

Cambridgeshire Archaeology Historic Environment Team Annual Report 2007-8

Welcome to our first annual report, describing the work and achievements of the Historic Environment Team. Cambridgeshire's landscape is rich in archaeological sites, monuments, features and finds, historic towns, villages and buildings – bearing witness to 500,000 years of human settlement. Cambridgeshire Archaeology's Historic Environment Team protects and enhances this landscape, working in partnership with others to promote access, learning, participation, sustainable growth and a sense of place for all of Cambridgeshire's communities.

This is a time of considerable change and challenge for Cambridgeshire. It is the fastest growing county in England, and government forecasts suggest an unprecedented scale of development by 2021. This places mounting pressure on the county's historic environment – leading to some of the important archaeological work described in this report.

Throughout the past year, we have worked on research projects in the region and on the prehistoric fen. We have continued our partnership with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and in 2007 we became the first local authority to make its Historic Environment Record accessible through the new national Heritage Gateway. In June 2007 we hosted a Forum to enable contractors, consultants and other historic environment partners in Cambridgeshire to meet and debate current issues and national initiatives.

We maintain the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), and provide advice and information on Cambridgeshire's archaeology to a wide variety of customers – planners, government agencies, developers, public utilities, farmers, landowners, archaeologists and, of course, the general public.

During the past year we have entered into Service Level Agreements with the five Cambridgeshire District Councils and the County Farms Estate for the provision of archaeological advice and information. This has allowed us to expand our team by adding two assistant archaeologists to support the three senior posts.

A key issue for the next twelve months will be Heritage Protection reform. This is the first significant change to the legal systems of heritage management and protection for nearly 30 years. The draft Heritage Protection Bill was published in April 2008 and will provide an opportunity to put heritage at the

heart of the planning system. Changes to the management of heritage assets will present challenges to how we deliver advice and how our service is resourced. We will continue to contribute to the consultation process both directly and through national bodies such as the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.

This annual report is intended for councillors, customers, partners, consultants, contractors, museum and historic environment professionals – and indeed anyone who has an interest in Cambridgeshire's rich and varied past. We hope you will enjoy reading it.



A Roman knife handle excavated from a site in Godmanchester in 2007. The copper-alloy handle is thought to depict an animal of Egyptian origin, such as a crocodile. Photo courtesy of CAM ARC

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) is the definitive source of information on archaeological sites and finds in Cambridgeshire, excluding Peterborough Unitary Authority. It forms part of the network of Historic Environment Records across the United Kingdom.

Established in 1975 as the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record, the CHER is a computerized and paper archive of information relating to the county's historic environment. It currently contains over 15,000 records of archaeological monuments, excavated sites, chance finds and historic buildings, in addition to information about 2,500 fieldwork projects spanning the 19th century to the present day. The CHER also holds records of over 7,000 Listed Buildings, 261 Scheduled Monuments and 34 Registered Parks and Gardens in the county. We also hold a library of related publications, including the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and over 2,200 unpublished fieldwork reports.

Information is held on a computerised database and mapping system, where it can be easily interrogated by date, location and type of remains. The CHER is a publicly accessible research resource, and we welcome consultation by professionals, academics, students and interested members of the public. Whilst a search fee is charged for commercial enquiries, information is provided to researchers and members of the public free of charge. During 2007-8 the CHER received 337 enquiries, 99% of which we answered within 10 days.

New information is gathered from a variety of sources, the most significant being the findings of

archaeological investigations undertaken as part of the planning system. Other contributions include the fieldwork undertaken by Cambridgeshire's local societies and observations reported by members of the public. We also undertake projects to enhance and develop the record, for example the air photo assessments in Cambridgeshire (see below). There has been significant progress in 2007-8:

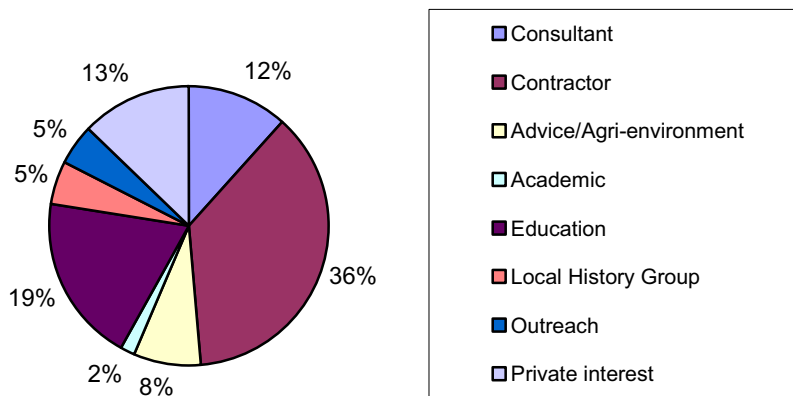
	New records 2007/8	Updated records 2007/8
Monuments	301	4401
Fieldwork	207	639
Sources	468	2645

During 2007-8 the CHER was notified of nine new listed buildings, six amendments and the removal of fifteen buildings or structures from the list. No new scheduled monuments or registered parks and gardens have been designated in the past twelve months.

