

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICE 1994/5



Cambridgeshire
County Council

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICE 1994/5

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20119



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The County Council's archaeology service moved in April 1994 into the newly formed Libraries and Heritage Service, which brings together libraries and information services, and the heritage services: arts, archaeology, archives and museums. The amalgamation of similar interests will we hope allow us to make the most of our mutual small resources whilst increasing awareness and enjoyment of our County's past. The 'Ancient Echoes', a series of Early Music concerts, (see 8 below) which celebrated the new department, is but one example of the potential. Some aspects of our fundamental task of preserving and protecting our archaeological heritage will also benefit from the new arrangement, for example storage and conservation of finds and site archives (see 4 & 5 below). Our links with our previous partners in Property Department (especially as regards archaeology on the County Farms Estate) will however remain important to us.

1.2 Archaeology's success in Britain in bringing to public attention the damage building development potentially inflicts upon the archaeological heritage has over recent years changed and extended the work of the County Archaeology Office. During the year, these changes were formally recognised by a restructuring of the office into three separate areas of activity, each the responsibility of a senior professional archaeologist, working directly to the (newly-appointed) Senior Heritage Officer:

The sites and monuments record - recording and providing access to information about all known sites and finds in the county. (See especially 3 below. Post unfilled at year end).

Development control - protecting the county's archaeology from damage by change in land use. (See especially 2 below. Under the direction of Bob Sydes).

Promotion, interpretation and protection - providing opportunities to the general public to enjoy and understand their past, through an appreciation of the visible past and of archaeological discoveries and promoting

the protective management of identified sites. (See especially 6 & 8 below. Under the direction of Alison Taylor)

1.3 The need for a clear separation between the core service and the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) had already previously been recognised. Without this separation, the Unit would be unable to tender in competition with other archaeological contractors for privately funded work, vital to its financial success. To clarify this separation, the AFU is controlled by a Board, and separately line-managed within the new department. The new structure recognises however the value to the County Archaeology Office of the skills and expertise of AFU staff, and of the existence of a local field work capability, by a formal agreement for services and by inclusion within archaeology and heritage development teams of the Field Unit Manager, Tim Malim, and his senior projects managers, Tim Reynolds, Paul Sperry and Ben Robinson. Further information about AFU assistance with specific services is included at 6 & 8 below.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

2.1 Use of the planning process to protect Cambridgeshire's archaeological resource has developed considerably over the past two years. English Heritage's 'pump-priming' grant-in-aid to support an additional professional post has been an important factor in the development control section's success, and this post (Development Control Officer) has now been agreed to continue beyond grant-funding, at experienced professional level.

The importance of the section is also recognised in the office re-structuring (see above).

2.2 1994/95 continued to be a busy year for the team as it settled into the new structure. It is with much regret that we said goodbye in June to Tony Hurley, the Development Control Officer who left to take up a new post with Hertfordshire County Council. Tony made a significant contribution to the work of the section and his personal enthusiasm and professional ability were

instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of many projects. We were subsequently fortunate in securing the services of Rob Butler who acted as Temporary Development Control Officer until April 1995 when we welcomed Louise Austin as Tony Hurley's full replacement.

- 2.3 Whilst the number of applications checked in detail was slightly down from the previous year the number of applications with an archaeological dimension was significantly up as the number of comments made to district planning authorities testifies. This figure almost doubled and represents 4.5% of all applications lodged in Cambridgeshire compared with a national average between 2% and 3%. This is hardly surprising when one considers that Cambridgeshire possesses an unusually rich archaeological landscape and townscape which has been and is subject to continuing development pressure. Achieving a balance between archaeology and development has therefore been a priority for the section, usually leading to negotiated programmes of archaeological work carried out prior to development taking place.
- 2.4 These programmes of archaeological work are secured through the imposition, by the local planning authority, of standard archaeological conditions on the planning decision notices. Invariably this work is secured by the clients via a tender process and to facilitate this, the section prepares detailed design briefs. Specifications returned by tendering organisations including the County Council's own Archaeological Field Unit are subsequently approved by the section on behalf of the local planning authority. All excavations and post excavation programmes are monitored by staff of the section. The majority of the archaeological projects appearing in this annual report have been the result of development control intervention.

2.5 Development Control Statistics for 1994/95

Applications checked in detail	1167
Comments made	344
Design briefs	75

3.0 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

- 3.1 The central importance to Cambridgeshire archaeology of the Sites and Monuments Record was recognised in the restructuring of the office by the decision to appoint a full-time Senior Archaeologist when the post of Sites and Monuments Officer fell vacant.
- 3.2 In December 1994, Nesta Rooke, Sites and Monuments Officer since 1984, retired leaving behind her a substantial monument, in terms both of comprehensiveness and of quality, to her endeavour - a monument all the more remarkable given that she was employed only part time. Pending a permanent appointment, the post was filled temporarily for the last three months of the year, thanks to the kind co-operation of the AFU, by Melodie Paice.
- 3.3 During the year, 458 new records were made and a further 439 updated. These changes included the results of both chance finds and systematic field work. Notable amongst the former were a series of finds reported by members of metal detector clubs and include three 4th century Roman pewter plates, one inscribed with the Christian symbol of Chi-Rho found at Willingham and two remarkable collections of worked flints from the Isleham and Soham areas (currently in preparation for publication).
- 3.4 We are grateful to all of the Units and individuals who provide reports of systematic field work. Interim reports on work carried out during this year are listed at 10 below. Published reports incorporated into the SMR this year include the following:-

PUBLICATIONS

- 3.5 From the County Council's Archaeological Field Unit : full reports
- 96 *A Medieval Waterfront at the Maltings, Ely.* T. Reynolds
- 97 *Archaeological recording brief at 90/91 High Street, Huntingdon.* R. Heawood
- 98 *Cardyke, a Roman Canal at Waterbeach.* S. Macaulay and T. Reynolds

- 99 *Excavation of a Romano-British Settlement on the Needingworth Bypass.* D. Schlee.
- 101 *The Still, Peterborough, Medieval Deposits behind Cumbergate and Westgate.* K. Welsh.
- 102 *Medieval & late occupation in Fowlmere.* P. Sperry.
- 103 *Iron Age and Roman Settlement Remains near Tort Hill, Sawtry.* K. Welsh.
- 104 *Iron Age /Romano-British Settlement at Milton: An Archaeological Rescue Project.* T. Reynolds.
- 105 *Medieval and Later Deposits at Marshall's Garage, High Street, Huntingdon.* K. Welsh.
- 106 *An Eighteenth Century Road at the Dog-in-a-Doublet, Thorney.* K. Welsh.
- 108 *Ely City Centre Redevelopment: An Archaeological Desktop Study.* B. Robinson.
- 110 *Archaeological Evaluation at Moorfield Road, St. John's Street, Duxford.* T. Sutherland.
- 111 *Romano-British Remains at Glington, Archaeology on the A15 Glington to Werrington Bypass.* K. Welsh.
- 112 *Archaeology on the A1 between Alconbury and Fletton Parkway.* S. Kemp and T. Reynolds.
- 113 *Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Duxford Mill: Duxford Late Mesolithic/early Neolithic activity on the flood plain of the Cam.* D. Schlee and B. Robinson.
- 39 *Weybridge Farm, Alconbury: An Archaeological Desktop Survey.* T. Malim.
- 40 *A142 Fordham Bypass: An Archaeological Desktop Study.* T Reynolds.
- 41 *Archaeological investigations on a proposed synthetic pitch at Ernulf School, Eynesbury, St. Neots.* S. Kemp.
- 42 *Archaeological recording adjacent to the Old Croft River, Littleport.* B. Robinson.
- 43 *Eighteenth Century Burials at Old Addenbrooks Hospital.* K. Welsh.
- 44 *Archaeological Evaluation at 26/28 Church Street, Great Gransden.* M.Holst.
- 45 *Archaeological recording at Hinxton Hall: The New Lake Site.* S. Leith.
- 46 *St. Mary's Churchyard, Buckden, an Archaeological Evaluation.* J. Roberts.
- 47 *Archaeological Recording Brief at High Street Farm, West Wrating.* T. Sutherland.
- 48 *Archaeological Recording Brief at High St. Farm, West Wrating (Phase II).* T. Sutherland.
- 49 *Magnetic Susceptibility Survey at Milton Waste Disposal Site, Milton, Cambridge.* T.Sutherland.

3.6 **AFU 'A' reports : sites of lesser significance or where further works will follow.**

- 32 *A recording brief at Ship Lane, Ely.* J. Roberts.
- 33 *An archaeological evaluation at the former Princess of Wales RAF Hospital, Ely.* J. Roberts.
- 34 *Abbey Farm, Ickleton.* B. Robinson.
- 35 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Histon Road Allotments.* T. Reynolds.
- 36 *Archaeological investigations on proposed parkingbays at the Recreation ground, Oakington.* S. Macaulay
- 37 *A47 Thorney By-Pass: An Archaeological Desktop Study.* T. Reynolds.

3.7 **From Cambridge Archaeology Unit: -**

- 125 *Archaeological Investigations at Silver Street.* D. Gibson
- 126 *Excavation of a Ring Ditch and Prehistoric Field System at Barleycroft Farm, Bluntisham, Cambs.* C. Evans
- 127 *The Chapterhouse Investigations at Jesus College, Cambridge.* C. Evans
- 128 *Archaeological Investigations at No.7 St. Edwards Passage, Cambridge.* C. Evans
- 129 *High Street Willingham: an Archaeological Desktop.* A. Dickens
- 130 *Archaeological Investigations at Barleycroft Farm 1995: The Plant Site Extension.* K. Gdaniec
- 131 *Excavation of two late Prehistoric Pit Alignments and Roman Riverside features at*

- Meadow Lane, St Ives,
Cambridgeshire. V. Pollard*
- 132 *Archaeological Investigations at
Barleycroft Farm, Bluntisham,
Cambs. BF/ARC, Paper 1.
C. Evans*
- 133 *Archaeological Investigations at
Ely Cathedral South Choir.
D. Gibson.*
- 3.8 **Air Photo Services**
*All Four Wentways, Abington,
Cambs.: Aerial Photographic
Assessment. R. Palmer*
- 3.9 **Alison Borthwick**
*Proposed New Settlement, Westmere,
Ely, Cambs: The archaeological
implications of development.
A. Borthwick*
- 3.10 **Birmingham University
Archaeological Field Unit**
*289 Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington,
Cambridgeshire: archaeological
excavations 1992-3 Second Interim
Report: The Southwest Area.
Settlement and Activity from the
Neolithic to the Iron Age.
A.E. Jones.
299A St. Mary's Street, St. Neot's,
Cambridgeshire: an archaeological
evaluation 1994.
A. E. Jones.*
- 3.11 **Engineering Archaeological Services
Limited**
*Huntingdon to Little Barford 900mm
Gas Pipeline 1993: archaeological
report. T. E. Ellis.*
- 3.12 **Oxford Archaeological Unit**
*The Little Chef, Four Wentways (A11 /
A604), Abington : archaeological
evaluation.*

4.0 STORAGE

- 4.1 Storage of excavations archives (artefact and paper) is vital to future understanding of the county's archaeology, and the lack of a county store has long been a problem. The increase in excavation which has resulted from developer funding has made the problem more acute. Not only are there more finds to store, there

is also increased danger of loss (as well as greater difficulty for the researcher) if archives remain in the care of an increasing diversity of contractors, some based a long way outside the county. The conversion of Wort's Barn, Landbeach (reported last year) for storage of material of low environmental sensitivity has provided a welcome opportunity to address these difficulties, so that deposit of archives can be stipulated when excavation work is specified. To this end, discussions have been initiated with Peterborough Museum and with Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology to agree their roles in archive storage, and conditions for deposit of artefact archives based on national guidelines have been drawn up for the County Store where major collections of artefacts from Cambridge and from British Gas excavations at Foxton have been accepted. It is intended that the related paper archives should be stored by the County Archives Service, making use of our Heritage partners' skills and facilities, but the need to provide storage for artefacts sensitive to environmental change remains.

