

Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team Annual Report 2009-2010

The past 12 months has been a very busy time for the Historic Environment Team. We started the year by settling down with our new colleagues in Environment Management and Climate Change, and then immediately launched straight into an office move. Former visitors may remember our old offices and search room in Castle Court, and it was a shock to realise that we had been in those rooms for over 15 years.

We were moved into temporary accommodation and then back into new offices after the refurbishment of Castle Court. We are grateful to those who helped us pack and move. We apparently now hold a county council record as the combination of the HER, planning files and eight members of staff required over 300 packing crates, even after a rigorous sifting of papers for storage or discard beforehand. People familiar with archaeologists' offices may like to speculate as to the amount and type of material that emerged from long hidden corners on both occasions!

Channel 4's Time Team investigated two of the county's sites in 2009 to make programmes for their 2010 series. Firstly they visited Norman Cross, the Napoleonic period prisoner of war camp built to accommodate French soldiers and sailors, many of whom paid their way by making the straw and bone models and figures now seen in Peterborough Museum. The excavations were limited but found remains and cast offs from these models. They also located the main cemetery of the camp, and it now looks like Cambridgeshire may have a French war grave site.

The second site filmed was the Roman villa at Litlington. Originally found in the late 19th century, it was purported to be one of the

largest known in the country. Large though it was, it proved tricky to find.

We have also had a few staff changes this year. We said goodbye to Barbara Wilcox (Head of Service), Sarah Poppy (Senior Archaeologist, HER) and Lizzie Gill (Finds Liaison Officer). We wish them well in the future. In return, we welcomed Sandy Shattock as Head of Service, Sally Thompson as Senior Archaeologist for the HER and Helen Fowler as Finds Liaison Officer. We welcome Hazel White to Sally's former role as Assistant Archaeologist. Recruitment can take time, so I would like to thank Oxford Archaeology East for seconding Helen Fowler to us and also to Clare Boyce who provided interim assistant HER cover.

The next 12 months will be challenging for all of us who work on Cambridgeshire's archaeology for many reasons, but by acting together we can continue the excellent changes of the past years.

Quinton Carroll
HET Manager



Children competing in an archaeology art competition at Burrough Green Primary School.

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), and forms part of the network of Historic Environment Records across the United Kingdom.

The CHER is a computerised and paper archive of information relating to the county's historic environment, and currently contains over 17,000 records of archaeological monuments, excavated sites, chance finds and historic buildings, in addition to 3,100 fieldwork projects. The record also holds information about over 7000 Listed Buildings, 261 Scheduled Monuments and 34 Registered Parks and Gardens in Cambridgeshire. We also maintain a library of related publications, including the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and over 3,000 unpublished fieldwork reports.

We continue to enhance our holdings and develop our service, gathering new information from a variety of sources, the majority coming from excavations undertaken as part of the planning process. Progress in 2009-10 can be summarised as follows:

	New records	Updated records
Monuments	755	2805
Fieldwork	188	423
Sources	258	1451

We have also continued to promote the CHER as a publicly accessible resource, available to professionals, academics, students and interested members of the public.

The CHER continues to be well utilised by the university community, and has again provided information directly in support of 47 undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies. During 2009-10 the CHER received 229 enquiries, 98% of which we answered within 10 working days.

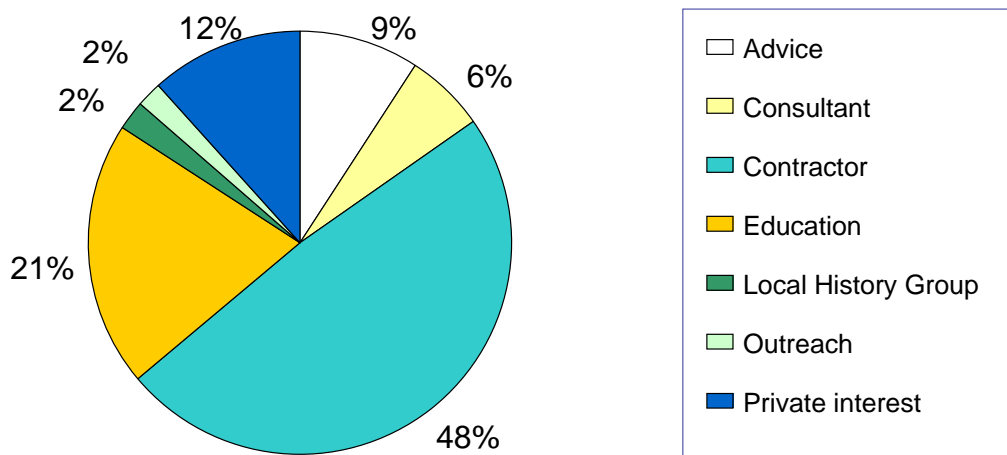


Unpublished archaeological reports or 'grey literature' at the CHER.

