An archaeological desk-based assessment
of a site at Bourn, Cambridgeshire.

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# Contents

1 Summary 2

2 What we know about archaeology in and around the proposed development site (PDS) 3

3 Archaeological sites and finds in and around the PDS 7
   3.1 Introduction 7
   3.2 Statutory sites: Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) 7
   3.3 Statutory sites: Listed Buildings 8
   3.4 Excavated or evaluated archaeological sites 10
   3.5 Chance discoveries of archaeological material 21
   3.6 Archaeological sites known as cropmarks 22
   3.7 Field system and house platforms 23
   3.8 Bourn airfield 25

4 Potential constraints on development 26

5 References and other sources 27

6 Glossary of terms used 29

7 Acknowledgements 29
An archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Bourn, Cambridgeshire.

1 Summary

This is an archaeological desk-based assessment of a proposed development site (PDS) at Bourn, Cambridgeshire.

Excluding the airfield itself, there are six archaeological sites within the PDS – two ‘cropmark’ sites, two sites on which detectorists have found Roman coins and metalwork, a general reference to surviving fragments of a once more extensive medieval strip field system, and an approximate position of Roman burials (including a stone coffin). There is also a listed building within the application site (Bourn Grange). However, this will be unaffected by the proposed development.

A wider search area (2km from the centre of the site) has identified a further fifty-eight sites. It is greatly beneficial to this assessment that many of these are large-scale evaluation and excavation projects immediately adjacent to the PDS (Cambourne New Village site to the west, the A428 improvement scheme to the north, and several sites in Caldecote to the east). These projects have uncovered significant archaeological sites (principally of Iron Age and Roman date), in such quantities that it can be postulated with some degree of confidence that more of these archaeological sites will await discovery within the PDS. The construction of the airfield will have damaged some of these sites, but probably not destroyed them.
2 What we know about the archaeology of the immediate area of the PDS.

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit, Wessex Archaeology and West Yorkshire Archaeological Services carried out large-scale evaluations and excavations prior to the building of Cambourne, the redevelopment of Caldecote and the improvements to the A428. In addition, extensive air photo coverage and interpretation, by Palmer, Cox and Deegan, and field survey by Sue Oosthuizen have identified areas where the strip-fields and house platforms of the shrunken medieval villages of Caldecote and Densett survived until the building of the airfield (and now survive only in fragments).

The reports on the above work, in addition to South Cambridgeshire Village Earthwork Survey, and the usual sources of the Victoria County History, the reports of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) have been summarised and listed by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), maintained by the CCC Historic Environment team. The strength of the evidence available on the CHER and in other sources allows us to summarise the archaeological context of the proposed development.

A full list of archaeological sites and listed buildings (both inside and outside the proposed development site) is given in Section 3 below, and all sites are shown collectively on Figures 1-4. Bold numbers refer to sites shown on one of the figures.

Early prehistory and clearance of the woodland 1.

Evidence from the Cambourne project suggest that the woodlands which established themselves after the end of the last Ice Age (circa 10,000 BP) had been cleared (to make way for farmland) by the Middle or Late Bronze Age (circa 1,500 -1,000 BC). There were only two flint sites in the PDS, one a Mesolithic pick found on the A428 (site 13 here), and a possible flint-working site east of Broadway farm (37). Mesolithic flints were found residually at Highfields (33) during the excavation of an Iron Age ‘banjo enclosure’. There is no hard evidence for people living in the PDS in the Bronze Age, but there are isolated round houses of probable Bronze Age date in Cambourne (at the North Caxton Bypass and Lower Cambourne sites), showing that the area was probably being opened up to farming at that time. There is a complete barbed and tanged arrowhead from a ditch on the A428 (13). This may be displaced from a BA burial, or it may have been lost during BA hunting.

The Iron Age

There are no IA sites within the application site, but there is strong evidence from adjacent sites, as follows.

A high-status IA living site, a ‘banjo enclosure’ was excavated at Highfields Cambourne (Kenny 2007). The enclosure contained a round–house, and went through several phases before being overlain by a RB farmstead. Banjo enclosures were at one time thought to be animal enclosures (Cunliffe 1975, 159-61), but the identification of house sites at some banjo sites shows that they are (in those cases at least) living sites. The Caldecote site has a wide range of pottery types, quern fragments (indicating flour milling) and worked bone objects. This would be a good candidate for the living site of a local farmer of some importance, whose lands were marginal to (or perhaps inclusive of) what is now the application site.

1 background data to the PDS sites is from Wright, Leivers, et al, 2003, pages 63-118
Other living sites of this period have been found at Little Common Farm (LCF), and Broadway Farm (BF). At LCF, a large, D-Shaped ditched enclosure contained four round houses (22). During the Middle Iron Age (MIA) the enclosure was divided into three areas containing structures. The enclosure was focused in the Late Iron Age (LIA), at which time the structures were dismantled and replaced. Associated pottery is of MIA or LIA date. There were three rectilinear Early to Middle Iron Age enclosures at Broadway Farm (26), as well as hearths (domestic cooking?).

Elements of the IA farmed landscape are seen in the Jeavons Lane D-shaped LIA enclosure (27) which is probably an animal corral with adjacent fields, and in the mid-late Iron Age irregular animal enclosure at site on the A428 (13).

There are Iron Age pits and ditches at several sites in Caldecote. At the Primary School site were pits with IA pottery, and a ditch of IA or RB date. These IA features are probably associated with IA settlement to the NE (32). IA field systems are also in evidence – LIA and RB field system was found under the ridge and furrow field system at Highfields (33).

Beyond our search area and within the Cambourne project in general there are important Iron Age sites at Lower Cambourne (a LIA subdivided enclosure with at least nine round houses), and at Knapwell Plantation (a LIA double enclosure with many (7?) round houses).

The Roman period

This area was heavily settled and farmed in the Romano-British (RB) period. Although it is marginal to this assessment, the group of Roman barrows at Moulton Hills (1: a Scheduled Ancient Monument), is clear evidence of high-status burial in the Roman period. It is not known who is buried at the Hills, but it may be assumed that it was a rich local landowner. Where his or her land was located is, of course, not known, but is much more likely that the land was in the immediate area, rather than farther afield. In the context of rich Roman burials, it is of some interest that within the application site is the approximate location of Roman burials (39), one of which was a stone coffin. It should be pointed out that this site is only an approximate location, and the burials may come from anywhere in the vicinity (ie, not necessarily on the airfield site). Nevertheless, they do indicate more high-status Roman burials here.

An obvious question is – where did the people buried at Moulton Hills and on site 39 actually live? We do not know the answer, and as the local archaeological record lacks any obvious high-status Roman buildings (such as villa-type establishments with painted wall plaster, mosaic floors and underfloor heating) where high-status people may have lived, it may be the case that they lived at sites which are not so obviously high-status.

Without necessarily being able to say exactly which sites are more likely to be the living sites in question, we can point to local RB living sites. The enclosures at Jeavons Lane (27) and the Grange (25) may be candidates. JL is a regularly laid-out tripartite site with the remains of at least two structures with cobbled floors. Associated pottery dates the main occupation to the 3rd-4th century, and there are four RB burials. The Grange (25) is an important trapezoidal Romano-British enclosure containing two round-houses. It has some internal divisions, and a field ditch linking into adjacent farmland.

