URBAN CASE STUDY

Alconbury Weston
Cambridgeshire
TL176 769

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Module Code: MOD000780
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1. **Abstract.** This report has been written to satisfy the Urban Case-Study Module of the Archaeology and Landscape History course at University Centre Peterborough. The Settlement of Alconbury Weston is situated at the junction of the Alconbury Brook and the Great North Road in Cambridgeshire. The Settlement has archaeological records showing occupation from the Neolithic and changes can be broadly divided into five phases: Pre-Roman; Roman; Medieval; Early-medieval; and Modern Development. It was the importance of the major lines of communication that allowed the settlement to develop. As these roads were upgraded or superseded, the importance of the settlement grew or diminished, finally becoming a dormitory settlement.
2. **Introduction**. Alconbury Weston was chosen for this study as it represents a typical small urban settlement in a rural setting and has evidence of activity from pre-history to modern times. The selected area of study is a circle of radius 600m, centred on Grid-reference TL176 769 – Illustration 1. This was drawn to encompass the settlement as no suitable alternative natural boundary could be identified.

The settlement comprises approximately 900 inhabitants within 300 households (CCC Census 2012) covering an area of approximately 2 500m² (IA 2014) with a definite north/south division, the older part to the north and the newer portion to the south (Site Visit 2014). Nevertheless, modern building infill-work, though sympathetic to the existing architecture, is gradually diluting the older-character of the northern sector – Plate 1.
3. **Geographical context of the settlement**

Alconbury Weston in Cambridgeshire, straddles the Alconbury Brook, 15 kilometres south of Peterborough and 8 kilometres NW of Huntingdon – Illustration 2.

Illustration 2 - Geographical Context Of The Settlement

The Alconbury Brook, a tributary of the Great Ouse, often bursts its banks to flood the old part of the village. Alconbury Weston is located on a right-angled bend of the old Great North Road, on a junction with the Roman Gartree Road (Margary 1967) within one kilometre of the junction of the Great North Road and Ermine Street. The ground is generally level at 20m OSD but rises gradually to the North to 50m OSD which forms a spur of high ground oriented NE/SW (OS 2014).

4. **Broad Morphology Of The Settlement Over Time**

Archaeological evidence, shown in Table 1 and Illustration 3, indicates that the selected area has had human activity present during the Neolithic with continuous settlement from the Bronze Age through to modern times (CHER 2014). The distribution of sites is explained in Paragraph 5 and detailed at Appendix 1.
**Map N°** | **CHER N°** | **Name** |
---|---|---|
**Pre-Roman** | | |
14 | 00779 | Bronze Age axe hammer, Gravel Pits Field  
**Grid Reference:** TL 174 764 |
3 | MCB15885 | Multi-period remains, Vinegar Hill  
**Grid Reference:** TL 185 777 |
11 | MCB17941 | Iron Age and Early to Middle Saxon settlement activity, Alconbury  
**Grid Reference:** TL 181 762 |
4 | 01724 | Blacklands Field, Alconbury Weston  
**Grid Reference:** TL 183 775 |
**Roman** | | |
1 | 00806A | Roman finds, Barn Ground, Alconbury Hill  
**Grid Reference:** TL 184 776 |
2 | 00809 | Roman pottery and tile, Alconbury Weston  
**Grid Reference:** TL 186 776 |
10 | 00799 | Roman coin find, Gallicroft Allotments, Alconbury Weston  
**Grid Reference:** TL 180 764 |
7 | 00806 | Romano-British settlement, Alconbury Hill  
**Grid Reference:** TL 18 77 |
18 | 00781 | Roman quernstone, Alconbury Weston  
**Grid Reference:** TL 17 77 |
**Medieval** | | |
9 | 00798 | Strip lynchets on S side of Alconbury Brook  
**Grid Reference:** TL 180 764 |
15 | 08736 | Ridge and furrow west of Alconbury Weston  
**Grid Reference:** TL 173 771 |
17 | 00777 | Ridge and furrow, W of Alconbury Weston  
**Grid Reference:** TL 172 768
### Table 1 - Archaeological Evidence Showing Broad Morphology Of The Settlement Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Code</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00778</td>
<td>Medieval coin, Alconbury Weston</td>
<td>Grid Reference: TL 172 762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00780</td>
<td>Medieval seal find, Alconbury Weston</td>
<td>Seal of John de Watford, Prior of St Barts, AD 1423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00783</td>
<td>Alconbury Brook Footbridge 14C</td>
<td>Grid Reference: TL 176 770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCB17143</td>
<td>Post-medieval features, N. of Hamerton Lane, Alconbury Weston</td>
<td>Grid Reference: TL 178 769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCB18017</td>
<td>Milestone, Vinegar Hill, Alconbury Weston</td>
<td>Grid Reference: TL 180 771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00782</td>
<td>Ridge and furrow, Alconbury Weston</td>
<td>Grid Reference: TL 179 769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence of Roman settlement indicates that two major Roman roads, Ermine Street and Gartree Road had an influence on the settlement pattern (Margary 1967). The settlement is mentioned in the Domesday Book indicating a Saxon settlement and was considered part of the Alconbury Manor, included in the Huntingdonshire Royal Hunting Forest, during the medieval period (VCH 2014). The selected site was, from medieval to modernity, surrounded by ridge-and-furrow farming still discernible on Electro-optical imagery and LIDAR, Illustration 4, even within the modern area of construction (IA 2014). The development of the Great North Road as an alternative route to Ermine Street was a consequence of taxing travellers to cross rivers nearer London (Harper 1901); this road took on greater importance with the introduction of the 1669 Turnpike Acts and resulted in the construction of a coaching-inn in the village. This route gained in importance from 1784 when the Royal Mail started to carry mail, but diminished with the advent of railways in 1830-40s (Gillespie 2014). The greatest expansion occurred in the late 1960s through to the 1980s when many private houses were built. Construction of the A1 dual-carriageway in 1968 (Gillespie 2014) reduced the status of the old Great North Road to a secondary road and Alconbury Weston became a dormitory-village. The prime reason for the development of the settlement would appear to have been the presence of the major routes between London and the north.

