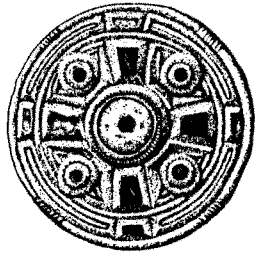


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Archaeological Field Unit

**Bourn Reservoir to Hardwick Pipeline:
Archaeology at Childerley Gate.**

S.Kemp AIFA

1995

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. A50

*Commissioned By
Cambridge Water Company*

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Report No A50

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SUMMARY

Soil stripping and pipelaying activities at Childerley Gate were monitored by the Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council. During the course of this work a single ditch was part excavated and recorded, its location running in to the north-western corner of the moat surrounding Childerley Lodge, suggests a medieval or post-medieval date. The ditch probably drained the surrounding farmland and supplied water to the moat.

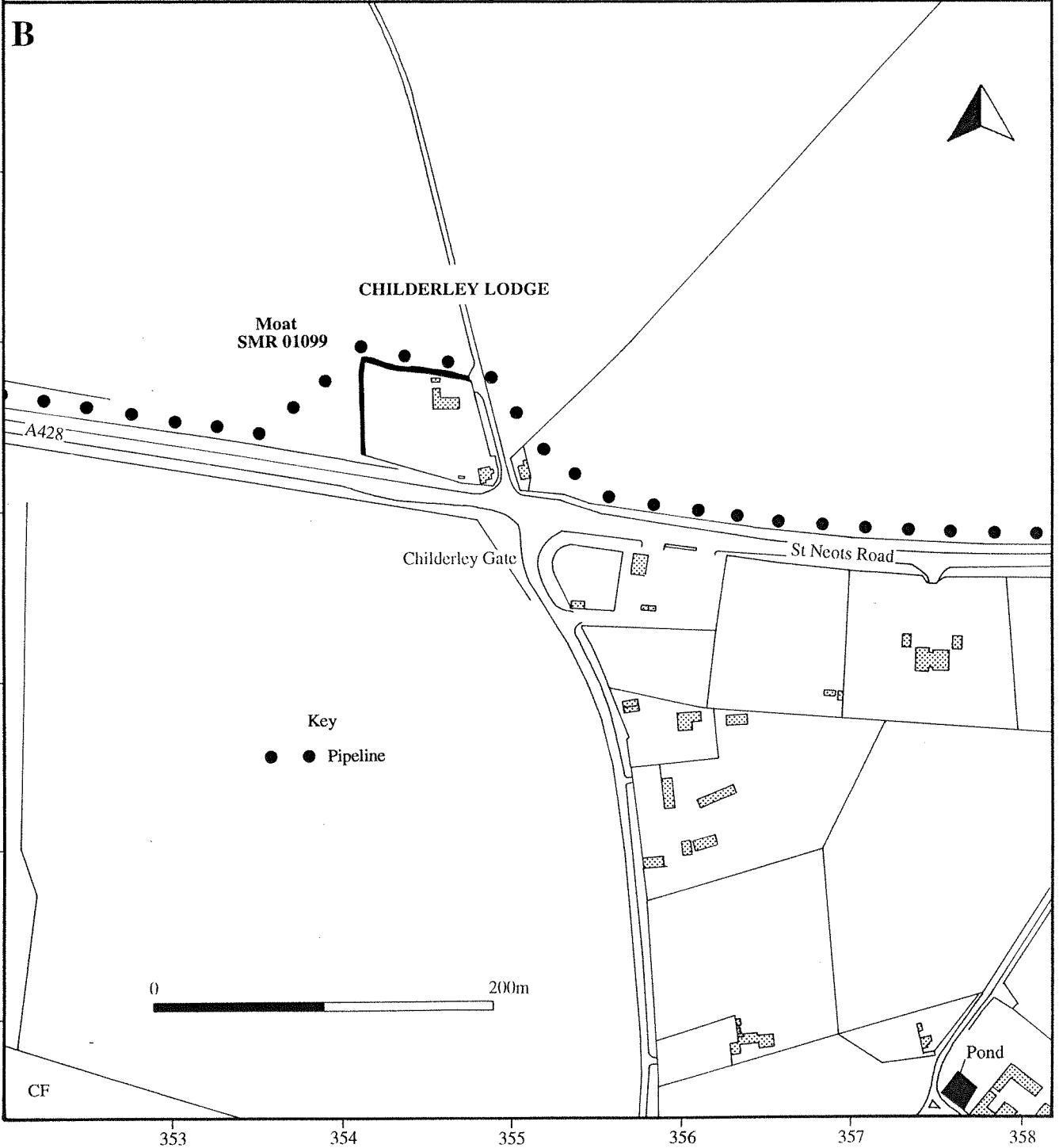
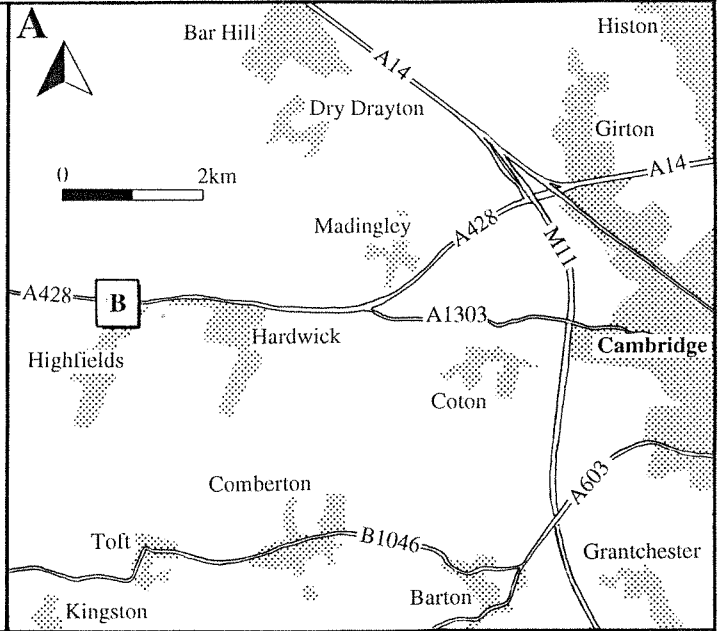
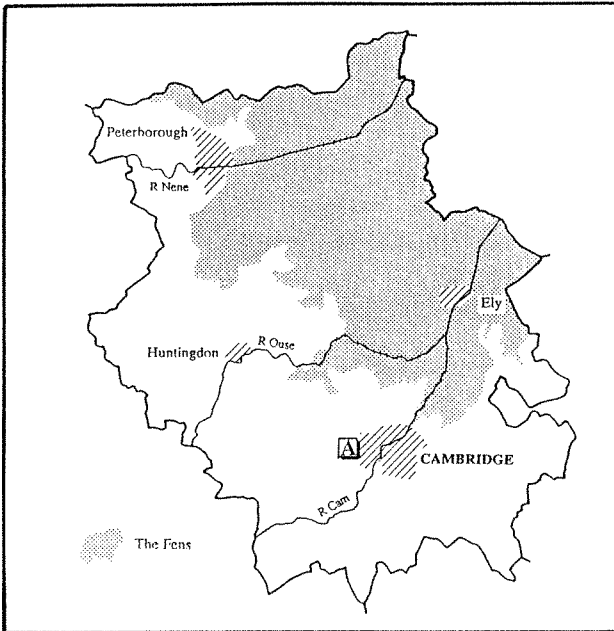
INTRODUCTION