However, of the nine sites excavated in advance of the construction of the A428 dual carriageway, the largest RB farmstead was the ‘ladder settlement’.
constructed during the 2nd-3rd centuries AD at Childerley Gate (AEE 5 (18),
which lies to the north of Caldecote. There was no evidence of buildings or
structures here, but the presence of pottery dumps and a grave may indicate
settlement nearby (beyond the southern site limit?). In the 3rd century, the
settlement shifted north so that it fell within the excavated area. There was
evidence for at least one building, a probable hearth/oven, two ponds and
several rubbish pits. Two inhumations, a young female and a neonate, were
buried in close proximity to one another in a corner of the farmstead’s
northernmost enclosure.

Another RB living site is the AAE3 site on the A428, to the north of Bourn Airfield
(13). A substantial droveway and two enclosures were constructed during the
2nd century AD, suggestive of a pastoral economy. At the end of the 3rd century
or early 4th century AD a small Roman roadside settlement was established. It
comprised two sets of linear enclosures, aligned with a putative Roman road
corresponding roughly with the A428 corridor. A hoard of 15 mid-4th century
coins was recovered from the western enclosure ditch, and a cremation burial
was found in the SW corner of one of the enclosures (possibly the only survivor
of a domestic cemetery plot). The absence of signs of any buildings may be the
result of plough truncation.

Apart from the enclosure at sites (13) and (18) above, the RB farming landscape
is shown clearly by the two parallel droveways with a field or enclosure to its
north at Monk Field farm (28), and by smaller fragments such as the RB gully at
Ash Plantation (21), the Romano-British features at Great Common Farm (23),
the substantial ditches E of Jeavons Lane (29), and the ditches at Monk Field
Farm containing Iron Age and Roman pottery, together with a cremation of
Roman date (28).

There are also examples of RB fields at Highfields, Caldecote. At the Primary
School site (32) a RB field system remained in use during the 2nd – 4th
centuries AD. Evaluation at Hall Drive revealed another Romano-British system
of rectilinear bedding plots (33), possibly a vineyard.

Beyond our search area, and within the Cambourne project in general are
important RB sites at Lower Cambourne (two enclosures laid out over the top of
the earlier IA enclosures), at Knapwell Plantation (LIA double enclosure overlain
by a rectilinear RB enclosure).

The Anglo-Saxon period
The Anglo-Saxon (AS) period can be more difficult to quantify and describe than
the Romano period, because AS structures were generally built of perishable
materials which leave little archaeological trace, and (unlike the RB period) there
is none of the mass-produced pottery so commonly found on RB sites.

There are AS remains on various sites around the Search Area (though none
inside the Application site). There are AS ditches at Great Common Farm (23),
and AS pottery in the top fills of RB ditches (though no associated structures or
features) at the Grange (25). The Roman ditches east of Jeavons Lane also
contained Saxon pottery (29).

It is probably fair to say that the lack of AS material (generally a few potsherds in
the upper fills of Roman ditches) indicates a severe reduction in activity and
therefore (presumably) population here in the Anglo-Saxon period, although the
RB field system at Monk Field Farm appears to have continued in use into the
Saxon period (28).
The medieval period

Whether there was any direct continuity between the AS and medieval periods is genuinely difficult to say. In some cases, medieval strip fields have been shown to overlay the Roman fields in the search area (as in Caldecote: 33). This may indicate continuity of some kind, but whether this continuity by way of the survival of field boundaries, or of elements of villages and farmsteads is genuinely difficult to say.

Whatever the continuity (or lack of it) between the AS and medieval periods, it is undoubtedly the case that there was considerable activity in this area in the medieval period. Two villages developed at Densett (excavation 34 was part of the exploration of this village) and at Caldecote, based on Strympole Way (54) to the south of present-day Caldecote Highfields. Considerable areas of strip fields covered the SA (sites 50-66: see Fig 4). These were the fields worked by the inhabitants of the two villages, and their house sites have been identified at 67-8.

After a climax in the 12th and 13th centuries, these medieval villages eventually shrank back to a smaller core (and are now referred to as SMVs (shrunk medieval villages)). It appears that much of the SA remained as ‘wasteland’ in the post-medieval period, before the growth of the villages at Bourn and Caldecote, and the building of the airfield in WWII.

The post-medieval period

In comparison with the important prehistoric, Roman, and medieval remains described above, it is probably fair to say that there are no significant remains of the post-medieval period here. The exception is the WWII airfield at Bourn.
3 Archaeological sites and finds in and around the PDS (Figs 1-4)

3.1 For this assessment, a search area has been defined, equating to an area 2km around the centre of the Application Site, and a list has been compiled of the known archaeological sites and finds within the Search Area (SA) under the following headings:

**Statutory sites**
- Scheduled ancient monument
- Listed buildings

**Non-statutory sites**
- Excavated or evaluated archaeological sites
- Chance discoveries of archaeological material
- Archaeological sites known as cropmarks
- Remnants of fields systems and house platforms
- Bourn airfield

In the list, the site location or address is followed by the reference number for the information held on the principal archaeological record for the County of Cambridgeshire. This is the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record’ (CHER). Following the CHER number, the National Grid Reference (NGR) is given, and any source references. In the case of listed buildings, there may also be a National Heritage List for England reference number (NHLE).

3.2 Statutory Sites – Scheduled Ancient Monument

1 **Moulton Hills Roman barrows**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHL:</th>
<th>1019637, 3245a</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGR:</td>
<td>TL 32553 57086, TL32613 57078:TL 326 571 (1909 site)</td>
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This site is on the fringe of the Search Area, and will not be affected by the development. Moulton Hills, a group of three Roman barrows, known as Moulton Hills or Arms Hills, are exceptionally well-preserved earthworks encircled by large ditches. The mound of the northernmost barrow measures approximately 23m in diameter and is 3m high. Its ditch is 6m wide, as 1909 excavation results indicate, but is currently visible as a depression of approximately 0.3m deep with a width of 4m on the southern and eastern sides; on the north and the west it has been cut by the present Crow End Track and Broad Way. Partial excavation undertaken in 1909 revealed two superimposed mounds, of Roman and medieval date consecutively. The inner mound contained what is thought to be a late second century AD cremation burial, accompanied by a host of grave goods, including pottery, a bone pin and a loom weight. Early medieval hearths were found on the top and southern lip of the internal mound. The overlying mound is a post-Norman Conquest construction containing Roman and medieval debris, including coins of Edward II (1307-27) and Edward III (1327-77).

**References:** Walker 1911, Hurst 1956, RCHM 1968
3.3 Statutory Sites – Listed buildings

Fig 2: listed buildings.

