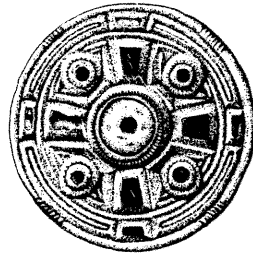


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Archaeological Field Unit

Post-Medieval Buildings, Surfaces and Gardens at The Grange,
Lolworth. Report on a Basic Archaeological Investigation.

Aileen Connor

1998

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. B020

Commissioned By Robert Pearson Esq.

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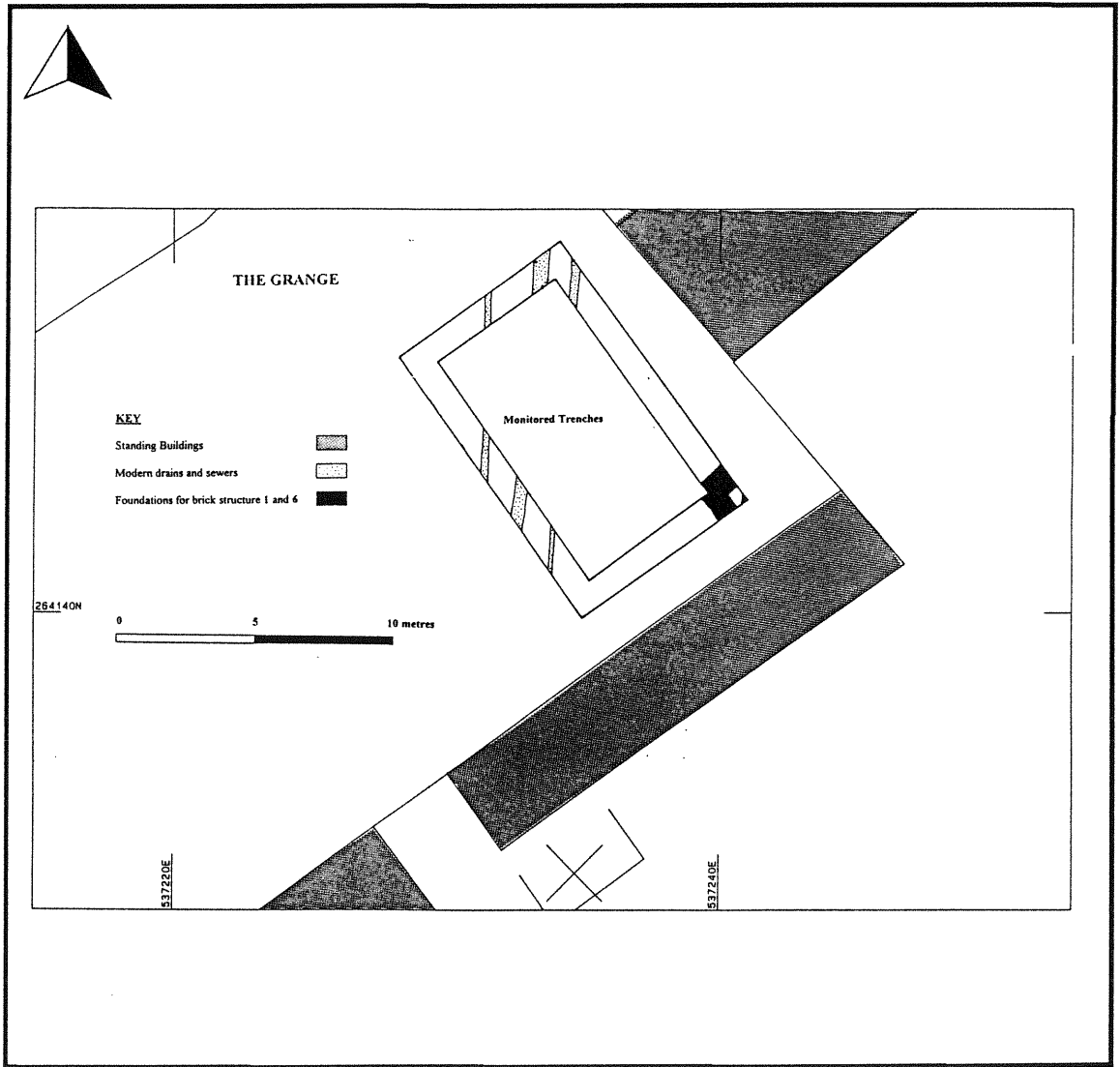
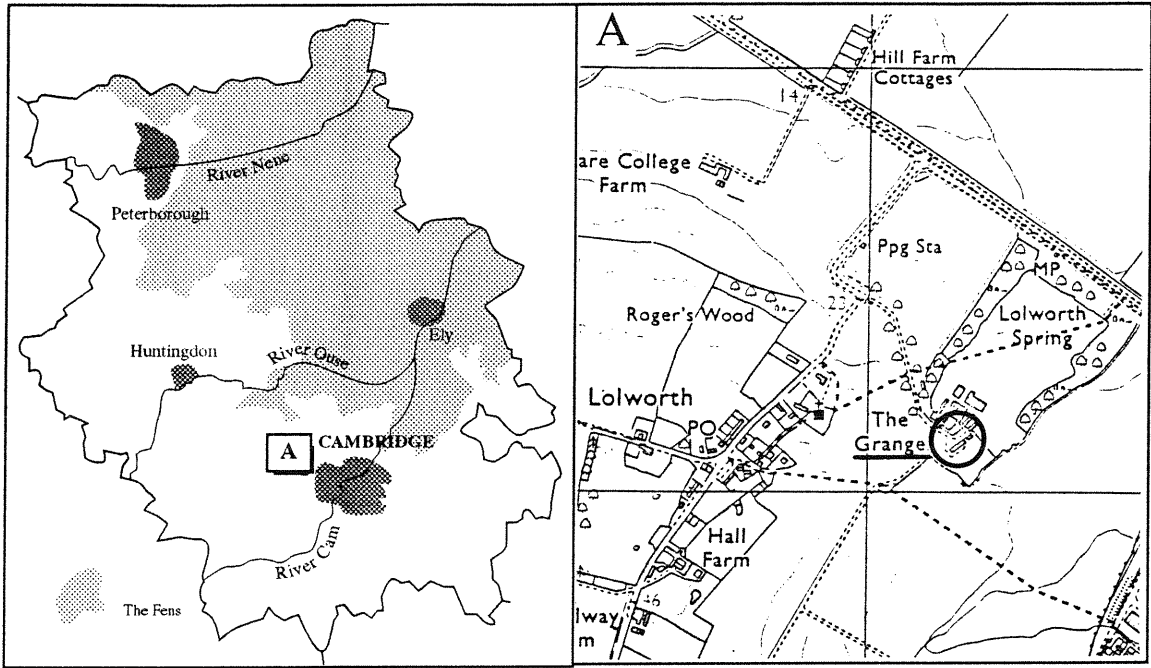
With Contributions by Phil Copleston BA