### Key Phases And Features Of Development

The development of the settlement can be broadly divided into five key phases: Pre-Roman; Roman; Medieval; Early-Modern; and Modern. The features that identify each phase have been identified as follows:
5.1 Pre-Roman Development. The earliest pre-roman activity comprises possible Neolithic activity found on a multi-period site to the north of the settlement (CHER 2014). A Bronze Age stone-hammer was discovered to the south-west and iron-age settlements have been discovered to the north and east of the settlement (CHER 2014). This indicates that the current urban settlement is in the centre of known prehistoric settlement and activity patterns.

5.2 Roman Development. A Roman settlement was described by Garrood in 1947 to be in fields immediately north of the current settlement (CHER 2014) and several Roman settlements existed between Alconbury Weston and Ermine Street but are outside the selected 600m circle. Investigations by Margary identified the Roman Gartree Road, between Godmanchester and Corby. Unfortunately, he did not identify the route through Alconbury Weston and Alconbury but succeeded in identifying the route to the east of Alconbury as a series of tracks and hedges meeting Ermine Street at Great Stukeley (Margary 1967). Study of LIDAR and electro-optical imagery, unavailable to Margary, identifies the probable Aggar of the road (IA 2014), which is still visible from the ground, - Plate 2.
The possible remains of a bridge-abutment have been identified adjacent to the Alconbury Brook west of the Settlement (IA 2014). –Illustration 4. This possible abutment has not been physically seen due to heavy undergrowth (Site visit 2014). A Roman quernstone was found near the possible abutment in 1950 (CHER 2014). Following the route of Hamerton Road westwards, a right-angled bend looks out of place and by extending the Hamerton Road to the probable bridge-abutment, a long-disappeared T-junction materialises. By applying a principle outlined by Dr Ousterhausen (Ousterhausen 2014), which is to remove the road that forms the stem of the ‘T’ then the older part of the road remains, - Illustration 5.
It is interesting to note that the OS Right-of-Way follows the route of the Aggar rather than the modern path. The newly-identified route shows a road that aligns with the known ancient-pathways within the village, the tracks identified by Margary to the east and the Roman Road marked on the OS map to the west – Illustration 6.

