

Archaeology field walks carried out by Cambridge Archaeology Field Group

1979-1981 Field Walk Magog Down

Evidence of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity was revealed by fieldwalking surveys conducted in 1979/80 and 1990/1 which identified a distribution of flint tools and manufacturing debris concentrated on the lower ground immediately to the north and north east of the causewayed enclosure (with some examples located within its perimeter). A Neolithic flint arrowhead was discovered on the summit of the knoll in 1970, and various other artefacts including a polished stone axe and a scatter of worked flint were recovered from an adjacent field (to the west of Haverhill Road) during the mid 1960's. The southern side of Little Trees Hill (formerly known as Clunch Pit Hill) has been considerably disturbed by a series of chalk pits excavated during the 19th century. These workings have removed parts of the original profile of the hill together with any archaeological remains which may have been present. The floors of these workings are therefore excluded from the scheduling, although the edges of the pits (which will retain archaeological information) are included. The wooden benches located on the upper slopes of the knoll are excluded from the scheduling together with all fences and fence posts, although the ground beneath these features is included.



Looking towards Little Trees Hill from the North



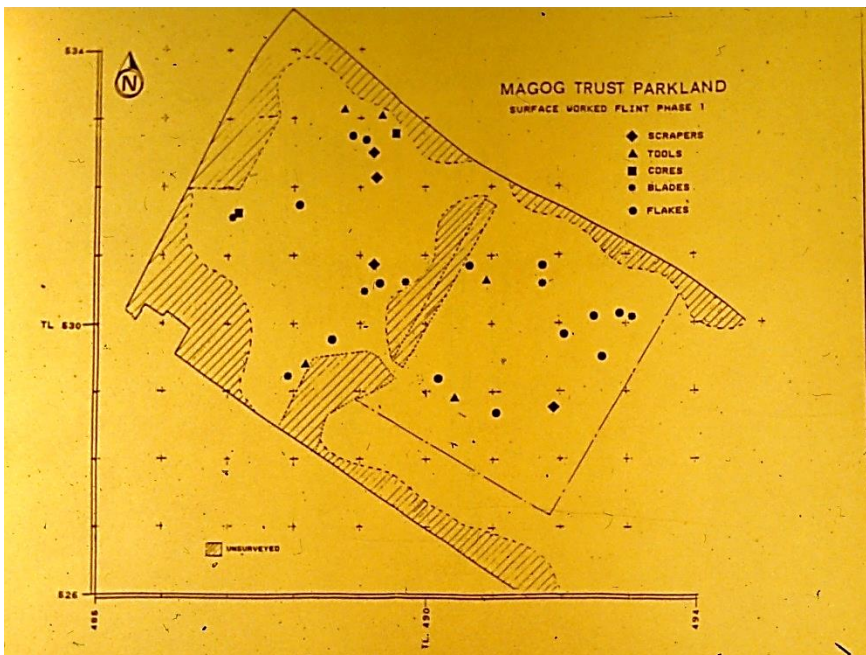
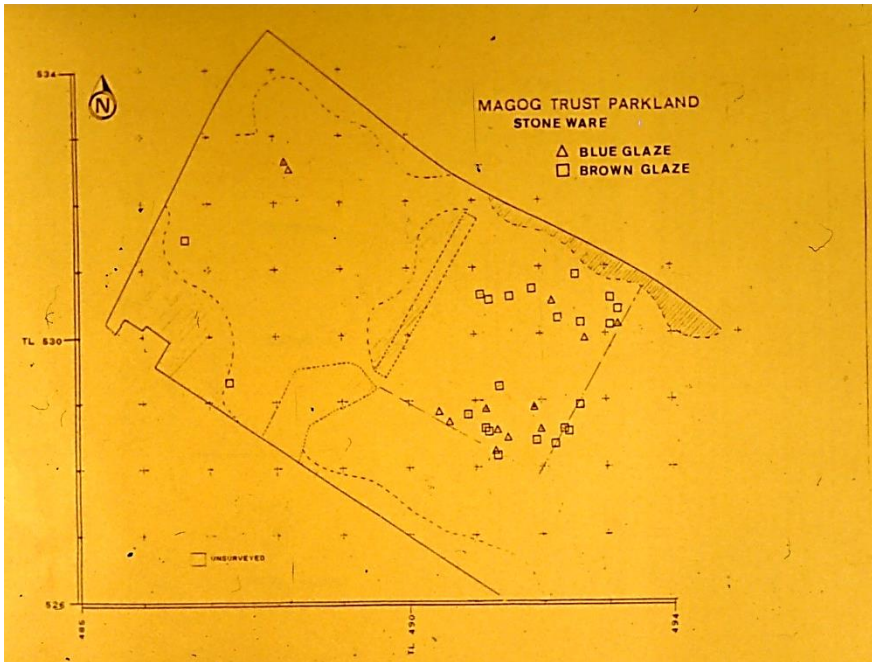
Looking towards Little Trees Hill from South