5.0 CONSERVATION

- 5.1 The major project-work relating to Barrington Anglo Saxon Cemetery, which provided much of the funding for the archaeology aspects of the conservator post, was completed this year, and line-management responsibility for our conservator, Celia Honeycombe, has been passed to the County Museums Officer. Celia continues, however, to work on archaeological projects as need and funding arise, and the advantage to Cambridgeshire's artefact heritage of having available readily and locally her expert skills and advice is well recognised. We hope to be able to continue and extend partnership working in the museums and archaeology communities so that her valuable services can be retained. We would be very interested to hear of potential partners or one-off users of her skills.

- 5.2 Archaeological work this year has included X-raying and conserving iron-work from an Anglo Saxon bed from Barrington, and conservation of many artefacts (also Anglo-Saxon) from Oakington.

6.0 MONUMENT MANAGEMENT

In addition to general advice, encouragement and, where necessary, restrictions designed to give physical protection to archaeological remains, the County's Archaeology Section designs and implements management plans on numerous sites, many of them in the ownership of the County Council (most commonly, County Farms). Our programme of management, which expands each year, is supported by English Heritage, the Countryside Commission and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Wherever possible, public access is provided to sites that we care for, and information boards are often erected. The selection of sites for management is designed to include fine examples of different classes of monument for each archaeological period.

- 6.2 Currently, the following sites are being managed:

- 1 **Ashley St. Marys. Ruined church and graveyard.** Twice yearly removal of scrub etc.
- 2 **Bartlow Hills: Three Roman burial mounds.** Twice yearly removal of scrub etc., control of rabbits, maintenance of fences and steps. Information board.
- 3 **Borough Fen: Iron Age fort.** Future management agreed. Arable land taken out of plough and fenced for grazing.
- 4 **Bourn, Moulton Hills: Roman burial mound.** Twice yearly removal of scrub etc.
- 5 **Cambridge Castle: Norman motte and Cromwellian**

bastions. Annual cutting, control of erosion by fencing and steps. Information board.

- 6 **Castle Camps: Medieval Castle and village.** Annual cutting of scrub etc. Area of scrub clearance extended. Information board designed.
- 7 **Caxton Moats: Scrub area agreed.** Not yet implemented.
- 8 **Cheveley Castle: medieval castle.** Annual cutting of scrub etc.
- 9 **Doddington: ridge and furrow.** Improved grazing regime maintained. Fencing, sign-posting, access improved. Information board. Education Pack.
- 10 **Fordham Barrow: prehistoric burial mound and settlement.** Conversion and maintenance of pasture. (County Farms)
- 11 **Fowlmere Moat: medieval defensive moat.** Twice yearly cutting of scrub etc. and removal of rubbish. Information board.
- 12 **Fulbourn, Zouches Castle: mediaeval fortified homestead.** Extensive clearance undertaken. Site incorporated into management of Fulbourn Nature Reserve (Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust)
- 13 **Harston Manor Farm: prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement.** Converted to pasture (by County Farms).
- 14 **Kennett, Howe Hill: Prehistoric burial mound.** Twice yearly removal of scrub etc, posts to prevent plough damage, control of animal damage.
- 15 **Landbeach Moat & Medieval Village: clearance of moat, control of vegetation by grazing and cutting, repairs to gates and fences. Information board.**

- (County Farms) Education Pack. Sign posting.
- 16 **Rampton, Giants Hill:** medieval moat and village. Cutting of scrub etc. four times a year, new fencing. Information board (County Farms). Education Pack. Sign posting
- 17 **Silverley, All Saints:** ruined medieval church and graveyard. Twice yearly removal of scrub etc.
- 18 **Great Staughton moat:** removal of scrub etc. Management by grazing agreed, and implemented.
- 19 **Swaffham Bulbeck moat:** regular cutting agreed. Clearance of moat now achieved. Information board designed.
- 20 **Swaffham Prior:** Roman temple and Anglo-Saxon burial ground. Converted to pasture. (County Farms)
- 21 **Car Dyke, Waterbeach:** Roman canal. Twice yearly removal of scrub etc., pollarding of willows. Conversion of adjacent fields to meadows. Information board designed (County Farms)
- 22 **Mutlow Hill, Great Wilbraham:** prehistoric burial mound. Twice yearly removal of scrub etc. Information board.
- 23 **Stonea Camp, Wimblington:** Iron Age fort. Conversion to pasture. Restoration of banks and ditches, control of rabbits and erosion. Raising of water table. Creation of mere, osier bed and small areas of tree planting. Educational area. 5 Information boards (County Farms). Education Pack.
- 24 **Devils Dyke:** Anglo-Saxon defensive earthwork. Control of vegetation, scrub and rabbits.
- Conversion of adjacent fields to pasture. Grazing by sheep. Information board (County Farms). Education Pack.
- 25 **Roman Road:** Control of scrub and vehicles. Information board.
- 6.3 All sites are now clearly benefiting from long-term management programmes after many years of neglect. Our policy is to undertake the minimum work needed to ensure preservation for the future, together with access provision and interpretation for today's public. The essential character of each site as a historic feature in its own environment is therefore maintained and even enhanced, and uniform "well kept" appearances are avoided. Careful attention is paid to wildlife interests, and many thanks are due to Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trusts who give advice and also undertake actual management work at Zouches Castle, Mutlow Hill, Devil's Dyke, Giant's Hill (Rampton) and Car Dyke. Extra measures in the interests of wildlife, especially at Countryside Stewardship sites (Doddington, Fordham, Landbeach, Rampton, Swaffham Prior, Car Dyke, Stonea Camp, Devil's Dyke) include use of conservation grade grass seed, hedge planting, maintenance of water levels and regulation of grazing. Access arrangements and publicity are aimed at a fairly local market, with considerable emphasis on work with parish councils, access by footpath, and the 'pocket park' philosophy of informal enjoyment. Information boards are designed to blend with their backgrounds and aim as much to place monuments within historical and environmental contexts with encouragement to further exploration, as to provide specific data. With 28 boards now designed, covering monuments from neolithic through to post-medieval times, a wide public now has a chance to be aware of the archaeological heritage at its feet.

7.0 THE FENLAND PROJECT

7.1 The Fenland Project, led by David Hall, is supported through the Archaeology Office, with full funding from English Heritage. The Project began as a one-year assessment of the surviving archaeology of the Cambridgeshire Fenland in 1981, and continues at various levels.

7.2 The third stage, called by English Heritage the Fenland Management Project (FMP), has reached its publication phase. Excavation of 40 sites throughout the Fenland was made mainly to determine whether there were sufficient remains to warrant scheduling. Most were small-scale sample excavations, but a few, such as the Iron Age enclosure at Coveney, were larger. A summary of these excavations, providing an overall and convenient view of the results, will be published by Heritage Lincolnshire. Poorly preserved sites producing little information (Little Downham Hythe) will not be published. Detailed evidence will be deposited with the Project archive. The more important sites will be fully published, some in a series of Heritage Lincolnshire and *East Anglian Archaeology* volumes, grouped thematically or geographically. Cambridgeshire sites will appear as follows:

Early prehistoric flint sites. Ramsey 13 (Honey Hill) and Soham 9 (Eye Hill Farm) - as a paper in *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*.

Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. Chatteris 26 (Langwood), Cottenham 5 (Lingwood Farm) and Coveney 1 (Wardy Hill) will become part of 'The Isle of Ely Project' run by Cambridge Archaeological Unit. This project will also study some of the other Iron Age sites in the Ely region.

Medieval. Parson Drove 15 (Fenland Field), which is an unusual type of salt-making site, and Holme Fen 2, a medieval fishery on the edge of Whittlesey Mere, will be published as a paper in the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Archaeological Society*.

The site numbers referred to are those used during the fieldwork survey, of which the last report, covering the Isle of Ely, is due early in 1996.

Some of the earthwork Fenland sites have now gone through the lengthy process of scheduling and have been officially designated. They are at Chatteris, Horseley Fen and Sutton Long Barrow (both Neolithic), a Roman field system in Whittlesey Washes, and Roman enclosures and a driveway at Chestnut Farm, Thorney.

8.00 PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

8.1 **Site Tours** of excavations in progress were arranged for Oakington Anglo-Saxon cemetery and Milton Roman site.

8.2 **Activity Days**, in which children are involved in hands-on activities including pottery -making, flint-knapping, spinning and weaving, cooking on open fires and hut building were a popular part of the year. Stephen Macaulay, with other members of AFU and the rangers from Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, organised events based on life in the Iron Age for the County Farm Show and again at Stonea Camp, where a well-attended open week-end for families was followed by a week in which approximately 90 school children per day became involved in activities relating to 'food and farming', 'domestic life', 'building and construction' and 'culture'. Both these projects were supported by **County Farms**. Anglo-Saxon life and death was celebrated at Wimpole Hall, as our contribution to National Heritage Day, with help from Regia Anglorum (a lively Saxon re-enactment society) and AFU members. Regia Anglorum also featured in our 'Meet the Saxons' afternoon in Cambridge Central Library, as part of the 'Fighting over Cambridgeshire' exhibition.

8.3 **Loan packs** of Prehistoric and Roman artefacts remained popular with schools and evening classes.

