



CCC AFU Report Number 837

A Roman Ditch and other features at Kings Hedges School, Cambridge

Evaluation Report

Rachel Clarke BA AIFA

November 2005

Commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council (Design)

Cover Images

Machine stopping, Soham	On-site surveying
Roman corn dryer, Duxford	Guided walk along Devil's Dyke
Bronze Age shaft, Fordham Bypass	Medieval well, Soham
Human burial, Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	Timbers from a medieval well, Soham
Blue enamelled bead, Barrington	Bed burial reconstruction, Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery
Aethusa cynapium 'Foot's parsley'	Medieval tanning pits, Huntington Town Centre
Digging in the snow, Huntingdon Town Centre	Beaker vessel
Face painting at Hinchingsbrooke Iron Age Farm	Environmental analysis
Research and publication	Monument Management, Bartlow Hills



AFU Reports
Distribution List: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Site Name: ...Kings Hedges School.....

Site Code: CAM KHS 05..... Report No.: ...837 Date Sent: 5.02.06.....

1 Author(s) Relevant Specialists (please list:)

Client (how many copies?)

1 Project Archive

1 Office Library

A. Baker,
Librarian,
Haddon Library,
Downing Street,
Cambridge CB2 3DZ

Huntingdon Sites ONLY:

County Archivist,
County Records Office,
Room 001, Shire Hall,
Cambridge CB3 0AP
Box No.: RES 1009

Local Studies Librarian,
Huntingdon Library,
Princess Street,
Huntingdon PE1 1RX

Fenland Sites ONLY:

Chris Jakes,
Cambridgeshire Collection,
Central Library,
Lion Yard,
Cambridge CB2 3QD

Local Studies Librarian,
Wisbech Library,
1 Ely Place,
Wisbech PE13 EU

Peterborough Reports ONLY:

Ben Robinson,
x 2 Archaeological Officer,
Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery,
Priestgate,
Peterborough PE1 1LF

For English Heritage projects:

Philip Walker,
Inspector of Ancient Monuments,
English Heritage,
Brooklands,
24 Brooklands Avenue,
Cambridge CB2 2BU

**For developer funded reports via the
Cambs planning process send to:**

For English Heritage projects:

1 **Andy Thomas,**
Principal Archaeologist,
Land-Use Planning
Room A107, Castle Court,
Shire Hall, Castle Hill,
Cambridge CB3 0AP
Box No.: ELH1108

Chris Scull,
Archaeology Commissions,
English Heritage,
23 Savile Row,
London W1X 1AB

x 1 **Sarah Poppy,**
CHER,
Shoirehall, Castle Hill,
Cambridge CB3 0AP
Box No.: ELH1108

1

CCC AFU Report Number 837

**A Roman Ditch and other
features at Kings Hedges
School, Cambridge**

Evaluation Report

Rachel Clarke BA AIFA

With contributions by Christopher Faine MA MSC
BABAO, Rachel Fosberry HNC (Cert Ed) AEA and
Stephen Macaulay BA MPhil AIFA

Site Code: CAM KHS 05
CHER Event Number: 2063
Date of works: 24th - 26th October 2005
Grid Ref: TL 45587 61507

Editor: Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu BA MIFA
Illustrator: Crane Begg BA

Summary

A single, L-shaped trench was excavated to the immediate north of the current Kings Hedges school in advance of the construction of a Sure Start centre. An undated but probably prehistoric ditch, a Roman pit and a Roman ditch were identified at a depth of c. 0.6m below the current ground surface. The features were relatively shallow/truncated and were overlain by a medieval or post-medieval ploughsoil.

A small quantity of finds was recovered, mostly deriving from the fill of the Roman ditch, comprising abraded pottery, animal bone, tile and shell. No metal finds were present.

The Roman ditch is likely to be associated with the extensive Roman villa and related features excavated on the site in the 1960s. The villa was re-investigated in 1994 before construction of the current school, when the eastern end of the main villa building, a gravelled surface and numerous ditches were recorded.

