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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This archaeological desktop addendum has been commissioned by WSP Environmental to include further archaeological work conducted in the Longstanton environs since the previous assessment (Evans & Dickens 2002) and not reported in the three fieldwork reports of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit's (CAU) investigations between 2004 and 2006 (Evans & Mackay 2004; Evans *et al.* 2005; Evans *et al.* 2007).
- 1.2 Principally concerned with fieldwork conducted by other archaeological units and the CAU's investigations at Striplands Farm (Patten 2004; Patten & Evans 2005; Mackay & Knight 2007), the aim of this document is to place these within the wider context of the Longstanton environs. It is not the aim of this addendum to repeat the findings and discussion of the earlier assessment and reports, to which the reader is directed, and as such, only considers that work where information has been made available/released to the Historic Environment Record (HER) officer.

2 RELEVANT POLICIES

- 2.1 Since the preparation of the initial desktop assessment, there have been no changes to the relevant national policy and planning guidelines (PPG15 & PPG16). New county, district and area structure and local plans have been adopted since 2002 (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan, 2003; South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004; South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy, 2006). The relevant sections of these documents are reproduced in Appendix 1.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 Subsequent to the initial assessment and most recent report on the CAU's fieldwork (Evans & Dickens 2002; Evans *et al.* 2007) as part of the Northstowe development and the identification of 39 archaeological sites, since 2003 a additional eight areas have been investigated and reported upon. Further excavation was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU; HER ref: ECB2559) in Green End, Longstanton (OS grid ref: TL3938 6779) in the first half of 2007; results of this fieldwork programme are yet to be reported. Reported fieldwork is presented in the following list.

1a – OS grid reference TL 3877 6809. HER ref: ECB2274. Geophysical survey, conducted in behalf of Northamptonshire Archaeology of a 1.6ha site revealed a linear ditch or land drain, five possible pits and a modern iron pipe (Butler & Fisher 2005).

1b – OS grid reference TL 3877 6809. HER ref: ECB2102. Following the data from the earlier geophysical survey an evaluation was conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology of the site revealed shallow gullies sealed by alluvium, indicative of a prehistoric origin, a large post-Medieval ditch or dyke and a modern land drain (Walker 2005).

Figure 1

2a – OS grid reference TL 3938 6779. HER ref: ECB1834. As part of the evaluation of the Longstanton environs by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU), an area around Striplands Farm was subject to fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial trenching. Fieldwalking in field H revealed features associated with the late Romano-British settlement, and also identified that this site had a Late Iron Age and Saxon component. Trial-trenching at the Striplands West Site revealed three further sub sites, comprising Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age occupation evidence, a Early Saxon settlement and evidence of Saxo-Norman occupation (Evans & Mackay 2004).

2b – OS grid reference TL 3937 6737. HER ref: ECB1834. Excavations at Striplands Farm by the CAU revealed remains dating from the Late Bronze Age to Saxo-Norman periods. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits and wells were investigated, the latter containing worked and unworked wood, including two axe hafts, the remains of five log ladders and timber wattling. Posthole clusters were recorded, amongst which were identified a four-poster structure and a possible roundhouse. A few short linear features were also dated to this period, suggested to be part of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field system. Lithics also provided evidence for a Neolithic/Early Bronze Age presence. Narrow Roman enclosures were recorded, with evidence for internal linear divisions, and there was localised clay extraction in the corner of one enclosure. The southern area was dominated by Saxo-Norman remains, consisting of quarry pits and successive phases, boundary ditches containing large quantities of pottery and animal bone suggestive of settlement back plot activity. A large Saxo-Norman pit-well contained three animal skulls and wattle revetments. After the well was abandoned wooden objects, consisting of a wheel felloe, a card-side rail top and an animal yoke, were discarded into it (Patten & Evans 2005).

