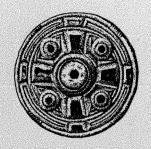
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Archaeological Field Unit

An Archaeological Evaluation at Histon Road Allotments TL445/612

T Reynolds 1994

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No A35

Commissioned By Cambridge City Council

An Archaeological Evaluation at Histon Road Allotments TL445/612

T Reynolds PhD

1994

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Report No A35

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Plans for a housing development by Cambridge City Council on the site of 'Histon Road Allotments' (actually, on Cambridge Road, Impington) at TL 445 612, gave rise to an archaeological evaluation. This need was identified by the County Archaeologist's Office (CAO) of Cambridgeshire County Council, and a brief for the work was prepared by Tony Hurley. The Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council presented a research design involving test pits and trenching in the available allotments. A total of 46 test pits and 7 trenches were dug and a notable lack of surviving archaeology was recorded. Test pits failed to identify any remains. The only significant features found were a series of undated ditches in Trenches I, IV, and VI. All are likely to be drainage ditches associated with the agricultural use of the area which has taken place since at least Roman times.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Cambridge City Council has put forward a proposal for building a residential development on part of the site presently occupied by the Chesterton Allotment Society known as the "Histon Road Allotments" TL 445 612. It should be noted that they are. in fact, in Impington and on Cambridge Road and so have a site code of IMPCR '94. The plan is for a rationalisation of allotments so that some remain within the development site. The proposed development would involve site work including topsoil stripping and foundation digging, all of which could destroy any buried archaeological remains, As a response to the proposed development the CAO requested an archaeological evaluation. The Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook this work between 5th April and 22nd April 1994, using a methodology based on test pits and trenching.

2 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The proposed development for housing will involve topsoil stripping, heavy construction vehicle access, additional road building and foundation digging. In addition to this, service trenches will be needed to supply the new buildings. All this will result in the destruction of features by the machines and will have a major impact on the underlying archaeology.

3 PLANNING POLICIES AFFECTING ARCHAEOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

3.1 National

Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16)

Para. 6. Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction.

Para. 8. Where nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.

Para. 13. If physical preservation in situ is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of 'preservation by record' may be an acceptable alternative. From the

archaeological point of view this should be seen as a second best option.

Para. 25. requires local planning authorities to request a prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation before deciding upon a planning application on any site where important archaeological remains may exist. This evaluation may lead to requirements for preservation of all, or parts, of the site, or for further archaeological work.

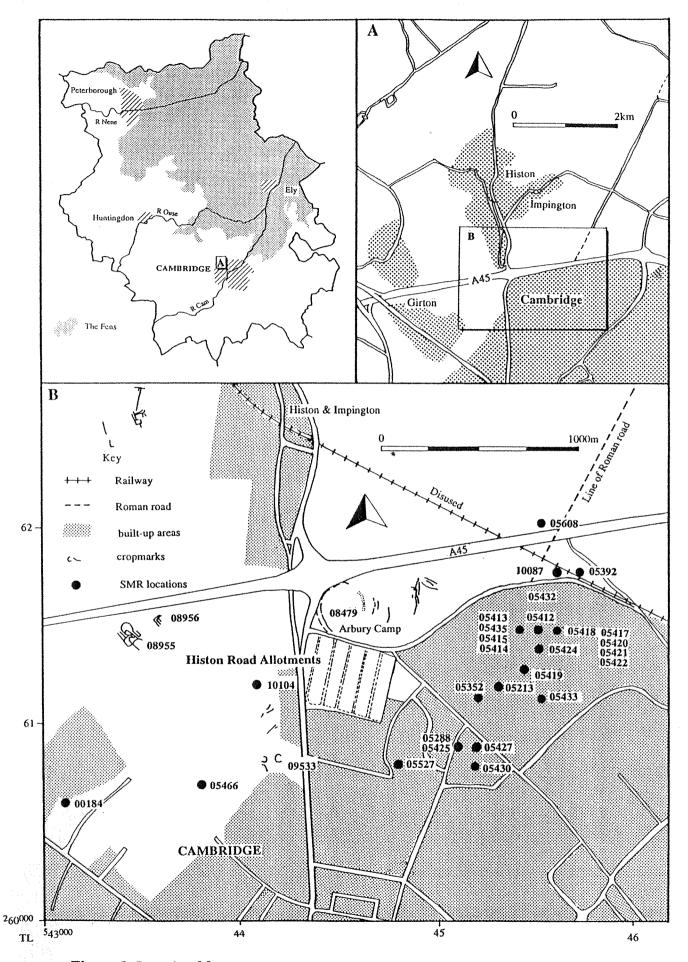


Figure 1 Location Map

3.2 Cambridgeshire County Council Guidelines

Structure Plan

Policy P14/2 'All County road schemes in rural areas will be planned, designed and executed to minimise undesirable effects on the landscape and will incorporate tree planting, landscaping, and creative conservation measures where appropriate'.

Policy P14/12 'The local planning authorities will exercise their powers of development control to preserve scheduled monuments and other important archaeological sites in the County'.

Policy P14/13 'Where there is no overriding case for the preservation of an archaeological site, opportunities will be sought prior to the granting of planning permission, for excavation and recording of the site'.

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section has also produced guidelines for road schemes, specifically:

Phase 1 (Route Selection, Pre-Public Consultation/Planning Application)

Desktop assessment of known archaeological sites.

