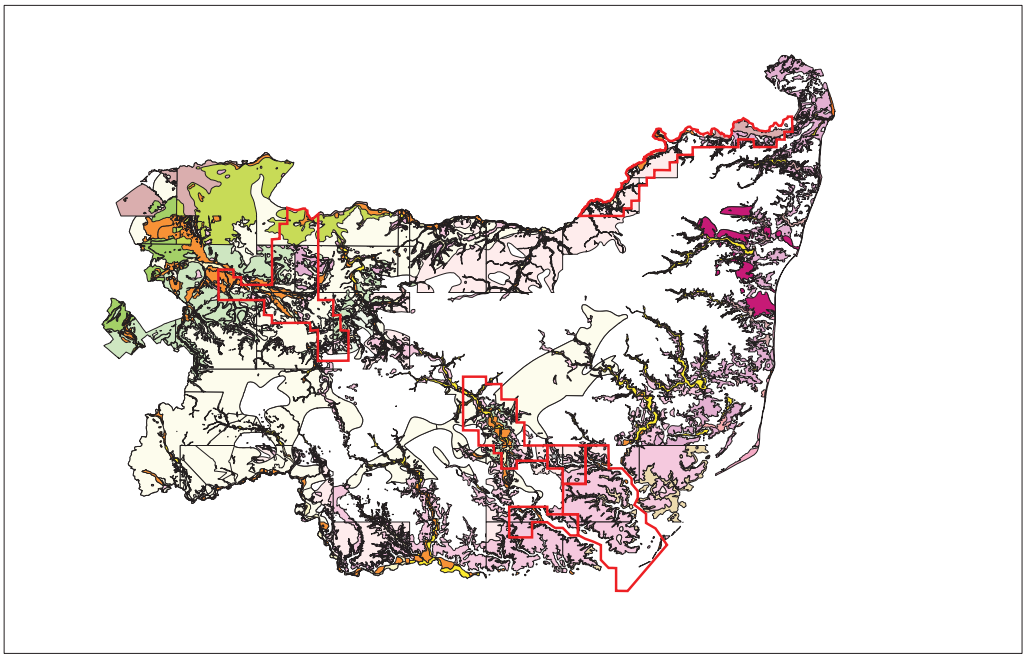
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

The Aggregate Landscape of Suffolk: the Archaeological Resource



Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

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Suffolk County Council
Environment & Transport

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Mapping conventions

The period distribution maps consistently show the relative importance of the archaeological sites as follows:
Purple = very high importance
Blue = high importance
Green = moderate importance
Yellow = low importance
Other maps as per individual keys. North is always to the top of the page.
Most of the distributions are shown against contours to illustrate the broad topography.

Part 1 Summary of methods

1 Defining the resource

Liaison with Minerals Section

Meetings were held with the Minerals Section, Environment & Transport, both before and during the project. Their advice affected the detail of areas selected (eg inclusion of an area south of Ipswich). Although the current proposals under review for the Minerals & Waste Development Framework: Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD (28 in all) include some outside the project areas 17 (61%) have been covered. Consultation between the Conservation Officers in the Archaeology Service and the Minerals Section is ongoing regarding both the policies for the Core Strategy of the Framework and the assessments of the individual areas.

Creation of minerals proposals information layers

Two MapInfo layers, Minerals and Waste had been created but not maintained by Minerals Section and had no attached data. All the previous (1999) Minerals plan areas and the current (2006) consultation areas have now been mapped and key data tabulated. (see map 1.1). About 50% (39 of 76) of the 1999 Minerals plan areas, which include almost all sites currently being worked, are within the areas chosen for the study. One resource that should also be incorporated is the extents of earlier minerals workings (1970's data held by SCCAS) which would be useful for future development control work and it is hoped to do this during March 2007.

Selection of archaeological areas for enhancement and conflation to larger blocks

A total of ten areas were covered by the basic SMR enhancement, of which four were also covered by NMP (see map 1.2). The working areas were merged to form four larger blocks for the analysis of the overall historic environment data except for the parish of Worlington, in the Lark Valley west of the main West Suffolk block, which has been enhanced but not further studied.

