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Papworth Hospital, New Pathology Laboratories: An Archaeological Evaluation

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Cambridgeshire County Council

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Commissioned by Nightingale Associates

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An Archaeological Evaluation**

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SUMMARY

On the 12th March 1999 the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an archaeological evaluation within the grounds of Papworth Hospital (TL291 628). Two evaluation trenches were excavated across the area of land to be developed, to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains.

The subsequent investigation of each trench revealed thick deposits of modern debris overlying the remains of an 18th-19th century building. The foundation trenches associated with this building were cut into the natural geology thus removing any evidence of earlier occupation that might have occurred within the evaluation trenches.

**Papworth Hospital, New Pathology Laboratories:
An Archaeological Evaluation
(TL 291 628)**

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the 12th March 1999 by the author on behalf of the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council. The work was commissioned by Nightingale Associates on behalf of Papworth Hospital in response to a brief prepared by the Development Control Officer of Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office (Thomas 1998). The object of the evaluation was to determine the impact on archaeological remains of the groundworks before the construction of the New Pathology Laboratories at Papworth Hospital.

The subject site lies approximately 50m to the north-east of the medieval moat (Cams. County Council SMR no. 0921). The proposed development includes construction of a new building covering an area of approximately 1100 square metres, which will provide a new pathology laboratory and chemical store.

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 Amphill 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: 1968).

