



# Archaeological Excavations in Bures Hamlet, Essex and Bures St Mary, Suffolk, 2012

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*Managing a  
Masterpiece:*

The Stour Valley  
Landscape Partnership

**Archaeological excavations at Bures Hamlet, Essex and  
Bures St Mary, Suffolk in 2012**

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## 1 Summary

*In summer 2012, a five-day community archaeological excavation directed by Access Cambridge Archaeology for the Heritage Lottery Fund's Managing a Masterpiece programme took place on Bures Common in north east Essex. Scores of local volunteers including school pupils took part in the excavations which were intended to see if any trace remained of a water channel shown on pre-modern maps. The excavation of three trenches and seven test pits demonstrated the presence of a slow-moving body of water used for flax retting in the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The potential for excellent survival of organic material at lower levels was clearly demonstrated in the area adjacent to Bridge Street. The common appears to have remained low-lying open ground, perhaps used seasonally as grazing when conditions allowed, until a concerted campaign of consolidation raised the ground surface by upwards of 1m in the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century to its present level.*

## 2 Introduction

Over a single week from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012, three trial trenches were excavated on Bures Common, adjacent to the River Stour in Bures Hamlet in Essex. An additional seven small archaeological test pits were also excavated in private gardens and on the common through the villages of Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary in Suffolk. Excavations were undertaken by local residents, members of various local archaeological and history societies, as well as numerous volunteers. The excavations were organised in conjunction with, and funded by, Managing a Masterpiece, a Heritage Lottery Funded conservation project based along the Stour Valley in both south Suffolk and north Essex, to increase the understanding of the area, the conservation and then to celebrate this heritage.

This report presents the results of the archaeological excavations.

### 2.1 The Managing a Masterpiece Project

Managing a Masterpiece (<http://www.managingamasterpiece.org/>) is a £1.1million Landscape Partnership Scheme for the Stour Valley with £910,000 of that awarded by the National Heritage Memorial Fund for 62 projects within three programmes over three years. Delivery of the scheme began on 1 June 2010. The Managing a Masterpiece vision is for a Stour Valley where the landscape is understood cared for and celebrated by communities with the knowledge, skills and opportunities needed to manage and enjoy it. The scheme consists of three programmes, under which there are fifteen projects and around sixty outputs across a range of work including archaeology, access, public training events, outreach projects to traditionally hard to reach groups, school projects, built conservation projects, public survey of heritage features, production of a heritage compendium, use of church towers as interpretation points, website development, provision of a Hopper Bus, new walking and cycling leaflets, new art exhibitions and projects, restoration of a Stour lighter (barge), new hedge and tree planting and management, new displays for museums and practical conservation management. Programme 1, 'Understanding the Masterpiece' seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the Stour Valley by residents and those with an interest in its landscape and heritage assets, by learning more about them and how they are managed, and actively working to manage and restore the key features. A component of the Understanding the Masterpiece programme is 'Project 1f: Stripping Back the Layers' which comprises four archaeological excavation projects carried out by community volunteers trained, supervised and led by professional archaeologists and summarised in a chapter of the Stour Valley Heritage Compendium. The community-based archaeological training excavation and test-pitting project on and around Mount Bures comprised one of the components of Stripping Back the Layers.

### 2.2 Access Cambridge Archaeology

Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) (<http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk>) is an archaeological outreach organisation based in the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in the University of Cambridge which aims to enhance economic, social and personal well-being through active engagement with archaeology. It was set up by Dr Carenza Lewis in 2004 and specialises in providing opportunities for members of the public to take part in purposeful, research-orientated archaeological investigations including excavation. Educational events and courses range in length from a few hours to a week or more, and involve members of the public of all ages.

Thousands of members of the public have taken part in scores of programmes run by ACA, including teenagers involved in Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) test pit excavation programmes intended since 2005 to build academic skills, confidence and aspirations. More widely, ACA has involved thousands of members of the public of all ages and backgrounds, including those with special needs, in a wide range of archaeological activities including field-walking, excavation, analysis and reporting. These have included projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and events in 2011-12 as part of the Cultural Olympiad for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

## 2.3 Context for the 2012 excavations on Bures Common

The excavations on Bures Common funded by Managing A Masterpiece in 2012 were instigated at the request of residents of Bures and trustees of Bures Common Land charitable company, who had in 2012 recently purchased the land with support from the Big Society Fund to retain it as open space in public ownership as a community resource.<sup>1</sup> Local historian Leigh Alston (Trustee of Bures Common Land) had identified historical records attesting to the presence of a water channel running across this land which was used for rubbish disposal in the later medieval and post medieval periods and visible on early maps. A map of Bures Hamlet and Lamarsh dated circa 1600 by the Essex Record Office (ref. D/DU 351/1) shows a narrow wooden causeway spanning the low ground between the watercourse in question and the main bridge over the river. There are also various references to a ford over the 'Common stream' or 'Common ditch' and the 'causey' or long footbridge in the 15th and 16th century court rolls of Bures Parsonage manor (ERO D/DU M 206-210).

With interest in the land heightened by its recent purchase as a community resource, Managing A Masterpiece was asked by residents to fund a community excavation on the site to celebrate its acquisition as a community resource and find out more about its past history. The aim of the excavations was to see if the water channel could be located, and if so to establish its date and function.

## 2.4 Rural settlement studies

Rural settlement has long been a crucial area of research for medieval archaeology (Gerrard 2003; Lewis et al 2001, 5-21), notably since the pioneering work of W. G. Hoskins, Maurice Beresford and John Hurst in the 1940s and 1950s (Hoskins 1955; Beresford 1955; Beresford & Hurst 1971), but until recently attention was focused largely on the minority of medieval settlements which are today deserted or extensively shrunken. Currently occupied rural settlements (CORS), overlain by domestic housing and related buildings of living secular communities – the villages, hamlets and small towns of today – were generally largely disregarded as targets for research-driven excavation. Very few regions have seen any systematic research-driven primary investigation aimed at CORS, and most of that which has taken place has not involved excavation, including those of a survey based nature (Roberts 1987; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000; Roberts and Wrathmell 2003). However, recent attempts to redress this bias in favour of the majority of medieval rural settlements which are still inhabited have opened up new areas for debate which are beginning to call into question established theories about the development of rural settlement in the historic period (Aston & Gerrard 1999; Jones & Page 2006). However,

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/bures\\_common\\_sense\\_victory\\_for\\_common\\_land\\_1\\_922125](http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/bures_common_sense_victory_for_common_land_1_922125)  
(Accessed Nov 2013)



despite these recent advances, the number of CORS to have seen methodical research-orientated investigation including excavation remains very small. In order to begin to resolve this problem, Access Cambridge Archaeology, working with members of the public including school pupils, has carried out test pit excavations in more than 30 CORS, most in eastern England. This will help allow the evidence upon which knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of the medieval rural settlement pattern of eastern England is based to be more representative of the entire range of medieval settlements, not just on the minority of sites which are currently deserted (Lewis 2006; 2007a; 2007b).

As well as advancing understanding of the historic development of the Common, the test pit excavations at Bures would contribute to this programme of test pit excavation in CORS, and thus advance wider academic research into medieval settlement.

### 3 Aims, objectives and desired outcomes

#### 3.1 Aims

The aims of the community excavations in Bures were as follows:

- To establish whether a water channel previously ran across Bures Common and if found, to identify its date, condition and function.
- To increase knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the heritage of the villages of Bures St Mary, Bures Hamlet, the River Stour and its environs.
- To increase understanding of the area to support employment, sustainable tourism and encourage inward investment.
- To engage with local communities and 'hard to reach groups', widening the participation of people in the heritage of the valley.
- To allow local community participants to develop a wide range of practical and analytical archaeological skills.

#### 3.2 Objectives

The objectives of community excavations in Bures were as follows:

- To investigate the archaeology of the common on Bures and its environs through excavation and by test-pitting in properties in the vicinity of the monument.
- To provide the opportunity for a minimum of 20 volunteers to learn new practical and analytical archaeological skills.
- To provide 100 person-days of hands-on archaeological training and experience.
- To support and engage with members of local communities and 'hard to reach' groups through involvement with the project.

#### 3.3 Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the community excavations in Bures were as follows:

- A minimum of 20 people with new archaeological skills.
- A minimum of 40 people with an enhanced understanding and awareness of Bures Village and its local environs.
- A local population more engaged and informed about Bures and the River Stour.

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Trial Trench Excavation

The excavation of three trenches followed standard procedures for trial trench excavations as suggested by the standards set for field archaeology in the east of England (Gurney 2003).

- Trench one was sited to the north of the common and parallel with Bridge Street, measuring 23m in length and 1.5m in width. It was necessarily kinked to follow the road and avoid a tree, but was orientated approximately east-west. Trench two was the southern most of the three trenches and was 11m in length, 1.5m in width and orientated northwest-southeast. Trench three was the middle of the three and was orientated east-west and measured 18.5m in length and 1.5m in width.
- The upper deposits (mainly the top soil) from trenches one and two were excavated, under supervision, using a tracked digger, after which all excavation was then carried out by hand in 0.1m-0.2m layers. Trench three was excavated with the digger through the top and sub soils to the clay alluvial layers after which excavation was continued by hand.
- 50% of hand-dug deposits was sieved by hand through a 10mm mesh to ensure maximum retrieval of archaeological finds.
- A register was kept, detailing all photographs taken including feature/context number, direction of shot and date and time of day.
- Cut features were excavated sequentially in the normal way.
- Masonry walls were carefully cleaned, planned and left in situ.
- At the end of the excavations, the trenches were machine backfilled and the turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

### 4.2 Test pit excavation strategy

The test pits excavated in the course of the Bures Common Community Excavations followed the standard procedure outlined below, used successfully by ACA in the excavation by members of the public of over 1,000 test pits in eastern England since 2005. Each test pit required three to four people over a four day duration.

- Test pits were 1m square. Turf, if present, was removed in squares by hand. Each test pit was excavated in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- The horizontal surface of each context/spit was drawn at 1:10 scale before excavation and the colour recorded with reference to a standardised colour chart, included in the written handbook.
- A pro-forma recording system was used by excavating members of the public to record their test pit excavation. This comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience.
- Cut features, if encountered were excavated sequentially in the normal way.
- All spoil was screened for finds using sieves with a standard 10mm mesh, with the exception of any heavy clay soils which were hand-searched.

- All artefacts from test pits were retained in the first instance. Excavators were instructed to err on the side of caution by retaining everything they think may even possibly be of interest.
- Each spit/context was photographed and planned before excavation at 1:10. The bottom surface of the test pit was also photographed. Sections were also photographed if possible.
- A register was kept by each test pit excavation team detailing photographs taken including context number, direction of shot and date and time of day.
- All four sections were drawn at 1:10 scale with the depth of natural (if reached) clearly indicated on pre-drawn grids on page 13 of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- Other observations and notes were included on the context record sheet for each context or on continuation sheets at the back of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- Test pits were then backfilled and the turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

#### 4.3 On-site finds identification and retention

- Non-metallic inorganic finds and bone (unless in very poor condition) were washed on site where possible, thoroughly dried and bagged separately for each context of the test pit or trench. Either on site or during post excavation the animal bone, pottery, burnt clay, flint and burnt stone are bagged separately, ready to be given to specialists.

#### 4.4 On-site archaeological supervision

- Professional archaeologists from ACA are on hand for the duration of the excavations, with one supervisor specifically assigned to each of the three trenches, to direct the excavations and provide guidance for each of the volunteers.
- Professional archaeologists from ACA also visit all the test pits regularly. They provide advice and check that the excavation is being carried out and recorded to the required standard. Pottery and most other finds are provisionally spot-dated/identified on-site by experts.

#### 4.5 Trench and test pit closing and backfilling

- A member of the archaeological team inspected each trench or test pit before it was declared finished confirming whether or not natural has been reached. A small sondage may be excavated within the bottom of the pit to examine whether or not natural has been reached. Some test pits will stop above natural or 1.2m on encountering a feature (ancient or modern) which is deemed inadvisable or impossible to remove, or have to finish at a level above natural due to time constraints.
- After the excavations were completed the archaeological records and finds are retained by the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HER's, publication and on-going research into the origins and development of rural settlement. Finds are returned to owners after analysis is complete if they are requested; otherwise they are curated by the University of Cambridge.

## 4.6 Recording

- The trenches were recorded following a Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990); whereby numbers (fill) or [cut] were assigned to individual contexts and feature numbers F. to stratigraphic events. Sections were drawn at 1:10 and base plans at either 1:20 or 1:50, with a photographic archive consisting of digital images.
- The test pit recording system used by excavating members of the public comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience. This pro-forma format, which includes designated spaces, prompts and pre-drawn 1:10 planning grids, is used in order to ensure that all required observations are completed and recorded. It is used in conjunction with the live presentation and written handbook also developed and delivered by ACA. This system has been used successfully by ACA to record required archaeological data from the excavation of over 1,500 test pits since 2005.
- The site code is BUR/12.

## 4.7 Finds processing and recording

Few excavations retain all the finds that are made if they are deemed to be of little or no research value. Test pit excavations and the upper levels of the trenches may produce significant quantities of modern material, not all of which will have research value.

### 4.7.1 *Finds appropriate for recording, analysis, reporting, retention and curation*

- All pottery has been retained.
- All faunal remains, worked stone and burnt stone have been retained
- All other finds from contexts pre-dating c. 1800 AD have been retained.
- All finds pre-dating c. 1900 AD have been retained

### 4.7.2 *Finds appropriate for disposal after recording and reporting*

- The following finds which are not considered to warrant any further analysis have been discarded after they have been photographed and their weight and number by type has been recorded,: Slate, coal, plastic, Perspex, modern glass, modern metal objects (including nails), concrete, modern mortar, modern fabric, shoes and other modern items (including batteries and shotgun cartridges), naturally occurring animal shells, unworked flint and other unworked stone (including fossils).
- C20th window and vessel glass has been discarded after sorting, counting and weighing.
- C19th and C20th CBM has been discarded after counting and weighing. One sample of any hand-made, unusual or older type of CBM was kept with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.
- Most fragments of C20th metal whose use can be identified has been discarded and the same is true for any unidentifiable object of ferrous metal, aluminium or modern

alloys from contexts containing other material of post-1900 AD date. Modern nails have also been discarded but handmade nails were retained.

- C20<sup>th</sup> tile (floor, roof and wall) have been discarded after counting and weighing, with a sample of each type of pre-modern tile retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing. Any decorated examples have been retained unless these have been recovered in very large quantities in which case representative samples were retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.
- Modern wood was weighed and counted but was also discarded.

#### 4.8 Legal ownership of finds

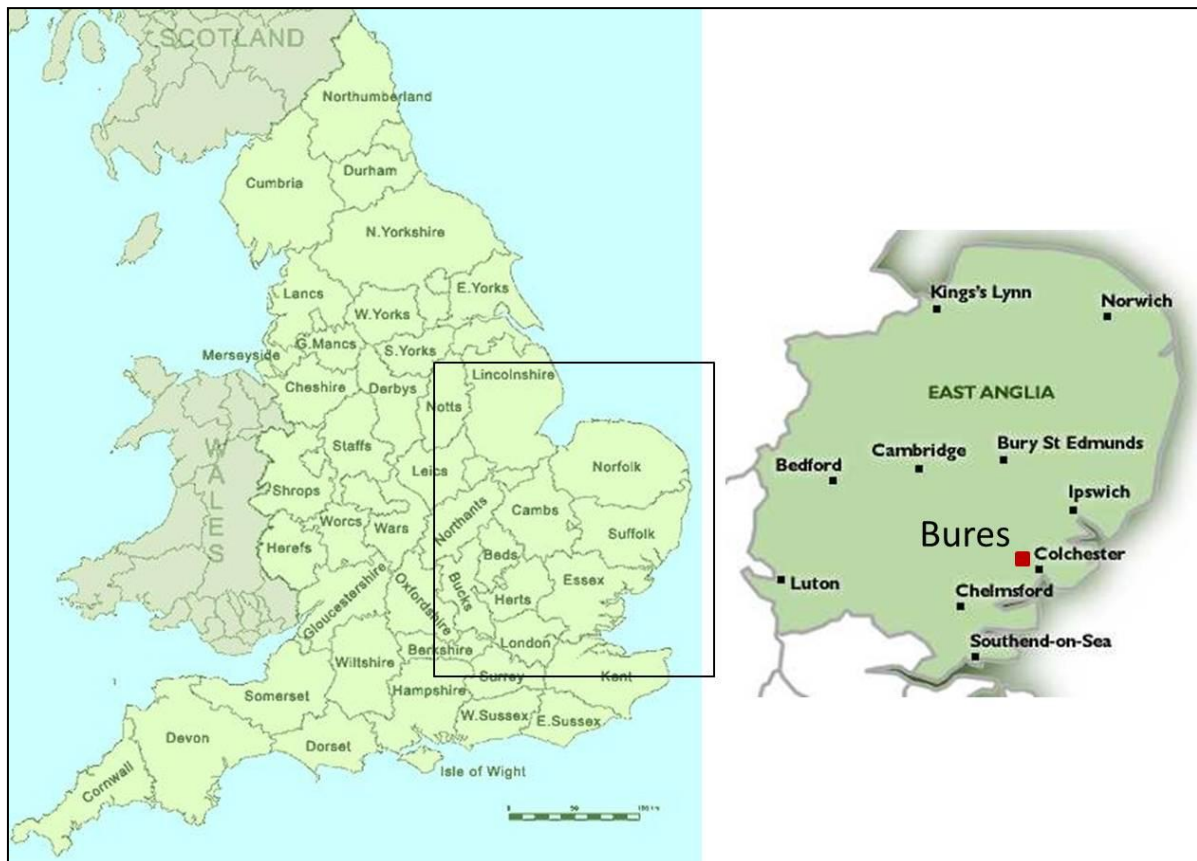
- Ownership of objects rests in the first instance with the landowner, except where other law overrides this (e.g. Treasure Act 1996, 2006, Burials Act 1857).
- Owners of private unscheduled land where test pits have been excavated who enquire about the final destination of finds from excavation on their property will be informed that ACA prefers to retain these in the short term for analysis and ideally also in the longer term in order that the excavation archives will be as complete as possible.
- NB: Most land-owners are not concerned about retaining ownership of the finds and are happy to donate them to ACA.
- Any requests by owners for the final return of finds to them will be agreed. Finds will be returned after recording, analysis and reporting is complete, accompanied by a letter inviting them to treat the finds with care, retain them in association with identifying documentation and to consider donating them to ACA/University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology should they ever change their minds about wishing to have possession of them.
- If the landowners are unwilling, for whatever reason, to donate any or all of the finds from the excavation on their land to ACA, the requested finds are returned to them after recording and analysis is completed, safely packaged and conserved (if required), accompanied by a letter explaining how they should be cared for and asking for them to be returned to the University of Cambridge if for any reason the owners no longer wish to retain them, and that if they are moved from the address to which they were returned the ACA should be informed. The location of such finds will be stated in the site archive.

#### 4.9 Curation of Archaeological Finds

- All finds which are not discarded or returned to owners are retained and stored in conditions where they will not deteriorate. Most finds are stored in cool dry condition in sealed plastic finds bags, with small pierced holes to ventilate them. Pottery, bone and flint have been bagged separately from other finds.
- Finds which are more fragile, including ancient glass or metal objects, are stored in small boxes protected by padding and if necessary, acid free paper. Metal objects are curated with silica gel packets if necessary to prevent deterioration.
- All finds bags/boxes from the same context have been bagged/boxed together, and bags from all test pits excavated in the same settlement in the same year will be kept together. All the trench finds have also been stored together. All bags and boxes used for storage will be clearly marked in permanent marker with the site code (which includes settlement name code and year of excavation code), test pit number and context number.

## 5 Location

The village of Bures is separated into two halves by the River Stour (which is also the county boundary), with Bures Hamlet in Essex and Bures St Mary in Suffolk. Although the archaeological trenches were excavated on the common land in Bures Hamlet, the test pits were excavated in both Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary, so the evidence from both villages will be addressed here. Bures sits on the B1508 and is the crossing point of the River Stour connecting Sudbury, c10km to the north and Colchester, c.14km to the south east. Bures Hamlet is centred on NGR TL 90388 33966 and Bures St Mary on NGR TL 90741 34085.



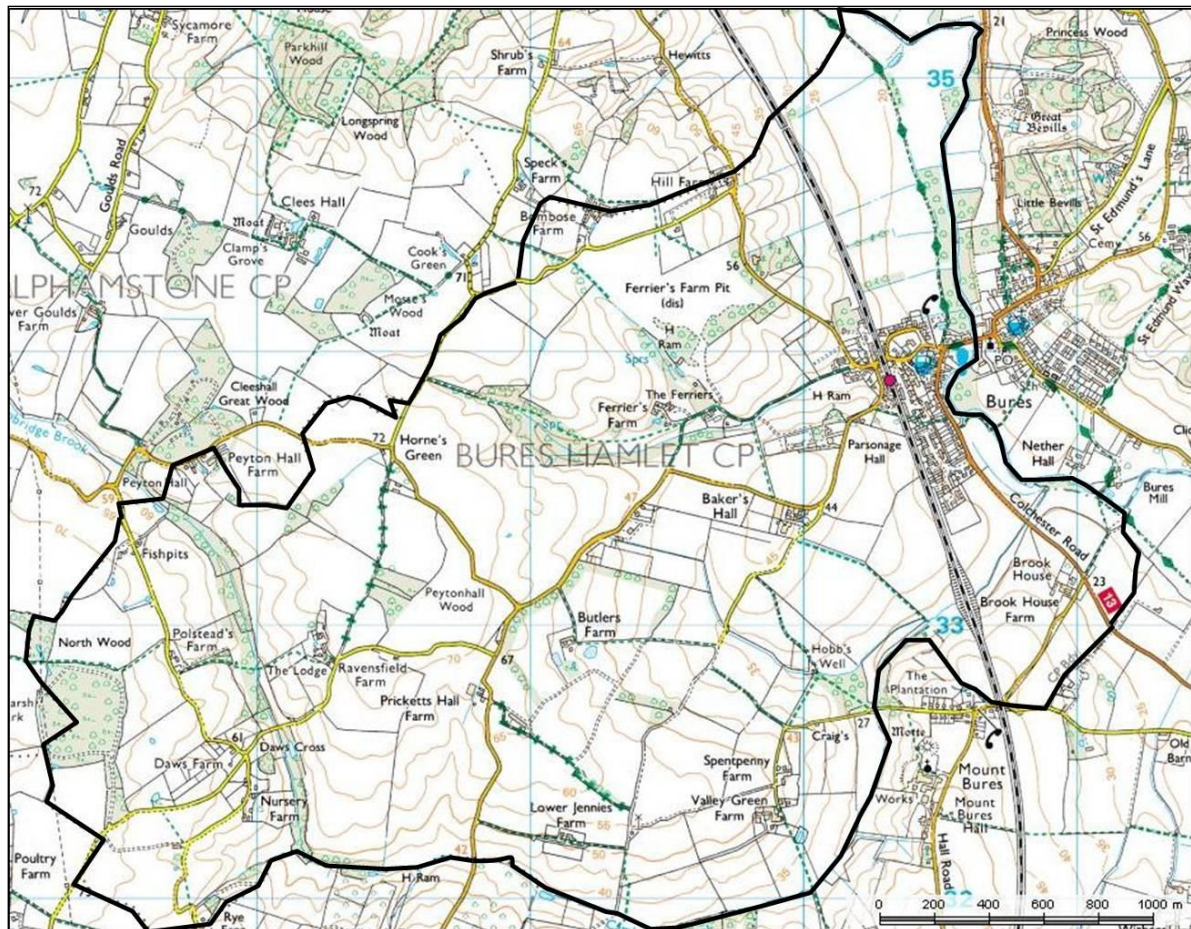
**Figure 1:** Map of England with a close up insert of East Anglia, and the village of Bures highlighted in red.

Bures Hamlet sits on the Essex side of the River Stour and is the smaller of the two Bures settlements. The village is laid out along the main roads leading to Bridge Street and the crossing over the River Stour, namely Colchester Road and Station Hill, but either side of the river crossing appears to be the focal points for each village. The railway line runs north-south through Bures Hamlet as part of the Great Eastern Line between Marks Tey and Sudbury, which opened in July 1849<sup>2</sup>. The common is situated adjacent to the river and just south of Bridge Street and it gives the village a more open feel, compared to its sister village, Bures St Mary.

The hamlet is situated in the far east of the parish adjacent to the River Stour (see figure 2) and is surrounded by a mainly rural farming community that stretches out to just beyond the

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/rail/rail.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

Cambridge Brook in the west and south. The population of Bures Hamlet was calculated at 659 people on the 2001 census<sup>3</sup>.