The total area studied is 462 sq km, 12% of the total area of Suffolk and about 25% of the Minerals Resource areas as mapped by BGS (see map 1.3). The areas of AONB (which comprise the east coast north of Felixstowe and the Stour Valley to the south) are of relatively low potential for future exploitation and the peats and chalks in west Suffolk are excluded from ALSF. The study areas are about 50% of the remaining potential mineral resource.

The final four main areas, (mapped as \AggregateAreas.tab), are:

West Suffolk, including part of the Lark Valley north-west of Bury St Edmunds and areas east and north of Bury to the Little Ouse at Barnham. Contains nine of the 1999 Minerals Plan sites.

Waveney – the south (ie Suffolk) side of the valley from Weybread to just west of Lowestoft. Contains five of the 1999 Minerals Plan sites, three of them making up the major complex at Flixton. NMP of this area was seen as useful given the low level of recorded cropmarks in the SMR.

Gipping – a broad strip on the line of the Gipping Valley from north Ipswich to just east of Stowmarket. Part of the natural route across Suffolk and including thirteen of the 1999 Minerals Plan sites.

Felixstowe peninsula – from Felixstowe to the outskirts of Ipswich, with extensions around the south of Ipswich and around the north to join the Gipping area. It includes twelve of the 1999 Minerals Plan sites. NMP completed the area here sampled by the Coastal survey project in a peripheral strip but did not include the areas north and south of Ipswich.

2. Collation and improvement of the historic data available for the selected areas

Incorporation of backlog data and NMP enhancement

Outstanding data has been cleared for the 64 parishes within the selected areas – principally records of surface finds and "grey literature" reports on fieldwork. Large urban areas were excluded eg the parishes of Ipswich and Felixstowe. Mapping has been converted from points to digital outlines which improves reliability for all types of development control and management work. In

addition the Felixstowe and Waveney Valley areas have full NMP plot layers with related new and amended SMR records.

Production of gazetteers by area

Individual reports have been produced for the two NMP blocks. Following integration of the data and maps (which was severely delayed because upgrading of the SMR software took far longer than expected) a process for outputting site data by period and creating period point data maps was established and applied to each of the four main areas listed above. The data was selected by map area and then filtered in HBSMR by period and output (via Snapshot) to a .csv file for use in MS Excel. Adjustments had to be made to include monuments allocated only to broad periods or undated where appropriate.

3. Production of frameworks for the areas

The sites in the period gazetteer lists have been valued as to Condition, Significance, Potential and an overall assessment of Importance in the individual Excel files.

An account of the archaeology of each area looks at the range of sites by chronological period and assesses the factors influencing discovery, the distribution of sites against geology, soils and topography. A series of period maps for each area shows the position at the current point in time with colour coding for the level of importance of the individual sites (these maps are sampled for this report, but are much more flexible and informative in digital form). The account identifies areas of high potential where possible, and areas where future work would be useful, both in the field and on existing data. The relative frequency of sites within each area is quantified by period and this data is then compared across the whole project in the Conclusion. Within each area an attempt is made to summarise the historic environment character of the different landscapes within it.

4. Dissemination

Web

A page has been added to the SCC website –
http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Archaeology/LandscapeProjects/The+Aggregate+Landscape+of+Suffolk.htm
which summarises the project. Report documents, including this one, are being added to the page.

