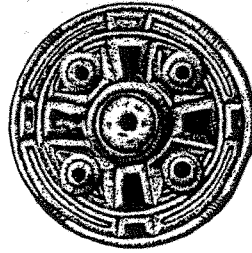


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# **Veazey Land, Winwick: An Archaeological Evaluation**

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**Cambridgeshire County Council**

Report No. B44

*Commissioned by Mr D Veazey*

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## **Veazey Land, Winwick: An Archaeological Evaluation.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

On the 25th of June, 1998 an archaeological evaluation took place on land in the centre of Winwick owned by Mr Veazey (TL 105 808), prior to the construction of three dwellings which included garages and associated ground works. The work was carried out by the author on behalf of the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council and in response to a Brief set by the County Archaeology Office (Kaner 2611198). The objectives of the project were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

### **HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

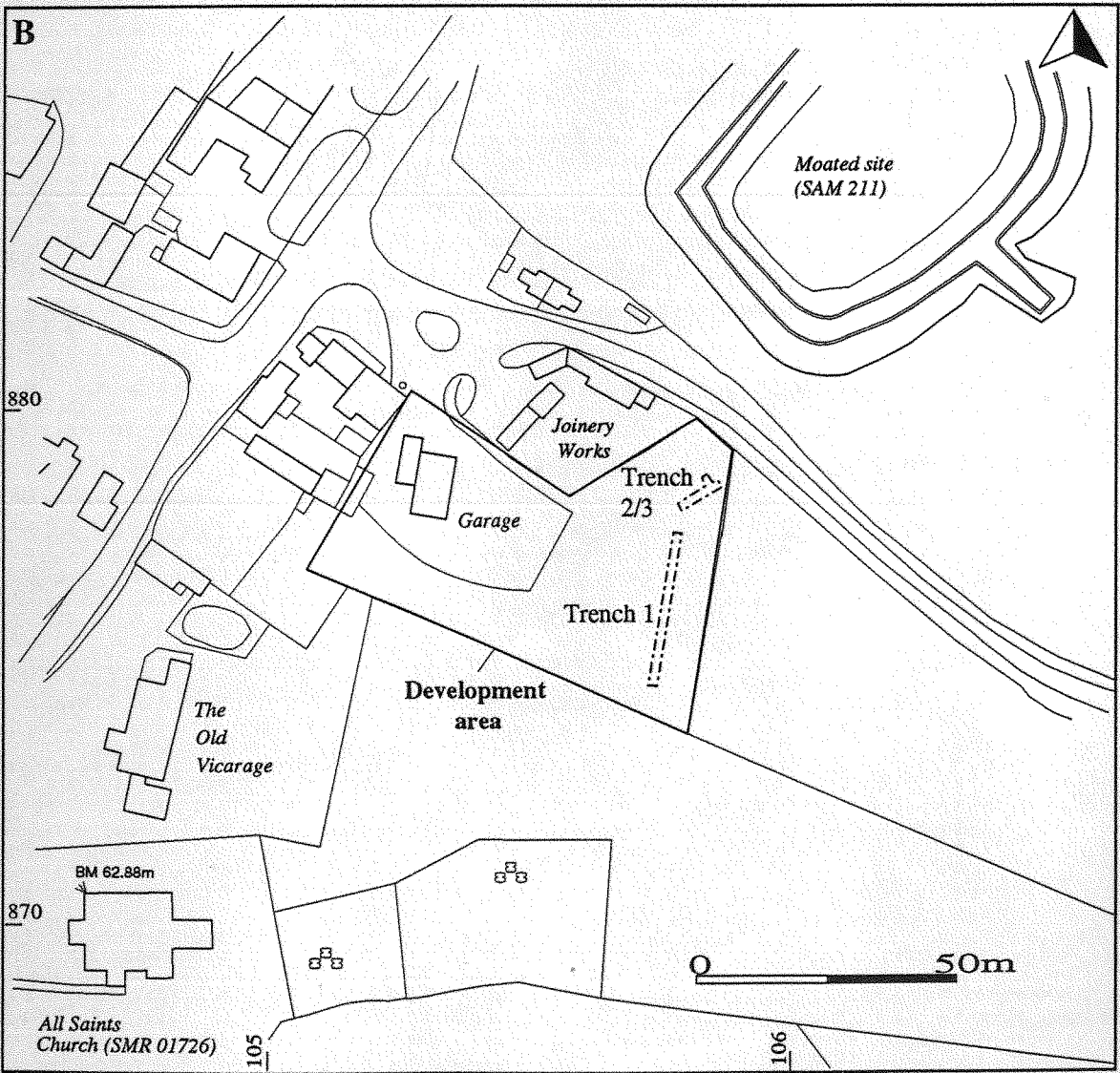
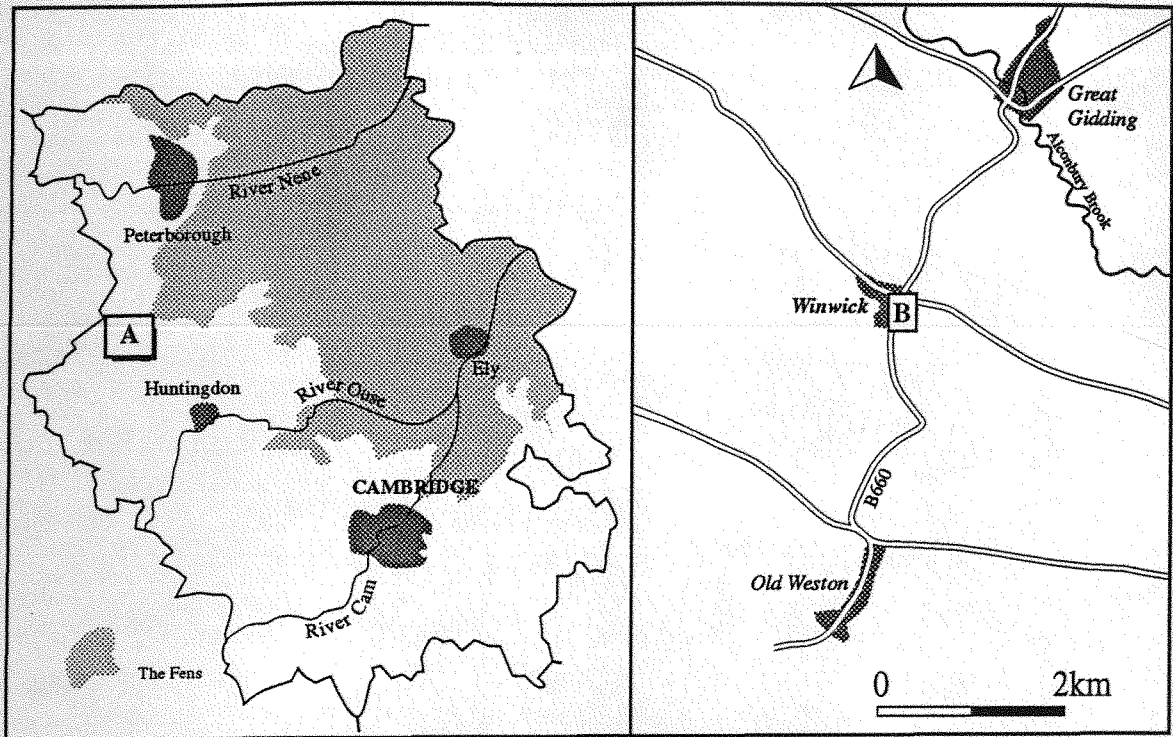
The site is located on Boulder Clay (B.G.S. Sheet 171) and lies to the south of the nationally important remains of a shrunken village and moated site (SAM 21 1a, SMR 01493) on the 60-65 m OD contour (O.S. Pathfinder 939). The site was investigated on a small scale in 1976 by E.W. Joyce; and was in the main confined to the area bounded by the 'D' shaped moat. Excavation of test pit recovered a number of pottery sherds dated to the 13th century, unfortunately no archaeological features were identified. The absence of archaeological features could be attributed to the fact that the area surrounded by the moat was under cultivation for allotment purposes, thus removing any upstanding earthworks as well as any features remaining at depth i.e.. postholes (Joyce, unpub). To the south of the site lies the medieval parish church of All Saints (SMR 01726), which although not mentioned in the 'Domesday Survey' (1086) is still a church of considerable age, possessing a 12th century doorway, suggesting a stone built church at that period. The chancel, nave, and south aisle were rebuilt during the middle of the 13th century, and the north arcade was formed and aisle added about 1325 (V.C.H. vol. 3 1936). There are crop marks and earthworks relating to ridge and furrow field systems around the village (SMR 11621, 11622). A small hoard of medieval gold coins was discovered in the south-eastern part of the village (SMR 00845). It was considered likely that further remains associated with the Medieval and Post-Medieval development of the village survive on the site.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Three linear trenches were excavated within the proposed development area using a mechanical digger with a 1.5m flat bladed ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist.