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- 8.4 **Displays** included a major exhibition in Cambridge Central Library for three months, 'Fighting over Cambridgeshire'. This brought together all the heritage interests of the County Council, including the Cambridgeshire Collections plus the Cambridge Folk Museum, to look at the ways in which warfare has affected the people of Cambridgeshire from Iron Age times to the Second World War, and also to illustrate what physical remains are left and where people can study them further. This exhibition was made possible by the active support of Cambridge Central Library. An exhibition of recent finds was a popular display in **Rock Road Library**, Cambridge and a further opportunity to put recently discovered artefacts on display was given by **Burwell Museum**, who gave space for a 'Saxon Lady', excavated on County Farm land at Swaffham Prior, accompanied by jewellery found with her, pottery from other skeletons on the site and panels explaining the significance of Anglo Saxon burial ritual. AFU mounted a display explaining work in progress at **The Still, Peterborough**, making use of empty shop fronts during excavations there, and showed results of excavations at Hinxton, Milton, Needingworth and Sawtry at our Annual Conference. One day exhibitions on archaeology were arranged for the **Parish Council centenary festival** at Peterborough, and for **National Heritage Day** at Thorney.
- 8.5 Guided Walks to encourage visits to monuments were led at Stonea Camp (Tim Malim), Bartlow Hills (Alison Taylor), Castle Camps (Chris Taylor), Car Dyke, Rampton Castle and Landbeach Moat (Alison Taylor) and Washingley Castle and deserted village (Tim Malim).
- 8.6 **Early Music Concerts** to celebrate the creation of the Heritage Service were organised by Steve Hollier, County Arts Officer, and were designed to bring life into ancient buildings that are otherwise unused. English Heritage were delighted with medieval concerts held in Duxford Chapel and Isleham Priory, and have therefore offered guardianship of the buildings to the County Council, and the Redundant Churches Fund was similarly pleased to see its beautiful but empty buildings used so suitably.
- 8.7 *Conduit*, a twice yearly newsletter covering the activities of about 40 local societies involved with archaeology, history and museums, plus professional bodies in this county, is published jointly by Cambridge Antiquarian Society and the Libraries and Heritage Service, and is compiled and edited by the Archaeology Section.
- 8.8 The AFU has commenced a review of educational activities and the potential for a wider service. Initial responses have been very positive, and will help in the formulation of a strategy which will also need to encompass the demand for work placement and volunteer experience. 10 work placements and 9 volunteers worked with AFU during 1994/5.
- 8.9 Support is regularly given to the **Countryside Commission's Stewardship Scheme**, with advice given on all proposed sites, plus participation in relevant workshops.
- 8.10 Support is also given to **Rural Action**, including participation and talks to two weekend workshops.
- 8.11 Numerous talks and press and radio interviews were given by Cambridgeshire Archaeology staff during the year. The services of the AFU in promoting archaeology are particularly important to us in this area, and we would especially wish to thank
- Simon Bray
Caroline Gait-Utime
Steve Macaulay
Tim Malim
Steve Membry
Tim Reynolds
Ben Robinson
Paul Sperry
- Especially worthy of note among the many engagements undertaken by Alison Taylor were her participation in the day-school on *Landscape and*

Archaeology at Madingley Hall and an address *The role of the County Archaeologist in a changing world*, given to the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

- 8.12 The Annual Conference held in conjunction with Cambridge Antiquarian Society was once again a successful county-wide roundup of amateur and professional archaeology with numerous displays of artefacts and excavations and photographs.

9.00 VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

- 9.1 The work of local groups and societies is of great value in bringing a knowledge and understanding of archaeology to a wide audience. It also brings vital additional eyes, ears and concern to the identification of sites and the derivation and preservation of information. We are pleased wherever possible to encourage such activity (see also 3 above).

- 9.2 A County Council small grants fund to encourage this work is administered through Cambridge Antiquarian Society Archaeological Panel. Grants in 1994/5 totalled £1652, and were awarded to:-
Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (equipment £50, publication and publicity £300, storage £50)
Ely and District Archaeology Society (equipment £100)
Haverhill and District Archaeological Group (specialists £400, publications £50, storage £50)
Cambridge Antiquarian Society (publications & publicity, including *Conduit* £400)
CASAP (publications & publicity £252).

- 9.3 Cambridge Archaeology Field Group have carried out the following projects:

Gun's Lane, Histon. (TL 436643-429651-434647) Co-ordinator Val Whittaker

Recording (summer 1994) of hedgerow species along Gun's Lane and some adjoining field boundaries to test dating according to Hooper's method in

conjunction with a study of changes in boundaries as shown on maps. A number of 30 metre sections of hedge along Gun's Lane were found to contain six relevant species, suggesting a possible 14th century date, but the draft Enclosure map of 1801 shows that Gun's Lane overlays an earlier field system. Fieldwalking of the adjacent fields will be undertaken when feasible to check for any further dating evidence, and the hedgerow survey extended.

Lilac Farm, Orwell. Co-ordinator Mike Coles.

Continuation of fieldwalking, undertaken at the invitation of the AFU, to test a possible location of an occupation site related to the Anglo Saxon cemetery at Edix Hill, Barrington. The area of pottery concentration was extended. The pottery (probably Iron Age or Anglo Saxon) is still being examined and, further investigations of the site, in co-operation with the AFU, will be arranged.

Brook Farm, Barton Road, Haslingfield (TL 401534) Co-ordinator Mike Coles.

Fieldwalking of two fields, continuation of survey of the Haslingfield/Harlington area. Finds were generally modern except for a concentration within one hectare adjacent to the present farm buildings and a deep ditch of 13th/14th century pottery. This was in the open fields at enclosure. Further fieldwalking will be undertaken.

Heath Farm, Stapleford (TL 490535) Co-ordinator Mike Coles.

Fieldwalking on the south western slope of the Gog Magog Hills completed. A large quantity of modern material was found over the whole field, together with a few widely scattered struck flints including two scrapers. The findings are still subject to analysis and consolidation.

Mill Lane Farm, Histon (TL 453648) Co-ordinator Mike Coles.

Fieldwalking, part of a continuing landscape survey of Histon. One

probable palaeolithic worked flint was found, but no significant scatter of pottery earlier than the 19th century. The area of fieldwalking is to be extended.

9.4 **Haverhill and District Archaeology Group**

Castle Camps parish survey

Investigations by geophysical survey and fieldwalking, with recording of finds previously made by metal-detecting have been undertaken on a Roman site, and this work is now being extended into a complete parish survey, including fieldwalking all arable land and pasture and earthwork survey.

10.00 **FIELDWORK ROUND-UP**

We are very grateful to all of those whose names are given below for taking time and trouble to provide us with information, often in advance of a published report.

The following digest is arranged alphabetically by (major) place-name, save for linear investigations (roads, pipelines etc), which are listed at the end of the alphabetical section. Abbreviations have been used as follows:

AFU Cambridgeshire County Council
Archaeological Field Unit
BUAFU Birmingham University
Archaeological Field Unit
CAU Cambridge Archaeological Unit
CCC Cambridgeshire County Council
PCAS Proceedings of the
Cambridgeshire Antiquarian
Society
SMR Sites and Monuments Record,
Cambridgeshire

10.1 **Weybridge Farm Alconbury: An Archaeological Desktop Survey. (TL 180720) AFU Report A39. Tim Malim, for Mineral Resources Ltd**

Commissioned in advance of proposed gravel extraction Archaeological evidence shows a rich and diverse landscape to the east of the application area along the terraces of the Ouse, and limited late prehistoric occupation to the

west, north and south, but with no direct evidence in the immediate vicinity. Historical and cartographic evidence suggests that the application area was given over to meadowland beside Wellington Brook, and probably formed a part of the Royal Forest of Weybridge during Medieval times. Geological and soil conditions show considerable riverine activity in the application area, with sand and gravel deposition during the Pleistocene and alluvial deposition in more recent time. The surrounding high lands are largely composed of clays that may not have been particularly suitable for human exploitation until Saxon/Medieval times.

10.2 **Alconbury, Weybridge Farm (TL 17957210) AFU, report forthcoming. Malin Holst & Ken Welsh, for Mineral Resources Ltd.**

Two Roman cremations, one an adolescent or small female, the other a child, were mixed between two pots in a pit within a field-ditch. They were accompanied by hob-nails and other nails which indicate a wooden casket. Sherds buried with them, one deliberately holed, may be from accompanying vessels. Several small Romano-British field ditches were recorded.

10.3 **Babraham, Babraham Hall (TL 597550) CAU. M. Robinson**

Monitoring of service trenches within the grounds of the Hall revealed a metalled surface, 19th century quarry pits, and a later cobbled surface. The absence of a buried soil over much of the site demonstrated that truncation had occurred, possibly relating to the general landscaping of the grounds in the 19th century.

10.4 **Barrington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery. AFU: Tim Malim, Judith Roberts and external specialist on behalf of English Heritage**

A full analysis and writing up programme has been agreed, and work started in October 1994 on a massive conservation (X-ray and cleaning) programme for iron-work, followed by

analysis of mineral-replaced wood, leather and textiles surviving on the iron artefacts. A special seminar was held to help in reconstruction of a bed used in a rich burial at the cemetery. Studies of alloy composition and punchmark decorations to trace the origins of discrete manufacturing workshops have also been undertaken.

The stratigraphic analysis of both the Iron Age settlement and the Anglo-Saxon cemetery was begun, as well as the compilation of a comprehensive grave catalogue, include details of burial and associated artefacts, and further human bone analysis.

10.5 **Bluntisham, Barleycroft Farm Quarry**
(TL 35177227) CAU. C. Evans & J. Pollard

Traces of Romano-British ditch systems, including droves, were found throughout. The main discovery, one of major regional significance, was a Bronze Age field system extending across the eastern quarter of the area. Running down (SW-NE) from an eastern island/hill-top to a low lying terrace/meadow, and only locally bi-axial, the almost reeve-like parallel system of ditches delineated large land-blocks, c. 80m wide. Two contemporary settlement clusters were identified, and an earlier Neolithic settlement found (the latter producing great quantities of Mildenhall ware and early Neolithic flint); further fieldwork is anticipated.

A conjoining area of the quarry immediately to the southeast scheduled for watching brief monitoring (6ha; TL 357723), was trenched, and four further ditch-axes were found: two evidently laid-out in relation to a major ring-ditch, c. 20m diameter. Probably of later Neolithic construction, the monument became a focus for Bronze Age activity.

Between these two investigations, the Bronze Age ditch system has now been traced over 5ha, extending for 500 NW-SE; evaluation later this year in the field immediately to the south will determine whether it extends further up the Ouse valley.

10.6 **Bluntisham, Barleycroft Farm Quarry - The Plant Extension Site** (TL 450800)
CAU. K. Gdaniec

In the late winter of 1995 an evaluation was undertaken across a 9.5ha site along the eastern edge of the quarry. A dense Middle Iron Age settlement complex was found on the western bank of a palaeochannel. It was sealed by 0.50m of alluvium permitting the preservation of banks and occupation spreads; the fill of major ditches proved waterlogged. Following negotiation, the site is to be preserved and no further fieldwork is anticipated.

10.7 **Buckden, St. Mary's Churchyard**
(TL19206765) AFU Report A46.
Judith Roberts, for Marchall Sisson, Architect.

The church is situated to the south of Buckden Palace, former residence of the Bishops of Lincoln. The churchyard was extended in 1852 to include part of the palace gardens. Nineteenth century graves were revealed but no other archaeological features were recorded.

10.8 **Bury - Owl's End Road** (TL 28375284)
CAU. C. Begg

Excavations revealed multi-period settlement activity on the edge of an alluvial flood plain. Although a discrete group of re-fitting early Neolithic flints represent the first indication of floodplain activity, no associated features were present. A series of narrow ditches/gullies, and at least one ring-ditch, attest to Late Pre-Roman Iron Age settlement. The majority of the features represent medieval settlement activity: ditches, pits, midden deposits and substantial post-holes, ranging in date from the 12th - 14th century (including a small number of residual Saxon sherds). These are likely to be associated with the medieval hamlet of *Hepmangrove*. Medieval and post-medieval earthworks of interconnecting fish ponds and bank systems represented the final phase of activity.

