997). **Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource assessment.** EAA Occ. Paper No. 3.

Hall, D. (1982). **Medieval Fields.** Shire Archaeology.

Hall, D. (1992). **The Fenland Project 6: The South-Western Cambridgeshire Fenlands.** EAA No. 56.

Hall, D. & Coles, J. (1994). **Fenland Survey.** English Heritage.

Kaner, S. (1999). **Design Brief for an Archaeological Desktop Assessment and Earthwork Survey on Land adjacent to pocket park, Dykemoor Loomes Farm, Newgate Street, Doddington.** Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office October 1999.

Pugh, R.B. (1953). **Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. Volume IV**

Ravensdale, J.R. (1974). **Liabile to Flood.** University Press Cambridge.

Reaney, P.H. (1943). **The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely,** English Place-Names Soc. 19 (Cambridge).

Taylor, C. (1973). **The Cambridgeshire Landscape.** Hodder & Stoughton.

APPENDIX A:- Sites and Monuments Record GAZETTEER

Zone 1 0-500m

Zone 2 500-1000m

Zone	SMR No.	Nat. Grid Ref.	Description
1(Site)	9674	TL 385-/907-	Earthwork, ridge & furrow
1	8671	TL 39--/91--	Neolithic (or Beaker) flint knife
1	96756	TL 397-/908-	Earthwork, ridge & furrow
1	10888	TL 3860/9030	Roman Settlement (scatter of grey ware pottery & debris)
2	1501	TL 39--/91--	Unprovenanced kiln waste
2	3748	TL 39--/90--	Bronze Age pottery (location uncertain)
2	3785	TL 3968/9090	P/Med building
2	3786(a)	TL 3824/9081	P/Med windmill
2	3786(b)	TL 3873/9115	P/Med pond
2	9674	TL 385-/907-	Earthwork, ridge & furrow (same number as above)
2	9675	TL 385-/907-	Earthwork, ridge & furrow
2	9676	TL 385-/907-	Earthwork, ridge & furrow (same number as above)
2	1052	TL 392-/914-	Medieval earthwork (moated site?)

APPENDIX B - Notes on Ridge & Furrow from Hall (1982) - Medieval Fields

Medieval arable cultivation survives in the form of ridge & furrow earthworks. Fields were called *a land* (=1/3 acre). They were usually ploughed clockwise with ridges created (between 0.3-1m high). These ridges were to assist drainage and might have followed natural drainage routes. Towards the end of a ridge a left hand twist might be seen. Over the years the repetitive pattern of this cultivation technique would lead to heaps at the end of land, these would be called *heads* or *butts*. Along the end of heads common paths (footpaths e.g. at Doddington) might develop. Triangular shaped land often occurred to fill odd areas and these were called *gores*. Groups of *lands* were called *furlongs* (not to be confused with the distance measure) and groups of these were called *fields*!!.



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Archaeology

The Archaeological Field Unit
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis gap
Fulbourn
Cambridge CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 881614
Fax (01223) 880946