

Madingley Hall, Madingley

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of a new drainage installation



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**MADINGLEY HALL,
MADINGLEY
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**

commissioned by Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall

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Project Team:

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Summary

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook archaeological monitoring at Madingley Hall, Madingley (TL 3948 6034), between 12th and 17th January 2022. The Church of St Magdalene was undertaking drainage works, a segment of which crossed University of Cambridge land at Madingley Hall Institute of Continuing Education. Only this segment was the object of the archaeological monitoring. The investigations revealed a rather homogeneous sequence: turf and topsoil overlaying a levelling layer associated with the 18th century landscaping of the grounds by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. This was similar to observations within the churchyard during archaeological monitoring in 2018 and 2019. The shallowness of the trench prevented the recording of the sequence prior to that event.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Church of St Mary Magdalene at Madingley undertook a programme of drainage works, covered under the auspices of the Diocese of Ely (Fig. 1). New drainage pipes were installed from the south transept, between existing grave stones, around the western edge of the church, before extending to the northwest and joining the existing drainage system (Fig. 2). An approximately 12m length of this new drainage crossed University of Cambridge land at Madingley Hall Institute of Continuing Education. The archaeological monitoring of this 12m length was requested by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET).
- 1.1.2 The project was commissioned by the Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall.
- 1.1.3 A *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* was issued by the CHET (Hopper 2021) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced in response (Patten 2021) and agreed with the CHET in advance. Work was undertaken pre-application.
- 1.1.4 The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook archaeological monitoring of c.12m segment of the drainage works at Madingley Hall between 12th and 17th January 2022.
- 1.1.5 The Historic Environment Record (HER) event number was ECB6823, and the CAU site code for the project was MHD22.

1.2 Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Church of St Mary Magdalene is located in the centre of Madingley, a small village located a few miles to the north-west of Cambridge (TL 3948 6034). It lies within the gate of Madingley Hall, which was bought by the University of Cambridge in 1948.
- 1.2.2 Geologically, the site lies on Gault Formation Mudstone bordering West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (GeoIndex website, accessed March 2022).
- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) soils are lime rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (UK Soils Observatory website; accessed March 2022).
- 1.2.4 The PDA is relatively flat and lies at c. 35m AOD. It is currently occupied by a grassed lawn with two trees and a gravel path leading from the Church to the road to Madingley Hall.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Description

- 2.1.1 The parish church of St. Mary Magdalene is set at some distance from Madingley Hall, but within the gates of the hall, surrounded by a landscape that was emparked in the mid-18th century. The earliest mention of a church from historical sources dates to 1092 (Lloyd 1931). However, most of the present building dates between the 13th to 14th centuries, with

renovations occurring principally in the late-19th century. It is assumed that the churchyard has been actively used as a place of burial since the 11th century.

2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Six trenches associated with drainage and water were excavated within the church and the churchyard in 2018 and 2019 (Aldred 2019; Fig. 2). One *in situ* burial was uncovered in Trench 3, while a few disarticulated human bones were retrieved and reburied. A stratified sequence of archaeological deposits relating to post medieval occupation was recorded. It was overlain by levelling deposits from the 'Capability' Brown landscaping works of the mid-18th century (c. 1756). The findings in Trenches 1 and 5 related to the 18th century landscaping event, as well as residual elements relating to settlement activity before the mid-18th century emparkment.
- 2.2.2 In the immediate vicinity of the church and churchyard, there are several known sites derived from small-scale excavations, aerial photography, as well as antiquarian findings, that may have a material effect on the presence/absence of archaeology on the edge of the churchyard and the settlement remains to the west of the church.
- 2.2.3 There is a slight presence of Iron Age and Roman activity based on spot finds around Madingley Hall (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record Numbers 00271 and 03218).
- 2.2.4 Perhaps, the most important background presence relates to the Medieval period. Saxon-Norman evidence was found in several ditches during small-scale excavations close to the Hall and Garden (10185) between 1991 and 1998 (Hunter 1991; Gdaniec 1991, 1992, 1993; Robinson 1995; Regan 1998). This included a shrunken village (03224), hollow ways (03480), ridge and furrow (00428), as well as enclosures (03243), for example, are all close to the church and churchyard (Allen 1986; Munby 1988; Wright 1989; Brown & Taylor 1994).
- 2.2.5 In fact, these elements became largely relict in the mid-18th century when the village was moved to a new location and a new park was created for the hall (RCHME 1968, 176-8). The relocated village was created along the road to Dry Drayton (08164 - Historic England designation Registered Park and Garden 1000627). The garden's redeveloped and expanded on an earlier 17th century park located around the immediate vicinity of the Hall (0356C – Way 1997).
- 2.2.6 Excavations in the vicinity have all found evidence relating to the Medieval period activity – principally the settlement and related remains - as well as the emparkment period (Gdaniec 1991, 1992, 1993; Hunter 1991; Regan 1998; Collins 2007).