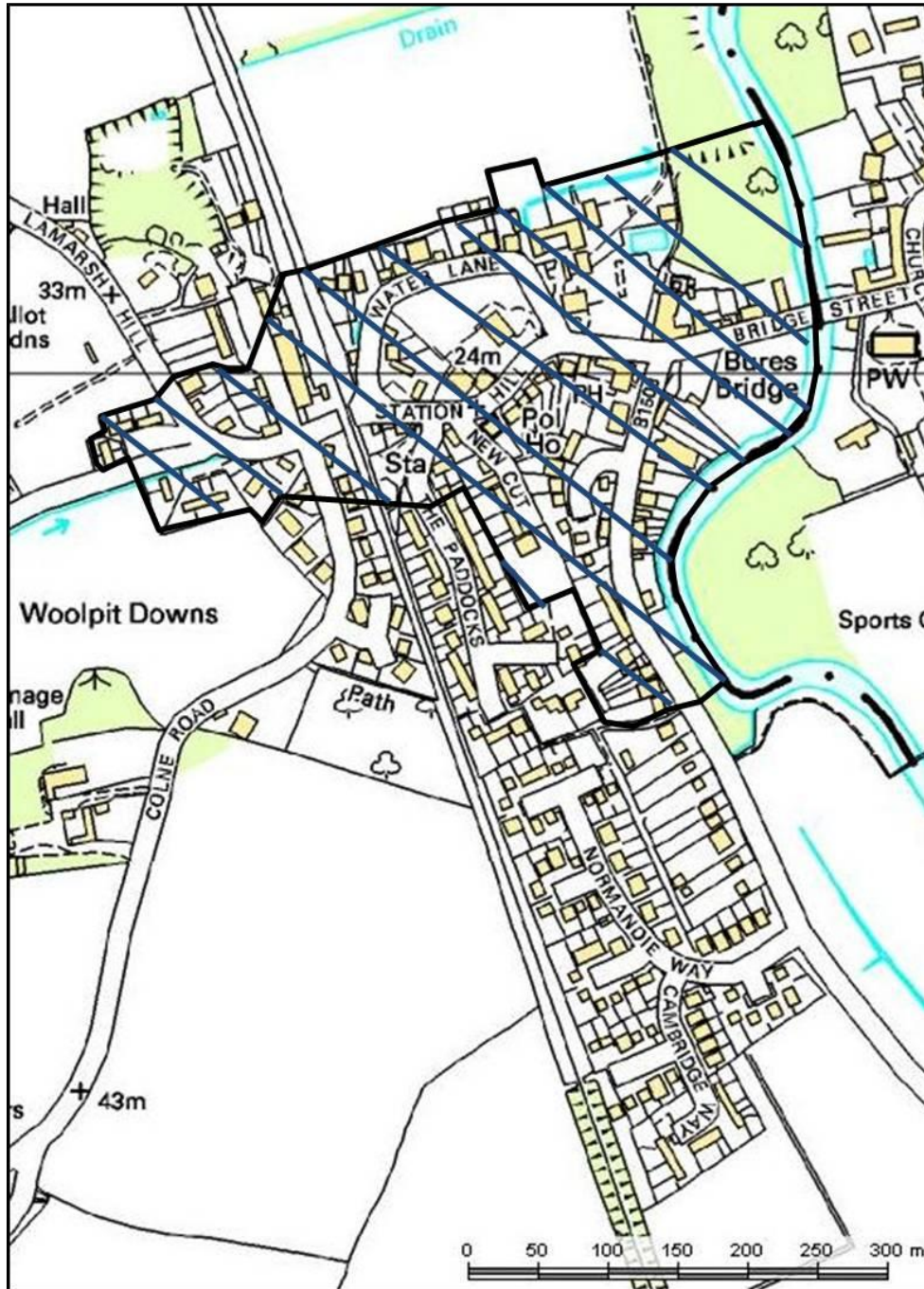


**Figure 2:** The extent of the parish of Bures Hamlet

The conservation area of Bures Hamlet (see figure 3) encompasses a small area in the north of the village, including Bridge Street (up to the river), Water Lane, Station Hill and the eastern end of Lamarsh Hill, whilst excluding the modern developments further south, particularly Normandie Way, Cambridge Way, The Paddocks and the southern extent of housing along Colchester Road.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/info/info.htm> (Accessed December 2012)



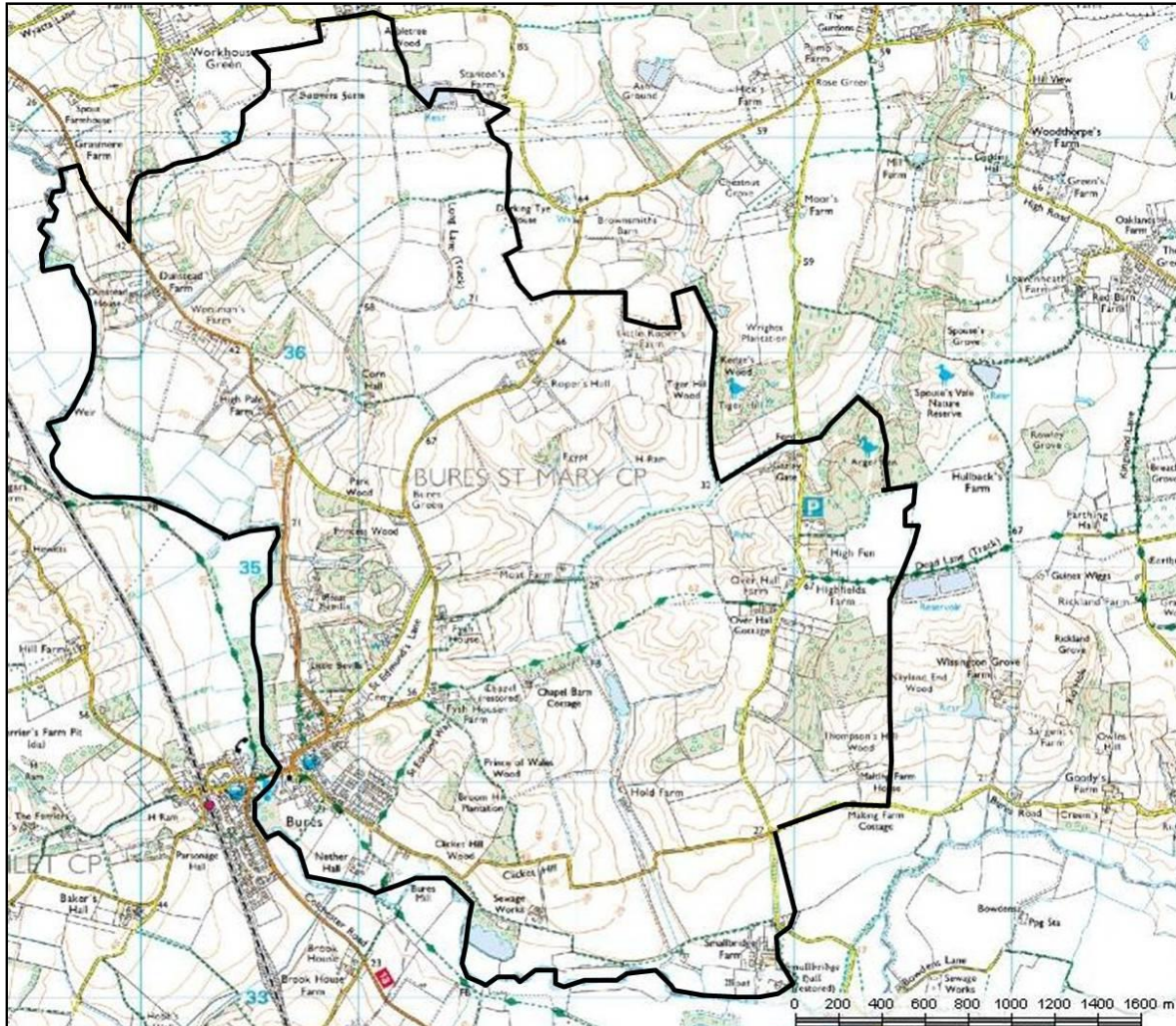


**Figure 3:** *Extent of the Bures Hamlet Conservation Area*

The village of Bures St Mary in Suffolk is centred on Church Square leading to the crossing of the River Stour on Bridge Street into a Y formation of roads, the northern branch leading out to Sudbury on the B1058 and the southern branch following the course of the river until the next crossing at the A134 by Nayland. The historic core of the village is centred around the church and High Street where the buildings often front the road, leaving no room for a pavement, often giving it a closed-in feeling, whereas around the church and leading onto Nayland Road, the road does widen out and there is more of a sense of space.

Like Bures Hamlet, Bures St Mary is set in one corner of its parish and contains the vast majority of the population of the parish. The rest of the land of the parish extends to the

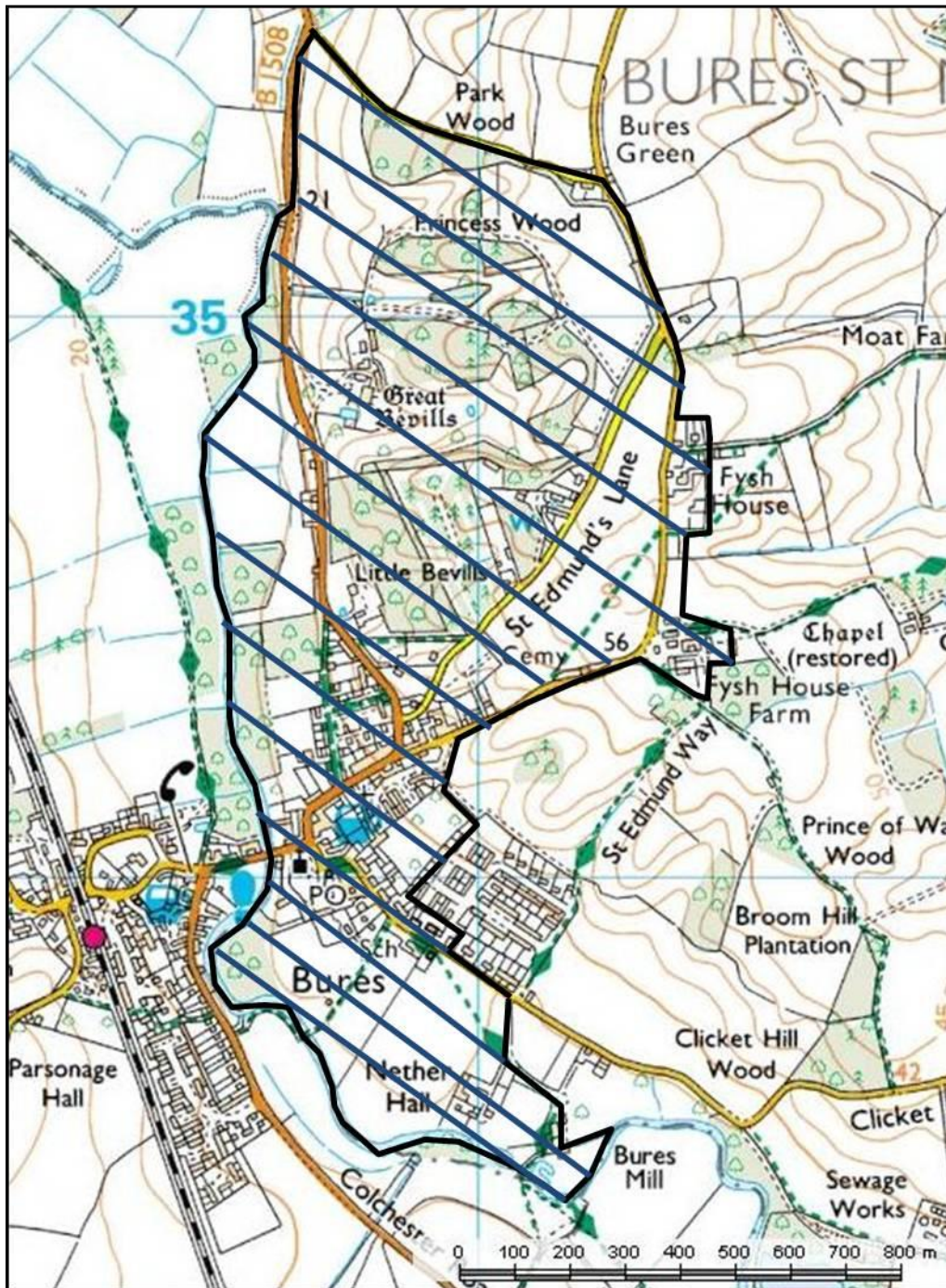
north and east consisting of mainly rural farmsteads and arable land. The population of Bures St Mary was calculated at 728 in the 2001 census<sup>4</sup>.



**Figure 4:** *The extent of the parish of Bures St Mary*

The conservation area of Bures St Mary covers quite a large area (see figure 5) including the majority of the village itself, although excluding the modern developments of both Tawneys Ride and Claypits Avenue off Nayland Road in the south. The area also encompasses the outlying farmstead of Great Bevills, Fysh House and Fysh House Farm as well as wood and park land up to Hollow Lane in the north.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/info/info.htm> (Accessed December 2012)



**Figure 5:** *Extent of Bures St Mary Conservation Area*

The local amenities are spread throughout both sides of the river in Bures and the village boasts a newsagent, post office, a delicatessen, a hair dresser, a doctor's surgery, two churches, three pubs, two garages, a primary school, a guest house and a bus and a railway station. There are also weekly mobile amenities in the village, consisting of a library, a fruit and vegetable stall, a fish and chip van and a fishmonger. There is also a recreation ground with sports pitches and a clubhouse<sup>5</sup>. Bures today is mainly a commuter village, although agriculture does still dominate as well as employment in local service industries.

<sup>5</sup>[http://crc.rocktimeweb.net/Uploads/Bures-Village-Parish-Plan-2004\\_FileFile\\_FILE1331.pdf](http://crc.rocktimeweb.net/Uploads/Bures-Village-Parish-Plan-2004_FileFile_FILE1331.pdf)  
(Accessed December 2012)

## 6 Geology and Topography

Essex and Suffolk are both coastal counties in East Anglia, bounded by the North Sea to the east, Norfolk to the north, London to the south, with Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire to the west. The River Stour dominates the topography of this part of the south Suffolk and north Essex region, which rises in east Cambridgeshire to join the North Sea at Harwich and also forms the county boundary.

The focus of settlement for both sides of Bures is along the river valley, which sits at 25m OD and the land rises along both sides to c.62m OD in the east and at about 70m OD in the west in Essex.

The topography of the River Stour around Bures has been classified as 'ancient rolling farmlands, which incorporates the landscapes of both north Essex and south Suffolk and is indicative of a rolling arable landscape, with field patterns of both ancient random enclosures as well as post World War II open agricultural changes. Small areas of ancient woodland are scattered throughout, although more so on the Suffolk side and the settlements are usually quite dispersed with a network of winding lanes and paths lined with hedgerows connecting them<sup>6</sup>.

The underlying geology consists of Lowestoft formation with London clay and fine alluviums and occasional patches of glacial sands and gravels also evident along the river valleys<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.managingamasterpiece.org/images/stories/documents/Doc 2 Landscape Character Study.pdf> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.colchester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=8326&p=0> (Accessed December 2012)

## 7 Archaeological and Historical Background

Bures is referred to in the Domesday Book in both the Suffolk and Essex volumes as '*Bura*' or '*Bure*' (Williams and Martin 2003, 998; 999; 1033; 1239; 1263; 1283; 1293). The meaning of the place-name could stem from an Old English word '*bur*', meaning a dwelling or cottage with the spelling betraying Norman influence (Ekwall 1936, 71). There are villages in France called Bures or the name may have been given from the surname of 'de Bures' from one of William the Conquerors knights recorded to have accompanied him in the campaign<sup>8</sup>. Other references to the village name have been recorded as '*Burva*', '*Burum*', '*Buers*' and '*Bewers*' between the 9<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and it was during the early 1600's that the name of Bures became established (*Ibid*).

The chapel of St Stephen (HER BSM 013) is the first recorded church in Bures and was built on an area of high ground c.1.6km northeast of the village on the road towards Assington. The chapel was dedicated to St Stephen in 1218 by the Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton at the request of a local knight Gilbert de Tany, whose private chapel it was. It is thought however that the chapel's origins date from at least the Late Saxon period as it is believed locally that the chapel was the coronation place of Edmund in AD 855. He was the chosen heir of King Offa and at the age of 14, became one of the last kings of East Anglia. His coronation was documented to have been at *Bura*, an ancient royal hill, some 300 years later in the medieval period and he was killed not long after in AD 869 by Danish invaders for refusing to renounce his Christianity<sup>9</sup>.

After the reformation in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the chapel fell into disuse and subsequent disrepair, although it was briefly converted into a hospital for the plague of 1739 (*Ibid*), cottages and utilised as an agricultural barn until it was finally restored in the 1930's by the Probert family who owned it. They also used it to house some of the tombs of the De Veres family, the Earls of Oxford, whose resting place had previously been at Colne Priory in Earls Colne, Essex, which also fell into disuse after the reformation and had mainly been destroyed<sup>10</sup>. The chapel has also since been re-consecrated.

The parish church of St Mary (HER BSM 015), set on the northern side of the River Stour, was recorded in the Domesday Book as '*a church with 18 acres of free land*' (Williams & Martin 2003). A charter dated to 1075 mentions a church in '*Buri*' and the church at that time was already dedicated to St Mary.<sup>11</sup> Churches are rarely mentioned in Domesday Book, suggesting the church at Bures was of some importance. More than 30 acres of land was recorded to belong to the church by the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, and this included the bridge over the River Stour which at that time was made from wood. From the early 12<sup>th</sup> century the church and lands were gifted to the priory at Stoke-By-Clare, which also had a number of other local churches under its jurisdiction, until the dissolution in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Harper-Bill & Mortimer 1984). The building of the existing church in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (with additions continuing into the 16<sup>th</sup> century) may have been when the dedication was changed to All Saints, and references to this continue though the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries although St Mary was still used to describe the village. It was not until the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the name of St Mary was once again attached to the church (*Ibid*).

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/origin/origin.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.bures-online.co.uk/chapel/chapel\\_barn.htm](http://www.bures-online.co.uk/chapel/chapel_barn.htm) (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/buresstephen.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>11</sup> [http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nvjack/fylbrigg/church\\_of\\_st\\_mary.htm](http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nvjack/fylbrigg/church_of_st_mary.htm) (Accessed December 2012)

The River Stour, rising by Haverhill in Cambridgeshire and running to the sea at Harwich, was made navigable as a commercial waterway following an Act of Parliament in 1705 between Sudbury and Manningtree and it was fully opened in 1709<sup>12</sup>. It became a busy trading route, with traders going as far inland as to Sudbury to sell wool, coal and bricks<sup>13</sup>, but was closed in 1912 and most of the locks have now gone. The earliest recorded evidence of use of the river however, was in 1628, when King Charles I granted the rights for the river to become navigable<sup>14</sup>.

Bures mill is situated on the northern bank of the river in Suffolk, just south of Bures St Mary. The first recorded mill in Bures, documented in 1190, was most likely sited in the same area. The existing structure was built in 1640, with extensions added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>15</sup> Production ceased in 1990 and many outbuildings have been demolished and the original mill has now been converted to a private dwelling.

The original railway line was opened between Marks Tey and Sudbury in July of 1849, and came through Bures Hamlet, on the Essex side of the river. Extensions to both Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill were completed by the summer of 1865 and parts of the line started to close from 1961, and the line around Bures was closed to freight in 1964<sup>16</sup> but with local opposition to close the line entirely, it has remained open as a passenger service and is utilised by many commuters today. The line is known today as the Gainsborough Line, referring to the artist and his connections with Sudbury<sup>17</sup>.

A search of the online HER records<sup>18</sup> centred on Bures and covered a 2km radius, including both parishes in Essex and Suffolk. The results from both Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary are included here as one, with the results from Essex stated as SMR numbers and the results from Suffolk HER recorded with BSM numbers.

## 7.1 Prehistoric

A range of flint scatters, including implements and tools have been recorded along both sides of the River Stour, although more appear to have been found north of the river in Suffolk and mainly date from the Mesolithic period through to the Late Bronze Age.

A large flint implement, shaped out of a nodule of flint was also found (SMR 9291) that is probably a pounder or fabricator and could date from the Lower Palaeolithic through to the Late Bronze Age.

Two early Mesolithic blade cores were identified during a watching brief along Colchester Road, south of the river and were also found with blade and flake tools. It has been suggested that these may point to the existence of a local Late Glacial/Early Holocene long blade industry (SMR 19085). A Mesolithic tranchet axehead has been recorded from the Suffolk side of the river (BSM 041) and a scatter of over 120 worked flints were also found in the same area that has also produced a number of undated cropmarks. The flints date

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Uploads-BDC/Economy/Heritage/Con-Area-Apps/BureStMary2007CAA.pdf> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.managingamasterpiece.org/images/stories/documents/Doc 2 Landscape Character Study.pdf> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/navigation/navigation.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/mill/mill.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/rail/rail.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/assets/Publications/Management-Plan-Docs/DV-AONB7996ManagementStrategyPlan.pdf> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

from the Early Mesolithic to the Late Bronze Age, although the majority of them are Neolithic in date, including a leaf arrowhead (BSM 029).

A small complete Neolithic, partly polished flint axehead has also been recovered (BSM 040) from Bures.

Late Bronze Age cropmarks, pottery and flints have also been recorded from both sides of the river. A number of socketed axes have been found mainly through metal detecting, including a 'southeast' type from close to a flood defence bank alongside the river (BSM 042), a socketed axe (BSM 043), a bronze socketed axe blade fragment (BSM 030) and a bronze looped socketed axehead that was found during mineral extraction on the edge of a large gravel pit, to the north of Ferriers Farm (SMR 9340). A Late Bronze Age, bronze sword blade fragment was also recorded close to scatters of later Roman, Saxon and medieval finds at High Fen (BSM 036). On the crest of a hill that overlooks the river the cropmarks of a ring ditch were recorded with a southeast entrance, close to Ferriers Farm and are likely to date to the Late Bronze Age given the pottery that was also found of that date (SMR 9399).

Two unidentified, flint artefacts of probable later prehistoric date were also found on the surface from a spur of land overlooking the River Stour (BSM 048) with some Roman material.

## 7.2 Roman

All the HER records dating to the Roman period relate to find spots or scatters: there has so far been no evidence identified for sites or settlements in Bures that date to the Romano-British period, although some of the finds infer the presence of settlement nearby.

Spot finds include a surface scatter of fragments of tegula (BSM 048) that were found on a spur overlooking the River Stour and some pieces of unidentified Roman metalwork (BSM 029), both of these finds were found in the same areas as scatters of prehistoric flints. The excavation of a mound in the early 1970's yielded only a single piece of Roman tile (SMR 9186), although the mound does not necessarily date to the Roman period as large scatters of Roman material were evident across the field.

A scatter of Roman finds have recorded at High Fen, including a 3<sup>rd</sup> century coin of Antoninianus (BSM 036), five 4<sup>th</sup> century coins including one from Constantine (BSM 016) and a collection of five coins dating from Severus Alexander (AD 222-235) to Magnetius/Decentius (AD350-353) (BSM 035). Another Roman coin was also found through metal detecting, a forged denarius, with a bronze core with silver coating, and dating to AD 68-69 (BSM 030). A Roman bronze handle (BSM Misc.) was also found through metal detecting at Hold Farm.

## 7.3 Anglo Saxon

As with the Roman period, Anglo Saxon HER records on the HER consist only of scattered finds, and there is thus far no recorded evidence for any settlement in the form of structures or features, despite the fact that the manor of Bures was recorded in the Domesday Book.

All the presently known finds have been found on the Suffolk side of the river. Metal detecting has recovered a harness and other finds (BSM 039) as well as a bronze strap end fragment with an animal interlace design on both faces potentially dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> century (BSM 020). Stray Saxon finds have also been recovered at High Fen, including a caterpillar brooch that was recovered along with both earlier Roman and later medieval finds (BSM 035).

## 7.4 Medieval

HER records include a number of listed buildings dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century as well as the Chapel of St Stephen (BSM 013) and the Church of St Mary (BSM 015). Sawyers Road, running east-west across the north of the parish and through Appletree Wood is now a private trackway (BSM 032) but was thought to have been an ancient trackway of possible medieval date, which also probably originally extended further east, but fell into disrepair in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Another possible medieval road, also now a trackway, forms part of the parish boundary of Bures St Mary and is flanked by substantial ditches and banks (BSM Misc.)

A range of finds have been excavated at High Pale Farm, including some 25 coins (six pennies and a groat dating from the reigns of Edward I-III and others up to James I), a bronze buckle, medieval pottery (BSM 016) and a few post medieval finds. A few medieval pottery sherds have also been found in the parish of Bures St Mary (BSM Misc.), as well as a metal detected find of gilded bronze, which was found bent, broken and corroded and is probably medieval or later in date (BSM Misc.), a silver coin (BSM Misc.) that could be medieval or later in date and a silver cut half-penny has also been found of William I of Scotland (1205-30) (BSM Misc.). Another coin recovered at High Fen with both Roman and Saxon finds and was a short cross penny dating to Henry III (1217-1242) (BSM 035).

A mound excavated in the later 1960's and early 1970's yielded a single piece of Roman tile (SMR 9187) but this was considered likely to be residual and the mound is thought to be of medieval date. It sits in the valley of the Cambridge Brook in the far south west of the parish of Bures Hamlet towards Mount Bures and may have been constructed as a mill dam, with mills being mentioned both at Domesday and in c.1200. Further work would be needed to confirm this.

## 7.5 Post medieval and later

The arrival of the railways and the River Navigation Act from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, increased trade and access to the village. A number of listed buildings listed on the county HER within the village date from the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century and later. A water mill and leat was recorded on a map of 1736, but the mill could well be earlier in date (BSM 025). A mid-19<sup>th</sup> century maltings (now converted) was built close to the railway line in Bures Hamlet (SMR 9253) and the gas works were also established in Bures Hamlet in 1859 as the Bures Gas Light & Coke Company Limited (SMR 40392), until it was closed in 1937. A K6 Telephone Kiosk is also present outside The Swan Public House, which was designed in 1935 (SMR 28581). The site of a suggested kiln site (BSM Misc.) and a suggested brickworks site (BSM Misc.) have both been recorded given their field names as described on the Tithe map during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and brickworks are also recorded to the north of the malthouse and west of the railway in Bures Hamlet from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (SMR 15317). The current cast iron bridge over the River Stour was put up in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (SMR 40286), replacing the previous wooden bridge that was erected in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A bridge



is also shown on earlier maps, by Saxton in 1575, Speede in 1610, Bowen in 1755 and Hodskinson's in 1783 (BSM 022).