2c – OS grid reference TL 3937 6737. HER ref: ECB2575. A small archaeological excavation at Striplands Farm consisting of a single open area just 15 metres square, was undertaken by the CAU. Focusing upon a Bronze Age pit-well discovered during excavation work the previous year (Patten & Evans 2005), this programme of excavation revealed a large well containing large quantities of preserved wood, log ladders, animal bone and a substantial number of Late Bronze Age pottery sherds (2244: see Brudenell in Mackay & Knight 2007). A further nineteen features were also uncovered, comprising fourteen smaller pits and postholes, and five linears. The linears were on the same alignment of the known Romano-British field-system and yielded only small amounts of pot, bone, flint and burnt stone, most of which was probably residual. The pits and post-holes may have been broadly contemporary with the well, many yielding similar finds and a small assemblage of comparable pottery. Although the postholes were not obviously structural, two separate pairs of postholes may have indicated small four-post structures, with the remaining posts no longer existing or obscured (Mackay & Knight 2007).

3 OS grid reference (centred) TL 400 678. CAU ref: LPR06. An open area excavation conducted by the CAU as part of the fieldwork associated with construction of the Guided Busway was specifically located to expose a large feature identified during an earlier evaluation. Excavation revealed two large pits, one containing Early Iron Age pottery and an associated cluster, also containing Iron Age pottery, and six Medieval/post-Medieval furrows, four ditches, , and three possible smaller pits. Except for four furrows, all of the features were excavated. The four ditches, despite lying alongside each other, followed different alignments and appeared to be unrelated; one contained residual prehistoric pottery.

4 – OS grid reference TL 3907 6672. HER ref: ECB2638. A magnetic susceptibility and four-targeted magnetometer surveys was carried out by Stratascan Ltd along the line of a proposed road on behalf of Birmingham Archaeology (formerly BUFAU) revealed evidence for Medieval and post-Medieval ploughing, and a curvilinear stretch of bank and ditch (Elks 2005).

5 – OS grid reference TL 3917 6706. HER ref: ECB1396. Trial trenching by BUFAU on agricultural land west of Longstanton, and the site of the proposed southern bypass (**4**) revealed a number of Saxon and Medieval features, consisting of

field boundaries and ridge and furrow, with Late Saxon features found close to Over Road relating to the former Medieval settlement known to have existed at Green End (Cutler & Duncan 2003). Further fieldwork was undertaken by BUFAU immediately east of 5, beside Over Road; the results of this fieldwork are yet to be reported upon.

6 – OS grid reference TL 3923 6665. HER ref: ECB2191. A watching brief was carried out by BUFAU during the stripping of topsoil and excavation of a 0.5m wide water pipeline trench at Home Farm, Longstanton. No features were identified during topsoil stripping, but excavation revealed several archaeological features, including a number of ditches, probably Medieval located close to the line of Over Road. At the south-western end of the trench, several shallow undated features were revealed, consisting of three linears, two pits and a posthole (Bain 2005).

7 – OS grid reference TL 4000 6633. HER ref: ECB2338. Longstanton Manor House. A dendrochronology survey of the house was conducted in 2006 by the Cambridge Dendrochronology Group. Only four timbers were available for sampling, preventing a chronology for the house being determined. Nonetheless, results from the sampled timbers provided felling dates of the mid to late 15th century AD, dates consistent with the known history of the house (Switsur & Rinne 2006).

8a – OS grid reference TL 4119 6469. HER ref: ECB2099. Evaluation of the site by Wessex Archaeology ahead of development revealed numerous features spanning the Late Bronze Age to post-Medieval period. These features consisted of linear and rectilinear ditches and ditched enclosures and possible evidence for Medieval and post-Medieval settlement activity in the southern part of the site (Batt 2003).

8b – OS grid reference TL 4119 6469. HER ref: ECB2100. Following earlier trial-trenching by Wessex Archaeology (**8a**) an area excavation was carried out on the site revealing remains dating from the Romano-British to Medieval periods, comprising a sequence of enclosures and associated features, possibly used for woodland and stock management (Barton & Thorpe 2005, 2006).