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of archaeological deposits within the proposed development area, which appear not to have been unduly affected by the construction of the school in the 1990s.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Geology and Topography	1
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	3
4	Methodology	4
5	Results	5
6	Discussion	11
7	Conclusions	11

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Location of trench (black) with the development area outlined (red)	2
Figure 2:	Trench plan	6
Figure 3:	Section drawings	7

List of Plates

Plate 1:	Trench 1a showing ditch 6 (view: from north)	8
Plate 2:	Trench 1a showing ditch 4 with post-Roman ploughsoil (2) and 9 modern levelling layers in section (view: from west)	
Plate 3:	Working shot showing some of the large (but abraded) sherds of Roman pottery found in ditch 4	10

List of Appendices

Appendix 1:	Context Summary	
Appendix 2:	Pottery Assessment, by Stephen Macaulay	
Appendix 3:	Animal Bone Assessment, by Chris Faine	
Appendix 4:	Environmental Appraisal, by Rachel Fosberry	

Drawing Conventions

Sections

Limit of Excavation	
Cut	
Cut - Conjectured	
Soil Horizon	
Soil Horizon - Conjectured	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Top of Natural	
Top Surface	
Break in Section	
Cut Number	
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m ODN
Stone	
Brick	

Plans

Limit of Excavation	
Deposit - Conjectured	
Natural Features	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Sondages/Machine Strip	
Illustrated Section	
Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern	
Machined level	
Earth	
Cut Number	118
Sample Number	

1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU), approved by Cambridgeshire Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application TBC).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

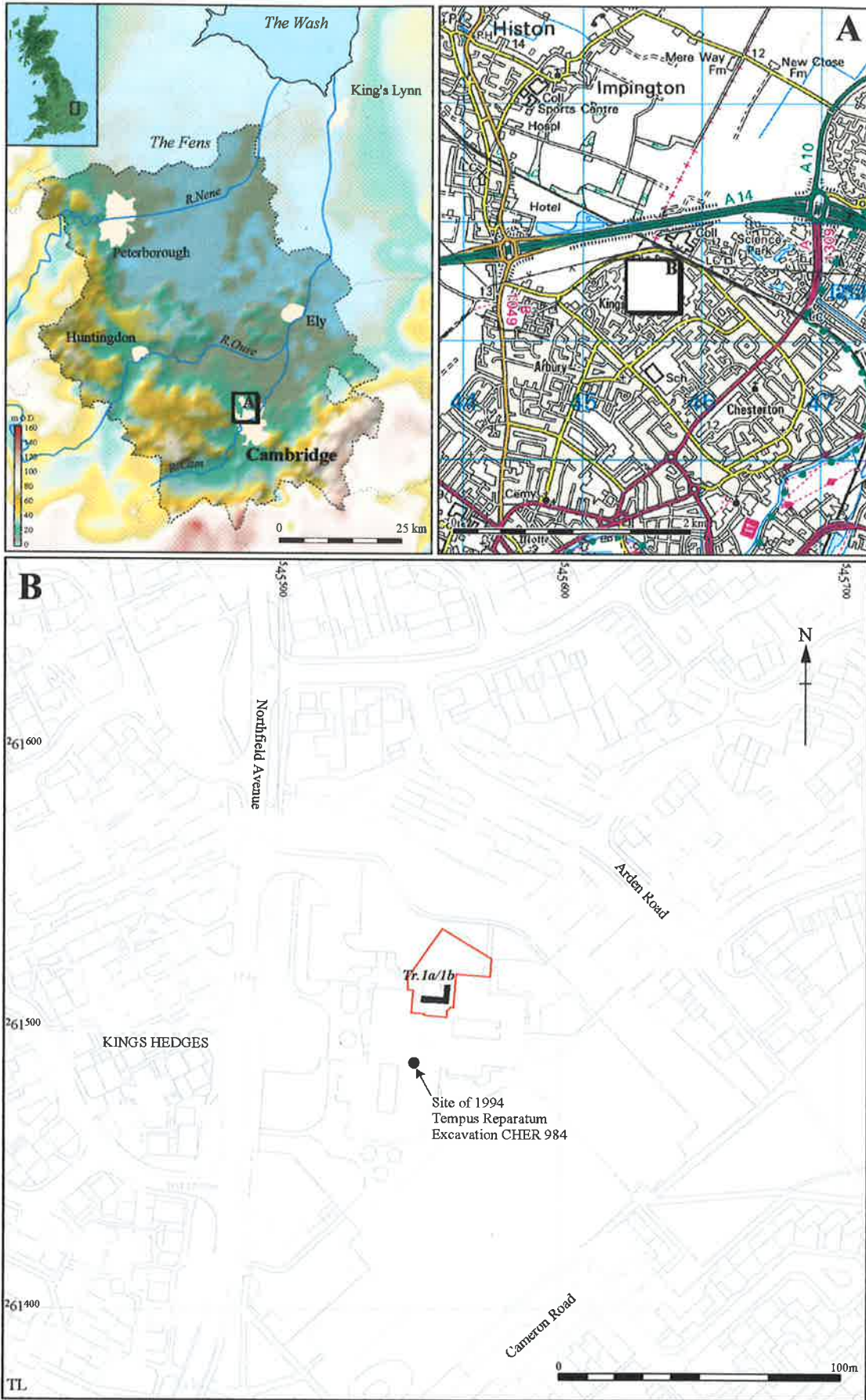
The proposed development includes the construction of a Sure Start centre as an additional building extended to the north of the present school (Fig. 1). The area affected by the development will comprise c. 170 square metres. All services will be drawn from the existing structure and will not disturb the area beyond the building footprint.

