

Archaeological Field Unit

Archaeological Recording at Hinxton Hall: The New Lake Site

S Leith

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Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. A45

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SUMMARY

In December 1994, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out a recording brief at Hinxtton Hall (TL 4966/4466) during the first phase of landscaping and excavation of a lake. This work is part of the development of the Hinxtton Hall site by Fuller Peiser on behalf of The Wellcome Trust.

A number of Roman ditches were revealed, including a rectangular enclosure and field boundaries, which date from the first to the fourth centuries. A series of ditches, a possible fenceline, and a chalk wall formed a boundary which was aligned with the Roman enclosure. The origin of this boundary is unknown, but it appears to have existed and been reinforced for a considerable period of time before going out of use at the time of emparkment in the mid-nineteenth century. A continuity of land boundaries from the Roman through to the post-medieval periods is suggested.

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INTRODUCTION

Between the 2nd and the 8th of December, 1994, the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out a recording brief at Hinxton Hall (TL 4966/4466) during the first phase of landscaping and excavation of a lake (Fig 1). This phase involved the excavation of an area *c* 5150m² to a depth of about 2m, and the landscaping of a further area *c* 1900m² by excavation of up to 0.5m of soil. The second phase, involving the excavation of an area *c* 2625m² to about 2m deep, is proposed to take place in April or May, 1995. This work is part of the development of the Hinxton Hall site by Fuller Peiser on behalf of The Wellcome Trust.

TOPOGRAPHY

The site of the present lake development is located upon the interface between the first/second gravel terrace of the east bank of the river Cam, and the Middle Chalk downland to the east. The ground surface slopes down slightly from east to west towards the river, from 31m in the east to 30m OD in the west.

Just a few metres to the north of the lake development runs the old road to Ickleton, which ran originally from the bridge over the Cam to the west, to a cross-roads with the Hinxton High Street in the east, just south of Hinxton Hall. This road went out of use at the time of the emparkment (between 1831 and 1886) as did the southern part of the High Street, when the road was diverted to run around the north-west edge of the park. The road exists as an upstanding earthwork, with a raised track with ditches on both sides. This road is reputed to be part of the parallel series of tracks which once formed the Icknield Way (Wright 1978 VI, 231; Fox 1923, 143).

The north-west part of the lake development extends into an area of woodland, bordered by the old Ickleton road to the north, and by a stream channel just to the east of the Cam in the west. The wood has probably had its present (pre-development) shape since the time of emparkment as it appears in this shape on the OS map of 1899. The 1831 map of the Hinxton Estate (Fig 5) shows the wood covering a slightly larger area, with the same borders to the north, west, and south, but extending slightly further to the east with a more rectangular shape. The age of the wood is unknown, but it may be of considerable antiquity (T Way, pers comm).

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS WORK

Between August 1993 and April 1994, two phases of evaluation and a large open area excavation took place in the grounds of Hinxton Hall. The main area of archaeological interest was the southern part of the site which revealed a mid to late Saxon settlement. This settlement was represented by a succession of timber framed buildings, as well as associated rubbish pits, ovens, hearths, and three wells. In the later period the settlement was enclosed by a large v-shaped ditch or ditches. Significant early prehistoric remains were also revealed, including pits, quarry pits, a linear ditch, and a chalk-cut shaft. These contained flint artefacts dating from the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

During the first and second phases of evaluation, three trenches were opened near the area affected by the lake development (Fig 1). Two of these, G and H, were intended to investigate the area originally proposed for the lake: an area slightly further east and