2.3 Aims and Methodology

- 2.3.1 The principle objective of the archaeological work was to mitigate the impact on archaeological resources using preservation by record, contributing towards reconstruction of the use and history of the site. The trench had the potential to allow the examination of features associated with church and its development, to identify burials, and recover disarticulated human remains for redeposition.

- 2.3.2 A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken in conjunction with the groundwork contractor appointed by the Church. The stretch of trench located on Church land was monitored by the Church appointed archaeologist.
- 2.3.3 The 12m section of trench, identified as sections A to C, and C to E in the WSI, was excavated over three days by the contractor and was dug with a combination of 2 tonne 360° tracked excavator and hand excavation. Prior to excavation, the turf was carefully cut out and put aside in order to be put back once the trench was backfilled. Material removed from the trench was deposited on boards laid on the side of the trench and the spoil was examined for artefact recovery.
- 2.3.4 The trench was c. 12m long, 0.25m wide and 0.4-0.45m deep. Its first segment, closest to the Church, was aligned S-N, and its second segment was aligned SE-NW (Fig. 3).
- 2.3.5 Prior to the trench being cut a metal detector survey was undertaken on its proposed course. Once excavated the spoil and trench sides were metal detected and scanned for artefacts. No finds were recovered.
- 2.3.6 Trench labelling continued from the previous phase of works undertaken by the CAU (Aldred 2019), therefore this trench was identified as Trench 7. Individual contexts were recorded using the CAU recording system. No features were recorded within the trench. Three representative sections were drawn. Photographic recording was digital.
- 2.3.7 The final archive, comprising a single binder, will be deposited with Cambridgeshire's designated archaeological storage facility.
- 2.3.8 Work was carried out in adherence to statutory Health and Safety legislation, the recommendations of FAME (Allen and Holt 2010) and in accordance with a site-specific risk assessment and the general CAU Health and Safety policy.
- 2.3.9 The project followed a brief issued by Kerry Hopper of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Hopper 2021) and a written scheme of investigation produced by the CAU (Patten 2021).

3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 The full length of Trench 7 was covered by a thin layer of turf and by 0.15-0.2m deep topsoil [100] disturbed by tree roots.
- 3.1.2 In the southern part of the trench, the topsoil covered 0.2-0.3m deep pale brown grey clay with gravel, grit and rootlets inclusions [101] (Fig. 4).
- 3.1.3 In the northern part of the trench, [102] was similar to [101], but disturbed and mixed with dark grey silt, mortar and clunch fragments. It overlay a thin deposit of dark grey silty clay [103] (Fig. 5).
- 3.1.4 No finds or human remains were retrieved from the trench.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The shallowness of the trench meant that only the upper archaeological sequence was uncovered: the occupation and full sequence could therefore not be characterised. The natural deposits were not reached.
- 4.1.2 The sequence was rather homogeneous along the length of the trench, with lower deposit [101] becoming mixed and disturbed toward the north-west part of the trench (Fig. 5).
- 4.1.3 The sequence in Trench 7 is very similar to the one exposed in Trench 1 and 5 (Aldred 2019): turf and topsoil overlaying a pale grey clay deposit related to the landscaping of Madingley Hall grounds by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 1750s (Fig. 4). The creation of the Lake occasioned the excavation of a large quantity of soil that was used to level part of the grounds, the western part of the churchyard included. As the results of the present investigations showed, this levelling extended to the north-west of the Chapel as well. These results also demonstrated that both the church's and the Hall's grounds were landscaped equally.
- 4.1.4 The 19th century cemetery layer observed in Trench 1 in 2018 between the topsoil and the 18th century levelling layer (Aldred 2019, 21) was absent from the trench and therefore did not extend northward.
- 4.1.5 The thin deposit recorded at the base of the northern part of the trench related to earlier remains. In Trench 1 and 5, possible demolition or trample layers were associated with the demolition of small buildings and the preparation of the area prior to the 18th century levelling (Aldred 2019, 12, 21-2). This deposit could be part of the same event. However, too little was observed in the trench to ascertain this interpretation.