Assessments of aerial photographs.

Site visits to evaluate condition of known sites.

Fieldwalking of the proposed route.

Landscape historical summary.

Liaison with the DTP planners and engineers.

Recommendations for route alterations avoiding important sites which require preservation - field evaluation may be necessary.

Requirements for further work, where damage to archaeological remains cannot be avoided, in consultation with County Archaeology Office.

Phase 2 (After Route Selection)

Detailed site evaluation - earthwork survey, fieldwalking, trial trenching, geophysical survey.

Recommendations to engineers on known sites of high potential.

Excavation or preservation of newly identified sites of importance.

Sample excavation of other archaeological sites and features.

Post-excavation analysis, conservation of artefacts and publication of results.

Phase 3 (During Construction Work)

Provision for recording brief as necessary during soil stripping operations and construction works.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 General Character

The site is presently occupied by allotments many of which are disused, and so growth of shrubs and small trees breaks up the site. Additionally, there are a number of partly made-up access tracks which weave between the allotments themselves. Hand-powered water pumps are also present, as are a number of unplanned small wells. The site lies between the 10m and 15m contours and is generally flat, with small localised variations in height resulting from allotment works.

4.2 Geology

The underlying geology is 3rd River Terrace Gravels of the Cam catchment system Although characterised as gravels, the upper deposits also comprise silts and marls, all of fluviatile origin. A drain dug through the site revealed a palaeochannel with important evidence for environmental reconstruction using molluscan and pollen data. The second half of the Ipswichian Interglacial is believed to be represented, although this work predates the establishment of the deep sea core sequence and so 'Last Interglacial' might be a better term for these deposits (Sea Core stage 3 rather than 5). The discovery of these deposits has caused the south-western 0.6ha of the allotment site to be designated a Geological Conservation Review site under the Cambridgeshire schedule of English Nature and has the status of an SSSI under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

4.3 Soils

The existing soils over the site are extensively reworked silts with some clay, with an homogenous texture and little apparent structure. Variations over the site occur in the amount of clay and organic content present, both of which probably reflect localised activities of allotment holders.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 General Archaeological Background

The first potential archaeology from the site dates from the Pleistocene, with Palaeolithic campsites a possibility along the palaeochannel identified in the south-western part of The 3rd River Terrace systems of both the Cam and Ouse catchments in Cambridgeshire have produced handaxes in unworn states. Well-preserved fauna of both cold and warm environments are also known. There remains a problem with dating this material however. Traditionally, the site is associated with the pollen and molluscan data from Histon Road and has been taken as a type site for the second part of the Ipswichian Interglacial (128,000 - 118,000 years BP) which has been correlated with the deep sea core stage 5e elsewhere. This attribution to the Ipswichian, however, was made when the Ipswichian was regarded as the Last Interglacial. Oxygen isotope work on deep sea cores now suggests that another Interglacial period exists (Stage 3), possibly c.70,000 years ago. Until this problem of correlating Interglacials between marine and terrestrial evidence is overcome it is best to regard the Cam and Ouse River Terraces as dating to the Ipwichian and/or early Devensian. At present, the nearest cultural remains to the Histon Road site, of this antiquity, are from Milton Pits and the Traveller's Rest site on Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. At both sites a combination of flint flakes and handaxes was found.

There are no recorded finds of the Mesolithic period from the vicinity of the site, and none of Neolithic date. The next earliest prehistoric material in the area is the find of a Bronze Age flint arrowhead from excavations at Arbury in 1975 (SMR No. 05527). There are also circular cropmarks (SMR No. 09533), which may represent Bronze Age burial mounds. A further arrowhead, a scraper and flakes were discovered during excavations at Arbury Camp (Alexander and Trump 1970).

The Iron Age is well-represented in the Histon Road area, particularly by the large ringwork known as Arbury Camp (SMR No. 08479). This is a univallate earthwork which has been investigated by a number of workers, most recently Evans (1991a). It is circular in shape with an internal diameter of c 275m and remains, in part, preserved as a low earthwork. Its western part has been destroyed by the construction of the Cambridge Northern By-pass (A45T). It was originally trenched by Hughes (1904).

Although his results were inconclusive, he suggested a pre-Roman date for the enclosure. This was confirmed by Alexander and Trump (1970) who suggested that the site was disused in the Roman period. The banks investigated were 0.4m high and 6-7.5m wide and it was argued that the site would always have been low and was therefore not military in function (i.e. not a fort). Evans (1991a) tested this hypothesis and showed a two-phased sequence for constructing the bank - an initial timber construction with a small bank around the inside of the ditch, and a subsequent massive clay and gravel bank with a turf stack capping. There was a notable lack of Iron Age material recovered during excavations (with the significant exception of a collection of leather work preserved in waterlogged entranceway ditches). Evans uses this to argue that the camp was not serving a major role as a settlement; it may have had some military function (a substantial watchtower was situated at its eastern entrance,) but seems to have been located on marginal land. No intensive agriculture or settlement lies close by and Evans argues that the camp was more a statement of control in the landscape and suggests that it is linked to a line of such enclosures running south - north from Wandlebury and War Ditches, through Castle Hill, Cambridge and Arbury, to Belsars Hill (1991a:39).