2 **Great Common Farm**
CHER: 03230  
NGR: TL 334 593  
Protected status: listed building.  
Reference: RCHM 1968, 25; Map: 1960. OS 6 inch map

3 **Bourn Grange**
CHER: 03381  
NGR: TL 334 584  
Protected Status: Listed Building; Barns to North of the Grange  
Bourn Grange, C19, (1832).  
Reference: RCHM 1968, 25

4 **Chapmans Farmhouse**
CHER: 03383  
NHL: 1127216  
NGR: TL32683 57363  
Grade II listed farmhouse. Dated 1664, on plastered chimney plaque; alterations and additions c.1860. Timber-framed with rough cast render. Modern plain tile roof. One storey and attics, lobby entry plan with C19 rear kitchen of Bourn great bricks.  
References: RCHM West Cambs, 25; VCH Vol. V

5 **Crow End Farm, Bourn**
NHL: 1331373  
CHER: 03380
6 Barn to south of 152 Crow End Farmhouse
NHLE: 1127217
NGR: TL32959 57320
Grade II Barn. C17. Timber-framed and weatherboarded with brick plinth. Thatched roof half hipped. Lower gable extension to west also thatched with weatherboarded timber frame. Three timber-framed bays with main entrance facing north.

7 Town End Farmhouse, Alms Hill
NHLE: 1127213
NGR: TL33038 57457
Grade II Farmhouse. Late C16. Two storeys, three unit plan, with ridge stack to left of centre and side stack to south-west. Main entrance to the farmhouse originally faced east.
Reference: R.C.H.M. Records 1949

8 Clare Farm, Caldecote
CHER: 03377
NHLE: 1127195,
NGR: TL3484 057469,
Grade: II farmhouse. Dated 1808 on staircase. Gault brick, plain tile hipped roof. Two storeys with attics and cellar, double pile plan with paired end chimney stacks. South facing symmetrical elevation. Two ground floor recessed twelve-paned hung sash windows with segmental brick arches, two similar first floor windows. Moulded stone Tuscan portico, half-glazed door, first floor casement windows to balconette. Interior: Contemporary details.

9 Barn to south-west of Clare Farmhouse
NHLE: 1162744
NGR: TL3484 057433
Grade: II Barn. C17 or later. Timber-framed and weatherboarded with corrugated iron replacing original thatch. Half-hipped roof, three timber-framed bays with double entry facing west and opposing outshut to east,

10 Wood Barn, Toft
CHER: 03355
NGR: TL 354 571
Map: 1960. OS 6 inch map. RCHM. 1968
3.4 Excavated or evaluated archaeological sites
3.4.1 The A428 improvement scheme

12 Ditches, Bourn Airfield
CHER: MCB16334
NGR: TL 339 598
2004 fieldwalking and geophysical survey, undertaken in footprint of the A428 improvement scheme. Detailed geophys survey at the western end of this field identified two ditch-type anomalies. These are thought to be roadside ditches and may be associated with the WWII airfield at Bourn.
Reference: Archaeological Services WYAS 2004

13a Pits, Bourn Airfield, SITE AAE3
CHER: MCB16335
NGR: TL 343 597
Fieldwalking and geophysical survey within the footprint of the A428 improvement scheme identified three pit-type anomalies at the eastern end of the field, possibly related to Romano-British remains identified during earlier fieldwork.
Reference: Archaeological Services WYAS 2004

13b Late Iron Age/Roman remains, Bourn Airfield, SITE AAE3
CHER: MCB16808
NGR: TL 341 597
An evaluation was undertaken on the proposed A428 Caxton to Hardwick road corridor, revealing a number of ditches containing late Iron Age/Roman artefactual material. Two ditches were parallel and aligned E-W at 12m apart, and may be roadside ditches. Other dispersed gullies and ditches were recorded in the vicinity, suggested to be field boundaries or horticultural trenches. A residual complete barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from one of the ditches.
2. Nine sites excavated in advance of the A428 dual carriageway. Earliest evidence comprised part of a mid-late Iron Age irregular enclosure of unknown extent, perhaps for coralling animals, rather than settlement. Much of the Iron Age pottery was residual, except for a near-complete pot recovered from a pit. A substantial droveway and two enclosures were constructed during the 2nd century AD, suggestive of a pastoral economy. A steep sided water pit was recorded near the entrance of the western enclosure. Pottery of 1st and 2nd century date was recovered from the features, and the enclosure ditch also produced small quantities of lava quern fragments. At the end of the 3rd century or early 4th century AD a small Roman roadside settlement was established. The settlement comprised two sets of linear enclosures, c.70m apart, on a N-S alignment, aligned perpendicular to the putative E-W course of the Roman road. The eastern set of enclosures were redesigned in the mid 4th century, and a hoard of 15 mid 4th century coins recovered from the western enclosure ditch. An urned cremation was found in the SW corner of one of the enclosures, possibly the only survivor of a domestic cemetery plot. No building remains were identified at the settlement, although this is thought to be the result of plough truncation.,
References: Abrams 2005 (AAE 3); Abrams and Ingham 2007, Site 3

13c Roman features, Bourn-Caldecote Highfields pipeline, SITE AAE3
CHER: CB14588
NGR: TL 343 598
On the Bourn to Caldecote Highfields pipeline 2000, a small site produced a considerable quantity of Roman pottery, several linear features, a small pit and a small quantity of building materials. The linear features were all cut through an earlier spread which contained much Roman pottery and a small quantity of building material. A small pit containing an almost complete grey ware vessel dating to the 3rd/4th centuries AD was also found.,
Reference: Kenney 2000
13d Mesolithic pick, Bourn Airfield
CHER: MCB16812
NGR: TL 343 597
An unstratified flint pick was recovered from the topsoil at Bourn airfield, during the
evaluation along the route of the A428 road improvement scheme.
Reference: Abrams 2005

14 Ridge and furrow, N of Bourn airfield
CHER: MCB17981
NGR: TL 345 598
A 2008 magnetometer and magnetic susceptibility survey along a 15m/21m corridor on
proposed Coton to Bourn water pipeline. Traces of ridge and furrow were encountered in
the eastern part of the field.
References: Prince with Bartlett 2008

15 Medieval routeway, land NE of Bourn airfield. (Site AAE 10)
CHER: MCB16809
NGR: TL 348 597
An evaluation was undertaken along the route of the proposed A428 Caxton to Hardwick
road corridor. This is suggested to be the route of the Roman road, remains of which
may be preserved below the 20th century road. Two pairs of shallow wheel ruts were
revealed at this location, each spaced 1.3m apart. No artefactual evidence was
recovered to assign them a date, although they were stratigraphically later than an early
Roman field system. No evidence for ridge and furrow was recorded at this location,
suggesting this strip of land may have been in use as a communication route.
References: Abrams 2005 (AAE 10), Abrams and Ingham 2007