9 – OS grid reference TL 4164 6455. HER ref: ECB2172. Four evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of the proposed construction of a sports pavilion. Archaeological features were identified in all trenches. Consisting of ditches, postholes, burial soils and burials, these date primarily to the Middle Saxon period. Possible Roman/Early Saxon ditches and 12th century deposits were also identified. A series of northeast-southwest boundary ditches were recorded, which appeared to post-date the cemetery to the west. An unploughed buried soil or land surface containing Middle Saxon pottery in good condition was also recorded, possibly indicating Middle Saxon settlement in the vicinity. The human remains identified are almost certainly part of the 6th century AD Anglo-Saxon cemetery lying adjacent to the evaluation area, and part excavated in 1994 (Jones & Mortimer 2006).

- 3.2 The on-going expansion and development of Longstanton has resulted in the archaeological fieldwork listed above. Not listed is the monitoring of construction work associated with the Guided Busway along the former St Ives to Cambridge railway line. Forming the northern limit of the Northstowe development, the construction of the guided Busway is confined to a narrow strip of previously disturbed and truncated land (box-trench excavation). Nonetheless, Archaeological monitoring of the route is undertaken to record details pertaining to the former railway, soil profiles, and where archaeological features are anticipated; largely confined to those areas where small geological test-pits/boreholes are excavated. The results of these monitoring exercises have not yet been fully reported, but to date no features of an archaeological or non-railway related nature have been observed (D. Webb pers.com).

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The 'prehistoric ditches' located at the extreme northwest of the area at the site of a proposed balancing pool (1a – 1b) may relate to outfield field boundaries associated with the settlement activity at Site XXII; however, it is more likely these relate to earlier landscape divisions where the topography drops towards the fen-edge, an area prone to increasing wetness from the later Bronze Age and thus accounting for the sealing layer of alluvium encountered during excavation of the site (Butler & Fisher 2005).
- 4.2 Previously reported on in 2005, the results of the recent fieldwalking, geophysical and aerial photographic surveys and excavation at Striplands Farm have revealed a further evidence of Late Bronze Age to Romano-British activity (2a – 2c). Significant among this evidence is the large Late Bronze Age well, measuring some 8.5m x 7.25m in diameter, and containing 2244 sherds of pottery. Found associated with four log-ladders, a wooden fork, pieces of saddle-quern, daub, loomweight fragments and 2386 animal bone fragments, the finds from this well are indicative of intensive activity during the Late Bronze Age; similar well-like features, also containing log-ladders and axe hafts, have been found at Striplands Farm during earlier phases of fieldwork (Patten & Evans 2005). It is highly unlikely the pits excavated at (3) represent similar features to those excavated at Striplands farm, but the recovery of Early Iron Age pottery here further attest to the wider exploitation of this zone during this period.
- 4.3 The evidence from Striplands Farm is ambiguous and does not attest to or support the view that these features provide proof of settlement activity. Rather, the short-lived nature of the wells (and use as probable middens/dumps after going out of use), the lack of fine-wares and inconclusive evidence for field boundaries or structures support the interpretation that these features represent intensive episodic, possibly seasonal, activity (see Mackay & Knight 2007:17). It is thus probable that direct settlement evidence for the Late Bronze Age is located elsewhere, possibly northwards at Site V (Patten 2004: 16). Little evidence for Iron Age or Romano-British activity was recorded during the 2006 fieldwork programme, reflecting previous results from the immediate area (*ibid.*: 19), with settlement activity concentrated in the area previously designated Site XX.
- 4.4 Romano-British activity is attested, however, on the eastern margin of the Northstowe development area where a number of enclosures and field boundaries were revealed during an open excavation (8b). Situated to the south of Sites II, XVI and XXXIII, the identification of a series of paddocks in here is not unexpected in light of the now known distribution of sites of this period across the Longstanton landscape. Consideration should thus be given to designating this locale Site XL, further emphasising the exploitation of the more northerly swathe of land, orientation northwest – southeast, on the lighter, less clay dominated soils.
- 4.5 Anglo-Saxon activity within Longstanton's western environs has been scant with previous excavations at Striplands Farm producing more evidence for Saxo-Norman activity than Saxon. The field walking and previous phase of