Apart from Arbury Camp, there is little of Iron Age date except for a pair of large ring ditches in Arbury, excavated by Alexander et al. (1966,1968,1969; Alexander and Trump 1970,1974) in the Arbury Road cropmark complex (sites ArVIII and ArX, SMR No. 05415). The trackways and ditches in the same cropmark complex may belong to this period, but are undated. One of the ditches (ArVIII) was c 100 feet in diameter and had a section cut out of it where copper or bronze had been smelted. It is likely that the cropmark ring ditches, referred to as possibly Bronze Age burial mounds earlier (SMR No 09533), belong to the Iron Age.

It is during the Roman period that activity in the area becomes more intense: the presence of the Roman road between Cambridge and Ely (Akeman Street) probably acted as a incentive to ribbon development through the area. By the mid-Roman period the Arbury area was occupied by a number of buildings, both timber and masonry, with their own wells, and a series of ditches which acted both as property boundaries and as drains for the market gardening and farming which would have arisen to service the nearby town in Cambridge. Some of the buildings were substantial. Frend (1955) excavated a four-roomed masonry building with a chalk and tile pavement, and various pits. Close to this was a second century timber-lined well and timber building. The building had burnt down and parts of it had been thrown into the well. Other wattle and daub structures, a kiln and fragments of painted wall plaster also derive from the general area bounded by Mere Way, Arbury Road, Mansel Road, and Fortescue/Humphreys Road. Frend interprets these structures as the barns and outhouses associated with a villa, and dates the complex to between AD 130-400.

In addition to all the buildings, a series of Roman burials are known, mostly dated to the third century. These comprised both cremations (SMR No 05392), and inhumations in wooden and stone coffins (SMR No 05422). Interestingly, a chalk foundation for a small rectangular tomb was found placed over existing buildings, a feature which appears to have a parallel at the ritual enclosures and shrine site on Gallow's Hill, Swaffham Prior (Bray forthcoming).

North of the area of burials, beyond Arbury Road, further evidence for Roman farming and settlement is present, with a Roman villa on the site presently occupied by Kings Hedges School. The villa had tessellated floors, plastered walls and glazed windows (Ette 1991).

Most of the Roman activity lies close to the line of the Roman road, and as the Akeman Street road heads towards Ely activity decreases. The area between Arbury Camp and the new Regional College has been extensively evaluated for archaeology (Ette 1991;

Evans 1991a, 1991b) and very little evidence occurs along the band south of the present A45T and north of Kings Hedges Road. Apart from the Roman road itself, only a few pits, ditches and a collection of pottery (one containing a cremation) are known. The pottery collection dates to the first century AD and so must be amongst the first Roman features along the, then new, Roman road. Scatters of pottery just north of Arbury Camp have been taken to suggest that a Roman settlement existed at Cawcutts Farm (Hughes 1904; Evans 1991a).

The area towards the Histon Road allotment site seems to have been by-passed in all this activity and probably remained as pasture, continuing in usage from the Iron Age period.

Undated cropmark complexes to the west of the allotments site (SMR Nos. 08956 & 08955) could relate to this Roman agricultural phase.

In Saxon times the area seems to have been essentially marginal - apart from some tenth century pottery in a pit in Arbury (SMR No 05424) little is known.

5.2 The Archaeology and History in the Development Area

In the early medieval period the Histon Road Allotments were located in the parish of Chesterton, which was known at Domesday (1086) as Cestretune, meaning 'farm by a fortified place' (Reaney 1943). Arbury Camp itself was known as Herdburw in the thirteenth century. The main settlement within Chesterton lay towards the river and the allotment site would have been part of the agricultural system, although some of it was probably common land, with livestock using the pasture there. These animals would have come from Impington and Histon as well as from Chesterton.

The present Histon Road/Cambridge Road derives from a route known by the thirteenth century as Histon Way (Wright and Lewis 1989). Arbury Road, formerly known as Mill Way and Mill Lane was recorded by 1325, so the western, northern and northeastern boundaries of the site have relatively early dates. The remaining boundaries were extant by the nineteenth century as public drains and became fixed following the development of Arbury over recent decades.

In addition to the three field system, with the East, West and Middle fields of Chesterton, being used for arable crop rotation, Chesterton possessed Arbury Meadow which lay along the Impington boundary. From the mid-thirteenth century villagers from Chesterton and Impington had rights to graze sheep and cattle there. In 1540 it covered 78 acres.

In 1558 Richard Brakyn was allowed to inclose all the Albrach (thereafter called Kings Hedges) land of some 34 acres, and 30 acres of the Arbury Meadow. The remaining rights of common grazing on the new closes were renounced in 1576. These inclosures resulted in a fossilisation of the old boundaries reflecting the traditional strip-farming pattern; 1840 maps record the boundary of Chesterton with Impington as a series of dog-legs in the area of Arbury Camp. More regular field boundaries reflect the later systematic land divisions during further, wholesale, inclosure in 1838.

Other evidence for strip farming is still extant in SMR Nos. 05466 and 10104 to the west of Histon Road, and before the building of Kings Hedges Estate, as SMR No 05435. All these SMR entries refer to ridge and furrow earthworks which are indicative of the pre-inclosure farming techniques. Additional evidence was found at Arbury Camp during excavation (Evans 1991a) in the form of a headland built up against the bank of the Camp. It would appear, therefore, that the land use of the area remained agricultural throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, although some brick earth digging was undertaken in Arbury Meadow in 1622.

