

Archaeological Field Unit

Cardiac and Surgical Wards, Papworth Hospital,
Papworth Everard: an archaeological evaluation

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SUMMARY

On the 22nd September 1998 an archaeological field evaluation in advance development at Papworth Hospital was carried out. No archaeological features were noted and it appears that the area has been disturbed, either by post-medieval landscaping or by twentieth century construction.

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**Cardiac and Surgical Wards, Papworth Hospital, Papworth Everard:
an archaeological evaluation
(TL 288 628)**

1 INTRODUCTION

This evaluation was carried out on the 22nd September 1998 by a member of staff of the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council. The work was commissioned by Papworth Hospital in response to a brief prepared by the Cambridgeshire County Council Development Control office. The object of the evaluation was to determine the archaeological potential of the site before the construction of new cardiac and surgical wards at Papworth Hospital.

The study area lies immediately to the north-west of a medieval moat (Cambs. County Council SMR no. 0921) and covers an area of 900sqm.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The village of Papworth Everard lies close to the former boundary between Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, at a height of approximately 45mOD. It is located on glacial deposits of Boulder Clay over Ampthill Clay with outcrops of ironshot fossiliferous limestone (Elsworth Rock) nearby (British Geological Survey, Sheet 187; Edmonds and Dinham, 1965). Drainage is poor over most of the parish, and the soils have been described as "exceptionally tenacious and slippery" (RCHM: 196).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The village of Papworth Everard currently follows the line of the Roman Road, Ermine Street, but seems in medieval times to have had its centre along a small, fairly steep sided valley to the west of the road, close to a spring.

Papworth Everard, and the nearby village of Papworth St Agnes, takes the first part of its name from "Pappa's Enclosure" and was first referred to in 1012 as *be Pappawyrde gemaera*, and in 1086 as *Pappeworda*. Papworth Everard was named after Everard de Beche, lord of the manor in the twelfth century, but was also known variously as *Parva*, *Over*, *Upper* and *Upper* from the dedication of the church (Reaney 1943: 171).

