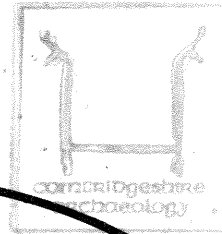


FULBOURN COPY

DO NOT REMOVE
no 36



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE
FULBOURN COMMUNITY CENTRE
HAGGS GAP, FULBOURN
CAMBRIDGE CB1 5HD Tel: 881614
(Fax 881678)

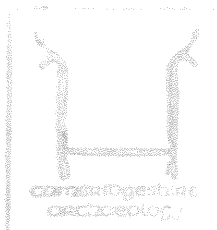
OFFICE COPY.

Hemingford to Huntingdon Pipeline 1991



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Rural Strategy



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD OFFICE
FULBOURN COMMUNITY CENTRE
HASSY'S GAP FULBOURN
JANISVILLE CB1 5HD Tel: 881614
Fax 881670

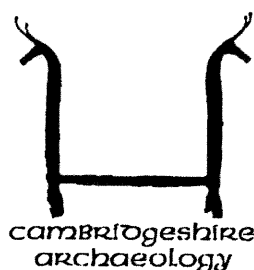
HEMINGFORD TO HUNTINGDON PIPELINE - 1991

G. Haley

Archaeology Section
Property Department
Shire Hall Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP
Tel. (0223) 317312



Report No. 36



Abstract

Fieldwalking followed by a watching brief on top-soil stripping and trench excavation along the route of the rising main revealed a concentration of linear features centred at TL 2778 2027. These were found to date to the Middle Iron Age and 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Close to this area a Roman stone coffin was discovered in the 19th century. The rest of the route produced occasional prehistoric flints and sherds of Medieval and later pottery but no other sites or features.

Introduction

Groundworks on this project began on the 28th of August 1991 with top soil stripping commencing at the sewage works near Hemingford Abbots (TL 2814 7018) moving westwards along a 15 metre easement for approximately 2km and terminating at the Huntingdon sewage plant (TL 2625 7089); see figure 1.

The actual corridor along the easement stripped of top soil measured 10 metres wide and was excavated to a depth of between 0.2 to 0.4 metres.

A single 360 degree excavator was used both to dig the pipe trench and to backfill it at the end of the day. The depth to which the trench was dug varied along the route from approximately 1.5 to 3.0 metres depending on local topography and the need to maintain the pipe on a slope for correct pump operation. Normal trench width measured 0.84 metres.

On average between 15 to 20 pipe sections were laid on a normal working day, each section measuring 5.5 metres in length and having an internal bore of 0.455 metres. These groundworks were carried out by the sub-contractors Breheney on behalf of Anglian Water Services.

