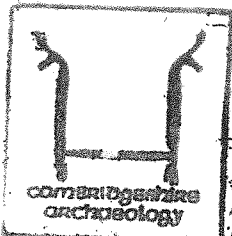
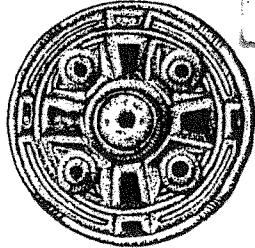


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Archaeological Field Unit

**Trumpington Road to King's Road, Cambridge Water Main.
An Archaeological Watching Brief.**

S.N. Kemp

2000

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. B68

Commissioned by Cambridge Water Company.

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February 2000

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out along the route of a water main running between Trumpington Road and King's Road, Cambridge. Despite the presence of sherds of Roman pottery and tile, and extensive cropmarks in the vicinity, no archaeological features were revealed. Only a couple of sherds of Roman and post-medieval pottery were found. These were recovered from within Pembroke College's sports ground.

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**Trumpington Road to King's Road, Cambridge Water Main:
An Archaeological Watching Brief
(TL 439 571 to TL 449 561)**

INTRODUCTION

In July 1999 a member of staff of the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council made five visits along the route of a water main between Trumpington Road and King's Road, Newnham, Cambridge TL 439 571 to TL 449 561 (Fig. 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Cambridge Water Company in advance of pipelaying.

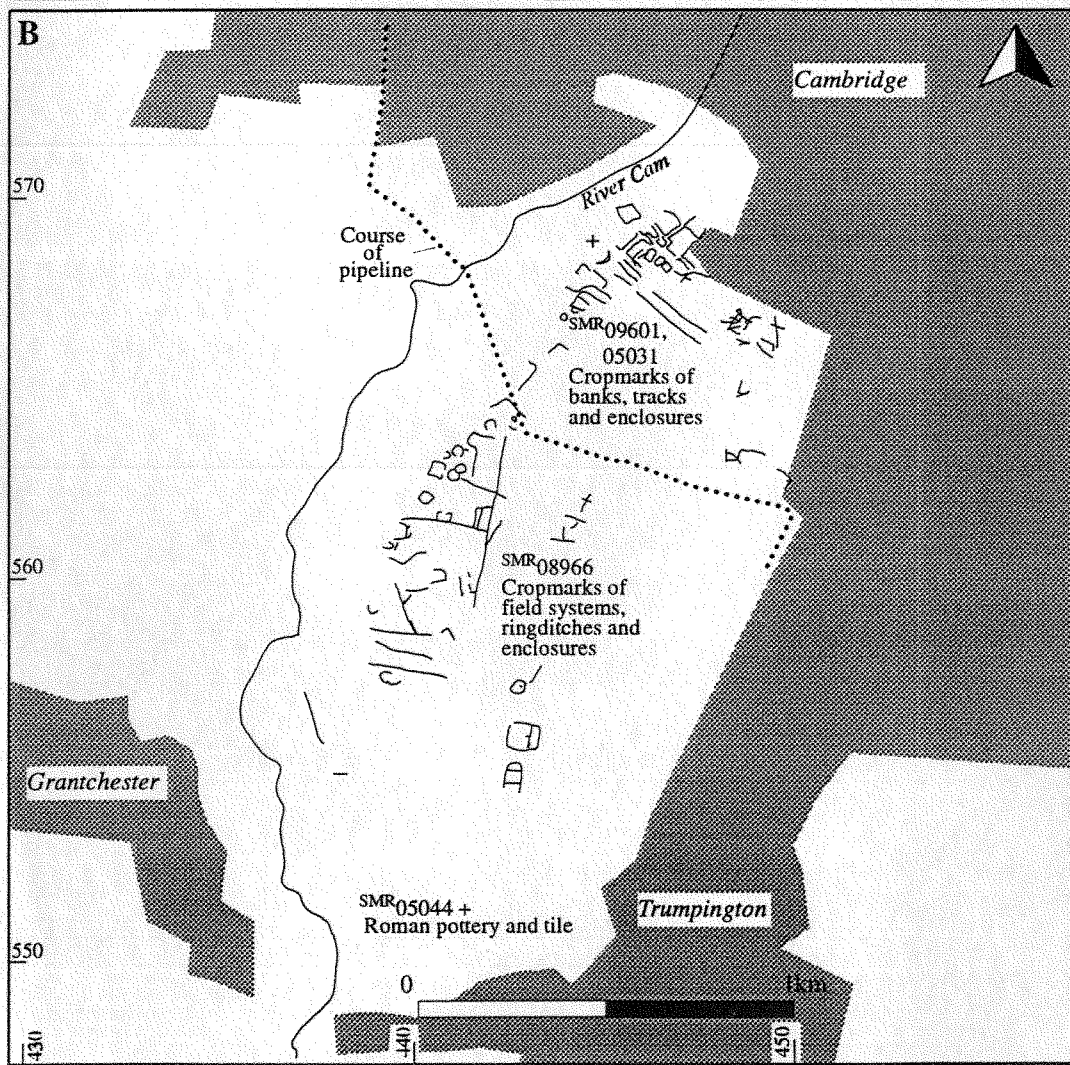
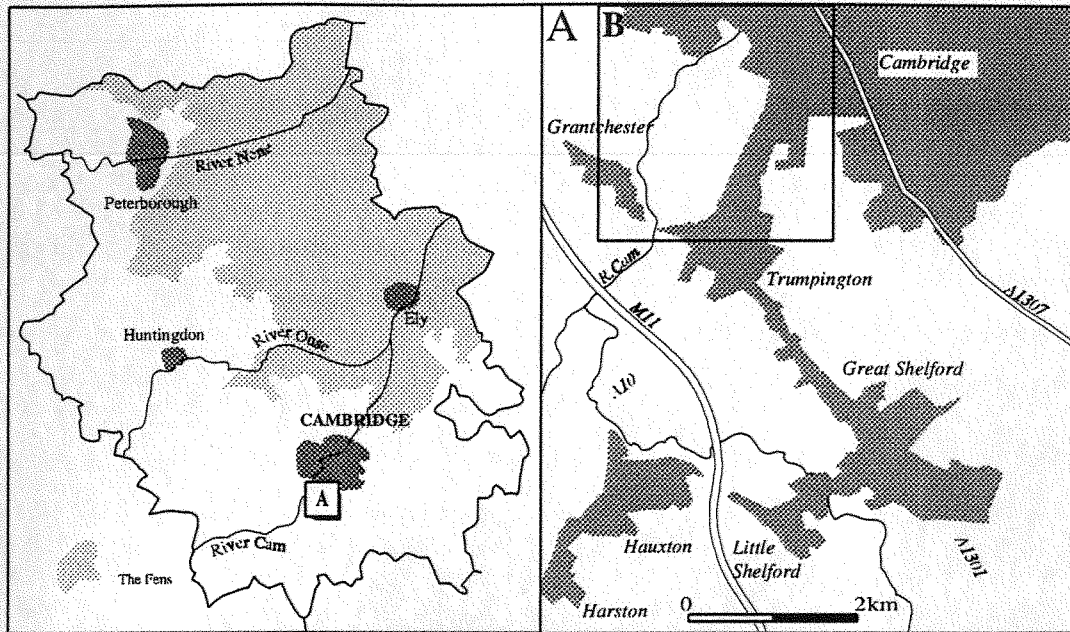
GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The route of the pipeline crosses areas of Melbourn Rock/Totternhoe stone with a small patch of grey-blue Gault Clay with terrace gravels and alluvium along the course of the river Cam (British Geological Survey 1985). The contouring of the land varies from approximately 13m OD at Trumpington Road down to 8m OD along the river and rising to 12m OD by the King's Road.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) records cropmarks (SMR nos. 5031, 9601, 9603 and 8966) in the fields to the north and south of the pipeline, together with evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture. Following aerial photographic assessment the earthworks, cropmarks and parchmarks have been identified as banks, tracks and enclosures. Some of these complexes of field systems and enclosures have been linked with features which possibly represent Iron Age square barrows lying on the eastern edge of the valley and overlooking the floodplain of the River Cam.