Since 2005, all commercial fieldwork projects in Cambridgeshire have been required to register with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form. This procedure collates key information about the project, and passes it onto the CHER and the National Monuments Record (NMR). Contractors are also required to upload digital fieldwork reports, which in turn are made available to researchers via the Archaeology Data Service's library of unpublished grey literature reports (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit/>).

Progress with OASIS has advanced significantly in 2007-8, with 84% of the 94 completed records for the county being accompanied by a digital report.

Enquiries to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record 2007-8



Air Photo Assessment Enhancement Project

In August – November 2007 a project was undertaken by Kristine Jansone of the University of Lugano in Switzerland, as part of her master’s degree in Communication for Culture Heritage. This project aimed to produce a digital map layer and report archive of air photograph assessments undertaken by Rog Palmer of Air Photo Services. Between 1990 and 2006 over 200 air photograph assessments have been undertaken in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, many of which have identified and accurately mapped archaeological remains visible only as cropmarks. While much of this information has been available in traditional paper format in the CHER library, the creation of a digital map of the cropmark features will

enable these to be fully integrated within the record, with new assessments being added in due course.

Northstowe Rights of Way Interpretation Project

In the latter part of 2007-8 we undertook a project to design and deliver a series of interpretation panels to be installed along rights of way around Northstowe new settlement. The work was part of the Northstowe Rights of Way project, and involved researchers from the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies and Countryside Access teams, with the graphical design expertise being provided by CAM ARC. A total of twenty-one interpretation boards have been produced, and are due for installation in early summer 2008.

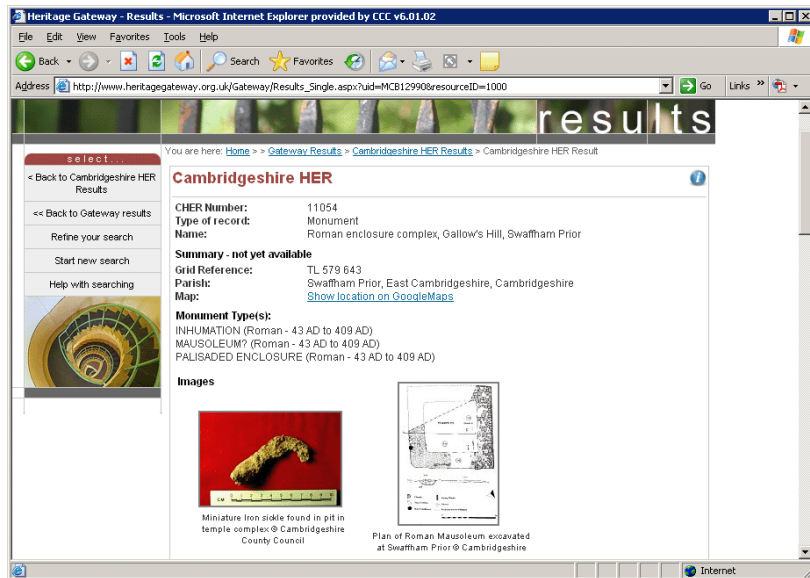


An interpretation panel produced as part of the Northstowe Rights of Way project

Heritage Gateway

In April 2007 CHER was the first Historic Environment Record to join the national Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk), an innovative project to develop online access to historic environment information in England. The Heritage Gateway is a partnership between English Heritage, the Association of Local Government Archaeological

Officers (ALGAO) and Institute for Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), and aims to provide integrated access to and cross searching across England’s local and national historic environment resources, such as those maintained by the National Monuments Record.



Cambridgeshire HER data on the Heritage Gateway

We hope that this project will encourage new audiences to access this valuable resource. The statistics from 2007-8 already show a significant uptake in use, with over 21,000 visits to the online CHER. Presentations on the Heritage Gateway have been given to a regional workshop for the Council for British Archaeology, to libraries and museums audiences in Cambridgeshire, and heritage professionals across the country.

Future enhancements will include the incorporation of related images and, where possible, the linking of CHER records to related online resources. The Heritage Gateway website will also be undergoing significant redevelopment and redesign during 2008. All feedback is welcome, and should be directed to the Heritage Gateway team. We gratefully acknowledge the support of English Heritage towards the Heritage Gateway project.

Archiving

All archaeological fieldwork generates a record that consists of the finds, notes, plans and other paperwork of the site. Increasingly, digital images, documents and drawings are being created. Since this archive is the sole record of a site, we need to preserve and care for it. In the world of commercially funded archaeology, this storage requirement is increasing. We currently have nearly 6,000 boxes of material, which are available for loan to museums, research, and displays.

Recent major sites accessioned include the A1(M) Services at Haddon, several sites from central Cambridge and the nationally significant Anglo-Saxon cemetery from Cherry Hinton. We currently supply teaching collections to Birkbeck College (University of London) and to Peterborough Regional College.

We have provided materials and samples for several research projects, including a study of the development of leprosy, the advanced radiocarbon dating project for the Anglo-Saxon period and assessments into organic deposits in prehistoric pits and ditches. We have supported five graduate students with material and data, and supplied material for displays in several museums.