Update SMR from gazetteer data

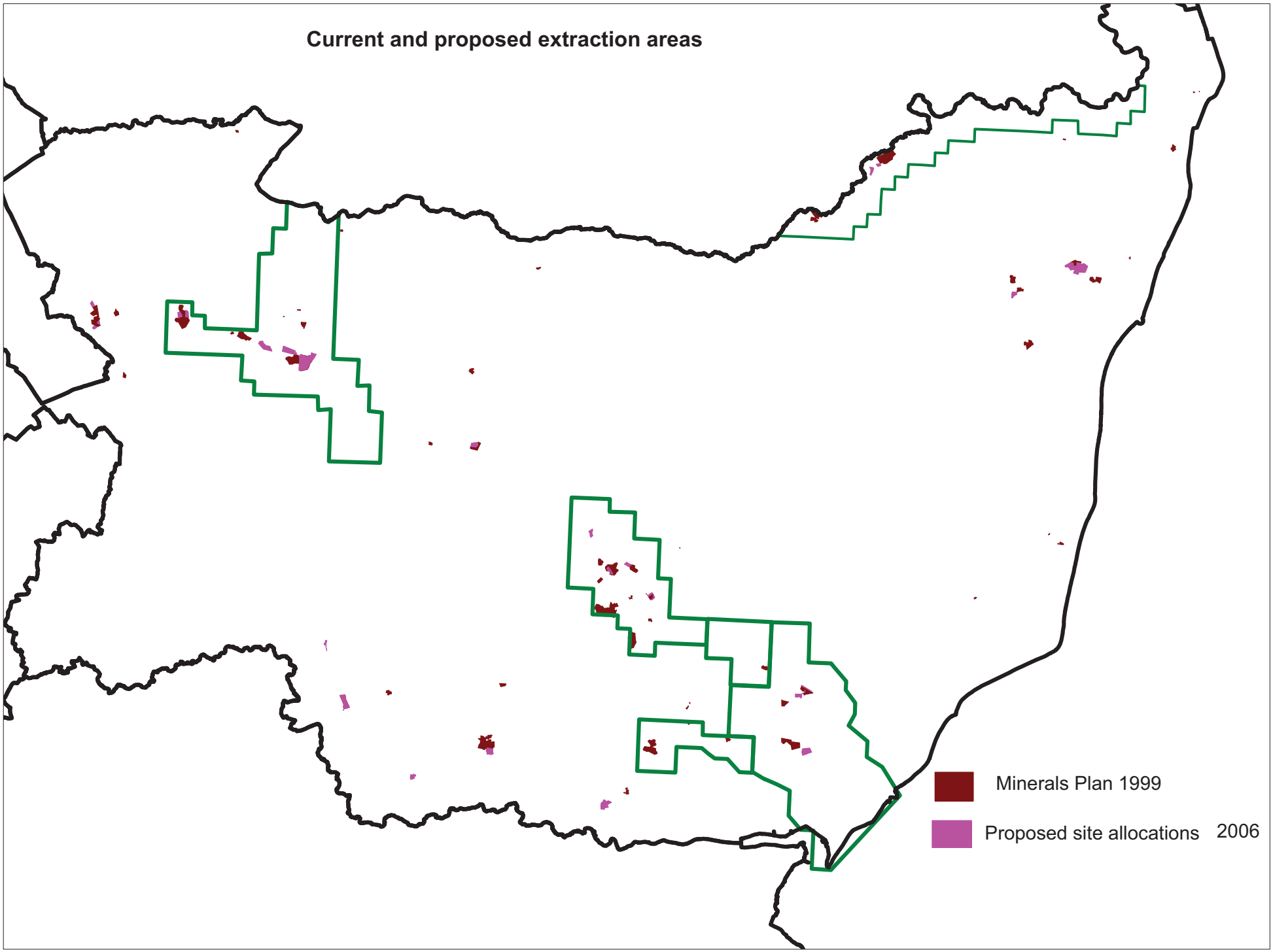
Scoring data and minor alterations are being appended from the Excel tables.

Document digital storage
Unfortunately Suffolk County Council still lacks an EDRMS for managing the organisation and retention or disposal of digital records. Policy is to adopt national filing systems, within which this project will sit under the Sites & Monuments Record/Historic Environment Record. All data created during this project is held under t:\arc\minerals and backed up onto two separate hard drives as well as on the SCC server backup system. Details of the file systems for each of the areas are being documented.