Margary suggested the road took this route to follow the contours and avoid the steep hill known as Vinegar Hill, which leads north out of the village. Nevertheless, Vinegar Hill had settlements at the bottom and top and may well have been a short cut between Gartree Road and Ermine Street, (Margary 1967). Another advantage of this route is that only one crossing of the Alconbury Brook is needed rather than two or three using other potential paths (IA 2014). The presence of this Roman Road is probably the main reason the settlement became established.

5.3 Medieval Development. Evidence of early medieval settlement has been identified through excavations, Illustration 3, Map No 11, where Saxon settlement was found (Ingham 2008). Mention of the settlement was made in the Domesday Book where there were four households, 1 geld-unit and a taxable value of £1 (Morris 1975). It was probably during the medieval-period that the village developed on both sides of the Alconbury Brook. As Ermine Street became less used, then the great North Road developed. In Alconbury Weston, the Great North Road met Gartree Road and the junction coincided with the Alconbury Brook (Harper 1901). Muir’s description of fords in the medieval period suggests that The Great North Road may well have crossed the Alconbury
Brook at the ford in the middle of the village (Muir 2000), Plate 3, but there is no documentary evidence for this. Travelers from the south wishing to follow Gartree Road west to Corby would have remained on the south bank of the brook and thus the High Street developed, consequently creating settlements on both sides of the brook. This route west continues today as a public-footpath that parallels the brook and meets with the old Gartree Road at the site of the probable bridge-abutment identified in paragraph 5.2. A second ford and footbridge, Plate 4, found at the west of the settlement, again using Muir as a guide, probably developed as the Roman bridge, 200m upstream, became un-useable through neglect after the Romans left. This ford is at the first stretch of the Alconbury Brook that is fordable and joined the High Street which then led on to Corby via Gartree Road (Site Visit 2014). This ford became an important crossing-point and in the fourteenth century, a bridge was built using stones from nearby Coppingford church (CHER 2014). The bridge now carries a narrow
wooden footbridge, but the substantial central-pier, Plate 5, indicates that it once carried a deck wide enough to bear a horse and cart (Site Visit 2014) indicating a major crossing-point at that time. The properties on either side of the brook had gardens developed and the boundaries of the original part of the settlement were established, remaining visible to the current day.