10.9 **Cambridge - Garret Hostel Lane** (TL 44605854) CAU. C. Evans

An Anglia Water inspection pit excavated within the laneway to the north was utilised as a test pit. 2.0 x 2.5m in plan, the pit was dug down to a depth of 2.5m; its base was cored and sub-soil reached at a depth of 4.5m (2.9m OD). The lower strata - organic clays and waterwashed sands and silts - was consistent with its location into the northern

- side of the King's/Town Ditch which had skirted an island of medieval common, Garret Hostel Green. The Lane was established in 1545, and the ditch infilled in the early 17th century; sherds of 15 - early 16th century pottery were recovered from the lower sequence
- 10.10 **Cambridge, Histon Road Allotments, (TL 445612) AFU Report A35. Tim Reynolds**
- No archaeological remains.
- 10.11 **Cambridge - Kettle's Yard (TL 4555907) CAU. C. Evans**
- Located mid-way up the upper (Roman) town hill-side, recording brief operations were undertaken during the construction of new access facilities along the west side of the Gallery. Bordered by and encroaching upon the original line of the churchyard of St Peter's, 25 inhumations were lifted. A week-long excavation was rapidly instigated upon the discovery of a substantial foundation of late Roman date. Probably a rammed floor base, it truncated a series of earlier Roman features (2nd/3rd century), including a large tank with a connecting feeder channel. This evidently related to water-based processing, possibly the rendering of flax.
- 10.12 **Cambridge, Jesus College - Chapterhouse Investigations (TL 45235890) CAU. C. Evans**
- An outbreak of dry rot in the toilets on either side of 'F' Stair Passage within Cloister Court, the core of the site of the Nunnery of St Radegund (founded 1130-38), led to the stripping of wall plaster and excavation of sub-floor deposits to reveal the surfaces and fabric of the Chapterhouse and Vestry. Although the western facade of the former is thought to date to the 13th century (exposed during the late 19th century), the investigations demonstrated that this was probably an alteration to an earlier building. Not, however, itself primary, its construction entailed the insertion of a round arch door through the wall and foundation of the north transept of the Chapel. Lying some .3-.4m lower than the Chapel floor, the Chapterhouse was
- evidently of sunken construction. Detailed record was also made of the original College fabric (established 1496).
- 10.13 **Cambridge, Kings Hedges Primary School (TL 614455). Tempus Reparatum: for CCC. M Coxan**
- The layout of a previously excavated villa was exposed, plus a number of additional field/enclosure ditches and gravel surfaces. The earliest phase detected pre-dates the villa and may be Iron Age. This included the ditch of a large rectangular structure and a series of other ditches, pits and post-holes. Structural remains of the villa suggest several phases of use, with at least 2 phases of stone construction. An aisled hall with stone pier bases was later modified into a house with internal partition walls to which the wings were added. No indications of an earlier timber building were found. Features outside the villa include a garden wall. Finds indicate an early phase in the very late 2nd century/3rd century, and a later phase in the 4th century. Walls were extensively robbed after the villa's abandonment and smithing took place some time after this, represented by charcoal, clay, hammerside and remains of a bronze ring.
- 10.14 **Cambridge, Old Addenbrooke's Hospital (TL 45105787) AFU Report A43. Ken Welsh, for Lynxvale Ltd.**
- Five skeletons were revealed, all of which had been disturbed to a greater or lesser degree by nineteenth and twentieth century activity, and especially by the digging of a sewer trench. Fragments of post-medieval pottery were found within the backfill of the graves, indicating that the burials are not associated with the medieval religious foundations which had occupied parts of the site. Documentary evidence strongly suggests that the burials are those of patients of Addenbrooke's Hospital who died during the years 1772-1778. During this period, those who died without a subscriber to pay for burial were interred in the hospital grounds as a cheaper alternative to nearby St. Benet's churchyard. Human remains unearthed in 1895, during

- construction of a nurses' hostel, and at the time interpreted as medieval, probably date from the same period.
- 10.15 **Cambridge, St. Edward's Passage (TL 448 584)** CAU. R. Mortimer
- Heavily truncated by modern cellaring, only the bases of deep features survived and no layered occupation deposits or structural elements remained. The principal features were large and intercutting gravel extraction pits with backfills dating from the 12th to 14th centuries; a deep wattle-lined well dated to the same period. The earliest pits contained, exclusively, St. Neots, Thetford and Stamford wares. All respected the line of the northern laneway indicating its presence as a boundary, but without a built frontage, throughout the Medieval period.
- 10.16 **Cambridge - Sidney Sussex College (TL 45015867)** CAU. D. Hind & I. Marsden
- Evaluation excavations, south of the Master's Garden and west of Garden Court, revealed a clay-lined fish tank/pond, dating to between the 13th and 15th century. Evidently monastery-associated, this was sealed by successive dumped layers including demolition debris deriving from the Grey Friars, dating shortly after its dissolution in 1538.
- 10.18
- 10.17 **Cherry Hinton - Fulbourn Road (TL 49105600)** CAU. A. Dickens
- Analysis of aerial photographs and a resistivity survey confirmed the presence of three ring-ditches thought to be ploughed-out barrows. The trenching and test pitting programme revealed a very low density of background artefacts, and the only definite features identified were the ditches of the three barrows. Excavation revealed the northern arc of a northern(most) ring-ditch which was not visible in either the aerial photographs or geophysical survey; a high density of post-medieval material was recovered from it. Excavation of the southernmost ring-ditch produced flint and Bronze Age pottery and a central cremation was exposed. With the features confirmed as prehistoric, the high incidence of post-medieval material within one ring is thought to be the result of rabbit or root activity.
- 10.18 **Cottenham - Lordship Lane (TL 44906810)** CAU. R. Butler
- Evaluation established the extent of a Saxon site in the Crowlands/Lordship Lane area. Saxo-Norman and medieval activity was notably absent immediately adjacent to Crowlands Moat, any remains evidently having been truncated through subsequent ploughing following the demise of the manor lands. The area was subject to intensive post-medieval activity.
- 10.19 **Eynesbury, Ernulf School (TL 182588)** AFU report forthcoming. Stephen Macaulay, for Huntingdonshire District Council.
- The evaluation confirmed the expectations from cropmarks observed from aerial photographs, of a probable Neolithic cursus and Roman trackway. The western cursus ditch, not located during evaluation, was identified during the subsequent recording brief.
- 10.20 **Duxford Mill (TL 482461) Report 113.** Duncan Schlee and Ben Robinson, for the National Rivers Authority.
- The evaluation revealed that a riverside marsh had become established on the terrace gravels through which channels were subsequently formed. An *in situ* scatter of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic waste flakes suggestive of retooling during an expedition into the marsh was located at the edge of a palaeochannel. Spreads of redeposited chalk had been either naturally deposited or deliberately laid down in the peat, whose development was finally curtailed by the accumulation of alluvial silts. A pollen assessment produced evidence for thermophilous woodland and riverside marsh in the environs of the Cam, and supported the date established by the flint assemblage. No definite later prehistoric or Romano-British activity was encountered (with the exception of a small amount of residual pottery and fragment of puddingstone quern), confirming that the riverside area remained too wet to support a continuation of the prehistoric and Roman settlement located nearby at Hinxtun Quarry.

- 10.21 **Duxford, Moorfield Road, St. John's Street (TL 479463) AFU Report 110.**
Tim Sutherland, for Caspian Homes Ltd.
- Several features were recorded, mostly in the natural chalk, many containing a small number of residual pottery sherds, dating from the Roman period to early this century. The most significant features were boundary ditches dating to the late medieval period, located on the periphery of the site.
- 10.22 **Earith - The Minnaar Site (TL 38107490) CAU.** A. Dickens & G. Lucas
- Twenty burials of probable early 20th century date, which relate to a former Quaker Meeting House to the east of the site, were discovered during evaluation trenching. These were removed by undertakers and re-interred (Old Borough Cemetery, St. Ives). No other archaeological remains were found.
- 10.23 **Ely, Bishop's Palace (TL 539803) CAU.**
R. Regan
- Archaeological investigation took place prior to the construction of railings at the front of the old Bishop's Palace. Two road surfaces were uncovered associated with the 16th century palace. Beneath the road, the substantial remains of a wall foundation were found oriented N-S from the Palace across to the Palace Green. The most surprising discovery was a previously unknown cemetery. Several burials were uncovered, and the presence of disturbed human bone suggests that the cemetery was used over a lengthy period; later burials having disturbed earlier interments. The burials are certainly earlier than the 16th century and the cemetery is not documented amongst the other medieval cemeteries of Ely.
- 10.24 **Ely Cathedral (TL 54208030) CAU.**
M. Alexander
- Excavation of a pipe trench to the south of Ely cathedral revealed the footings of the inner wall of the 12th century cloister. The 15th century cloister foundations appear to have been used to support the existing garden wall, its outer wall was robbed away. Deep foundations, probably associated with the 'Bishop's Parlour' mentioned in documentary sources, were found to the west. There was considerable evidence for occupation prior to the construction of the cathedral including mortared surfaces and a substantial stone foundation possibly relating to the Saxon church. Structural remains of a medieval covered gallery were anticipated, but not satisfactorily identified.
- 10.25 **Ely City Centre Redevelopment: An Archaeological Desktop Study. (TL 543804) AFU Report 108.** Ben Robinson
- The subject area is bounded by Newnham Street (to the west and north), Bray's Lane (to the east) and the Market Place (to the south). Two recent excavations have been carried out in the area and a number of documentary sources refer to medieval activity here. This evidence has been used to define an archaeological character model for this part of the city's historic core.
- The lighter soils on this part of fen "highland" at Ely are known to have attracted settlement from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age. Excavation has revealed agricultural land settlement remains of this period within the area. Evidence of pre-Neolithic occupation is unlikely to be represented by anything other than residual artefacts in later deposits. During the late Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon periods the area probably lay within field systems which supported settlement centres in the environs of the subject area.
- Tenements were established in the southern half of the area (the Market Place) after the establishment of a large market area in the 12th or 13th century. These may have been preceded by tenements on Newnham Street, which certainly contained important dwellings by the mid 13th century. The Market Place street front became heavily developed during the medieval period, probably comprising shops and traders' quarters. Part of the interior of the subject area formed the grounds of Bray's manor, and was largely given over to gardens and orchards until this century.
- Well-stratified archaeological deposits have been found in good states of

preservation across the subject area, though good organic survival may be anticipated only in localised features such as wells. The archaeological features are probably most intense immediately behind the Market Place properties.

The subject area has been shown to have excellent archaeological potential. It contains deposits and features which are crucial to the investigation of the origins and character of the medieval town at Ely, to the economy of its Fenland hinterland, and to the study of English urbanism generally.

- 10.26 **Ely, Jubilee Terrace (TL 54347982)**
AFU Report forthcoming. Ben Robinson and Niall Oakey, for Hereward Housing Association.

Episodes of natural water-borne deposition on the site were recorded and sampled, and a large 13th century building was partially recorded. The structure extended beyond the boundaries of the excavation, but was at least 20m long, had a floor of compact sand, and was probably of timber-framed construction. Traces of a number of internal walls were found, and running alongside the building was a ditch which probably acted as a property boundary. Few artefacts and no traces of domestic activity (e.g. fireplaces) were found within the building. A thick layer of chalk or lime suggested that the excavated structure may have served as a warehouse where the materials necessary for making mortar were stored between their arrival along the recently-diverted Ouse and their use in stone buildings such as the Cathedral or other monastic buildings. The warehouse had a short life and after it went out of use. Domestic rubbish of 14th and 15th century date was dumped on the site, probably in order to raise the ground level and counter flooding. At a later, unknown date, a number of ovens or small kilns were constructed on the site for use in making bread or malting, but for most of the 14th to the 20th centuries the site was used for garden plots or was left as open land.

- 10.27 **Ely, Old Birches Garage, St. Mary's St. (TL 53978039)** AFU Report forthcoming. Ben Robinson and J. Sturgess for the Hereward Housing Association.

During the excavation of service and foundation trenches, a post-medieval cellar was discovered on the street front and the remains of a late-medieval/post-medieval tile floor (set in a thin layer of mortar laid directly onto earth) were revealed to the rear of the existing 18th century building. The service trenches did not penetrate the floor, whose survival must suggest the good preservation of medieval deposits beneath.