The issues surrounding reburial of human remains have always been controversial. Whilst we recognise the emotional and cultural aspects of burial, we cannot ignore the scientific arguments for the ongoing study of remains. Quite apart from archaeological studies, our collections have contributed to international studies on leprosy and the spread of tuberculosis, we have to recognise this demand alongside others. We also need to modify our arrangements to take on board recent guidance for the storage of human remains.

The human remains debate will be ongoing throughout 2008. Although the case for the return of remains to overseas populations such as Maori and Aborigines is well-known, recent years have seen demands for the return and reburial of archaeologically excavated remains within this country. We are currently discussing the feasibility of constructing a small store in one local community that would allow for continued access to the remains for study. We realise that any decisions made on this issue could have far reaching consequences so we have actively engaged in this debate with local communities and members of the pagan movement, and presented papers to several audiences.

Our current stores are nearly at capacity, and in 2008 we will have the challenge of continuing to operate. We are looking at ways of modernising and increasing the capacity of our current premises, and have a longer-term aim to move to larger stores. This next year should see the development and introduction of a policy for the retention and use of archaeological material.

*Inside the
Cambridgeshire County Store*



Monument Management & Countryside Advice

The Cambridgeshire Monument Management Programme has operated since 1992. In partnership with English Heritage, we liaise with the owners of Scheduled Monuments to assist with their upkeep, interpretation, access and maintenance. Amongst the monuments we have helped are some of the most significant in the county, such as Devil's Dyke (an Anglo-Saxon boundary) and Stonea Camp (an Iron Age hillfort close to Wimblington).

In 2007, we assessed works on Cambridge Castle, Little Trees Hill on Magog Down, Clopton Deserted Medieval Village, Swavesey Priory and Roman Bank

in Leverington. Cambridge Castle in particular was in need of extensive clearance, as the overgrowth was beginning to damage the monument. These projects are in addition to ongoing works on other sites around the county.

We are also looking at improving how we manage such monuments. We are working on a pilot project to manage rabbit populations on monuments, and have also commissioned a survey of mature trees on a stretch of the Devil's Dyke with a view to more proactive monitoring and management to reduce the risk of serious damage to the monument in the future.



Assessing tree root damage and rabbit populations on different stretches of Devil's Dyke, a Scheduled Monument

Scheduled Monuments also have potential for wildlife and biodiversity, and we have been discussing this with County Council colleagues as well as with partners in organisations such as the Wildlife Trust and Natural England. We have to be fully aware of the need to manage sites from a natural as well as an historical perspective, and ensure that both operate together.

In addition to scheduled monuments we also assist landowners and farmers in the management of archaeological sites on agricultural land by

supporting Environmental Stewardship Schemes. We provide information and advice to farmers, landowners and land agents wishing to put together stewardship applications requiring a Farm Environment Plan (FEP), which involves a consultation to identify historic environment features appropriate for management under the scheme. Consultations are also undertaken for Woodland Grant and Energy Crop Schemes to identify any features affected by the proposals. A total of nine FEP, three pre-FEP and three WGS consultations were received in 2007/8.

Planning Advice

We provide advice on the impact of proposed development on the historic environment using the guidance offered in PPG 15 and 16 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: *Planning and the Historic Environment*; and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: *Archaeology*). We offer advice on all development proposals across the county, ranging from small-scale infill development to major roads, large housing estates, quarries and new towns. We also contribute to the County Minerals and Waste Framework and each District's Local Development Framework and Regional Plan, which are gradually replacing Local and Structure Plans. In the past year we have also

been consulted on several national initiatives, covering best practice in archaeology and national strategies for sustainable development.

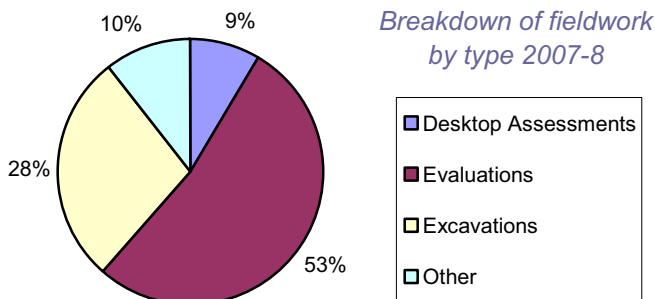
Cambridgeshire is one of the major growth areas in the country, which has a direct impact on our workloads. In 2007/8 we responded to 639 consultations on a variety of schemes ranging widely in scale, from the appraisal of impacts of entire new communities to single house developments. Over 90% of our responses were made within planning deadlines and two thirds resulted in the need for further work, mainly field evaluation.