In 1889 village labourers in Chesterton formed an allotment society. By the 1920's, it had 400 members and occupied a 200 acre belt of land across the south-west of the parish, not, however, on the present site which was owned by Chivers of Histon. After 1945 the allotments were reallocated to a 50 acre site south of Arbury Road and some of these remain as the present Histon Road allotment site of the current archaeological evaluation.

The allotment site has apparently always been something of a marginal land area, being close to the parish boundary and far from the centre of village activities. It was transferred to Impington in 1912 while other parts of Chesterton were passed administratively to Cambridge City. In 1935 part of the land given to Impington was transferred to Cambridge for building; only a small area, which includes the allotment site remains in Impington today.

Current local government review has led to a call from the City council to take the remaining portion of Impington south of the A45T into Cambridge City but this call is being resisted.

6 METHODOLOGY

This present report is the result of three stages of investigation. The stages are designed to develop an information base by working from the known archaeological resource to the unknown.

The first stage is the investigation of the records held in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The SMR is a computer and map based database providing information, in varying degrees of accuracy, on known sites and find spots in the County. The data used here (Figure 1) is based upon the detail currently available and should not be seen as a definitive list, as further archaeology may be discovered by subsequent fieldwork.

The second stage of investigation is a documentary and cartographic search, drawing together historical data and checking references on the SMR. Such a study enables an interpretation of the developing landscape, and its results may be read in the archaeological background presented above.

The third stage of investigation is the use of field evaluation, in this case a combination of test pits and evaluation trenching (Figure 2). Evaluation trenching involves the machine digging of 1.6m wide linear trenches to remove topsoil and expose underlying archaeology. The revealed archaeology is then hand-excavated to recover artefacts and environmental samples and to provide sections of cut features.

The broken ground and cultivation plots, and associated dumping ruled out the use of geophysical survey. A mixed strategy of test pits and trenching was therefore employed. A 50m grid was laid out and the area of available plots was sampled by test pitting on this spacing (Figure~2); it should also be noted that although some pits appear to be placed on occupied plots, the trench plan is based on both the available map of the allotment plots and a field plan, and since the latter was more accurate than the former some discrepancies are apparent. All plots investigated were overgrown with no signs of use in the recent past. The test pits were machine dug and c~2m~x~2m in area. The machine used was a wheeled JCB with a toothless ditching bucket of 1.6m width. A sieving programme was planned to recover artefacts from the topsoil. This was rapidly dropped, however, when it was clear that such finds were not to be made. All test pits were dug through the topsoil to the underlying silt/clay and natural gravel.

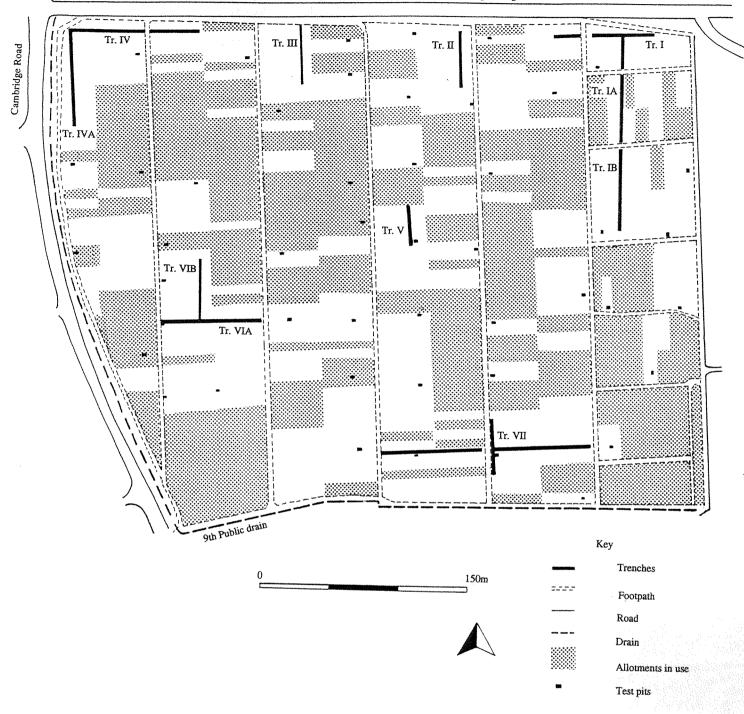


Figure 2 Histon Road Allotments Trench location plan

The 50m grid provided general area coverage but was not enough to give a satisfactory sample of the area to be evaluated, and so a number of evaluation trenches were dug in areas where sufficient vacant plots were available.

Once opened, all test pits and trenches were planned, and representative sections drawn. All deposits, cuts and fills were recorded using the Cambridgeshire Archaeology standard single context recording system.

7 RESULTS

7.1 Test Pits.

A total of 46 test pits were machine excavated on a 50m grid, when this was possible without disturbing occupied plots. The initial pits were subject to sieving of the topsoil for artefacts, but this was abandoned because no finds were forthcoming. Indeed, the topsoil was remarkably lacking in artefacts wherever it was examined. The test pits varied in depth between 0.3m and 0.7m and were excavated to the subsoil which in almost all cases was a yellow-brown silt with some clay. Elsewhere the subsoil remained silt or silty-clay while colour varied from yellow to brown. No features were identified by test pitting and no artefacts were recovered.