The site archive is currently held by CCC AFU and will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire county store.

2 Geology and Topography

The site overlies the 3rd Terrace River Gravels, with some overlying alluvial deposits in places; the solid geology is Gault (British Geological Survey 1981).

The proposed development area is located on relatively level ground, at approximately 12.8m OD, within the grounds of a modern school (constructed in 1994/5). School buildings surround the site to the south and east, a playground and storage building lie to the north. The area to be evaluated is currently surfaced with tarmac and block paving; a medium-sized tree stands in the centre and planted borders lie to the east and west.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Cambridgeshire County Council 100023205 2005

Figure 1: Location of the trench (black) with the development area outlined (red)

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric

Relatively little evidence of prehistoric activity seems to have been identified in the vicinity, despite various excavations. Arbury Camp, a prehistoric earthwork located to the north of Kings Hedges School, was investigated in the 1960s and in the 1990s (CHER 360 and 1000), although no settlement evidence was uncovered by the more recent evaluations.

3.2 Roman

The known archaeological remains within the proposed development, and its vicinity, are predominantly Roman in date.

Of particular significance is the fact that the present school is built on the site of a known Roman settlement, including a villa (CHER 05421), which has been the subject of numerous excavations since the 1950s (most notably CHER 05411, 05421 and 984). These excavations have uncovered extensive remains associated with the villa, including the foundation of the main villa building, a possible aisled barn, ditches, pits, layers, surfaces, postholes, a wood-lined well and two inhumations.

The most notable excavations are those undertaken by J. Alexander in the 1960s, and more recently by Tempus Reparatum in 1994, the latter in advance of the construction of the present school building. The area of the 1994 excavation was determined by the footprint of the new school that was to be built within the grounds of the former Kings Hedges School. The location of the new school allowed re-investigation of the eastern end of the principal villa building and its immediate environs, originally excavated by Alexander. The proposed depths of the school's foundations specified by the brief limited the depth of excavation. This meant that in large parts of the site only cleaning and planning, combined with sample excavation, was possible.

Neither of the previous investigations has been published, although a preliminary report on the 1960s excavations (Alexander *et al* 1967) and an archive assessment report on the 1990s excavations (Lisboa 1994) have been produced. The assessment report outlines a number of phases for the site, including a 'pre-villa' Roman phase (represented by ditches sealed beneath the villa building), a 'Villa Proper' phase(s) probably dating to the 3rd - 4th century, and subsequent post-Roman abandonment and destruction/robbing phases.

The proposed development lies immediately to the north of the 1994 excavation.

Within its wider context, the site is located less than 50m to the west of Akeman Street Roman road, the main overland routeway from the Roman town of Cambridge towards Ely, Littleport and Denver in the Norfolk Fens. A number of evaluations and excavations have been undertaken nearby, such as at Arbury Road, Apollo Way, and Neptune Close (CHER 05017, 05418, 05419, 05420, 05421 and 05424), which have uncovered Roman wells, ditches and pits close to the line of Akeman Street. In addition to this there are a number of stray find spots in the area (05422a, 05433, 05434), including an Iron Age coin, Roman pottery and Roman building material.

3.3 Post-Roman

Following the abandonment of the villa, the site appears to have reverted to agricultural land by the medieval period. Extensive evidence of ridge and furrow, which had severely damaged the villa foundations in places (Lisboa 1994, 9), has been identified by the previous excavations, whilst little or no settlement remains dating to this period are mentioned.