During the past year we have continued to support Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS), and the publication of unpublished fieldwork reports to the Archaeology Data Service's grey literature library <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>.

In 2009-10 70 completed digital reports were uploaded to the grey literature library. We continue to increase web links between the CHER online presence on the Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk> and the grey literature library, providing further avenues into this valuable and underutilised resource.

Enquiries to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record 2009-10



Archiving

This year the archive for the Cambourne excavations was transferred to the County Council. This was a 10 year programme of archaeological works on the site of the new town, the results of which have helped to redefine our understanding of Roman settlement in Cambridgeshire. We are really pleased to accept this key archive and are now looking to arrange an exhibition at Cambourne library.



Just some of the 6,000 boxes of archaeological archive housed in the Landbeach store.

Further use has been made of our collections for study, including PhD research on child mortality in medieval England.

2009 saw a flurry of activity on the policy behind archaeological archiving. The general size and scale of archives generated by archaeological investigation has steadily increased and as we cannot continue to increase our storage capacity a balance must be met. We have been discussing this with commercial archaeological contracting units who create archives to try to establish a way forwards and are embarking on a programme of wider consultation on a policy to reduce the size of archives thus ensuring longer term use and storage.

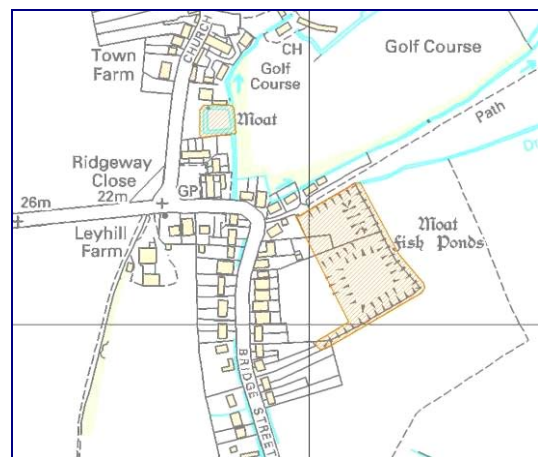
Finally, we bid farewell to the Police Museum collection this year. This was taken into our care in 1996 when the decision was taken to close the Police museum, formerly in Peterborough. Since then we have kept it at our stores, but we are pleased to finally return it back to its rightful owners, and we wish Cambridgeshire Constabulary the best with their plans for the future.

Monument Management and Countryside Advice

Our works to improve the management and presentation of scheduled monuments across the county have been progressing, with financial support from Cambridgeshire Horizons, South Cambridgeshire District Council and English Heritage. We are grateful to our partners for their support and especially to the owners of monuments for their continuing willingness to work to protect these important sites.

We have taken great steps with Worts Meadow, Landbeach to make the site suitable for Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status, and will be consulting with local residents and organisations on their support for LNR status in 2010.

We have worked with the owners of Horningsea Kilns, Waterbeach Abbey, Swavesey Priory and Fulbourn Manor to improve the presentation and management of the sites, and also to install new interpretation boards. We have also replaced the board at Bartlow Hills Roman tumulus to take into account new research.



SHINE record (shown here as the orange stippled area) for Ladybury Manor moated complex, Whaddon

We continue to support the implementation of Environmental Stewardship schemes to help protect archaeological sites in farmland. We have proposed several of the county's major sites for protection under Higher Level Stewardship.

Planning Advice

Our advisory role to District and County Planning Authorities through the implementation of the guidance contained in Planning Policy for the historic environment is well documented in our previous Annual reports. This role has continued throughout the past year and, although the volume of fieldwork has decreased relative to previous years, we continue to work with developers and planners at the early stage of development proposals to ensure that the historic environment is given appropriate consideration.

In addition to planning casework and our role in monitoring and promoting best practice in fieldwork, we continue to contribute to the development of planning policy for the historic environment at a national level.

Although the proposed Heritage Protection Reform Bill was dropped from Parliament's agenda in 2009, there have been developments in heritage protection reform which do not require legislative changes; specifically the replacement of Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG) 15 and 16 with a single Planning Policy Statement (PPS) for the historic environment.

Consultations by District area 2009/10

District	Total Consultations	Recommendations for Intervention
Cambridge City	89	69
East Cambridgeshire	73	67
Fenland	94	76
Huntingdonshire	118	89
South Cambridgeshire	77	54
Total	451	355

Breakdown of fieldwork by type 2009/10

	Desktop Assessments	Evaluations started	Excavations started	Other	Total
Apr – Jun 09	3	17	5	3	28
Jul – Sep 09	2	23	10	2	37
Oct – Dec 10	2	18	6	0	26
Jan – Mar 10	1	24	5	0	30
Total	8	82	26	5	121

We advise the District and County Planning Departments on policy and strategy relating to the historic environment. In 2009-2010 we responded to 13 Local or Minerals Development Framework consultations.