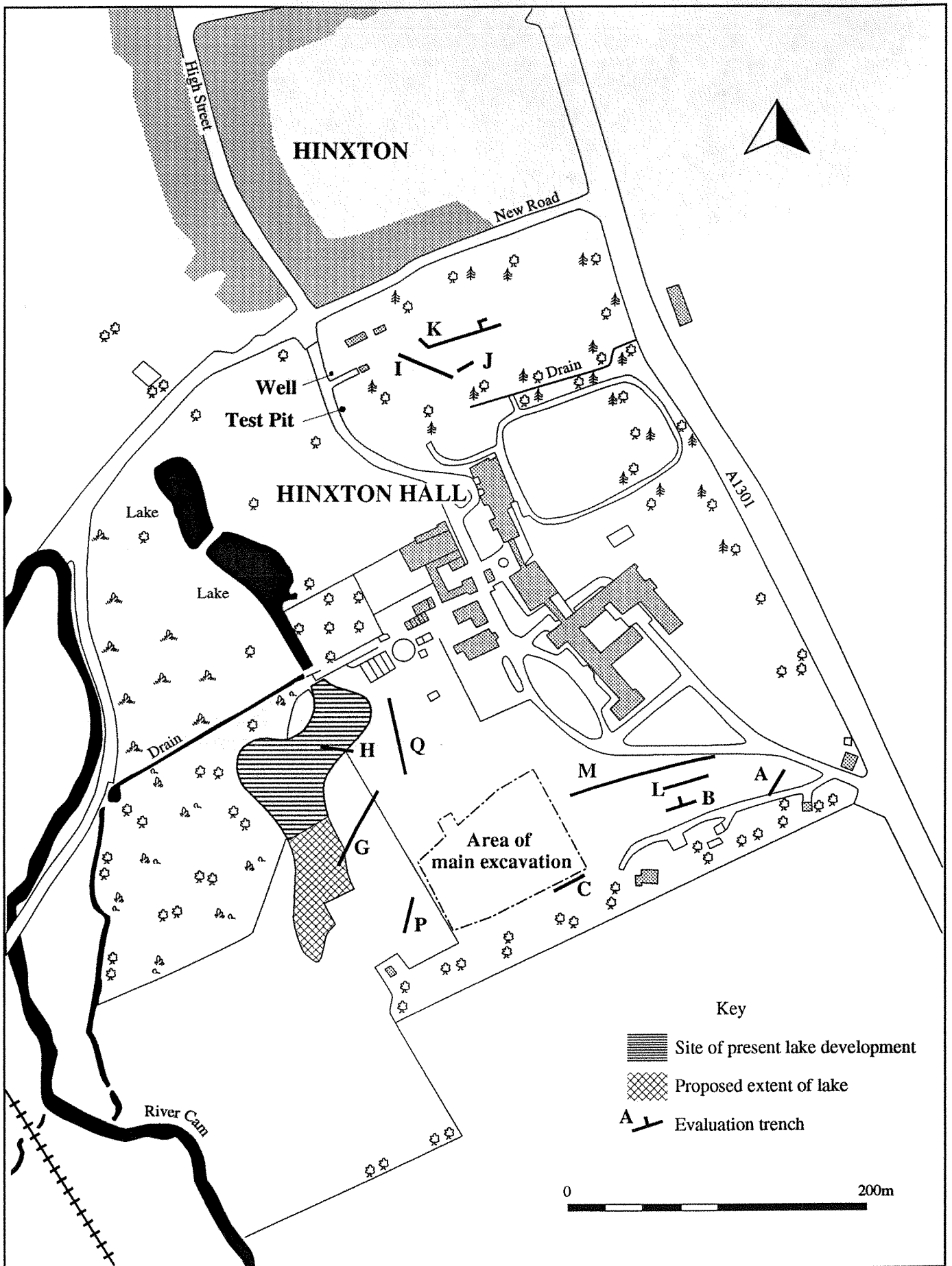


Figure 1 Site Location Plan

much smaller than the present development. The third trench, Q, ran through the area which has now been landscaped.

Trench G revealed a wide, shallow linear ditch containing a layer of loosely packed chalk fragments. This was interpreted as either a robbed out wall foundation or a drainage ditch. Trench H also showed a linear feature similar to that in G, but this one was far more substantial with large, closely packed blocks of chalk. This seemed to be clearly a wall foundation. The linear features in the two trenches were not on the same alignment, and both were undated.

Trench Q revealed a linear ditch and a large rubbish pit which have been dated to the post-medieval period. The presence of slag, charcoal, and burnt clay within the fill of the pit implied industrial activity in the area, and the presence of Roman and Saxon sherds suggested earlier activity in the area. Another linear ditch was revealed, which produced no dating evidence.

METHODOLOGY

Work on the lake had already begun when the archaeologists were notified. The topsoil had been removed from the entire area, the landscaped area (1900m²) had been excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m, and of the lake itself, an area c 1845m² had been excavated to a depth of about 2m. In the landscaped area it was impossible to see any archaeological features.

Excavation of the lake had begun by digging a c 2m deep trench about 10m wide around the periphery of the lake to aid drainage (Fig 2). A number of archaeological features were visible in the section of this trench. However, the method of deep excavation made it impossible to see archaeological features in plan, and they were only revealed in section after being partly removed.

It was agreed to scrape the remaining area with a tracked 360 degree excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in order to reveal any archaeological features in plan. The machine was also used to dig sections through the larger features revealed, while some smaller features were rapidly excavated by hand. The features were recorded using photography, section drawing, and planning, according to the recording system of the Archaeological Field Unit. Wherever possible artefacts were recovered to assist the dating of deposits, however as many of these came from machine-excavated sections it must be stressed that quantities of artefacts recorded as present in features are greatly under-represented.

RESULTS (Fig 2)

The area investigated had been stripped of topsoil and the central area in particular had suffered some damage to archaeological deposits from the tracks of heavy machinery. Therefore most archaeological features had been truncated to a greater or lesser degree. After scraping, the area measured from 29.3m to 29.7m OD.

5030 was an irregular feature with an elongated shape, measuring a minimum of 15m long by 6m wide, and 0.75m deep. Its slightly concave sides sloped gently with a gradual break of slope to a fairly flat, irregular base. The fills were mostly very dark grey to black sandy clay silts interleaved with layers of pale grey sands. This feature

has been interpreted as a pond or stream channel. It was cut by two ditches: **5080** and **5047**.

A large sub-oval natural feature, **5065**, measured 9m by 5m, and 0.35m deep. It had slightly concave sides sloping gradually to a flat base. Its fill, (5064) was dark grey to black sandy silt. This deposit contained a certain amount of artefactual material, including Roman and early medieval pot sherds, however this may have actually come from the fills of **5061**, a ditch which cut **5065**.

A shallow, linear ditch, **5044**, with parallel sides, ran from north to south curving very slightly towards the north-west. It measured 2.1m wide and 0.5m deep, and 19m of its length was revealed. The sides were slightly concave, with a gentle slope to a rounded base. Its fill (5045) was a dark grey brown silty clay with frequent small flints and pebbles. No finds were recovered from this deposit. This ditch was cut by a later ditch, **5020**.

A wide ditch, **5066**, ran from east to west then turned a rounded to corner at about 85° to continue north. It measured 3.3m wide, 0.7m deep, and of its length 16m east to west and 45m north to south was revealed. Its sides were concave, sloping gently to a concave, rounded base. The fill (5067) was a loose grey silty sand with gravel. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

The ditch **5066** was recut by **5069**, which was on the same alignment but slightly narrower than the original ditch, only 2.5m wide. The shape of the recut in section was very different from the original ditch (Fig 3). It appeared to be a triple ditch, with three adjacent parts each with straight steep sides tapering slightly to a flat base. The outer two parts were smaller and shallower than the central one, measuring 0.45m and 0.55m wide, and 0.38m and 0.48m deep (south and north sides respectively) in comparison to the central part which measured 0.9m wide and 0.65m deep. The three elements to the ditch all shared the same fill, (5068), a very nearly black silty clay sand which contained fragments of tile, amphora, Roman pot sherds, and one flint flake. This ditch was cut by two others, **5071** and **5061**.

A small, straight linear ditch, **5073**, ran from east to west, perpendicular to **5066** and apparently ending at **5066**, although the stratigraphic relationship between them was not established. It measured 15m long, 1.15m wide, and 0.3m deep. It had slightly concave sides on a slope of about 1:1, with a gradual break of slope to a flat, slightly concave base. The fill (5072) was a mid greyish brown sandy silty clay, with occasional flints and chalk flecks. It contained animal bone, Roman pottery, and amphora fragments.

