

## **Archaeological Investigations at the Sub-Department of Zoology, Madingley, Cambs.**

Archaeological investigations were commissioned by the University Estate Management and Building Service in anticipation of the development of a new workshop at the Zoology Sub-Department of Animal Behaviour, Madingley, Cambs. The L-shaped workshop will replace a smaller temporary wooden structure and, on rafted foundations, will occupy an area of c.462 square metres encroaching onto the south-western corner of an existing lawned courtyard.

The development area lies within the village boundaries of Medieval Madingley (TL 3975 6058), approximately 300m north-east of the Church, and exhibits the remnant ridges and furrows of the agricultural in-field system operative around the village properties. The farmland around Madingley contains much evidence of the Medieval cultivation system, and is particularly well preserved around the Hall as a direct result of 18th century emparkment and subsequent decommissioning of some of the village's arable lands. Excavations conducted at Madingley Hall in 1992 (500m south-west of the development area) revealed considerable information concerning both Saxon and Medieval occupation located on the slightly higher ground on the western side of the village (Gdaniec 1992). It was, however, not possible to locate the extent of the earlier settlement and so it remains unclear whether the evidence constitutes an isolated farmstead or a small hamlet. The remains of many Medieval properties, dismantled between the 16th and mid-18th centuries as part of the Hall development, are visible as earthworks within the south-eastern Hall fields and on the north side of Cambridge Road. Given the presence of the cultivation remains within the development area it was likely that it occurred just outside the settlement zone of the village. However, the unexpected Saxon remains found at the Hall suggested that a similar chance discovery, sealed by the overburden of the ridges, could not be ruled out. On 29th March, 1992, three 1.50m trenches were excavated representing a 9.7% sample of the development area.

### **The Results**

A T-shaped trench (Trench 1), 14m long N-S and 8m long E-W, was excavated on the eastern side of the proposed construction area. This was designed to both cross section the ridge and furrow and to gain the maximum insight into the potential underlying archaeology. The present ground surface slopes from 27.14m OD on the south side of the 14m trench to 26.64m OD in the north, undulating across one ridge and two half furrows. The surface of the natural boulder clay lay at c.26.34m OD and was seen intermittently between the many live services which occur throughout the development area.

The basic soil profile consisted of a 0.20m thick turf of dark brown clay silt loam which merged with a mid brownish grey heavy silty clay, 80mm thick. Included within the matrix of the latter were moderate fine angular gravels and pea grits, occasional charcoal flecks, brick/tile fragments, 19th - 20th century pottery sherds and large gravel pebbles towards its base. These layers overlay a mottled, fairly soft yellowish brown grey, slightly silty clay between 0.20-0.40m thick. Occasional fine - medium gravels occurred throughout and occasional fine gravel lenses were noted. At the base of this clay layer medium and large pebbles formed a distinct layer in which finds of animal bone and two sherds of abraded Medieval pottery occurred. Despite the presence of the pebble layer, the base of the mottled clay merged over 50mm with the top of the clean blue grey natural clay.

An 8m long N-S trench (Trench 2) was excavated along the south-western wall line of the proposed building. The same soil sequence as seen in Trench 1 was evident within this trench. The height of the outcropping natural clay lay between 26.86m OD in the northern half of the trench and 27.09m OD in the south.

The two N-S oriented trenches each dissected the remaining undulations of the ridge and furrow profile. The distance between ridge crests was approximately 10-13m and although the cultivation remains were quite visible within the lawn little could be seen in the soil profile to establish the maximum depths of the furrows suggesting that the greater part of the undulations has been eroded/truncated over time. It is suggested that this "narrow rig" forms part of the Medieval agricultural system, validated by the presence of Medieval pottery at the base of the heavy clay soil. Despite the possibility of archaeological remains being preserved beneath the ridge mounds, no further archaeological features were apparent.

The field drawings and notes are held by the CAU in the site archive (ref: ZOO-93).