7.2 Evaluation Trenching.

Seven trenches were placed within the area to more fully sample it without impinging upon occupied plots. Various features were identified in Trenches IA, IB, IVA, VIA and VIB. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological deposits, and topsoil once again gave way to silts and silty clays at depths previously recorded by test pitting. While all the features were sectioned and planned, in Trench IVB this was made difficult by the high level of water in the trench, and there a machine was used to cut deep sections. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features and most, if not all, would appear to be of recent date.

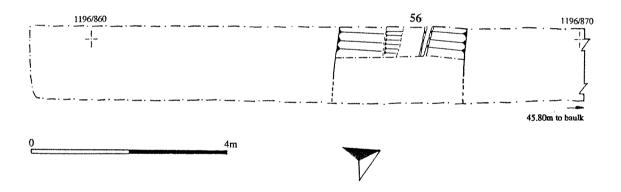


Figure 3 Plan of south end of Trench IB

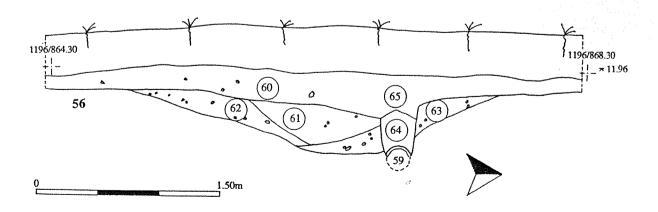


Figure 4 Section of ditch 56 in Trench IB

The features sectioned may be described as follows:

Trench I. Three ditches:

Trench IB [56] running east-west across the southern-most segment of Trench I (Figures 3 and 4). It had two fills, (62) and (63) indicative of silting up and a recut, followed by a period of further silting (61). Sometime during the last century a field drain [59] with a wide easement, was cut into this second silting up. The original ditch, [56] was c 1.5m wide with a concave base and gradual sloping sides;

Trench IB [57] a flat-bottomed and shallow gully 0.3m wide, running east-west across Trench I, with late post-medieval brick and charcoal in its sole fill (66). (Figures 5 and 6). This is a modern feature probably contemporary with the allotment's usage;

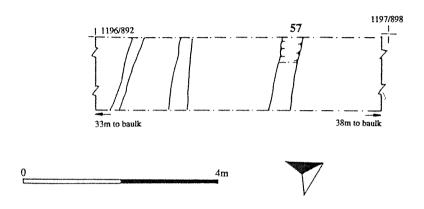


Figure 5 Plan of mid-part of Trench IB

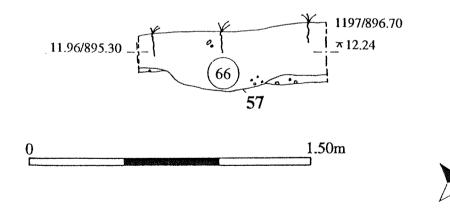


Figure 6 Section of shallow gully 57 in Trench IB

Trench IA [58] a ditch with a flatter base than [56] (Figures 7 and 8). It is also slightly broader, being c 2m wide, and has not been recut or cleaned out. It curves away from the east facing section and runs south-west/north-east. Investigations in the north of the ditch were unable to provide evidence for the curvature of the ditch being indicative of the presence of a ring-ditch.

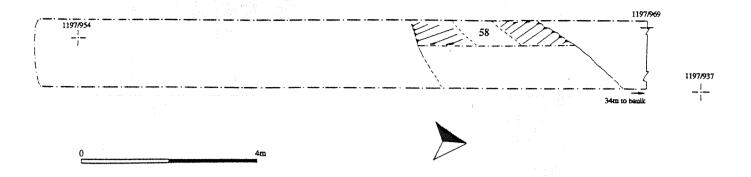


Figure 7 Plan of southern end of Trench IA

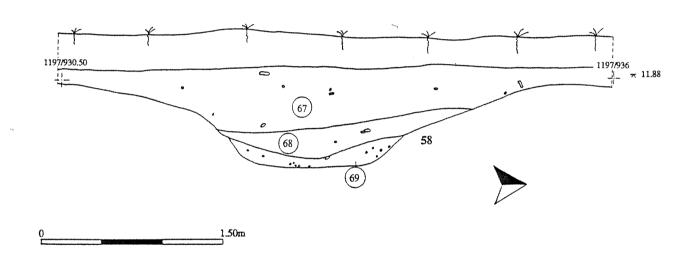


Figure 8 Section of ditch 58 in Trench IA

Trench IVA. Three ditches:

[76] a ditch running east-west across the southern segment of Trench IV. It is flat bottomed with gentle breaks of slope. There is one fill (77) and the feature is 2m wide and 0.5m deep (Figures 9 and 11);

[72] a broad U-sectioned ditch, running east-west; it was 3m

wide and 1.1m deep with a single fill (73) (Figure 9 and 12);

[74] a ditch or pit with near vertical sides and one fill (75) (Figures 9 and 13). It was not bottomed due to problems with the water table but is cut high in the section and is probably modern.