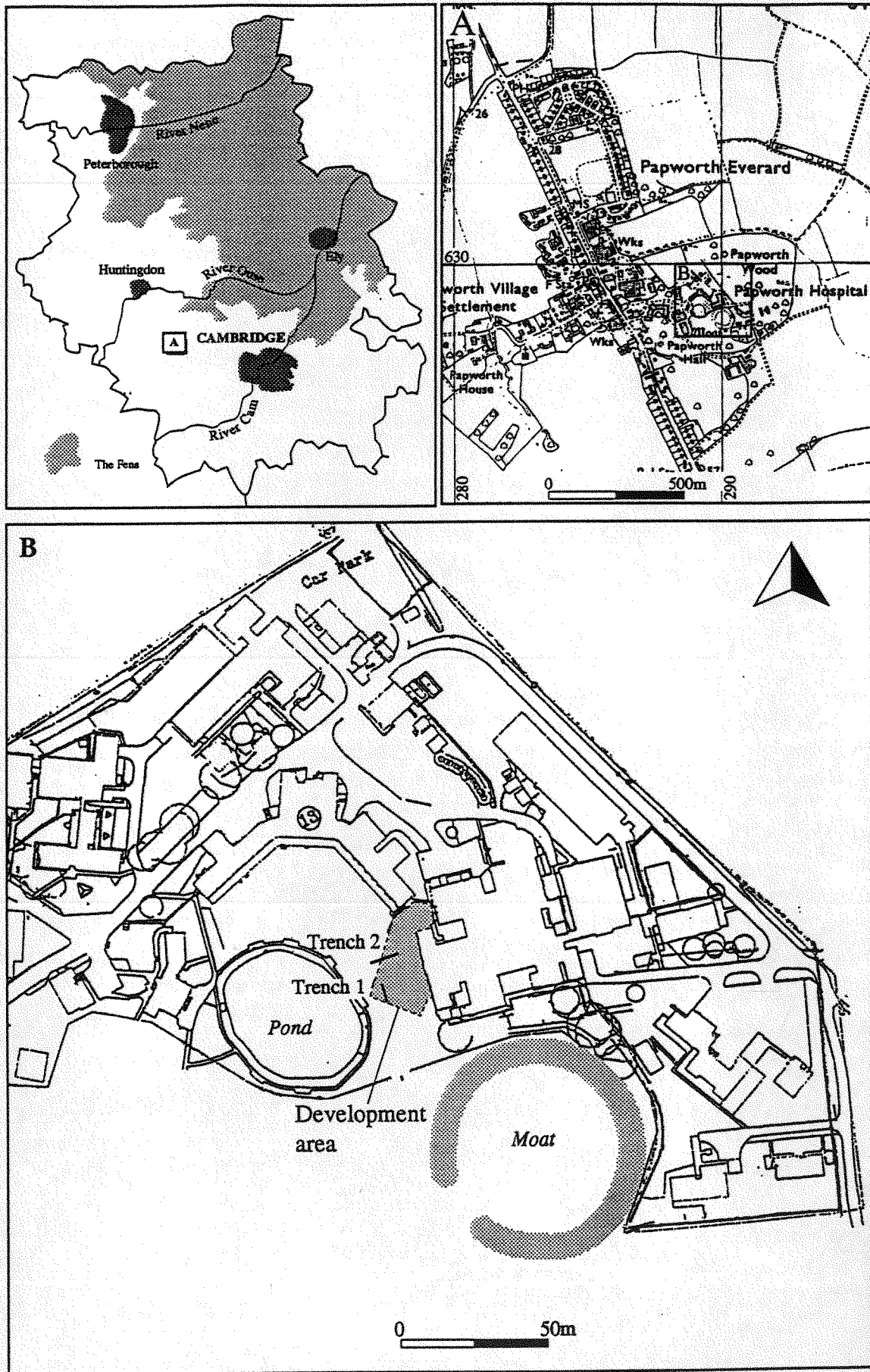


Figure 1 Site location plan

Prehistoric and Roman

Although Ermine Street runs through the middle of Papworth Everard parish, there is no known evidence of Roman or prehistoric occupation there. It should, however, be noted that to the south-east, on the Boulder Clay in Caldecote medieval activity had completely masked extensive earlier (mainly Roman) remains. Iron Age remains are reported from the south-western part of the parish of Papworth Everard (Kaner, pers. comm.).

Saxon and Medieval

The medieval village seems to have had its centre west of the Roman road, around the church of St Peter and close to a spring. Little now remains of this settlement, but it is known from earthworks (see below). It is possible that the original focus of the village was around the church.

Count Alan, lord of Richmond, held the manor at Papworth in 1086, and the land remained in honour of Richmond until 1700. The location of the manor house is not certain, but has been identified with the large moat in the grounds of Papworth Hall (SMR 0921), although no medieval finds were recovered from the site during digging in 1970 (VCH, IX: 361). A smaller moated site is known north of Rectory Road, close to the old centre of the village (SMR 1051). This is a second possible site for the manor, built opposite the church.

The church of St Peter was so-named from the early thirteenth century and belonged to the Richmond fee. Reconsecrated in the fourteenth century, it was only tiled in the mid-17th century. Major building repairs took place in the 1850s reusing medieval stone, funded by the Cheere family, then lords of the manor. The walls and buttresses are of 13th century origin and the east wall 17th century.

Records show a steady increase in population throughout the medieval period, from 15 peasants in 1086 to 111 in 1801, by which time the settlement had shifted to the main road.

There is a ridge or possible platform, running north-south in the front gardens of Papworth Hall, together with other amorphous earthworks. The garden slopes to the east towards a pond and drain, first shown on the 1887 OS map.

Ridge and furrow in a pasture south of Papworth Hall is still clearly visible through differential grass growth in the field. There are ridges (SMR 2525) running both east-west and north-south.