The cropmarks occur mainly to the east of the river, above 10m OD but alluvium along the river may mask further archaeological remains along the river banks. Roman pottery and tile was found in the nineteenth century, and again in the mid-twentieth century following ploughing, and is recorded on the SMR (no. 5044) in fields to the south, towards Trumpington.



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Figure 1 Site location showing pipeline route and known Iron Age and Roman sites

METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS

The route of the pipeline was visited on five occasions by a member of the Field Unit. The easement was inspected before and after the topsoil was stripped in order to record any archaeological features and artefacts exposed during the course of machining. The results were recorded using the standard techniques on pro forma recording sheets.

RESULTS

Visits to the route of the pipeline produced a couple of sherds of Roman and post-medieval pottery. These sherds were found within a layer of made ground which included brick and tile located on the south eastern side of the pavilion of Pembroke College's sports ground. No features were noted cutting into the natural within the pipeline easement.

CONCLUSIONS

Documentary research suggested that the route of the pipeline runs across an area where archaeological remains might be expected with the SMR suggesting the presence of Roman field systems and occupation along the valley of the River Cam.

The easement and pipe trench crossed the valley of the river Cam to the south of the modern town of Cambridge and the Roman and medieval core of Cambridge which lay a considerable distance to the north of the new water main. Considerable remains of Iron Age and Roman activity are also known from the south, at Trumpington, Shelford and Grantchester. The cropmarks revealed in the area of the pipeline by aerial photography appear to form part of field systems rather than settlement during these periods. The scarcity of finds would seem to support this. The cropmarks suggest a gap between two systems of field systems and it was through this blank space that the pipeline was routed. The absence of ditched boundaries within the pipeline easement corroborates this separation of the two field systems and supports the absence of activity at this point. The absence of archaeology does not indicate that the area was not utilised by Iron Age or Roman populations just that the types of activity have not resulted clearly identifiable archaeology such as features cutting into the natural, the dispersal of pottery, or the deposition of waste from crop processing.

The Roman and post-medieval pottery were undoubtedly the result of re-deposition and provide no additional evidence for Roman occupation in the vicinity on either side of the Cam.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1985 Drift Edition Sheet 205

SMR SITES IN THE VICINITY OF THE PIPELINE ROUTE

SMR no.	Type
5031	earthwork, cropmarks and parchmarks suggesting banks, tracks and enclosures
5044	Roman pottery and tile found 1873 and 1953, overlooking the floodplain, following ploughing
8966	cropmarks indicating field systems, ring ditches, enclosures (possibly related to square barrows) with medieval ridge and furrow
9601	cropmarks of enclosure systems
9603	cropmarks and parchmarks showing complex field and enclosure systems



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