The 1960s excavations were undertaken in a green field location, prior to the construction of the Kings Hedges Estate. Today the site is surrounded by modern development.

4 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The proposed development will affect an area of c.170 square metres. The Specification (Macaulay 2005) proposed that initially a 7m x 5m L-shaped trench be opened, with provision to extend and box (c.7m x 3-5m) this area depending on the archaeology encountered. The trench plan was approved by CAPCA prior to the start of the evaluation.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 7 ton 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The area to be evaluated was checked using a CAT scanner prior to excavation.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CCC AFU's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Environmental samples were taken from feature fills and a buried ploughsoil.

Site conditions were generally good, although wooden posts had to be removed to allow access for the machine, and occasional heavy rain showers were present during machining. Prior to excavation, block paving, tarmac and associated levelling layers were removed by machine and kept separate from the lower 'soft' deposits to facilitate reinstatement.

The trench was tied into the ordnance survey using a Leica Total Station Theodolite (TCR 705).

5 Results

A single L-shaped trench was excavated, aligned parallel to the walls of the current school building to the south and east (Figs 1 and 2). This trench has been assigned numbers 1a (for the east-west arm) and 1b (for the north-south arm) for ease of description. The trench measured approximately 15m in length and was on average 2m wide.

Archaeological features were encountered cutting the natural subsoil (8) at a depth of c.0.6m below the ground surface. Features were sealed beneath a medieval or post-medieval ploughsoil (2), overlying which were modern levelling and base layers (1) for the block paving and tarmac surfaces.

The natural subsoil (8) comprised a mixed yellowish orange silty sand, which was disturbed in places by roots from an ornamental tree that stands in the centre of the proposed development site. Two drains (one surface and one buried) were present within the trench, both of which were in-use and associated with the school buildings.

A context list and summary descriptions are presented in Appendix 1.