A small linear ditch, **5052**, ran parallel to **5073** to its north, and was very similar to **5073**, although shorter. It was straight, with parallel sides and rounded ends, and measured 7m long, 1.0m wide, and 0.23m deep. The sides were concave with no break of slope to a rounded base. The fill (5053) was a dark grey sandy silty clay, with angular flints and chalk fragments, and contained sherds from one mortarium.

A straight narrow ditch, **5071**, cut across the fills of the ditch **5066**, running roughly from east to west, parallel to the south part of **5066** before it turned a corner heading north. 22m of its length was revealed, and it measured 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep. The north side was straight and nearly vertical, and the south side had a slope of 1:1, with a sharp break of slope from the sides to a flat base. The fill (5070) was a dark greyish brown silty sand with gravel, flints, and chalk flecks. This deposit contained Roman pot sherds, fragments of a burnt flint core, and one flint flake.

A wide, linear ditch, **5020**, straight with parallel sides and running from north to south, cut the earlier ditch **5044**. 32m of its length was revealed, and it measured 3m wide, and 1.5-1.6m deep. The sides were steep and straight, tapering to a rounded point. The fills were pale grey to yellow redeposited silty clayey sands with gravel.

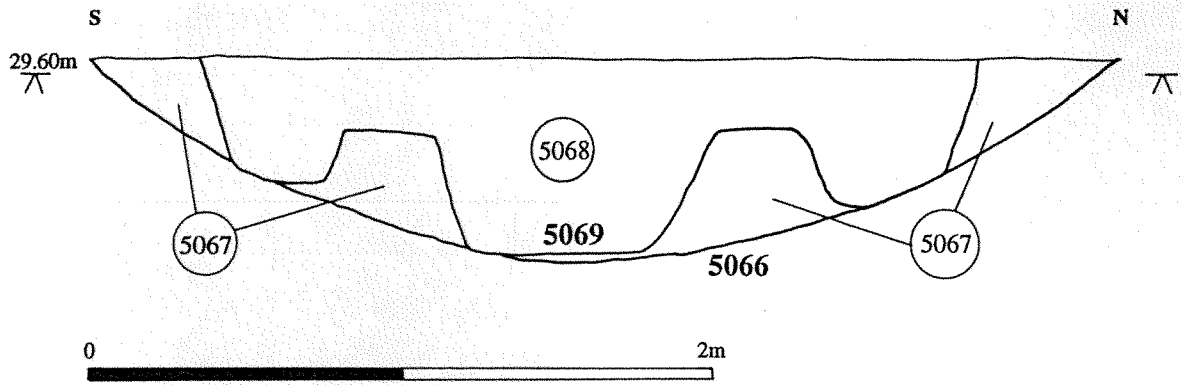


Figure 3 Section of Ditch 5066 and recut 5069

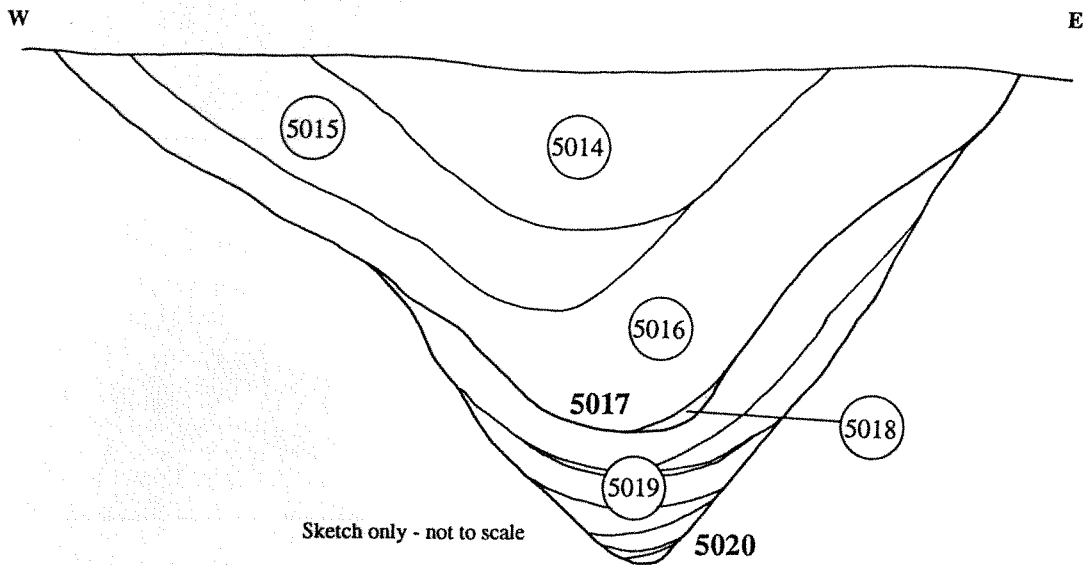


Figure 4 Section of Ditch 5020 and recut 5017

This ditch was recut, **5017**, along the same line as before, but possibly wider (about 3.15m) and shallower (1.1m deep) (Fig 4). The sides started on a gentle slope, with the west side being shallower than the east. There followed a slight step when both sides became quite steep, and this tapered to a rounded break of slope and a narrow, concave base. The lowest fills of **5017** were greyish brown sandy silty clays with a large amount of flint nodules and gravel, particularly in the original fill (5016) which also contained a large number of molluscs. Two probable Roman sherds were recovered from this deposit.

The upper fills of this ditch appear to be much more recent. (5013), a thin layer of gravel and redeposited chalk about 0.06m thick, probably corresponds to a layer seen in many other parts of the Hinxtton Hall park, and which has been interpreted as dating to the landscaping of the parkland in the mid 19th century. The uppermost fills of the ditch towards the southern edge of the lake area, (5012) and (5011), were composed of a black ashy deposit and rubbish, including bottles, bricks, and pottery, which date to the late nineteenth to early twentieth century.

A pair of undated small linear slots, **5022** and **5024**, ran parallel to **5020** on its east side (not illustrated). They measured 0.4m and 0.6m wide, and 0.08m and 0.12m deep respectively.