Recorded Archaeology

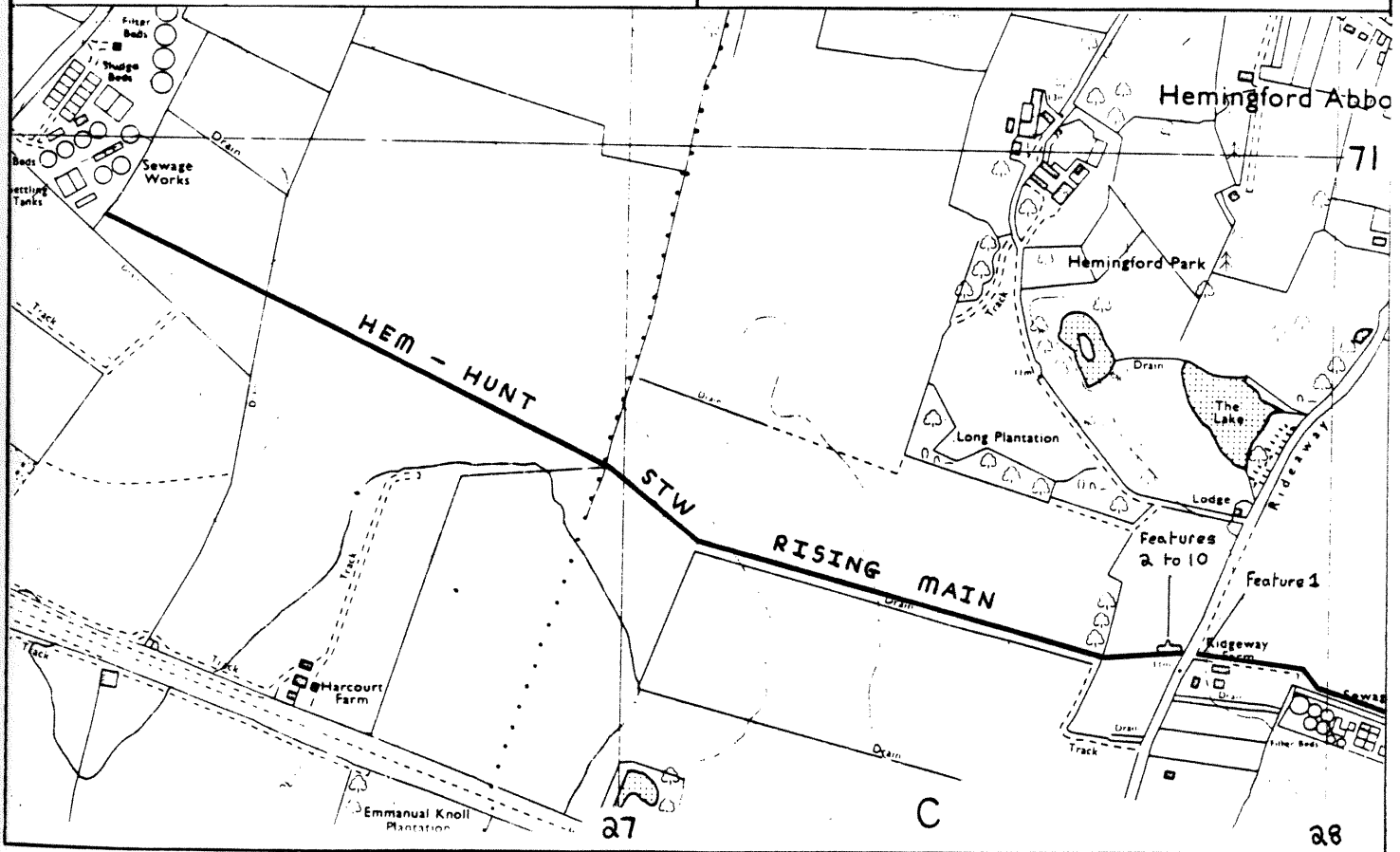
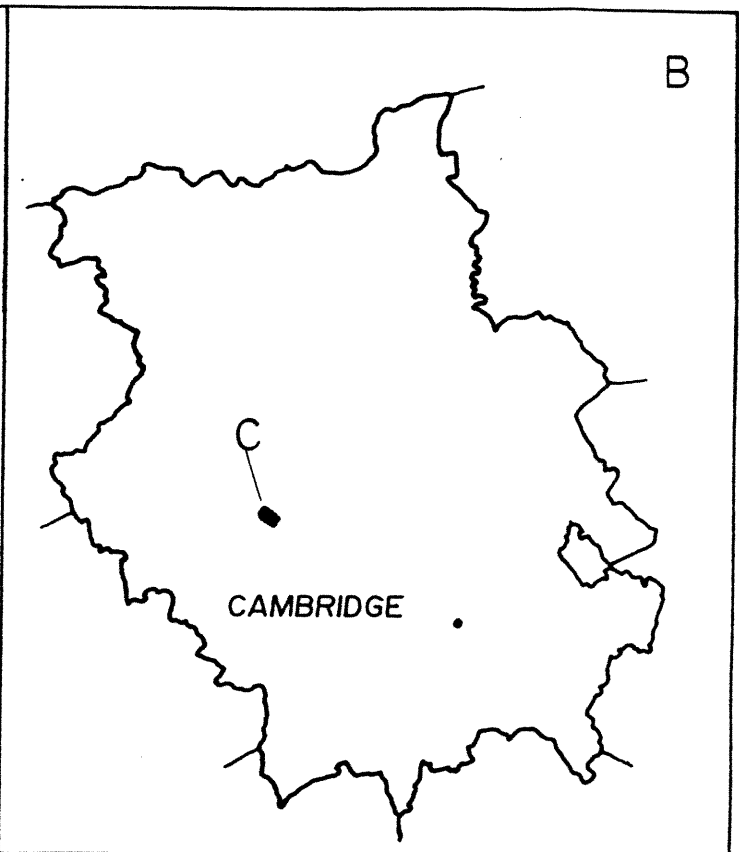
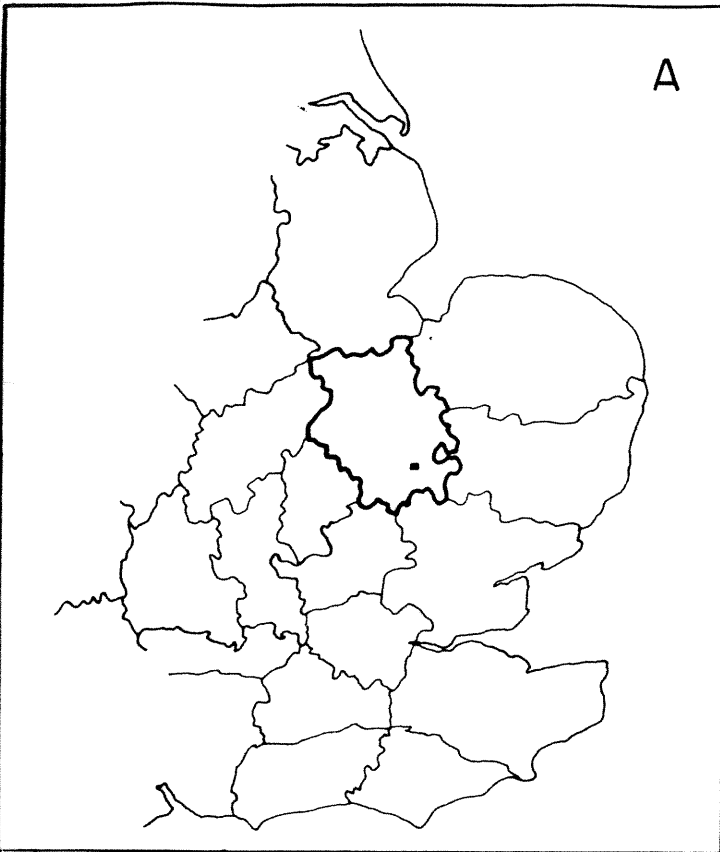
Being close to Godmanchester, a strategically located Roman town, it is not surprising that known discoveries within in this area date to the Roman period. To the west of the Rideway, almost on the route of the present pipeline (TL 2763 7023) a stone coffin containing a male inhumation and a 3rd century Castor beaker was discovered in 1870 by the local vicar; details of which are now in the church at Hemingford Abbots. A claim that gold coins dating to circa. 50 AD were also found within the beaker and taken as treasure trove cannot be substantiated.