Spot HER finds of post-medieval date include a bronze weight (BSM 016) that was found with a cluster of medieval coins and pottery, a seal matrix that was found through metal detecting at Hold Farm (BSM Misc.), a bronze 17<sup>th</sup> century bridle fitting (BSM Misc.), a silver lead dress pin fragment (BSM 030), a silver coin (BSM Misc.) and a gilded bronze fragment that was found bent, broken and corroded (BSM Misc.), both of which could be medieval or post medieval in date (also noted above).

A number of 20<sup>th</sup> century monuments have also been recorded on the HER, although the majority relate to the Second World War, with a number of pillboxes, close to the western bank of the River Stour on Secretaries Farm (SMR 20053, 20054, 20047, 20056, 20052, 20055, 20038, 20040, 20041 and 20042). Road barriers have also been recorded at Station Hill (SMR 20049), on Colchester Road (SMR 20045 and 20044), at Cambridge Brook/Colchester Road (SMR 20039) and at Bures Bridge (SMR 20048), as well as Spigot Mortar Emplacements at Secretaries Farm (SMR 20051 and 20050), at the former coal dump (SMR 20046) and on Colchester Road (SMR 20043). Anti-tank 'pimples' were also recorded on Colchester Road, although these are now destroyed (SMR 200440).

## 7.6 Undated

A number of cropmarks have been identified in the HER throughout both parishes but have been classed as undated as no archaeological excavations have yet taken place to determine their date and purpose.

Probable ring ditches have been recorded on the south bank of the River Stour (SMR 9237), to the north of Bures (SMR 9282), and these two ring ditches appear to be associated with with two possible sides of a rectangular enclosure and other associated ditches. Ring ditches were also recorded at Ferriers Farm (SMR 9399), close to finds of Late Bronze Age pottery which may well be contemporary, again close to the River Stour (SMR 16245). Large ring ditches have also been recorded at Bakers Hall (SMR 9480); close to Nether Hall (SMR 9266) and at Bures Hall (BSM 028), although that may originally have been a garden feature. Two ring ditches have been recorded in the same field (BSM 026 and 027) as well as to the west of High Pale Farm (BSM 002) and within established field ditch systems (BSM 012).

Ring ditches associated with other features are recorded to the northwest of Smallbridge Farm, set between two parallel linear features aligned northwest-southeast. Other linear features to the north that are aligned east-west could be old field boundaries (SMR 9236). A possible cursus has been noted to the north of Staunch Farm (SMR 9194), potentially associated with a ring ditch and a possible long barrow and to the west of Bures a ring ditch with associated features has been recognised (SMR 9281). To the east of Larmarsh the cropmarks of a large ring ditch with central pit and associated linear features have all been recorded (SMR 9478) as well as other ring ditches (SMR 9469) in the same area. A ring ditch has also been noted with a rectilinear cropmark (BSM 014).

Other cropmarks identified consist of two parallel linear features (c.30m apart) were noted on Water Lane (SMR 16257) that also run perpendicular to the current field boundaries. A former road or trackway has also been identified associated with rectilinear features including enclosures at High Pale Farm (SMR 17174) with at least two oval enclosures (SMR 9271 and 9272) and the cropmarks of another possible curving trackway with two rectangular pits have been noted to the northwest of Smallbridge Farm (SMR 9276). A

possible cursus has also been identified at Smallbridge Farm (BSM 008) and the outlines of a probable long barrow at right angles to the cursus (BSM 010) and one at its eastern end (BSM 011) with a ring ditch with the cursus itself (BSM 009). To the northwest of Smallbridge Farm, ditches have also been recorded as part of a rectangular enclosure (BSM 001). A cropmark has been noted in a field in Bures St Mary that runs southeast-northwest of a trackway with associated adjoining field boundaries, including a possible oblong enclosure and curved boundary (BSM 029). A semi-circular cropmark was also recorded (BSM 007) and the cropmark of a causewayed ditch (BSM 017).

Aerial photographs have also identified possible features, including one of a circular cropmark (BSM 004) and another cropmark (BSM 006).

A single undated find is also present on the HER, consisting of a bronze awl (BSM 021).

## 7.7 Previous archaeological excavations around Bures

Previous archaeological work in and around Bures has mainly been undertaken by local community groups, particularly the Colchester Archaeological Group. The investigation of cropmarks along Colchester Road were undertaken by the group in 2011, containing a cursus, a long barrow and ring ditches. Geophysics was undertaken before the excavation to try and pin-point the location of the ditches associated with the long barrow and a trench was opened up accordingly. The remains of a ditch was excavated with a large pit, supporting evidence for the long barrow, with also a small piece of cremated human bone, Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery and charcoal. The charcoal was taken away for radiocarbon dating and came back with a date of between 3641-3516BC, suggesting that the ditch of the monument was silting up at that time<sup>19</sup>.

Work has also been undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bures Primary School on Nayland Road in 2007. The footing trenches were monitored for an extension to the rear of the school that was also formerly occupied by a temporary structure, but no finds or features were found (Atfield 2007). Further archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Bures Mill in 2009 when monitoring of footing trenches was undertaken prior to development at the rear of the property. Evidence for previous flooding was noted before the mill was built, no earlier than the later medieval/post medieval periods with domestic waste finds from the post medieval to the present day (Muldowney 2009). An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in Friends Field in Bures St Mary in the summer of 2012 prior to the development of a housing estate on land that was an orchard. Results are awaiting publication<sup>20</sup>.

Two projects have been undertaken by Access Cambridge Archaeology (University of Cambridge) around Bures as part of the Managing a Masterpiece project in 2011; a two week community excavation was carried out on top of and around the motte at Mount Bures<sup>21</sup> (Lewis and Ranson 2012) and a short programme of field-walking just east of Bures St Mary<sup>22</sup> (Lewis and Ranson 2011).

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.mount-bures.co.uk/archaeology/archaeology.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.bures-online.co.uk/orchard/orchard.htm> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/mountbures.html> (Accessed December 2012)

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/buresfw.html> (Accessed December 2012)

## 7.8 Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey was carried out across Bures Common by David and Aline Black from Colchester Archaeological Group in advance of the excavations (Figure 6), with the aim of establishing whether any trace of the water channel could be detected which might inform the siting of excavation trenches. Survey with a resistivity meter of an area 60m east-west by 45m north-south covered most of the accessible ground on the common. This was carried out after a period of several days of rain in a summer (2012) which was generally unusually wet over a period of several months, leaving the site generally wet with lower lying ground partially waterlogged. Such conditions make the detection of archaeological features difficult as the contrast between areas of low and high resistance can be reduced. The survey indicated a curvilinear area of relatively high resistance adjacent to the present river which corresponded well with presently the raised edge of the river bank, and an area of low resistance across the north-west of the site which is lower-lying and appreciably wetter. Running between these two, from north to south-west, was a curving linear band of moderately high resistance ranging in width from 25m near Bridge Street to 15m in the southern part of the site. This was tentatively identified as possibly representing the line of the historically attested water channel, which, if deliberately in-filled rather than naturally silted up, might be expected not to show up as a low resistance feature. This feature also corresponded well with the location of the water channel marked on pre-modern maps.



**Figure 6:** Geophysical survey of Bures Common carried out in summer 2012 in advance of the 2012 excavations. Areas of higher resistance are light in colour, areas of low resistance are show darker.

## 8 Results of the excavations in Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary

A total of three trenches were excavated on Bures Common with an additional seven test pits excavated through the village of Bures in private gardens, on the common and one test pit was actually excavated inside a property. The results of all are discussed individually in the section below.

### 8.1 Trench one

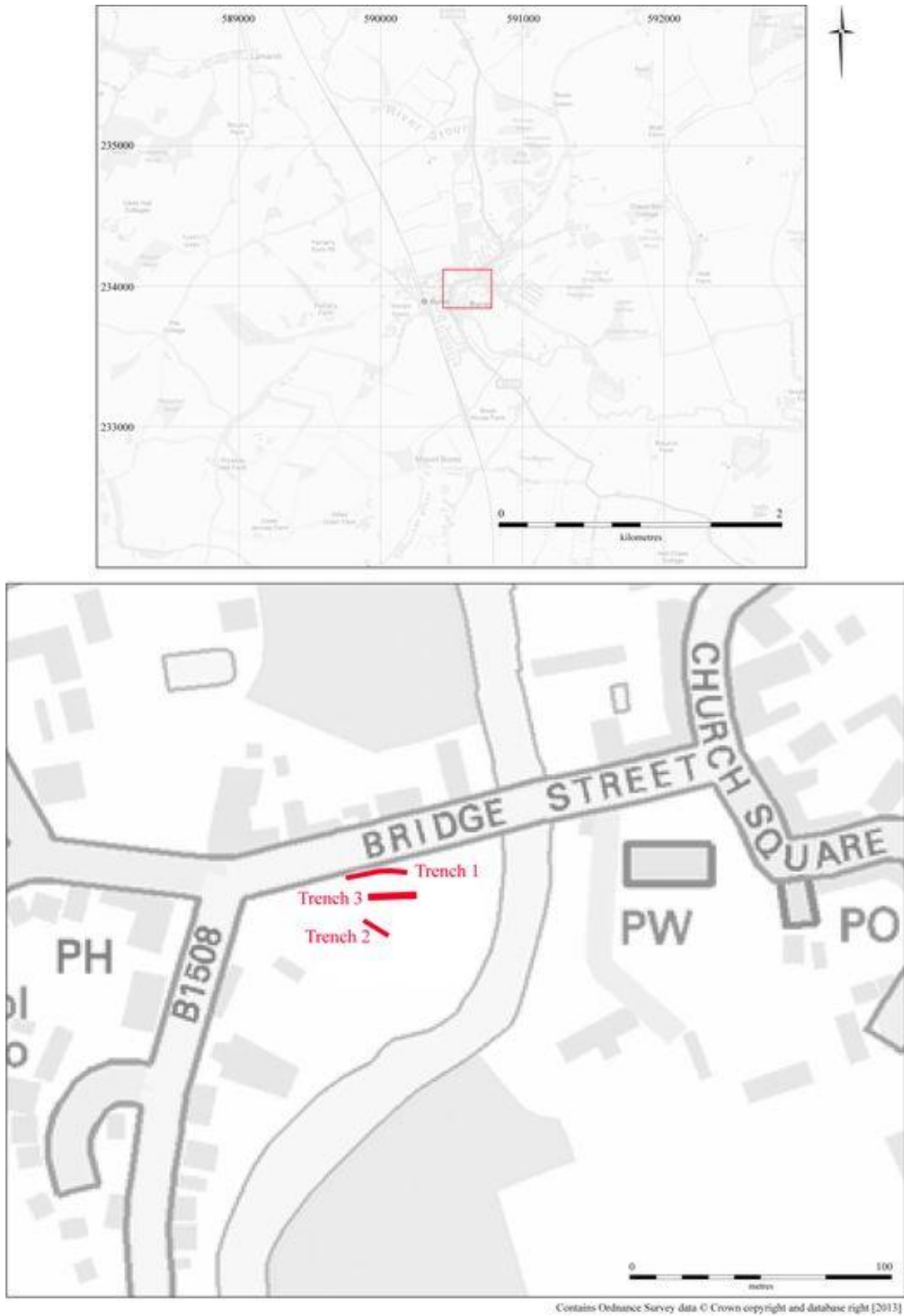
Trench one was excavated along the northern edge of the common and parallel to Bridge Street (figure 6) and measured 22.9m in length and 1.5m wide (figure 7). The trench was laid out with a slight kink in it to avoid a tree mid-way along it and a pill box at its eastern end. The upper 0.3m of the trench was excavated with a mechanical excavator, removing the turf and the top soil, after which the trench was taken down in 0.1m spits by hand.

The top soil (20) extended across the length of the trench and comprised a light grey loamy soil with small stone inclusions. It yielded a very large number of finds of recent date, not all of which were retained during excavation due to the volume present and their low research value: the full list of retained finds can be seen in appendix 12.9.1. A range of both medieval and post medieval pottery types were recovered, consisting of Early Medieval Sandy Coarsewares, Late medieval ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware, Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware, Staffordshire Slipware, English Stoneware, Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware and a large number of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century wares. A large amount of animal bone was also recovered, including cow, sheep/goat, pig, rabbit, cat and chicken with additional smaller fragments identifiable only as sheep- and cattle- sized animals.

Under the top soil (20), a red brick wall (21) was revealed just 0.2m below the surface and 9.5m from the west end of the trench. The wall is 0.36m wide and was excavated to a total depth of 1.2m, the point at which excavation was halted although the wall continued below this point. No foundation trench was identified and no finds were found directly associated with the wall. This wall comprised the dividing line between the trench to the west (recorded as Trench 1A) and that to the east (recorded as Trench 1B). The deposits either side of the wall were significantly different, so will be discussed here separately.

#### 8.1.1 Trench 1A

In the western half of the trench recorded as 1A, a thick deposit of light grey silty clay with stone and gravel inclusions (22) was excavated under the top soil (20) and butted up against the brick wall (21). (22) ranged in depth between 0.88m next to the wall to just 0.05m at the western end and contained a large mix of finds (appendix 12.9.1) including pottery dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and later, including Glazed Red Earthenware and Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware, Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware, Staffordshire Slipware, English Stoneware, Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century wares. A large amount of both cow and sheep/goat bone were also identified with single bone fragments recorded as pig, horse and dog/fox. A small number of both cattle- and sheep-sized animal remains were also found.



**Figure 6:** *The location of the three trenches excavated on Bures Common.*

A basal trench deposit of an orange sand layer (23) was excavated under (22) and contained a small number of finds (appendix 12.9.1) including four fragments of sheep/goat bone. The pottery again all dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and later, consisting of Glazed Red Earthenware and a single sherd of English Stoneware. Both (22) and (23) were tentatively interpreted as fills within a cut feature [41], the base of which was undetermined given the limit of excavation within the trench. The sides of [41] appear to be quite gently sloping and appeared to cut into layer (24).

(24) was another thick deposit towards the western end of the trench, between 0.05m and 0.95m in depth and was present as a grey silty clay with large stone inclusions, with a gravel lens towards the base of the trench. Finds recovered from this layer included pottery spanning the 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of the animal bone found has been identified as sheep/goat and cow, with fragments of horse also notably represented.

In the far western end of the trench, a thin dark clay layer with occasional gravel and sand lenses (25) was present under (24); with a small number of finds (appendix 12.9.1) including two sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware (1550-1800 AD) and a single fragment of cow bone. Material post-dating c.1800 AD was not found in this layer.

### 8.1.2 Trench 1B

In the eastern half of the trench (recorded as 1B), a complex series of deposits were visible under the top soil. The uppermost of these is a grey/brown sandy silt (27) that covers most of the eastern half of the trench and butts up against the brick wall (21) on its western edge. It measured between 0.18m and 0.38m in depth and a large number of finds were excavated from this layer (appendix 12.9.1). These included a very large number of pottery sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date, with an additional three sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware (which may have been residual) and a small amount of animal bone that has been identified as cow, sheep/goat and horse.

Just below (27) there was a small lens deposit of a light grey silt with frequent chalk lumps and occasional brick fragments (26). It measured 1.6m in length and had a maximum depth of 0.16m. No finds or pottery were excavated from this layer.

About 15m east of the wall a cut [40] was observed, with a moderately sloping side where this was visible, although the base of this feature was not found as the excavation was halted above this point. Three poorly defined fills were observed within [40], all butting up against the wall. The basal fill, only observed immediately adjacent to the wall, is a brown silty clay (37) with a maximum depth of 0.13m where exposed. Above this was (29), an orange silty sand with gravel inclusions throughout, measuring between 0.05m and 0.65m in depth. The uppermost fill is (28), a light orange silty sand with small chalk and gravel inclusions throughout, measuring between 0.05m and 0.32m in depth. No finds were recovered from any of these fills within [40].

The cut [40] also appeared to cut through another layer (30); a dark grey/brown silty clay with few small stone inclusions and occasional red brick and chalk inclusions. (30) varied in depth from 0.64m to 0.05m and produced no finds or pottery. Immediately below this, and possibly part of the same deposit, was a thick slump deposit of a small orange sandy silt (38) with occasional small stone inclusions, measuring 1.87m in length and a maximum depth of 0.35m. No finds were present.

In the far eastern end of the trench a thick deposit of dark grey sandy silt with medium stone inclusions (34) was present under the top soil (20), and extended to through to the base of the trench, measuring 20-25m in length and 0.87m in depth. This deposit yielded a small number of finds (appendix 12.9.10), including a single sherd of Early Medieval Sandy Coarseware along with two sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century wares. This deposit contained a thin lens layer of light orange sandy silt (32) which contained no finds.

(34) abutted and possibly overlay another layer of a dark orangey grey sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions (31), which measured 1.35m in length and a maximum of 0.65m deep. No finds or pottery were noted in (34) or (31).

A series of poorly defined fills in the centre of the eastern half of trench appeared to be separated into (30), (33), and (38), topped by a thin lens of (26). These deposits were all light orange sandy silts distinguished by varying inclusions of chalk, gravel and small stones and it is possible that these represent a single heterogeneous layer. A number of finds were recovered from the layer (appendix 12.9.1) as well as a small number of 16<sup>th</sup> century and later pottery types, including Glazed Red Earthenware, Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware and a single sherd of Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. A number of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares were also identified as were a few fragments of animal bone, identified as cow, and sheep/goat.

Below (33) orangey sandy clay with gravel inclusions and iron rust patches (39) was encountered. A sondage was excavated in this part of the trench (between 4m and c.6.5m from the eastern end) to allow these lower deposits to be investigated further. This layer measured between 0.05m and 0.35m in depth and contained a mix of finds (see appendix 12.9.1) as well as pottery dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century along with two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware and a single piece of Staffordshire Slipware. Three fragments of sheep/goat bone were also identified.

Below this layer in the sondage was a light grey very waterlogged clay layer (35) which extended to a maximum depth of 0.25m where observed and contained many fewer finds (appendix 12.9.1) and no 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A single sherd of English Stoneware was also recovered with one small fragment of cattle-sized bone remains.

The basal fill within the sondage was another waterlogged layer of a dark grey organic clay (36), with lots of small snail shell inclusions and fragments of reed/straw. It had a maximum depth of 0.62m and yielded a small number of finds (appendix 12.9.1) and two sherds of 15<sup>th</sup> century late medieval ware as well as single fragments of sheep bone and cattle-sized animal remains. No material post-dating the medieval period was recovered from this deposit.

A single unstratified secondary waste flint of probable Mesolithic or Neolithic date was recovered from the upper trench 1B.

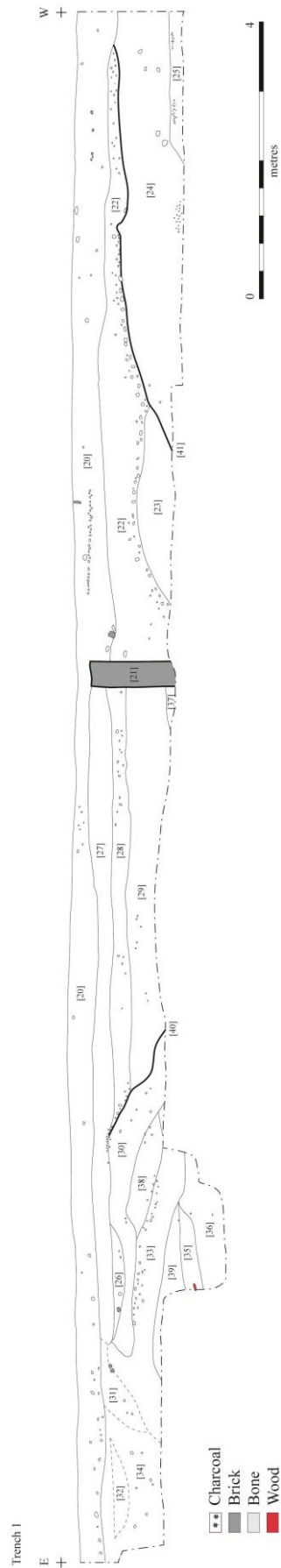


Figure 7: North facing section through Trench 1



## 8.2 Trench two

Trench two was orientated northwest – southeast and was the southernmost of the three trenches excavated, situated in the centre of the common. It was 11m in length and 1.5m wide and was excavated to 1.5m in depth at the north-western end and 0.88m deep in the south-eastern end. The upper c.0.3m deposits of the trench, including the turf and the top soil were removed by the machine, after which excavations continued in 0.2m spits, unless a change in deposit was noted.

Under the top soil (1) a thin cobble layer of light grey sandy silt (2) was identified, but was also excavated by the machine, so no finds were kept from either of these upper deposits. A layer of dark brown/black clayey silt, with moderate small and medium stone inclusions (3) was present through most of the trench, varying in depth between 0.45m and 0.7m. The layer was slightly darker and moister towards the base of the deposit. A wide range of finds were recovered from (3) (appendix 12.9.1). The pottery found includes medieval Essex Sandy Grey Ware and Late medieval Ware and post medieval wares of Glazed Red Earthenware, Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware, English Stoneware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. A large number of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century sherds were also recovered with a range of animal bone remains, consisting of cow, sheep/goat, pig, horse and cat. Additional fragmentary remains of both cattle- and sheep-sized animal bone was also recorded from this context. An undated irregular waste flint and a large piece of burnt stone were both also recovered from context (3).

This deposit (3) seems to have been cut by a large linear feature [5] F.1 which had a gently sloping western side to a relatively flat base. It was filled with a single deposit of (4), a dark brown, slightly clayey silt with very frequent large stones and cobbles and frequent smaller stone inclusions. The eastern end of feature [5] was not observed within the excavated area of Trench three, but its excavated part measured 4.05m in width and a full depth of 1.1m. Again a large mix of finds were recovered (see appendix 12.9.1) with a range of medieval and post medieval pottery types, consisting of Early Medieval Sandy Coarsewares, Essex Sandy Grey Ware, Hedingham Ware, Late medieval ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Border Ware, Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware, Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware, Metropolitan Slipware, Staffordshire Slipware, English Stoneware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware, along with a number of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century sherds. The animal bone consists of cow, sheep/goat, horse, dog and chicken as well as fragments of both cattle- and sheep-sized animal bone remains.

The basal deposit of the trench was a mid-brown clayey silt with rare gravel inclusions and moderate charcoal flecking (6). This deposit extended across the whole of trench, underlying layer (3) and F.1 [5]. (6) extended to depths of between 0.2m to 0.6m. Excavation was halted at this point due to persistent seepage from the high water table, at (6) was therefore not observed in its entirety. A small number of finds were excavated from this layer, mainly consisting of building rubble and iron nails (appendix 12.9.1). Seven sherds of pottery were excavated from this layer, most dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries although one sherd of post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware was also recovered. Three pieces of bone were positively identified to sheep/goat while three fragments could also be identified as cattle-, sheep- and rodent-sized remains.

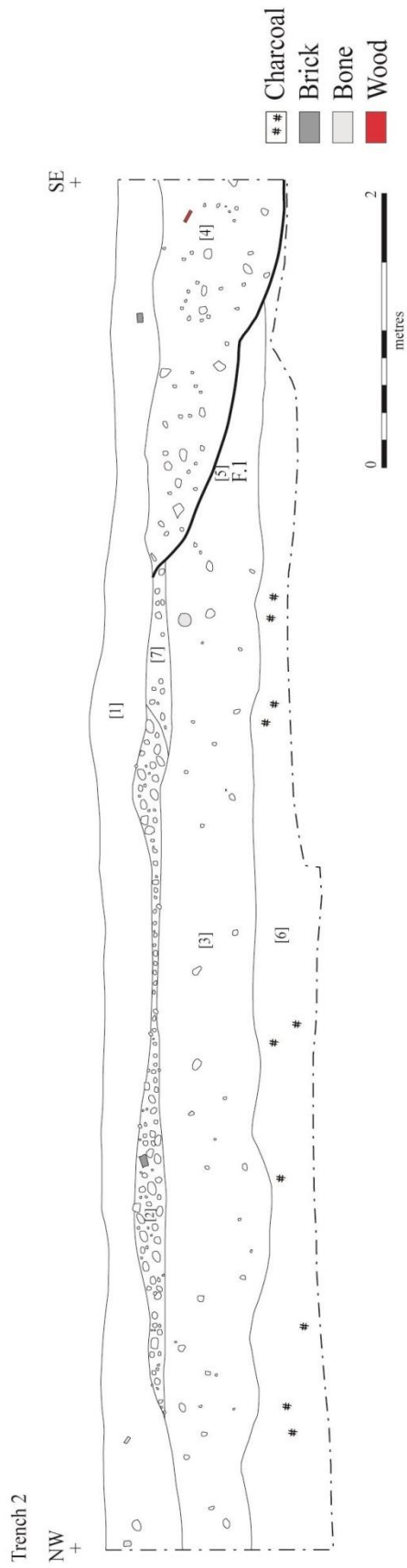


Figure 8: South-west facing section through Trench 2

### 8.3 Trench three

Trench three was sited between trenches one and two and was orientated east – west. It was 18.5m in length and 1.5m in width, although as the depth increased, the trench was stepped on the northern side adding another (unexcavated) 1m in width. The trench was taken down to 0.9m in depth by machine and was then further excavated by hand in 0.1m spits along the its southern side. The aim of excavating this trench, which was started after the other two, was to see if any trace of the anticipated watercourse could be seen in section here, as it was proving difficult to observe in trenches one and two. The total depth of trench three varied along the trench from 0.95m in the eastern end, to 1.8m within a sondage excavated at the eastern end, to 1.6m in another sondage at the western end, and to 0.9m in depth at the far western end of the trench.