evaluation here produced extensive evidence of Saxon activity (Site XXIII). This represented a potentially rich settlement consisting of a number of individual grubenhäuser (Patten 2004). The recent monitoring of a water-pipeline, road route and excavation at Green End (3-5) revealed several features dating to the Saxon and Medieval periods, with Late Saxon features (9th – 10th century AD) attesting to settlement in this area; documentary evidence for settlement at Green End exists only from the 13th century (Wright & Lewis 1989: 221). Excavation on the eastern edge of Oakington (8) revealed further evidence of Early Saxon activity (and further defining the extent of the 6th century cemetery; Taylor *et al.* 1998), although predominantly dating to the Middle Saxon period (7th – 9th centuries AD; Jones & Mortimer 2006). The discovery of ridge and furrow (4) also illustrates the agricultural exploitation of the area, a feature of the landscape clearly visible on aerial photographs (Evans & Dickens 2002) and found during the excavation of the infrastructure route (Evans *et al.* 2005).

- 4.6 Designated Sites XLI (4) and XLII (9), this evidence demonstrates the dispersed nature of Anglo-Saxon settlement within the wider environs and bears witness to the historic emergence of the parishes of Oakington, Long Stanton All Saints', and Long Stanton St Michael's. The latter two parishes were only combined into a single unit in the mid 20th century with St Michael's forming the larger and more successful settlement. Only a single cottage existed at Green End in 1984 (Wight & Lewis 1989: 222), suggesting that Long Stanton St Michael's established itself as the dominant parish and manor during the mid to later Medieval period, an inference possibly supported by the dendrochronology results from Longstanton Manor House (7).

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The fieldwork results outlined and discussed above, albeit briefly, have provided further data on the nature and distribution of archaeological features and past human activity in the Longstanton hinterland, and has identified or further elucidated the extent of specific sites dating from the Late Bronze Age to the early Medieval period.

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7 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Relevant Legislation

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan (adopted April 2003)

Policy 1/2 Environmental Restrictions on Development

“No new development will be permitted within or which is likely to adversely affect:

- internationally and nationally important nature conservation areas*
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments or other nationally important archaeological sites or their settings*
- functional flood plains or other areas where adequate flood protection cannot be given and/or there is significant risk of increasing flood risk elsewhere.*

Development will be restricted

- in the countryside unless the proposals can be demonstrated to be essential in a particular rural location*
- where there is an unacceptable risk to the quality of ground or surface water*
- where the best and most versatile agricultural land would be significantly affected*
- to prevent sterilisation of workable mineral deposit*
- where there could be damage, destruction or loss to areas that should be retained for their biodiversity, **historic, archaeological, architectural,** and recreational value.”*

Policy 7/6

“Local Planning Authorities will protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the historic built environment.”

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (adopted December 2004)

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“...conserve the District’s natural resources, including the diversity of its wildlife, the quality and distinctiveness of South Cambridgeshire’s villages, its historical and archaeological interest...”

Section 10.3

“The overall aim of the Local Plan is to preserve the biodiversity, historic interest and special character of the landscape and settlements of South Cambridgeshire, and to achieve new development which respects and reinforces local distinctiveness. In doing this a contribution will be made towards the protection of the regional, national and global environment. This overall aim may be met in a number of objectives:

To maintain and enhance the character and appearance of South Cambridgeshire’s countryside and landscape.

To protect and enhance the biodiversity of the District, particularly to safeguard wildlife by protecting habitats.
To protect and enhance the built environment.
*To **safeguard** and **record** the archaeological heritage.*
To protect and improve the quality of the land, water and air environments...”

Policy EN4

“The District Council will not grant planning permission for development which would adversely affect or lead to the loss of important areas and features of the historic landscape whether or not they are statutorily designated.”

South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy (December 2006)

Policy ST/j

To ensure that the district's built and natural heritage is protected and that new development protects and enhances cherished townscape assets of local urban design, cultural, and conservation importance, and character of the landscape.