Consultations by District area 2007/8

District	Total Consultations	Recommendations for Intervention
Cambridge City	76	52
East Cambridgeshire	121	83
Fenland	151	87
Huntingdonshire	121	88
South Cambridgeshire	168	127
Multi-district	2	2
Total	639	439

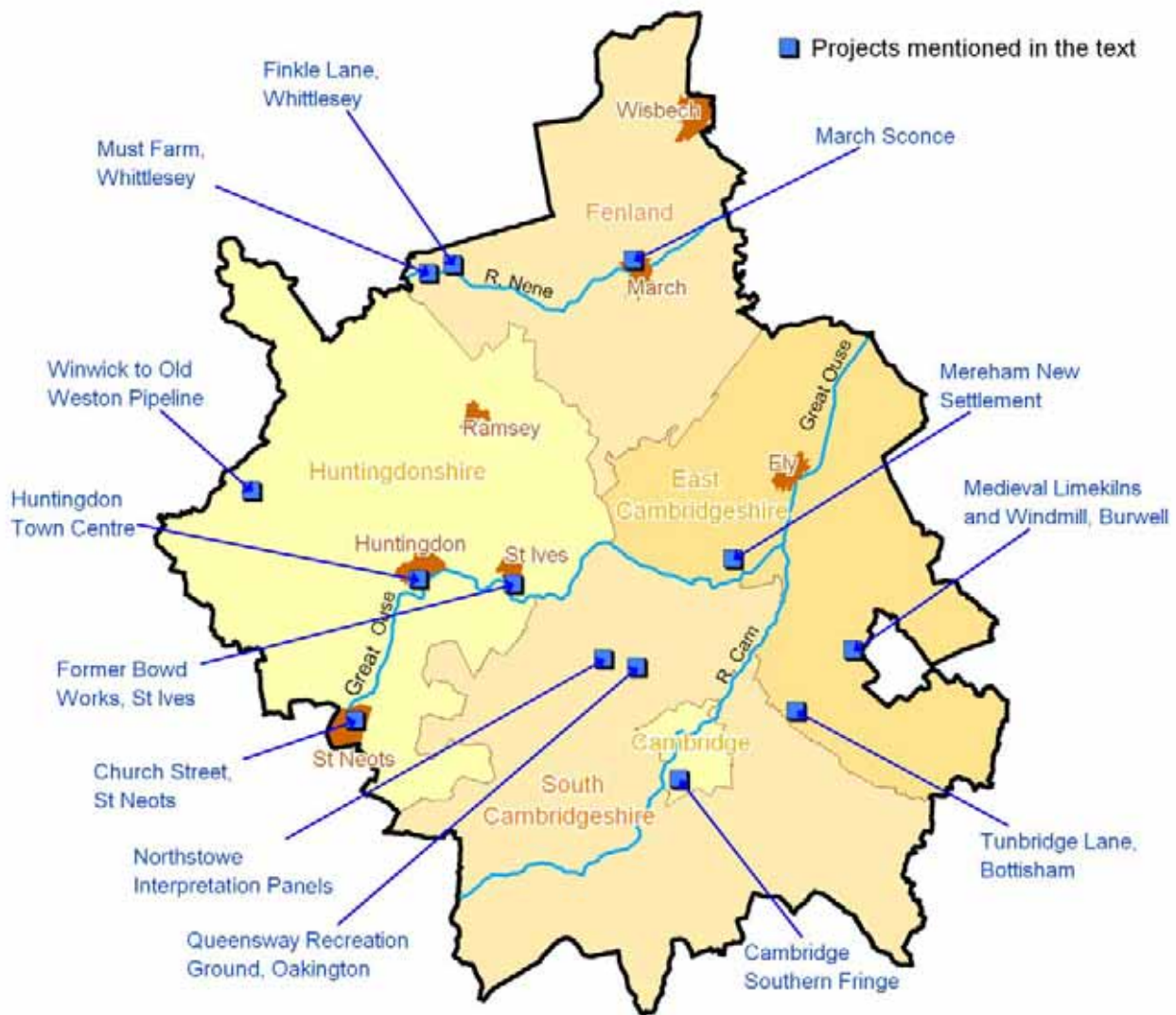
Breakdown of Fieldwork by Type 2007/8

	Desktop Assessments	Evaluations started	Excavations started	Other	Total
Apr – Jun 07	2	14	12	6	34
Jul – Sep 07	0	21	15	1	37
Oct – Dec 07	5	25	10	3	43
Jan – Mar 08	7	26	9	7	49
Total	14	86	46	17	163



We maintain a monitoring and regulatory role throughout the fieldwork process to ensure that all development-led archaeological fieldwork in the county conforms to national standards and guidance. In the past year we have prepared 127 briefs for archaeological fieldwork, approved 149 written schemes of investigation and received 218 reports on fieldwork results for approval before they are submitted to the CHER. Some examples of evaluations and excavations conducted in the county in the past year are described below.

Fieldwork Projects



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Must Farm, Whittlesey, Fenland

Client: Hanson Building Products Ltd
 Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit
 Consultant: SLR Consulting

The 132-hectare site of Must Farm Quarry lies on the western slopes of the island of Whittlesey. This is an area rich in archaeological remains, and excavations nearby have provided evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements and ceremonial sites, as well as rich deposits of metalwork.

The most recent excavations have identified the shape of the buried prehistoric landscape, including a terrace falling steeply to a deep fen trough and

several river channels that were the focus of earlier activity. Among a range of prehistoric occupation areas and utilised parts of the terrace's edge, two well-preserved oval barrows (burial mounds) dating to the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods were found sealed beneath blanketing layers of alluvium and peat. A waterlogged Bronze Age trackway was also found, which extends the network of raised causeways through the marsh southward from those found in Bradley Fen pit nearby.