An unexcavated linear feature, (5074), running north-north-west to south-south-east, measured 13m long and 0.6m wide, and was fairly straight with parallel sides. The fill was a very dark grey sandy silty clay with occasional medium subangular flints. A few fragments of amphora were found on the surface.

A pit, **5010**, was probably square or rectangular in plan, but was only seen in section after the machine had dug through it, and the remaining part was seen in plan. The sides were straight, vertical or slightly undercutting, then a sharp break of slope as the sides tapered to a rounded base. The fill (5009) was a dark greyish brown sandy silty clay which contained several fragments of large animal bone and burnt bone.

A straight linear ditch, **5050**, running from east to west with one rounded butt end to the west. It measured a minimum of 7.8m long, 0.8m wide, and 0.24m deep. The concave sides and base formed a 'u' shape. The fill (5051) was a grey sandy silty clay with frequent chalk fragments and flints.

A straight linear ditch, **5047**, ran from north to south, becoming narrower towards the south where it ended in a rounded point. The sides were straight, with a slope of 1:1, tapering to a rounded point. 24m of its length was revealed, and it measured 2.4m wide and 0.74m deep. The fill (5048) was a grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional flints and chalk flecks.

A straight linear ditch, **5080**, with parallel sides ran from north to south and appeared to end in a rounded end towards the south. The sides were slightly concave, with a gentle slope to a rounded base. 20m of its length was revealed, and it measured 1.5m wide. It appeared to become shallower towards the south where it eventually ended. The fills were grey silty clay sands with small angular flints.

This ditch was cut by **5026**, a straight linear ditch running from north to south, of which 32m length was revealed. It measured 2.4m wide and 0.80m deep. The sides were straight, about 1:1, with a rounded break of slope to a flat but irregular base. In one section there appeared to be a posthole, **5008**, contemporary with the ditch, dug into the western part of the base. The posthole measured 0.5m deep and 0.25m in diameter at the top, with straight sides tapering to a rounded point. The ditch appeared to have silted up to a depth of 0.15m, with (5027) a greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional angular flints and chalk fragments.

At this point a chalk wall foundation (5025) appears to have been placed in the ditch, up against its east side, with soil packed in on the west side (5028). The wall foundation measured 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep, and was comprised of closely packed blocks of chalk, from 0.10m to 0.40m across. This appears to be the same as the ditch and chalk wall revealed in Trench H.

A linear ditch, **5061**, ran from north-east to south-west, curving slightly towards the north. The sides were straight, tapering to a concave base. 41m of its length was revealed, and it measured 1.0m wide and 0.55m deep. The fills were dark greyish brown sandy clay silts with occasional medium angular flints and chalk flecks, and contained probable Roman pot sherds.

This ditch seems to have silted up completely, and was then sealed by (5056), a 0.25m thick layer of dark brown sandy clay silt, with occasional small angular flints and many roots.

Cut into the top of this layer was a narrow chalk wall foundation (5055), 0.36m wide and 0.12m deep. Only 4m of its length was extant, but it is possible that much of its length was machined away as it was just under the topsoil. This wall foundation was made up of closely packed chalk fragments and blocks up to 0.10m across. This chalk wall foundation ran along the same line as the earlier ditch **5061**, but on the north-western edge of the ditch.

Two other chalk wall foundations were revealed but not excavated, (5081) and (5082), both a similar width to (5055). (5081) could well have been the continuation of (5055), it also ran on the north-west edge of **5061** near its north-eastern end. The area between (5055) and (5081) suffered significant damage due to machines driving over it, and the effect of this was compounded as, like (5055), (5081) and (5082) appeared to be just under the topsoil. (5081) ended at (5082) which appeared to be contemporary, and ran north-north-west to south-south-east. This chalk foundation was visible on the north side of the lake area continuing under the trees.

A number of tree boles were revealed, not surprisingly, in the area which was until recently part of the wood. Two of these were investigated and produced animal bone, pot sherds, flint flakes, and shell.

INTERPRETATION

5030 and **5065** both appear to be natural features, possibly created by water-related processes. They remain unexplained at this stage, however they are very similar to other features which were investigated during the main excavation. These features are being analysed for environmental information and soil morphology, and the results of these analyses will be published with the excavation report.

The ditch **5066** and its recut **5069**, which date from the Roman period, form two sides of a rectangular enclosure. The shape of the recut suggests a revetment of the ditch, or that one or more fences were placed along the line of the ditch. The small ditches **5052** and **5073** appear to be related and contemporary to the enclosure ditch, and probably also represent field boundaries. These Roman ditches all seem to relate to agricultural activities; the small amount of Roman tile and building material suggests manuring of fields rather than a demolished structure in the immediate vicinity.

The ditch **5071**, also of a Roman date, was cut when **5069** had silted up, but it appears that the southern line of the previous enclosure was being reiterated.

The ditch **5044**, although undated, may be related to the enclosure to its west, as its alignment is roughly parallel to the western side of **5066/69**.

5020 was a much more substantial ditch than the others, wide, v-shaped, and deep. The fill of its recut **5017** did contain two probable Roman sherds, but these may be residual. Therefore the origin of this ditch is uncertain, but it does appear to have been a visible depression until the time of emparkment.

The fills (5011) and (5012) containing late nineteenth to early twentieth century rubbish appeared to be in the top of the ditch **5020** towards the southern edge of the lake area. However, they now seem to correspond to the location of a rectangular pond marked on the 1831 Hinxton Estate map and on the 1833 Enclosure map (Fig 5 and 6). Therefore these fills appear to be the deliberate backfill of the pond, just clipped by the edge of the area of investigation. The 1831 map shows a ditch running from north to south into the pond, and at its northern end it ran into the drainage ditch on the south side of the old road to Ickleton. This ditch corresponds to **5020** and the recut **5017**.

Roughly on the same alignment as **5020/17**, but slightly to the east, ran a series of undated ditches on the same line. The ditch **5080** was superseded by the ditch **5026** which appears to have had a fenceline running along its western side. When this ditch was partially silted up, a substantial chalk wall was constructed along its length. A further ditch **5047** was located slightly further to the east but on the same alignment. Therefore this appears to have been a boundary which was reinforced and re-established repeatedly over a long period of time.