A second moat survives north-west of the church (SMR 1050). On the 1818 Inclosure map this is shown in the grounds of Fir Tree Farm. The moat forms a heavily wooded depression, with many small fir trees. The moat is shown on the 1818 Inclosure and 1824 Title maps as a semi-circular feature.

Irregular earthworks are visible on the open pasture area in front of the church. These include possible sections of ridge and furrow, and several small platforms. The area south of the church has many earthworks remaining from the deserted centre of the medieval village (SMR 2469), focused around the

spring and the stream. The area is now under plough and few earthworks are visible. The 1818 Inclosure map shows scattered ancient closes, which were already combined in fewer, bigger units by 1824 (Title map). One side of a hollow way south and west of the church is still clearly visible in a scarp approximately 1 metre high behind the graveyard. Its other side seems to have been completely ploughed out.

A further moat is recorded in the south of the village (SMR 1051). It is shown on the 1818 Inclosure and the 1824 Title map as a small ring with a single opening in the north-east.

Post-medieval

Few remaining houses in Papworth Everard, other than Papworth Hall, pre-date 1850: The establishment in 1918 of the Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis colony at Papworth Hall transformed the village. Renamed Papworth Village Settlement in 1927, it brought patients, their families and staff to the area. New accommodation was built. Workshops were established for such light industry as wood working, leather suitcase manufacture, and book binding, and amenities such as a village hall, theatre and sports ground provided.

4 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

The moat to the east of Papworth Hall (SMR 0921) is one possible site for the manor of Everard de Beche. It is now preserved within the gardens of the hall and hospital. The moat has mature trees all around it, and survives to a depth of over 3 metres, and contains water. It has been suggested this feature was constructed during landscaping of gardens in the nineteenth century (VCH IX: 361). A prominent east-west causeway across the moat is first shown only on the 1887 OS map, while the 1812 Inclosure map and 1824 Title map both show a single, small causeway in the north-west part of the moat. This suggests that the moat has a medieval origin and was altered during landscaping in connection with Papworth Hall. No finds were recovered during digging in the 1970s.

Papworth Hall was built for the Cheere family during the early nineteenth century and has been altered over the intervening period to accommodate the administration of The Papworth Trust.

Papworth Hospital occupies part of the former grounds of Papworth Hall and considerable landscaping relating to construction of the hospital from the 1920s onwards is evident. The development area lies on the slope between the moat and the ornamental pond in front of the wards and is adjacent to the thoracic surgical unit (built in the 1930s).

5 RESULTS

Two trenches were opened by a JCB with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket. The location of the trenches was restricted by the presence of drains and cables.

Trench 1, 6m long, ran approximately parallel to the front of the thoracic surgical unit, approximately 11m to the west. This trench revealed a very fine, stone free, topsoil (0.25-0.3m deep) over a stiff olive brown clay (0.23m deep) with a slight organic content, flecks of chalk and small angular flints. This sealed an extremely still light olive brown clay (0.33m deep) with frequent chalk fragments. The basal deposit revealed in the trench was an extremely stiff mottled grey clay with fragments of chalk, fossils and small fragments of sandstone. Water seeped into the northern end of the trench at a depth of approximately 1.1m below the present ground surface. A plastic drain bedded in gravel was encountered at 0.6m below the ground surface in the northern end of trench 1.

Trench 2, 10m long, ran perpendicular to trench 1. The sequence of deposits was similar but the clays were more plastic and very much wetter. There was only 0.2m of topsoil over 0.17m of olive brown clay, 0.28m of lightly olive brown clay with frequent chalk fragments, the depth of the trench was 0.8m. Water seeped rapidly into this trench and it was not feasible to increase the depth of trench 2.

No artefactual material or bone was recovered from either trench or from scanning the spoil.

6 CONCLUSIONS

It would appear that the development area has been heavily disturbed, either as part of the landscaping related to Papworth Hall, or subsequently during construction of the hospital in the early twentieth century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Title map 1824

Inclosure map 1818, Q/RDC42



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