The upper layers of the trench consist of top soil (8), under which was a thick deposit of a grey/brown clayey silt (12) with very frequent cobbles and large stones and frequent small and medium stone inclusions. The layer was present through the trench from its eastern end for 12m and was between 0.24m and 0.7m thick. A single sherd of high medieval Essex Sandy Grey Ware was recovered from (12) although these machined deposits were not thoroughly searched for finds. For the remainder of the 6.5m of the trench, towards the western end, there was a deposit of a light grey sandy silt (9) with frequent large flint cobbles and medium and small stone inclusions and was between 0.15m and 0.3m in thickness. These layers were removed by machine, with spoil scanned by eye for finds (see appendix 12.9.1). The pottery from the spoil heap dates from the later medieval to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and consists of Late medieval ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware, English Stoneware and a large amount of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century wares.

The trench was excavated by machine through the upper deposits onto (13), a grey silty clay with frequent cobbles, stones and gravel inclusions that extended for 8.7m from the eastern end of the trench and had a depth of between 0.45m and 0.05m. The pottery excavated from this layer consists of single sherds of both post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware and Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware, plus 13 sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A single fragment of cattle-sized animal bone was also recorded. At this same level was another layer that was under (12) and also (9) and continued from a point c. 8.7m from the eastern end of the trench to its western end. (14) was a dark brown fine silt with medium and large stones and coarse gravel inclusions and it varied in depth to between 0.05m and 0.3m. The few finds that were present in this context can be seen in appendix 12.9.1. No pottery was recovered, but a single sheep-sized bone fragment was present.

A small layer between (9) and (14) was present as a light grey sandy silt with moderately frequent large flint cobbles and medium and small stone inclusions (10). No finds were present.

The lower deposits that were excavated consist of layers of silt, the uppermost was (15), which was visible the length of the trench under both the layers of (13) and (14). It was a fine, very dark grey silt, almost black at its upper levels with no stone inclusions and the few finds that were excavated can be seen in appendix 12.9.1. A single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware post medieval pot was recovered along with four sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Towards the eastern end of the trench it was the limit of excavation and it was at that end that its depth was also at its greatest, measuring between 0.05m and 0.35m.

A thicker deposit of (16) existed under (15), within the western half of the trench for c.9.5m. It comprised gravelly silt which was orange in colour in its upper extent becoming gradually greyer in colour as depth increased, although no clear change of fill was visible. At the bottom of the trench the basal deposit in this part of the trench was grey, increasingly dark in colour as it the upper surface of this deposit dropped in level to the east. The bottom of

this deposit was not reached within the excavated area, but where exposed it measured 0.13m to 0.8m in depth. A number of finds were recovered from (16) (appendix 13.9.1), concentrated in its upper levels. The most notable of these was a copper alloy ring identified as a finger ring of late Anglo-Saxon date, found in the lower, greyer level of (16) (see appendix 13.8) where other finds were very few. The pottery excavated from this deposit consists of a single sherd of Late medieval ware, a number of post medieval wares of Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century wares. A number of pieces of animal bone were also recorded as both cow and sheep/goat with additional fragmentary remains of both cattle- and sheep-sized animals.

The basal deposit through a small part of the eastern half of the trench for 3.65m was (17), a grey silt, slightly gravelly in texture between 0.02m and 0.25m in depth. A mix of finds were excavated from the layer (appendix 12.9.1), along with two sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> pottery. Three pieces of sheep/goat bone were also recorded with a single fragment of cattle-sized bone remains.

In a sondage excavated at the eastern end of the trench, under the deposit (15), was another layer (18) of a very fine grey clay and was excavated to between 0.35 and 0.38m in depth, although the water table was then found. The few finds that were found can be seen in appendix 12.9.1, no pottery was however found.

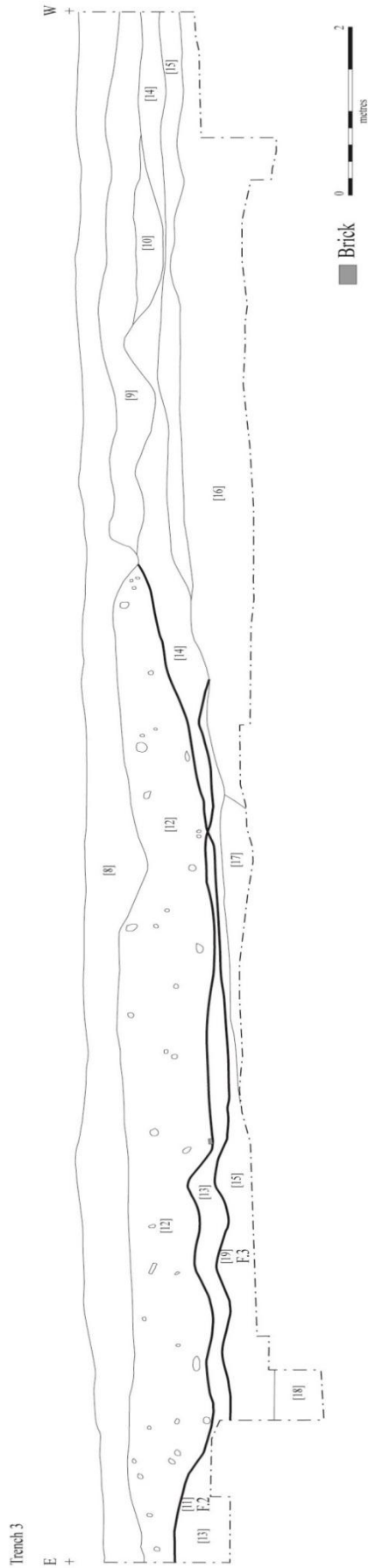


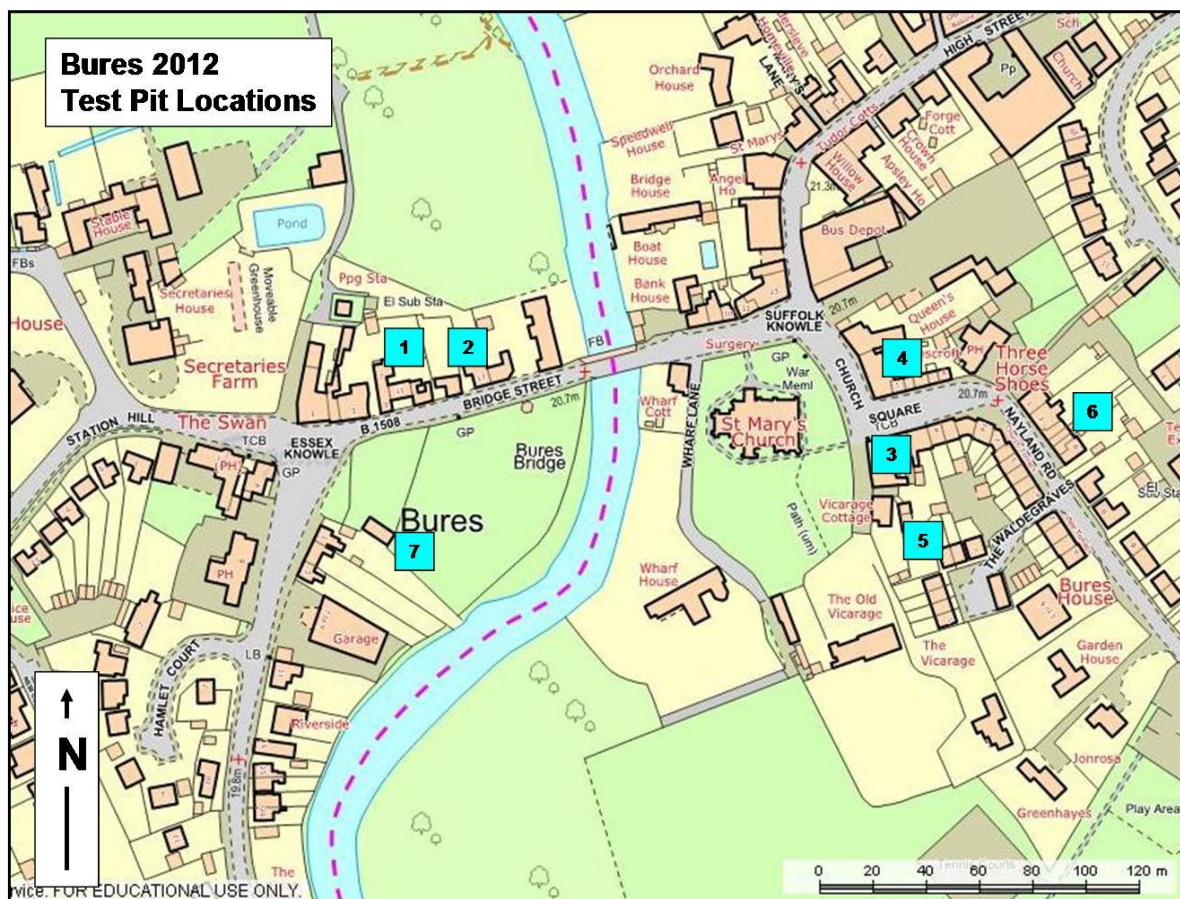
Figure 9: North facing section through Trench 3

## 8.4 Test Pits

The approximate locations of the seven test pits that were excavated in June of 2012 are displayed in figure 7 below. The data from each test pit are discussed in this section, set out in numerical order.

Most excavation was in spits measuring 10cm in depth, but in cases when a change in the character of deposits indicated a change in context, a new spit was started before 10cm. An assessment of the overall results, synthesizing the data from all the pits, including deductions about the historic development of Bures and the potential of the buried heritage resource of the village is presented in the following Discussion section (Section 9).

Finds from each test pit are discussed in summary in this section, and listed in detail in the relevant appendices (section 13). Photographs of sites under excavation and of all finds are included in the archive, but not included in this report for reasons of space.

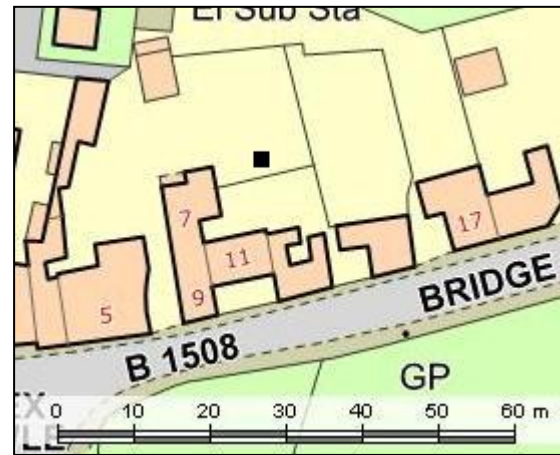


**Figure 10:** The location of test pits excavated in Bures (NB test pits are not to scale) (Map Courtesy of Digimap)

### Test Pit one (BUR/12/1)

**Figure 11 - Location map of BUR/12/1**

Test pit one was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a likely 19<sup>th</sup> century property fronting the main road, close to the river crossing and opposite the common. (7-9 Bridge Street, Bures Hamlet. TL 590552 234046).



Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 1.1m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from BUR/12/1 dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and later with a range of wares recovered. These include Late Medieval Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Cologne Stoneware, Delft Ware and English Stoneware. A large amount of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later wares were also recovered.

TP	Context	LMT		GRE		WCS		DW		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1											27	99	1800-1900
1	2											12	42	1800-1900
1	3											28	70	1800-1900
1	4											23	138	1800-1900
1	5											18	48	1800-1900
1	6											21	69	1800-1900
1	7											5	25	1800-1900
1	8			3	20					1	5	31	83	1550-1900
1	9											9	12	1800-1900
1	10											9	30	1800-1900
1	11			1	2	1	4	1	12			4	5	1550-1900
1	12	1	3	3	11							1	1	1400-1900

**Table 1 – Pottery excavated from BUR/12/1**

The large mix of both 19<sup>th</sup> century and later finds and pottery have caused a great deal of disturbance on site, but the earlier pottery that was found suggests that there was limited occupation on site from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the land may have been part of a garden to the rear of an earlier property. The large mix of finds excavated consist of clay pipe, tile, CBM, coal, slate, glass, iron nails and bolts, fragments of plastic, modern tile fragments, mortar, shell, iron rods and corroded pieces of scrap iron, metal buttons, plastic buttons, mussel and oyster shell and a couple of fragments of slag, suggestive of metal working on or close to site. The animal bone recorded consists of cow, sheep/goat, dog, rabbit, fox and chicken as well as a number of cattle- and sheep-sized animal remains and bird bones.

### Test Pit two (BUR/12/2)

**Figure 12 - Location map of BUR/12/2**

Test pit two was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house fronting the main road for the river crossing, close to the river and opposite the common. (17 Bridge Street, Bures Hamlet. TL 590572 234046).

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from BUR/12/2 dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later.



TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
2	5	15	77	1800-1900
2	6	44	377	1800-1900
2	7	28	196	1800-1900
2	8	20	87	1800-1900
2	9	13	67	1800-1900

**Table 2 – Pottery excavated from BUR/12/2**

The large mix of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later finds and pottery, particularly building rubble likely suggests the presence of an earlier building on site demolished in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The finds consist of glass, modern tile, modern nails, slate, coal, fragments of plaster board, tile, brick, CBM, iron nails and bolts, iron rods, fragments of plastic and rubber, mortar, pieces of scrap metal, red foil milk bottle top, central core of a battery, grey plastic coating for wire, snail, oyster and whelk shells, a plastic washer, a metal tent peg, metal screws, modern wood, a metal padlock and clay pipe.

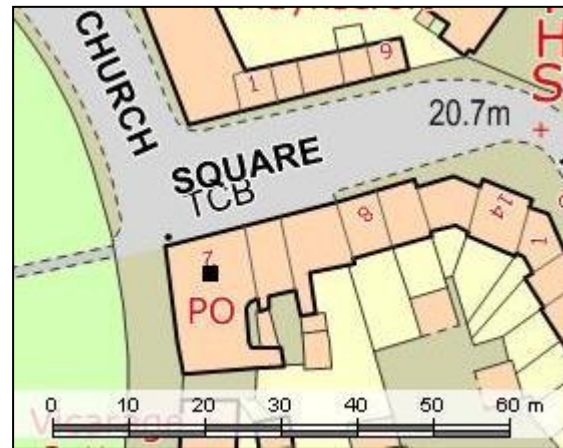


### Test Pit three (BUR/12/3)

Test pit three was excavated inside the downstairs front room of a house fronting the road and immediately east of the church. (Church House, 2 Church Square, Bures St Mary. TL 590731 234010).

No records and finds were available for BUR/12/3.

Figure 13 - Location map of BUR/12/3

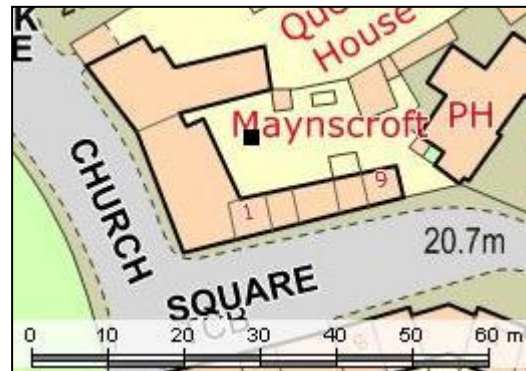


### Test Pit four (BUR/12/4)

**Figure 14 - Location map of BUR/12/4**

Test pit four was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed property fronting the main road, set opposite the church. (Maynscroft, church Square, Bures St Mary. TL 590736 234045).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. Natural was found, and excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.



All the pottery excavated from BUR/12/4 dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and later, consisting of Border Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Harlow Slipware, Delft Ware, English Stoneware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. The vast majority of the pottery recovered however dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later.

TP	Cntxt	BW		GRE		HSW		DW		EST		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	2													85	914	1800-1900
4	4			3	69					2	31	1	1	335	4110	1550-1900
4	5	1	23	4	76									81	843	1550-1900
4	7			4	551	1	30							45	892	1550-1900
4	8			1	106			1	4	1	51			63	1979	1550-1900

**Table 3 – Pottery excavated from BUR/12/4**

Despite the location of BUR/12/4 opposite the church to the east, there is no evidence for occupation on site prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it was only as the village grew into the post medieval period that the development is seen. A mix of finds were also recovered from the pit, suggesting a great deal of disturbance on site from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and consists of coal, slate, asphalt, mortar, a leather buckle strap, CBM, tile, clay pipe, glass, iron nails, pieces of scrap metal, brick, metal sheeting, modern tile, an iron bar and oyster shell. A number of cow, sheep/goat and pig bones were also recorded through the test pit with further fragments only identified as cattle-, sheep- and rodent-sized animals.

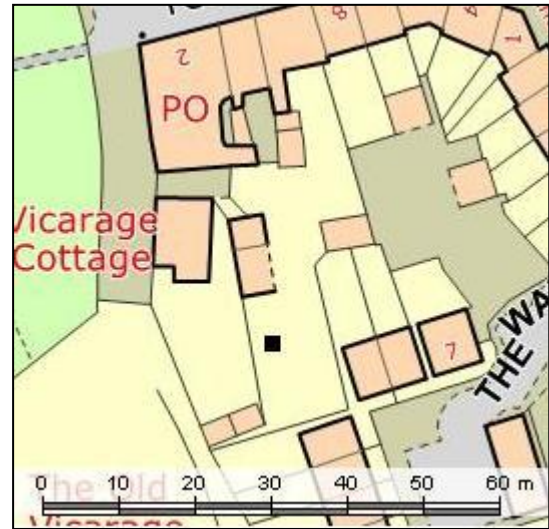
### Test Pit five (BUR/12/5)

**Figure 15 - Location map of BUR/12/5**

Test pit five was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a house fronting the road and opposite the church to the east. (Church House, 2 Church Square, Bures St Mary. TL 590742 233974).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A range of 16<sup>th</sup> century and later pottery types were excavated from BUR/12/5, including Glazed Red Earthenware, Harlow Slipware, Cologne Stoneware, Delft Ware, Staffordshire Slipware, English Stoneware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. The majority of the pottery identified however dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later and was found through the upper 11 contexts of the test pit.



TP	Cntxt	GRE		HSW		WCS		DW		SS		EST		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	2	1	6													2	5	1550-1900
5	3															31	314	1800-1900
5	4									2	4					16	100	1650-1900
5	5	2	10									2	40			22	82	1550-1900
5	6	1	5			1	10	1	2							5	39	1550-1900
5	7	3	301							1	8	1	12			16	121	1550-1900
5	8	1	4									1	3	1	1	25	83	1550-1900
5	9	5	119							1	3					16	163	1550-1900
5	10	9	55					1	1							2	5	1550-1900
5	11	1	7	1	14							1	2			3	22	1550-1900
5	12	1	44															1550-1600

**Table 4 – Pottery excavated from BUR/12/5**

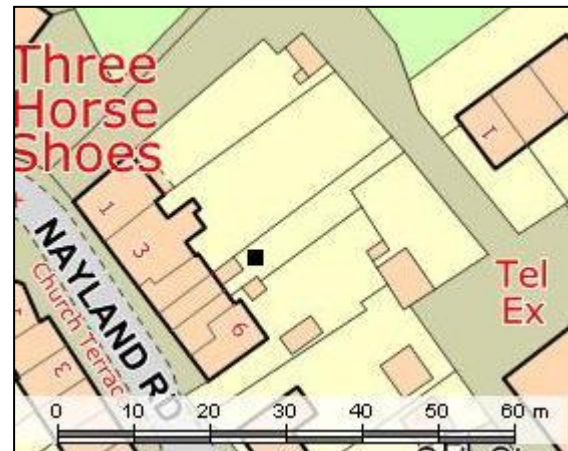
Much like the results from BUR/12/4, the pottery and finds that were excavated from BUR/12/5 suggest that there was no activity on site prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, despite the location of the test pit very close to the church boundary. A large deposit of bricks and scrap metal work were excavated from 0.5m in depth, possibly relating to an earlier structure, but a great deal of disturbances are evident through the test pit to at least 1.1m. A very large mix of finds were recovered from the pit and consist of mortar, CBM, tile, glass, brick, clay pipe, a curved metal plate, modern nails, slate, a metal tag, a slate pencil, iron nails, coal, oyster and snail shell, pieces of scrap metal, modern tile, asphalt, fragments of plastic and possible ancient glass. Slag was also recovered, suggestive of metal working on or close to site. The animal also recorded consists of sheep/goat pig, cat, rabbit and chicken as well as further fragments that have only been identified as both cattle- and sheep-sized animals.

### Test Pit six (BUR/12/6)

**Figure 16 - Location map of BUR/12/6**

Test pit six was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed mid terrace cottage fronting the main road out of the village to the east. (5 Nayland Road, Bures St Mary. TL 590805 234020).

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 1m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.



The vast majority of the pottery excavated from BUR/12/6 dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later and was found through all contexts of the pit. The majority of the rest of the pottery dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and later with Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware, Staffordshire Manganese Ware and English Stoneware all recovered. An additional two sherds of Early Medieval Sandy Ware were also identified in the basal contexts of the test pit.

TP	Context	EMW		GRE		DW		SMW		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1											47	172	1800-1900
6	2											32	134	1800-1900
6	3			2	38							33	126	1550-1900
6	4			1	8							16	70	1550-1900
6	5			2	7							19	85	1550-1900
6	6					2	5					34	124	1600-1900
6	7			5	58					1	1	10	30	1550-1900
6	8			5	27							2	4	1550-1900
6	9	1	5	1	2							10	50	1100-1900
6	10	1	5	1	5			1	1			12	47	1100-1900

**Table 5 – Pottery excavated from BUR/12/6**

Given the limited pre-16<sup>th</sup> century material that was excavated from BUR/12/6, it is possible that the land was open fields prior to the construction of the current property in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, despite its location close to the centre of the village and the church. The mix of later 19<sup>th</sup> century finds also indicate a lot of disturbance on site with a mix of finds also recovered, consisting of tile, glass, clay pipe, a plastic button, oyster and snail shell, a metal washer, iron nails, pieces of scrap metal and possible pieces of ancient glass. Three pieces of cow and sheep/goat bone were also recorded from the lower half of the test pit with fragmentary remains that have been identified as cattle- and sheep-sized animals.

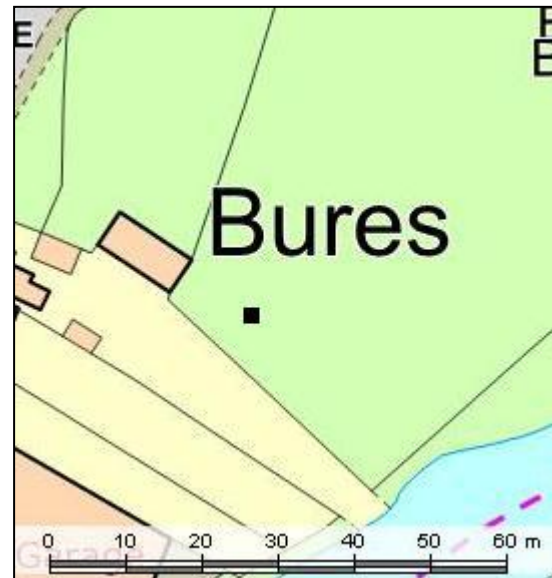
### Test Pit seven (BUR/12/7)

**Figure 17 - Location map of BUR/12/7**

Test pit seven was excavated along the southern edge of Bures Common, south of the three trenches and close to the old barn and adjacent to the neighbouring properties. (Bures Common, Colchester Road, Bures Hamlet. TL 590554 233973).

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 1m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The majority of the pottery excavated from BUR/12/7 dates to the medieval period, with both Early Medieval Sandy Ware and Late Medieval Ware identified. An additional three sherds of Victorian pottery were also recorded in the upper context of the test pit.



TP	Context	EMW		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	2					3	22	1800-1900
7	3	3	15					1100-1200
7	5			1	4			1400-1550

**Table 6 – Pottery excavated from BUR/12/7**

The layers excavated through here, differ greatly to those that were identified in the trenches, just further north on the common. BUR/12/7 suggests that the land was a lot drier in this part of the common and has not experienced as many (if any at all), periods of flooding, the ground here was dry and quite sandy. There is evidence for activity on site through the medieval period, although possibly not as occupation, with then very little activity until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The few finds also recovered consist of glass, oyster shell, tile, iron nails, coal, freshwater mussel, and snail and whelk shells. A piece of slag also suggests metal working on or close to site. The animal bone also found consists of cow, sheep/goat and dog with further fragmentary remains only identified as cattle- and sheep-sized animals.