At each end of the pipeline (TL 279 703 and TL 262 708) occur complex cropmark concentrations. Those around Ridgeway Farm consist of a juxtaposition of linear features and enclosures very densely concentrated in the field north of the farm. The second major complex to the south of the Huntingdon sewage works consists of a dense concentration of rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures. Neither of these cropmark concentrations as yet have been ascribed to any archaeological period.

Geology and Soils

The first half kilometre of the pipeline route around Ridgeway Farm lies upon river gravels which support well-drained, fine and coarse loamy soils.

Most of the remaining route, which lies to the west of the Ridgeway, is situated on Jurassic and Cretaceous clays on which both clayey calcareous soils and non-calcareous clay-loamy or silty-clay soils have formed.



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. (Edit): TL 27 SE
with the sanction of the Controller of H.M.S.O (Licence No LA 07649 X)

For identification purposes only



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Department of Property
Archaeology Section

HEMINGFORD - HUNTINGDON

STW RISING MAIN 1991

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

PREPARED BY: G. HALEY
DATE: 8/1/92

SCALE:
1:10,000

FIG. 1

Archaeological Monitoring Procedures

Three phases of archaeological monitoring were conducted on this project to assess the existing archaeology and monitor its potential disturbance.

(1) Reconnaissance by Fieldwalking

A reconnaissance of the pipeline route by means of fieldwalking was carried out by the County Archaeologist, Alison Taylor and Michael Clack of Anglian Water Services on November the 8th 1990.

The objective of the work was to identify potential areas of archaeological interest from the occurrence of surface artifact concentrations along the route of the pipeline. A low crop cover along the route will have affected the efficiency of artifact recovery. However, table 1 below lists those finds that were recovered.