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 106 briefs for archaeological fieldwork, approved 116 written schemes of investigation and commented on 102 reports on fieldwork results before they are submitted to the CHER.

Looking to the future

Our last annual report highlighted the impact of the credit crunch on archaeology, especially on commercial fieldwork. 12 months ago few knew what the outcome would be, but there hasn't been the wholesale doom and gloom in archaeology some predicted. Here in Cambridgeshire we have seen a downturn in commercial fieldwork, and the archaeological contracting units have shrunk accordingly, but so far most have pulled through.

Probably the biggest challenge to us will be the impact of the economic situation on local government finances. Like all public bodies, we are being asked to demonstrate our efficiency and value, and some hard choices may have to be made. We expect the picture to be a little clearer in 12 months time, but anticipate the next few years to be challenging.

There was widespread disappointment in the sector at the indefinite postponement of the much anticipated Heritage Protection Reform Bill but the highlight of 2009/10 was undoubtedly the introduction in March 2010 of three major documents:

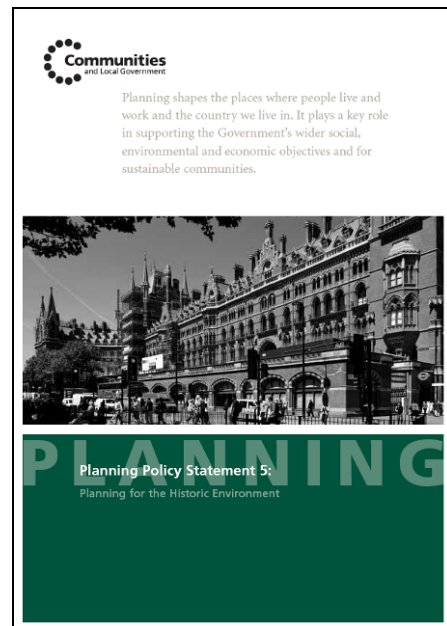
Government Statement on the Historic Environment
(http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/AccHeritageVision_Part1.pdf)

Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment
(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1514132.pdf>)

English Heritage PPS Practice Guide
(<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/pps-practice-guide/pps5practiceguide.pdf>)

The Government Statement is to be welcomed as it sets out clearly how central government views archaeology and the historic environment, and highlights (as we have been doing for a long time) the many areas in which it can contribute to sustainability, culture, development and the wider economy.

PPS5 is the long awaited replacement for PPG15 and PPG16 (Listed Buildings and Archaeology). We have been heavily involved in the debates about this policy and are very pleased to see that the principles of the earlier documents have been maintained and even strengthened in the new PPS, whilst at the same time several deficiencies have been corrected, most notably in the areas of post-excavation and archiving, essential areas of the archaeological process that were not explicitly stated in PPG16.