## 8.5 Community engagement

A total of 46 local volunteers took part in the excavation of the three trenches on the common, along with 17 pupils from Great Cornard Upper School who took part in the test pit excavations, accompanied by five members of school staff. In addition, 120 pupils from Bures Primary School (4 class groups each of 30 pupils) visited the excavations, each spending an hour on the common learning about the site and the excavations before getting hands-on experience searching the spoil heaps for finds. Each of the school groups was accompanied by around ten or fifteen adults including teachers and parents. Being in the centre of the village, the excavations were highly visible and attracted large numbers of casual visitors, more than 300 of whom signed the visitors' book. Overall, the excavations involved more than 500 people, with more than 160 getting hands-on experience.

Of those who took part in the excavations, 100% rated their experience overall as excellent or good; with 63% of participants saying they enjoyed it more or much more than expected. 79% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they had learnt new archaeological skills. 82% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they knew more about the archaeology and history of Bures than they did before and 84% agreed or strongly agreed that they would take more interest in the archaeology and heritage of Bures in the future. 76% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they would take more interest in archaeology and heritage generally in the future. Every single one of the 100% of the volunteers said they would recommend the activity to others.

## 9 Discussion

### 9.1 Trenches

The aim of the excavations on Bures Common in 2012 was to see if any trace could be found of the watercourse recorded in historic documents and maps. In all three trenches, the inconclusive results from the geophysical survey were reflected in the excavated deposits. The results of the magnetometer survey, which indicated widespread magnetic anomalies with no clear features were explained by the three trial trenches which all contained significant amounts of overburden containing large volumes of modern and early modern artefacts typical of domestic and/or farm refuse, including a considerable amount of ceramic building material and metal items or scrap, mostly ferrous. These recent deposits extended to a depth of at least 1m in each of the trenches, implying they are extensively spread across the common. They indicate that the ground surface here has been deliberately raised within the last century by spreading refuse used as hardcore across the site.

In each of the trenches, material of 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century date was found intermixed with the naturally occurring coarse gravel and silt throughout almost all of the excavated layers, indicating that these deposits are almost entirely the result of recent activity. Each of the trenches contained features which looked initially as if they might be the edge of a cut for a water channel but each proved on excavation to be of recent origin, all either cutting into or overlying deposits containing 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material. However, sondages excavated in the very bottom of trenches one and three did reveal limited areas of grey and black clayey silts with an appearance characteristic of waterlogged or wet deposits. In both trenches, these silts contained no modern material and were inferred to be of pre-modern date. In the limited time available, it was not possible in either of these trenches to expose a sufficiently large area at this depth to establish the extent of these deposits, or to find any edge which could indicate whether they occupied a manmade or natural channel cutting across the common, or were part of a marsh extending across the entire common. These deposits do however show that a body of water of indeterminate form extended across the common in the pre-modern period.

Without doubt, the most informative evidence came from the lower grey silty deposits in trenches one and three. The most notable small find from the 2012 excavations was the copper alloy finger ring of probable 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century AD date from trench three. Although this was found within a graduated silty deposit whose upper levels contained modern finds, the ring was found at a depth at which more recent finds had tailed off and the deposit was shading from orange to light grey. In trench one, the preserved wood from the sondage proved somewhat disappointingly to be both unworked and impossible to ascribe to human action, as it was not possible to determine whether it had been deliberately placed where it was found by humans or washed there by natural flooding. Nonetheless, it did clearly demonstrate presence of waterlogged deposits and the potential for organic survival. The environmental assessment of the bulk sample taken from this sondage was, however, particularly illuminating. It provided conclusive evidence for the former presence of a body of water, and indicated that this area had been more-or-less continuously wet throughout its history and that the water was slow-flowing, with no evidence present for organisms favouring stagnant conditions. While this movement would have kept the water reasonably clean, there was evidence to show the area was used for disposal of human faeces. The water was surrounded by damp, shady to open grassland which was enriched by animal dung, suggesting its use for grazing.

Most significantly, the environmental assessment also provided evidence for linen production, in the form of flax seeds and capsules which are likely to represent debris from flax retting, a process which requires slow-flowing water. This evidence for flax retting is of

interest in itself for understanding the economic base of the community, but the fact that radiocarbon dating was possible for both the flax and the small wooden peg and provided a date in the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD is really significant, as this is the first evidence for flax working of this early date from this area of East Anglia.

In summary, the excavation data show that there was an expanse of slow flowing water across Bures Common; that some archaeological traces of this do survive; that it was purposefully exploited by humans; and that this use predates the Norman Conquest, extending back to at least the late Anglo-Saxon period. By inference, we may tentatively infer that a settlement of some sort was probably also in existence nearby at this time. It is plausible, given the historical data, that this body of water, which may have been an open area such as a fed pond or mere when used for retting, was converted into a narrower channel at a later date, perhaps in an attempt to drain the area more effectively so it could be used for grazing. The edges of this feature may lie at a depth of 2m or more, beyond the area exposed in 2012, although it is alternatively possible that these may have been truncated by later activity.

## 9.2 Test pit excavations.

The test pit excavations revealed no finds pre-dating the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but moderate numbers of sherds of pottery from the high medieval period (mid-11<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century), both on the common and along Nayland Road. Very little pottery of later medieval date (late 14<sup>th</sup> – mid 16<sup>th</sup> century) was found from any of the pits, with only two small sherds (less than 5g weight) recovered, one from the common and one from a site on the north side of Bridge Street. Much greater volumes of pottery were recovered dating to the post-medieval period (late 16<sup>th</sup> – late 18<sup>th</sup> century), although the test pit on the common produced no material of this date.

With such a small number of pits excavated in Bures it is impossible to draw any wider conclusions as the development of the settlement(s) at Bures, although it can be noted that the late medieval decline in pottery volumes is typical of many settlements in the eastern region.



## 10 Conclusion

The excavations in 2012 were extremely successful. They proved that a slow-flowing expanse of water did cross the common in Bures, and indicated that evidence for the form taken by this body of water (cut or banks) may survive deeply buried beneath the present ground surface, which is the produce of recent deliberate raising. The excavations showed that the body of water across the common was being actively used by humans by at least the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> century AD, at which time the area was used for flax retting, with the flax probably pinned under the slow-flowing water by pegged timber retainers of some sort. A copper alloy ring dating to this same period or a little later appears to have been lost accidentally, perhaps by an individual working on this site, with cold wet conditions possibly causing the ring to slip from its owner's finger. Beyond the area covered with water, the nearby land at this time was open wet pasture with marigolds fringing the stream and buttercups in the meadow, grazed by animals present when conditions allowed. If the watery area was used for refuse disposal as the documentary evidence suggests, the excavations indicate that it was cleaned out, presumably to prevent the channel or pond silting up or becoming blocked by washed-in debris, as very little pre-modern pottery was found. Near the road, timber which may have washed in naturally during flooding or been placed there deliberately at some unknown date, was left in place, and this may mark a change in use of the site as it would have contributed to slowing up the flow of the water in the channel. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the level of the ground surface of the common was significantly raised by spreading large volumes of hardcore and domestic refuse, leaving it considerably drier than in previous centuries, enabling domestic and commercial buildings to be constructed. These are known to be present from photographs in private hands shown to the team during the excavations, and from the wall encountered in Trench one.

The date of the flax and finger ring suggest the settlement at Bures is likely to have originated in the later Anglo-Saxon period, but the lack of pottery of this date hints at the likelihood that this was small and probably some distance away from the common, plausibly to avoid the smell of the rotting flax.

## 11 Acknowledgements

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## 13 Appendices

### 13.1 Pottery Report: Trenches 1-3 – *Paul Blinkhorn*

#### 13.1.1 Pottery types represented

The pottery assemblage comprised 1,280 sherds with a total weight of 20,682g. The assemblage from each trench is reported individually (below), with the following fabric types noted:

**EMW: Sandy Coarsewares**, late 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. A range of quartz-tempered coarsewares that found throughout the east midlands and East Anglia.

**EG: Essex Sandy Grey Ware**, mid-12<sup>th</sup> – late 14<sup>th</sup> century (Cotter 2000). Medium-hard grey fabric with visible sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm.

**HED: Hedingham Ware**: Late 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. Fine orange micaceous glazed ware (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 300-2).

**LMT: Late medieval ware**. 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big glazed jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white slip (Cotter 2000).

**GRE: Glazed Red Earthenware**, 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century (Brears 1969). Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**BW: Border Ware**, AD1550 - 1700. Wide range of utilitarian and tablewares in a fine, white fabric with a bright green, yellow or brown glaze. Manufactured at a number of centres on the Surrey/Hampshire border and the main coarseware pottery type in London in the post-medieval period (Pearce 1988).

**TGE: Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> century** (Orton 1988). Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration. Range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases.

**HSW: Metropolitan Slipware**, 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> C. Similar fabric to Red Earthenware, with geometric designs in white slip under the glaze. Produced at a number of centres, but particularly Harlow in Essex (Davey and Walker 2009).

**WCS: Cologne/Westerwald Stoneware**. 17<sup>th</sup> century+ (Gaimster 1997). Hard, grey fabric with clear salt glaze. Vessels include jugs with moulded decoration and chamber-pots, often with blue and purple manganese and cobalt decoration.

**SS: Staffordshire Slipware**. AD1640-1750. Fine cream fabric with white slip and pale yellow lead glaze, commonest decoration is feathered dark brown trailed slip. Chiefly press-moulded flat wares, although small bowls and mugs etc. are known.

**EST: English Stoneware**. 1680+. Hard, grey fabric, often with a brown, iron-rich exterior wash. Range of utilitarian vessels, particularly mugs.

**SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware**, AD1720-1780 Hard, white fabric with a distinctive white 'orange peel' textured glaze. Range of fine tablewares such as mugs, tea bowls and plates.

**19<sup>th</sup>C: Miscellaneous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares.** Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc.

All the wares are well-known in the region.

### 13.1.2 Results

#### Trench one

The pottery assemblage comprised 577 sherds with a total weight of 10,727g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 7 (below). Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

**Table 7: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, Trench one**

Tr	Cntxt	EMW		LMT		GRE		TGE		WCS		SS		EST		SWSG		19thC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1A	U/S					6	114							1	3	1	8	13	35	U/S
1A	20					14	228	2	5			2	13	3	35	3	5	199	3372	19thC
1B	20	1	4	2	17	3	131	1	11					1	155			4	598	19thC
1A	22					52	2222	4	6	1	13	2	39	3	33	2	5	46	474	19thC
1A	23					3	473							1	22					L17thC
1A	24			3	77	11	255											38	439	19thC
1A	25					2	74													17thC
1B	27					3	61											76	485	19thC
1B	33					15	701			1	13					1	8	26	257	19thC
1B	34	1	1															2	4	19thC
1B	35													1	21					L17thC
1B	36			2	53															15thC
1B	39					2	12					1	13					22	233	19thC
	Total	2	5	7	147	111	4270	7	22	2	26	5	65	10	269	7	26	426	5897	

Most of the pottery was post-medieval, and mostly of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date, although the range of residual material indicates that there was activity on the site from the 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards, although most of the medieval pottery dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. A large proportion of the material from context (20) comprised a broken but probably largely complete Victorian slipware pancheon or large bowl. The earlier material comprised a typical range of utilitarian and table-wares, such as brown-dipped white stoneware mugs, with some of the latter being of quite high quality, such as tin-glazed earthenware with painted decoration and SWSG with 'scratch blue' decoration. In addition, a large fragment of a rare GRE 'chafing dish', a vessel used for keeping food hot, was also present in context (23). It is possible therefore that at least some of the pottery is from a late 17<sup>th</sup> century household of greater than normal wealth, or possibly an inn.

#### Trench Two

The pottery assemblage comprised 448 sherds with a total weight of 5,215g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 8 (see below, p.54). Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

All the contexts are of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, and consist mainly of typical domestic wares of the period. Small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery did occur in residual contexts, suggesting that there has been activity at the site since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, although the quantities present do not suggest occupation.

### *Trench three*

The pottery assemblage comprised 255 sherds with a total weight of 4,740g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 9. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

**Table 9:** *Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, Trench three*

Tr	Cntxt	EG		LMT		GRE		WCS		SS		EST		19thC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	Spoil			8	147	24	901	1	57			1	38	170	2607	U/S
3	12	1	23													12thC
3	13					1	12	1	51					13	62	19thC
3	15					1	28							4	20	19thC
3	16			1	2	11	422			1	7			15	211	19thC
3	17											1	32	1	90	19thC
	Total	1	23	9	149	37	1363	2	108	1	7	2	70	203	2990	

All the contexts apart from one are of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, and consist mainly of typical domestic wares of the period. Small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery did occur in residual contexts, suggesting that there has been activity at the site since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, although the quantities present do not suggest occupation. The only context which may be of medieval date, (12), produced a single sherd from the base of an Essex Greyware jar. It was slightly abraded, and is likely to be the product of secondary deposition, or could easily be entirely residual.



**Table 8: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, Trench 2**

Tr	Cntxt	EMW		EG		HED		LMT		GRE		BW		TGE		WCS		HSW		SS		EST		SWSG		19thC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	3; 30-50cm			2	4					7	195											3	26	2	21	55	590	19thC
2	3; 50-70cm							1	9	8	129											2	15			73	663	19thC
2	3; 70-90cm			2	12					6	191					1	8									61	485	19thC
2	3; 90-110cm									8	260											2	9			88	457	19thC
2	4; 30-50cm							3	28	8	340			1	4					1	2	2	54			36	328	19thC
2	4; 50-70cm			1	23					5	335	1	51													17	159	19thC
2	4; 70-90cm	1	6			1	3	1	8	2	102							1	27			2	193	1	3	33	202	19thC
2	4; 90-110cm									1	187															2	40	19thC
2	6									1	19															6	27	19thC
	Total	1	6	5	39	1	3	5	45	46	1758	1	51	1	4	1	8	1	27	1	2	11	297	3	24	371	2951	

## 13.2 Pottery Report: test pits – *Paul Blinkhorn*

### 13.2.1 Pottery types represented

**EMW: Early Medieval Sandy Ware:** AD1100-1400. Hard fabric with plentiful quartz sand mixed in with the clay. Manufactured at a wide range of generally unknown sites all over eastern England. Mostly cooking pots, but bowls and occasionally jugs also known.

**LMT:** Late medieval pottery made at Chediston Green between 1400 and 1550. Grey or orange pots with a purplish or green glaze.

**GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares:** Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century.

**BW: Border Ware.** Fine, white, slightly sandy fabric, made on the Surry/Hampshire border near London. Large range of different everyday vessel types, from simple pots through to candlesticks and money-boxes, usually with a yellow or bright green glaze. Dated 1550 – 1750 in London.

**DW: Delft ware.** The first white-glazed pottery to be made in Britain. Called Delft ware because of the fame of the potteries at Delft in Holland, which were amongst the first to make it. Soft, cream coloured fabric with a thick white glaze, often with painted designs in blue, purple and yellow. First made in Britain in Norwich around AD1600, and continued in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 17<sup>th</sup> century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was considered very cheap and the main types of pot were such as chamber pots and ointment jars.

**HSW: Harlow Slipware.** Similar to glazed red earthenware (GRE), but with painted designs in yellow liquid clay ('slip') under the glaze. Made at many places between 1600 and 1700, but the most famous and earliest factory was at Harlow in Essex

**WCS: Cologne Stoneware.** Hard, grey pottery made in the Rhineland region of Germany from around 1600 onwards. Usually has lots of ornate moulded decoration, often with blue and purple painted details. Still made today, mainly as tourist souvenirs.

**SS: Staffordshire Slipware.** Made between about AD1640 and 1750. This was the first pottery to be made in moulds in Britain since Roman times. The clay fabric is usually a pale buff colour, and the main product was flat dishes and plates, but cups were also made. These are usually decorated with thin brown stripes and a yellow glaze, or yellow stripes and a brown glaze.

**EST: English Stoneware:** Very hard, grey fabric with white and/or brown surfaces. First made in Britain at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, became very common in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, particularly for mineral water or ink bottles and beer jars.

**SMW: Staffordshire Manganese Ware,** late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. Made from a fine, buff-coloured clay, with the pots usually covered with a mottled purple and brown glaze. A wide range of different types of pots were made, but mugs and chamber pots are particularly common.

**SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware.** Hard, white pottery with a white glaze with a texture like orange peel. Made between 1720 and 1780, pots usually table wares such as tea bowls, tankards and plates.

**VIC: 'Victorian'.** A wide range of different types of pottery, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today. First made around AD1800

### 13.2.2 Results

#### Test Pit 1

TP	Cntxt	LMT		GRE		WCS		DW		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1											27	99	1800-1900
1	2											12	42	1800-1900
1	3											28	70	1800-1900
1	4											23	138	1800-1900
1	5											18	48	1800-1900
1	6											21	69	1800-1900
1	7											5	25	1800-1900
1	8			3	20					1	5	31	83	1550-1900
1	9											9	12	1800-1900
1	10											9	30	1800-1900
1	11			1	2	1	4	1	12			4	5	1550-1900
1	12	1	3	3	11							1	1	1400-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval, other than a single sherd which may date to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The range of types suggests that the site was used from that time until the present, but was probably fields before the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Test Pit 2

TP	Cntxt	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
2	5	15	77	1800-1900
2	6	44	377	1800-1900
2	7	28	196	1800-1900
2	8	20	87	1800-1900
2	9	13	67	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, indicating that it was not used by people before then.

#### Test Pit 4

TP	Cntxt	BW		GRE		HSW		DW		EST		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	2													85	914	1800-1900
4	4			3	69					2	31	1	1	335	4110	1550-1900
4	5	1	23	4	76									81	843	1550-1900
4	7			4	551	1	30							45	892	1550-1900
4	8			1	106			1	4	1	51			63	1979	1550-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval. The range of types suggests that the site was used from that time until the present, but was probably fields before the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Test Pit 5

TP	Cntxt	GRE		HSW		WCS		DW		SS		EST		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	2	1	6													2	5	1550-1900
5	3															31	314	1800-1900
5	4									2	4					16	100	1650-1900
5	5	2	10									2	40			22	82	1550-1900
5	6	1	5			1	10	1	2							5	39	1550-1900
5	7	3	301							1	8	1	12			16	121	1550-1900
5	8	1	4									1	3	1	1	25	83	1550-1900
5	9	5	119							1	3					16	163	1550-1900
5	10	9	55					1	1							2	5	1550-1900
5	11	1	7	1	14							1	2			3	22	1550-1900
5	12	1	44															1550-1600

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval. The range of types suggests that the site was used from that time until the present, and may have been living there throughout the period.

### Test Pit 6

TP	Cntxt	EMW		GRE		DW		SMW		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1											47	172	1800-1900
6	2											32	134	1800-1900
6	3			2	38							33	126	1550-1900
6	4			1	8							16	70	1550-1900
6	5			2	7							19	85	1550-1900
6	6					2	5					34	124	1600-1900
6	7			5	58					1	1	10	30	1550-1900
6	8			5	27							2	4	1550-1900
6	9	1	5	1	2							10	50	1100-1900
6	10	1	5	1	5			1	1			12	47	1100-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval, apart from two sherds dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was then abandoned until the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The range of types suggests that the site was used from that time until the present, but was probably fields before the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Test Pit 7

TP	Cntxt	EMW		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	2					3	22	1800-1900
7	3	3	15					1100-1200
7	5			1	4			1400-1550

This test-pit produced very little pottery, but the types present indicate that people were probably using the site throughout the medieval period. It then appears to have been abandoned until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 13.3 Lithics – *Lawrence Billington*

Two worked flints and a single unworked burnt flint were recovered from the excavations (table 1). A lightly corticated ('patinated') secondary flake came from an unstratified context within trench 1B. This piece is not strongly chronologically diagnostic although traces of striking platform preparation suggest a Mesolithic or Neolithic date is most likely. The remaining worked flint and the unworked burnt flint were recovered from deposit [3] in trench 2. The worked piece is an irregular burnt fragment with traces of flake scars on one surface and has no chronologically diagnostic traits.

Trench	Context	irregular waste	secondary flake	<b>Total worked</b>	unworked burnt flint no.	unworked burnt flint weight (g)
1B	unstratified		1	<b>1</b>		
2	3				1	28
2	3	1		<b>1</b>		
Totals		1	1	<b>2</b>	1	28

**Table 10:** *The flint assemblage*

### 13.4 Faunal Remains – *Vida Rajkovača*

The assemblage totalled 396 assessable specimens, of which 184 were possible to assign to species level (46.5%). The investigation comprised a series of trenches and test pits. Trenches were notably more abundant with bone, generating the combined total of 250 specimens, or 63.1% of the assemblage.

#### 13.4.1 *Methods*

##### *Identification, quantification and ageing*

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Most, but not all, caprine bones are difficult to identify to species however, it was possible to identify a selective set of elements as sheep or goat from the assemblage, using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Halstead (Halstead et al. 2002).

Ageing of the assemblage employed both mandibular tooth wear (Grant 1982, Payne 1973) and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969). Where possible, the measurements have been taken (Von den Driesch 1976). Withers height calculations follow the conversion factors published by Von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974. Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

##### *Preservation, fragmentation and taphonomy*

The state of preservation varied across site, and between trenches, but overall it ranged from moderate to quite poor. Fragmentation was quite high, however, and this is reflected in high proportion of the assemblage being assigned to a size-category. Butchery was recorded on some 26 specimens, a figure which corresponds to 6.5% of the assemblage.

This is quite low, although the poor state of bone probably obscured the majority of taphonomic modifications, including gnawing and finer butchery marks.

### 13.4.2 Faunal remains from trenches

The material from trenches displayed a full range of domestic species, including two chicken specimens as an indication that poultry played part in their diet (Table 11). Sheep were the prevalent species, with cattle being of secondary importance (Tables 11-13). The crude butchery marks and the frequent use of saw are not surprising, given the late date for the material, although some bone may be residual. Trench one contained more bone than the other two combined.

Taxon	Trench One A					Trench One B					Total NISP
	[20]	[22]	[23]	[24]	[25]	[27]	[33]	[35]	[36]	[39]	
Cow	2	11	.	2	1	1	4	.	.	.	21
Sheep/ goat	11	12	4	6	.	2	3	.	.	3	41
Sheep						.	1	.	1	.	2
Pig	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Horse	.	1	.	5	.	1	.	.	.	.	7
Rabbit	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Dog/ fox	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cat	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chicken	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>77</b>
Cattle-sized	11	8	.	2	.	5	3	1	1	.	31
Sheep-sized	3	5	.	10	.	1	8	.	.	1	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>136</b>

**Table 11:** Number of Identified Specimens for all species from trench 1

Taxon	Trench Two [3]				Trench Two [4]			Trench Two [6]	Total NISP
	30-50cm	50-70cm	70-90cm	90-110cm	30-50cm	50-70cm	70-90cm		
Cow	1	.	1	.	3	.	3	.	8
Sheep/ goat	3	5	3	6	4	1	.	3	25
Sheep	.	1	.	1	2	.	.	.	4
Pig	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
Horse	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	2
Dog	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Cat	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2
Chicken	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>
Cattle-sized	3	5	2	1	7	2	1	1	22
Sheep-sized	3	6	3	2	5	1	3	1	24

Rodent-sized	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>92</b>	

**Table 12:** Number of Identified Specimens for all species from trench 2

Taxon	Trench 3				Total NISP
	[13]	[14]	[16]	[17]	
Cow	.	.	2	.	2
Sheep/ goat	.	.	8	3	11
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	.	.	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
Cattle-sized	1	.	3	1	5
Sheep-sized	.	1	3	.	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>

**Table 13:** Number of Identified Specimens for all species from trench 3

### 13.4.3 Faunal remains from test pits

The material from test pits displayed an identical range of species to that recorded from trenches (Tables 14-16). With an exception of pig remains from trenches 4 and 5, sheep were the main species, probably utilised for meat and a whole array of secondary products such as wool and milk. A number of shaft fragments were recorded with sawing marks at both ends, thus creating a ring-shaped fragment. These were either a butchery waste, or, more likely, bone-working waste, although there were no signs of bone working on them.

Taxon	TP.1											TP.1a		Total NISP
	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[22]	[24]	
Cow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Sheep/ goat	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	4	1	.	7
Dog	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	2
Rabbit	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Fox	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chicken	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Galliformes</i>	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	.	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	.	.	.	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>
Cattle-sized	1	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	5
Sheep-sized	1	.	4	1	1	3	1	2	.	2	5	3	.	23
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>

**Table 14:** Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pit 1; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified

Taxon	TP.4					TP.5						Total NISP
	[2]	[4]	[5]	[7]	[8]	[6]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	
Cow	1	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Sheep/ goat	.	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	.	.	.	8
Pig	.	3	1	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	7
Cat	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Rabbit	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1

Chicken	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	.	<b>25</b>
Cattle-sized	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	9
Sheep-sized	.	3	5	2	2	.	1	4	2	.	.	19
Rodent-sized	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>

**Table 15:** Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pits 4 and 5; the abbreviation *n.f.i.* denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	TP.6					TP.7					Total NISP
	[1]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	
Cow	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	3
Sheep/goat	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	3
Dog	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	.	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	.	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	.	<b>1</b>	.	<b>8</b>
Cattle-sized	.	.	1	.	2	2	4	.	1	.	10
Sheep-sized	1	1	2	2	4	5	5	4	1	2	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>

**Table 16:** Number of Identified Specimens for all species from trenches 6 and 7

### 13.4.4 Discussion

It is difficult to discuss the assemblage any further, or comment on the economy patterns, in the absence of any biometrical and ageing data. It is evident; however, that the assemblage represents food waste that was discarded and then incorporated into occupation layers. Butchery traces on bone confirm the faunal remains are anthropogenic in character, and that joints of meat were portioned and processed on site. Although it is not clear from the assemblage whether the community raised its animals on site, or locally, it is most likely the community practiced a mixed economy and was unwilling to explore the potential of the surrounding wild fauna. This is usually interpreted as a sign of prosperity, as it is believed that the diet is only likely to diversify in times of austerity. All the same, the community appears to have been proficient in animal management, and that it made good use of a full range of livestock species, both for meat and secondary products. The prevalence of sheep is almost certainly linked to the production of wool, and the village may have been part of the local trade and exchange network during the medieval and later periods.