5.4 Early-Modern Development. The next major period of development was in the 17th and 18th centuries with the introduction of Turnpike Trusts, the coaching companies and the invention and expansion of the Royal Mail (Gillespie 2014). It was during this period that the current road-layout developed and evidence can be seen on the Inclosure map of 1791. The majority of the listed-buildings on both sides of the Alconbury Brook were built in this period and details of these (British Listed Buildings 2014) can be seen at Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Listed Building</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>10, High Street Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire Grade II</td>
<td>Early C18 timber framed and plastered cottage. Thatched roof, half-hipped, with ridge stack. One storey with attic and C19 brick extension to north. Two small C19 bay windows with horizontal sliding sash windows in west elevation. Two similar dormer windows in east elevation with modern fenestration and doors. Interior has restored inglenook hearth originally with a baking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>C17 timber framed and plastered building previously converted to butcher's shop. Thatched roof, half-hipped to south. One storey. Gable to street, modern fenestration, small thatched bay window to side of entrance. Included for group value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut Farmhouse, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>C17 timber framed and plastered farmhouse with a later plain tiled mansard roof dated 1793 in plaster oval on west gable. Red brick ridge stack. One storey and attic with two additional single storey wings to east and north. Three first floor hung sash dormer windows with glazing bars. Late C18 six-panelled door in moulded wooden frame, with flat roofed canted bay window with hung sash to east and hung sash window with glazing bars to west.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daffodil Cottage, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>C17 timber framed and plastered cottage, gable to street, two unit plan with painted brick wing to south. One storey and attic. Corrugated iron roof. Ridge stack with bread oven projecting from north wall. Street elevation has two horizontal sliding sash windows with glazing bars.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grange Farmhouse, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>C17 timber framed and plastered farmhouse with plain tile roof hipped to east. L-plan with lobby entry. One storey and attic. Three first floor three-light casement windows and three similar ground floor windows, those flank ing door larger. Modern door. Ridge stack and end stack to rear wing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Lea, High Street, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>Late C18 or early C19 symmetrical house of two storeys with rear wing. Timber framed and plastered, painted brick foundations. Asbestos roof replacing original thatch. End stacks. Three first floor hung sash windows with glazing bars in moulded frames. Two flat roofed, canted bay windows with hung sashes and glazing bars and reeded frieze bands flank central, half-glazed six-panelled door with reeded architrave and triangular pediment. Interior has original staircase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bakehouse, Alconbury Weston,</td>
<td>Originally house, bakehouse and granary built in mid C19. Painted brick with low-pitched slate roof, ridge stack and end stack. Two storeys. First floor granary approached by stairs to each. Three first floor windows include two recessed hung sash windows with glazing bars and one three-light casement window. Similar windows at ground floor and three boarded doors in all segmental arches. Interior to bakehouse has original coal fired baking ovens.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White Cottage, High Street, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>C17 timber framed and plastered farmhouse with three unit plan. Thatched roof, modern porch and canted bay window to north. Two storeys and attic. Ridge stack. Two dormer windows with casements and glazing bar. One horizontal sliding sash window with glazing bars and casement window at ground floor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White Hart, 2 Vinegar Hill, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>C18 timber framed and plastered inn with outshut at rear. Ridged pantile roof, local gault brick ridge stack. Four first floor modern casement windows. Panelled, double door flanked by two bay windows. Large rectangular bay window to north has hung sash windows with glazing bars and flat roof; bay to south canted with horizontal sliding sashes with glazing bars and flat roof.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorns Gate Cottage, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>Timber framed and plastered farmhouse of hall and crossing plan with main range extended to form hay barn with weather boarded gable to west. Cross-passage to east of hall and flanking crossing with south-facing jetty and large soft-red brick sid0e stack with baking oven. Ridge stack to main range, and reduced end stack to crossing. Roofs of plain tiles, hipped to west, and north of crossing. Windows, three at first floor and at ground floor include four three-light casements with rectangular quarries in iron frames. Boarded door. Interior has two inglenook hearths and chamfered ceiling beams.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Pigeons, Hamerton Road,</td>
<td>C17 timber framed cottage of two bays and rear outshut with bay to south-east possibly replaced in C19 by two storey painted brick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alconbury Weston, Cambridgeshire Grade II cottage with symmetrical facade. Modern tile roofs; two ridge stacks. Four C19 hung sash windows with glazing bars in segmental arches and boarded door. Restored inglenook hearth, exposed floor beams.

(British Listed Buildings 2014)
http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/cambridgeshire/alconbury+weston

Table 2 – Listed buildings within Alconbury Weston

The names of some of the listed-buildings give evidence of the industries conducted within Alconbury Weston during this period. The Three Pigeons public-house, bakery and White Hart coaching-inn nestle with large farmhouses still seen today (British Listed Buildings 2014). The Inclosure map of 1791 also indicates other industries, but which have been replaced by newer buildings, including the Forge and saddle-makers. Local legend suggests that it was during this period that Vinegar Hill, which through cuttings and embankments has had the gradient smoothed out, achieved its name. The steep hill was difficult for horses to pull stagecoaches up; horses’ mouths would be doused with vinegar at the bottom of the hill, while fresh water was waiting at the top. This encouraged the horses to go up the hill to drink to remove the taste of vinegar (Bye, Perscom 2014). One other reminder of the Turnpike Trusts is a milestone situated halfway up Vinegar Hill, stating ‘From London 66 miles, to Stilton 9 miles’ - Plate 6.
5.5 Modern Development  The 1888 OS map shows that the settlement had not changed much from 1791 but there was an addition of an Implement Works, which produced threshing-equipment. This Implement Works was closed in the early 1950s leaving a derelict wooden-shed (Peck 2014), Plate 7.

Plate 7 – Derelict Wooden Construction Shed For Implement Works

An additional visible reminder of the industrial past of the Implement Works is a fuel-dispensing pump, Plate 8, which, though located adjacent to the Old Great North Road, was only used by the company and never used by the general-public travelling on the Great North Road. (Peck Perscom 2014). A mission-room was built in 1877 (VCH 2014), as the settlement has never had its own church, but used the neighbouring Alconbury church.

Plate 8 – Old Fuel-Dispensing Pump
Additionally, a Baptist Chapel was built in 1855 (VCH 2014) but was demolished prior to 1954 (Faulkner Perscom 2014) leaving the cemetery, Plate 9, as the only visible remnant, the last headstone dated 1974 (Site visit 2014).