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Summary

A basic investigation of the foundation trenches for a triple garage at Lolworth Grange, Lolworth, Cambridgeshire (TL372 640) revealed the presence of an earlier, probably 19th century brick building and associated yard surfaces and garden. No finds were recovered that could be dated earlier than the late 18th century. The ground in this area of the grange has been made up by nearly one metre during the last hundred years; sewers and land drains had been installed implying that the original ground surface to have been very wet. No evidence for the possible medieval origins of the Grange or nearby Moat (SMR 01090) were recovered from this investigation.



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**POST-MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS, SURFACES AND GARDENS AT THE GRANGE,
LOLWORTH. REPORT ON A BASIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION:
TL 372 640**

1 INTRODUCTION

In response to a Brief set by the County Archaeology Office (Kaner, 14 May 1997), planning application number S/0314/97/F, a basic archaeological investigation was undertaken in the grounds of The Grange, Lolworth (TL 372 640), during groundwork preparatory to construction of a triple garage, approximately 8m x 12m in size. The work was undertaken by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council in late January 1998.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Lolworth Grange is located on the south-eastern outskirts of Lolworth village (TL372 640). The local geology is Kimmeridge Clay and Lower Greensand, the geology on the site of the triple garage is Kimmeridge Clay.

The Grange lies within a Medieval moated site (SMR 01090) and a short distance to the south-east of the Medieval shrunken village (SMR 03500).

4 METHODS

Groundwork for the construction of a garage included the excavation by machine of four trenches, approximately 0.60m wide x 1m deep for the perimeter walls of the garage followed by stripping of the ground surface to a maximum depth of 250mm. The excavation of the four trenches took place under constant archaeological supervision. The written and drawn record was supplemented by photographs.

The site archive is kept at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Offices at Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire.

5 RESULTS

The uppermost deposit in all the trenches was a loosely compacted mixed gravel and tarmac layer upto 0.25m thick.

The tarmac overlay an approximately 0.50m thick deposit, possibly a makeup layer for the tarmac surface consisting of a mixed compacted sticky blue grey clay with inclusions of mortar and crushed red brick. The brick was particularly apparent at the base of the deposit and where it overlay and sealed a brick structure 1 in the north corner of the north-east and south-east trenches. This layer sealed several land drains, and a live sewer pipe. A number of the land drains, and the sewer pipe were broken during the excavation and flooded the base of three of the trenches. The water was subsequently pumped out.

5.1 North-East Trench

Part of a brick structure, 1, was uncovered at the east end of this trench. The structure consisted of seven courses in height of soft red brick, and was at least 1.5m long. The thickness of the wall is unknown. The bricks were hand-made, unfrogged and measured 9 1/2" x 2 1/4" x 4 1/4" in size. They were bonded by a pale yellow soft sandy mortar, and formed a plain stretcher bond. The structure appeared to be the corner of a wall on an east-west orientation, truncated on its east edge by a land drain. Structure 1 was probably part of the same build as structure 6 (south-east Trench). The wall overlay an L shaped linear feature

5, 1m wide by at least 1m long by more than 0.30m deep on a north-south and east-west orientation. The cut was filled by 4 a mottled yellowish brown and grey brown soft sandy clay. The feature is likely to be a foundation trench for the brick wall 1.