16a Medieval moated site, Childerley Lodge (Site AAE 4).
CHER: 01099
NGR: TL 353 598
Traces of an elongated moated area, 450 feet by 150 Moat at Childerley Gate, on the N
side of the main Cambridge – St Neots Road and a few yards W of Childerley Gate. Two
evaluation trenches were sited to investigate the moat site. It is thought to be a post-
medieval garden/boundary feature, rather than the suspected medieval moated site. The
trenches also contained undated field boundary ditches, thought to be part of a
contemporary field system. Follow-up excavation revealed the remains of a large
rectangular moated garden feature. Its fills dated to the 17th-20th centuries, suggesting
a 16th-18th century date for its creation. The ditches were up to 8m wide and 1.5m
deep, enclosing an area of 135m long and 40m wide, with a significantly smaller
southern enclosing ditch. A 18m wide opening was recorded on the N side of the moat,
defined by a narrow gully. An iron rod and cast iron perforated plate were recovered
from the infill near the entrance, suggestive of an entrance gate or door. The moat is
similar in morphology to the 16th century moated garden at Childerley Hall, and its
location at the entrance to the Childerley Estate supports its interpretation as a formal
garden feature associated with the estate. The moat is visible in its complete form of the
1886 Ordnance Survey map, with the western and northern sides being infilled by 1969.
Site 4

16b Roman fields and structure, E of Childerley Chapel (Site AAE4)
CHER: MCB17870
NGR: TL 352 597
Excavation along the A428 improvement scheme, 2005-7
Nine sites were excavated in advance of the construction of the A428 dual carriageway.
Two phases of NW-SE ditches were recorded, forming part of an extensive field system.
Little dating evidence was recovered from the features, although their stratigraphic
relationship indicates a pre-medieval date. A semi-circular building measuring 7.5m by
6m was also identified, its location indicated by the presence of six substantial post holes, five of which had post-pipes. The deposits from the fills were sterile.

References: Abrams and Ingham 2007 Site 4

17 Ridge and furrow and other ditches, Dry Drayton
CHER: MCB16336
NGR: TL 357 598
Fieldwalking and geophysical survey, was undertaken within the footprint of the A428 improvement scheme 2004. Detailed geophysical survey revealed evidence of ridge and furrow field systems and several other ditch-type anomalies.

References: Archaeological Services WYAS 2004

18 Roman settlement, Childerley Gate (Site AAE 5)
CHER: MCB16337
NGR: TL 359 598

Following a fieldwalking and geophysical survey, evaluation along the A428 improvement scheme included two trenches placed to investigate a possible barrow cropmark, but no Bronze Age remains were recorded. However, two enclosures, two pits, several postholes and a possible water pit were identified, many features containing pottery dating between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. A coin hoard consisting of 4,485 3rd and 4th century coins was recovered from one of the pits. One irregular pit was recognised as the possible remains of a sunken featured building, but no dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

Of the nine sites were excavated in advance of the construction of the A428 dual carriageway, the largest of the farmsteads recorded along the route was identified here at Childerley Gate. A ladder settlement constructed during the middle Roman period (2nd-3rd centuries AD), comprised a linear series of narrow rectilinear fields, with one or more trackways linking two larger enclosures to the NE and SW. A small pottery assemblage was recovered from the ditches, in addition to two Roman coins and a ferrous smiting hearth bottom. A high degree of truncation was recorded, most notably illustrated through the recovery of a badly disturbed inhumation from the northern corner of the south-western enclosure. No grave goods were recovered from the inhumation, which is thought to be that of an adult male. A deposit of late 2nd century pottery was recorded in the corner of the enclosure, several of the vessels having post-firing holes drilled through their bases. Some recutting of the ladder system was undertaken, and a large pottery dump inserted into the top of one of the recut ditches. The pottery comprised locally produced coarse wares in a limited range of vessel types, with seventeen of the vessels having been drilled post-firing through their bases. The function of these perforated vessels is uncertain, possibly improvised strainers used in the production of cheese or brewing. A small number of non-ceramic artefacts were also included in the dump, including a nail and a small incomplete spearhead. A fairly large assemblage of charcoal and charred plant remains were recovered, the presence of narrow oak roundwood suggestive of managed woodland. No evidence of any structures were identified in the ladder system, and the small quantities of animal bone and pottery do not indicate occupation within the excavated area. However, the presence of pottery dumps and the single grave man indicate settlement nearby, possible beyond the S limit of the site.

The ladder system remained in use during the 3rd century. Two enclosures were added, and there was subsequent reshaping of enclosures and construction of droveways and a pond. A large quarry pit was dug to extract the chalky marl, obscuring the NW part of a former enclosure, which on excavation was found to contain five fragments of sawn wood. The ephemeral traces of a heavily truncated possible building were recorded, although no conclusive evidence for domestic occupation was identified. A small pewter plate and a small assemblage of pottery was recovered from
the enclosure ditches.

At the beginning of the 4th century the core of the settlement shifted north so that it fell within the excavated area. Evidence for at least one building was recorded, in addition to a probable hearth/oven, two ponds and several rubbish pits. Although much of this later Roman farmstead has been destroyed by truncation, a large faunal assemblage was recovered. A pit cut into the infill of an earlier ditch contained a coin hoard of 4,487 late 3rd century barbarous radiates, probably contained within a wooden box. Two inhumations, a young female and a neonate, were buried in close proximity to one another in a corner of the farmstead’s northernmost enclosure.

Although the settlement at Childerley Gate does not appear to have been abandoned at the end of the Roman period, little maintenance and modification of the site was undertaken after the mid 4th century. A relatively homogenous dark soil layer was recorded at the top of some of the larger features., Archaeological Services WYAS. 2004


3.4.2 Cambourne New Settlement

20 Cambourne New Settlement evaluation and excavations, 1999-2006
Sites below.

21 Roman and Iron Age remains, Ash Plantation, Bourn
CHER: CB15436
NGR: TL 333 598
At “Ash Plantation” (centred on TL 33250 59970), a small part of a possible sub-rectangular enclosure, visible as a cropmark, was excavated revealing only a small Romano-British gully. An undated ditch terminal was found in one of the two trenches targeted on the cropmark/enclosure. About 200 metres from the enclosure an apparently isolated Iron Age pit was also discovered.

References: Birbeck 2000: Cox and Deegan 1996:

22 Iron Age – Roman settlement, Little Common Farm, Cambourne
CHER: CB15772
NGR: TL 331 591

Archaeological evaluation revealed an oval enclosure with associated pits and field system, dated to the Early-Middle Iron age. Excavation – four phases of activity dating from MIA to Medieval or later. During the MIA a large ditched enclosure was divided into three areas containing structures. The enclosure was altered in the Late Iron Age, at which time the structures were dismantled and replaced. A series of pits containing animal remains and pottery date to this period. An oven or kiln-related feature was constructed following the abandonment of the enclosure in the Late Iron Age. A Romano-British field system surrounds the enclosure. Finally remains of ridge and furrow were observed across the site.,