Study of maps indicates that the first major change occurred in 1968 when construction of the new part of the settlement to the south occurred. Building of domestic housing carried on throughout the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, Plate 10.
On aerial imagery, the original field-boundaries, first identified on the Inclosure Map of 1791, can still be seen within the new settlement, (IA 2014) Plate 11.

Plate 11 – Comparison Of 2014 Imagery And 1945 Imagery Showing Extent Of Expansion And To Show The Retention Of Inclosure Act Boundaries

The bridge over the Alconbury Brook was rebuilt in the 1970s with a concrete beam-and-deck Bridge, Plate 12 (Site Visit 2014).

Plate 12 – Modern Concrete Beam-and-deck Bridge Carrying Old Great North Road Over The Alconbury Brook
The only registered Public Building is the Village Sign-Post located on the village green, adjacent to the only industrial building, which is Orion Electronics, Plate 13. Modern expansion, combined with enhanced personal transport has resulted in the settlement becoming a dormitory settlement, devoid of normal support functions such as shops, schools and hospitals, depending for these on nearby towns such as Huntingdon or Peterborough.

6. **Conclusions.** The urban settlement of Alconbury Weston has been occupied since the Neolithic period. However, it was probably in the Roman period that the settlement became established, concentrated on its epicentre at TL176 679. It remained a small settlement and was mentioned in the Domesday Book, and during this time developed settlement along both banks of the Alconbury Brook. It became part of the Alconbury Manor and Huntingdon Royal Forest whilst the introduction of stagecoaches and Turnpike Trusts developed the Great North Road as a major thoroughfare through the village. It remained relatively unchanged until the 1960s when modern housing occupied the southern fields. The upgrading and rerouting of the Great North Road in the 1960s reduced the importance of the village and it gradually became the dormitory settlement that can be seen today. 

(2000 Words)
Reference List


Ousterhaisen S (2014) *Personal Comment Fen Edge Archaeology Group* April 20140


**Bibliography**

Aston, Michael (1985) *Interpreting the Landscape. Landscape Archaeology in Local studies*/ London. Batsford Ltd


Bowden Mark (1999) *Unravelling the Landscape; An inquisitive approach to Archaeology*. Stroud. Tempus Publishing Ltd.


**SOURCES**


Archaeological Records (The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record)

Portable Antiquities Scheme (Cambridge Shire Hall)

Previous maps and plans of the site (Huntingdon Archives, Ordnance Survey) Geological maps (British Geological Society)

Historical background material (Huntingdon Library Victoria County history)

Aerial Imagery (Huntingdon Library, Google Earth, Environment Agency)

Other Archaeological data (Huntingdon Archives, Huntingdon Library)

Other Academic reference documents (University Centre Peterborough library, Peterborough Regional College library)