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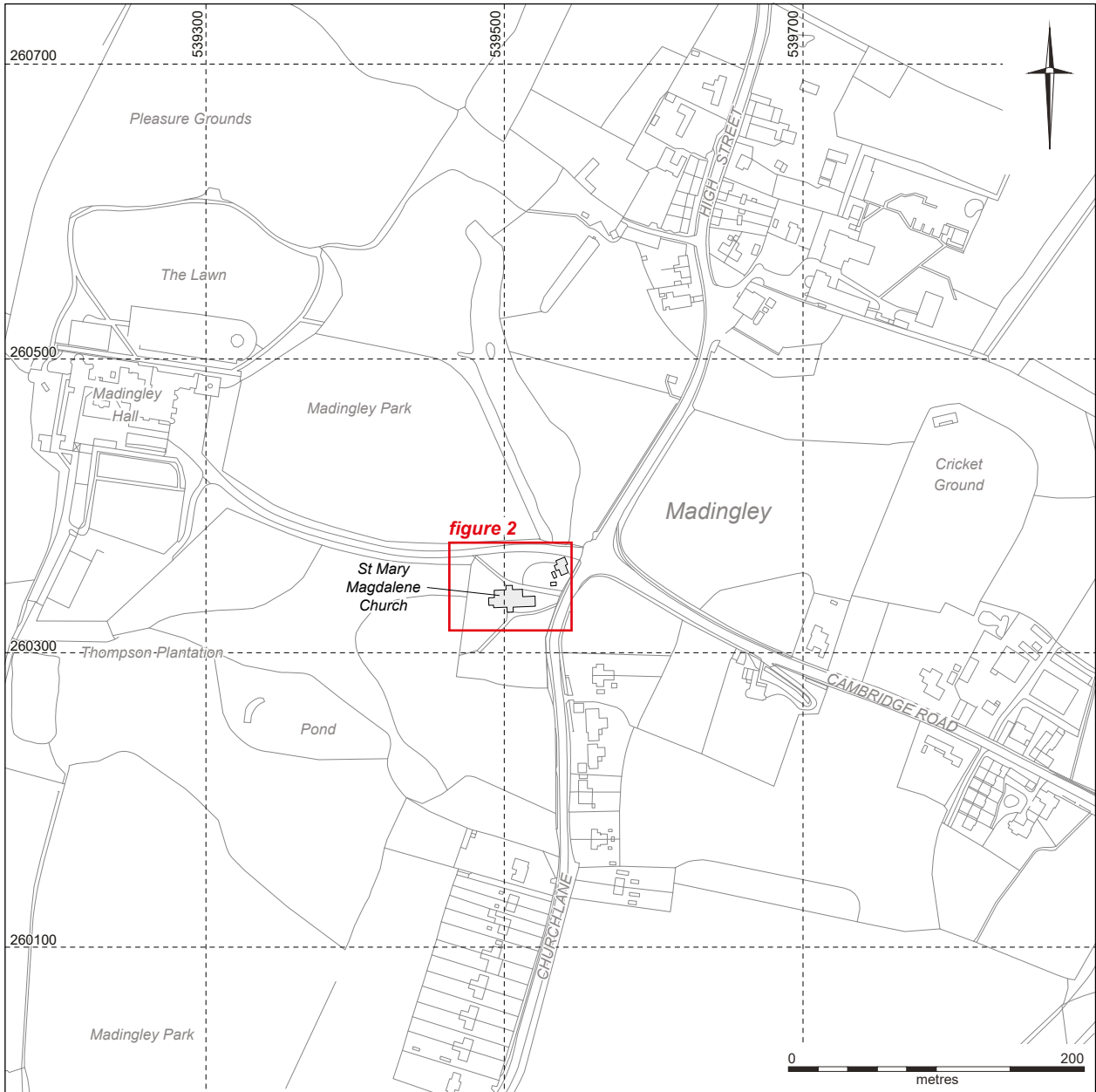