References: Every, R.. 2003: Godden, D.. 2004

\(^2\) number 19 not used
23a Romano-British remains, Great Common Farm
CHER: CB15448
NGR: TL 333 590
Excavation at Great Common Farm, Cambourne, 1999-2002. Four phases of activity were recorded:
1. Romano-British (2nd-4th century AD). Romano-British features were concentrated within the south-east corner of the site. A short length of undated gully ran from the eastern limits of the site before being cut by one of the two parallel ditches, which ran north-south from the southern edge of the excavated area before butt-ending. Two pits (one of which may have been the terminus of a ditch) and a gully were also recorded from this period.
2. Saxon. Two undated ditches very tentatively represent a second phase of activity predating the ridge and furrow cultivation. Another Saxon ditch was discovered during evaluation.
3. Medieval/post-medieval. Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation clearly evident in the site. A large ditch might have been situated on a former headland, suggesting a later feature. This ditch cut two undated features, one possible pit and ditch.
4. Modern (1800-). Numerous modern field drains, especially along the E edge, 2 modern service trenches in NE corner of site.
References: Gardiner, Wright, et al 2003

23b Romano-British remains, Great Common Farm
CHER: CB15448
NGR: TL 333 590
Excavation at Great Common Farm, Cambourne, 1999-2002. Four phases of activity were recorded: 1. Romano-British (2nd-4th century AD). Romano-British features were concentrated within the south-east corner of the site. A short length of undated gully ran from the eastern limits of the site before being cut by one of the two parallel ditches, which ran north-south from the southern edge of the excavated area before butt-ending. Two pits (one of which may have been the terminus of a ditch) and a gully were also recorded from this period.
2. Saxon. Two undated ditches very tentatively represent a second phase of activity predating the ridge and furrow cultivation. Another Saxon ditch was discovered during evaluation.
3. Medieval/post-medieval. Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation clearly evident in the site. A single large ditch might have been situated on a former headland, suggesting a later feature. This ditch cut two undated features, one possible pit and ditch. 4. Modern (1800-). Numerous modern field drains, especially along the E edge, 2 modern service trenches in NE corner of site.

23c Roman and Saxon ditches, Great Common Farm
CHER: CB15435,
NGR: TL 333 590 same as 14, 15,
Excavation revealed a number of Romano-British and Saxon ditches. The exact nature of the activity represented by these features is uncertain, but it is assumed they are associated with the more intense activity approximately 200m to the south.
Reference: Birbeck 2000

24 Iron Age – Medieval field systems, Cambourne
CHER: MCB16822
NGR: TL 331 590
Excavation in The Fields, Cambourne, 2003/4. A programme of excavation was carried out at two locations in the eastern sector of Cambourne. In one trench four phases of field system were identified, spanning the early/middle Iron Age through to the Medieval periods. The Late Iron Age and Roman systems may have been short lived, and may represent farmsteads, but geophysical survey failed to provide any more conclusive evidence as to the function of the features. Elsewhere little evidence for significant archaeological remains was found, with the exception of a series of undated ditches.
Reference: Every 2004
25a Roman – Medieval remains, The Grange, Cambourne
CHER: CB15447
NGR: TL 332 588
Excavations at The Grange, Cambourne, 1999-2002. Three phases of activity were identified during excavation. Phase 1 dated to the Romano-British period, consisting of a sub-rectangular enclosure that contained at least two circular structures represented by ring-gullies. This enclosure was, however, preceded by at least two ditches and some associated pits, possibly representing earlier field boundaries and possibly by a third circular structure. Early Saxon material was recovered from several features encountered during the excavation. No Saxon features were identified, but 49 sherds of Saxon pottery were recovered, as well as a copper alloy girdle hanger. The remains of a Medieval/Post-Medieval ridge and furrow field system was clearly evident within the site. A significantly large area of the underlying features was truncated by this phase of activity.

25b Roman and Saxon activity, The Grange
CHER: CB15434
NGR: TL 333 589
Excavations revealed a large number of pits and ditches – evidence of Roman and early Saxon activity, including possible evidence of horticultural or vinicultural activity.
References: Birbeck 2000

26 Iron Age remains, Broadway Farm, Bourn
CB15446
TL 322 582
Excavation at Broadway Farm, Cambourne, 1999-2002. Three phases of activity were defined:
1. Early to Middle Iron Age. All excavated features date to this period. They were concentrated mainly within the north-eastern half of the excavated area. Three rectilinear enclosures were recorded, one of which cut a short length of curvilinear ditch. A small number of isolated hearths, pit/postholes and a single ditch were also excavated within the central and north-western areas of the site.
2. Phase 2 Early Romano-British (AD 43-150). No features investigated during the excavation could be assigned to this period. However, an earlier evaluation produced a small amount of early Romano-British material in a gully.
3. Medieval and later. Plots from aerial survey appeared to show traces of medieval/post medieval ridge and furrow cultivation on the site and beyond. The excavation found only a single furrow together with medieval material, demonstrating the damaging extent of recent modern ploughing.
References: Gardiner, Wright, et al, 2003

27 Iron Age-Romano-British settlement, Jeavons Lane, Cambourne
CHER: CB15443
NGR: TL 322 591
Evaluation revealed two clusters of significant archaeological activity in the Phase 4 and 5 housing, adjacent to Jeavons Lane, bisected by Monkfield Drive. The largest cluster lies immediately S of Monkfield Drive and consists of at least one large enclosure, numerous linear field boundaries and pit/posthole features, all dating from the late prehistoric into the Roman period. A second smaller cluster lies 120m further to the north. This consists of a single enclosure and well, together with a linear field boundary and a small group of possible postholes, which appear to date to the late prehistoric period.
Four phases of archaeological activity were identified:
1. EIA-MIA – two parallel linear boundary ditches and at least two pond/well features.
2. Early RB. Two large D-shaped ditched enclosures in the S half of the site, and a ramped well.
3. This phase, of three sub-phases, included majority of dated features. Main focus
centred on a rectilinear enclosure, partly incorporating two trackways immediately to its NW and SE. Phase 3a is the original construction of the enclosure's central and NE bay and trackways. The enclosure originally square, divided into two bays by a series of ditches. The S half of the NE bay was occupied by a small rectangular sub-enclosure, which in its turn appears to have been sub-divided by a fence line. A possible external animal pen lay to the south-western side of the enclosure. In sub-phase 3b, the main enclosure was extended, with the addition of a south-western bay. The S trackway was also extended to the south-west, although reduced in width. In sub-phase 3c, another sub-enclosure ditch was added to the main enclosure. A possible access existed at the eastern corner of the enclosure. Immediately to the south of the enclosure, a 14m long ditch fragment was found, possibly indicating a "re-routing" of the southern trackway around the sub-enclosure.

4. Late Roman. This latest phase of archaeological activity on the site was characterised by a small number of pits and residual material which appear to have been focused around a possible working hollow or structure. On the fringes of this activity, three burials were inserted into the terminus of one of the ditches which previously had formed the rectilinear enclosure. A fourth burial, together with a pit containing redeposited human bone, had been inserted into the centre of an Early to Middle Iron Age pond.

5. Medieval and later cultivation. The remains of the medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow field system was clearly evident within the site. A significantly large area was truncated by this phase of activity.