There were no other archaeological features in the north-east Trench.

5.2 South-East Trench

Part of a brick structure 6 was uncovered at the north end of this trench, the structure was probably associated with or part of the same build as structure 1 (north-east Trench). Five courses of brick survived, but only to one or two bricks width. The brick was the same soft red unfrogged type observed in the north-east Trench, and was bonded by the same type of mortar. The structure had been severely truncated by land drains. Butted against 6 on its south edge was a very mixed redeposited clay 7, filling a steep sided cut 8, at least 1.5m wide by an unknown east-west length. 8 probably functioned as a foundation trench for wall 6.

To the south, and cut by 8, was a layer of yellowish brown sandy clay with no inclusions, 9. This may be a natural deposit, possibly a subsoil sealed beneath 3, a mid grey brown clay loam, with inclusions of crushed red brick and occasional tile and white glazed pottery. The deposit is probably a post-medieval buried topsoil.

Sealing 3, was an 0.15m thick layer of crushed brick and tile, 2, it spread for 3m north-south in the southern end of the south-east Trench and was also observed in the south-west Trench where it spread for 5m north-west to south-east. The crushed red brick and mortar inclusions were very similar to that seen in structures 1 and 6 in the north-east Trench, and may have derived from the same source.

There were no other archaeological features in the south-east Trench.

5.3 South-West Trench

As noted above, the east end of the south-west Trench contained a brick rubble surface, 2, overlying a buried garden soil, which in turn overlay a possible 'B' horizon, 9. Several land drains and a sewer pipe had truncated the surface and at the west end of the trench the later makeup deposits were of a much greater depth, sloping to almost 1m deep where they overlay natural clay.

5.4 North-West Trench

The north-east Trench contained no archaeological features, the ground here had been made up with almost 0.70m thick redeposited clay capped by a mixed loose tarmac. It also contained several land drains and one live sewer pipe, which was broken during the course of the excavation.

6 DISCUSSION

A group of features of potential archaeological significance were found in the east of the area under discussion. These consisted of parts of two brick walls (1 and 6) and associated foundation trenches. The soft red brick and simple stretcher bonding of the walls suggests that they had been part of the foundations for a structure, perhaps an outbuilding. The construction would seem to have been a double skinned wall filled with rubble and set into a vertically sided cut filled with compacted clay, the whole structure sitting on a bed of soft sand, possibly to aid drainage. The foundations were at least 1.5m wide, suggesting that they were meant to support a reasonably substantial structure. The soft red brick of the structure is thought to be very similar to that from which the cellar of the present Grange is constructed (Robert Pearson, Pers.Comm.). All of the external structure of the present

Grange is constructed from Cambridgeshire Yellow Bricks, as are the cottages and various other outbuildings. A remnant topsoil (3), possibly a garden soil lay less than 1m to the south of the structure and may have been associated with it. Crushed brick within the garden soil may have derived from the structure, although it may have got into the soil at the time of its construction or destruction. A brick rubble yard surface (2), lying just over 3m to the south of the structure sealed the garden soil and may have been constructed from demolition material derived from the structure.

A fragment of Cream Ware pottery from the buried topsoil (3) suggests that the soil was still being cultivated in the 1790's or later, although it may have been under cultivation for many years prior to that. Based on the evidence of the pottery sherd, the brick rubble surface could not have been laid prior to the 1790's and is most likely 19th century in date.

A search of the maps held at the County Records Office revealed that the Grange was present on the Tithe Map (1842) and the Enclosure Map of 1848 (CRO Q/RDc68) when it was known as Mr. Parsons Farm. The Enclosure Map clearly shows a large moated enclosure to the north and east of the main building. No buildings are shown which could be the brick wall remains found during the investigation until the 1886 OS 25'' map which shows a small building tucked into the elbow of the garden walls to the north and east of the investigation area. A Coach House had been sited on the area under discussion (Robert Pearson, pers comm.) and is referred to in Sales Particulars of 1924, but is not shown in this location on any of the maps consulted.

Based on the map evidence and the type of bricks used it can be assumed that the remains of the structure found during the investigation are mid 19th century or later in date.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The western part of the planning consent area had been made up and levelled with redeposited clay and tarmac totalling upto 1m in depth. No archaeological features were found in this part of the area. Deposits and structures relating to a post-medieval building, possible garden soil and yard surface were found in the east part of the area, but any earlier archaeological deposits had either been truncated by this activity or had never been present at all. Finds dating to the later post-medieval period were recovered, but there was no evidence for any earlier activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological monitoring and recording was commissioned by Robert Pearson Esq. Phil Copleston spot dated the pottery. Illustrations by Andrew Hatton. The Brief and Planning Advice were provided by Simon Kaner of the County Archaeology Office.

REFERENCES

SMR. Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record

CRO. Cambridgeshire Records Office Q/RDc68 1848 Lolworth Enclosure Map



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Archaeology

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