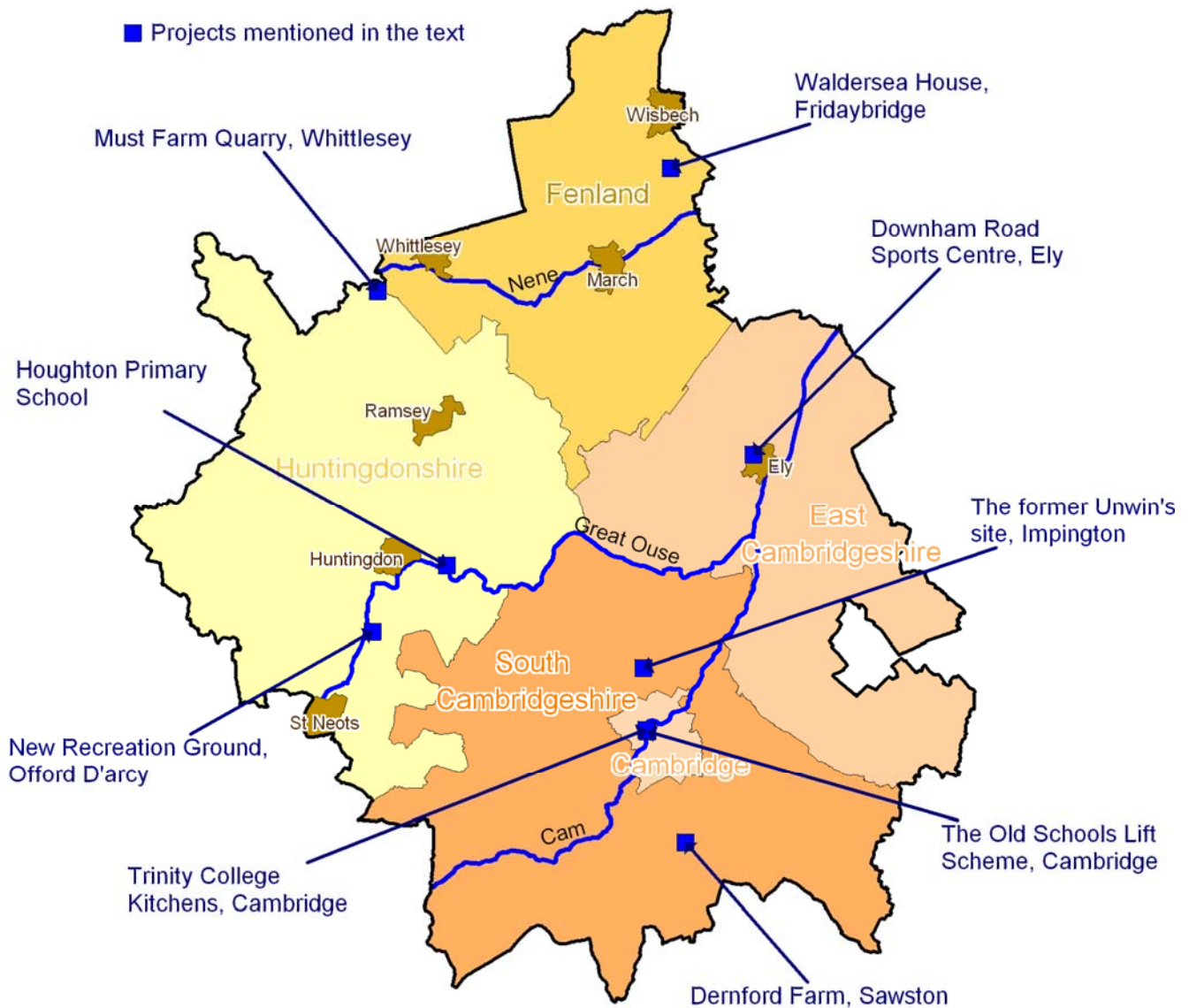


Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment

The Practice Guidance is English Heritage advice on best practice for implementation and provides the basis for professionals to work from.

Staff from the HET have been contributing to the debate and development of these documents through our involvement with the Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers (ALGAO) and the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA), and we welcome them. We feel it will underpin our work for a long time to come, and a key challenge to us for next year is developing the framework for the smooth application of the policy in Cambridgeshire. Watch this space!

Fieldwork Projects



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Must Farm Quarry, Whittlesey

Planning Authority: Cambridgeshire County Council Mineral Planning Authority
 Applicant: Hanson Quarry Products
 Archaeological Contractor: Cambridgeshire Archaeological Unit

Prior to the second phase of clay extraction at the Must Farm Quarry, further investigation of the Neolithic and Bronze Age landscape took place. The Annual Report of 2008-09 reported on significant excavation and research undertaken at the east end of Must Farm Quarry - of a later Bronze Age (c.1000BC) palisaded enclosure in which pile driven buildings were erected. That report outlined the extraordinary preservation of wooden and textile objects,

metalwork, complete pottery vessels, beads, bones and environmental evidence that has begun to yield important information on life at the water's edge, but this area of the quarry contains evidence of earlier archaeology too.

Remnants of the prehistoric fen have been found including evidence of wooden fence lines and cobbled surfaces lain at the edge of a former river.

Neolithic pits, containing distinctive Grooved Ware decorated pottery (c. 2500 BC), were dispersed throughout the area, cutting through earlier soils of a partially de-wooded landscape. Small mounds of burnt stones were also present: their use remaining a mystery. Burnt stone mounds commonly occur on Bronze Age sites and are thought to be indicative of a wide variety of uses, such as heating water and for cooking/curing purposes; creating steam for wood, antler and bone working, or as has been argued in some cases for use in health treatments.

The use of wooden boundaries and trackways was seen to extend into the area between Stanground to the east and the western edge of Whittlesey. In last year's stripped area, two wooden fencelines - perhaps even 'dead hedges' were seen to partition parts of the area. Lacking any relative dating that can be gained from associated finds, a radiocarbon date has been obtained from the wood.

While the archaeological evidence can help us understand former land use and the materials and artefacts used in those days, the quarry is also very important for the environmental evidence that it contains relating to the preserved ancient landscape. A major river, part of the ancient Nene system, exists at Must Farm and is the focus of continued research. Its oldest form exists as a roddon. To understand how the river worked, and how occupation occurred nearby, a massive cross section was excavated across the entire channel, greatly aided by the superb machining ability of Hanson's main contractor; Fox Plant. The channel was sampled and is being studied by specialists in palaeorivers and roddons from the University of Leicester and other palaeoenvironmental specialists.

If you would like to see this river section and learn more about this newly revealed part of prehistoric landscape, a report will be available in the CHER shortly.