28a Multiperiod remains, Monk Field Farm, Cambourne
CHER: CB15771
NGR: TL 324 592
Excavation at Monk Field Farm, Cambourne, 2003 revealed four phases of activity dating from prehistoric to Medieval or later. The earliest phase of activity is represented tree clearance, followed by the creation of a Roman field system. A single cremation is also tentatively dated to the Roman period. The field system continued in use until the Saxon period, and was replaced by medieval ridge and furrow across the entire site.
Reference: Godden 2004

28b Roman ditches and cremation, Cambourne
CHER: CB15774
NGR: TL 324 592
Reference: Every 2003

29 Roman ditches, E of Jeavons Lane, Cambourne
CHER: MCB16821
NGR: TL 325 592
Watching brief along temporary haul road and drainage pipes, Cambourne, 2003, revealed ditches – substantial 2m wide with Roman and Saxon pottery, animal bone, mollusc and charcoal, and in the same trench another ditch contained half of a ?Roman pot. A third undated ditch may be part of the field system identified at Jeavons Lane. The remains indicate settlement activity nearby, although little charcoal was found in environmental samples to support this theory.
Reference: Wright 2003

30 Possible palaeochannel, Upper Cambourne
CHER: CB15775
NGR: TL 327 590
A possible palaeochannel/spring was located during the evaluation.
Reference: Every 2003
31 Roman ditch, Bourn-Cambourne pipeline  
CHER: CB14589  
NGR: TL 325 595  
1. During a watching brief on the Bourn to Cambourne pipeline route 2000, a ?Roman boundary ditch was found.  
Reference: Kenney 2000

3.4.3 Caldecote sites

32a Iron Age remains, Highfields  
CHER: 13008  
NGR: TL 350 585  
Evaluation and area excavation at Highfields, Caldecote Primary School, 2000 found pits, some of which produced IA pottery, a ditch of likely Iron Age or RB date, three medieval furrows, and undated postholes. Iron Age features are likely to be associated with known Iron Age settlement to the NE. Ditch on similar alignment to excavated examples to the S, which were of Romano-British date.  
Reference: Abrams 2000

32b Roman field system, Highfields, Caldecote  
CHER: 11914  
NGR: TL 349 584  
1996 evaluation at Highfields, Caldecote, revealed evidence of a Romano-British field system, later than the field system found in the NE evaluation area. In close proximity a possible ring-ditch was found, which contained no datable objects, but it likely to be late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. Artefacts recovered in this area include Romano-British pottery and animal bone. A large ditch running N/S was identified, which may have acted as a major land division or drain.  
2. Six open areas were excavated to investigate the Romano-British field system and possible ring ditch. The features previously thought to be a possible ring ditch were revealed to be two distinct features of Iron Age date, a pit and a linear ditch. The Romano-British field system was further investigated, revealing several phases of ditch, indicating that the field system remained in user over a considerable period of time. Pottery recovered from the ditches spanned the 2nd – 4th centuries AD and was concentrated towards the N of the investigation area.  

32c Medieval and Post-Medieval remains, Highfields, Caldecote  
CHER: 11914b  
NGR: TL 349 581  
Six open areas were excavated in 1996 at Field C, Highfields, Caldecote, to investigate the Romano-British field system and possible ring ditch. An area of medieval activity was located in the SE corner of the site. This was represented by a boundary ditch, a possible fence line running beside the ditch, several pits, and part of a timber structure constructed with post-in-trench foundations. These features produced pottery, some bone, daub fragments and a few fragments of lava quern stone. This evidence may suggest the presence of a small settlement of early medieval date, previously unknown, clustered on either side of the Highfields Road. Post-medieval activity on the site was represented by postholes marking a fence line.  
References: Leith 1997
33a Late Iron Age – Early Roman field system, Highfields, Caldecote
CHER: 11913
NGR: TL 354 587
Prior to further development an evaluation took place in two distinct areas of Highfields, Caldecote, in April 1996. An aerial photographic assessment identified a Medieval ridge and furrow field-system of which the remains were surveyed. In the NE east evaluation area a Late Iron Age and Romano-British field system was found to underlie the ridge and furrow field system. The presence of a nearby occupation is suggested by concentrations of burnt daub, pottery and worked animal bone, and a ditch which may be part of a ring-ditch associated with a circular building. The pottery recovered dates to the Late Iron Age and early RB.

References: Kenney 2007: Oakey 1996

33b Iron Age/Roman agricultural remains, E of Highfields Road, Caldecote
CHER: CB14750,
NGR: TL 353 585
Evaluation at Hall Drive, Caldecote, 2001, and excavations of land E of Highfields Road, Caldecote, 2002. A curvilinear ditch may be part of an Iron Age roundhouse. A system of early Roman parallel ditches bounded by a ditch perpendicular to this system showed great similarity to Iron Age and Roman field systems and enclosures excavated just to the north. Similar features have been related to vineyards on other sites (e.g. Wollaston, N Hants). The Romano-British phase was characterised by the establishment of a horticultural system of rectilinear bedding plots. The emphasis appears to be on little strip plots. It is difficult to describe with any certainty the function of the field system, but the various features certainly form a large interlinked agrarian system.,

3.4.4 Other excavations

1 Moulton Hills Roman barrows
See entry 1 above.

34 Medieval settlement remains, Densett Street,
CHER: MCB16865
NGR: TL 330 574

Geophysical survey and Evaluation at Densett, Bourn, 2004. Gradiometer survey and small-scale resistivity survey was undertaken across a 6 ha area, revealing a range of anomalies of potential archaeological significance, relating to occupation and iron-working activities. An old field boundary, shown on a 19th century map, was identified. Several anomalies were recorded along the track along the western side of the site, likely to represent occupation and associated activity. A number of high magnetic anomalies were thought to be ponds which were backfilled in the 1980s, and which may be the remains of ore-processing sites.

2. A programme of fieldwork was undertaken on the lost medieval settlement of Densett, near Bourn, as part of an ongoing LHI funded community archaeology project. A magnetometry survey was carried out, supplemented with resistivity work, and subsequently a trenching strategy was devised based on results indicating domestic and industrial activity (iron smelting). In the northern part of the site, the excavations located domestic properties dating from C12-15 along Densett Street, but little evidence of metalworking.

3. Eval confirmed the presence of properties fronting onto Densett Street dating from the 12th to 15th C. Activity along the street frontage was very dense, but did not extend much back from the frontage. Limited evidence for metalworking, environmental samples indicated agricultural and domestic activities, with only small quantities of slag present. The geophysical anomalies identified in this area were found to be recent burnt material and rubbish backfilled into former ponds, that may themselves have been extraction pits.