- 10.28 **Ely Sewage Treatment Works and the South Sewer Pipeline - Cawdle Fen (TL 52907870 & TL 53407860)** CAU. M. Alexander

Although no archaeological features were present, sporadic finds of prehistoric flints and abraded Roman and Medieval pottery were recovered.

- 10.29 **Flag Fen, Peterborough.** Fenland Archaeological Trust. Francis Pryor for English Heritage

Work in 1994 concentrated on the post alignment in the region of the Mustdyke and one third of a Late Bronze Age tripartite wheel was recovered. The rim of the wheel contained small gravel pebbles, presumably from a made-up road surface. Air survey revealed important new Neolithic and Bronze Age ditched fields or enclosures at the Northey landfall of the post alignment. Trial trenching confirmed their approximate date. The Northey landscape is now known to cover over 100 acres (c. 40 ha).

- 10.30 **Folksworth, Sheep Lair Farm (TL 159 905)** AFU Report A58. Steve Kemp, for CCC Transportation Department.

Evaluation in advance of A1 widening. Excavations just north of Stilton, where the pronounced agger of the Roman road was visible, showed the road to consist of two flint cobble layers overlying made-up ground. No roadside ditches were encountered, probably due to restriction

- of the evaluation area to avoid disturbance to grazing land.
- Earthwork survey identified remnants of a medieval landscape - agricultural remains, largely of ridge and furrow, with a hollow way lying on the eastern side of the Roman road.
- Quarries lie within or close to the proposed road corridor. Quarrying caused significant landscape alteration during the post-medieval period within the parish of Folksworth. References to gravel extraction, which is probably associated with the construction and maintenance of the Great North Road, occur in 1550 and again in 1821 and 1844.
- Ogilby's map of 1675 indicates that this part of Ermine Street was a major routeway in the seventeenth century, whilst Taylor has demonstrated that during the medieval period a more westerly course was preferred. Historical research indicates a single shift of route from the Roman road to the present alignment. This had occurred by 1821, probably during the late seventeenth century when the Great North Road between Alconbury and Peterborough was turnpiked.
- Geophysical survey recognised a series of high magnetic anomalies. These may represent kilns, which were in use prior to the abandonment of ridge and furrow.
- 10.31 **Folksworth; Sheep Lair Farm (TL 15939059) AFU Report A6.**
No archaeological remains.
- 10.32 **A142 Fordham Bypass: An Archaeological Desktop Study. (TL612717 and TL 612679) AFU Report A40. Tim Reynolds, for CCC Transportation Dept.**
An archaeological landscape is bifurcated by the route which will need further evaluation.
- 10.33 **Glinton, Scotts Farm (TF 159057) F Coupland, John Samuels, Archaeology Consultants for Allison Homes**
Degraded ridge and furrow recorded. No archaeological features or artefacts.
- 10.34 **Glinton to Werrington Bypass (TF 159038-TF 154053) AFU Report 111. Ken Welsh, for the CCC Transportation Department**
Desktop and field evaluation, including geophysical survey. Although limited archaeological evidence was recorded in the SMR, strikingly little was identified in most of the area. Archaeological features were found in Field 1 and 2. The latter relate to a Romano-British settlement and comprise a possible crop-processing area, gravel surface, ditches and post-holes.
- 10.35 **Godmanchester, Sweetings Road (TL 247697) AFU Report forthcoming. Niall Oakey, for Galliford Sears Homes, Ltd.**
A survey of the earthworks of a medieval or post-medieval field system was undertaken before eight sample trenches were dug. Between seven and nine ditches were located, but although they pre-dated the field system, they could not be closely dated. A small concentration of redeposited artefacts may indicate a focus of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age activity.
- 10.36 **Great Gransden, 26/28 Church Street (TL 234557) AFU Report A44. Malin Holst, for Connolly Homes PLC**
No archaeological remains.
- 10.37 **Haddon, Toon's Lodge (TL 147932) AFU Report A59. Erika Guttmann, for CCC Transportation Department.**
No archaeological remains.
- 10.38 **Hemingford Grey, Long Lane (TL 293702) BUFAU: Richard Cutter for Beazer Homes (Central)**
A small quantity of worked flint artefacts was recovered from the ploughsoil. Some of the undated ditched features identified correspond with a cropmark field system recorded in the extreme east of the proposed development area. The majority of the remaining features may

be dated to the post-medieval period. Much of the proposed development zone contained traces of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing.

- 10.39 **Hinxton Hall, Anglo-Saxon Estate Centre.** AFU: Stephanie Leith, Paul Spoerry and external specialists on behalf of Wellcome Trust.

Excavation completed, April 1994. Post-excavation analysis continues. A preliminary assessment of the Saxon and medieval pottery gives a date range from the sixth to the early thirteenth century. This assemblage is particularly important to the understanding of regional pottery typologies, as it could provide a continuous sequence from the Middle Saxon through to the early medieval period. An assessment of the macrobotanical remains has indicated that the site has great potential with regard to information about diet and the local environment. Most of the material is derived from the deposition of general refuse including dietary residues, however, seeds of flax and hemp may also indicate 'industrial' activities on the site. Further post-excavation analysis will include the study of animal bones, building materials, and other artefact types, as well as the absolute dating of some prehistoric deposits.

- 10.40 **Hinxton Hall Earthwork Survey,** (TL 496445) AFU Report A55. Stephanie Leith and Paul Spoerry, for the Wellcome Trust.

(TL 496/445) Part of site investigations for the proposed development of a sports pitch.

The main area of earthworks is comprised of a hollow way, and a series of adjacent rectilinear enclosures and platforms. The hollow way corresponds to a track on the 1799 OS draft 1" map. Documentary evidence suggests occupation in this area in the seventeenth century, although the alignment of the earthworks, which is similar to that of the late Saxon settlement, may suggest a much earlier origin.

- 10.41 **Hinxton Hall: the New Lake Site** (TL 49664466) AFU Report A45. Stephanie Leith, for the Wellcome Trust.

A number of Roman ditches were revealed, including a rectangular enclosure and field boundaries, which date from the first to the fourth centuries. A series of ditches, a possible fenceline, and a chalk wall formed a boundary which was aligned with the Roman enclosure. The origin of this boundary is unknown, but it appears to have existed and been reinforced for a considerable period of time before going out of use at the time of emparkment in the mid-nineteenth century. A continuity of land boundaries from the Roman through to the post-medieval periods is suggested.

- 10.42 **Hinxton, Hinxton Quarry** (TL 48884646) CAU. M. Alexander & R. Mortimer

Following evaluation in the previous year, a late Iron Age cremation cemetery was excavated in advance of gravel extraction. Eight cremation burials, five of which were centrally located within ring-ditches, were recovered. All, including those without encircling ditches, were placed within roughly circular pits and accompanied by one or more complete pots. The pottery is provisionally dated between 50 and 10 BC; three (secondary) inhumations are provisionally assigned to the Roman period.

Excavations were later carried out on a further extension, the central section of the North Field, roughly 3ha in size (TL 487467). Investigations within its eastern section, undertaken in January 1995, identified components of three Romano-British fieldsystems and a few Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits. More recent excavations to the west (post-excavation is still under way) have shown evidence of settlement and occupation from the Early Neolithic through to the Saxo-Norman period. A large assemblage of Early Neolithic flint including a polished flint axe, and pottery from at least six vessels, was contained within a single feature. The Later Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age periods were also represented, albeit only in the form of scattered pits. Three Romano-British enclosures, at the south, east and north of the area surrounded an open 'wasteland' of probable rough pasture. The southern, and most

extensively excavated, enclosure consisted of sub-divided fieldsystems to either side of a broad droveway, the initial phase dating to the 1st or 2nd century AD. Subsequent alterations added further divisions within the fields with some areas quite intensively pitted and probably taken out of agriculture. Storage and gravel pits, and a complex of, presumably structural, postholes and beam slots were found. Although occupation debris was recovered in the backfilling of discrete features, the bulk of any associated settlement must still lie further to the south or west. The fieldsystems probably represent provisioning areas for the Roman fort and town at Great Chesterford to the south. Parts of the system show evidence for continuity of use, with alterations, into the post-Roman period, and perhaps into early medieval times. Saxon occupation of the 7th or 8th century is directly attested to by a lone *Grubenhau*s and a series of pits in the central zone. The northern and eastern enclosures only just extended into the quarry. Perhaps because of their greater distance from the settled area, they produced very little dating evidence. What there was suggests an early Roman date; Saxon material was recovered from the upper fills of gravel pits dug within the northern system.

- 10.43 **Huntingdon, Marshall's Garage**
(TL 24067167) AFU Report 105.
Ken Welsh, for Marshall's Garage.

Three trenches were excavated, all of which revealed a good sequence of archaeological deposits. The earliest of these may date to before the Norman conquest, although this is by no means certain. A gravel surface, perhaps part of a yard, pits, and possible structural evidence were also revealed and appeared to date to the thirteenth or fourteenth century.

The next period of activity was an apparently deliberate raising of the ground surface, perhaps to combat problems of flooding. Large quantities of clay and other material, much of it burnt, were observed in all three trenches and may have been dumped there at the end of the medieval period.

Following this, a cellared building was constructed on the High Street frontage, perhaps around 1500. This building may well be one of the three inns mentioned in a document dating to 1572. It was probably partially demolished in the seventeenth century. Evidence of a seventeenth century building, probably fronting onto Hartford Road, was also recorded. These buildings seem to have survived until the early nineteenth century, when they were demolished to make way for St. Mary's vicarage. Wall footings belonging to the vicarage were seen just beneath the tarmac and gravel surface, the building having been demolished in the 1930s to widen the junction between the High Street and Hartford Road.

The assessment showed widespread survival of medieval and post-medieval deposits, including structures and other occupation evidence. The deliberate dumping of material on the site, probably at the end of the medieval period, means that the earliest levels have only been partially disturbed by later building work. The fact that much of the area remained open during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has further protected the archaeology.

- 10.44 **Huntingdon, Orchard Lane (TL 24257162)** AFU report forthcoming.
Niall Oakey, for English Heritage.