NGR	DESCRIPTION
TL 2775 7024	1 possible flint core. 1 very abraded Medieval pottery sherd. 2 very abraded Roman pottery sherds.
TL 2771 7025	1 sherd of Medieval pottery 1 sherd of prehistoric pottery
TL 2768 7025	1 fragment of flint blade
TL 2768 7024	3 sherds of Roman pottery 1 sherd of Iron Age pottery
TL 2762 7028	1 piece of machine damaged flint
TL 2700 7052	1 struck flake, badly machine damaged but displaying possible worked notch
TL 2675 7067	1 possible core fragment
TL 2644 7080	1 struck flake
TL 2620 7089	1 struck flake 1 flake core

Table 1. Finds recovered during fieldwalking.

(2) Inspection of Easement

The stripped easement was inspected by Lesley Hoyland of the contracts section of the County Archaeology Office in order to establish if any existing archaeology can be identified in plan on the surface of the easement.

Finds from the surface and spoil heaps were also recovered in an attempt to identify areas of potential archaeology. A summary of finds collected is given in table 2.

NGR	DESCRIPTION
TL 2768 7026	2 sherds of Roman grey ware 1 fragment of a copper alloy object
TL 2786 7027	1 sherd of Nene valley colour coat ware
TL 2775 7027	1 sherd of Roman grey ware
TL 2763 7028	1 sherd of post-Medieval pottery
TL 2642 7081	1 sherd of brown glazed post-Medieval pottery
TL 2636 7085	1 struck flake, dark brown flint

Table 2. Finds From The Easement Surface.

(3) Inspection Of The Pipe Trench

Inspection of the pipe trench was carried out with the objective of locating archaeological features not identified on the surface but which reveal themselves in section, in the sides of the trench cut.

Monitoring of the pipe trench in the initial stages was carried out by Lesley Hoyland, who identified and recorded feature 1 (see figure 2). Subsequent watching briefs on the progress of the work was carried out by the writer.

In all, 10 features were identified in the section of the trench cut immediately to the east and west of the Rideaway. No further features were recorded in subsequent watching briefs on the remainder of the route.

Features 2 to 10 had suffered extreme damage due to partial backfilling of the trench by machine. In view of this only the most basic recording action could be employed.

Feature 1 (TL 2784 7028)

Complex feature of no definite form (see figure 2). The sides gently slope onto a flatish base at a maximum depth of around 1.0 metre from the surface of the stripped easement. The eastern extremity of the feature was not revealed in the trench but what was exposed measured 4.6 metres in width.

Some top soil still remained in-situ over the feature, which was cut into natural orange-brown sandy gravel. The fill was a dark grey/brown, sandy-clay matrix with gravel.

Feature 1 probably consists of a number of intercutting contexts that cannot be understood without excavation and therefore must be viewed as an amorphous feature. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from the section.

Finds:

- 1 sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware.
- 1 sherd of Roman calcite-tempered ware.

HEM-HUNT 91

FEATURE 1

South Facing

DARK GREY-BROWN SANDY CLAY FILL

NATURAL SAND WITH FLINT INCLUSIONS

BASE OF PIPE TRENCH

W

E

TL 2784 7028

0 1.0 METRES

SCALE 1:20

FIGURE 2

Feature 2 (TL 27794 70276)

The section containing this feature was considerably damaged not allowing the shape of the cut to be clearly defined, except that it had a concave base. It probably represents a ditch cut into the natural gravels which has a dark grey silty-gravel fill, flecked with chalk and infiltrated with numerous roots. One sherd of pottery was recovered.

Finds:

1 sherd of Roman calcite-tempered ware.

Feature 3 (TL 27790 70275)

Pit with concave sides and a deep concave base cut into natural gravel. Its maximum depth from the surface of the stripped easement was approximately 0.6 metres. The fill was a very organic, silty, dark grey material with numerous pieces of flint and chert, interlaced throughout with fine roots. Twelve sherds of pottery and three pieces of bone were recovered from the section.

Finds:

12 sherds of Middle Iron Age coarse ware including
one base sherd with fingertip impressed
decoration.

3 fragments of bone.

Feature 4 (TL 27786 70274)

Ditch with a steep concave side to the east and a shallow concave side on the west, which run into a shallow concave base. Cut into natural gravel it has a maximum width of 1.5 metres and a maximum depth from the surface of the easement of approximately 0.65 metres. The fill consisted of a dark grey, gravelly, clayey-humus material with chalk flecking and fine root disturbance. The section produced one sherd of pottery.