References: Gaimster and O’Connor 2005; Spoerry 2005: GSB Prospection 2006
3.5 Chance discoveries of archaeological material

35 Roman finds, Bourn
CHER: MCB15961
NGR: TL 333 581
Metal detectorists finds of coin blanks, bronze coins (mainly 4th century), fragment of statue, Roman pottery (includes Samian), box tile and roof tile. [HB- fair or temple site?].
References: T Reynolds. Cambridgeshire SMR Index Card

36 Roman coins and pottery, Bourn
CHER: 03280
NGR: TL 325 572
Roman pottery and coins. Aurelius, Constantine 1,Valens
References: Walker 1911, 166-77: Fox 1923, 194-5: RCHM 1968

37 Flintworking site, Bourn
CHER: 03294
NGR: TL 329 572
Alison Taylor, County Archaeologist, said of reported Palaeolithic flints “Having seen the site I am very doubtful that there is much more than naturally crushed flints here”.
References: CCC Archaeology A Taylor.
CHER: 03294a
NGR: TL 329 572
On the same site as above, a Mesolithic axe and other possibly Mesolithic tools.
References: Verbal communication: D Baxter

38 Roman finds scatter, Highfields, Caldecote
CHER: CB14713
NGR: TL 347 579
Roman finds scatter (coin, pot, tile) found by field walking and metal detecting.
Reference: Leith 1997

39 Roman inhumations, Bourn
CHER: 03274
NGR: TL 340 590
Roman inhumation burials and a plain stone coffin (same as that outside the Cambridge Archaeology Dept, Downing St.?)
Reference: Liversidge 1977, 24

40 Dry Drayton (IA coin)
CHER: 03304.
NGR: TL 355 597
A gold stater of Cunobelinus found at Childerley Gate in 1854.
References: Evans 1864: Allen 1975

41 Roman feature, Highfields, Caldecote
CHER: 03286
NGR: TL 353 588
Ditch or pit with Samian sherd near bottom found 1957.,
References: CBA 1958

42 Pottery scatter, Caldecote
CHER: MCB16508,
NGR: TL 348 571
A collection of pottery sherds seen at Local History Event. Mainly C13/14 local wares, but some Thetford wares, and some C16/17 glazed wares. Found during landscaping works in garden.
References: Verbal communication: Q Carroll. 2005

3 numbers 43, 44 not used
3.6 Archaeological sites known as cropmarks

45 **Bourn cropmarks**
Cropmarks of field system and trackways are shown here in Wright, Leivers, *et al*, fig 1.

46 **Rectilinear enclosure, Bourn**
CHER: CB15582  
NGR: TL 338 581  
AP assessment, Cambourne, 1996. A rectilinear enclosure is visible on aerial photographs of this area.  
References: Cox and Deegan 1996

47 **Rectilinear enclosure, Bourn**
CHER: CB15583  
NGR: TL 326 576  
AP assessment, Cambourne, 1996. A previously unknown rectilinear enclosure was recorded south of the study area.  
References: Cox and Deegan 1996

48 **D-shaped enclosure, Bourn**
CHER: CB15581  
NGR: TL 339 594  
AP assessment, Cambourne, 1996. A D-shaped enclosure is visible on aerial photographs of this area.  
References: Cox and Deegan 1996

3.7 Field systems and house platforms

50 **Ridge and furrow around Bourn airfield**
CHER: 09562  
NGR: TL 340 586  
Ridge and furrow in many fields around Bourn airfield. Area extended to include fields adjacent to Rockery Farm. Sketch plotted on to 1:10,000 overlay.  
Reference: CCC Archaeology 6 inch OS map

51 **Medieval trackway and cultivation, Bourn**
CHER: 03427  
NGR: TL 322 574  
SE of Bourn Lodge, is an access way 30ft wide running NW and SE between blocks of ridge and furrow.  
Reference: RCHM. 1968

52 **Ridge and furrow, Bourn**
CHER: 09941  
NGR: TL 328 573  
Series of relict cultivation earthworks located to E of Bourn Broadway / Alms Hill Road. (Ridge and furrow).  
Reference: Etté 1991, Site visit observations
53 Ridge and furrow, Mount Close, Bourn
CHER: 03428
NGR: TL 327 571
In Mount Close the ridge and furrow avoids Moulton Hills.
References: RCHM. 1968, 27

54 Strympole Way, Caldecote SMV
CHER: 03297
NGR: TL 348 571
Former extent of the village pre-1854 shown by old inclosures stretching along each side of Strympole Way. They extended N from the S boundary for over half the length of the parish. Most had contained inhabited houses and probably dated no later than C13 and C14. By 1851 the shrunken village was concentrated about 1/2 mile N of the church around the Fox Inn. Not mentioned by Beresford in his DMV work (1971).
References: Elrington, CR (ed) 1973

55 Ridge and furrow, Caldecote
CHER: 11224,
NGR: TL 348 574
AP assessment, Highfields, Caldecote, 1996. 3 E-W ridges south of Clare Farm, with headland near road. Part of Caldecote SMV.
References: Hinds 1993; Palmer, R.. 1996
56 Ridge and furrow, Caldecote
CHER: 03309
NGR: TL 347 577. Associated Events:
AP assessment, Highfields, Caldecote, 1996. Very well preserved ridge and furrow over several fields, surrounded by old hedges. Stinnage wood is pre-Inclosure but later than ridge and furrow. Old enclosures, containing houses in C13 and C14, probably depopulated by C16, used as pasture ever since. Recommended to MVRG.,
References: Palmer 1996; Elrington 1973

57 Cropmark site, Toft
CHER: 09568
NGR: TL 356 577
Trackway, ridge and furrow and other linear features. A discussion of the origins of open fields points out that headlands and furlongs are consistent across the parishes of Toft, Comberton, Barton and Granchester. This is contrary to the theory that each parish developed its own fields independently. The theory presented is that these four parishes formed an individual estate in the 8th or 9th centuries that developed its own field systems, earlier than normally supposed.
Reference: Oosthuizen 2004

58 Ridge and furrow, Hardwick and Toft
CHER: 09571
NGR: TL 355 578
Ridge and furrow appearing as a soilmark in fields to the E of Caldecote village. A discussion of the origins of open fields points out that headlands and furlongs are consistent across the parishes of Toft, Comberton, Barton and Granchester. This is contrary to the theory that each parish developed its own fields independently. The theory presented is that these four parishes formed an individual estate in the 8th or 9th centuries that developed its own field systems, earlier than normally supposed.
References: Oosthuizen 2004

59 Ridge and furrow, Toft
CHER: 09570
NGR: TL 360 565
Ridge and furrow around the village of Toft. A discussion of the origins of open fields points out that headlands and furlongs are consistent across the parishes of Toft, Comberton, Barton and Granchester. This is contrary to the theory that each parish developed its own fields independently. The theory presented is that these four parishes formed an individual estate in the 8th or 9th centuries that developed its own field systems, earlier than normally supposed.
References: Oosthuizen 2004

60 Ridge and furrow, Oak Farm, Caldecote
CHER: 09920
NGR: TL 355 589
Evaluation and AP assessment, Highfields, Caldecote, 1996
Ridge and furrow behind Oak Farm – six parallel ridge and intervening furrows running NW/SE. Good preservation. Continues to the N running in the same direction (E – W). Pasture to the S has a possible raised track or field boundary (running N – S). See also RN 09571 (58 above) – soil mark ridge and furrow nearby.
References: Palmer 1996; Oakey 1996

61 Ridge and furrow, Caldecote
CHER: 11435
NGR: TL 351 590
AP assessment, Highfields, Caldecote, 1996. Slight earthwork / cropmark of ridge and furrow in rough grassland. Sketch plotted on to 1:10,000 overlay.
References: Palmer, R.. 1996
62 Ridge and furrow, Caldecote  
CHER: 11434  
NGR: TL 349 589  
AP assessment, Highfields, Caldecote, 1996. Cropmarks of ridge and furrow. Sketch plotted on to 1:10,000 overlay.  
References: Palmer 1996

63 Ridge and furrow, Highfields, Caldecote  
CHER: CB15471  
NGR: TL 348 584  
Evaluation at Highfields, Caldecote, 1996 revealed traces of ridge and furrow.  