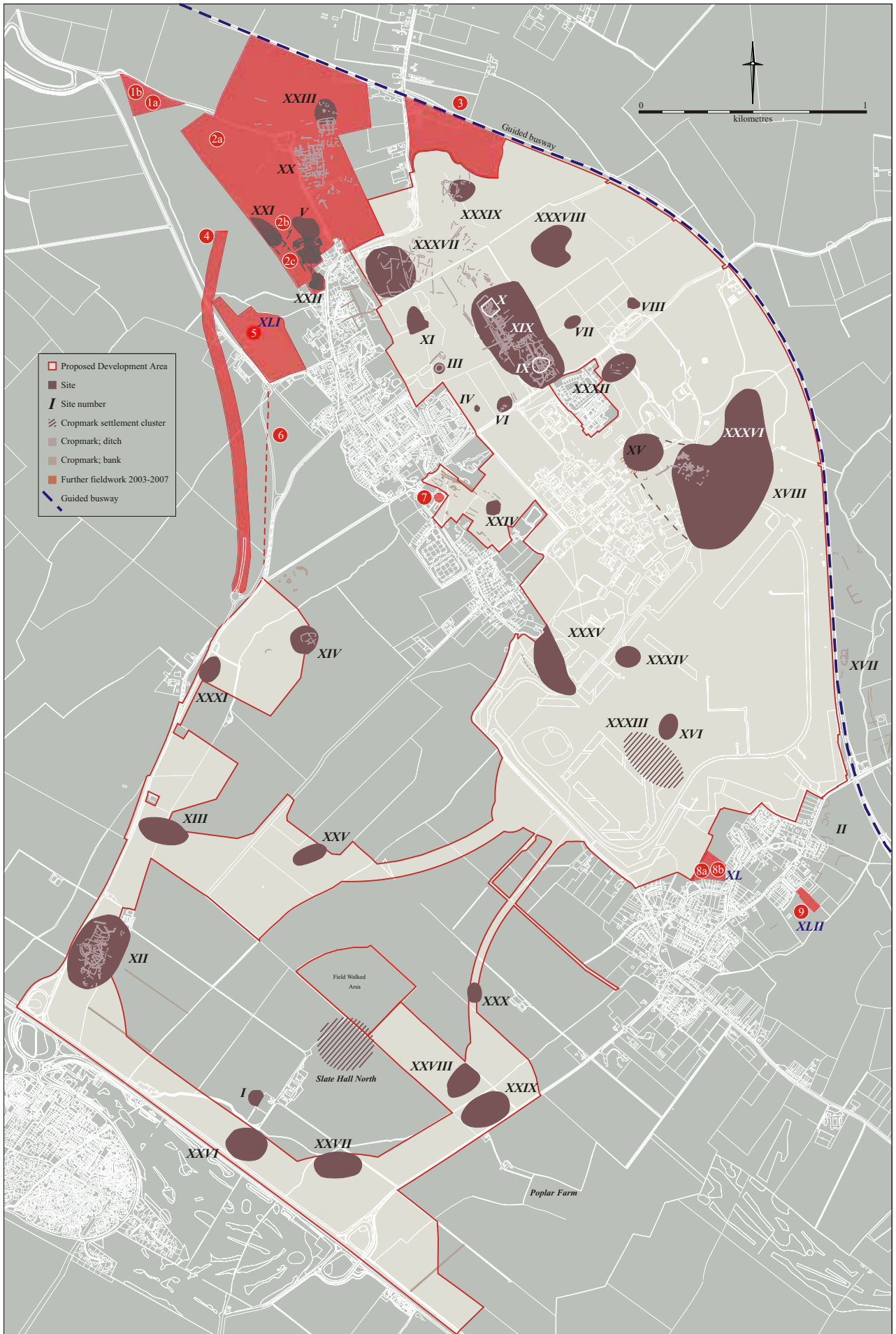


Figure 1. Longstanton Hinterland, further fieldwork