Figure 1. Site location

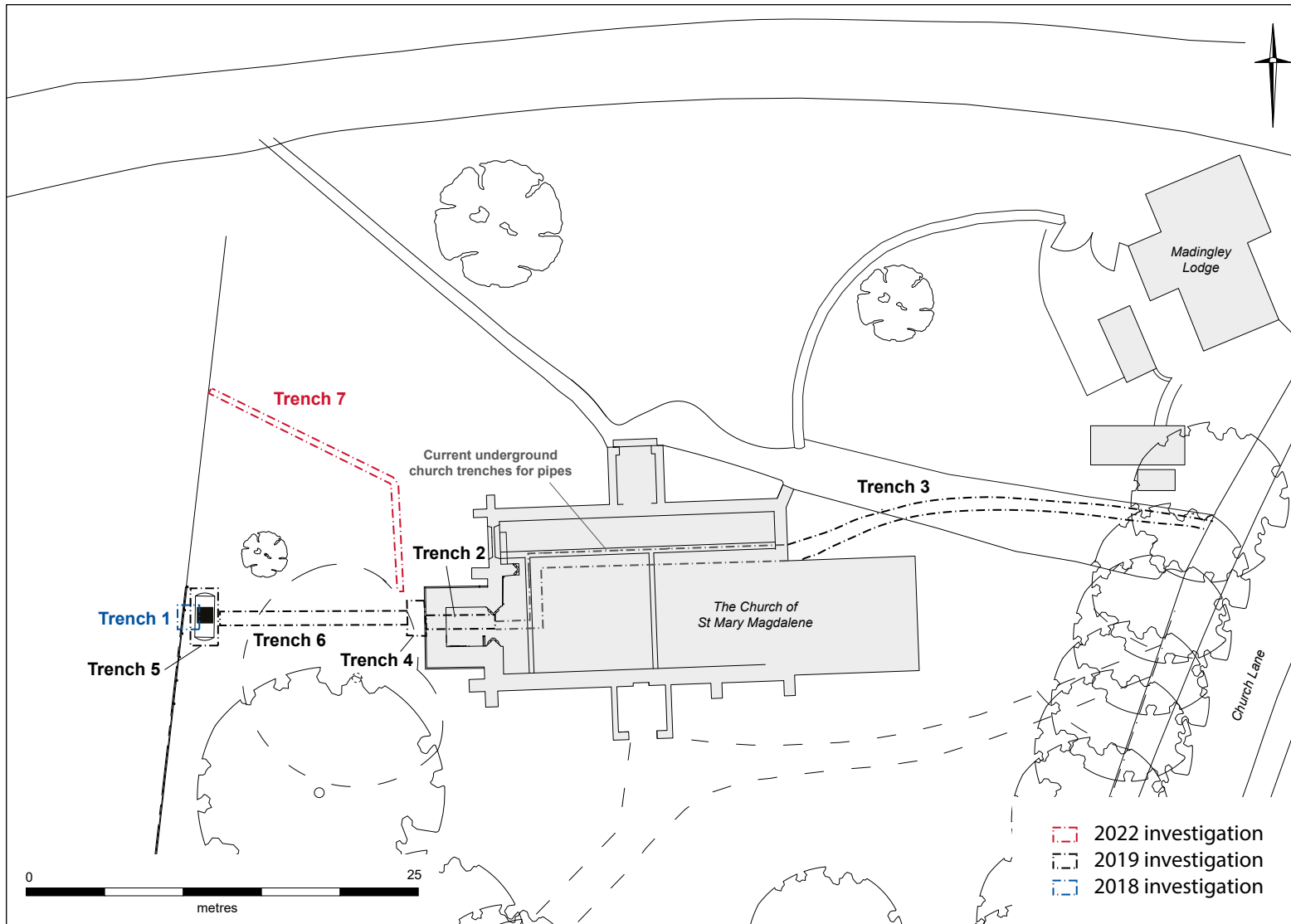


Figure 2. Trench location



Figure 3. Northern segment of the trench, looking NW



Figure 4. Section, looking W



Figure 5. Section, looking NE

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Topsoil
101	Pale brown grey clay with gravel, grit and rootlets inclusions	18 th c. levelling
102	Same as [101] with dark grey silt, mortar and clunch fragments	18 th c. levelling
103	Dark grey silty clay	Demolition/trample

Summary for cambridg3-503335

OASIS ID (UID)	cambridg3-503335
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Madingley Hall Drainage
Sitename	
Activity type	Field Observation (Monitoring)
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project Dates	12-Jan-2022 - 17-Jan-2022
Location	Madingley Hall Drainage NGR : TL 39480 60340 LL : 52.223611109134, 0.040557075412878 12 Fig : 539480,260340
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Cambridgeshire District : South Cambridgeshire Parish : Madingley
Project Methodology	Monitoring the machine excavation of a 0.25m wide x 0.4m deep trench for replacement drainage pipe to replace existing drainage for the Church of St. Magdalene. A 12m section of the drainage connected the Church drains to the University drains and crossed University land. This section was monitored on site while dug by a small 'mini-digger' with section profiles drawn and descriptions recorded.
Project Results	The investigations revealed a rather homogeneous sequence: turf and topsoil overlaying a levelling layer associated with the 18th century landscaping of the grounds by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. This was similar to observations within the churchyard during archaeological monitoring in 2018 and 2019. The shallowness of the trench prevented the recording of the sequence anterior to that event.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Charlotte, Debruxelles
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECB6823
Archives	Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeological Store