## 13.5 Environmental Assessment – Rachel Ballantyne

*A single waterlogged sample from the base of a riverside ditch or stream includes flax retting waste and a broad range of wild flora and fauna. Corncockle seed coat fragments may indicate human faeces. The local environment was open, damp grassland with*



patches of more scrubby vegetation. Mollusc shells indicate very slow-flowing shallow water in the ditch or stream. Other hand-collected wood and root fragments are likely to represent trees and woody shrubs growing nearby. One fragment of worked wood is the remains of a square peg. There is good potential for radiocarbon, insect and pollen analyses.

### 13.5.1 Methodology

One bulk sample has been assessed from Trench one at Bures Common, from the waterlogged deposits at the base of the trench (36). A subsample was washed through a stack of 4mm, 2mm, 1mm, 500µm and 300µm sieves. The flots were then sorted wet under a Leica MS5 (x6.3 – x50) binocular microscope. A further 6 litre subsample was washed over a 4mm sieve for artefact recovery, and a 5 litre subsample flotation sieved over 300 µm and archived.

Waterlogged wood fragments collected by hand during excavation were thin-sectioned using a razor blade. Transverse (TS), radial (RLS) and tangential (TLS) sections were temporarily mounted with distilled water on glass slides, for examination under a Nikon Labophot 2 microscope at x100–x200 magnification.

Full raw data is summarised in Table 1 at the end of this report. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for plants and Beedham (1972) for molluscs. Identifications were made using the reference collections of the Pitt-Rivers Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Division of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

### Preservation

Both waterlogged and charred plant remains are present. The few charred plants may have been brought by water from elsewhere. Good waterlogging only occurs below 1.80m depth (in fill 35), where hand-collected wood is consistently identifiable to taxon. Many of the wood and root fragments from 1.70–1.80m depth are poorly preserved with numerous microscopic fungal bodies. There are low to moderate quantities of insect exoskeletons, mostly of beetles (Coleoptera) that represent the local environment. Mollusc shells and ostracod valves (tiny aquatic crustaceans) are well preserved and represent solely the aquatic environment.

### 13.5.2 Results

#### *Plant macrofossils and invertebrates*

All of the waterlogged macrofossils and invertebrates are from bulk sample <1> at 2.10m depth in basal fill 36. There is a single charred grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). The range of waterlogged seeds represents terrestrial plants likely to have grown on the ditch/stream banks and surrounding land (allochthonous), and aquatic/semi-aquatic plants that would have grown in the wet base (autochthonous).

A number of the plants are notable as they suggest human activity. Flax seeds and capsules (*Linum usitatissimum*; Figure 1) are likely to represent debris from retting in the ditch/stream itself. Human faeces are suggested by tiny fragments of corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), and perhaps also by seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus* subgen. *Rubus*). Even if the latter two plants do not represent faeces, both are often found growing on disturbed land at the margins of settlements.

The most abundant plant remains are fragments of wood and twigs, with occasional delicate leaf fragments illustrating good preservation. In contrast macrofossil evidence for trees or shrubs is limited, with no seeds and only a small number of flower bracts of willow or sallow (*Salix* sp.). This disparity may be a result of the formation processes – e.g. flood

events ‘flushing away’ the seeds – but excellent preservation of other small seeds suggests that the brushwood may have been brought from elsewhere in the local environment.

Seeds of stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp) and thistles (*Cardus/Cirsium* sp.) all suggest open disturbed ground. The first two taxa also indicate nutrient-enrichment, either from animal dung or other organic refuse. Buttercups (*Ranunculus acris/bulbosus/repens*) are more characteristic of open, damp grassland, especially pasture. Many of the other plant seeds are characteristic of damp, shady to open habitats, such as lesser chickweed (*Stellaria neglecta*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis* sp.). Plants likely to have grown on the ditch/stream banks include nodding bur-marigold (*Bidens cernua*), rushes (*Juncus* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*).

A range of aquatic to semi-aquatic plants illustrate that the water body was probably clean and still too slow-flowing. The more abundant species are pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.), horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*) and common club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*). There are also low numbers of bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subgen. *Batrachium*) and water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*).

The molluscs are exclusively aquatic types that represent the wet base of the ditch/stream, notably *Bithynia tentaculata*, *Bathymorphus contortus* and *Sphaerium/Psidium* sp. The wide range of aquatic molluscs indicates a continuously wet environment which is consistent with the good preservation by waterlogging of plants and insects. The snails *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula* do tolerate drying episodes but are present only in low quantities.

There is no clear evidence for stagnant conditions, such as water flea ephippia (winter eggs) that can become abundant in stressed aquatic environments. However the beetle remains have not been identified and may indicate otherwise.

#### *Hand-collected waterlogged wood*

##### 2.10m depth, fill 36

One fragment of alder roundwood (*Alnus* sp.), some fungal damage

##### 1.80–2.10m depth, fill 35

- A. One fragment of ash wood, *Fraxinus* sp., some fungal growth
- B. One fragment of willow/poplar wood (*Salix/Populus* sp.), heavy fungal growth
- C. One fragment of willow/poplar wood (*Salix/Populus* sp.)
- D. One indeterminate woody root fragment
- K. One fragment of ash wood, *Fraxinus* sp.
- L. One fragment of ash wood, *Fraxinus* sp., some fungal growth
- M. One fragment of ash wood, *Fraxinus* sp.

##### 1.70–1.80m depth, fill 35

- A. Multiple fragments of indeterminate wood or woody root
- B. One indeterminate woody root fragment
- C. One indeterminate wood fragment with bark, extensive fungal growth
- D. One fragment of probable willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus* sp.)
- E.F.G. Three fragments of indeterminate wood or woody root
- H.I.J. Three small fragments of indeterminate wood or woody root

Alder, ash and willow/poplar are often associated with damp soils and are consistent with the river-side setting, however only the willow/poplar has corresponding macrofossils (flower bracts) in basal fill 210. The poor preservation of wood from 1.70–1.80m depth suggests this is the seasonal limit of the water-table.

### *Worked wood*

The wet sieving of a further 6 litre sub-sample generated a single fragment of a probable square peg (Figure 19 & 20). The dimensions are 52mm length, with a cross-section that tapers gently from 19x17mm at one end to 15x15mm at the other. Superficial examination under a low-power microscope (x40) suggests that the peg is not oak, but possibly ash wood. The peg could have been used to hold two pieces of timber together, is likely to have been seated in a round hole, as this would have ensured a tight fit. The edges are not significantly compressed, however, suggesting that if used in this way, it was hardened by seasoning before use. Examination of the surface under a low-power microscope (x40) suggests that the peg is not oak, but possibly ash wood.

### *13.5.3 Discussion*

#### *Linen production*

Retting is an early stage of flax processing where the dried stems are soaked in pools of water to partially rot ('ret'), releasing the bast fibres from other stem tissues. Still pools or slow-flowing streams were traditionally favoured, with the flax soaked for up to 2 weeks (Boase 1918). Retting was smelly and therefore usually carried out on the margins of settlements. The resulting fibrous mass then needed to be dried and 'dressed' (by breaking, scutching and heckling) before it could be spun. This labour intensive process has often left waterlogged flax capsules, seeds and sometimes stems, notably at Middle Saxon Brandon (Carr *et al.* 1988), Late Saxon West Cotton (Campbell 1994) and many other riverside sites in Britain (Robinson 2003).

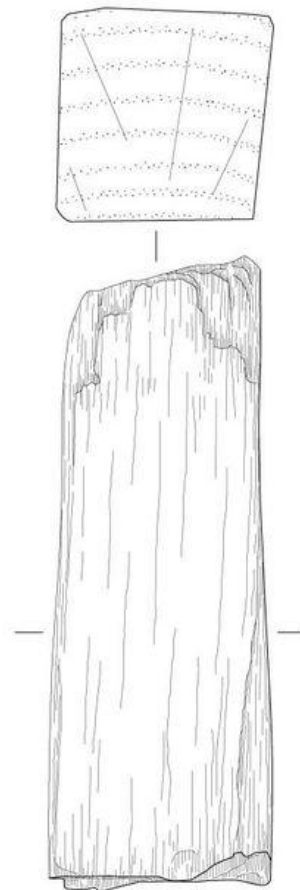
The wooden peg fragment may also be from flax retting. At West Cotton, Northants. (Campbell 1994), an oak peg fragment associated with waterlogged flax was interpreted as a means of holding the bundles of flax under the water. Radiocarbon dates on the flax and peg from this site indicated the 7-9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.



**Figure 18:** *Waterlogged flax capsule fragments and seeds from fill 36, 2.10m depth (scale in mm)*



**Figure 19:** *Waterlogged square peg fragment, probably of ash, in fill 36 depth 2.10m (scale also in mm) (above: photograph; below: drawing)*



BUR12 [36] Sample 1



The late medieval textile industry of the Stour Valley is discussed by Phythian-Adams (2002, 251), who describes regional specialism in the preparation of natural fibres such as wool, hemp, and flax followed by their spinning, weaving and manufacture into articles of clothing. In the post-medieval period these skills were extended to the finer cloths of the 'New Draperies' and then to silk weaving. Finally, in the nineteenth century, horsehair and coconut fibre were also processed before the Industrial Revolution led to the demise of this rural Suffolk industry.

There are sporadic references to flax processing in local historic records. For example, the Grade II listing for Hold Farmhouse on nearby Nayland Road (TL 92204 33974) mentions it as '...said to have been a flax mill. C16, C17, C19.' (British Listed Buildings website 2012). Further upstream on the Stour, the Bury and Norwich Post reported on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1877 an accident at Melford Flax Mill, and there is still a 'Flax Lane' in Glemsford that leads towards the confluence of the Rivers Stour and Glem.

#### *The local environment*

There is very limited evidence for human activities other than flax retting, on what appears to have been damp, rough grassland next to the River Stour. Low amounts of wood charcoal and a single charred barley grain could have been brought by water from elsewhere; although fragments of waterlogged corncockle seed-coat (testa) almost certainly

represent human faeces. Corncockle was a troublesome weed of medieval and post-medieval cereals, being difficult to remove from harvests as the seeds were of similar size and weight to cereal grain. As a result, the seeds were often a proportion of milled flour, were then consumed and the indigestible seed-coats were passed in faeces (*cf.* Clapham 2005). A few seeds of bramble and elder may also represent human/animal faeces or simply nearby vegetation.

There is a disjuncture between the waterlogged macrofossil and wood assemblages. Only willow or sallow (*Salix* sp.) is represented both as flower bracts in fill 36 and also as wood fragments from 1.70–2.10m depth. Neither the ash or alder roundwood fragments recovered below 1.80m depth have any corresponding waterlogged seeds, which suggests either the seeds had been ‘flushed away’ by flood water or that the wood was brought from elsewhere. The latter scenario is possible, given the excellent preservation of many other small seeds in the ditch/stream base. It may be that brushwood was introduced to manage the water flow for flax retting.

The apparent lack of water pollution, despite the evidence for flax retting, is consistent with the findings of Robinson (2003), who suggests that flowing water bodies were often used for retting rather than still to stagnant water.

#### 13.5.4 Significance and Recommendations

The plant and mollusc assemblage is of *local to regional significance* for reconstructing the past environment and economy of Bures St Mary, one of many historic villages along the Stour Valley. These remains would be of clearer regional significance should radiocarbon dating reveal that the flax retting is of medieval or earlier date. Unfortunately ambiguities in the radiocarbon calibration curve after AD 1600 mean that a later date may only be interpretable as ‘post-medieval’.

The good anoxic conditions below 1.80m depth show there is *excellent potential for pollen and insect analyses, should radiocarbon dating be successful*. The remainder of the sample has been processed – a further 0.4 litres for macrofossil analysis and 5 litres flotation sieved and refrigerated in case insect assessment is desirable.

Insects are very sensitive to local environments and human activity, providing a much richer picture than plant remains alone. Pollen analysis would require collection of a monolith or core during any future excavation; this could provide a landscape context for the other ecofacts.

#### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Richard Darrah for pre-sorting the hand collected waterlogged wood and providing a copy of his assessment report.



Feature type		Ditch/stream
Context		210
Sample number		<1>
Sample volume		10 litres
Sub-sample volume		400ml
Flot fraction assessed -%		100
Taxonomic name	English name/ mollusc habitat	
<b>CHARRED ECONOMIC PLANTS</b>		
<i>Hordeum vulgare sensu lato</i>	Barley grain	1
<b>CHARCOAL estimated volume</b>		
charcoal <4mm		< 1ml +
<b>WATERLOGGED ECONOMIC PLANTS AND RELATED TAXA</b>		
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L. seed	Flax	+
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L. capsule fragment	Flax capsule	++
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L. seed-coat fragment	Comcockle seed-coat fragments	+
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L. seed	Elder	*
<i>Rubus</i> subgen. <i>Rubus</i> seed	Bramble	*
<b>WATERLOGGED TERRESTRIAL FRUITS AND SEEDS</b>		
large <i>Ranunculus</i> cf. <i>bulbosus</i> L./ <i>acris</i> L./ <i>repens</i> L. achene	cf. Bulbous/Meadow/Creeping Buttercup	+
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L. achene	Lesser Spearwort	*
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L. seed	Stinging Nettle	*
<i>Chenopodium</i> spp. seed	Goosefoots	+
<i>Stellaria neglecta</i> Weihe seed	Greater Chickweed	*
<i>Rumex hydrophalum</i> Huds. achene	Water Dock	*
<i>Rumex</i> spp. small seed [<3mm]	Small-seeded Docks	+
<i>Salix</i> sp. bract	Willow flower fragment	+
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> (L.) Hoffm. mericarp	Cow Parsley	*
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i> L. mericarp	Rough Chervil	*
<i>Galeopsis</i> sp. nutlet	Hemp-nettles	*
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp. achene	Thistles	*
<i>Juncus</i> spp. seed	Rushes	+
Indeterminate seeds [<3mm]		
<b>WATERLOGGED AQUATIC AND SEMI-AQUATIC FRUITS AND SEEDS</b>		
<i>Ranunculus</i> Subgen. <i>BATRACHIUM</i> (DC.) A. Gray achene	Crowfoot	*
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i> (L.) Lag. mericarp	Foo's-water-cress	*
<i>Bidens cernua</i> L. achene	Nodding Bur-marigold	*
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. seed	Bogbean	*
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> L. seed	Water-plantain	*
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp. achene	Pondweed	+
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i> L.	Horned Pondweed	+
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i> (L.) Palla nut	Common Club-rush	+
<i>Eleocharis</i> cf. <i>palustris</i> (L.) Roem. & Schult. nut	Common Spike-rush	*
<i>Carex</i> spp. lenticular nut	True Sedges two-sided seed	*
<b>WATERLOGGED VEGETATIVE PLANT PARTS</b>		
Bryophyte fronds	Moss stems with leaflets	*
Indet. wood fragments		+++
Indet. twig fragments		++
Dicotyledonous leaf fragments		*
Monocotyledonous vegetative fragments	Grass/rush/sedge leaves and stems	+
Indeterminate rootlets		+
<b>OTHER BIOTA</b>		
Ostracod valves	Tiny aquatic crustacea	+
Coleopteran exoskeleton	Beetle exoskeleton fragments	+
Caddis fly larval case		+
Fish scale		*
Tiny fish vertebra		*
Fish bone		*
<b>AQUATIC MOLLUSC SHELLS</b>		
<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> (L.)	Quiet rivers and still water, not small ponds	++
<i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> (L.) operculum	Quiet rivers and still water, not small ponds	+
<i>Bithynia leachii</i> (Sheppard)	Slow flowing, thickly weeded water	*
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> (Müller)	Shallow waters & flooded pastures	*
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i> (Müller)	Marshy areas, incl. ponds, ditches, lake edges	*
<i>Lymnaea peregra</i> (Müller)	Many aquatic habitats	+
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i> (L.)	Ditches and ponds	+
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> Millet	Seasonal ponds and ditches	+
<i>Gyraulus albus</i> (Müller)	Amongst vegetation in many aquatic habitats	*
<i>Bathymophalus contortus</i> (L.)	Weed in flowing/still waters	++
<i>Sphaerium/Pisidium</i> sp.	Many aquatic habitats, usually flowing water	+++
<b>OTHER ITEMS</b>		
vivianite	Copper salt complex	*

Table 17: Waterlogged flora and mollusc shells from Bures Common (BUR/12)  
KEY: \* 1 or 2 items, + <10 items, ++ 10-50 items, +++ >50 items

## 13.6 Wood Samples – *Richard Darrah*

Around 15 pieces of preserved wood were recovered from the lower fills (35) and (36) of Trench two.

### 13.6.1 *Assessment*

A visual inspection of all the pieces after washing suggests that the pieces recovered from BUR/12 were typical of samples of natural but partly decayed and compressed wood. All the cut ends are modern, with the typical torn and smeared surface created when a tool cuts decayed wood. The other modern damage was a cut in the surface of one of the pieces described as planks, plus a modern tool corner cut into the lowest piece. Other ends were fresh breaks or decay. There was no evidence for cutting or shaping of any of the pieces, nor was there evidence of wood working in the form of wood chips. No animal damage was seen on any piece. (R Ballantyne has later identified a small fragment of a wooden peg from a 6-litre sub-sample that was sieved)

The sample was both too small and decayed to indicate woodland management. One piece was a halved log. But split surfaces occur naturally in woodlands. The level of preservation of this wood was poor both on the surface and internally. Some pieces will be too decayed to be identified to species.

The compression of the wood by the overburden has caused some pieces to be flattened, and this has probably led the excavator to be misled into calling these pieces planks. The quality of preservation suggests that any surrounding deposits will be equally poorly preserved and as such even if we were finding worked pieces of wood, rather than round wood, the evidence for of wood working will be distorted and impossible to record. This would lead me to suggest that there was no point in further excavation to recover further parts of these pieces of wood, despite the slight evidence that better preservation would be found deeper.

Species identification of Alder Ash and Willow/Poplar (appendix 13.5) is typical of the species to be expected falling into a ditch from surrounding trees. It would have been unusual to have found many cut ends in a sample of such short pieces from a narrow trench. A larger excavation might reveal that these were cut lengths of round wood but this would not enable any useful conclusion to be made as it would still be impossible to ascertain whether they had been washed into their current position by a natural event such as a flood or placed there deliberately by human action.

### 13.6.2 *Conclusion.*

The poor quality of preservation and the distortion by compression of these unworked pieces of round wood suggests that further excavation will only lead to the conclusion that there is a layer of decayed round wood at the bottom of the ditch. Even if cut ends were identified this would not lead to any different conclusion.

## 13.7 Other Finds – *Alex Pryor*

### 13.7.1 Finds from Trenches 1-3





Trench 1A	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
c. 20 (30-40cm)	clay pipe stem x27 =66g, clay pipe bowl =3g, thin grey tile x4 =37g, dirty grey tile glazed red =28g, curved red tile x3 =155g, flat red roof tile x4 =228g, pink/cream CBM x2 =27g, red CBM x22 =583g, Victorian pottery sherds x7 =7g	Complete brown glass bottle =332g, brown curved bottle glass x3 =37g, clear flat glass x9 =17g, thick green bottle glass x14 =137g, degraded thick green bottle glass x15 =192g, fresh bright coloured green bottle glass x9 =44g, curved clear container glass x6 =39g, degraded clear container glass, ancient? x8 =123g, clear glass cylinder, closed at one end and inscribed "MARSHALL"=17g, clear curved glass inscribed "GOODALL" =7g, degraded clear curved glass inscribed "ALB.." =7g	highly corroded flat circular metal tin with lid =40g, large corroded iron horse shoe =158g, metal disc with central rivet =21g, long thick corroded iron nails x2 =117g, corroded square iron nails x5 =78g, corroded round iron nails x10 =58g, corroded flat-head screwdriver blade? =29g, corroded iron unidentifiable lump x2 =35g, corroded iron rods with eye in the end x2 =77g, large corroded iron hook =79g, heavily corroded iron screw and metal clamp for hose pipe =23g, slag x25 =392g	flat square dirty cream stone slab =105g, lump of chalk rock =28g, slate x10 =119g, worked slate x3 =219g, coal x94 =267g	white plastic label with "LOWER YOUR HEAD WHEN LEAVING YOUR SEAT", and two holes for fastening =3g, part of central core of a battery =2g, oyster shell x4 =40g, whelk shell =8g
C. 22	Glazed red tile =14g, flat red roof slate =97g, flat red tile x40 =1,199g, curved red tile =40g, red CBM x44 =669g, square-rectangular red house brick fragments x7 =628g, thick cream/yellow tile x4 =464g, clay pipe bowl x2 =19g, thin clay pip stems x20 =31g, thick clay pipe stems x36 =177g	green curved container glass x8 =36g, degraded curved glass x2 =6g, degraded flat glass =2g, clear curved container glass x3 =22g, base of 10-sided clear glass vessel =128g, degraded green glass bottle neck =66g, lightly degraded black bottle glass x4 =172g	highly corroded iron rectangular object =190g, highly corroded iron nails? or thick rods x10 =320g, highly corroded long iron nails x2 =91g, short corroded iron nails x5 =42g, short square iron nails x2 =14g, corroded iron bolt =25g, slag x2 =279g, round metal buttons shaped as discs x3 =6g	coal x4 =21g, slate =2g	oyster shell x15 =149g
C. 23 (110-120cm)	cream CBM =6g, flat red tile x6 =300g	clear flat glass =12g	Copper disc with central slot (furniture foot?) =72g, corroded iron fixings x3 =54g, metal strap or fastening (bronze?) =20g		oyster shell =22g
C. 24	clay pipe bowl and stem =8g, red CBM x8 =56g, flat red tile x8 =290g, clay pipe stem x4 =7g, flat red tile x48 =1312g, flat red roof tile x2 =43g, dirty yellow tile glazed red =20g, dirty white tile =34g, thick red drain pipe x3 =230g, red brick fragments x7 =288g, red CBM x39 =241g	green bottle glass x15 =129g, clear flat glass x8 =21g, clear container glass x16 =63g, clear ancient (?) container glass x4 =46g, clear curved ancient (?) glass inscribed "LNER...ELD" =23g	slag =27g, corroded iron nails x2 =61g, corroded iron nails x9 =77g, corroded square iron washer =60g, multi-stranded corroded metal rod =21g, corroded iron door handle? =280g, thin corroded iron wire =2g, iron rods x2 =96g, banana-shaped flat iron bar =25g, corroded iron unidentified fragments, x22 =102g, slag mixed with gravel inclusions x10 =476g, large crumpled sheet of lead =481g, large corroded iron bar =237g	coal =1g, Slate x7 =55g, natural grey stones, granite? x2 =65g, coal x17 =64g	Oyster shells x3 =51g, mortar =8g, plastic white ball =3g, blue plastic fragments x2 =5g, white plastic fragments x3 =3g, white terracotta statue of woman with arms raised above head =9g, oyster shell fragments x8 =53g, freshwater mussel shells x5 =5g, marine

					shells x3 =25g
C. 25	Fragment of red house brick =56g, flat red tile x4 =137g, red CB =6g		slag =33g, highly corroded iron lumps x2 =20g		oyster shell =10g, freshwater mussel =3g

Trench 1A/B	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
c. 20 (20-30cm)	clay pipe bowl x2 =13g, curved red tile with black glazing =42g, thick white tile glazed dark red x5 =192g, dirty cream tile x4 =164g, curved red tile x6 =362g, red CBM x13 =162g, cubic fragment of red house brick with mortar =49g, flat red tile x38 =1,542g	blue container glass =4g, curved green bottle glass x7 =94g, curved clear glass x28=150g, flat clear glass x3= 5g	Corroded iron hinge fastening =143g, large corroded curved piece of iron with nails through it (large horse shoe?) =226g, corroded square iron nails x2 =26g, corroded round iron nail =5g, corroded thick iron cylinder =32g, corroded iron hook =20g, corroded metal belt buckle =4g, highly corroded flat sheet iron with holes punched through x12 =147g, slag x2 =69g	slate x5 =43g, stone gravel x3 =48g, large slab of coal x2 =401g, coal lumps x29 =142g	toughened plastic (?) bottle stopper =20g, mortar =24g, vivid yellow mortar? =17g, oyster shells x9 =106g, freshwater mussel shell x4 =4g, marine shell x2 =55g, snail shell =<1g