The 1833 Enclosure map shows a boundary which does not appear to correspond to the drainage ditch **5020/17** feeding into the pond on the 1831 Hinxton Estate map. This appears to be a different boundary, which may or may not have existed at the same time as the drainage ditch. It is possible that between the time of surveying of the two maps, the chalk wall (5025) was constructed to reinforce that boundary, however there is no other evidence to prove this. It is clear, however, that the ditches, possible fenceline, and chalk wall correspond to the boundary on the 1833 Enclosure map, and that this boundary had been in use for a considerable period of time before the emparkment.

This boundary and the drainage ditch appear to have gone out of use at the time of emparkment, as only the pond is visible of the 1899 OS map.

The ditch **5061** and the chalk walls (5055), (5081), and (5082) do not correspond to any boundaries marked on any old maps available at present, however earlier documentary sources from the 13th to 16th centuries held at the Public Record Office in London may shed light on their origin. The ditch **5061** did produce a few sherds of Roman pottery, however these may be residual. It is clear, however, that once again this is a boundary being reiterated after some time by the construction of a chalk wall.

THE WELL

During the excavation of a service trench in the northern part of the Hinxton Hall grounds, a well was uncovered (see Figure 1 for location). It was a circular, brick-lined well, measuring 0.57m in diameter at its opening, and the shaft measured 0.90m internal diameter. The well appeared to have had a brick cap which was knocked in during the excavation of the easement for the pipe trench. The well was lined with red bricks which appeared to be slightly longer but less deep than modern bricks.