The preserved remains of a fish trap from Must Farm Quarry
(photo courtesy of Cambridge Archaeological Unit).

Dernford Farm, Sawston

Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire
 Applicant: D K Symes Associates
 Archaeological Contractor: Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Situated to the east of the River Granta, Dernford Farm is located to the south of the village of Stapleford in the parish of Sawston. The archaeological implications were assessed on the basis of a planning application for the

formation of an irrigation reservoir in 2002, with evidence for potential prehistoric and Saxon activity recorded in the vicinity on the CHER.

Evaluation investigation in 2004 confirmed the presence of a substantial settlement of late Iron Age and Roman date and an excavation strategy was put in place to mitigate the impact of development.

Construction of the reservoir continued in the areas without sensitive archaeology and the first phase of the mitigation strategy was implemented in 2009. This involved the excavation of the southern area of the settlement previously identified. A series of enclosures were found arranged around a driveway leading from the higher ground to a silted former course of the river. Artefact densities within the ditches and associated features suggest that the enclosures functioned variously for livestock and domestic occupation. The stratigraphy recorded on site by the excavators suggests a periodic redevelopment of the site over successive generations.

The site continued in domestic use after the Roman period. A series of sunken featured buildings or *Grubenhaus* were identified in a linear arrangement, following the contour above the former river course.

Post excavation analysis of this important and long lived site continues and further excavation

of the final area of archaeological sensitivity will also contribute to our understanding of the development of settlement in this landscape.



A cluster of pits, partially excavated to reveal their depth and dimensions at Dernford Farm (photo courtesy of Archaeological Solutions Ltd).

Downham Road Sports Centre, Ely

Planning Authority: East Cambridgeshire District Council
 Applicant: East Cambridgeshire District Council
 Archaeological Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit

East Cambridgeshire District Council are proposing to develop a site of Downham Road to provide leisure and sports facilities. Archaeological investigations undertaken in connection with the housing development between West Fen Road and Downham Road uncovered extensive evidence of settlement in later Iron Age and Saxon periods whilst investigations to the west in advance of reservoir construction revealed a densely occupied settlement of Middle Iron Age date, with some evidence of Roman occupation. The site was subject to an archaeological evaluation, including trial trenching to identify the character and significance of archaeological remains on the site.

The evaluation successfully identified an area of significant Roman archaeology. When examined in the context of the previous excavations in the vicinity, this contributes to our understanding of the pattern of settlement shift and development

from the Iron Age into the Roman and post Roman periods.

The evaluation for this site has been undertaken in advance of the development of a master plan and planning application for this development. Consequently we will be able to work with the promoters of the scheme to develop a mitigation strategy which takes account of the important archaeological remains identified. This may include excavation in advance of development, which would be programmed into the timetable for project delivery, or ensuring preservation in situ by restricting the depth of disturbance in the areas of greatest significance.

New Recreation Ground, Offord D'Arcy

Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council
 Applicant: Savills
 Archaeological Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Offord D'Arcy is located to the south west of Godmanchester in the Ouse valley, in South Cambridgeshire. A programme of archaeological works was undertaken in advance of a small housing and recreation ground development commissioned by Savills.

Initial archaeological evaluation revealed a rich density of early medieval features and finds. A large number of pits and gullies replete with finds were located towards the northern bounds of the site. Finds included pottery and processed animal bone, the latter consisting mainly of

cattle bone exploited for its meat and marrow suggesting 'domestic' occupation near to the site. This presence of this material suggests that an area of early medieval settlement was present, extending further towards the centre of Offord, the waste of which was deposited within the evaluated area of the site. Although little was uncovered over the rest of the recreation ground area, it can be assumed that as today, the bulk of this area was devoted to open fields servicing the settlement to the north.



Pits during excavation at Offord D'Arcy (photo courtesy of Cambridge Archaeological Unit).

Waldersea House, March Road, Fridaybridge

Planning Authority: Fenland District Council
 Applicant: Northstar Projects
 Archaeological Contractor: Allen Archaeological Associates

An evaluation investigation was commissioned in advance of works commissioned by Northstar Projects to convert the building and surrounding land into a care home at Waldersea House, March Road, Fridaybridge.

Waldersea house is located within an area known for settlement and industry from the Roman period onwards, and the site investigated was no exception. The evaluation investigation revealed deposits dating from the 13th century, and a possible large water feature of unknown date. A programme of archaeological excavation was designed to

investigate the remains from the earlier evaluation investigation. Excavations revealed a series of medieval gullies encircling the site, showing that the majority of activity during this period was focussed just outside the area of excavation. However, two very interesting features were unearthed – two large pits dating from the 13th century. Of uncertain function, the pits seemed to be lined and may have formed part of a larger medieval industrial area involving the processing of animal by-products such as leather, bone and horn.

