



Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society

AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2025

Recent Archaeology in the Cambridge Region

Saturday November 22
University Faculty of Law,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DZ

Programme

09.00 **Registration/coffee**

10.15 **Welcome and introduction**

Simon Stoddart

Morning session

Chair: Catherine Hills

10.30 **Communities of the Isle: Bronze Age to Roman settlement and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Orchards Green, North-West Ely**

Tom Phillips
Oxford Archaeology

An overview of the findings across five phases of excavation will be presented, with an emphasis on the most significant findings and looking at changes in land use over time. Excavation has revealed discrete areas of settlement in the Middle and Late Bronze Age, much more extensive field systems and 'farmstead' activity across the Early and Middle Iron Age, a section of Roman Akeman Street and contemporary occupation/field systems, and a furnished Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery that was closely associated with the Roman road.

11.00 **Tithe Farm: A multi-period site in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire**

Catie Watts Albion Archaeology

An excavation in advance of housing development uncovered a well-preserved enclosed Iron Age settlement as well as Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity

11.30 **Eddeva Park, Worts' Causeway: New perspectives on Bronze Age burial and settlement in the Cam valley**

Emily Abrehart Oxford Archaeology

Worts' Causeway is an Early-Middle Bronze Age site, including a small round barrow associated with a cemetery. As well as EBA burials the barrow continued to be a focus for burial into the MBA. Eighteen inhumations and one cremation placed within and around the periphery of the barrow span the Middle Bronze Age. The number of inhumations is very rare for the MBA, when cremation tends to dominate the record. Contemporary with these burials and extending over much of the site was a field system and settlement which fits with the wider settlement pattern in the Middle Bronze Age, linking it to the important settlements at Clay Farm and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus to the west.

12.00 **Roads north-east: Park Street and the 'lower town' of Roman Cambridge**

Owain Scholma-Mason Headland

In this talk we will examine the results of recent excavation at Park Street where a plethora of archaeological remains stretching from the Roman through to the modern period were uncovered. This talk will focus on the Roman elements, including a previously unrecorded road, and their wider significance in interpreting the 'lower town' of Roman Cambridge.

12.30 **Archaeological investigation at 19 High Street, Grantchester**

Judy Mlynarska and Rita Pedro
Pre-Construct Archaeology

This uncovered remains spanning from the Early Iron Age to the medieval period. In particular, the excavations revealed part of what appears to have been a fairly high-status Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement. This included ditched enclosures, buildings and accompanying 'service features', such as cess pits, waste pits and cooking pits, and was occupied by people who farmed the surrounding landscape and may have fished in the nearby River Cam

13.00 - 14.00 **Lunch**

Afternoon session

Chair: Simon Stoddart

14.00 Excavations at Wandlebury – Year 1

*Oscar Aldred and
Matt Brudenell CAU*

After a successful excavation in 2024, the team returned to Wandlebury in 2025 for the first year in a five-year programme. Combining a training excavation for undergraduates from the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge with research, we focused our efforts on assessing the interior of the hillfort, and an area outside of it, using test pits and trenches. In this short talk we will present our initial findings against a background of Wandlebury's research history.

14.30 Fenscapes Project

*Rachel Ballantyne
McDonald Institute*

The Fenscapes Project is synthesising environmental archaeological data to investigate 5000 years of landscapes, habitats, and species in the Fens of eastern England. Our preliminary results show underlying biases in data patterning linked to burial depth and archaeological practice, which are explored here with regard to impact on the plant and animal records. What are the main patterns through time and space, and should we modify the sampling guidance? This talk will also outline our new, exploratory palaeoenvironmental research in collaboration with the National Trust and CAU.

15.00 An exploration of the Portable Antiquities Scheme database

*Helen Fowler
Cambridgeshire FLO*

The Finds Liaison Officer for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will take us on a short safari through some of the more memorable artefacts recorded onto the Portable Antiquities Scheme database and encourage you to have an explore yourselves.

15.30 Ramsey Abbey

*Roger Mould Warboys
Archaeology Group*

Ramsey Abbey, cartography, photogrammetry and 3D modelling; plotting the Saxon Church, exposing an 18th century folly and reinterpreting the Lady Chapel

16.00 Close of Conference

Admission

The fee for the Conference is £10 for CAS members or £15.00 for non-members (includes tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival).

Lunch

Please note that lunch is not provided. Attendees are welcome to bring their own which can be eaten in Law Faculty foyer. Alternatively, light refreshments are available in Newnham College's Iris Café (over the road), and the Granta pub is about 5 minutes' walk away.

Parking

Parking is **not** available on the Sidgwick Site. There is limited pay and display on road parking available in Sidgwick Avenue and West Road.

Public Transport

If using public transport, there is a U1 bus from Eddington (West Cambridge) at 09.49 (alight West Road, near the UL). In the opposite direction, the most convenient bus is the U2 from Addenbrooke's (dep.09.30) and Cambridge Railway Station (dep 09.44): alight at Silver Street.