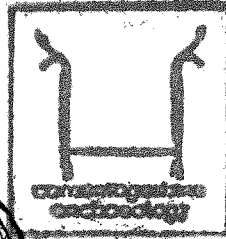
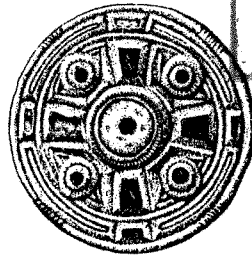


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Archaeological Field Unit

## Archaeological Evaluation at Toon's Lodge, Haddon.

E. Guttman

1995

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

Report No. A59

*Commissioned By the Department of Transportation, Cambridgeshire County Council.*

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*Report No A59*

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## **SUMMARY**

*An evaluation was carried out by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit at Toons Lodge, Haddon (TL 147 932), between 27-30 March, 1995. The work was carried out in response to the proposed widening of the A1 and followed a brief set by Bob Sydes (Cambridgeshire County Development Control Officer) and Francis Pryor (D.o.T. consultant). A gradiometry survey and a series of trial trenches failed to positively identify any Prehistoric or Roman features below the Medieval ridge and furrow.*

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT TOON'S LODGE, HADDON

## 1 INTRODUCTION

An evaluation was carried out by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit at Toon's Lodge, Haddon (TL 147 932) between 27-30 March, 1995. The work was carried out in response to the proposed widening of the A1 and followed a brief set by Bob Sydes (Cambridgeshire County Development Control Officer) and Francis Pryor (Consultant for the D.o.T.). Aerial photographs indicated the presence of a Medieval agricultural system (ridge and furrow) presently under pasture. A magnetometry survey was carried out in order to assess the potential of the area for Prehistoric and Roman remains below the Medieval. Seven 20m trenches and fifteen 5 x 5m areas were opened up in an assessment area 32,808m sq. Trenching was restricted to the area of land intake for the A1 widening programme. No archaeological features were positively identified.

## 2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site lies under pasture, at 20-25m O.D. The underlying geology is Oxford clay, which has weathered into three distinct horizons defined by differing levels of oxidation. The solid, unweathered geology lay 1.04m below the ground surface, beneath a topsoil averaging 0.30m and a silty-clay subsoil with a blocky structure, measuring 0.10-0.30m in depth. The weathering horizons of the Oxford clay were 0.60-0.66m in depth.

## 3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies beneath ridge and furrow associated with the shrunken Medieval village of Haddon. These earthworks extend for c. 440m to the west of the A1 within field 055641.

The area under evaluation is bounded on the NE side by the A1, which follows the line of the Ermine Street Roman Road. Other local sites will be discussed in the forthcoming report (Kemp and Reynolds 1995).

## 4 METHODS

A tracked mechanical excavator with a 1.8m toothless bucket was used to open seven 20m trenches and fifteen 5 x 5m areas set in a cantilever grid. A total of 655m sq was opened up, representing a 2% sample of the assessment area. Six of the trenches were orientated at a 45 degree angle to the Roman road in order to trace features which might lie at either right angles or parallel to the road. Trench 3 was at a right angle to the road and was placed in order to trace a linear anomaly which was identified in the magnetometry survey. Trenching was taken to varying depths within the weathered natural clay and all potentially archaeological features were planned at 1:50 and hand excavated.