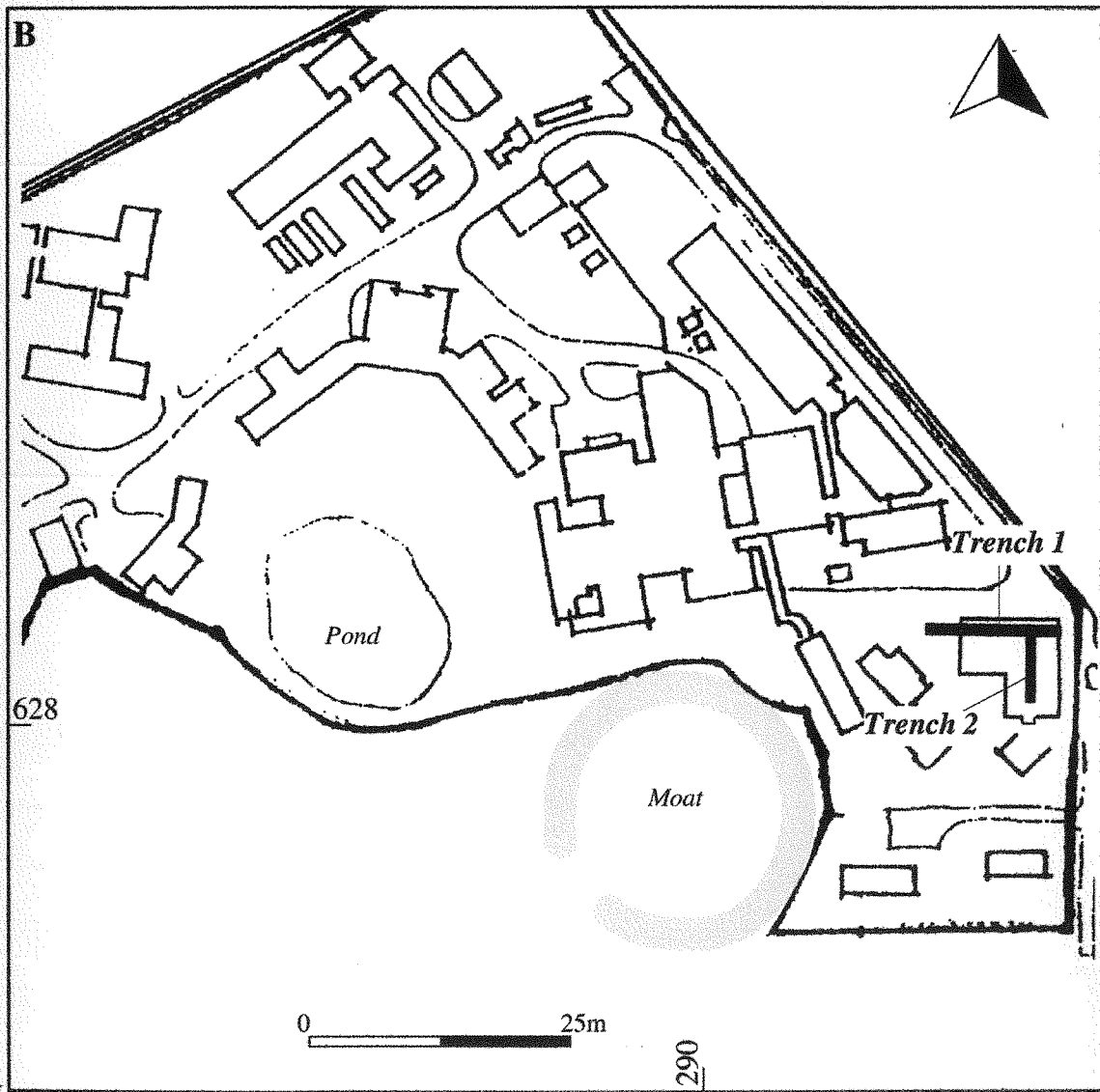
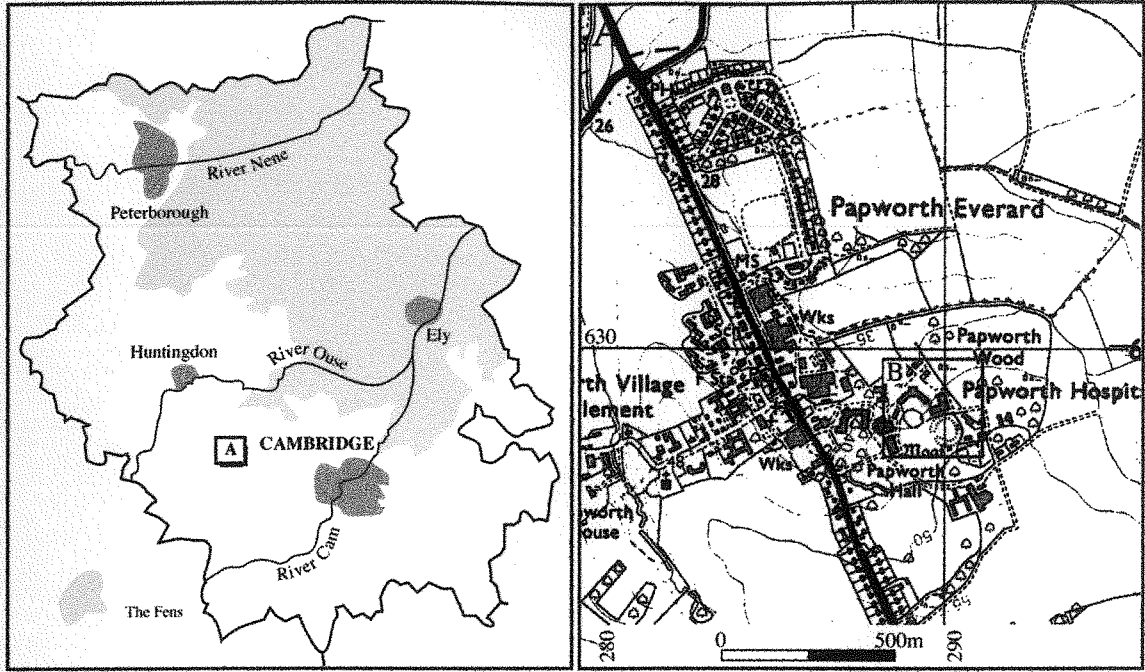
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The village of Papworth Everard (Fig. 1) 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 *Petri* from the dedication of the church (Reaney 1943: 171).

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)



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Figure 1 Site location plan

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 Tithe 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 (Tithe 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 Tithe map as a small ring with a single opening in the north-east.