Site adjacent to A1307 towards Addenbrooke's Hospital



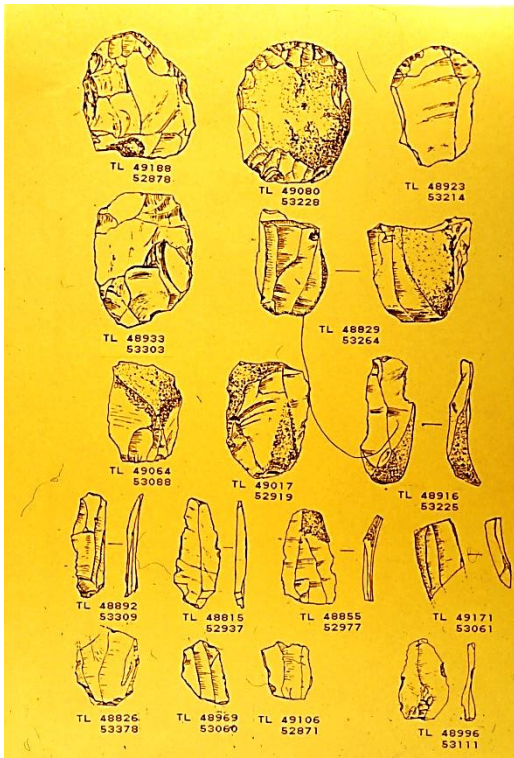
Looking towards Little Trees Hill from A1307



Historic England Research Records
Monument Number 371692 Grid Ref : TL4890053200

Summary : Scatter of worked flints found during fieldwalking close to the possible Neolithic enclosure TL 45 SE 35.

More information : TL 489532. A scatter of worked flints was found during field walking in the vicinity of a ploughed-out circular cropmark in the fields on the opposite side of the A604 to Wandlebury (TL 45 SE 2).



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURFACE SURVEY OF PART OF THE MAGOG TRUST DOWNLAND PARK IN 1991 by the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group

During the winter of 1990/91, a systematic archaeological sampling programme of surface artefacts (fieldwalking) was carried out over the area now down to downland grass. Parallel lines 10m apart were walked and recovered artefacts given coordinates from established datums later translated to National Grid Reference by computer programme.

The following is a very brief preliminary report on the results of this survey. A full report has not been made available.

Late Neolithic to Early Bronze age c 2000BC

All the artefacts associated with this period were worked flint. No recognisable concentrations can as yet be defined.

They include 4 scrapers, plus 1 possible, traditionally attributed to the preparation of skins, 1 small saw with remains of teeth along one lateral edge, 26 blades and flakes that could have been used for cutting or shaping. Also present was 1 core (the remains of a flint nodule from which blades or flakes had been struck) together with several pieces with indications of having been humanly struck, probably waste from core preparation.

Roman-British 43 -410AD

Very few artefacts were recovered.

Saxon 410 – 1066

No artefacts recognised as yet

Saxo-Norman

No artefacts recognised as yet.

Late Medieval c1200-c1500

The odd sherd of pottery, not sufficient define any activity areas.

Early Post-medieval c1500 – c1700

Many sherds of salt glazed stone ware flaggons were recovered some with medallion and human mask decoration (bellarmine), typical of this type of vessel. They were mostly imported from the Rhineland and can be allocated to know potteries there. Sherds of another type of stone ware vessel, known as Westerwald, also from the Rhineland, were present, though produced over a very long period, from the 17th century o the present day.

Also of this period were sherds of black to dark brown (iron) glazed pottery together with a few sherds of handled cooking vessels probably of the skillet or pipkin type and early clay smoking pipes.

Late Post-medieval to present

As would be expected of this period predominated covering most of the durable material usually discarded such as pottery, building materials, clay smoking pipes and various bits of metal. One rather interesting find was part of a clay wig curler with a stamped letter 'S' at one end.

Conclusions at present:

For the prehistoric period the worked flint could well be associated with the barrow though the presence of tools such as scrapers does not necessarily indicated work areas. Excavations have shown that in some cases at least work areas were periodically cleaned and discarded flint, together with other rubbish, dumped away from habitation areas or buried.

Grazing rhat tha arable use could account for the sparsity of material from then right through to the early Post Medieval, though being derived from archaeological levels destroyed by ploughing and other disturbances. It could be that these level have not been reached.

Could the marked upsurge in quantity of pottery from the beginning of the 16th century, together with the presence of foreign flaggons, suggest growing popularity of the Gogmagog by more affluent persons?

The relative preponderance of recent material is usually indicative of arable use ie change from grazing to arable activities.

The CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD GROUP was formed in 1978 by amateur students studying archaeology at an evening class in Cambridge. Our aims are to provide: practical work such as fieldwalking and occasionally our own excavations, lectures where we are fortunate in being able to call upon speakers of national and international recognition in various fields and disciplines a vehicle for information on what

is currently going on such as training excavations where volunteers are requested via our newsletters. For further information contact our secretary, Susan May, 94 High St, Great Shelford, Cambridge tel 843121.

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Flints are in care of Cambridge University Archaeology Dept

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