



Archaeological Field Unit

An Archaeological Recording Brief at Hill Farm, Waterbeach, Cambridge

J. Roberts

1998

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. B16

Commissioned by Keith Warth & Associates

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**An archaeological recording brief at
Hill Farm, Waterbeach, Cambridge
(TL 495 650)**

Development: Construction of a cesspool and associated drains
Client: Keith Warth & Associates
Location: Hill Farm, Waterbeach
NGR: TL 495 650
Author: Judith Roberts
Date: 9th January 1998

The Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out an archaeological recording brief during the excavation of a pipe trench and cesspool. The archaeological importance of the site is set out in a specification prepared in response to a verbal request from Louise Austin, Development Control Officer for Cambridge County Council, that archaeological recording be carried out on any groundwork below 300mm.

The site was visited by the AFU on the morning of 30th October 1997, once the trench and cesspool had been excavated. The groundworks were inspected, recorded and photographed and the spoil was visually scanned.

The site is adjacent to the Car Dyke Roman canal, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 3), and is considered an archaeologically sensitive area. The underlying geology is Gault Clay.

Summary of results

The cesspool had been dug to a depth of approximately 2.5m. The soil profile consisted of 0.25m of silty ploughsoil overlying 0.4m of sandy subsoil with occasional chalk fragments and very occasional flecks of charcoal. At 0.65m there was a diffuse horizon into a pale yellow/white sandy clay with patches of reddish silty sand, this latter is perhaps a periglacial deposit. No archaeological features were noted and only two small abraded sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the spoil.

The pipe trench had been dug to a depth 0.85m and at a width of 0.3m. At 19.2m along the trench, from the northern end (adjacent to a wooden fence), a 2.5m wide feature was noted. This had a light olive brown soft sandy silt fill. This feature appeared to be a ditch running approximately east-west (obliquely across the trench). A single, very small and abraded, sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of the ditch.

Conclusion

The archaeological investigation did not discover any archaeological remains within the area of the cesspool and a single, undated, ditch was noted in the base of the pipe trench. The investigation suggests that archaeological features are preserved below an overburden of 0.85m. The density of features in this area does not appear to be great but the presence of a preserved feature and the proximity of Car Dyke indicates use of this land during the Roman period.

The site archive will be stored at the offices of the Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council, Fulbourn Community Centre, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn, Cambs. CB1 5HD. Tel (01223) 881614.



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