View across the excavation with the palisade visible in the foreground (left), well-preserved Bronze Age sickle (centre), overhead view of Bronze Age pottery vessels and their contents (right). All photos courtesy of CAU

Excavations revealed a waterlogged timber site of international importance; a settlement dating from the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition surrounded by a wooden palisade driven into the ground. The site contained evidence of metal work and pottery, along with cloth and bast fibre textiles, wooden objects, glass beads, food remains including fish, processed grain, and animal bone. There were at least two phases of construction, and the settlement appears to have been abandoned after a devastating fire.

This excavation has allowed a team of specialist environmental archaeologists, conservation

specialists, hydrologists, engineers, and field archaeologists to collaborate over the potential design of a preservation scheme that seeks to ensure that the site's burial environment and its components are not affected by the quarry's complicated water management scheme, new extraction faces or landscaping proposals. This will be used to refine the strategy that is being developed by a Conservation Scientist from York Archaeological Trust to attempt the site's long-term preservation in situ. The scheme will be monitored, with regular reviews to consider the sustainability of this approach.

Tunbridge Lane, Bottisham, East Cambridgeshire

Client: Land Charter Homes Plc
Contractor: Archaeological Solutions Ltd

A two-year programme of fieldwork in this area has finally ended, and has demonstrated that a wealthy villa estate dating from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD once existed in this area. Numerous Roman metal artefacts found by a local resident are recorded on the CHER, and although the villa building itself remains elusive, the investigations have confirmed the presence of Roman buildings, yards, fields, lanes/droeways, rubbish pits and ditches. Tantalising evidence of formal buildings constructed

on substantial foundations was found at the very edge of the development site, which may prove to be residential and bath structures.

Earlier excavations in the area had revealed remains dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, so the later remains probably represent an expansion of an existing farm/villa during the later stages of the Roman period.



Large pit rich in animal bone (left) and a spread of building rubble (right). Photos courtesy of Archaeological Solutions

Queensway Recreation Ground, Oakington, South Cambridgeshire

Client: Oakington Parish Council/CHC Architects
Contractor: CAM ARC

The foundations of Oakington's new pavilion were designed to ensure that a known Anglo Saxon cemetery, 6th-7th century AD in date, was protected from construction impacts as far as was possible using avoidance strategies and a sympathetic foundation design. Those areas in which impacts were unavoidable were the subjects of excavation.

At least twelve inhumations were excavated, some of which contained fine grave goods datable to the 7th century, which included four saucer brooches and a small long brooch among other non-metallic items. Large boundary ditches were also investigated in the principal impact areas, which may indicate that Saxon occupation here had once been enclosed.



Excavating the inhumations. Photos courtesy of CAM ARC

Medieval Lime Kilns and a Windmill at Isaacson Road, Burwell, East Cambridgeshire

Client: Upware Marina Ltd
Contractor: CAM ARC

The CHER records Bronze Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval stray finds in this area, and the findings from this and other excavations combined to demonstrate that a thriving 10th-14th century industrial and commercial hub occupied this part of the village.

CAM ARC's investigations revealed a series of 12-14th century quarries, dug to extract chalk for lime-making in a number of lime kilns. These consisted of paired vertical shafts connected by a small tunnel. Five of the six lime kilns found on the site were excavated, ranging in size from 2m to 4m in diameter and up to 2.7m deep. It is estimated that the largest kiln may have produced around 15,000 litres of lime

per firing. The lime-making industry continued in Burwell in the 19th century, as a large lime works operated on the north side of Isaacson Road.

A windmill was built here in the 13th century or later, after the quarries became disused. This was a post mill, and represents one of several windmills known from Burwell. These finds are very exciting as there are few excavated examples of medieval windmills in the county and even less is known about medieval quarrying and lime making. Now that the excavation has finished, analysis will continue and a report will be deposited with the CHER and published in due course.



Lime kiln and fuel pit (left) and windmill cross-trees foundation (right). Photos courtesy of CAM ARC

Former Bowd Engineering Works, East Street, St Ives, Huntingdonshire

Client: Campbell Buchanan
Contractor: CAM ARC

This site lies in the heart of medieval St Ives, and previous excavations in this area have shown the rich nature of archaeological remains here. These excavations revealed evidence of industry with a mixed assemblage of fine animal bones with cut marks demonstrating the manufacture of bone objects/tools in this area.

While such workshops can be expected from the principal streets of medieval towns, this site lies in

the area of the international medieval St Ives Easter fair. This fair, granted initially in the 13th century, brought population influx to the town, as merchants from home and abroad traded in cloth, skin/fur, gold and jewels, clothes, furniture, glass, pottery, turned wood, animals, food and ale and other items. Booths and stalls were erected all over this part of town and occupants from the rows, lanes and main streets let their properties to the incoming traders.

Church Street, St. Neots, Huntingdonshire

Client: John Burgess Co. Ltd
Contractor: CAM ARC / Archaeological Solutions Ltd

This site lies in the formal grounds of the former Old Hall Place, an 18th century mansion and once one of the principal residences in St Neots, in the heart of the medieval town. The footings and in-filled cellars beneath the front walls of the building were investigated. A fireplace containing fragments of beautifully decorated Dutch Delft Ware tiles was also recorded. Lying beneath this, and protected by the formal gardens were the remains of an earlier Late Saxon settlement that had been partially excavated in the 1930s and again in the 1960s.