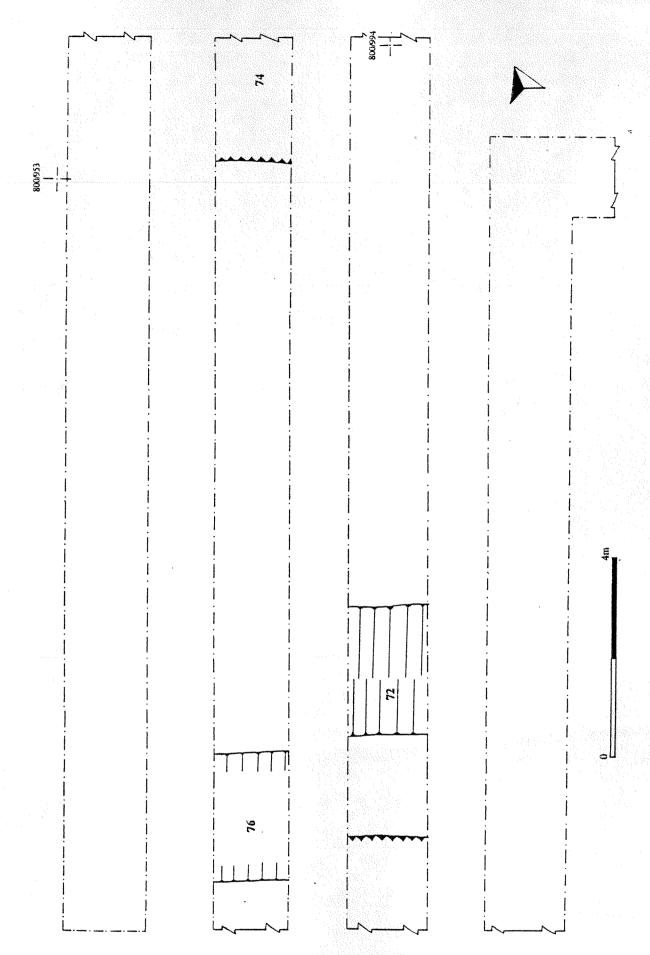


Figure 9 Plan of Trench IVA

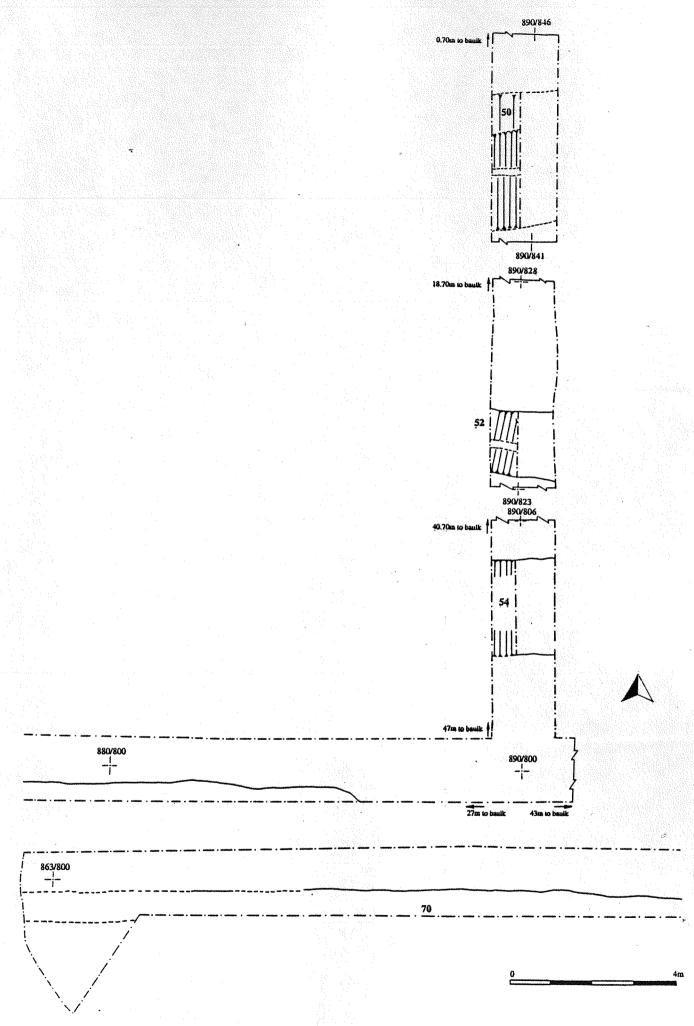


Figure 10 Plan of Trench VIA and VIB

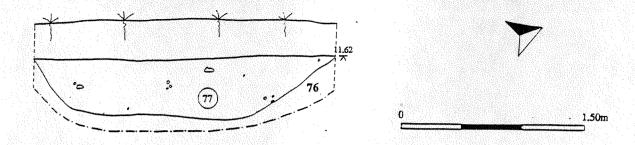


Figure 11 Section through ditch 76 in Trench IVA

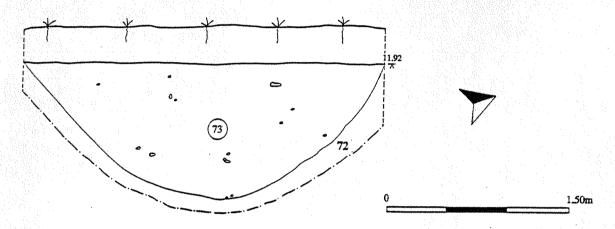
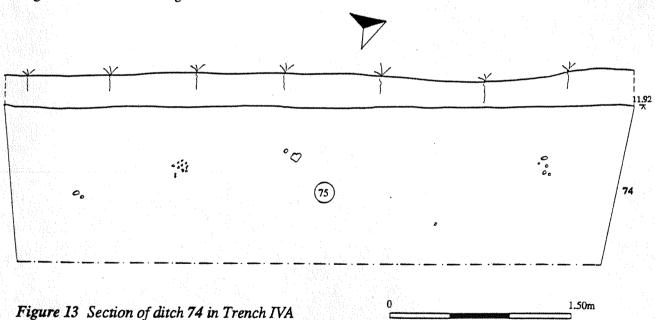