The Former Unwins Nursery Site, Impington Lane, Impington

Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council
 Applicant: Campbell Buchanan
 Archaeological Contractor: Oxford Archaeology East

In the fields known locally as 'Ratcatchers Enclosures' along Impington Lane, a riot of colour and the heady scent of sweet peas would have prevailed in the early years of the 20th century. William Unwin first established a nursery for growing flowers for sale at London Markets on the site at the turn of the 20th century. After 100 years of developing seeds for flowers and vegetables the Unwin nursery closed in 2006 and the land is slowly being redeveloped for housing. Campbell Buchanan is currently building 35 houses on the site of the factory and office buildings. Ahead of construction, a programme of archaeological investigation was designed that would investigate the remains of late prehistoric and Roman occupation remains found during an earlier evaluation investigation.

Land further west along Impington Lane had revealed ditches relating to Parliamentary enclosure field boundaries, some with medieval antecedents and to the east is the known 12th century manorial site, Burgoyne's Manor.

Elements of this medieval and post medieval landscape were anticipated within the investigation area but surprising new information was found instead.

Remnant traces of a small ring ditch, roughly 8m in diameter were soon revealed after stripping the topsoil from the main development area, associated with a larger ring ditch to the north, circa 12m in diameter. This would likely have been the area of the dwelling house, the smaller structure possibly being an ancillary structure. Houses of that date were post-built, the main supporting posts arranged in a circle, often with the entrance facing east - towards the rising sun, often with a porch structure.

The ring ditch can be either be a formally dug encircling ditch or an 'eaves-drip gully' formed over time at the perimeter of the thatched roof. Sherds of pottery from the ditch provided a late 1st century BC date, but unfortunately very little survived within the ring ditches to indicate the construction of buildings or the position of any hearths, but as the first prehistoric house to

have been excavated in the village, it constitutes an important new addition to the Historic Environment Record.

The Iron Age settlement had an associated field system, likely to have been for crops and animals, which developed over time forming a series of ordered sub-square enclosures by the 2nd century AD. By which time, the Iron Age house had been abandoned.

Though no direct evidence of houses were found in the excavation area, large ditches in the southern end of the site, parallel to Impington Lane, contained an abundance of domestic refuse including charcoal-rich hearth sweepings, food remnants and numerous sherds of pottery from contemporary pottery kilns at Horningsea and also imported wares from Roman Gaul. The potter's stamp on the base of a Samian ware vessel will be traceable during analysis to its point of origin, possibly from a workshop at Lezoux or La Graufesenque in central France.

The location of the Roman dwellings is still to be determined but as further investigation will occur ahead of any further development, there is a chance that more evidence of the Roman occupation will emerge.



Illustration of a late prehistoric round house, by Judith Dobie (courtesy of English Heritage)

The heating system from the greenhouses, extensive dumps of flower pots along with HP, ketchup and milk bottles were also recorded at the site. A dump of mixed terracotta flower pots were found which revealed further provenance stamps, this time of Sankey and Sons.

Richard Sankey and Son Ltd has been a leading manufacturer of horticultural products for over 150 years. By 1912 the firm was making half a million flower pots a week! A stack of very small Sankey pots, possibly broken in storage were found discarded in one of these dumps.



Excavations of the Iron Age roundhouse at Impington Lane, Impington (photo courtesy of Oxford Archaeology East).

Houghton County Primary School

Planning Authority: Cambridgeshire County Council
 Applicant: Cambridgeshire County Council
 Archaeological Contractor: Oxford Archaeology East

A programme of archaeological work is being undertaken in advance of the redevelopment of the village primary school in the village of Houghton.

Houghton Primary School is located in the medieval core of the village, close to the 13th century church of St Mary. Evaluation, undertaken in 2008 on the southern side of the school, confirmed that deposits relating to the medieval settlement survive in the area.

The northern side of the school was excavated in the summer of 2009 with unanticipated

results. The excavation uncovered the robbed out foundations of a substantial stone building with finds suggesting a late Roman date for its foundation. Stone founded buildings are rare in the Great Ouse valley, where stone building materials were not locally available. Associated with the building was a single burial, and there is a possibility that further burials may survive in close proximity.

Further work is planned in this area which we hope will shed more light on the date and function of these unusual discoveries.

The Old Schools Combination Room Lift Scheme, Trinity Lane, Cambridge

Planning Authority: Cambridge City Council
 Applicant: University Of Cambridge
 Archaeological Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit

The Combination Room in the former Divinity School of the University of Cambridge was built in 1347 as a detached hall building and was initially used for teaching. More buildings were

added over time and the Divinity School formed the north range of buildings arranged around a lop-sided rectangular courtyard.

As the university gradually expanded and the Colleges were built the teaching halls were no longer suitable and the 'Old Schools' changed their use to one of university administration.