The excavations provided more tangible evidence of Roman occupation, though this period still lacks structural remains. They were able to identify the earlier phases of excavation and pull together the

evidence from these to reconstruct the settlement history for the historic settlement core.

A surprise discovery during the recent Church Street excavations was the presence of a single Bronze Age pit at the western edge of excavation containing an intact Collared Urn. A controlled excavation of the urn will take place to see if it contains a cremated inhumation or other remains.



The Bronze Age collared urn

Huntingdon Town Centre, Huntingdonshire

Client: Various, including Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council
Contractor: CAM ARC, Heritage Network, Archaeological Project Services

Recent years have seen extensive plans for redevelopment within Huntingdon, notably the County Council's development of their property in the Walden Street and Princes Street area and Huntingdonshire District Council's reconstruction of their Pathfinder House offices. The first excavations took place around Walden House, the main phase of activity spanning the 12th – 14th centuries when the town was at its most prosperous, with evidence of urban contraction in the late medieval period when the area was probably given over to cultivation.

Excavations continued in the area of the library, Gazeley House and Lawrence Court. Although the building of the library in the 1970s had caused the loss of the archaeological remains in this area, preservation elsewhere was good, with a sequence of occupation spanning the late Saxon, medieval and post medieval periods. The excavations have been

presented to members of the public through a series of open days, run in conjunction with displays of artefacts in the Cromwell Museum. Members of the public have also been involved directly through activities such as pot washing under the supervision of CAM ARC's artefacts specialists.

At Pathfinder House, the construction work of the 1970s had also resulted in some loss, but archaeological remains survived beneath the car park. Based on the artefacts recovered, these were mostly considered to be of Roman date. Further excavation revealed cobbled surfaces, pits and structures of probable Roman date, and a sequence of large ditches to the south, in the vicinity of the Norman motte and bailey castle. Work in this area will continue as Pathfinder House is demolished, opening up previously inaccessible areas to further archaeological investigation.



The Huntingdon Town Centre excavations underway. Photo courtesy of CAM ARC

These projects have provided an unprecedented glimpse into the development of Huntingdon. Careful analysis of the excavated evidence will be used to develop an understanding not only of the medieval market town, but also the Roman and Saxon activity in the area. There is also potential for exploring the

social and economic reasons behind the decline of the town in the post medieval period. This has implications not just for Huntingdon, but also for our understanding of the origins and development of market towns throughout the county and region.

Northstowe, South Cambridgeshire

Client: Gallagher Estates Ltd
 Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Oxford Archaeotechnics
 Consultants: WSP Environmental

We have been involved in the development proposals for the area around Oakington Airfield since 2001. An initial appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site, together with examination of the surrounding landscape revealed extensive cropmarks of probable Iron Age and Roman settlements leading to the conclusion that there would be high potential for surviving archaeological sites in the area.

Consequently a programme of archaeological assessment was developed which included reappraisal of available aerial photographic evidence (including newly available Luftwaffe reconnaissance photographs), fieldwalking, extensive detailed geophysical survey and trial trenching. The strategy had to be flexible to take account of issues such as unexploded ordnance within the airfield and included extensive monitoring of test pits.

The results indicate that this was a developed and managed landscape by at least the late prehistoric period, with extensive settlement present throughout the Roman period. There have been ongoing discussions about the mitigation, preservation and excavation of the site, together with a programme of

public involvement intended to raise the profile of the historic environment to the residents of the surrounding villages and the future inhabitants of Northstowe. The 20th century use of the site by the RAF is also an important consideration, with plans to retain many of the airfield structures including the cantilevered "Oakington" type pillboxes within the new town.



A cantilevered 'Oakington' type pillbox. Photo courtesy of Peter Duthie, Rights of Way

Winwick to Old Weston Pipeline, Huntingdonshire

Client: Anglian Water
Contractor: CAM ARC



Monitoring fieldwork at Winwick

Anglian Water is committed to the appropriate treatment of archaeological sites in connection with their development schemes, which include numerous pipelines each year. Initial appraisal indicated that the proposed pipeline route crossed the line of a Roman road, and an area of Iron Age settlement was also identified in fields close to the line of the Roman road. Excavations in the village of Winwick revealed extensive evidence of medieval occupation in areas which fell out of use in the later medieval period when the rural population declined. The foundations and floor surfaces of a post medieval building were also identified. The surfaces were so well preserved it was possible to discern the pattern of wear on the floor tiles, caused by decades of use.

Finkle Lane, Whittlesey, Fenland

Client: Isle Kelly Properties Ltd
Contractor: Archaeological Project Services

This site, located on the edge of the historic core of Whittlesey, was subject to a programme of investigation in advance of residential redevelopment. The excavation revealed activity in this area from as early as the 12th century. Evidence from rectangular tanks suggests their use as tanning pits. From the later medieval period, a series of boundary ditches relates to the urban expansion of Whittlesey and the incorporation of this area into the town.