The excavation uncovered a number of pits and other features of the Saxo-Norman period (900-1150 AD), but they had been badly truncated by later activity, including a cemetery. Twenty-three skeletons were recorded, and are possibly burials within the churchyard of St. Clement's. This church, thought to have been located in this area, disappears from documentary records after the later 14th century. The churchyard was no longer used in the 15th or 16th century, at which time quarries were dug to extract clay for brick-making. Although no traces of brick kilns or clamps were found during the excavation, they must have been nearby as the quarries were partially backfilled with badly-fired bricks, and it was apparent that they had been dumped while still hot. After the quarries had been backfilled, the site was used for garden plots and orchards until the later

- 19th century, when it became a builders yard.
- 10.45 **Impington - St Andrews Church** (TL 44806320) CAU. D. Gibson
- An evaluation was conducted within the footprint of the proposed extension to adjoin the existing vestry of the medieval church. The remains of 10 inhumations were identified and recorded; associated artefacts included six sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery. Although residual in its present context, the pottery possibly derives from features disturbed by grave digging. These truncated features could relate to structures associated with the earlier church of St Etheldreda which the present church replaced in the 14th century.
- 10.46 **Little Thetford** (TL 52777625) CAU. K. Gdaniec
- A farmstead dating from late Iron Age and Romano-British periods was discovered sealed beneath well-preserved Medieval ridge and furrow during evaluation investigations. Numerous ditches, some re-cut several times, contained large bone assemblages. Two distinct alignments of enclosure were recorded. It is not yet clear whether the settlement was merely restructured during the Romano-British period or was total re-modelled during the later first century AD. Detailed excavation is due to begin in July 1995.
- 10.47 **Mepal, Block Fen** (TL 433834). Tempus Reparatum. M Coxan
- Five Bronze Age ring-ditches were located. Presentation of their mounds was poor. Radiocarbon testing confirmed Bronze Age dates of the barrows, and late Bronze Age for subsequent waterlogging of their infilled ditches.
- 10.48 **Milton** (TL 465625) AFU Report 104. Tim Reynolds, for East Waste Ltd.
- Preliminary visits identified Romano-British ditches rich in pottery, and resulted in the discovery of pond deposits also containing a significant quantity of Romano-British material. These findings prompted a rescue project working from day to day over the period of a week, during which time evidence for the presence of a Roman villa nearby was recovered, together with five main phases of Roman activity.
- In the second stage a complex of late Iron Age and Romano-British features was discovered, which included the remains of three round houses, a mortuary enclosure with four possible cremations, numerous pits, postholes and ditches. Analysis of environmental samples has produced preserved seeds, molluscs, beetles and waterlogged wood. Faunal preservation is also notable, with many complete long bones being recovered from ditch fills. Pollen samples were also taken.
- 10.49 **Needingworth, Ashton Close, 1995** (TL 34607176) AFU Report A57. Richard Heawood, for Andrew S. Campbell Associates.
- No archaeological remains.
- 10.50 **Needingworth Bypass**, (TL 32733373) AFU Report 99. Duncan Schlee, for CCC Transportation Department.
- Excavation was concentrated to the south of a known cropmark complex (SMR 08275) to ascertain whether these features continued into the line of the bypass. It was confirmed that there were features within the road corridor, masked beneath a layer of colluvium which had derived from the slope to the north. These include two possible linear boundary ditches and a portion of a circular or polygonal palisade ditched enclosure with associated postholes and linear features. Burnt features predating the palisade ditch suggest possible Romano-British industrial activity, while artefactual and environmental evidence suggest domestic activity. The excavated features seem likely to be associated with the features visible as cropmarks to the north, a Romano-British villa/farmstead, though no direct link between them was recovered.
- 10.51 **Needingworth - Silver Lane** (TL 345722) CAU. D. Gibson
- The principle features uncovered were strip-quarries dating from the 14-16th

centuries and post-medieval ditches. Whilst the recovery of 1st Century AD pottery attests to a Late Belgic/Early Roman presence within the vicinity, no contemporary structural evidence was found.

- 10.52 **Oakington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery** (TL 416646) AFU report forthcoming. Stephen Macaulay, for South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Excavations in advance of construction work for recreation equipment revealed part of a 6th century Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Twenty-seven skeletons were found, of which five were male, 8 female and 9 children. Almost all, including the children, were accompanied by some grave goods, including beads (65 amber, 11 glass, 2 'silver in-glass'), brooches (5 annular, 1 applied, 4 cruciform, 1 disc, 8 small-long, 1 great square-headed), 11 knives, 1 spear, 2 shield-bosses, 1 ivory bag-ring, 3 buckles, 3 keys, 4 pins, 1 pair of tweezers, 4 pairs of wrist-clasps, 1 spindle-whorl and 5 pots (near complete or large sherds). Two also had sheep bones as grave goods. Conservation of these artefacts is almost complete.

- 10.53 **Pampisford - Bourn Bridge** (TL 517495) CAU. J. Pollard

Excavations revealed evidence for intermittent settlement and ceremonial activity from the Mesolithic to the early Saxon period.

The area was traversed by several marl-filled palaeochannels of Pleistocene date. The earliest indications of human activity were provided occasional pieces of Mesolithic flintwork (including microliths and a tranchet axe). A low-level scatter of worked flint and pits containing charcoal-rich soil and burnt flint are indicative of episodes of short duration settlement during the 4th - 2nd millennia BC. Associated with one of these episodes of occupation was a small circular ditched monument (c. 9m in diameter), with radial external pits, post-settings within the ditch, and a sunken central area with a post-pit containing a secondary cremation. Another cremation came from a pit within 15m of the monument. Rusticated Beaker was found in a substantial external posthole, and sherds of later Bronze Age urn, animal bone and large quantities of flint debitage

came from the ditch and pits. A Middle or Late Bronze Age date seems likely. Few analogies are evident for this monument, which seems more closely linked with the kind of ceremonial activity normally associated with henges/hengiforms of the later Neolithic than Bronze Age funerary monuments.

Roman activity is represented by the ditches of rectilinear fields and a riverside droveway. Set within the (then abandoned?) fieldsystem were seven early Saxon sunken-featured buildings, six of which were clustered on a terrace c. 50m to the south of the river. Substantial quantities of bone, pottery, baked clay and other artefactual material were recovered from their 'midden' fills. It is unlikely that all were directly contemporary. Individual structures were evidently replaced upon going out of use and served a secondary function as refuse pits for rubbish generated within the new building(s). Though searched for, no post-built 'halls' were located. The *Grubenhauser* probably represent a shifting farmstead occupied by a single household unit. Taken in conjunction with the results of work at Hinxton Hall and Hinxton Quarry (Taylor and Evans 1994: 164, 170), the site adds to increasing evidence for extensive early Saxon settlement on the gravel terraces of the southern Cambridgeshire downlands.

Taylor, A., and Evans, C. 1994. Field-Work in Cambridgeshire: January 1993 - September 1993. *PCAS* 82: 163-71.

- 10.54 **Parson Drove, Swan Bridge**. (TF 365 084) CAU. R. Mortimer

The principal aim of an evaluation, carried out on a small plot of land on the outskirts of the village prior to a housing development, was to verify the presence of a putative Romano-British droveway identified by aerial photography. The droveway links extensive fieldsystems in the northwest to settlement areas on a broad roddon to the southeast. The two droveway ditches, along with a medieval or post-medieval drainage ditch were located and excavated. The droveway, aligned northwest-southeast, and six metres wide, had an entrance on its northern side but no associated field boundaries or settlement features were identified. Although no direct dating evidence was recovered, the droveway has been assigned to the Roman period

- by its association with the surrounding typically Romano-British cropmarks and its relationship to the fen silts.
- 10.55 **Peterborough, Bourges Boulevard (TL 18509956).** Cotswold Archaeological Trust. Alan Thomas for McDonalds Restaurants
- One trench was excavated to a depth of 2 m: only modern deposits, probably to be associated with old railway sidings, were found. In the other trench natural gravel was cut by two ditches, one aligned north-south, the other north-west to south-east. No dating evidence was recovered, although given the proximity to a previously located Romano-British settlement a similar date seems likely.
- 10.56 **Peterborough, Long Causeway (TL 193988).** BUFA. Alex Jones for Milford Estates
- The area excavated included part of the street frontage, the backplot area, and part of the western walled boundary of the monastic precinct. The earliest features, including rubbish-pits, post-holes and a broad, flat-based ditch, aligned parallel with the modern street, belong to the early medieval period, and pre-date the construction of stone-footed buildings along the street frontage. In the later medieval period, property boundaries were defined and stone-footed structures were constructed, partly overlying the now largely infilled medieval ditch. Further structures were constructed on the street frontage in the post-medieval period, often re-using medieval wall-footings, and the ditch was re-cut to the east of its former position. The walled boundary of the monastic precinct was also demolished.
- 10.57 **Peterborough, Marshalls Garage (TL 210988).** BUFAU: Richard Cutter for Lawson Price (Environmental)
- One trench contained a concentration of post-holes, gullies and pits. The features contained flint artefacts, including a blade which may be dated to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. As isolated features, little regarding their function and nature can be determined, although the results of this small-scale trenching are significant in providing
- evidence for further activity or settlement near to Fengate.
- 10.58 **Peterborough, Stanground, Park Farm (TL 217694).** Northamptonshire Archaeology for Henry H Bletsoe and Son
- Evaluation of approximately 29 ha of agricultural land, comprising assessment of air photographs, geophysical scanning, test-pitting and more extensive trial excavation, revealed the continuation of boundary ditches from an adjacent Roman site ('Stanground 3') with separate Roman field ditches and an associated fence-line towards Horsey Bridge. Pottery finds are dateable to the second century AD but there was no clear evidence of contemporary settlement.
- Other remains related to a simple pattern of later agriculture, and included the poorly preserved traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation together with subsequent bank-and-ditch boundaries.
- 10.59 **Peterborough, The Still (TL 19109880)** AFU Report 101. Ken Welsh, for Norwich Union.
- The site is close to the medieval core of Peterborough, and lies behind the street frontages of Westgate and Cumbergate. Initial historical research indicated that the area consisted of orchards and gardens in the post-medieval period, but specific references to Cumbergate were rare. The assessment revealed, in the courtyard of The Still, a series of intercutting rubbish pits, containing pottery dating to the twelfth-fourteenth centuries. In the northern part of the site, behind the Westgate frontage, a large quarry pit was found. It contained pottery indicating that it was filled in the mid-late thirteenth century. Further medieval features had been dug into the top of this pit and date to the mid thirteenth-early fourteenth centuries. A stone-lined cesspit, probably in use during the fifteenth century, was also recorded.
- Further deposits, recorded across the site, seem to confirm that the area was then given over to gardens and orchards. This situation persisted (although apparently as formal gardens in the nineteenth

century) until the early years of this century when the adjacent shopping arcade was built. Further excavations took place between January and May 1995.

10.60 **St. Ives - Meadow Lane (TL 32907060)**
CAU. J. Pollard

The area lies on the 1st - 2nd terrace of the River Great Ouse; and was bisected by two palaeochannel systems (ultimately of Pleistocene origin), probably former courses of the Ouse. Because of the 'wet' nature of the site it has been part of a marginal landscape throughout its history. This was reflected in the character of the archaeology: boundary and settlement-edge features of later prehistoric and Roman date sealed under deep alluvial deposits. These were probably associated with a later Iron Age - Roman farmstead known from salvage excavations during the 1950s on high gravels to the west of the site.

Context for a low density scatter of later Neolithic flintwork across the dry margins of the site was provided by a deposit of burnt material, bone (including a bear claw) and flint in the fill of the west palaeochannel. This is considered to represent short-lived task-specific activity rather than settlement.

The west channel provided a natural boundary, the social appropriation of which becomes archaeologically visible with the digging of two pit alignments during the early - mid 1st millennium BC. Both ran parallel with the western edge of the channel for a distance of over 110m. Rather than forming a double system, differences in specific alignment and the morphology of pits (one set rectangular, the other round) indicate they were successive. Due to its location on the channel edge, the eastern alignment was waterlogged, demonstrating it was covered by floodwater over much of the year. The pits produced a rich assemblage of environmental remains and worked wood (sharpened roundwood, split lengths and hedge trimming debris). Neither alignment could have served as an effective physical barrier.

Redefinition of this boundary during the late 1st millennium BC and into the Roman period is seen in successive ditches upon the same line, providing evidence for prolonged landscape continuity. Settlement-related features, including pits, gullies and a well

preserved midden, can be linked to a dry phase during the 1st - 2nd centuries AD. Following a pattern seen in floodplain sites elsewhere in the region, conditions became wetter during the later Roman period, resulting in renewed alluviation.