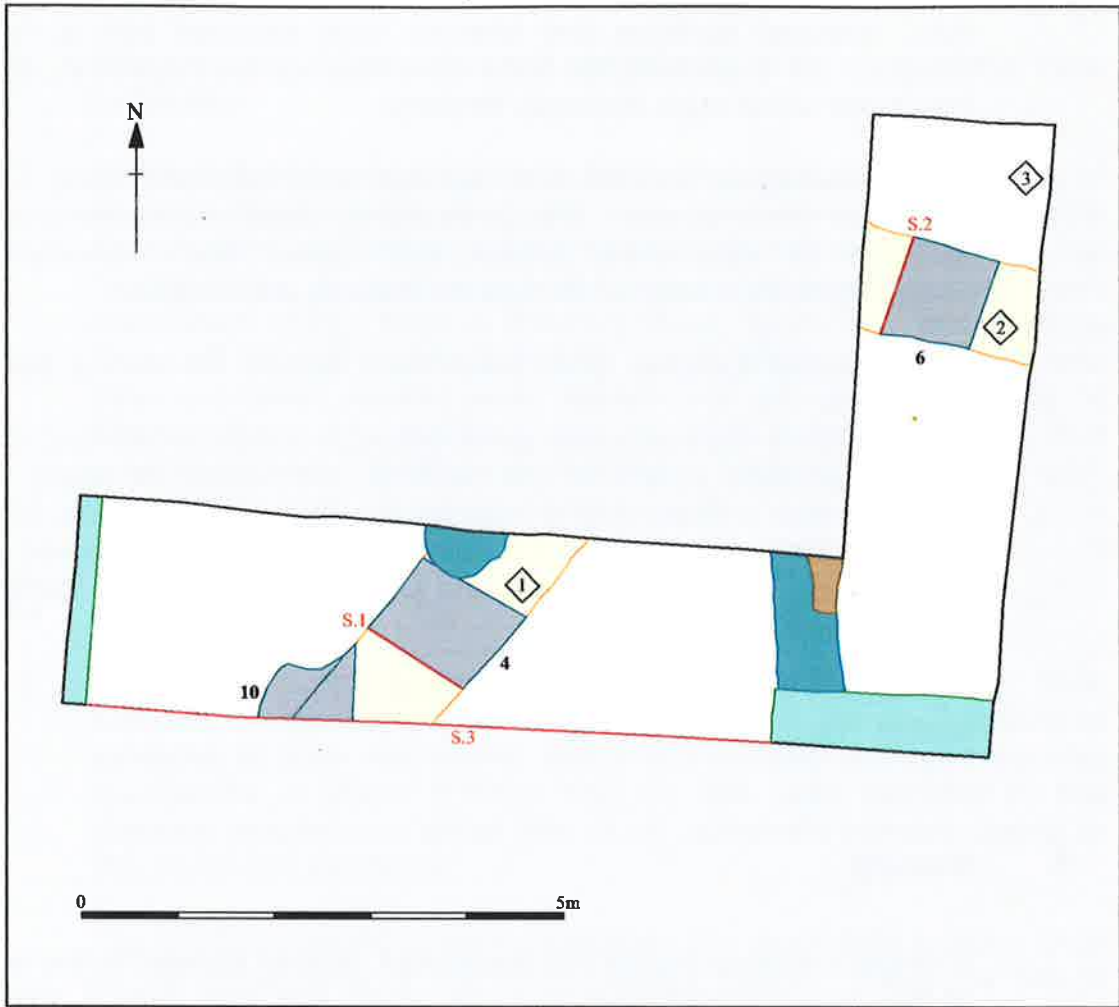


Figure 2: Trench plan

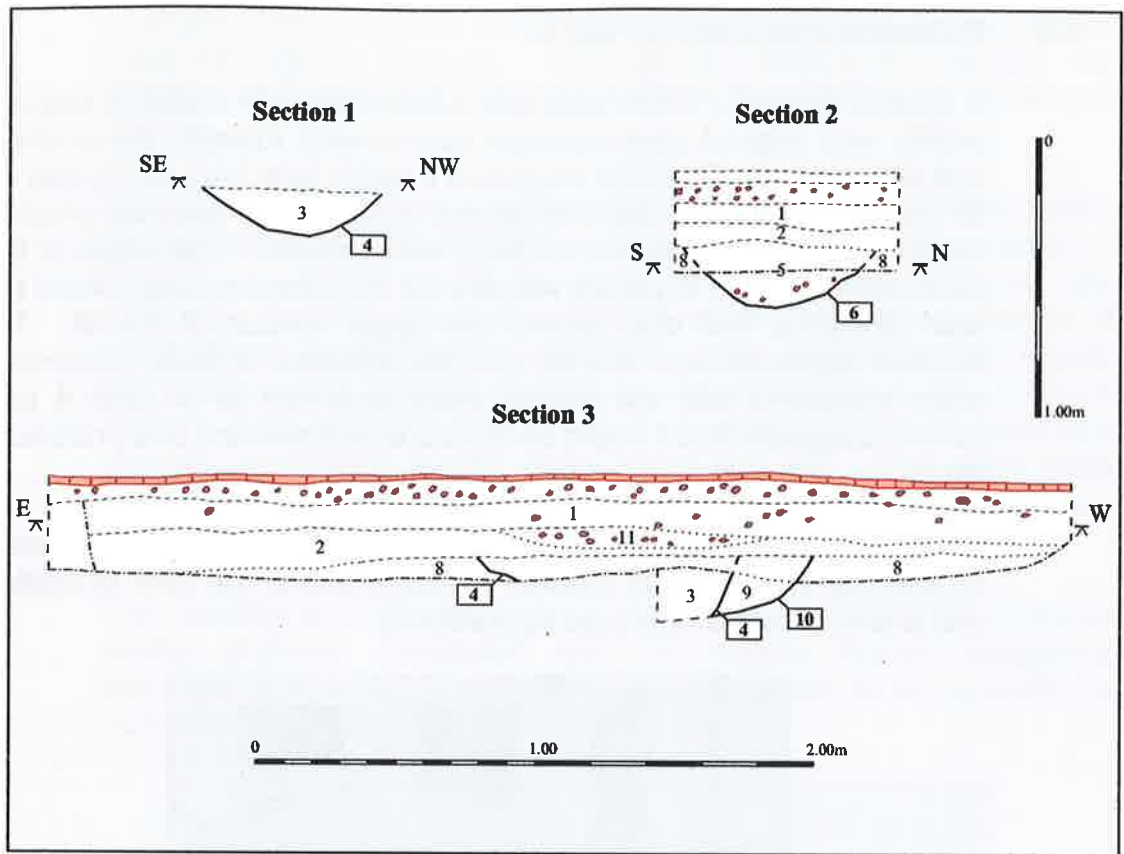


Figure 3: Section drawings

5.1 Prehistoric (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 1)

A shallow ditch (6), 1.10m wide and 0.37m deep with a slightly rounded profile, was aligned approximately east-to-west towards the northern end of Trench 1b. The ditch contained a single pale grey sandy clay silt fill (5) with orange mottles/manganese staining and common small to medium sub-angular stones; no finds were present. The edges of this ditch were not clear in places where it cut the mixed natural subsoil (8); later ploughing had also blurred the upper horizon of the fill. The leached appearance of this fill, and the absence of finds, particularly when compared with the darker, more finds-rich fill of ditch 4 (see below), suggests that it might be the truncated remains of a prehistoric ditch.

An environmental sample (2) from this ditch contained small quantities of charcoal in addition to modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few modern seeds (see Appendix 4).



Plate 1: Trench 1a showing ditch 6 (view from north)

5.2 Roman (Figs 2 and 3; Plates 2 and 3)

Pit 10 in Trench 1a contained an orangey brown sandy silt fill (9) similar to that in ditch 4 (see below), which truncated it. No finds were recovered. Very little of this feature remained, or was exposed within the trench, making it difficult to ascertain its size, shape or function. The shallow (0.15m) nature of the cut suggests that it was not, for

example, a gravel pit and the absence of finds indicates that it was not used for rubbish disposal. Although this feature is undated, the similarity of its fill to that in ditch 4 indicates that it is likely to be Roman in origin.

Ditch 4, 1.3m wide and c.0.37m deep with a slightly rounded profile, was identified running north-east to south-west across the middle of Trench 1a. The single fill (3) comprised a soft orangey brown silty sand with common small stones, from which a moderate amount of animal bone, shell and several fairly large but abraded pottery sherds were recovered. The pottery indicates a general Roman date (2nd-4th century; Appendix 2). A moderate assemblage of animal bone was present, comprising mostly cattle (75%) and dog. The cattle bone largely derives from adult animals, and showed evidence of heavy butchery (see Appendix 3).