The former Divinity School, The Regent House, is the residence of the governing body of the University of Cambridge. Located at the north end of the striking, part-colonnaded 18th century façade of Portland Stone that formalised the exterior of irregular building layout behind, the Old Schools, together with the Senate House, forms the distinctive administrative heart of the University. The Combination Room is on the first floor of The Regent House and was recently refurbished, enabling its magnificent 15th

century roof, windows and internal structures to be better appreciated.

To enable greater access to the Combination Room, a lift was installed in the north-east corner in a 2 x 2m shaft. A planning condition to enable the investigation of below ground remains and the recording of the historic fabric of the building was imposed by Cambridge City Council. A foundation pad had to be constructed in a deep pit excavated below ground floor level and also a controlled exposure of wall fabric in order to insert lining for the lift shaft. It was hoped that evidence of both the building's history and of land use pre-dating the university might be examined through this tiny 'window'.



The 2x2m lift shaft during excavation showing the foundation of the north wall of the 14th century Divinity School (photo courtesy of Cambridge Archaeological Unit).

The 18th century builders removed the east wall of the Divinity School in order to enable the Portland Stone facade to be built, but they did not remove the wall's broad foundation (1m deep and 1m wide) at the north east corner of the building. Seven courses of lime mortared clunch fragments overlain by two course of Barnack 'rag' limestone formed the trench-built 'face' of the walls. A rubble core of irregular clunch pieces bonded with poured lime mortar consolidated the substantial foundation. The quality of the construction of the foundation alone suggests that it was to support a superstructure of great distinction and likely to be of considerable height. Further examination of the corner foundation indicated that two, perhaps three construction phases or elements were in evidence. Thanks to the civil

engineering skill of the project engineers (Andrew Firebrace Partnership Ltd) it has been possible to preserve the foundation in situ below the base of the lift shaft.

Also located inside the lift shaft pit was a surprising history of occupation in a stratified sequence roughly 1m in depth. Evidence of Roman occupation formed the earliest recorded activity. Sherds of imported ceramics from Central Gaul and locally made table wares were found in old land surface deposits overlying the natural river terrace gravels. Beam slots and floors of an 11th century timber-framed building were found. Clay floors were repeatedly laid within the building, each time sealing trampled debris from the occupation surface some of which was datable.

The skeleton of a large dog was found in a pit dug beneath one of the floors. The animal bone assemblage indicated a great variety of species present. Later still a metalled yard surface was established, firmly altering the use of space from internal to external. Rubbish pits containing fragments of Collyweston slate roof tiles and of wall plaster were found in association with mid 14th century pottery. Whether these derived from a building that was demolished to make way from the new Divinity School, or whether they relate directly to the construction phase of

the school could not be definitely ascertained from the keyhole excavation.

It was astonishing to find a varied occupation history stretching back nearly 2000 years in such a small investigation area, particularly in a year when the university was celebrating its 800th anniversary, and it is owing to what could in the broadest sense be termed 'an enduring single occupancy' that the survival of archaeological evidence has been made possible at this site.

Trinity College Kitchens, Trinity College, Cambridge

Planning Authority: Cambridge City Council
 Applicant: Trinity College
 Archaeological Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit

During late 2009, Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook archaeological investigations in advance of modernisation of the kitchens at Trinity College, Cambridge.

The first stage of the investigations centred on the Great Courtyard within the College itself. The siting of a temporary kitchen necessitated a small investigation. A known medieval road runs through the courtyard, and although this was not encountered, the test pits excavated did reveal a build up of soil layers formed over time through successive re-topping of the area, including several finds such as clay pipes from the 17th century. It is thought that the re-topping of the area has preserved the medieval road in-situ.

The second phase of the investigations related to the new services required for the new kitchens. After removing modern floor surfaces, a complex accumulation of archaeological deposits were revealed. Several waste pits were discovered; dating from the early medieval period onwards that contained butchered bone and pottery. These features pre-date the existing college, and may have had associations with Michaelhouse and King's Hall, or one of the nearby private hostels known to have existed in the area.

The third and most interesting phase of the investigation was located within the kitchen itself. After ground reduction by the construction team, Cambridge Archaeological Unit started their investigations.

Having removed the modern rubble, a sequence of archaeological deposits was revealed featuring a 15th century well, backyard pitting and deposits containing medieval material.



The main room at Trinity College kitchens with the Michaelhouse structure in the foreground (photo courtesy of Cambridge Archaeological Unit).

Within the central and eastern bounds of the kitchen several foundation trenches belonging to Michaelhouse, predating 1543, the primary build date of Trinity Colleges. Within these trenches, large pieces of worked stone were found, forming the footings of Michaelhouse. These pieces of masonry were reused, and appeared to originate from an even earlier ecclesiastical building. Just to the north of these footings, several Trinity kitchen features were found, dating from the founding century of Trinity (16th century) including a small culvert and in-situ burning, indicative of a hearth place.

