

Archaeological Field Unit

Archaeological Investigations at Wellbrook Way, Girton
(TL 4265 6128)

Andrew Hatton

2000

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. B72

Commissioned by Bidwells on behalf of Girton Road Investment Partnership

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Editor Tim Malim
Illustrator Jon Cane



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©Archaeological Field Unit
Cambridgeshire County Council
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap, Fulbourn
Cambridgeshire CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 881614
Fax (01223) 880946

Arch.Field.Unit@libraries.camcnty.gov.uk
<http://www.camcnty.gov.uk/library/afu/index.htm>

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1 INTRODUCTION

On the 22nd May 2000 the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook a basic archaeological investigation on a small area of land (c. 500sq.m.) located to the south of the core of the village of Girton, to the east of the main roads into the village (TL 4265 6128). The work was commissioned by Bidwells on behalf of the Girton Road Investment Partnership, in advance of the construction of an access road. The investigation was undertaken by A. Hatton in accordance with an AFU specification dated 27th April 2000 and approved by A. Thomas of the County Council Archaeology Office.

2 GEOLOGY

The site is located close to the boundary between Gault Clay overlying Head Gravel and Observatory Gravels at a height of approximately 25m OD (IGS 1978).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

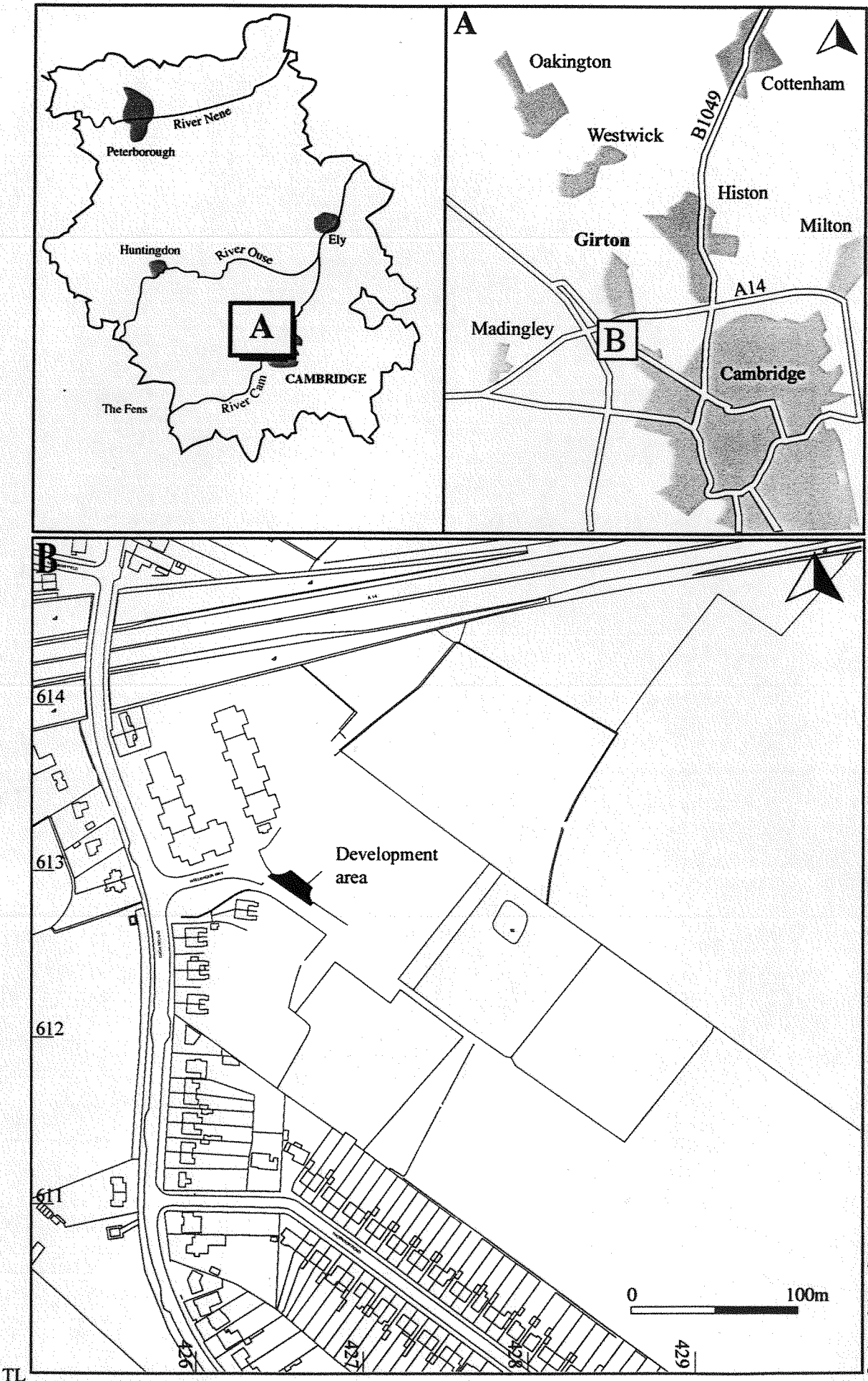
Undated cropmark complexes are known in the area (SMR nos. 5482, 5720, 8955, 8956, 9527, 9534) and probably relate to the known prehistoric and Roman activity in the area (SMR nos. 5178, 5274, 11204).

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery is known in the vicinity of Girton College (SMR nos. 5274, 10160) the full extent of which is unknown.

4 METHODOLOGY

A mechanical excavator with a 1.2m ditching bucket was used to remove topsoil (0.15m thick) from the area to be investigated (Fig. 1). The removal of the topsoil revealed a mixture of concrete and brick rubble (0.25m thick) covering the area of investigation. The concrete and brick rubble can be associated to both laundry storage sheds and the compound erected for construction staff cabins when the 'Welland Court Offices' were built.

Removal of the concrete and brick rubble revealed Gault Clay which is known (using Borehole information) to have an average thickness 2.4m.



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Figure 1 Site location plan

5 RESULTS

The background research indicated the possibility that archaeological remains would be present within the area of the investigation. However, this was found not to be the case. The absence of archaeological features may be indicate a lack of activity, in the past, which has had an impact on the subsoil or natural geology. Alternatively any remains may have been destroyed by industrial development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Kevin Rowell of W.S. Atkins for his help and co-operation, also Bidwells who commissioned the work on behalf of the 'Girton Road Investment Partnership'. The work was monitored by A. Thomas (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office). The project was managed for the Archaeological Field Unit by Tim Malim, who also edited the report, and the illustrations were drawn by Jon Cane.

REFERENCES

SMR Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record
Institute of Geological Sciences 1978 Solid and Drift Edition, sheet 188



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The Archaeological Field Unit
Fulbourn Community Centre
Haggis Gap
Fulbourn
Cambridge CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 331614
Fax (01223) 330946