Trench 1B	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
Upper levels (unstratified)	red flat file x2 =41g, flat red roof tile (round hole) =85g, flat red tile glazed black =42g, clay pipe stem x4 =24g	Degraded curved glass =10g, nearly complete thick glass bottle inscribed "GROVER & ALLEN MINERAL WATER MANUFACTURER SUDBURY" "CODDS PATENT MAKERS RYLANDS & CODD BARNESLEY" =462g	flat round metal button =6g		oyster shells x3 =48g
C. 20 (other side of wall)	clay pipe stem =2g, flat red tile x2 =100g	green bottle glass x3 =202g, flat clear glass =4g, clear degraded (ancient?) glass x3 =51g, light green (ancient?) degraded glass x3 =19g	corroded square iron nail =67g, corroded iron nail =29g, corroded iron unidentified lumps x2 =37g	slate x3 =40g	Mortar =296g, oyster shell x11 =98g, freshwater mussel x10 =5g
C. 27	clay pipe stem x3 =13g, curved red drain fragment =234g, flat red tile x7 =395g, curved red roof tile =101g, fragments of red brick x2 =121g, curved red tile stamped "DG" =62g, red CBM x5 =39g	Clear glass complete small cylindrical bottle =30g, degraded green glass bottle neck and rim =91g, green bottle glass x9 =98g, clear curved thick glass inscribed "HINCHLIFFE...HEST" =68g, dark green round bottle base =189g	large flat iron ring, possible washer =38g, corroded square iron nail =10g, corroded iron rod x3 =24g, corroded iron curved flat bar =8g	slate x2 =102g, slate roof tile x2 =50g, coal =96g	oyster shells x8 =127g, marine shell x3 =82g, chalk lump =6g



C. 27 (40-50cm)	Tile discarded at site x9, brick discarded at site x5, dirty white tile glazed brown x3 =85g, red tile glazed black =11g, red brick fragments x4 =344g, red CBM x4 =50g, red curved drain pipe fragment =73g, yellow-cream tile =83g, yellow sandstone fragment =4g, flat red tile x11 =223g, clay pipe stem x6 =14g	brown curved glass =15g, cylindrical clear patterned glass vessel, nearly complete =121g, glass ball handle =9g, clear flat glass x4 =12g, curved clear glass fragment inscribed "SUFF" 28g, clear container glass x22 =180g, green curved glass x5 =21g, clear curved glass worked as a scraper? =9g, thick curved clear ancient (?) glass inscribed "1337" =32g, thick clear glass ancient (?) vessel base =79g	scrunched thin metal sheet =3g, corroded square iron nails x11 =152g, thin twisted metal wires x2 =2g, banana-shaped corroded iron tools (?) x2 =224g, rectangular flat corroded iron paddle or tool (?) =84g, corroded iron lumps x12 =41g, slag =5g	slate x2 =15g, coal x14 =15g	oyster fragment =5g, brown plastic clip =3g
C. 33 (80-100cm)	clay pipe stem x2 =8g, clay pipe stem and bowl =8g, bricks discarded at site x17, tile discarded at site x2, red flat tile x9 =217g, flat red roof tile (round hole) x2 =96g, red brick fragments x3 =338g	clear glass base and flute of a wine-glass-like vessel =26g, clear flat glass x2 =2g, curved clear container glass x7 =83g, degraded green (ancient?) bottle glass x5 =62g, dark green bottle glass x3 =103g	slag =13g, corroded iron rod =9g, corroded iron bolt x2 =25g, corroded iron metal part of a container with rim =6g, penny coin, dated 1778? =9g	coal x2 =65g	oyster fragments x4 =14g, modern wood x4 =<1g
C. 33 (west SHN, 100-130cm)	Flat red tile x3 =97g, red brick fragment =27g, cream-yellow brick fragment =275g, red tile or drain piece, with right-angled corner =314g	curved green glass =13g	flat corroded iron bar =63g, slag =116g		modern wood =6g, oyster fragment =6g
C. 34 (east sondage)	Bricks discarded at site x5, tiles discarded at site x4, clay pipe stem x2 =10g, red CBM x4 =20g	degraded green bottle glass x3 =11g, clear curved glass =3g	corroded iron unidentified lumps =21g, slag =26g		freshwater mussel =<1g
C. 35 (ditch, 150-160cm)	flat red tile =18g	clear curved glass =6g	corroded iron nail =7g		Oyster shell =7g
C. 36 (ditch, 170-180cm)	Flat red tile x5 =260g, curved red tile =70g, flat red roof tile x2 =78g, CBM =4g			coal x4 =<1g	
C. 39	curved red tile =131g, flat dark red/brown tile (burnt?) x4 =34g, clay pipe stem x5 =16g	Dark green bottle glass =11g, light green bottle glass =13g, clear flat glass x7 =28g, clear container glass x8 =115g, clear glass base of 12-sided vessel =74g		grey stone shaped for use in a building =295g	oyster shells x2 =23g

Trench 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
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c. 3 (30-50cm)	clay pipe stem x5 =11g, flat red tile with black glaze x2 =34g, red CBM x10 =126g, flat red roof tile x3 =261g, pinky cream flat tile =127g, fragment of red house brick =101g, flat red tile x32 =1,117g, curved red tile x2 =108g	base of thick green glass bottle x2 =321g, green bottle glass x7 =217g, degraded clear container glass =19g, clear flat glass =9g, clear container glass x7 =53g, clear glass bottle base =29g, clear round glass ball handle =8g	slag x3 =410g, corroded iron nails x8 =82g, corroded flat metal scraps x30 =46g, corroded iron unidentifiable fragments x4 =219g, scrap of corroded flat iron coated in blue and white plastic, piece of slightly corroded sheet-metal (tin?) label? =2g	Slate x6 =44g, coal x15 =75g	freshwater mussel shell x18 =21g, oyster x16 =98g, moulded blue plastic lid, inscribed "Whitefurze" =6g
c. 3 (50-70cm)	clay pipe stem x10 =23g, flat red roof tile x2 =135g, thin red half-brick =178g, red CBM x11 =151g, flat red tile x10 =232g, curved red drain with black glaze =37g, white glazed tile =4g, flat creamy-grey mortar-like tile =26g	flat clear glass x3 =5g, curved brown bottle glass =7g, dark green/black bottle glass x2 =56g, curved green bottle glass x6 =49g, curved clear container glass x22 =134g, corroded green bottle glass x5 =318g	round flat metal button =2g, flat corroded iron bar =20g, corroded iron nails x9 =102g, corroded square iron nails =14g	slate x2 =65g, coal x6 =33g	whelk shell =9g, oyster shell x2 =27g, freshwater mussel fragments x23 =30g
c. 3 (70-90cm)	curved red drain =74g, flat red tile with white glaze =5g, curved red tile =36g, flat red tile =35g, red CBM x2 =20g, clay ball =8g, clay pipe stem x3 =6g	blue container glass x2 =3g, green curved bottle glass x5 =104g, flat clear glass =2g, clear curved thick container glass x14 =346g	highly corroded iron lumps x4 =92g, highly corroded iron horse shoe =42g, highly corroded iron nail =9g, highly corroded iron rod x3 =25g, multi-stranded copper wire =<1g, metal end of shotgun cartridge =2g	slate =10g, coal x12 =28g	oyster shell =4g, freshwater mussel x9 =8g, black Bakelite (?) tube inscribed ".O—C. CONRADTY NU.." =8g
c. 3 (90-110cm)	red glazed tile =10g, complete decorated clay pipe bowl =11g, clay pipe stem x7 =17g, flat red roof tile x3 =106g, cream/brown tile =35g, red CBM x11 =173g, flat red tile x14 =529g, Victorian pottery sherds x7 =22g	clear flat glass x6 =12g, clear curved container glass x16 =119g, curved green glass x2 =8g, curved green bottle glass x9 =214g, corroded green glass bottle neck =77g, brown bottle glass x4 =53g, blue container glass x37 =74g	part of a corroded iron horseshoe =50g, corroded iron unidentified lump =27g, corroded iron cylinder with ball on the end (handle?) =348g, corroded iron nails x7 =103g	coal x5 =21g, quartz lump =7g, slate x2 =20g	Heel of a leather shoe with nailed soles – 11g, lid of a jar (?) made of brown plastic and metal =24g, snail =5g, freshwater mussel shell x5 =6g, whole oyster shell x5 =78g
C.4 (30-50cm)	clay pipe stem x5 =17g, fragment of red house brick =97g, curved red tile with black glaze =115g, flat red tile with black glaze =43g, flat red roof tile x2 =135g, flat red tile x24 =786g, pink/brown tile =12g, flat red	clear flat glass x10 =30g, thick green bottle glass x6 =371g, clear curved bottle glass x11 =101g, heavily corroded curved glass bottle x2 =22g	Heavily corroded iron strap or band 69g, slag x2 =490g, corroded iron unidentifiable lump =240g, heavily corroded iron nails x9 =80g	coal x10 =200g, slate x4 =126g, black quartzite stone =30g, triangular white stone slab =355g, yellowish white decorated stone construction materials x2	freshwater mussel shell x4 =7g, oyster shell x19 =133g, metal tube filled with pinkish material (grit or plaster?) =6g, modern wood x3 =<1g, electric lamp in heavy metal casing

	tile with white glaze =114g, curved red tile x2 =117g, red CBM x6 =45g			=385g	with screw fitting inscribed "THE AJAX COMPANY" and "BURY ST EDS NO3" =394g
C.4 (50-70cm)	clay pipe stem x2 =4g, flat red tile =24g, flat red roof tile =125g, cream flat tile =86g, cream flat half brick =184g	clear curved container glass =20g, curved green glass =18g, clear flat glass =6g, corroded black glass =2g, clear thick glass bottle base =218g	metal electrical fixing? =4g, whole metal desert spoon =64g, highly corroded unidentified iron lumps x5 =171g, corroded twisted multi-stranded metal cable =34g, corroded iron nails x5 =19g, corroded square iron nails x3 =36g, bent metal tube =4g	Slate x5 =61g	freshwater mussel shell x6 =13g, oyster shell x8 =70g
C.4 (70-90cm)	creamy/yellow flat tile =50g, flat red roof tile and mortar x2 =196g, flat red tile with black glazing x4 =196g, flat red tile x8 =403g, flat coarse-grained tile =82g, red CBM x3 =88g, clay pipe bowl =5g, clay pipe stem =7g	blue curved glass =4g, clear flat glass x4 =18g, clear curved container glass x7 =114g, corroded large green glass bottle base in 3 pieces =498g	heavily corroded rounded iron bars x6 203g, corroded iron flat plates x2 =45g, corroded iron horseshoe =13g, corroded iron nails x4 =30g, flat corroded copper/bronze disc (coin?) =5g	Slate x4 =62g, coal x11 =37g	cockle shell =3g, freshwater mussel shell x8 =10g, oyster shell =128g, central core and part of outer casing of a battery =20g
C.4 (90-110cm)			slightly corroded flat round metal disc (coin?) =7g	Slate =28g	freshwater mussel shell =5g
C.6 (brown silt)	clay pipe stem =<1g, square lump of red house brick =180g, flat red tile x7 =258g, curved red tile x3 =317g	Corroded curved clear glass =3g	corroded iron bar =14g, corroded curved iron tool =9g, corroded square iron nail =77g		dirty white mortar x4 =12g, snail =2g, oyster shell =16g

<b>Trench 3</b>	<b>Ceramic (excluding pottery)</b>	<b>Glass</b>	<b>Metal &amp; metal-working</b>	<b>Stone</b>	<b>Other</b>
Spoil heap (unstratified)	clay pipe stem x13 =42g, cream-yellow flat tile x6 =125g, curved yellow tile =8g, red brick fragments x6 =697g, flat red tile x51 =2090g, curved red tile x7 =596g, flat red roof tile x5 =439g, curved red roof tile (round hole) =101g, curved red roof tile (square hole) =214g, curved red masonry shaped for use in a building =133g, red CBM x41 =387g, fragments of red house bricks x5 =1966g, tile discarded on site x17, brick discarded	green glass bottle base x2 =414g, dark green bottle glass x22 =329g, light green container glass x7 =93g, clear flat glass x23 =85g, curved brown glass =2g, clear mixed container glass x28 =223g, clear flat ancient? glass = 1g, curved green ancient? glass =2g, degraded curved green glass x7 =42g, degraded green glass bottle base =338g, brown bottle glass =4g, complete clear patterned round glass jar inscribed "SHIPPAMS" =85g, clear glass base of cylindrical vessel	bullet cartridge =14g, corroded flat round metal button =1g, corroded iron lump =5g, large corroded square iron nail =75g, corroded iron nails x9 =96g, mixed corroded iron rods x13 =191g, lead pipe fragment =2g, copper (?) circular flat patterned disc =10g, heavily corroded iron U-shaped bar =111g, corroded metal belt buckle =8g, metal multi-	slate x32 =787g, fragment of grey stone (granite?) =19g, coal x21 =41g, slate discarded on site x4	Mature oyster shells x5 =317g, oyster shell fragments x49 =343g, salt-water mussel shell fragments x2 =3g, freshwater mussel fragments x31 =32g, snail shell =5g, dirty white mortar =42g, fragment of corroded car tyre =118g

	on site x3, red curved tile with green glazing =20g	=40g, base of clear patterned glass 5-sided vessel =159g, dark green bottle glass inscribed "EDMU" =43g, 6-sided complete clear glass bottle with remains of foil seal, inscribed "BOOTH'S DISTILLERIES LTD" =75g, clear patterned glass base of oval-shaped container =178g	stranded cable in metal casing =5g, heavily corroded flat iron plating =13g, heavily corroded unidentified iron lumps x12 =79g, slag =45g		
C. 13 (bottom of trench at 90cm)	flat red tile x20 =1342g, curved red tile x2 =379g, flat red roof tile (round hole) x2 =467g, red brick fragments x3 =234g, tile discarded on site x4	clear glass base of vase, with central stem or glass =58g, clear flat glass =2g, green glass bottle base =149g, ancient clear curved glass =3g	corroded base of metal can =53g, corroded iron rod =35g	Slate x3 =178g	freshwater mussels x3 =11g, oyster x7 =81g
C. 13 (2nd sondage, grey silt)	Red CBM x3 =12g, flat red tile x2 =65g, tile discarded on site x6, brick discarded on site x5	curved green glass x3 =7g	heavily corroded iron unidentified lump =9g	slate discarded on site x1	oyster shell fragments x2 =12g
C. 14 (1st sondage, 0-20cm)		red CBM x2 =34g, clay pipe stem =3g		Coal =37g	oyster shell =33g
C. 15 (2nd sondage, black silt)	flat red roof tile (square hole) =26g, flat red tile x3 =125g, red brick fragment =85g, clay pipe stem =6g	green glass bottle base =135g, curved green container glass =8g, clear flat glass =88g, clear glass base of vase or wine glass with bottom of stem =21g		Coal =12g	oyster shell =9g
C. 16 (orange silt)	red CBM x13 =55g, curved red tile glazed green x2 =65g, curved red tile glazed black =66g, flat red tile x21 =1365g, flat red roof tile =105g, tile discarded at site x28, brick discarded at site x10, clay pipe stem x3 =19g, red brick fragment =110g	Green bottle glass =24g, clear bottle glass =8g, clear glass bottle neck and rim =18g	Copper alloy finger ring; highly corroded iron unidentified lumps x2 =46g, soft lead tube fragment =5g	slate x3 =33g, coal =<1g	corroded iron and asphalt roofing conglomerate =55g, modern concrete =18g, oyster shell x6 =67g, freshwater mussel x3 =6g
C. 17	Clay pipe stem =4g, red glazed tile =5g, red ancient? brick fragments x3 =451g, modern brick fragments x4 =451g, red CBM x2 =9g, curved red tile =29g, flat red tile x7 =165g	flat clear glass =5g, curved clear glass =4g, curved green glass =7g	heavily corroded iron unidentified lumps x2 =68g, heavily corroded square iron lumps =21g	flat pumice stone? =37g, slate x4 =82g	freshwater mussel shell =2g, complete snail shells x2 =5g, modern black concrete with mixed gravel inclusions =366g
C. 18 (1st sondage, below 20cm)	Red CBM =2g, flat red roof tile (round hole) =110g.				

### 13.7.2 Finds from test pits



Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem =3g, red curved tile, burnt? =66g, dirty white CBM =27g, grey/cream curved tile glazed brown =21g	green bottle glass =6g, clear flat glass x2 =2g, clear container glass x4 =49g	corroded iron nails x3 =25g	coal x3 =10g, slate x7 =101g	white plastic container fragment =4g
C. 2	clay pipe stem =2g, cream tile decorated with ridges =22g, cream tile =1g, cream tile glazed red =1g	clear flat glass =1g, clear curved glass x2 =3g, two pieces of burnt clear glass stuck together =1g	banana-shaped flat corroded iron =4g, corroded iron rods x3 =17g, slag =3g, Victorian-era pot with slag deposits attached =3g	coal x3 =4g	white plastic container fragments =1g, flat mortar sections =12g, shell x2 =1g
C. 3		clear container glass =10g	corroded iron nails x2 =8g	slate x3 =8g, coal =1g	
C. 4	clay pipe stem =1g	curved clear glass =2g	slag? =5g, round hollow metal (aluminium?) button =1g, thin iron rod =5g, square iron nails x2 =68g	slate x2 =20g, coal x4 =3g	
C. 5	cream CBM =16g, clay pipe stem x6 =11g	clear curved glass x2 =5g, clear flat glass =3g	corroded iron nails x6 =38g	slate x3 =41g, slate with green glazing =6g, coal =5g	oyster shell fragment =1g, round white plastic button with 4 holes =1g
C. 6	clay pipe stem x3 =9g	curved clear glass =4g, flat clear glass x2 =6g, ancient clear container glass =1g	corroded iron part of a handle for a tool? =4g, corroded iron nail x3 =27g, corroded square iron nail =22g		green plastic fragment =1g, thin graphite cylinder =2g
C. 7	clay pipe stem =4g	green bottle glass =4g	corroded iron nail x4 =58g, corroded iron lump =15g, metal round patterned button =3g		oyster shell fragment =4g
C. 8	clay pipe stem x2 =4g, clay pipe bowl x2 =13g, red brick fragment =20g	flat clear glass =2g, curved clear glass =1g	square corroded iron nail =33g, corroded iron nail =9g		
C. 9	flat red tile =5g, cream CBM =9g	clear flat glass x2 =13g, clear curved glass =1g, green bottle glass =2g			mortar =11g, freshwater mussel shell =1g
C. 10	curved red tile =61g, clay pipe stem x3 =7g	degraded flat glass x2 =3g, clear flat glass =1g, clear container glass =2g, green bottle glass =5g		coal =2g	
C. 11		degraded flat clear glass x2 =1g, clear container glass =1g	corroded iron nail x8 =63g, corroded square iron bolt x2 =80g		
C. 12	clay pipe stem x2 =4g		corroded iron fragments =3g		oyster shell =12g

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	cream tile x3 =72g	green bottle glass =2g	modern nail x2 =17g	slate x4 =76g	
C. 3	cream tile x2 =46g, flat red tile x2 =21g, curved red tile =32g, red brick fragments x2 =75g, flat grey-cream textured tile x9 =206g, curved grey-cream textured tile x9 =505g	clear flat glass x6 =74g, clear curved glass x6 =30g	corroded iron rod =8g, corroded iron nail =18g	coal =2g, tessera-style square black cube =4g, slate x22 =290g	plaster board fragment? =1g, blue plastic fragments =1g, dark brown flat plastic fragments =3g, chalk fragment =12g
C. 4	red tile shaped for use in a building =227g	green bottle glass neck and lip =47g	corroded iron fragments x4 =39g	slate =103g, coal =12g	
C. 5	dirty grey tile =73g	curved green glass =3g, base and neck of green glass bottle =96g, clear flat glass x2 =11g	corroded iron flat sheeting =3g, corroded iron flat heavy band =179g, corroded iron nail =2g	coal =4g, slate x2 =205g	corroded rubber sheeting fragment =18g, black plastic disc with central hole =2g, mortar x2 =10g, cement =25g
C. 6	cream/yellow tile =13g, thick cream tile glazed dark red x3 =60g	blue container glass x2 =5g, green container glass x11 =118g, degraded green bottle glass =18g, clear flat glass x8 =62g, clear container glass x11 =73g, ancient (?) clear container glass =172g	metal strap bent into a circle =205g, corroded metal bolt =29g, corroded metal sheeting =5g, corroded metal flat banana-shaped piece =13g, corroded iron nail =5g, corroded metal fragments x2 =3g, red tin foil bottle top = <1g	slate x2 =36g, coal =10g	clear plastic shard =1g, brown plastic shard =2g, blue plastic fragment =1g, central core and part of casing of battery =9g, chalk fragment =7g, grey mortar =9g, grey plastic coating from an electrical wire =1g
C. 7	flat red tile =38g, curved red tile =76g, grey tile x2 =31g, red CBM x2 =33g	complete clear glass cylindrical pot, inscribed "23" on base =59g, complete clear glass cylindrical jar =408g, degraded green bottle glass =6g, green bottle glass x4 =8g, black curved glass =7g, blue container glass x2 =5g, clear container glass x15 =51g, clear flat glass x5 =27g	corroded coiled metal rod =34g, corroded metal screw-thread bolt =17g, six-sided corroded metal bolt with screw thread =75g, long corroded metal rod with black plastic washer =74g, corroded metal rod with bent head like a tent peg, with screw thread at bottom end =54g, metal six-inch nail =25g, corroded square iron nails x2 =22g, corroded iron lumps x2 =14g	coal x3 =81g, slate roof tile =68g, slate x7 =183g	blue plastic x2 =4g, white and brown plastic = <1g, snail shell =1g, whelk shell =2g, broken cream plastic comb =13g, rigid black plastic tube =8g
C. 8	dirty white tile =25g, flat red tile =124g, clay pipe stem =2g	ancient (?) green curved glass =2g, green curved glass x3 =9g, curved brown glass =3g, clear container glass x16 =26g, clear flat glass x11 =50g	corroded metal square bent nail =101g, corroded iron rod =3g, complete corroded metal padlock =352g	coal x3 =5g	modern wood =2g





C. 9		curved green glass =7g, clear container glass x3 =25g, clear flat glass x4 =24g	corroded square iron nail =25g, corroded square iron rod =5g, corroded iron rod with supports, used as a bracket? =32g, corroded iron scraps x14 =18g		oyster shell =6g, blue plastic fragment =1g, white and brown curved plastic =6g, clay ball =2g
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Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	red CBM x3 =11g, curved red tile =32g, red tile glazed black =6g, clay pipe stem and part of bowl =12g, clay pipe stem x7 =18g	clear container glass x3 =20g, curved clear glass x2 =5g, clear container glass, ancient? =9g, black curved glass =6g, degraded green glass bottle neck and rim =37g, clear ancient glass bottle neck and rim =19g	large flat corroded iron band =161g, corroded iron lumps x10 =54g, corroded iron nail =9g	coal x3 =56g, slate x3 =68g	corroded asphalt x3 =19g, white mortar =4g, degraded leather buckle strap =4g
C. 4	complete clay pipe bowl =20g, clay pipe stem x9 =23g, fragment of red brick =36g, flat red tile x2 =321g, red CBM x2 =36g, red CBM x2 =23g, pink CBM =2g, yellow/cream tile x4 =51g	clear curved glass =14g, clear flat glass =5g, clear container glass =2g, degraded clear ancient glass =<1g, green curved glass x7 =32g, green bottle glass =52g, black curve glass =5g	corroded curved metal (copper) sheeting x3 =5g, flat corroded iron pieces x5 =41g, large lumps of unidentified corroded iron x4 =229g	coal x4 =18g	chalk lumps x5 =51g, mortar =7g, corroded asphalt sheeting x4 =13g
C. 5	curved red tile =56g, dirty cream tile x2 =106g, clay pipe stem =3g	clear curved glass =<1g	corroded iron fragments x2 =10g, corroded iron flat bar, sword shaped x2 =158g	coal =4g	mortar =42g
C. 7	brown-cream tile fragments =9g, red roof tile =20g, red CBM =3g, clay pipe stem with corroded iron stuck to it =5g	hollow clear glass cylinder open at one end =7g, green glass base of rectangular vessel =43g, green bottle glass x5 =121g			oyster x3 =3g, shaped white mortar =72g
C. 8	red CBM =6g				flat mortar slab =7g

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	dirty white CBM =27g, dark pink flat tile x2 =37g, flat red tile x7 =132g, curved red tile =24g, cream/yellow CBM x17 =106g, red CBM x36 =161g	green bottle glass =2g, clear container glass x6 =38g, clear container glass inscribed "CCES.... FORNIA" =6g			dirty white mortar x4 =14g