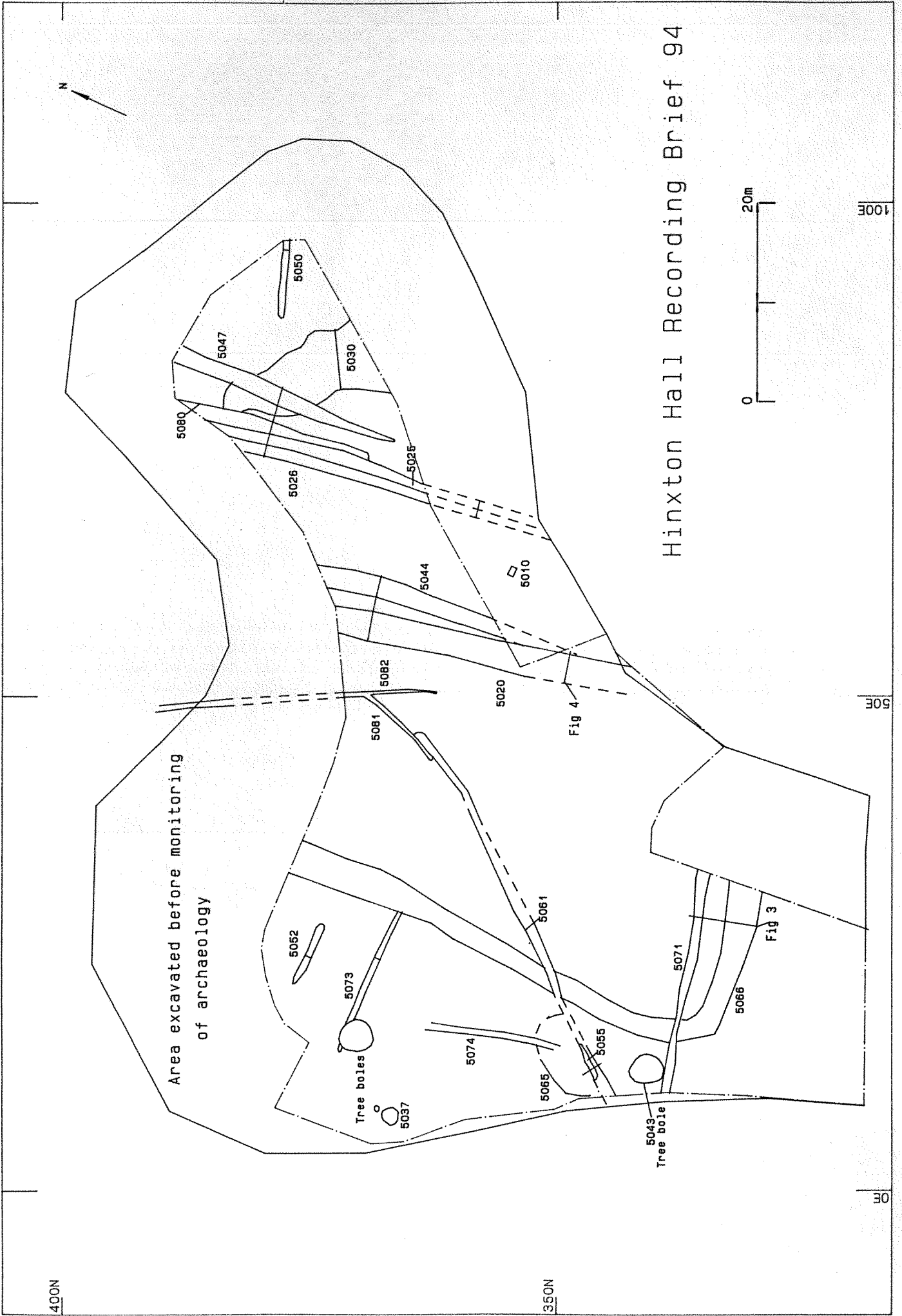


Figure 2 Feature Plan

*Plan of an Estate in the Parish of
Hinxton in the County of Cambridge.*

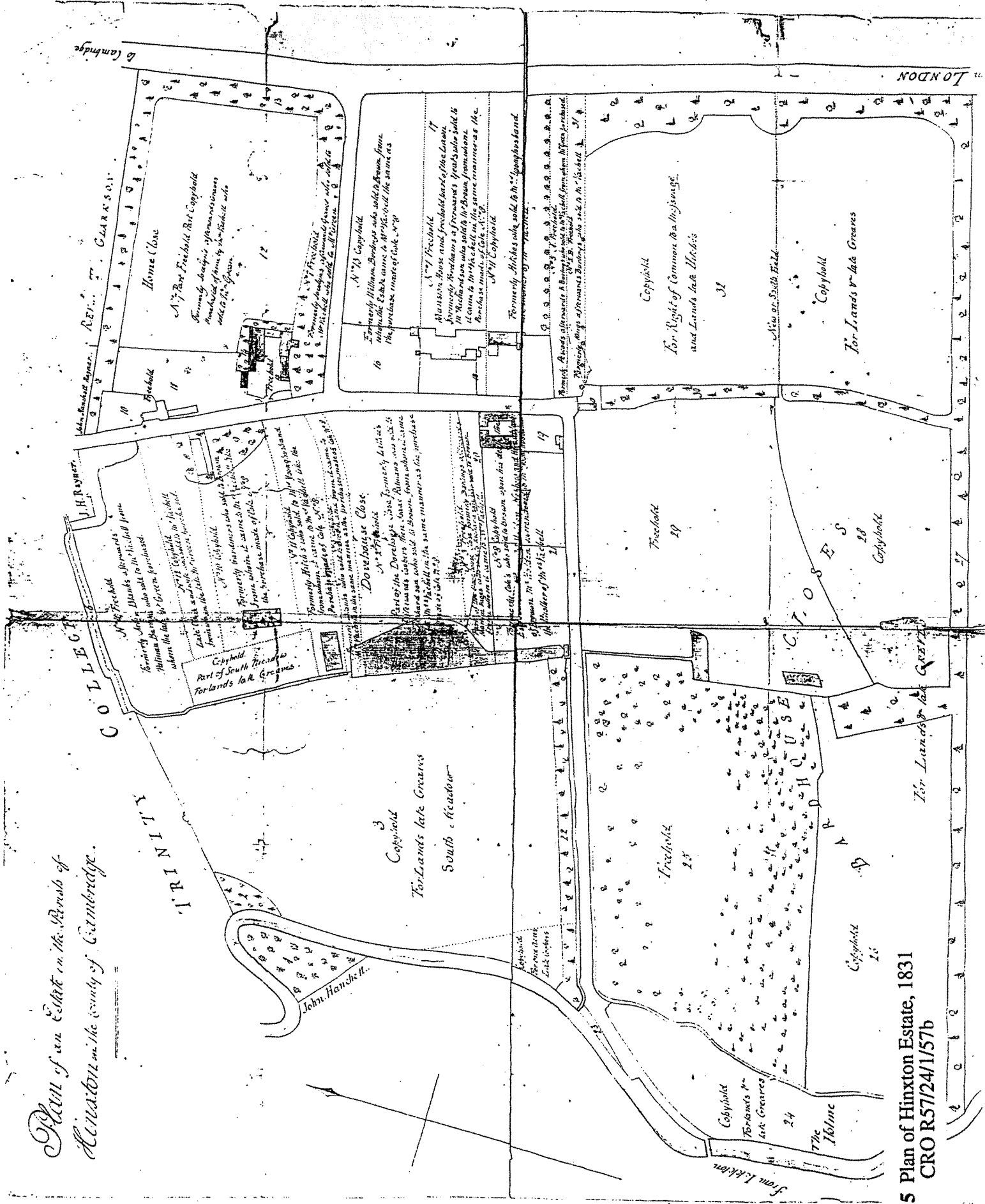


Figure 5 Plan of Hinxton Estate, 1831
CRO R57/24/157b

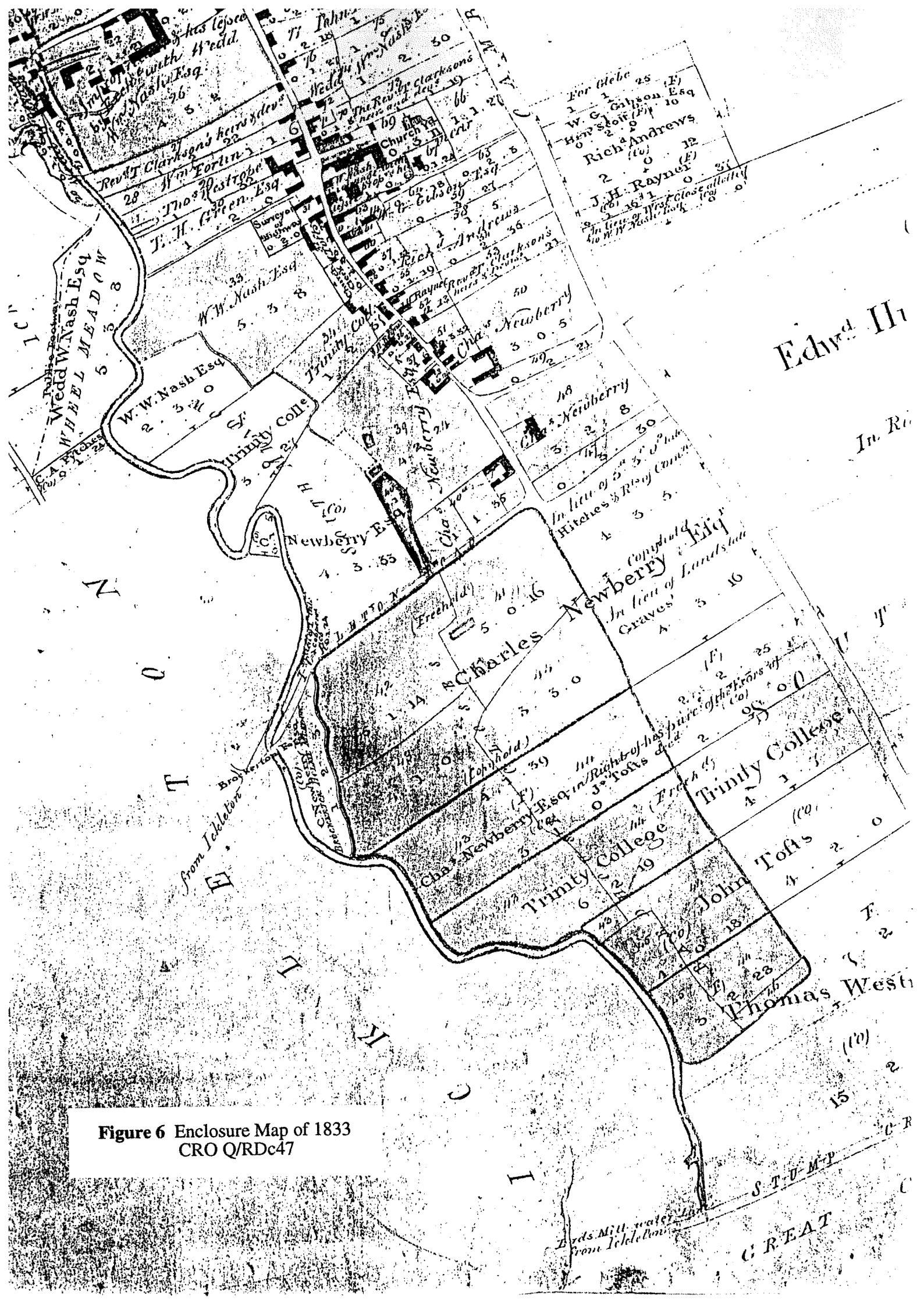


Figure 6 Enclosure Map of 1833
CRO Q/RDc47

The well was located 20m to the south-west of the North Lodge, a listed building (grade II) built in the mid nineteenth century. This building was apparently built after 1833, possibly as part of the emparkment phase, because it does not appear on the Hinxtton Estate map of 1831 or the Enclosure map of 1833. These maps show the original Hinxtton High Street and a number of buildings which were demolished at the time of the emparkment (Fig 5 and 6). The well appears to have been located adjacent to a u-shaped building on the west side of the High Street, to the north of the building in a small enclosure. It appears therefore to have been contemporary with this building, but may have had a much earlier origin, perhaps predating the extant brick lining. Similarly, it may have continued to be used after the emparkment and the construction of the North Lodge, however it seems more likely that it was capped and covered during the landscaping of the grounds at that time.

DISCUSSION

The Cam Valley around Hinxtton has produced evidence of extensive Romano-British exploitation of the landscape. A Romano-British settlement lies across the river from Hinxtton village (SMR 04210a), south of Ickleton a villa was partially excavated in the nineteenth century (SMR 04153), and the Roman town and fort at Great Chesterford are located only a small distance to the south of Hinxtton. Recent investigations at Hinxtton Quarry (Evans 1993) have revealed a network of Romano-British field systems with associated droveways and occupation sites. The results of these investigations are particularly relevant to the site at Hinxtton Hall, because of the evidence of continuity of land boundaries from the Roman period to the present.

The Romano-British field systems revealed at Hinxtton Hall date roughly to the first to fourth centuries. On the same alignment as the Roman enclosure but slightly to the east, were revealed a series of ditches, a possible fenceline, and a chalk wall forming a boundary whose origin is unknown but which must have existed and been reinforced for a considerable period of time before it was mapped in the early nineteenth century. This suggests that here, as at Hinxtton Quarry, there is evidence of continuity of land boundaries from the Roman to post-medieval periods.

This obviously has implications for the Saxon settlement excavated in the southern part of the parkland. There it was clear that the late Saxon settlement was aligned with present field boundaries to the south (which pre-date the emparkment) and with the line of the original Hinxtton High Street which ran south to Great Chesterford. It may well be that these alignments reflect an earlier use of the landscape. In the area of the lake development the Saxon period is not represented, however evidence of the transition from the Roman to Saxon periods may exist in other parts of the Hinxtton Hall grounds.