The quantity and type of finds in ditch 4 are indicative of domestic waste, probably associated with the nearby Roman settlement identified in previous excavations, which is known to lie beneath the current school building to the south.



Plate 2: Trench 1a showing ditch 4 with post-Roman ploughsoil (2) and modern levelling layers in section (view: from west)

An environmental sample (<1>) from this ditch contained a single charred cereal grain and small quantities of charcoal, in addition to modern contaminants in the form of rootlets, and a few modern seeds (see Appendix 4).



Plate 3: Working shot showing some of the large (but abraded) sherds of Roman pottery found in ditch 4

5.3 Post-Roman

An area of disturbed orangey brown sandy clay silt (7, not illustrated), very similar to the natural subsoil, was recorded to the west of ditch 6; the extent of this is unknown. This deposit, which appears to have been up to 0.35m thick, could be related to disturbance from the tree to the immediate north of the trench, or perhaps could be the remains of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow. Too little was exposed to be certain, although the presence of a single sherd of pottery suggests that this deposit is post-medieval in date.

Overlying the Roman and earlier features was a yellowish brown sandy silt clay layer (2) of varying thickness (average 0.32m). This layer contained occasional small and medium sub-angular stones, charcoal and chalk flecks in addition to small amounts of animal bone, shell and pottery. The latter comprises a small quantity of abraded Roman pottery sherds, including a sherd of Nene Valley Colour Coat, which is clearly residual (see Appendix 2). The nature and extent of this layer suggests that it was a medieval or post-medieval ploughsoil.

An environmental sample (<3>) from this layer contained small quantities of charcoal in addition to modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few modern seeds (see Appendix 4).

A thin dump of gravelly clay (11) was recorded in section overlying layer 2 in the area of ditch 4; no dating evidence was recovered, although it is likely to be post-medieval or modern on stratigraphic grounds. A mixed dark grey and brown slightly sandy clay silt layer (1) containing frequent small stones and few finds other than post-medieval tile overlay (2). This layer is probably modern and is likely to have been associated with the construction of the school. Above this was a c.0.16m thick layer of creamy-coloured gravel 'hoggin', a thin red sand bedding and modern block paving.

