



Archaeological Field Unit

**An Archaeological Recording brief at the Farmland  
Museum, in the Grounds of Denny Abbey, Ely Road,  
Waterbeach, Cambridge**

J. Roberts

1997

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

Report No. B17

Commissioned by The Farmland Museum

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**An archaeological recording brief at  
the Farmland Museum, in the grounds of Denny Abbey,  
Ely Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge**

**Development:** Scheduled Ancient Monument 13219  
**Client:** The Farmland Museum  
**Location:** Grounds of Denny Abbey  
**NGR:** TL 4928 6842  
**Author:** Judith Roberts  
**Date:** 9th December 1997

The Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out an archaeological recording brief during the excavation of foundations for erection of a wooden structure at the Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey, Cambridgeshire. The archaeological importance of the site is set out in a recording brief carried out in September 1996. This was carried out following the conditions set out in the provision of the Scheduled Monument Consent, provided by the Secretary of State for National Heritage under section 2 of the 1979 Act with the conditions for archaeologists to observe and record any archaeological features revealed.

The site was visited by the AFU on the afternoon of 9th December 1997, once all the foundations had been opened. The foundation trenches were inspected and photographed and the spoil was visually scanned.

### **Summary of results**

The foundations had been hand dug. There were two 5m long by 0.5m wide trenches and three 0.5 x 0.5m foundation holes. The trenches varied between 0.9 and 1m deep and were all cut into the natural sandy gravels. The topsoil consisted of a disturbed 'garden' soil with concrete and bricks. A south-west-north-east running service trench, adjacent to the existing brick wall, containing pipes and cables was noted in the two end trenches and a sewer pipe was noted in trench 1. In trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5, beneath the disturbed topsoil was a layer of undisturbed subsoil. In trench 4, underlying the topsoil in the eastern section, was a layer of compact, sterile, grey sand. There was no indication this had been used in construction but insufficient was revealed to suggest what this layer might be. There was no sign of it in either of the adjacent trenches. It is possible that it relates to an further service trench, just beyond the edge of the foundation hole.

No archaeological features or materials were identified in these trenches.

### **Conclusion**

The archaeological investigation did not discover any archaeological remains within the trenches. The area appeared to have been disturbed during the 19th and 20th centuries by service trenching.

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



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