Finds:

1 sherd of calcite-tempered ware.

Feature 5 (TL 27783 70274)

Ditch with shallow concave sides and base cut into natural gravel. The maximum width measured approximately 1.25 metres and the maximum depth from the surface of the stripped easement was 0.65 metres. A dark grey, gravelly, clayey-humus material with flecks of chalk and fine root intrusions made up the fill, from which thirty-six bones and two sherds of pottery were recovered.

Finds:

2 sherds of calcite-tempered ware.

34 rabbit bones (18 rib bones, 11 vertebra, 5 others)
2 bones of immature pig.

Feature 6 (TL 27780 70274)

Ditch with concave sides and base cut into natural gravel. The maximum width measured 1.3 metres whilst the maximum depth reached 0.7 metres from the surface of the easement. The dark grey, gravelly, clayey-humus fill was interspersed with fine roots and produced one sherd of pottery and sixteen fragments of bone.

Finds:

6 sherds of Roman calcite-tempered ware.

1 horn core of a cow.
1 cow phalanx ?
1 cow rib bone fragment.
2 sheep jaw fragments.
6 sheep rib bone fragments ?
1 sheep tibia ?
1 vertebra.
4 fragments of unidentified bone.

Feature 7 (TL 27780 70274)

Due to extensive damage to the section no measurements were taken for this feature. Like feature 1 it is a complicated, elongated lenticular feature that probably consists of two or more intercutting contexts and includes feature 6. Its fill, like previous features, consisted of a dark grey clayey-humus material with gravel and fine roots. One sherd of pottery and four fragments of bone were recovered from the section, though from contexts around two metres apart.

Finds:

1 sherd of Roman calcite-tempered ware.

1 horse maxilla.
3 fragments of unidentified bone.

Feature 8 (TL 27767 70273)

Ditch with concave sides and base, having a maximum width of 1.0 metre and a maximum depth from the surface of the easement of 0.6 metres. Cut into natural gravel the fill is a dark grey, gravelly, clayey-humus material with fine root infiltrations. The section produced six sherds of pottery and one fragment of bone.

Finds:

6 sherds of Middle Iron Age coarse ware.

1 fragment of unidentified bone.

Feature 9 (TL 27770 70273)

A ditch with the same dimensions and fill as feature 8, which also adjoins and runs parallel to it. Fifteen sherds and seven fragments of bone were recovered.

Finds;

15 sherds of Middle Iron Age coarse ware bowl. Two
rim sherds display fingertip impressed
decoration.

7 fragments of unidentified bone.

Feature 10 (TL 27767 70273)

Ditch with concave sides and base cut into natural gravel. It has a dark grey, gravelly, clayey-humus fill and produced two sherds of pottery.

Finds:

1 sherd of local Roman grey ware.
1 sherd of Roman fine ware.

Conclusion

Features 3, 8 and 9 produced a number of Middle Iron Age pottery sherds, along with some bone fragments, and seems to indicate prehistoric occupation occurring within this area. The few pieces of struck flint recovered cannot be associated with any concentrations and therefore cannot be seen as significant.

The extent and nature of the finds recovered from the remaining features would seem to indicate the presence of a Roman settlement around the area of Ridgeway Farm. Support for this conclusion is seen in the burial discovered here last century, along with the dense concentration of cropmarks recorded in this area on aerial photographs, to which features 1 to 10 are probably associated.

The few finds recovered during the course of fieldwalking and inspection of the easement both indicate a concentration of Roman pottery within the area to the east and west of the Rideaway, which again lends support to the above conclusion.

Pottery evidence from the burial discovered last century, along with that of the colour coated wares recovered during the present work suggests a date for the above Roman features of the 3rd century.

For both the Roman and the Iron Age features the preservation of material was good. Many large sherds of Roman and Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered. The condition of this pottery was good, showing little abrasive ware and with those pieces recovered from the spoil heaps displaying many clean breaks. The condition of bone was also good and suggests that these features represent good primary contexts that have suffered little from ploughing or other disturbance.

Recommendations

In view of the apparent density and richness of the archaeology around the area of Ridgeway Farm, along with the high quality of feature and artifact preservation, it is strongly recommended that any future development in this area be preceded by an archaeological assessment and consequent excavation.

Rural Management Division
Department of Property
Shire Hall
Cambridge
Tel. (0223) 317404