An exceptionally fine Penard phase bronze spearhead was found by a member of the quarry staff in a field to the south of the excavation. Trial trenching around the findspot revealed only lake deposits of early Holocene date. Though the specific context is ambiguous, the spearhead clearly comprised a votive deposit.

10.61 **St Neots, St Marys Street (TL 184600)**
BUFAU. Alex Jones for Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association

The deposits and features recorded belonged to three phases. The first phase includes the river terrace sands and gravels deposited along a tributary of the River Great Ouse. The second phase includes the earliest episodes of alluviation, a possible marsh deposit, and limited evidence for medieval activity to the rear of the street frontage. In the third phase, datable to the 17th century, buildings were laid out along the street frontage, and the backplot area was used for small-scale industry, in particular, tanning.

10.62 **Sawston High Street, 'The Spike' (TL 489487)** AFU Report A54. Tim Sutherland, for McLean Homes East Anglia Ltd.

No archaeological remains.

10.63 **Sawtry, RB Settlement East of Tort Hill (TL174845)** AFU Report A60. Judith Roberts, for Anglian Water Services.

A number of ditches and postholes were identified along the length of the easement. Sections were excavated through many of the ditches, which contained variable quantities of Roman pottery, a few fragments of Late Iron Age pottery, iron objects and metal slag, coins and other domestic refuse. Several small cobbled areas at the northern end of the easement were cleaned and planned. A

large cobbled area to the south was partially excavated, was found to spread over an east-west running ditch and contained several iron nails and more substantial pieces of iron (including a possible Roman horse shoe - identification to be confirmed) together with pottery fragments and a coin. Two ovens or hearths were identified towards the southern end of the easement. One was fully excavated, the other was partially under the eastern baulk and could not easily be excavated in the time available. The ditches are suggestive of property boundaries extending eastwards from the road.

The assessment complements the previous work to the west of the easement and indicates that the settlement was a ribbon development along the Roman road. The economy of the settlement appears to be primarily based on agriculture with small scale subsidiary activities.

- 10.64 **Sawtry, Tort Hill** (TL 17208460 and TL 17208485). AFU Report 103. Ken Welsh, for the CCC Transportation Department.

On the west side of the A1 (centred on TL 17208460), a small ditched enclosure and various pits and ditches were revealed, probably representing a farmstead. Pottery from some of these features indicate that settlement initially occurred in the period immediately before the Roman invasion of Britain in the first century AD, and possibly continued well into the Roman period.

To the east of the A1 (centred on TL 17208485), a large number of pits, ditches, and other features were recorded. These produced a large quantity of mainly second to fourth century Roman pottery, as well as iron objects, coins, and other domestic refuse. These deposits probably represent a peripheral area of a Roman roadside settlement, where activities such as rubbish disposal, and perhaps small scale industrial processing, took place.

- 10.65 **The Stukeleys, Huntingdon Racecourse** (TL 20007230) AFU, report forthcoming. Stephen Macaulay, for Tarmac Roadstone Ltd.

Stage One: Work revealed that there had been extensive prehistoric tree clearance, with over 300 potential tree holes identified, of which 15% were tested and sampled. Many showed signs of burning. Two palaeochannels were identified, one of which pre-dated the tree clearance on site: radiocarbon samples have been taken from this feature. Human activity on the site is represented by artefacts dating from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Mesolithic/early Neolithic.

Stage Two: a large, double palisaded enclosure and a rectilinear ditched enclosure were revealed. These have been dated to the Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. Excavated features around the palisaded enclosure produced worked flint tools, late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pottery and a very small bone assemblage. Evidence for structures within the enclosures was scant, but the severe truncation of the entire site suggests that such evidence may have been removed. A further stage of excavation is scheduled for the summer of 1995.

- 10.66 **Thorney By-Pass: An Archaeological Desktop Study** (TF 277043 - TF 351044) Report A47. AFU: Tim Reynolds for the CCC Transportation Dept.

The area has been researched by the Fenland Project, and a rich prehistoric and Romano-British landscape has been identified. The immediate route of the new road however, is less well documented and, with the notable exception of a Bronze Age burial mound, mapped examples of archaeological remains along it are rare. A phased investigation is recommended, beginning with known resources, and moving to geophysical survey, fieldwalking, testpitting and evaluation trenching.

- 10.67 **Thorney, Dog-in-a-Doublet** (TL 2746 9947) AFU Report 106. Ken Welsh, for the CCC Transportation Department.

The assessment revealed the original road, constructed on a causeway to raise it above the surrounding peat as it approached the bridge. A sub-structure of wooden planking and uprights formed

the foundation of the causeway, with layers of re-deposited peat, silt and gravel being used to build up the road. Finally, the road was surfaced with limestone cobbles. Pottery, clay tobacco pipes, and glass bottles, found within the road structure, date its construction to the first part of the eighteenth century. It remained in use until the present bridge over the Nene was built in 1932.

- 10.68 **Tydd St Giles, Cardyke Field** (TL 434166). Wessex Archaeology
Phil Andrews for Tydd St Giles Golf and Leisure Complex Ltd.

Although two mid Saxon (7th - 9th century) sites have recently been discovered nearby, a few hundred metres to the north-west, no mid Saxon material was found during the 1995 evaluation. The earliest pottery recovered from the evaluation has been ascribed a 13th-14th century date, though this was from an unstratified context. The bulk of the remainder probably belongs to the 14th-15th centuries.

A shallow ditch or gully was identified in Trench 1 and was interpreted as possibly marking a plot or property boundary, probably one of a scatter of medieval/late medieval features associated with settlement alongside the medieval drove later to become Kirkgate. A single post-hole in Trench 4 was the only possible structural feature found but this remained undated. Two pits were revealed towards the north end of Trench 4 and were given a 14th - 15th century date. Both might have been cess pits, their upper fills containing varying quantities of domestic debris including pottery, animal bone, and shell, along with some structural material comprising fragments of brick, burnt clay or daub. Three ditches in Trench 2 & 6 were perhaps surviving field boundaries from when the whole area of medieval dryland appears to have been divided into strip fields. Unfortunately, none of the ditches produced any dating evidence.

- 10.69 **Upton, South Farm** (TL 18417896)
AFU Report A62. Tim Sutherland, for the CCC Transportation Department.

Trenches were placed in to assess the continuation of Roman settlement

remains from Monk's wood, Sawtry, into the widening corridor. The majority of the exposed archaeological features proved to be eighteenth century land drains, although the presence of two Roman ditches indicates the continuation of the Roman field system into this area.

- 10.70 **Wandlebury Hillfort** (TL 49405340)
CAU. C. French & K. Gdaniec

Permission was granted by the Cambridge Preservation Trust and English Heritage for a programme of survey, geophysical prospection and excavation as a student training exercise, co-ordinated by the Department of Archaeology, Cambridge. This had two main aims: non-intrusive survey within the interior of the hillfort and investigation of possible remains outside to the rampart. The excavations conclusively demonstrated Iron Age settlement features occurring on the hill-top outside the eastern circuit. Great quantities of bone, pottery and environmental remains were recovered from ditches, gullies, postholes and large under-cut storage pits, and confirmed extensive occupation of the hill crest. Mesolithic to Bronze Age flint, Neolithic polished flint axe fragments and Beaker pottery indicated that this area had also been the focus of earlier prehistoric activity of, as yet, unknown form and extent.

- 10.71 **Waterbeach, Car Dyke** (TL 49406500)
AFU Report 98. Stephen Macaulay and Tim Reynolds, for English Heritage.

The excavated profile indicates that the Car Dyke (or Old Tillage) was re-cut, possibly in the 17th century, as a drainage ditch or catch-water and this has resulted in the upper layers of the Dyke being removed, leaving only the truncated base of the Roman canal. Despite locating secure Romano-British deposits the original purpose of the Dyke, drainage or transport (or both), could not be established. Finally, excavation revealed the remains of the original land surface to the west of the Dyke and showed that little remained of the original bank due to ploughing.

- 10.72 **West Wrattling, High Street Farm** (TL 60655200) AFU Report A47. Tim Sutherland, for Redoak Frames Ltd.

Foundation trenches revealed a brick floor, from the 18th or 19th century, and a steep sided, 1m deep ditch which ran approximately north-east/south-west across the site. Pottery within the ditch suggests that it was open in the later medieval period and remained open until relatively recently when the upper part of it was used as a route for a 1 inch in diameter steel water pipe. Both the ditch (part of an older field boundary), and a structure in the position of the recorded floor can be identified on 19th century maps. No other significant features were found.

- 10.73 **West Wrattling, High Street Farm Phase II** (TL 60665200) AFU Report A47. Tim Sutherland, for J & J Alderton Ltd.

Trenches 1.8m deep, 0.6m wide, covered the area of the ground plan of the house. Several features were encountered, including a 0.2m wide by 0.2m tall brick lined drain, a coursed and mortared pile of bricks, and a row of several loose bricks. A small pit, bisected by one trench was seen to contain a lens of cinders in its fill. A large channel-like feature, which was truncated by several of the trenches, appeared to run in a north-south direction and contained a very wet, silty fill resembling that of a pond; possibly that which stood close by until it was filled in 1994. No dating evidence was discovered in association with any of the features, although all the bricks on the site appeared to date from the 18th or early 19th century.

- 10.74 **Whittlesey, Kings Dyke Quarry** (TL 245980) CAU. R. Mortimer

A programme of rescue excavation and evaluation was undertaken across a 3ha field prior to clay extraction. Lying at the western tip of the gravel island of Whittlesey to the east of Peterborough, a small Romano-British settlement lies on western fen-edge and the Fen Causeway traverses the island from west to east, its supposed route lying within the southern part of the site, on the line of a current farm track. Excavation, abetted by

documentary evidence, indicates that the track must relate to the Enclosures of the 1840s and that the line of the Roman Road lies elsewhere, probably to the south. The next evaluation phase, across the settlement area, should provide evidence for the road's Fen-to-island landing and its likely route thereafter. The excavations revealed the probable eastern boundary ditch of the settlement's surrounding fieldsystem, with paddocks or watermeadows to the west. Without the ditch lay an open, higher, area used extensively for gravel extraction, probably allied to the construction of the raised bank of the Fen Causeway. Parts of a second fieldsystem were recorded in the southeast of the area, the bulk of which has long since been lost to modern quarrying. There was little evidence for medieval land-use, the area being a part of the open-fieldsystem, no ridge and furrow was identified; the later, post-medieval, ditches relating either to drainage or the 19th century Enclosure.

- 10.75 **Wimpole, The Old Rectory, Wimpole Hall** (TL 332512) CAU. C. Eden

Evaluation demonstrated a high level of modern disturbance caused by the installation of services. It also, however, revealed the surviving internal wall foundations of an earlier (possibly 18th century) structure associated with the Rectory exhibited evidence of the re-use of building stone.

- 10.76 **Wisbech, Cromwell Road** (TF 450077) AFU Report A66. Steve Kemp, for Maxey & Son.

Trenching exposed a series of drainage ditches over 2.2m in width which lay beneath low topographic features aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. These land divisions are known as darlands and are associated with medieval arable cultivation in the reclaimed siltlands. Periodic re-excavation of these ditches had limited the potential for the survival of secure deposits relating to ditch construction and initial infilling, but sherds of 17-18th century pottery were retrieved from the upper fills of one of the ditches provide an approximate date for the abandonment of the system.