Figure 12 Section through ditch 72 in Trench IVA



Trench VI. Four ditches:

Trench VIA [70] a shallow and flat bottomed gully running east-west which resembles [57] in Trench I (Figure 10). It has one fill;

Trench VIB [50] a ditch with a concave base and irregular sides, 1m wide, with a single fill (51) (Figures 10 and 14);

Trench VIB [52] seems to be a smaller version of [50] and is cut from the same level in the section (Figure 10 and 15). It has one fill (53) and is $c ext{ 1m wide}$;

Trench VIB [54] a broad and flat bottomed gully running east-west with gentle sloping sides (Figure 10 and 16). It is c 2m wide and has one fill (55).

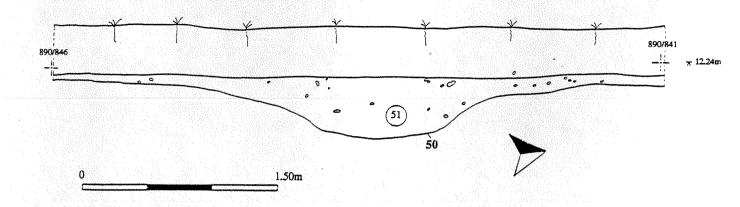


Figure 14 Section through 50 in Trench VIB

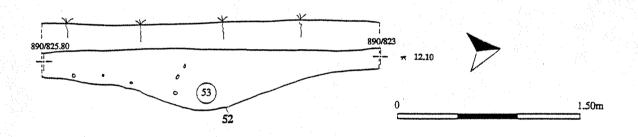


Figure 15 Section through 52 in Trench VIB

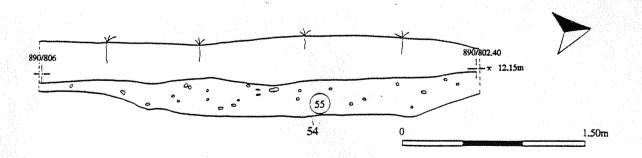


Figure 16 Section through 54 in Trench VIB

8 DISCUSSION

The results of this evaluation show a small number of undated ditches present within the development area. Numbers [57], [74] & [72] (Figures 6, 13 and 12), would appear to be recent, whilst the rest could date back as far as the Iron Age, but this cannot be confirmed. The lack of artefacts for dating these features would suggest they were not close to any activity centres producing rubbish, and local topography might encourage an interpretation of the ditches as having a drainage function. The curving ditch, [58] in Trench I (Figure 8) is intriguing, given the proximity of the Iron Age ring-work and the presence of ring-ditches further east in Arbury. A return for the ditch was sought within Trench I, however, and was not found, and its fills, like all the 'non-modern' ditches, comprised silts and silty-clays reflecting the local background natural.

In this discussion 'recent' and 'modern' are being used to refer to the period from 1800 onwards, when maps of the site at an appropriate scale first become available. Comparison of the results of this evaluation with the work of Evans (1991a, 1991b) does not assist in the dating of features, similar features occur to the north-east of the present development area, but there these are filled with topsoil-like fills and are probably post-medieval. None of the ditches identified during the present work aligns with features found during the study of Arbury Camp. It is also interesting that recovery of artefacts from the topsoil was greater during that study than was the case on the allotment site, even in areas considered by Evans to be poor in finds. This includes the dumping of modern materials such as plastics, ceramics, etc.

It is possible, from the discussion above, and referring to the historical background of the area, to suggest that the present allotment area has always been something of a liminal area, marginal to activity centres both to its immediate north and east. Drainage of the area may have been a problem and so use of the land as seasonal pasture, which is certainly documented by the medieval period, may also have been its prime use in earlier times. The lack of both finds and features would therefore be expected: the ditches that have been identified acting to improve drainage and allow longer grazing periods.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that further work should be undertaken when the planned housing development takes place to monitor the extent of the drainage system so far identified and to further investigate the curving ditch to confirm its non-structural function. This work would best be undertaken as a two stage process, with the area of the curving ditch being topsoil stripped and left for archaeological recording whilst foundation trenches are put in elsewhere, with a recording brief for all other areas. This would have a slight impact on the development proposals but the finds of the present evaluation to date do not give cause to inhibit or alter the planned development in any substantive way.

The area which is to be given over to allotments should not be subject to any processes which disturb the underlying archaeology and so no further work will be needed in this area unless the archaeology is threatened.

Any disturbance to the underlying Pleistocene deposits should be monitored for archaeological remains by a suitably qualified specialist.

In summary:

- 1. Area of housing development recording brief (with more intensive attention focused on the curving ditch)
- Area of the allotments no further work needed.
 Deep cut services monitoring for Pleistocene archaeology.

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The field team of Malin Holst, Paul Stevens and Sean Damant worked hard under trying circumstances and I thank them. Illustrations were produced by Malin Holst.