The extent of the influence of the Roman landscape on Saxon settlement patterns is a crucial research directive in early Anglo Saxon archaeology. This latest phase of investigation in the area of the lake development has suggested that further evidence to shed light on the period of transition from the Roman to Saxon periods may exist in the grounds of Hinxtton Hall. This makes the earthworks located towards the river of particular interest. The emparkment has preserved this area from damage by modern cultivation, and it may prove that the hollow-ways and possible house platforms contain evidence of continued use of this landscape from the Roman through to Saxon and early medieval times.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Maps consulted

- Enclosure Map, 1833 (CRO Q/RDc47)
- OS 1st Edition, 1899 (Sheet Lix NE)
- Plan of Hinxton Estate, 1831 (CRO R57/24/1/57b)
- Plan of land divisions in Hinxton Estate, 1800 (CRO R57/24/1/57a)

CERAMICS FROM HINXTON HALL, 1994

-Assessment Report-

P J Copleston

Introduction

This site ceramic assemblage has been examined with the primary aim of providing the excavators with dates and a basic interpretation for the site features. The main body of the report comprises a catalogue, context by context, of the 82 pottery sherds and tile fragments examined. This is followed by a brief discussion of the site assemblage as a whole, and a note on their use in dating the features. It was felt unnecessary to illustrate any of the vessels at this stage, due to the limited size of the assemblage and the method of recovery.

Roman fabrics and forms are described using normally accepted descriptions. Post-Roman fabrics are not described here.

Roman Fabrics

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Coarseware | General coarseware, various colours or clamp-fired, probably local. |
| Greyware (reduced) | Light or dark grey coloured coarseware, probably local. |
| Greyware (oxidized) | Brown, orange or buff coloured coarseware, probably local. |
| BB1 | Black Burnished Ware Type 1 - blackish coloured, sandy tempered fabric from Dorset region. |
| NVCC | Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware - from around Peterborough. |
| Samian | Bright red-orange colour-coated slipped wares from various centres in Gaul; decorated or undecorated. |
| Amphorae fabrics | Usually brownish-buff sandy fabrics with lighter buff or pinkish surfaces, from the Aegean, Mediterranean or Spain. |
| Tile fabrics | Hard, orange-brown sandy fabrics, occasionally with reduced core. The darker than usual colour may be the result of later fire damage. |

Roman Forms

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Bowl | Shallow, wide-mouthed vessel for serving or mixing. |
| Mortarium | Shallow, wide-mouthed vessel with internal grits for pounding, grinding or mixing. Typical of Roman period 1st-4th centuries AD. |
| Narrow-necked Jar | Tall, narrow-necked vessel, mostly for storage. |
| Wide-necked Jar | Tall, wide-necked vessel, mostly for storage or cooking. |
| Large Storage Jar | Tall, wide-necked vessel for storage. |
| Amphora | Tall or globular, narrow-necked vessel for storage and transport. |
| Tegula | Flanged, flat Roman roofing tile. |