6 Discussion

The ditches identified by the evaluation are likely to be the remains of Roman or earlier field boundaries and/or stock enclosures associated with the villa excavated in the 1960s and more recently in 1994. If ditch 6 is prehistoric, it is of significance, as previous investigations appear to have identified features of largely Roman date. Ditch 4 may be the continuation of one of the ditches identified in the 1994 excavation within the footprint of the current school building to the south.

The archaeological sequence, and depth at which Roman deposits were encountered, appears to be similar to that recorded in the 1994 excavation (as far as can be ascertained). The shallow depth of the features is likely to be a result of truncation by medieval and later ploughing, as was found during the previous excavations.

Most of the finds recovered during the evaluation derive from the fill of ditch 6 and include moderate quantities of Roman pottery in association with animal bone indicative of domestic waste (see Appendices 2 and 3). The relatively limited range and quantity of finds and environmental data from the site is a reflection of the small size of the investigation as well as its location away from the villa focus to the south.

7 Conclusions

The evaluation has demonstrated the relatively good survival of archaeological deposits within the proposed development area, and that these appear not to have been unduly affected by the construction of the school in the 1990s. The finds and environmental data, although limited in size, will add to the overall assemblage for the villa and associated features.

No structural remains associated with the villa were identified, and it appears that this area, although close to the '*pars urbana*' was located a short distance away from the main settlement focus. A number of 'pre-stone-villa' ditches (numbered 300-305 in the Assessment Report), including a palisade ditch (numbered 437-443) aligned north-west to south-east to the east of the villa building were recorded in the 1994 excavation, and it is possible that the Roman ditch in trench 1a was contemporary with these.

This evaluation, although small in scale, has highlighted the need to integrate properly all of the previous excavations with the geophysical and aerial photographic evidence and publish these results in an accessible format.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council (Design) who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay. The evaluation was undertaken by Dennis Payne and the author. Thanks are also due to Crane Begg for preparing the illustrations, Chris Faine for assessing the animal bone, Stephen Macaulay for identifying the pottery, Rachel Fosberry for assessing the environmental samples and Elizabeth Popescu for editing the report. Andy Thomas (CAPCA) visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

Bibliography

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| Alexander, J.,
Trump, D., Hull,
R. and Farrar, R. | 1967 | <i>Excavations in Cambridge 1964-7. A Preliminary Report on Excavations at Mount Pleasant and Arbury Road.</i> : Cambridge: Board of Extra Mural Studies. Unpublished Report |
| British Geological
Survey | 1981 | England and Wales: Cambridge, Sheet 188 |
| Lisboa, I. | 1994 | <i>Kings Hedges School, Cameron Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. Archive Assessment Report. Tempus Reparatum.</i> Unpublished Report. |
| Macaulay, S. | 2005 | <i>Specification for Archaeological Evaluation. Kings Hedges School, CAMKHS 05, Cambridgeshire.</i> CCC AFU |

Appendix 1: Context summary

Context	Cut	Type	Description	Provisional date
1		Layer	Mixed dark grey and brown sandy clay silt with frequent small stones, occasional chalk flecks and fragments. 0.2m thick	Modern
2		Layer	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt clay with occasional small stones, charcoal and chalk flecks, animal bone and pottery	Medieval/ post-medieval
3	4	Fill	Mid orangey brown silty sand with common small stones, moderate bone and pottery, some shell. Ditch fill	Roman
4		Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NE-SW, rounded profile, 1.3m wide x 0.37m deep (slightly over-machined for clarity by c. 0.10m)	Roman
5	6	Fill	Pale grey with orange mottles sandy clay silt with frequent small stones, rare chalk flecks, no finds	?Prehistoric
6		Ditch	Linear ditch aligned approximately E-W, shallow rounded profile, 1.11m wide x 0.37m deep.	?Prehistoric
7		?layer	Disturbed area of orangey brown sandy clay silt similar to 8, limited to patch W of ditch 6. Extent unknown, contained 1 piece of post-medieval pottery.	Post-- medieval?
8		Natural	Mixed yellowish orange silty sand with common small gravel and occasional manganese staining. Natural subsoil	-
9	10	Fill	Mid orangey brown silty sand with common small stones, no finds.	?Roman
10		Pit?	Small, possibly sub-circular shallow (0.15m) irregular pit cut on E side by ditch 6.	?Roman
11		Dump?	Mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent gravel, dump between 2 and 1, seen in section only, no finds.	Post-medieval /modern?