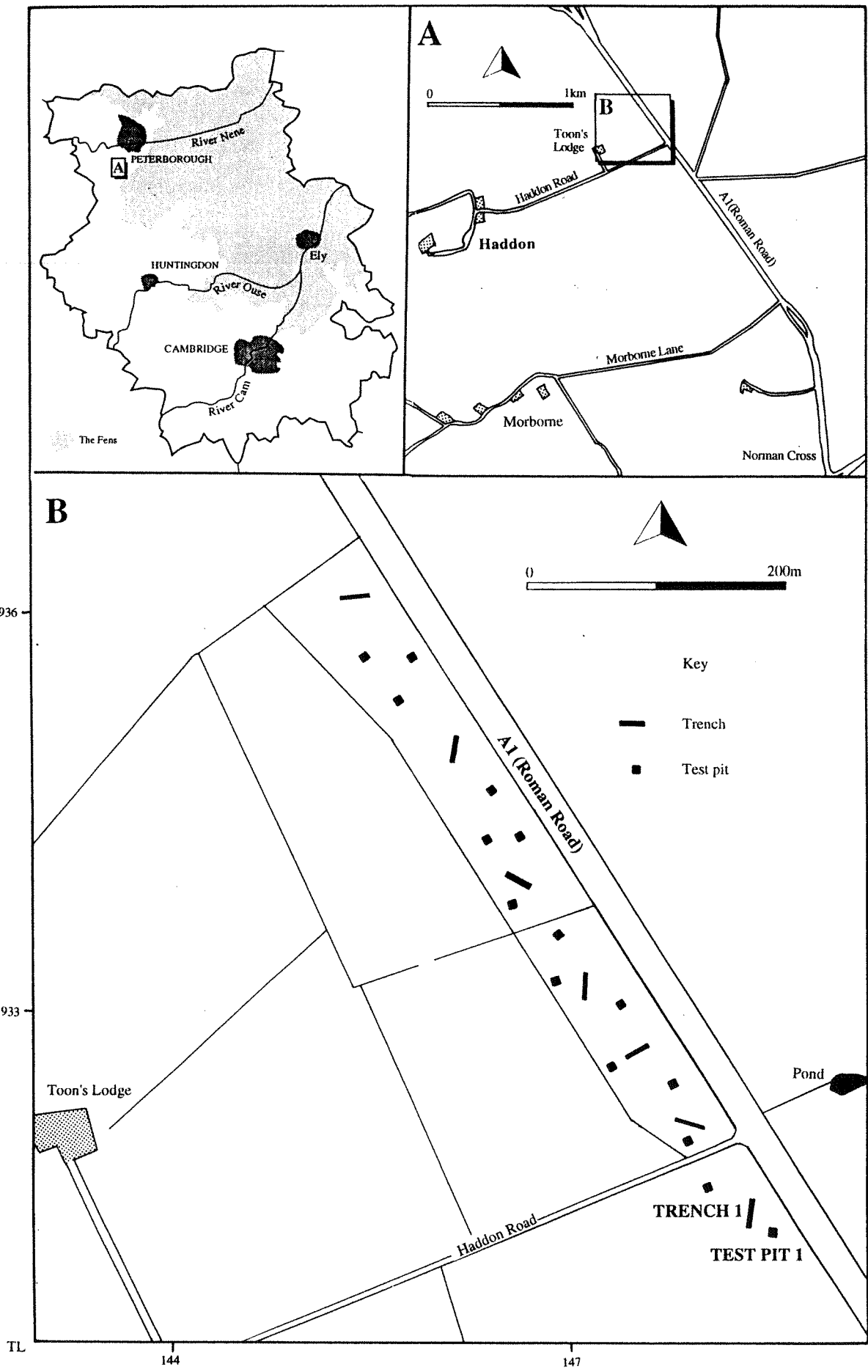


Figure 1 Location map and plan of trenching

## **5 RESULTS**

Three linear features were exposed, planned, and excavated. Features 1 and 3 have been interpreted as natural.

Feature 1 was 0.12m deep and of varying width, running NW-SE across area A and stopping 0.70m from the western baulk. After excavation it was found to be made up of a depression 1.25m wide and a gully 0.60m wide and 1.95m long. The breaks of slope which defined these cuts were imperceptible and very shallow. Both were filled by a single, compacted clay deposit.

Feature 2 ran E-W across trench 1. The cut of this feature was 0.76m wide, narrowing to 0.12m at the base to form a V-shaped profile with irregular sides. The maximum depth was 0.11m. The fill was a fine clay from which two small, rounded, undated pot sherds were recovered. While this shallow cut may have been formed by a natural rivulet, it may also have an archaeological origin. The feature was sealed beneath the subsoil.

Feature 3 (area I) had one defined edge, but the layer which was identified as a fill on the surface was found to extend underneath the natural clay. This feature has been interpreted as periglacial in origin.

A distal tertiary bladelet fragment was found on the trench surface in area A. This has been dated to the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

Trial trenching and the magnetometry survey indicated the absence of Prehistoric and Roman activity in the assessment area, despite the proximity of the Roman road and of local settlement sites. There was no evidence for alterations in the route of the road.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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