C. 3	clay pipe stem =4g, red CBM x4 =21g, red brick fragments x3 =420g, dirty cream/grey brick fragment =249g	corroded green bottle glass =50g, part of a flat clear glass disc, possibly a base of a glass vessel =10g, clear flat glass x6 =20g, green glass bottle necks and rims x3 =264g, clear glass rim and neck of large bottles or jars x3 =274g, green bottle glass x28 =440g, clear container glass x75 =696g, clear glass base inscribed "084" =80g, clear (ancient?) container glass x7 =95g	slag with gravel inclusions x4 =703g, curved metal plate =205g, modern corroded nails x2 =22g, bronze (?) metal tag =3g	slate x3 =22g	dirty cream/grey mortar full of inclusions or brick and gravel x4 =682g, brown ceramic electrical insulator (?) inscribed "ENTED... T. BRITAI... OS 402474 366211 350615" lump of chalk =37g
C. 4	flat red tile =33g, red brick fragments x2 =48g, red CBM x3 =29g, cream CBM =2g, curved red tile =9g	green bottle glass x4 =179g, clear container glass x3 =39g, part of base and sides of a clear glass container, inscribed "...S SEWC JULY 23-94", clear flat glass x7 =32g, complete green glass wine bottle =1042g	small metal (copper?) hollow cylinder =<1g, corroded iron nail =9g, slag with gravel inclusions x10 =173g	coal =7g, slate x4 =36g, dark purple stone shaped for use =16g	graphite pencil? =<1g, flat cream mortar slabs x2 =41g
C. 5	curved red tile =9g, flat red tile x2 =58g, flat red roof tile =32g, red house brick fragment =33g, dirty white tile =48g, red CBM x10 =112g, clay pipe stem x2 =2g	degraded green curved glass =2g, clear flat glass x7 =11g, clear container glass x6 =20g, clear (ancient?) container glass =12g, green container glass x7 =33g	slag x7 =161g, slag with pottery embedded =6g, corroded square iron nail x2 =30g	coal x10 =34g, slate x8 =40g	oyster shell fragment =1g
C. 6	red CBM =5g, flat red roof tile x4 =280g, curved red tile x3 =340g, clay pipe stem x2 =4g	clear flat glass x3 =10g, corroded green curved glass x3 =9g, curved green glass =6g, part of a clear glass disc, base or stand of a vessel =5g, clear container glass x6 =29g	corroded iron pipe or tube x4 =95g, corroded unidentified iron lumps x3 =167g, corroded iron nails x2 =6g	coal x12 =81g, slate x12 =345g, slate roof tile with corroded metal nail =335g	white mortar =11g
C. 7	red tile with right-angle turn glazed red =168g, red half-brick fragment =143g, yellow/cream flat tile =13g, cream/yellow half brick =476g, flat red tile =131g, flat red roof tile (round hole) x2 =268g, flat red roof tile (square hole) =88g, yellow-orange half brick, partly burnt =767g, clay pipe stem =<1g.	clear flat glass x7 =40g, clear container glass x5 =69g	corroded iron scraps x7 =56g	coal x4 =75g, slate x5 =155g	shell =3g
C. 8	grey tile glazed on one face =14g, yellow tile, patterned with squares =94g, flat red roof tile =34g, curved red tile x3 =153g, flat red tile =20g, clay pipe stem x5 =12g	degraded green curved glass =2g, clear flat glass x14 =38g, clear container glass x2 =7g, green container glass x3 =17g	corroded iron pipe/tube =74g, corroded iron lump with 1 flat surface =16g, corroded iron nails x4 =23g, corroded square iron nail =5g	coal x8 =30g, slate x6 =115g	opaque frosted plastic part of a container =12g, snail shell =2g, oyster fragments x9 =10g



C. 9	clay pipe bowl x5 =8g, clay pipe stem x4 =6g, flat red tile x2 =122g	clear flat glass =14g, curved green glass =4g, clear container glass x2 =4g, rim of (ancient?) large glass jar or bottle =66g	corroded square iron nails x4 =58g, corroded iron nail fragments x7 =23g	coal x2 =10g, slate =7g	corroded asphalt x2 =7g, large dried flower head or seed =4g, snail shell =<1g, moulded white plastic? =3g, oyster fragments and lots of shell dust x27 =37g
C. 10	flat red tile x4 =99g, red CBM =5g, cream/yellow tile x3 =44g, clay pipe stem x4 =21g, clay pipe stem and bowl =17g	clear flat glass =6g,	iron U-shaped square iron bar =92g, corroded iron nails =18g	slate x3 =30g, coal x6 =4g	mortar x2 =2g, oyster fragments x8 =29g,
C. 11	flat red tile =15g, slate =50g	degraded green glass =6g			
C. 12	flat red roof tile =32g, curved red tile =61g	clear flat glass x2 =2g, clear (ancient?) container glass =5g, degraded fragment of green glass =<1g	corroded iron scraps x7 =14g	coal x5 =9g	

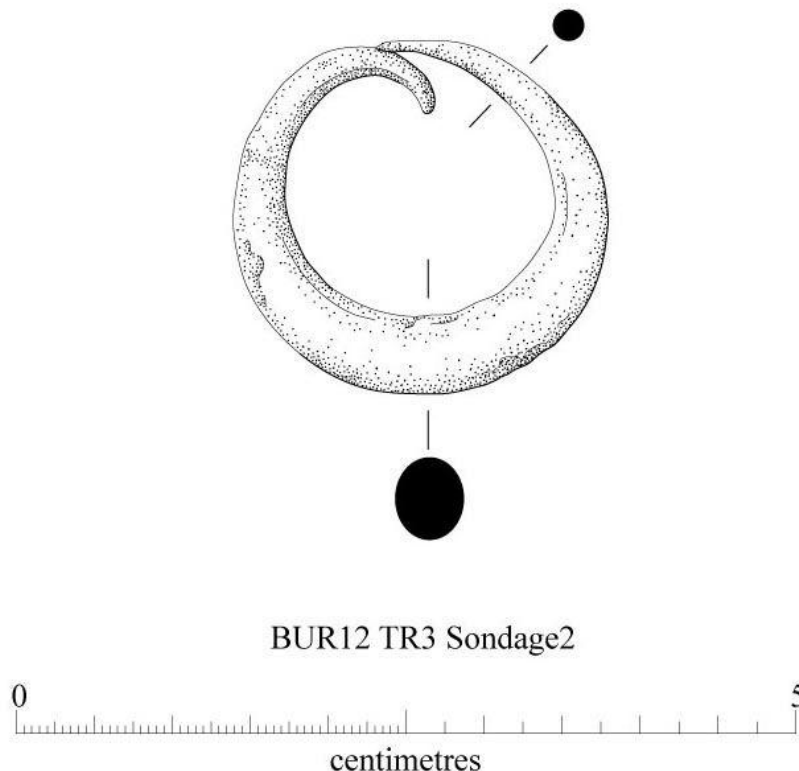
Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile =4g	degraded ancient clear glass fragments =3g, clear container glass x7 =49g			
C. 2		clear container glass x5 =40g, yellow container glass =2g			
C. 3	curved red tile =43g	light blue curved glass =4g, light green curved (ancient?) glass =2g	corroded rectangular metal tool? =53g, sturdy metal device with screw hole for attaching things to walls? =53g		
C. 5	clay pipe stem and bowl =7g	corroded green bottle glass =12g	round flat plastic button =2g		
C. 6	clay pipe stem x2 =5g	ancient clear flat glass =1g	round corroded metal button, ancient? =2g		oyster fragment =<1g
C. 7	red brick fragment =93g, flat red tile x2 =73g, red CBM =11g, clay pipe bowl =14g, clay pipe stem x7 =21g		round corroded metal washed or ring =5g		
C. 8	red CBM =3g, flat red tile x3 =14g				
C. 9	flat red tile =42g, yellow/cream flat tile =28g, clay pipe bowl fragment =<1g	curved green glass =2g, clear container glass x2 =3g			snail shell =<1g
C. 10	clay pipe stem =<1g	degraded green ancient curved glass =6g, clear container glass x3 =4g, clear (ancient?) glass bottle lip =4g, green glass bottle base =10g	thin corroded iron nail =2g, corroded square iron nail =46g		

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 2	cream curved tile =17g, red tile =17g	clear flat glass =16g, clear glass base of 7-sided vessel =42g, green bottle glass x2 =29g			oyster shells x2 =21g, baked clay lump =3g
C. 3	flat red tile x2 =25g		corroded square iron nail =10g	coal =1g	oyster fragments x2 =3g
C. 4			slag with gravel inclusions =27g		
C. 5	red CBM =2g			coal =<1g	freshwater mussel shell x8 =<1g, snail shell x6 =2g
C. 6				coal x3 =43g	freshwater mussel x2 =3g, whelk shell =2g, shell x2 =2g

### 13.7.3 Copper Alloy ring from Trench three. Helen Geake

A copper-alloy finger-ring of late Anglo-Saxon date and Anglo-Scandinavian culture-zone was found in Trench three in orange silt (16) near the base of the trench. The ring measures approximately 24.7 mm in external width and 22.7 mm in external height (back of hoop to front). It is made from a single piece of metal, circular in cross-section, which tapers from 5mm in diameter at the front of the ring to sharp points at the overlapping ends. One end has bent in so that the ring is unwearable, but this has not apparently caused any stress to the metal. The surface is rough and corroded and there is no decoration visible. it weighs 5.9g.

The undecorated penannular finger-ring with tapering ends is a common type of Anglo-Scandinavian finger-ring. It is very occasionally found in silver (e.g. NMS-E26C94, with characteristically Scandinavian hammer marks on the reverse) or gold (e.g. KENT-565E76, with ends hammered together and a peck-mark made in antiquity to check the quality of the metal). But it is much more commonly found made from copper alloy, with 35 examples illustrated on the PAS database. Of these, most are from Norfolk (11 examples) or Suffolk (15 examples, including one from Hessett, SF-07FB63). Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire have produced two each; other counties (Essex, Bucks, Berks, Hants, South Yorks) have one each.



**Figure 20:** *Drawing of copper alloy ring found in Trench three (16) on Bures Common in 2012.*

This type of artefact is known in Scandinavia from the late 9<sup>th</sup> century, and appears to have continued in use in Denmark into the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, with a late example from Græse made from hollow rolled gold sheet (Lindahl, 2003, 74, no. 4, and fig. 3). Rings which have simply overlapped ends and are thicker at the front are also typical of the Viking period in Gotland (Thunmark-Nylén 1998, pl. 143: 2, 4, and 9).

James Graham-Campbell suggests that the silver and gold examples may have been produced to a standard weight and may, along with arm- and neck-rings, represent a convenient way of storing bullion on the body (1980, 30). Where they are found in graves they tend to be still in place on the finger. An alternative identification as ear-rings is unlikely, as ear-rings did not form part of Viking dress fashions, perhaps due to hair or veil styles obscuring the ears.

Excavated examples from England are few, but include several from 11th-century contexts in Thetford (A. Goodall in Rogerson and Dallas 1984, fig.110, nos. 17-21) and 11th- to 13th-century contexts in Norwich (Margeson 1993, no. 1, where the dating of the Thetford contexts is also explained). Despite the lack of earlier contexts, it seems likely that they were probably in use at much the same time as the Scandinavian examples, i.e. late 9th to early 12th century.

## 13.8 Maps

Much of the value of the test pit data from currently occupied rural settlements is derived from a holistic consideration across the entire settlement. Maps showing a range of the data from the test pits excavated in Bures in 2012 are included below. These may be read in conjunction with relevant sections of the main report. Some of these maps are available

online at <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/burescommon.html> and these can be used, if wished, to prepare maps showing the distribution of other classes of data not depicted in this appendix.

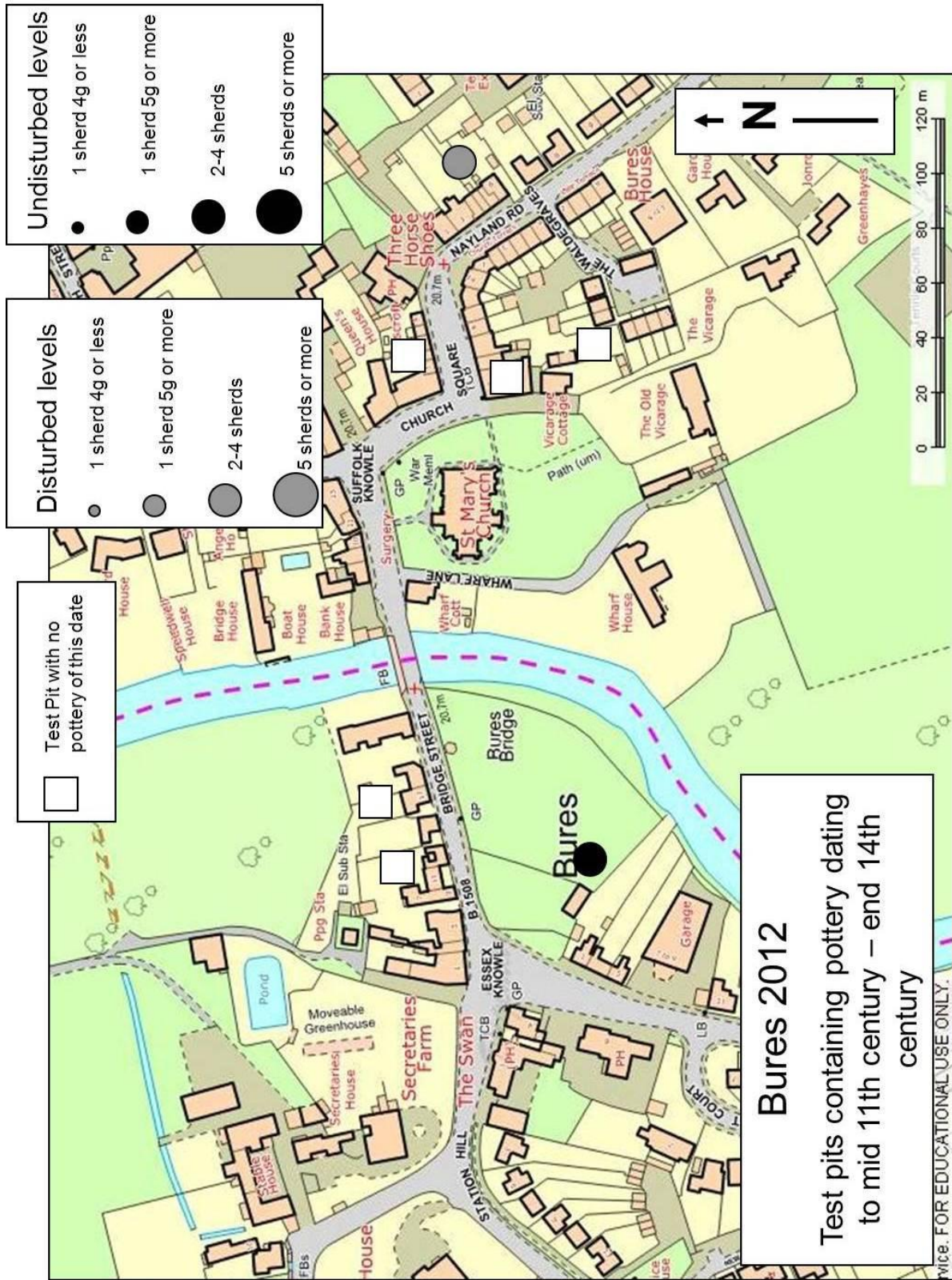


Figure 20: High medieval pottery distribution map from Bures test pits

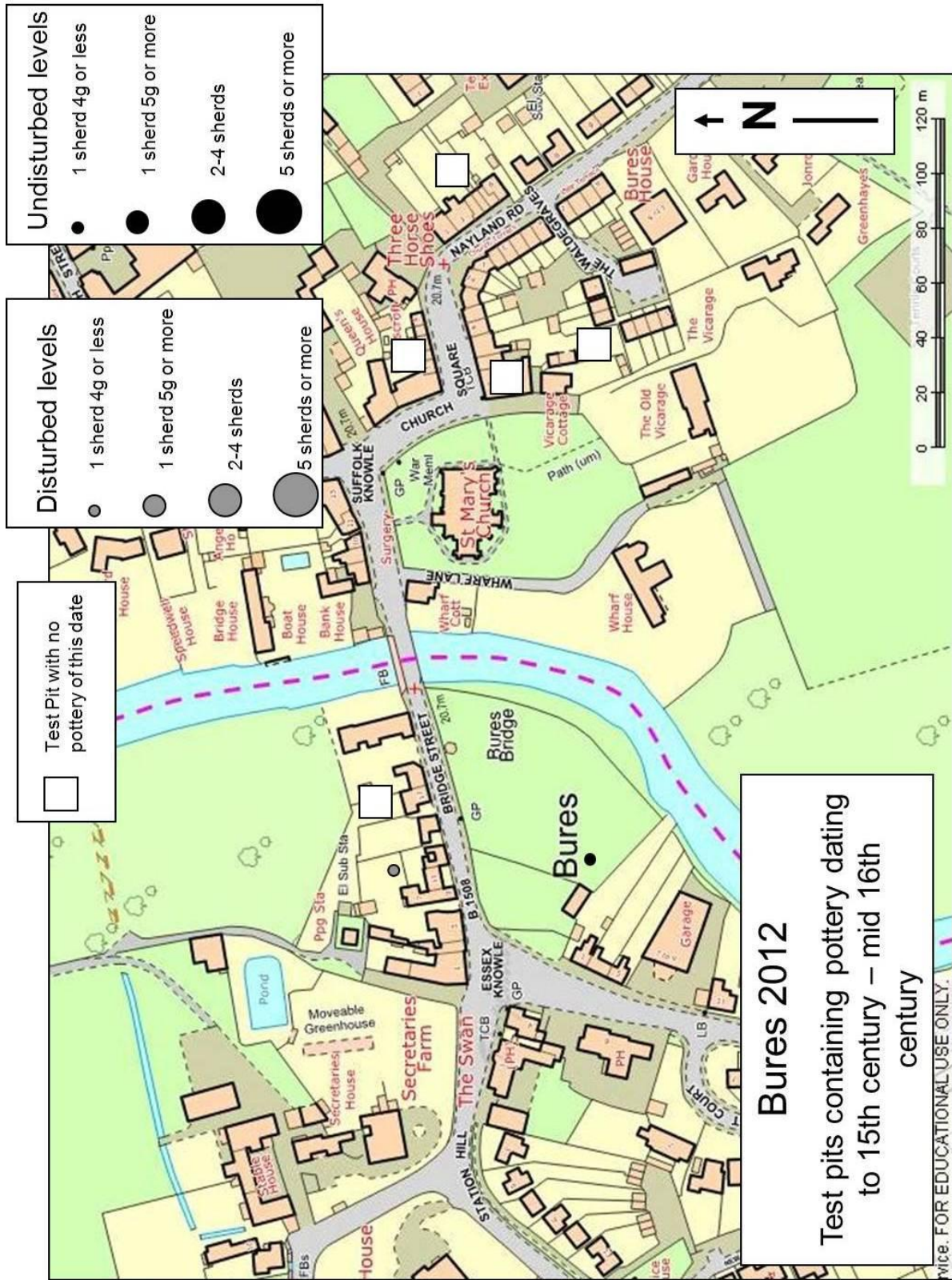


Figure 21: Late medieval pottery distribution map from Bures test pits



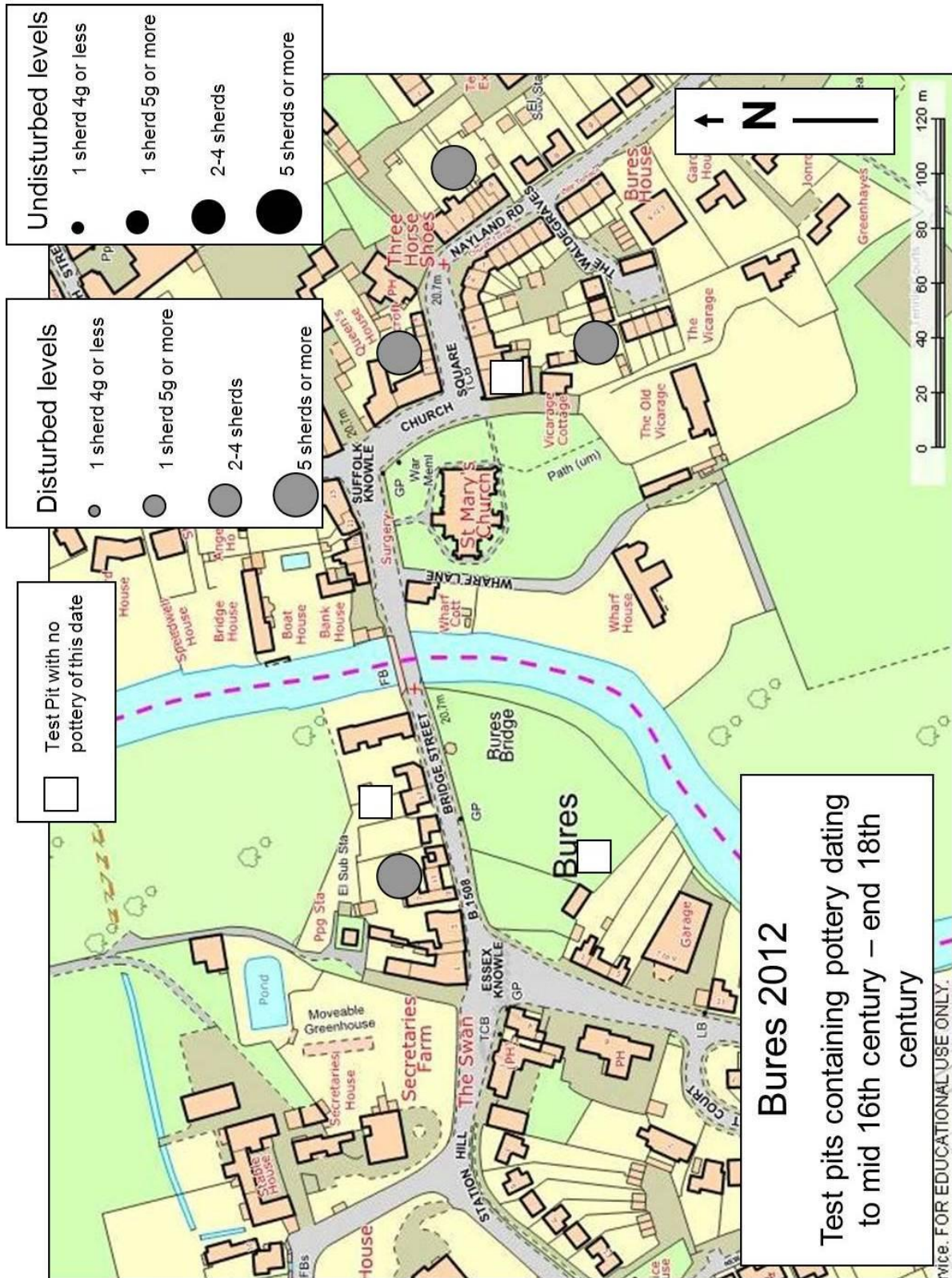


Figure 22: Post medieval pottery distribution map from Bures test pits

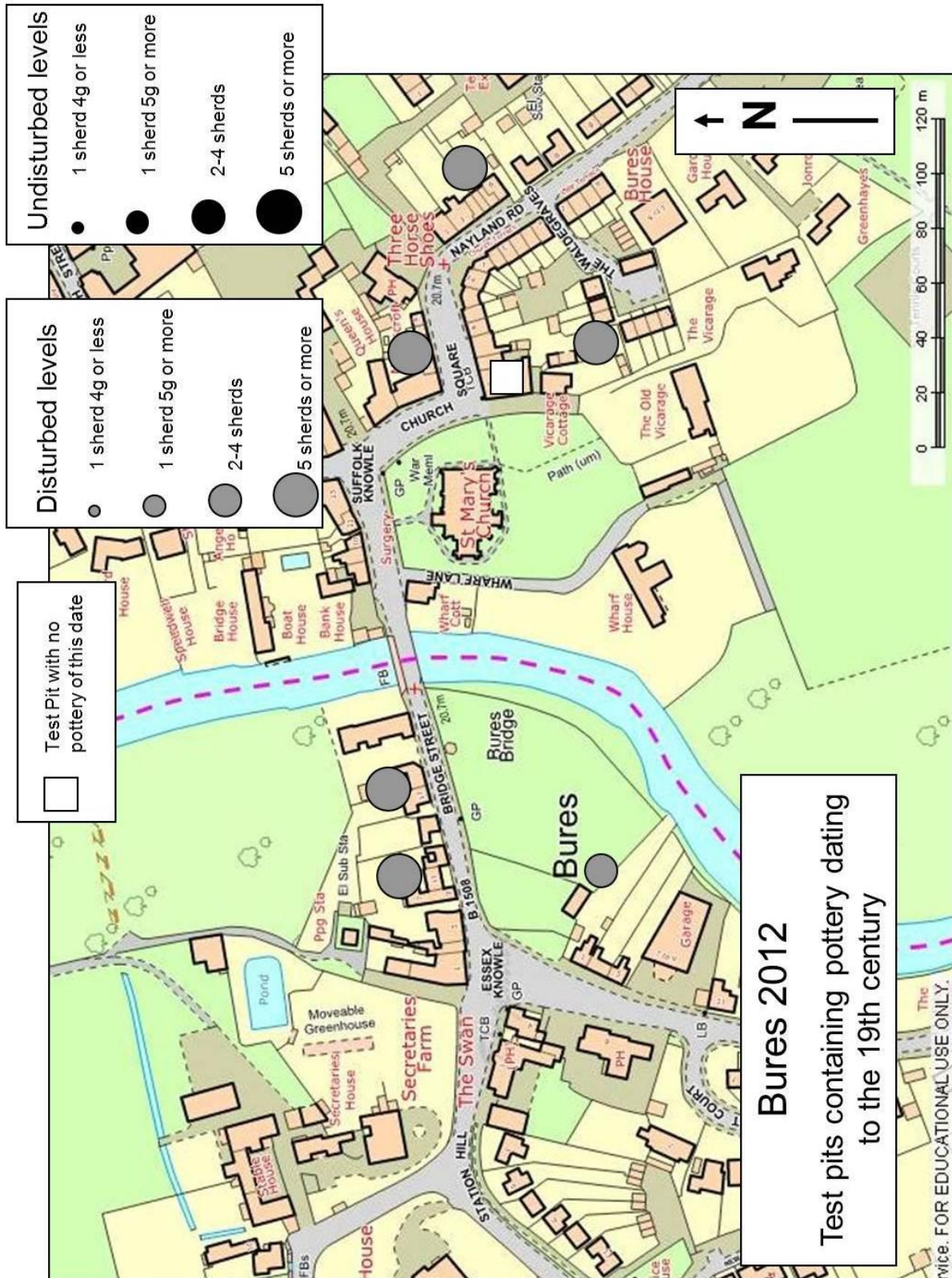


Figure 23: 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery distribution map from Bures test pits