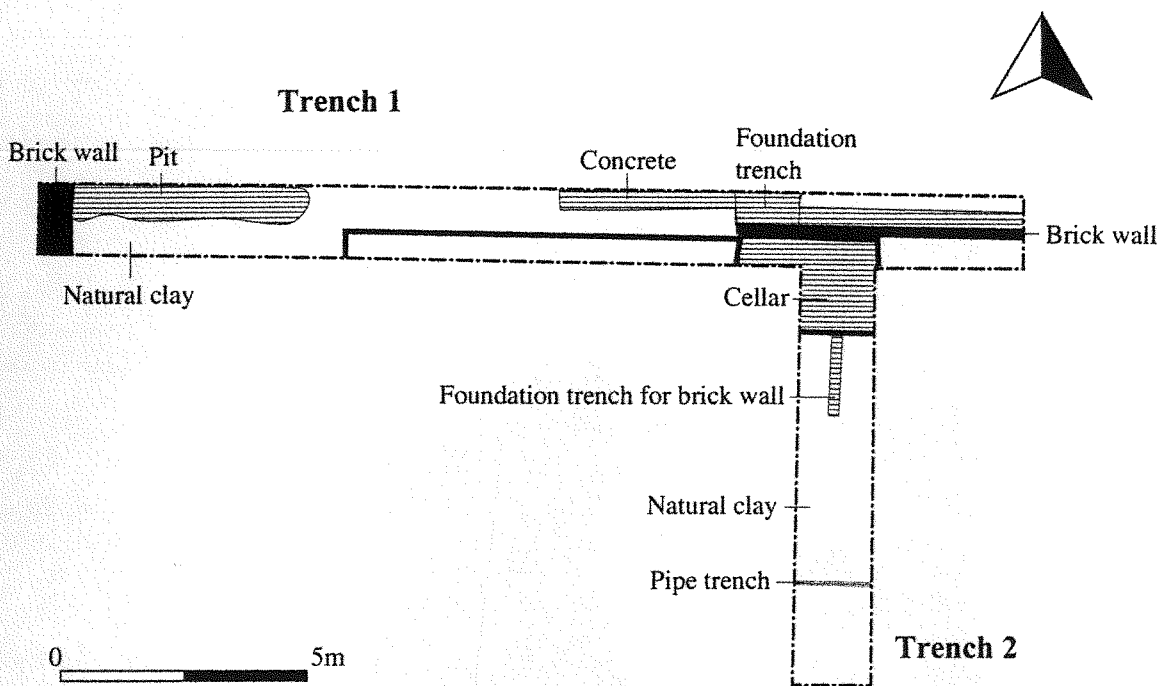


Figure 2 Trench plan

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 Tithe map both show a single, small causeway in the north-western 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 63m to the north east of the moat and is presently covered by tarmac and used as a car park.

5 RESULTS

Two trenches were excavated using a 360° earth mover with a 1.8m ditching bucket and also a 1.2m toothed bucket; the latter was used initially in the removal of the tarmac which makes up the surface of the present car park. The location of Trench 2 was determined by the presence of a parked car and a large area of concrete that appeared to be a cover to a service shaft.

Trench 1 (Fig 2)

This consisted of a trench 26m long and 1.8m wide, and ran in an east-west direction. The excavated depth at the eastern end of the trench was 1.36m decreasing to 0.81m at the western end. The section showed the stratigraphy remained the same for the entire length of the trench, the ground having been made-up using various deposits of modern material although there were variations in the depth of each deposit. The combined modern debris had a depth of 1.3m at the eastern end of the trench to the top of the Boulder Clay and 0.81m at the western end of the trench again to the top of the Boulder Clay.

Cut into the natural Boulder Clay were a series of foundation trenches and associated brick walls, which appeared to be one wall of a large building dating to the 18th-19th century. At the junction between Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 2) were the remains of a brick built cellar that had been filled in with rubble. At the western end of Trench 1 a large rubbish pit was identified which contained whole and fragmentary 19th century bricks. Another brick wall was identified that may be associated with the large building mentioned above.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

This consisted of a trench 11m long and 1.8m wide, depth 0.86m, and ran in a north-south direction. As with Trench 1 the section showed that the ground had been made-up using waste modern material, however, brick rubble was not one of the deposits. Cut into the Boulder Clay was a foundation trench with the remains of a brick wall, the returning wall associated with the cellar (c. 18th-19th century) first identified in Trench 1, and a pipe trench.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

During the evaluation the weather and ground condition were good. There were no other factors which might have adversely affected recognition and recording of archaeological features.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The excavation of the evaluation trenches uncovered evidence of c. 18th – 19th century buildings, the construction of which had heavily disturbed the natural Boulder Clay, thus destroying any evidence relating to earlier occupation which may have occurred on the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Papworth Hospital for commissioning the work. Thanks also to William Wall (Project Manager) who managed the project and offered advice during the writing of this report. The evaluation was carried out in response to a design brief produced by the Cambridgeshire County Council Development Control Office and was monitored by Andy Thomas of that office.

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Inclosure map 1818, Q/RDC42



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