Pits containing medieval domestic refuse suggest an increase in waste disposal away from the street

frontage. Craft related activity ceased in the early post medieval period, although a cob wall on the same alignment as the boundary ditches indicates continued use of the land in this period.

The excavation has demonstrated that medieval activity was not restricted to the historic core of the town as likely to be described today, but that craft or industrial activities were undertaken in zones peripheral to the core of the town. The project has also demonstrated that small-scale crafts such as tanning were undoubtedly significant to the economy of the town in the medieval period.

Cambridge Southern Fringe, Cambridge City

Client: Various
Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Developments planned for the southern fringes of Cambridge include expansion of Addenbrooke's Hospital and housing schemes at Trumpington Meadows, Clay Farm and Glebe Farm.

Infrastructure improvements are already underway with the construction of the Addenbrooke's Link Road from the A10 and the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway also crossing the area with a new bridge across the Cambridge to London railway. The areas were subject to evaluation that revealed extensive Iron Age and Roman use of the site including areas of dense settlement and a late Iron Age cremation cemetery.

Excavations in advance of the Link Road identified a dense pattern of horticultural features close to



Shelford Road and a network of field boundaries and a driveway close to Addenbrooke's Hospital. These features probably relate to an area of settlement known on the former showground site, which will be fully excavated in advance of housing development in the Clay Farm area.

Excavating a wooden bowl. Photo courtesy of CAU

Mereham New Settlement Public Inquiry, East Cambridgeshire

Officers from the Historic Environment Team took part in a three month long Public Inquiry in November 2007, in which applicant Multiplex Stannifer appealed against the refusal of planning permission to build a 5000 home new settlement off the A10, south of Ely. The County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

presented a joint case in opposition to the appeal. Transportation, planning strategy, democracy and sustainability formed the key issues of the debate, but the inclusion of archaeology within the Inquiry highlighted the importance given at regional level to preserving the historic environment in this significant process.

Outreach

Our popular programme of public archaeology continued in 2007, when we were involved in almost 100 events with a combined audience of over 7500 people. We undertook a wide range of events, with outside organisations including local schools, youth

groups, local organisations and commercial businesses and County Council colleagues in the education and library sectors. The 2008 programme of events is available on request. Some of our highlights over the past year are described below.

The Second Annual Archaeology Art Competition

Aimed at children, the theme this year was 'A Monument Near Me', and we received an increased number of entries from around the county. The prizewinners were awarded their prizes at the Archaeology & Anthropology Museum at the start of National Archaeology Week in July 2007, where we joined up with the museum staff to present a day of events based around prehistoric food. Many congratulations to the art competition winners; Charlotte Allen in the 4-6 year age category and the joint winners Jack Dai and Li An Cowley in the 7-16 year age category.

*'Devil's Dyke' by Li An Cowley,
joint winner of the 7-16 age category*

Supporting Schools & Young People

The Heritage Lottery Fund has supported a half-day archaeology session at several schools in St Neots. The half-day sessions included an archaeological timeline, the handling of original artefacts, and the study of a skeleton. At Longsands Community College, Year 7 students experienced the Anglo-Saxon period and also helped represent burial on a bed of a young woman from Edix Hill, Barrington.

In partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council, we have been producing and trialing a range of stand-alone resources that teachers can borrow for use in the classroom. To date, we have produced five sets of resources with another five planned for next year. A full launch is planned for early 2009.

With support from Cambridgeshire ACRE and the County Farms Estate, six schools have taken part in guided walks to Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the estate, including Stonea Camp, Car Dyke, Devil's Dyke, and a medieval moated site at Landbeach.



Archaeologists also visited two schools in Ramsey to run a session on the archaeology of Ramsey Abbey, and to show some of the rare medieval tiles found near the school in recent excavations.

We have also run a session in Huntingdon on the Romans, and three popular 'Introduction to Archaeology' sessions with children at Addenbrooke's Hospital, cub scouts, and pupils from Kings College School, Cambridge.

Family Events

Our staff were present at three local shows in the past year; the world famous Fayre at Reach, the Great Gransden Show and the increasingly popular County Show at Wimpole Hall. Besides answering questions on archaeology there were activities for all the family.

Our programme at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park with Huntingdon District Council ended this year with a large 'Living History' event. This involved over forty re-enactors depicting life, culture and sustainability from the Celts (Iron Age), Romans and Anglo-Saxons to the modern day. Despite bad weather, scores of people visited the temporary villages and displays.

Our ever-popular programme of guided walks included tours of twelve of Cambridgeshire's historic sites at Wandlebury (Iron Age), Stonea Camp (Iron Age & Roman), Car Dyke (Roman), Worsted Street Roman Road, Devil's Dyke (Anglo-Saxon), Giants Hill at Rampton (Medieval), Landbeach Moat (Medieval), March Sconce (Civil War) and Cambridge Castle (multi-period). There were also two visits to the County Archaeology Store.



We are one of the few archaeological organisations that regularly accept secondary school pupils on work experience placements. A more general experience of archaeology for young people can be experienced through the Young Archaeologists' Club, and we continue to support the local YAC branch.

Community work has included involvement in the Arbury Dig, Cambridge. Run along the lines of 'The Big Dig', groups excavated a series of one metre test pits in the church grounds, followed by a series of talks by local archaeologists. The project aimed to involve the local community in an excavation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their church.