Trench 1 was located as far as possible from the Homerton Rd within the development area to test for the extent of any archaeological features relating to the shrunken village (fig. 1).

Trenches 2 & 3 were located as close to Homerton Rd as was practicable in order to test for the presence of archaeological features related to either the moated site or the frontage onto Homerton Road.



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TL

Figure 1 Site Location

It was not possible to evaluate part of the development area since this was sealed beneath tarmac and in use as a coach park by Veazey Coaches.

The A.F.U. proforma recording system was used to record the exposed deposits supplemented by photographs. Trenches were located using tapes to offset to standing buildings and the measurements transferred to the Ordnance Survey using 'Pro Surveyor' software.

## **RESULTS**

### **Trench 1**

The trench was 30m in length, and 1.5m wide with an average depth of 500mm. The top layer consisted of turf which when removed revealed a very dark brown topsoil (200mm thick). This layer included large amounts of ash and other modern materials (i.e. ring-pulls off drinks cans) which had been deposited across the area of investigation over recent years. A silty sandy subsoil (300mm thick) was sealed beneath the topsoil and on removal by the mechanical digger revealed no modern material. Natural boulder clay was encountered below the subsoil. No archaeological evidence was identified within the trench.

### **Trenches 2 and 3**

Trench 2 (8m in length) and Trench 3 (2m in length) followed the same stratigraphic profile as Trench 1; neither contained any archaeological evidence.

## **CONFIDENCE RATING**

During the investigation the weather and ground conditions were good. Although the fact that part of the site was not available for trial trenching may limit the conclusions that can be drawn from the investigation, there were no other factors that might have had an impact on the recognition of and subsequent recording of archaeological features.

## **CONCLUSION**

The complete absence of archaeological features within the subject area may indicate that the area was un-utilised in the past or utilised for activities which have left no archaeological trace. However the presence of modern material in the topsoil indicates that disturbance has taken place on the site in the past 50 or so years: the possibility that any archaeological evidence which may have existed has been destroyed cannot be discounted. Only part of the area was available for evaluation at this time; it is recommended that an observation should be made of the remaining area as soon as it becomes available.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Mr D.Veazey Esq. The Brief was provided by Simon Kaner of the County Archaeology Office. Many thanks must go to Will Wall (Manager) and Aileen Connor (Project Officer) for invaluable help concerning this report.

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