Catalogue

All vessels and fabrics are of Roman date, unless indicated. All are in good condition, except where noted for abrasion. Due to the limited quantity of finds and the nature of their recovery, the contexts are presented here in numerical order only, and not by feature.

| <u>Context</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 5001 | 1 sherd | Coarse greyware jar; sandy grey fabric; abraded; Roman? |
| 5001 | 1 frag | Roman Tegula roofing tile; hard, dark orange fabric; flange missing |
| 5011 | 7 sherds | All post-med. in date: 2 sherds - plant pot 2 sherds - English stoneware bottle, late 19th/early 20th C 1 sherd - bone china plate, 19th/20th C 2 sherds - transfer-ware plate, 19th C design |
| 5016 | 2 sherds | (incl.1 rim) - Coarse greyware jar; sandy quartz inclusions not dissimilar to BB1 wares; flared rim |
| 5036 | 5 sherds | 2 sherds - Coarse greyware vessel; light grey fabric with fine inclusions; very abraded 1 sherd - Coarse oxidized ware vessel with dark grey core; very abraded 1 sherd (bead rim) - Coarse wide-necked jar; light orange sandy fabric; very abraded 1 sherd (rim) - Coarseware wide-necked jar; dark orange oxidized sandy fabric; very abraded |
| 5040 | 5 sherds | 1 sherd - Greyware vessel; fine inclusions 1 sherd - Flagon handle, possibly Hoffheim; light orange sandy fabric with crushed shell inclusions; colour coat lost due to abrasion 3 sherds (rims) - Stamford type ware vessel?; traces of light green glaze, but abraded |
| 5040 | 2 frags | Roman floor tiles; hard, dark orange fabric; one frag. has crazed upper surface suggestive of burning |
| 5042 | 1 sherd | Coarse greyware vessel; lightly oxidized sandy fabric; remains of external dark grey colour-coat mostly abraded away |
| | 1 sherd | (rim) - Small Gaulish Samian carinated bowl; undecorated |
| 5053 | 5 sherds | Mortarium; light buff fabric with quartzite internal grits; flanged rim; very abraded |
| 5068 | 2 frags | Possible Roman Tegula roofing tile; hard, dark orange fabric, with light grey/buff core; fresh breaks |
| 5068 | 7 sherds | 1 sherd (rim) - Wide-necked jar; oxidized sandy fabric; dark grey colour coat mostly abraded away 1 sherd (base) - Jar; oxidized, very sandy fabric with reduced core; very abraded with spalled inner surface 2 sherds - Possible Flagon; oxidized, very sandy fabric; very abraded |

| <u>Context</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| 5068 (cont) | | 1 sherd - Flagon body sherd; light buff fabric; very abraded 1 sherd - NVCC narrow-necked jar; creamy fabric, mottled dark grey/brown surface; abraded 1 sherd - Amphora body sherd; mid-brown, sandy fabric; abraded |
| 5070 | 26 sherds | Small jar; oxidized, sandy fabric, with dark grey fumed external surface/light grey internal surface; combed decoration; fresh breaks |
| 5072 | 10 sherds | 1 sherd - Amphora body sherd; light brown/buff fabric, with light orange surfaces 1 sherd - Neck and single rim of Flagon; pinky-buff fabric with traces of orange/red colour coat; very abraded 4 frags (incl. 1 bead-rim) - Narrow-necked jar; bright orange, fine sandy fabric; very abraded 1 sherd - Large coarse greyware storage jar; light grey sandy fabric, with grey/brown surfaces; very abraded 2 sherds (rim) - Large coarse narrow-necked jar; light grey sandy fabric with oxidized surfaces; very abraded 1 sherd - Gaulish Samian; undecorated; very abraded |
| 5074 | 2 sherds | Amphora body sherds; light brown sandy fabric, with light flecks and darker grey core; not particularly abraded |
| 5076 | 4 sherds | Shouldered jar; bright orange sandy fabric; kick-base; abraded; (sherds in similar fabric in context 5072) |
| 5078 | 1 sherd | Coarse greyware vessel; fine, light grey fabric with fumed surfaces; very abraded |

Discussion

Of the 82 sherds and fragments examined, 67 sherds are of Roman date, 3 sherds of Medieval date, 7 sherds of Post-Medieval date, and 5 tile fragments of Roman date. The Roman pottery dates from the first to the fourth centuries AD, with a few sherds (in 5040) of early Medieval date, and another group (5011) is 19/20th century in origin, possibly indicative of later activity on the site.

The majority of the Roman sherds are undiagnostic, being either body sherds or rims from coarseware vessels. The few diagnostic sherds suggest activity on the site in two phases: in the first or second centuries AD, and also the third or fourth:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Hoffheim-Type Flagon (5040) | 1st-2nd century |
| Combed Jar (5070) | 1st-2nd century |
| Mortarium (5053) | 3rd-4th century |
| Flagons (5068, 5072) | late Roman |

Almost all sherds are abraded, some with leaching on the surfaces, and therefore probably of secondary deposition; consequently, they are not very reliable for dating of features.

The range of Roman vessel types suggests a domestic assemblage: large storage jars and amphorae for storage, smaller coarse-ware and greyware vessels for cooking and

storage, mortaria and bowls for grinding, mixing and food preparation, and some finer tableware for serving.

The minimum number of Roman vessels (all types, except Amphorae, based on sherd groups of separately identifiable fabrics) is twenty four. The number of Amphorae represented (by the same criteria) is four. One Medieval vessel is represented, and four vessels of 19/20th century date. The five fragments of tile are all Roman, either roof or flooring tile, and are abraded, one with fire damage, possibly sustained within a burning building. These represent a minimum of four complete tiles.

Conclusions

This assemblage does not warrant further analysis at this stage, due to the nature of its recovery and general condition. However, it may in future be of greater value when considered within the wider context of the ceramics from the archaeological investigations at Hinxton Hall.

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