Site visits, undertaken on 19, 25, 26 October 2014 and 23 November 2014.
### Appendix 1 - Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record from Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map No</th>
<th>CHER Number</th>
<th>Type of record</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grid Reference</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Monument Type(s):</th>
<th>Associated Find(s):</th>
<th>Associated Events:</th>
<th>Full description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>00783</td>
<td>Monument</td>
<td>Alconbury Brook Footbridge</td>
<td>TL 176 770</td>
<td>Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>FOOTBRIDGE (14th century to 15th century - 1301 AD to 1500 AD)</td>
<td>SHERD (Medium quantity) (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</td>
<td>BUFAU excavation, Vinegar Hill 1996</td>
<td>This is one of two 'archless' bridges spanning the Alconbury Brook, approximately dating to 1500. Grid Reference: TL 176 770 Parish: Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire. Monument Type(s): FOOTBRIDGE (14th century to 15th century - 1301 AD to 1500 AD) Protected Status: Listed Building (II) 1164751: Footbridge to East of Thorn Gate Cottage Scheduled Monument 1006799: Footbridge at W end of village. Full description: 1. Bridge over Alconbury Brook, towards the NW end of the village, now consists of a central pier and two abutments of ashlar with a modern timber superstructure. The stonework may be of late Medieval date and is said to have come from Coppingford Church. 2. This is one of two archless bridges of medieval date spanning the Alconbury Brook. The deck of the bridge is supported by a central stone support with cutwater, and springs from stone supports in either bank. The date is approximately 1500. The wooden superstructure is modern and the stonework has been much repaired, but all is in sound condition. This must have been the type of bridge which crossed the Ouse at Huntingdon before the present bridge was built in 1332 (sic). The central stone support is now in bad condition with stone facing falling away to expose brick fill. W cutwater cracking showing iron cramps. Structure listing to S and weed covered in places. Some supports repaired with concrete and brick. Wooden superstructure rotting in several places. Sources and further reading: &lt;1&gt; Bibliographic reference: RCHM. 1926. An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Huntingdonshire. 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MCB15885</td>
<td>Monument</td>
<td>Multi-period remains, Vinegar Hill</td>
<td>TL 185 777</td>
<td>Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>ENCLOSURE (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</td>
<td>BEAM SLOT? (4th century AD - 301 AD to 400 AD)</td>
<td>BUFAU excavation, Vinegar Hill 1996</td>
<td>Summary - not yet available Grid Reference: TL 185 777 Parish: Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire. Monument Type(s): ENCLOSURE (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD) PIT (4th century AD - 301 AD to 400 AD) DITCH (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD) WATER CHANNEL? (Early Neolithic to 2nd century AD - 4000 BC? to 200 AD) BEAM SLOT? (4th century AD - 301 AD to 400 AD) GULLY (4th century AD - 301 AD to 400 AD) DITCH (3rd century AD to 4th century AD - 201 AD to 400 AD) Associated Find(s): SHERD (Medium quantity) (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD) Associated Events: BUFAU excavation, Vinegar Hill 1996 Preliminary assessment, A1 widening scheme, Alconbury to Fletton, 1991 Evaluation at Alconbury Hill / Vinegar Hill, 1996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. As part of the initial A1 assessment, fieldwalking and small scale trial trenching took place to the SW of the Alconbury Hill junction. No features were revealed, although an extensive scatter of early Roman material was recorded, comprising pottery and a large fragment of opus signinum.

2. Prior to A1 road improvements an evaluation took place on three sites: Norman Cross, Alconbury Hill and Vinegar Hill. At Vinegar Hill seven trial trenches were dug, revealing evidence of a ditch marked enclosure. 0.8 kg of pottery, similar to that on Norman Cross, was retrieved. The fill of the ditches contained well-preserved animal bone, molluscs and charred plant remains.

Sources and further reading

CHER Number: MCB17941
Type of record: Monument
Name: Iron Age and Early to Middle Saxon settlement activity, Alconbury

Summary - not yet available
Grid Reference: TL 181 762
Parish: Alconbury, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire
Monument Type(s):
- DITCH (Iron Age - 800 BC to 42 AD)
- PIT (Iron Age - 800 BC to 42 AD)
- SETTLEMENT? (Saxon - 410 AD to 1065 AD)
- SETTLEMENT? (Iron Age - 800 BC to 42 AD?)
- PIT (Saxon - 410 AD to 1065 AD)

Associated Finds:
- ANIMAL REMAINS (Small quantity) (Early Iron Age to Medieval - 800 BC to 1539 AD)
- SHERD (Small quantity) (Late Iron Age - 100 BC to 42 AD)
- SHERD (Small quantity) (Early Saxon to Medieval - 410 AD to 1539 AD)

Associated Events:
- Evaluation at North Road, Alconbury, 2008 (Ref: GNR 1359)

Full description
1. An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in May 2008 prior to the construction of all-weather playing fields and a multi-use games area. The evaluation revealed the remains of previously unknown Iron Age and Saxon settlement activity considered to be of regional significance, as well as medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, along with a number of other undated archaeological features. The depth of overburden is sufficient that the development will cause negligible damage to the archaeological remains, which will be preserved largely in situ beneath the development.

Sources and further reading

CHER Number: MCB17143
Type of record: Monument
Name: Post-medieval features, N. of Hamerton Lane, Alconbury Weston

Summary - not yet available
Grid Reference: TL 178 769
Parish: Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire
Monument Type(s):
- POST HOLE (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
- PIT (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
Full description

1. A trial trench revealed a number of pits and a post hole all of which were of post-medieval date. Pottery finds from these features dated all the way to the C20th, including Roman sherds. Numerous animal bones were found, most were from a dog burial found in one pit. Three fragments of bone showed butchery marks and others had evidence of carnivore gnawing, but the assemblage was too small for further analysis.