Recording of the Cambridge Water Company pipeline at Childerley Gate was undertaken by the Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council. Trenching was monitored due to the proximity of the pipeline to Childerley Lodge a medieval moated site (SMR 01099). The only other known archaeology is of a Iron Age coin found close to the Lodge. The site also lies close to eighteenth century parklands of Childerley (Kemp and Way 1992).

PIPELINE; ROUTE AND METHODOLOGY

Monitoring of pipelaying work at Childerley Gate was undertaken as part of the Bourn Reservoir to Hardwick pipeline during July 1994. Childerley Gate lies on the northern side of the A428 east of Two Pots Farm, and south of Childerley Hall (TL 354598).

Archaeological survey and recording was restricted to a 2m wide easement along the course of the pipeline route (Fig.1). A single ditch of 2.8m wide was recorded during



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the course of several field visits by archaeologists. The ditch trended north-north-west to south-south-east and was visible extending in to the north-western corner of the moat. This ditch had been intentionally backfilled with chalky clays, presumably to level the adjacent field which is presently under arable cultivation. Beneath this deposit lies a series of highly organic sediments containing well preserved wood. This feature was excavated by machine to a depth of 1m. It is likely that this ditch once supplied the moat, draining water from the surrounding clay lands.

CONCLUSION

The Bourn Reservoir to Hardwick pipeline was monitored due to the suspected presence of archaeology at Childerley Gate. Work exposed a single ditch which extended into the moat at Childerley Lodge. The deposits contained within the feature indicate a waterlogged environment undergoing gradual, natural infilling prior to a period of levelling, presumably undertaken to bring adjacent farmland in to arable cultivation. These fields were known as the Drayton Gap Pastures in the mid 18th century. The absence of this ditch during the mid 18th century (VCH 1967) indicates that levelling had taken place by this point or may have existed in a largely infilled state, no longer acting as a field boundary. It seems likely that final infilling and levelling occurred in response to the conversion of pasture to arable, at which point such earthworks would have proved an obstacle to ploughing. No Iron Age remains were detected during the course of this work.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Cambridge Water Company for funding this work and members of the Archaeology Field Unit recording Team, particularly Ken Welsh and David Mitchell for undertaking much of the on-site monitoring and recording.



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