Outreach

The 2009 Cambridgeshire Archaeology's Public Events Programme has had yet another successful year with over 6500 visitors attending 70 events and activity days since January 2009.

The free guided walks on ancient monuments continues to be very popular with almost 500 people attending 15 walks which included tours of the Bartlow Hill and Burwell castle, and a Sunday walk around Huntingdon.

Cambridgeshire Archaeology had stalls and displays at the Reach Fayre in May, Denny Abbey in August and both the Great Gransden Show and Cherry Hinton History Festival in September, where hundreds of visitors to these community events were able to handle artefacts and discover the archaeology under their feet.

Two more open days at the Archaeology Store at Landbeach were held in March and October, where the public was able to view some of the hidden treasures from recent excavations in the county. Further open days are planned for 2010.



Children on a tour of the vaults at Wisbech Castle (photo courtesy of Oxford Archaeology East)

The Festival of British Archaeology this year was celebrated in July and our focus was on Cambridge City and at Wandlebury Iron Age Hillfort. Guided tours were held around Cambridge Castle, the historic city and at St Benet's church. Family archaeology activity days were held at Wandlebury Country Park and the Cambridge Folk Museum which had almost 300 visitors.

September saw a focus on Huntingdon with the re-opening of the Library, which staged another

family archaeology day, as well as a display of artefacts and talks on the discoveries of the recent County Council archaeological excavations in the centre of the town.

The County's Portable Antiquities Scheme officer was again at the County museums and held Finds Identification days throughout the year. The PAS officer was also on hand to identify ancient objects at the Family Archaeology days at Huntingdon, Wandlebury and the Cambridge Folk Museum.

Cambridgeshire Archaeology continues to run free school tours on the archaeological sites on the County Farms Estate (Devils Dyke, Car Dyke, Landbeach Worts Manor, Giants Hill Rampton and Stonea Camp). School children from all over the County have enjoyed these fascinating sites; over 300 pupils visited the sites in 2009. In addition Cambridgeshire Archaeology have been working closely with the outdoor education centre at Burwell House and helping to support school visits through educational resources.

Two Heritage Lottery funded projects have allowed local people to become directly involved in hands on archaeology in 2009. Cambridgeshire Archaeology joined in the Cambourne Stepping Stones project and gave talks to the local schools and the community about the discoveries found during the building of the new town. At Wisbech, a joint Cambridgeshire County Council and Oxford Archaeology East 'Your Heritage' lottery funded project to find the Lost Bishops Palace saw over 80 local volunteers join a team of archaeologists who excavated at Wisbech Castle for 3 weeks. During this time every school in the area was able to visit the dig and join in the investigation. Almost 1000 school children were able to see the dig. New education packs, a website and new display boards are all planned for Wisbech castle, in 2010.

Finally 2009 ended on the great news that the Jigsaw Heritage Lottery Fund bid to develop Community Archaeology for Cambridgeshire was successful in its round one application and submission is planned for later in 2010 with a proposed start in 2011 if successful.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a national initiative funded by the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council and The British Museum, set up to work with and extend the 1996 Treasure Act by recording non-treasure finds made by members of the public. The Scheme came to Cambridgeshire in 2003 and has its own Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) in part funded by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery.



A gold Anglo-Saxon Thrymsa coin dating from 655-675 AD, found in Cambridgeshire.

The current FLO for Cambridgeshire is Helen Fowler. She is based at Shire Hall for four days of the week and Peterborough Museum on Wednesdays. She is always interested to hear from members of the public who have archaeological objects they would like to have identified and is also planning to regularly attend several metal detecting clubs including the St. Neots and District Artefact Club and the Saffron Walden Detecting Club.



A struck flint rejuvenation flake of earlier Neolithic date from Sawston.

PAS Activity in Cambridgeshire 2009-10

2009-10 was a busy year, with six finds identification days undertaken by various staff at the Norris Museum in St Ives, The Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon, Wisbech Museum, St Neots Museum and Ely Museum. These proved to be very successful and well-attended events and will be repeated in 2010.



Silver Anglo-Saxon strap-end, from Huntingdonshire.

A total of 9 potential treasure items were reported in Cambridgeshire in 2009, with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Ely Museum and Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery expressing interest in acquiring some of the objects. For information on the 1996 Treasure Act, visit <http://www.finds.org.uk>.



A copper alloy Post-Medieval hooked clothing tag from Woodhurst.

A total of 522 objects were recorded on the PAS database in Cambridgeshire from a range of parishes and finders, dating from prehistory to the eighteenth century. To see these and other objects from the county and nationwide visit the PAS website <http://www.findsdatabase.org.uk>.



A silver three-pence coin of Elizabeth I dating to 1558-1603, from Cambridgeshire.

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