APPENDIX 1

List of Contexts

SITE CODE IMP CR 94

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APPENDIX 2

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Anglo-Saxon The period dating between the withdrawal of the Roman legions in 410 and the Norman invasion of 1066. Within this period several ethnic groups from northern Europe vied for control of the British Isles, including the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Danes, and Norwegians. The latter two groups are collectively known as the Vikings and became involved in British politics from the eighth century, later than the others. The Vikings were successful in occupying a large part of the north and Midlands of England, before providing a King (Cnut) for the whole of England. For most of this time England was divided up into several kingdoms until Saxon resistance to Viking incursions led to the unification of England under Aethelstan and Alfred.

Artefact Any object made by people. Generally, this word is used for finds such as pottery, stone tools, or metal objects, but it can be used in a much wider context in that the landscape we have today is a product of human activity and is thus an artefact itself.

Bronze Age Prehistoric period c. 2000 - 700 BC when bronze was used for many types of tools and weapons.

Cropmarks. Archeological features below the ploughsoil can affect the growth of sensative crops through moisture retention or loss. For example, the growth of cereal crops over buried ditches or pits will encourage rapid growth leading to tall, dark coloured plants, whereas walls and roads will lead to stunting and faster yellowing of the crop. These discrepancies in crop growth can be easily detected from the air, and by taking photographs the cromark pattern can be plotted onto maps and given provisional interpretation.

Earthworks Archaeological features that are still extant above the ground as banks and ditches, platforms, roads, ponds, canals, etc. They were either constructed of soil or became covered by it later, leaving the archaeology showing in relief.

Enclosures: An area defined by a continuous surrounding ditch. These may be enclosures around human settlements, fields, or paddocks for stock. Rectilinear enclosures are ones with straight sides and corners, whilst curvilinear enclosures are ones with rounded sides.

Iron Age. Prehistoric period c. 700 BC - AD 43 when iron was used extensively for tools and weapons. The period traditionally ends with the Roman invasions of AD 43 but in fact there was a considerable time of adjustment after this date when the Iron Age way of life continued with little change from Roman influence.

Medieval. Historic period that begins with William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066. Post-Medieval is generally considered to date from 1500.

Mesolithic. The period from the end of the Last Ice Age at 10,000 BP until the start of the Neolithic period at c. 3500. The life style of the people was a continuation of hunting and gathering, no polished stone tools or pottery are associated with it in England.

Modern The period since modern industrialisation, roughly corresponding to 1800 onwards.

Natural The local subsoil that is unaltered, in nature and location, by human action.

Neolithic. Prehistoric period c. 3500 - 2000 BC when farming and pottery were introduced. Stone tools of fine workmanship were produced and exchanged over long distances, but before the use of metals.

Palaeosol. A preserved soil which does not owe its origin to the existing land surface.

Penannular. In the form of a complete circle, except for a single break in the ring.

Pit alignment. A line of pits, usually dated to the Iron Age or Roman period. They are thought to be a native means of boundary marking. The pits do not often have rubbish in them and so are not thought to be rubbish pits.

Posthole. A hole dug to receive a post. They can also result from driving posts into the ground. The latter, however, do not have distinct fills such as packing and a post pipe. A post pipe is the fill of a posthole which formed in the place of a removed post.

Post-Medieval This period is generally considered to date from 1500, and is not used for dates after about 1800.

Ridge and Furrow. Medieval cultivation techniques led to a phenomenon of corrugated fields. Strips of land were allotted to individuals and a furrow was left between one person's strip and the next, leading to a corrugated ridge and furrow effect. Ridge and furrow shows up as cropmarks on air photographs and more rarely as earthworks in pasture fields.

Ring-ditch. A continuous circular ditch which is all that remains of a ploughed out round barrow, or the drainage ditch (eavesdrip gully) that surrounded a round-house.

Roman. Historic period AD 43 - 410 when much of Britain was part of the Roman empire. The term Romano-British is now widely used to describe the people of this period, as few were Roman themselves, but they were a provincial manifestation of the empire developing in a unique way. AD 410 was the date the legions were withdrawn, but the Romano-British culture continued for some time into the 5th century in tandem with Anglo-Saxon migration.

Round barrow. A Bronze Age burial mound formed by heaping up earth over a central burial. They have several forms, including numbers of encircling ditches and can have many burials in them. The first burial is known as the primary burial, subsequent ones are referred to as secondary burials. It has been suggested that these burial mounds are a way of marking tribal territories, and tney are often placed in prominent locations. They can occur in clusters known as 'barrow cemetries'.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) A computer and paper database, maintained by the County Archaeology Office, of all known historic sites and individual findspots. The system can be applied in response to any query concerning the heritage of the county, e.g. the archaeology of a piece of land can be ascertained in response to a planning application and the archaeological requirement if needed can then be stated by the County Archaeologist.

Stakehole As posthole, but corresponding to a smaller piece of wood, usually from an insubstantial structure.

Stratigraphy: Order and relative position of strata. Deposits in archaeological sites will be layered one on top of another, with the highest layer being the latest being the latest deposits, thus giving a chronological relationship to the layers and the artefacts within them. Features (such as ditches, pits, or walls) cut through these layers will obviously date to later events, and will in turn contain their own discrete sequence of deposits. On the other hand features that have been covered by layers are obviously earlier than the deposition of those layers that seal them.



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