Sources and further reading


1. Fragments of Castor ware, coarse Roman and gritted ware, grooved tile and tegulae were found in the foundation trenches of houses. See RN 00806 - Romano-British settlement 00808 - Roman pottery 00808a -

Sources and further reading


<2> Map: OS.

Full description

1. a) Sherds of cordonned bowl of brown ware, wheel made, with cordon on shoulder. b) Carinated jar of grey ware, wheel made, with cordons on shoulder and neck, everted rim - restored; height 14,0cm, diameter 16,7cm. Site is published in TCHAS but there seems to be no particular reference to this pot; nor was it catalogued at HLSI along with other material from the site.

Sources and further reading

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<td>TL 186 776</td>
<td>Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>FINDSPOT (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</td>
<td>ROOF TILE (Small quantity) (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</td>
<td>SHERD (Small quantity) (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</td>
<td>1. Castor ware, coarse gritted pot, grooved tile, tegulae, oysters in construction trenches; Roman pot, roof tile found on field surface. See RN 00808 - Roman pottery 00806 - Romano-British settlement 00806a</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>not yet available</td>
<td>TL 174 764</td>
<td>Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>FINDSPOT (Bronze Age - 2500 BC to 701 BC)</td>
<td>AXE (TOOL) (Bronze Age - 2500 BC to 701 BC)</td>
<td>1. Strip lynchet system; found on the S side of Alconbury Brook, in fields 175 and 298. These &quot;terraces&quot; run parallel with the North Road and they extend from field 175 into 298. As the field had undergone extensive ploughing, it was thought that the steady decrease in gradient towards the brook marked by the terraces, may indeed have been the remains of a lynchet strip system. As the field gradient was rather low - they may have been ancient headlands rather than lynchets.</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>TL 180 764</td>
<td>Alconbury Weston, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>FINDSPOT (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</td>
<td>COIN (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</td>
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Sources and further reading


<1> Map: OS.
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Full description</strong>&lt;br&gt;1. Late C1 or early C2 Roman coin found 1953.&lt;br&gt;2. 02, Coin of Hadrian (AD 117 - 138) in Norris Museum, St Ives transferred from Huntingdon Museum.&lt;br&gt;03, Mr. E Murden, 80 yrs old from 14 North Road, Alconbury Weston, confirmed the site of the find.&lt;br&gt;S2, 1st brass, ? Vespasian of Hadrian, illegible. From Gallicroft Allotments, Alconbury Weston.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Sources and further reading</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>&lt;1&gt;</strong> Bibliographic reference: OS Corr 6in.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Full description</strong>&lt;br&gt;1. (TL/1729/7620) Silver penny, Henry II, found by Mr. Bateman.&lt;br&gt;Mr. Bateman is dead, but his son at 2 North Road, Alconbury Weston, says it was likely that his father found the silver penny as he was working on this land about this time.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Full description</strong>&lt;br&gt;1. Ridge and furrow running north-south.</td>
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| 12   | **Summary**<br>Seal of John de Watford, Prior of St Barts, AD 1423
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<td>Ridge and furrow, W of Alconbury Weston</td>
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<td>Ridge and furrow (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)</td>
<td>FINDSPOT (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)</td>
<td>1. Ridge and furrow; noted during fieldwalking in advance of gas pipeline 10 - 12 March, 1976</td>
<td>Verbal communication: Croft PW &amp; JM.</td>
</tr>
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<td>00782</td>
<td>Monument</td>
<td>Ridge and furrow, Alconbury Weston</td>
<td>TL 179 769</td>
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<td>Ridge and furrow (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)</td>
<td>SEAL (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)</td>
<td>1. (Area TL1748/7607) Seal of John de Watford, Prior of St Barts, AD 1423, found by Wm Balemain; in Huntingdon Museum 1896.</td>
<td>Bibliographic reference: OS Corr 6in.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Monument Type(s):

- **RIDGE AND FURROW** (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)

### Full description


### Sources and further reading

<1> Verbal communication: Croft PW & JM