We participated in a community project run by the Fenland Youth District Council and Street Pride, involving a clean-up event at the Sconce in March, which dates from the civil war. Two dozen adults and children attended the event, which included a talk on the archaeological significance of the area, graffiti-removal and litter picking.

We celebrated Family Learning Week 2007 at Cottenham Village College. Besides excavating finds in sand pits, families learnt how to make coil pots and decorate them in Celtic or Roman designs. We also took part in a Lifelong Learning Course at March Library called "Exploring Cambridgeshire's Heritage" with support from Community Learning and Development colleagues. The group looked at historic records, learnt survey techniques and handled artefacts as part of a course designed to help people find out about their local area.



Children's activities at the Cambridgeshire County Show (left) and tour of the earthworks at the March Sconce (right). Sconce photo courtesy of Jo Hart, Fenland District Council

Time Team in Cambridgeshire

Our staff took part in the first episode of the 2008 series of Channel Four's Time Team. A team of CAM ARC archaeologists worked with Tony Robinson, Mick Aston and Phil Harding at a site near Warboys. The exciting project discovered the remains of a Saxo-Norman Chapel, as well as earlier

Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman remains. The dig was well supported and attended by local people and schools/colleges, with over 200 visiting the excavations. The programme will be shown later this year. We aim to return to the site and set up a community dig in the future to excavate more of the remains. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant will be sought to help with this.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) began as a pilot project in September 1997 in six areas of the UK to complement and extend the knowledge obtained through the new Treasure Act by providing a resource for the recording of non-treasure artefacts found by members of the public.

The Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is based in the Historic

Environment Team in Cambridge for four days a week, and at Peterborough Museum on Wednesdays. She would be pleased to hear from anyone who has archaeological objects they would like to have identified. She also regularly attends local metal detector club meetings, including the Fenland Finders and the Saffron Walden Metal Detecting Club, and is keen to hear from any other metal detectorists in Cambridgeshire.

The Treasure Act and the PAS

The PAS also plays an important part in the implementation of the Treasure Act, which became law in 1996 and replaced the old Treasure Trove legislation. The Treasure Act requires that any object or group of objects falling under the definition of Treasure be reported to the local coroner within fourteen days of suspecting they are treasure.

Many finders with potential treasure objects are metal detectorists. Finds Liaison Officers have in the majority of cases taken on the task of receiving treasure items, informing the coroner and conveying them to and from the British Museum where they are researched to confirm whether they fall within the criteria of the Treasure Act. Objects that are not deemed to be treasure are disclaimed and returned to the finder. Objects deemed to be treasure can be offered to museums and, if they wish to acquire an object, it is first valued by a committee of experts who decide the price that the museum must pay. This value is then passed as a reward to the finder and landowner.

A total of thirty-one potential treasure items were identified in Cambridgeshire between April 2007 and March 2008. During 2007-8 one find was acquired by Ely Museum, a 17th century gold posy ring inscribed on the inside with the words 'no fancy strang shall make me chang'.

An annual report of treasure finds is published by the Department of Culture Media and Sport, which is available from the Finds Liaison Officer on request.



The gold posy ring on display at Ely Museum. Purchased with the help of Friends of Ely Museum and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund

Recording non-treasure objects

The PAS database (www.findsdatabase.org.uk) was set up in 1999 to provide greater access to the data collated by the scheme. Although treasure items are recorded on this database, non-treasure artefacts found by metal detectorists make up the greater

proportion of entries and range in date from the prehistoric periods to the 18th century. A total of 927 finds were recorded by the Cambridgeshire FLOs between April 2007 and March 2008, examples of which can be seen below.



Siliqua of the Emperor Constans (347-348AD) found north of Peterborough. Fourth century silver coins prior to c. AD 355 are rare as site-finds in Britain. This particular coin comes from quite a large issue, but as an individual find (and as a find in a hoard) is most unusual for Britain.



Viking Bronze openwork disc brooch found in Weston Colville, Cambridgeshire 850-950AD. The design on this brooch is in the Jellinge style, usually used for carving stonework. The pattern is a beast with a thin body weaving under and over itself.

Conference Papers

Sarah Poppy has given presentations at the Mid Anglia Council for British Archaeology Workshop on the Heritage Gateway and Integration of Local Society Fieldwork into the CHER.

Quinton Carroll gave a paper at the annual conference of the British Association of Biological Anthropologists and Anthropologists called *Returning Remains: A Curator's View*.

Kasia Gdaniec presented a paper at the Institute of Field Archaeologists annual conference called *Profit or Loss: Investigations in the Cambridgeshire Fens*.

Staff publications

Earl, G., Morris, E., Poppy, S., Westcott, K. and Champion, T. C. 2007. Later Prehistoric Pottery Gazetteer. Digital resource available at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/archive/lppg_eh_2007/

Popescu, E. and Poppy, S. 2007. Fieldwork in Cambridgeshire 2006. Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society XCVI: 211-26

Gdaniec, K., Edmonds, M. and Wiltshire, P. 2007. A Line Across Land: Fieldwork on the Isleham-Ely pipeline, 1993-4. East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 121.

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