Sediments within the darland ditches indicate a gradual infilling with organic and non-organic sediments, with intermittent flooding depositing fine grain alluvial sediments. The ditches were recut following episodes of flooding, indicating the continuing maintenance of the drainage and agricultural system, though the ditches were re-cut much smaller in their final form.

- 10.77 **Yaxley (TL 17649189) AFU report** forthcoming. Ken Welsh, for Stuart Long, Architect.

No archaeological remains.

- 10.78 **Yaxley, Norman Cross prisoner of War Camp (TL 161910) AFU Report A53.** Steve Kemp, for Anglian Water Services Ltd.

Trenching disturbed an area of ridge and furrow outside the main camp. Documentary research has revealed a series of complex landuse changes in this area during the late medieval and post-medieval periods. The Prisoner of War camp was constructed over these and the land reverted to pasture following the end of the Napoleonic wars. From the SMR burials associated with the camp were expected but no traces were recovered. Documentary research indicates that a number of cemeteries exist within the camp, with an external cemetery close to Venetian Lodge. Until very recently the site was overlooked by 'the Monument', a bronze eagle perched on a column, erected in 1916 to commemorate the French prisoners who died at the camp.

- 10.79 **Archaeology of the A1 between Alconbury and Fletton Parkway. Desk Top Study.** (TL 19157400-14259420) AFU Report 112. Steve Kemp and Tim Reynolds, for CCC Transportation Department.

This report provides a brief description of the general archaeological background, a summary of the work carried out so far and a landscape use model for archaeological interpretation which will be used to define constraint areas where further archaeological works

are advised. Four forms of constraint area are defined: Scheduled Ancient Monuments (three), Sites of Regional Importance (two), Sites of Potential Importance (four) and Sites of Low Archaeological Priority (two).

The criteria imposed limit an effective landscape based assessment (to concentrate solely on a narrow corridor defined by the widening scheme itself, to base investigation on "known" sites) i.e. SMR and to avoid pursuing research and academic factors.. The broader context of the road and its archaeology must be addressed in future synthetic work, adjacent stretches of the road. A bibliography is supplied as part of the report, not merely to provide references for the present report, but as source material for future archaeological work.

- 10.80 **Burwell to Eriswell overhead electricity cable. Desktop Study.** Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust for ADAS, on behalf of Eastern Electricity. (TL 57906720 to TL 65307280).

While only one site, a probable Roman villa at Block Farm, near Soham, is located directly on the proposed route, the assessment highlighted a number of sites and findspots located within the study corridor (9.5km x 1km), ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Anglo-Saxon period. Apart from the villa, the prehistoric landscape of Fordham Moor was identified as being of particular interest.

- 10.81 **Cambridgeshire Dykes.** AFU: Tim Malim, Ken Penn, Ben Robinson, Ken Welsh, and external specialists on behalf of English Heritage.

A programme of post-excavation analysis (for publication in *PCAS*), synthesizing the results of various excavations: Devils Dyke ditch (Cambridge Water Company pipeline, 1991), Fleam Dyke (1991/2), Brent Ditch (1992) and Worstead Street Roman Road (1991), (EH in advance of A11 improvement research, Bran Ditch (EH research excavation, 1993).

Iron Age and Romano-British pottery was found within the bank at Bran Ditch, and Romano-British pottery on the buried surface beneath Fleam Dyke. A

(probable) late 4th century roman coin was found in the marker bank for the initial construction of Fleam Dyke. Late 2nd century coins in an un-worn condition were found in the basal fills of Brent Ditch, as was a human pelvis, carbon-dated to the 1st or 2nd century BC (perhaps suggesting surface residuality and subsequent incorporation into the ditch or displacement from a feature cut by the ditch).

The palaeoenvironmental reports have indicated that the monuments, at least at their north ends and mid sections (where the sections were cut), were constructed in grazed grasslands.

Stratigraphically Fleam Dyke was shown to be the most complex of the earthworks with 3 (or 4) phases of construction assigned to the bank, and at least 3 phases of ditch excavation. Carbon-dating has demonstrated a commensurate longevity of maintenance. Seven dates submitted from the three main episodes of bank construction and the first of the three phases of ditch construction and infilling established that the monument was first built between cal AD 330-510 (92% confidence) and that the last phase was constructed cal AD 450-620 (95% confidence). The last major episode of maintenance took place between cal AD 490-700 (94% confidence).

It seems, therefore, that the monument originated in the late Roman or early Anglo-Saxon period and was actively maintained for the next 130 - 340 years. Fleam Dyke is one of the very few remaining impressive structures dating to the period between the end of Roman rule and the establishment of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The results outlined here, deriving from the first scientific dating of any of the Dykes, have major implications for our interpretation of all of the earthworks and the part they played in the development of post-Roman East Anglia.

- 10.82 **Pipeline: Bluntisham Water Tower to Earith Road, Colne (TL373753 and TL378755) AFU Report A49.** Judith Roberts, for Cambridge Water Company.

The watching brief revealed very few *in situ* archaeological remains but two

Palaeolithic stone tools were retrieved from gravels removed from the pipe trench to the east of Colne Road, Bluntisham. To the west of the road prehistoric pottery was noted from a possible pit. Colne-type medieval and post-medieval pottery, which probably derived from manuring activities, was also found.

- 10.83 **Pipeline: Bourn Reservoir to Hardwick Pipeline: Archaeology at Childerley Gate (TL 354598) AFU Report A50.** Steve Kemp, for Cambridge Water Company.

During the course of this work a single ditch was part excavated and recorded. Its location running in to the north-western corner of the moat surrounding Childerley Lodge, suggests a medieval or post-medieval date. The ditch probably drained the surrounding farmland and supplied water to the moat.

- 10.84 **Pipeline: Peterborough South Trunk Main: Archaeology at Haddon Lodge, (TL135944) AFU Report A51.** Steve Kemp, for Anglian Water Services Ltd.

No archaeology was encountered during this monitoring although the SMR the presence of a Romano-British farmstead close to the easement.

- 10.85 **Pipeline: Grafham to Sapley Reinforcement - Phase II, 1995, (TL 16116625 - 16756617) AFU Report A52.** Judith Roberts, for Anglian Water Services Ltd.

No archaeological features were recorded.

- 10.86 **The Snail Valley (TL 62257355) CAU.** K. Gdaniec

English Heritage funded a programme of fieldwalking and test-pitting to enhance the data recovered from the Isleham-Ely Pipeline around the Snail palaeochannel. The preliminary results show highly variable densities of material across the area suggestive of a palimpsest of sites dating from the early Neolithic to middle Bronze Age.

10.87 **St Neots to Duxford Gas Pipeline:**
I P Brooks and J Price for British Gas

The pre-construction survey, largely a fieldwalking programme backed up by magnetic scanning and detailed magnetometer surveys, discovered a number of archaeological sites. Discussions with British Gas led to the development of a mitigation strategy involving some local re-routing of the pipeline and the excavation of key sites in advance of construction. A total of eight sites were located, seven of which were in Cambridgeshire. Work on the post excavation analysis continues, also funded by British Gas PLC.

The archaeology of the pipeline is summarised below.

Croydon (TL287522). A section of later 4th century AD field system was recorded as part of the watching-brief. The small section revealed by the pipeline suggested a rectilinear plan for the field system.

Duxford (TL 477444): A concentration of pottery noted in the fieldwalking led to a magnetometer survey and re-alignment of the pipeline to avoid major concentrations of archaeological activity.

The site consisted of a rectilinear field-system of Middle Iron Age date with associated pits (including two beehived pits) and a range of post-holes. Unfortunately no structures could be determined.

Foxton (TL 400484 to TL 402479) : Magnetometer survey and excavation. A multi-period site with the main activity spreading between the Middle Iron Age and the 5th century AD. A limited amount of earlier activity was also noted in the form of Early Neolithic flint assemblages from three small pits. The earlier phases included a circular gully, c.10 m in diameter, together with a series of possible post-built circular structure. A rectilinear enclosure measuring 7m x 6m may have had ritual significance and is similar to features recorded at

Danebury and elsewhere (Cunliffe 1984, 84 - 87).

Roman activity would appear to begin very early with Claudian pottery recorded from a few features. A large, early, ditch crossing the site with a marked slot in its base may suggest a military presence. Other Roman features include a rectilinear post-built structure, field-systems and a chalk-built structure. This was a building, approximately 3m square, with a flue along one edge and the back wall. The flue continued outside the building in the form of a baked clay tunnel. The whole structure sat on a prepared platform (11 x 5 m) of rammed chalk. The presence of burnt grain within the flue would suggest this structure may have been a "corn dryer".

A 4th century AD hoard of some 108 iron, copper alloy and lead objects was found. These included a farrier's butteris, awls, a steelyard, saws, nave bindings, bucket fitting, keys, pruning hooks, binding strips, hipposandel fragment, an iron bell, shackles, coulter tip, scythe blade and knives.

Part of a cemetery was also excavated. This had two clear phases with an earlier, deeper set of graves aligned east-west and a later, shallower, set aligned north-south. The earlier phase included a grave with a lead-lined coffin and appear to date from the 4th century AD. A total of 24 graves were excavated.

Post-medieval activity on the site appears to have been associated with coprolite extraction. A sleeper beam building was recorded together with a series of large, irregular pits and several wells.

Foxton (TL 405478 to TL 414477): The watching-brief recorded a series of seven ditches and three pits in the pipe-trench, over a 90m section of the pipeline. No dating evidence was recovered from these features.

Fowlmere (TL 425468). The watching-brief revealed a series of six ditches and five pits intersecting with the pipe-trench over a 120 m length of the pipeline. Pottery from these features would suggest two phases of activity, one between c.

AD 60 - 110 and the other in the 5th century AD.

Shepreth (TL 399485). The site was located after initial topsoiling. British Gas reorganised the working method for this area of the pipeline to minimise the damage to the archaeological features.

The site consisted of a double-ditched enclosure, containing two shallow pits and a series of small post-holes. The small area disturbed by pipeline activities did not allow for any structures to be determined. The ditch defined the edge of a slight gravel knoll adjacent to what appears to be small, infilled, lake. Five linear features leading into the possible lake deposits were also sampled. Most of the features contained fills with a high organic content. Unfortunately little or nor artefactual dating evidence was recovered.

A peat sequence up to 1.1 m thick was also sampled to provide an environmental background for this site and the adjacent site at Foxton (below).

Wimpole (TL 343495). Sample excavation after location through fieldwalking. The site consisted of at least three circular gullies, 12 - 13 m in diameter, together with a rectilinear enclosure 19 m x 21 m. A large multiply-recut ditch was also sampled. Environmental samples from the latter suggest that this feature may have contained standing water for much of the year. Pottery recovered during excavation suggests a date range of 1st century BC to 1st century AD for the site. A fragment of human skull was recovered with a near, circular, trepanned hole. Unfortunately the date of this item is uncertain as it did not come from a secure context.

Cunliffe, B W 1984. *Danebury an Iron Age Hill fort in Hampshire. volume 1 the Excavations 1969-1978: The Site. CBA Research Report 52, London.*

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11.2 The extent to which the preservation of archaeology depends upon land-owners, land-developers and their agents is, we hope, clear from this Report. We hope that the benefit their contributions confer are made more readily comprehensible as a result. On behalf of the public we serve, we offer them our thanks.

11.3 Our role in collecting and co-ordinating information, and the quality of that information, are dependent on the assistance of our archaeologist colleagues, amateur and professional. We are very grateful to them for their support and co-operation, and hope our Service is, in turn, useful to them.

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