Appendix 2: Pottery Assessment

by Stephen Macaulay

A small quantity of pottery (248g) was recovered from three contexts. All the pottery is abraded and comprises a mixture of table and kitchen wares, most of which (all coarse wares) derives from local sources. The only fine ware is a small fragment of Nene Valley Colour Coat (NVCC) from the ploughsoil (2).

Context	Description/Comments	Date
2	1 sherd shelly ware rim sherd from a small bowl, heavily abraded	Roman
	1 sherd oxidised sandy ware, body sherd (B5), heavily abraded	Roman
	1 sherd NVCC from a flagon, heavily abraded	(late 2nd – 4thC)
3	4 sherds Oxidised Sandy Ware jar – local source	Roman
7	1 sherd glazed Raeren pottery	Post-medieval

Animal Bone Assessment

by Chris Faine

1 Introduction

Out of 11 excavated contexts, two contained faunal remains. Twenty-five fragments were recovered, with 16 being identifiable to species (64% of the total sample). The context containing the vast majority of bone (8 identifiable fragments) was context 3 (ditch 4), a ditch fill dated to the Roman period. Context 2, a medieval/post medieval ploughsoil layer, contained a further two fragments (one being identifiable to species). All bones were collected by hand, with preservation being good, albeit fragmented due to butchery. All unidentified fragments were classed as being from large/medium sized mammals.

2 Recording

Initially all elements were assessed and catalogued in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable), and epiphyseal fusion. In addition any taphonomy *i.e.* burning, gnawing etc was recorded where necessary. Completeness was assessed by percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly 1988). Tooth wear was assessed using Grant (1982). Where two or more fragments are clearly of the same bone they are recorded as a single element. All data was entered using MS Excel.

3 Assessment

As mentioned above, the vast majority of the faunal remains originate from context 3. This context is almost entirely dominated by cattle, making up 75% of the identifiable fragments, with the remainder being identified as dog. All cattle fragments came from meat bearing elements *i.e.* long bones and showed evidence of heavy butchery. All elements came from adult animals, suggesting butchery/domestic waste as the most likely interpretation. However, the very small sample size means any further conclusions about the context cannot be drawn from the faunal remains alone. Context 2 contained 2 fragments, with one being identified as dog.

3 Conclusions

Unfortunately the very small sample size means that any wider conclusions about the area from this assemblage alone cannot be drawn in this instance. However, the faunal remains from context 3 are indicative of butchery/domestic waste, most likely associated with the Roman remains uncovered in earlier excavations.

Bibliography

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------|---|
| Dobney, K. and Reilly, K. | 1988 | 'A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones', <i>Circaea</i> 5, 79-96. |
| Grant, A. | 1982 | 'The Use of Tooth Wear as a Guide to the Age of Domestic Ungulates'. In: Wilson, B., Grigson, C. and Payne, S. (eds.) <i>Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites</i> . BAR Brit. Ser. 109: Oxford, 91-108. |

Appendix 4: Environmental Appraisal

by Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

Three bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations

Ten litres of each sample were processed by bucket flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

2 Results

Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few common seeds such as *Chenopodium* sp. are present in most of the samples. Very small quantities of charcoal fragments are present in all of the samples but no other plant macrofossils were recovered apart from a single charred cereal grain in Sample 1.

3 Conclusions

The low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage precludes the identification of any specific activity that may be associated with the features.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



2004-2005
Better Local Public Transport
2005-2006
Asset Management

Cambridgeshire County Council's **Archaeological Field Unit** undertakes a wide range of work throughout the county and across the eastern region.

Our key purpose is to increase understanding of the rich heritage of the region.

We are keenly competitive, working to the highest professional standards in a broad range of service areas. We work in partnership with contractors and local communities.

We undertake or provide:

- surveys, assessments, evaluations and excavations
- popular and academic publications
- illustration and design services
- heritage and conservation management
- education and outreach services
- volunteer, training and work experience opportunities
- partnership projects with community groups and research bodies

contact

•cambridgeshirearchaeology
archaeological field unit

Fulbourn Community Centre Site
Haggis Gap
Fulbourn
Cambridge
CB1 5HD

Tel : 01223 576201
Fax: 01223 880946
email: arch.field.unit@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
web: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology



Printed on recycled paper