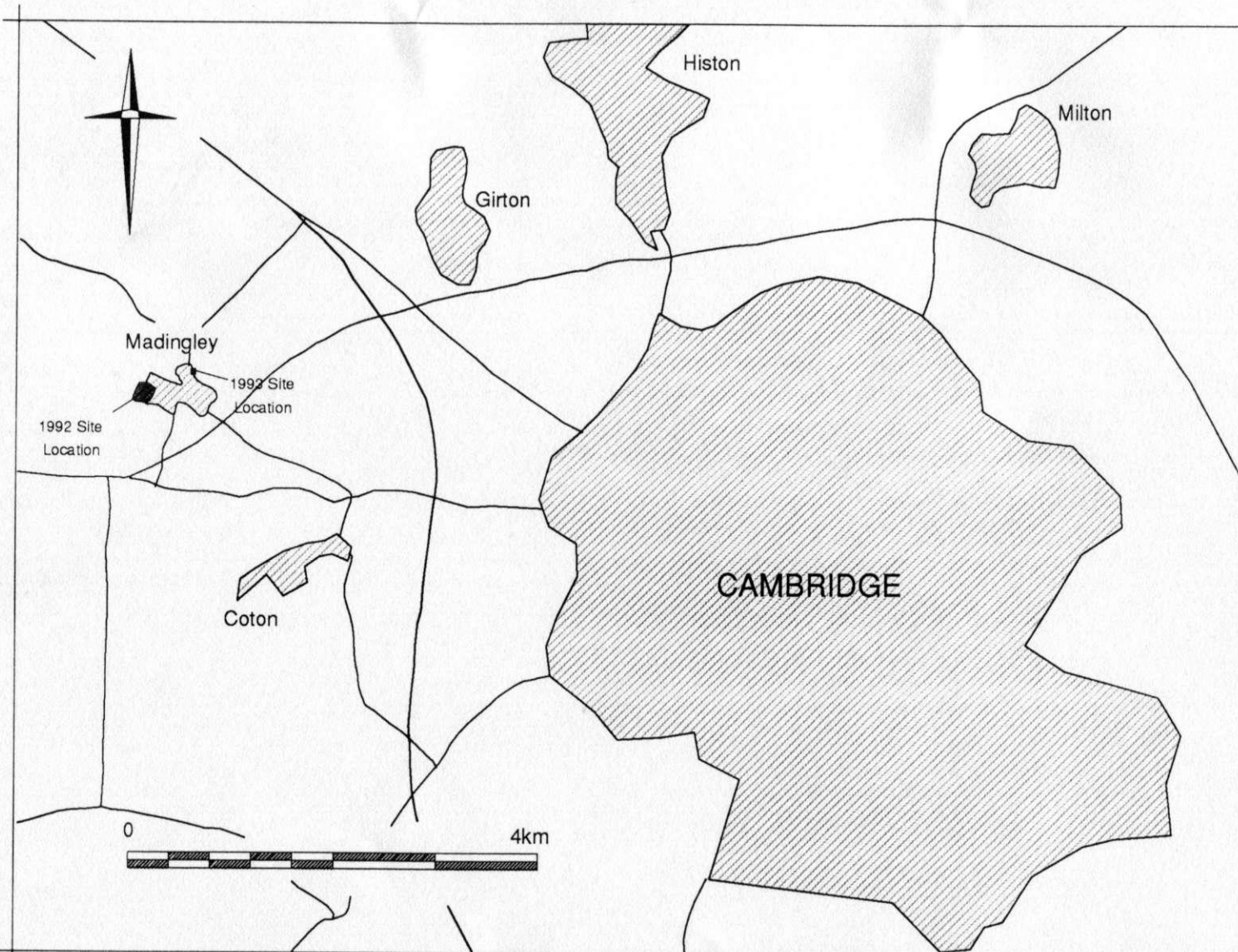
#### Reference

Gdaniec, K. 1992 *Archaeological Excavations at Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridgeshire, 1992*. (Draft). Cambridge. Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

K. Gdaniec  
31/03/93

TL 3800 6400

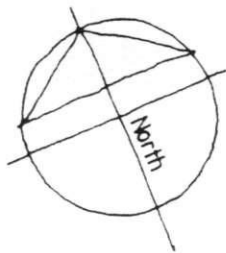
TL 5000 6400



TL 3800 5500

TL 5000 5500

Location Map



Allow for a new enclosure for stand-by generator & chillers.

Extend extg road.



Field Cottage

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

New Building

TRENCH 2

New fire hydrant.

Existing huts to be demolished shown dotted (10 no).

Overhead electric and telephone cables to be re-sited.

Existing Portacabin to be re-positioned.

TRENCH 1

Weeping Willow

Existing Laboratory