64 Iron Age remains and medieval ridge and furrow, Highfields  
CHER: 13008  
NGR: TL 350 585  
Evaluation and area excavation at Highfields, Caldecote Primary School, 2000. Pits, some with IA pottery, an IA or RB ditch, three medieval furrows. IA features are likely to be associated with known Iron Age settlement to the NE. Ditch on similar alignment to excavated examples to the S, which were of Romano-British date. See also 32 above.  
References: Abrams 2000

65 Ridge and furrow, Highfields Road, Caldecote  
CHER: CB15023  
NGR: TL 353 586  
Aerial photography revealed medieval ridge and furrow running east-west, the barely discernible ridges having been ploughed out, with only the furrows surviving. Excavations revealed a pattern of curving furrows up to 3m wide and 6.5m-8m apart.  

66 Medieval earthworks, Caldecote  
CHER: 11225  
NGR: TL 349 579  
N-S ridge in fields south of Wedgewood Farm. Part of Caldecote SMV.  
References: Hinds 1993: Elrington 1973

67 Medieval house platforms, Caldecote  
CHER: 11226  
NGR: TL 351 582  
House platforms north of Wedgewood Farm. Part of Caldecote SMV.  
References: Hinds 1993: Elrington 1973

68 House platforms, Caldecote  
CHER: 11223  
NGR: TL 350 575  
Two possible house platforms close to main road. Part of Caldecote SMV.,  
References: Hinds 1993: Elrington 1973

3.8 Bourn Airfield

70 Bourn airfield  
CHER: CB15128,  
NGR: TL 340 590  
WW2 military airfield, bombers; light industry & agriculture.

71 Air raid shelters?  
CHER: -  
NGR: TL 345 598 approx  
Some concrete structures in woods may be demolished and infilled air raid shelters (pers comm Catherine Bickmore). More information needed.
4 Potential constraints on development

4.1 The issue here is whether the archaeological remains on and around this site will have an effect on (or will be seen as a constraint on) proposed development. A useful approach to that question may be to consider the mechanism for dealing with archaeological issues, as detailed in the following paragraph.

4.2 Policy for properly dealing with the archaeological dimension of any proposed development is as follows. The local planning authority (South Cambridgeshire District Council: SCDC) takes advice on archaeological issues from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment (CHE) Team, who are guided, as appropriate, by Planning Policy Statement 5, (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2010), and the National Planning Policy Framework (Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.3 CHE may take the view that the major archaeological monument in the search area is the group of Roman barrows at Moulton Hills (site 1). These barrows have statutory protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and may not be disturbed or damaged in any way without the consent of the Secretary of State. However, CHE will probably take the view that the barrows are too far away to be affected by this development.

4.4 SCDC will also take advice of the Listed Buildings (sites 2-10), and will again probably take the view that these buildings are too far away to be affected. It may need to be reassured that the listed building at the Grange (inside the Application Site), will not be affected.

4.5 CHE will take a view on the surviving archaeological sites within the PDS. Particularly interesting is the report of Roman burials (one in a stone coffin: 39). The exact find-spot is not known, and may or may not be inside the PDS. The metal detectorist sites (35, 38) merit further exploration. In particular, the fragments of bronze-working and a Roman statuette at site 35 may point to a fair site or even a temple. The two cropmark sites at 45 and 48 show further archaeological potential (although there will have been some damage caused by the airfield construction).

4.6 When coming to view on the potential for archaeological sites and finds to await discovery within the PDS, CHE will undoubtedly take into account the large-scale archaeological projects which have taken place at Cambourne (20), along the A428 (11), and in Caldecote (32, 33). This assessment has described in some detail the important archaeological sites, principally enclosures (i.e., living sites) of Late Iron Age and Roman date, which have been investigated on all the above projects. It should be pointed out that the ‘archaeological record’ at that time gave no real clue to the many important archaeological sites which came to light on those projects – it was only through an intensive series of evaluations (air photos and their interpretation, fieldwalking, geophysical survey) and area excavations which allowed the archaeological sites to be discovered and examined.

4.7 It can therefore be stated with a high degree of confidence that CHE will advise SCDC that the PDS should be comprehensively evaluated prior to development in order to locate any archaeological sites, and (if any are found) to deal with them adequately. Archaeological evaluation techniques which CHE may require can include a range of non-intrusive (air photos, fieldwalking, geophysics) and intrusive (test pitting, evaluation trenching) techniques.

4.8 Should important archaeological remains be located by the above evaluations, CHE can recommend that they are preserved in situ, but it is much more likely that ‘preservation by record’ (i.e., complete area excavation) would be required.

4.10 It is very unlikely that any archaeological finds would be a constraint on development, with the exception of the requirement for prior archaeological survey and excavation as detailed above. This would involve a cost implication (possibly a very high one) for the archaeological evaluation and excavation which CHE/SCDC may require.
5 References and sources consulted

This study was compiled from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record maintained by Cambridgeshire County Council, and from reports on previous archaeological investigations in the area. In addition, the following works were consulted (or were referred to by other sources):

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6 Glossary of abbreviations and other terms used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>air photograph</td>
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<tr>
<td>banjo enclosure</td>
<td>banjo-shaped site: enclosed house with a long narrow approach track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
<td>after New Stone Age - approximately 2500 to 700 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHER</td>
<td>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record, held by CCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cropmark</td>
<td>ancient features which show as lines and other marks in crops due to</td>
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<td></td>
<td>differential root depth of roots over archaeological features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMV</td>
<td>deserted medieval village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoE</td>
<td>Dept of the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in situ</td>
<td>in its original position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age</td>
<td>After the Bronze Age and before the Romans – 700 BC to AD 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medieval</td>
<td>from AD 1066 to around AD 1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mesolithic</td>
<td>the period when the ice sheets melted (10,000 BC- 4,500 BC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modern</td>
<td>19th – 21st centuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neolithic</td>
<td>New Stone Age – the earliest farming (around 4,500-2500 BC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>palaeolithic</td>
<td>Old Stone Age (800,000 BC to 10,000 BC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-medieval</td>
<td>from 16th century to 18th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>before Roman period - i.e. the years BC to AD 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman period</td>
<td>from AD 43 to around AD 410</td>
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<tr>
<td>ring-ditch</td>
<td>the plough-flattened remains of a Bronze Age burial mound</td>
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<tr>
<td>round-house</td>
<td>remains of a circular wooden prehistoric house</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saxon</td>
<td>after the Romans - 5th century to AD 1066</td>
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<td>SMV</td>
<td>shrunken medieval village</td>
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</table>

7 Acknowledgements

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