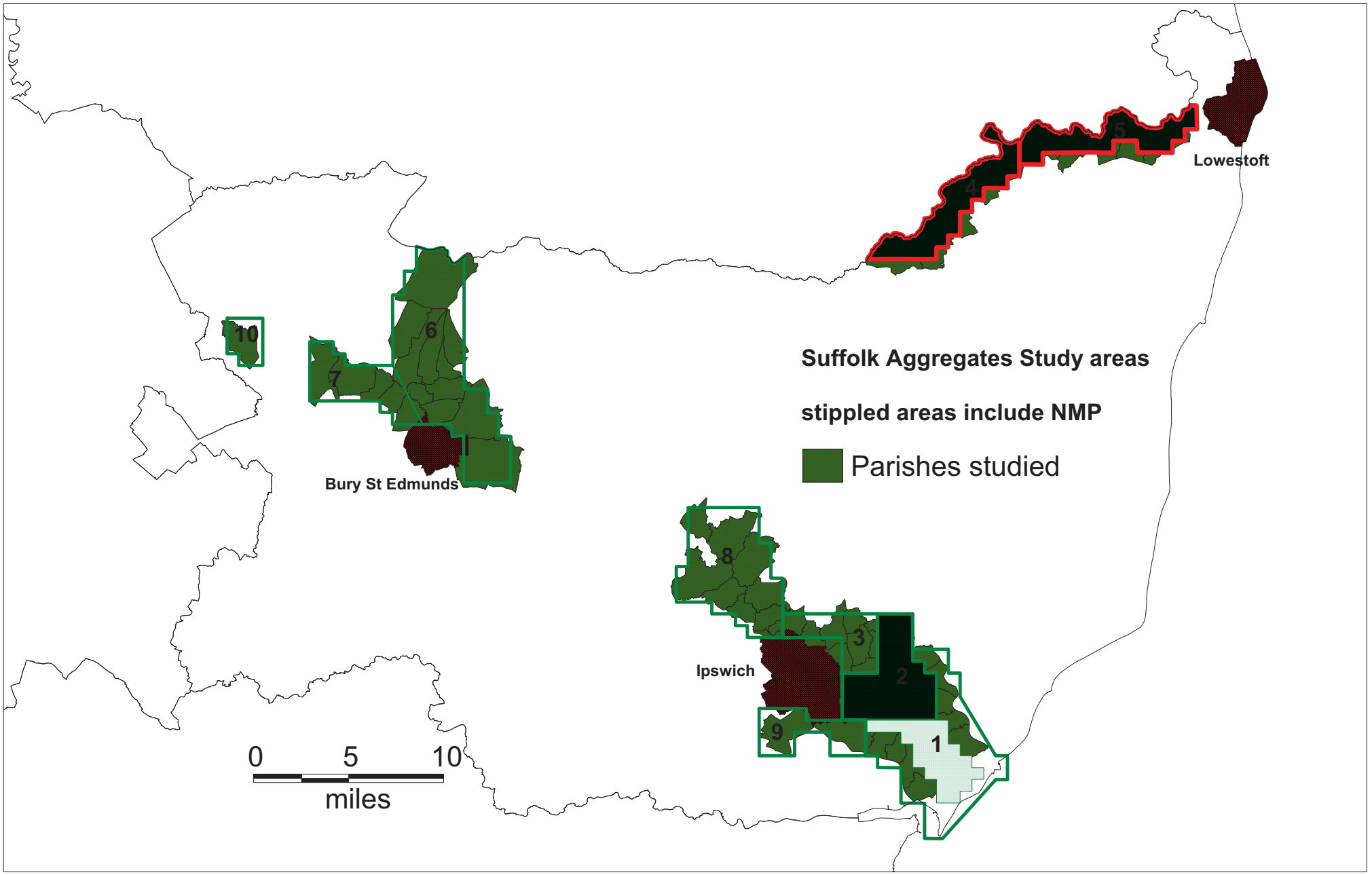
NMP records available to NMR for transfer

Outreach programme
An extensive educational project and a publication project are planned, outline proposals have been submitted to EH for projects to be completed in 2007-2008

Map 1.1

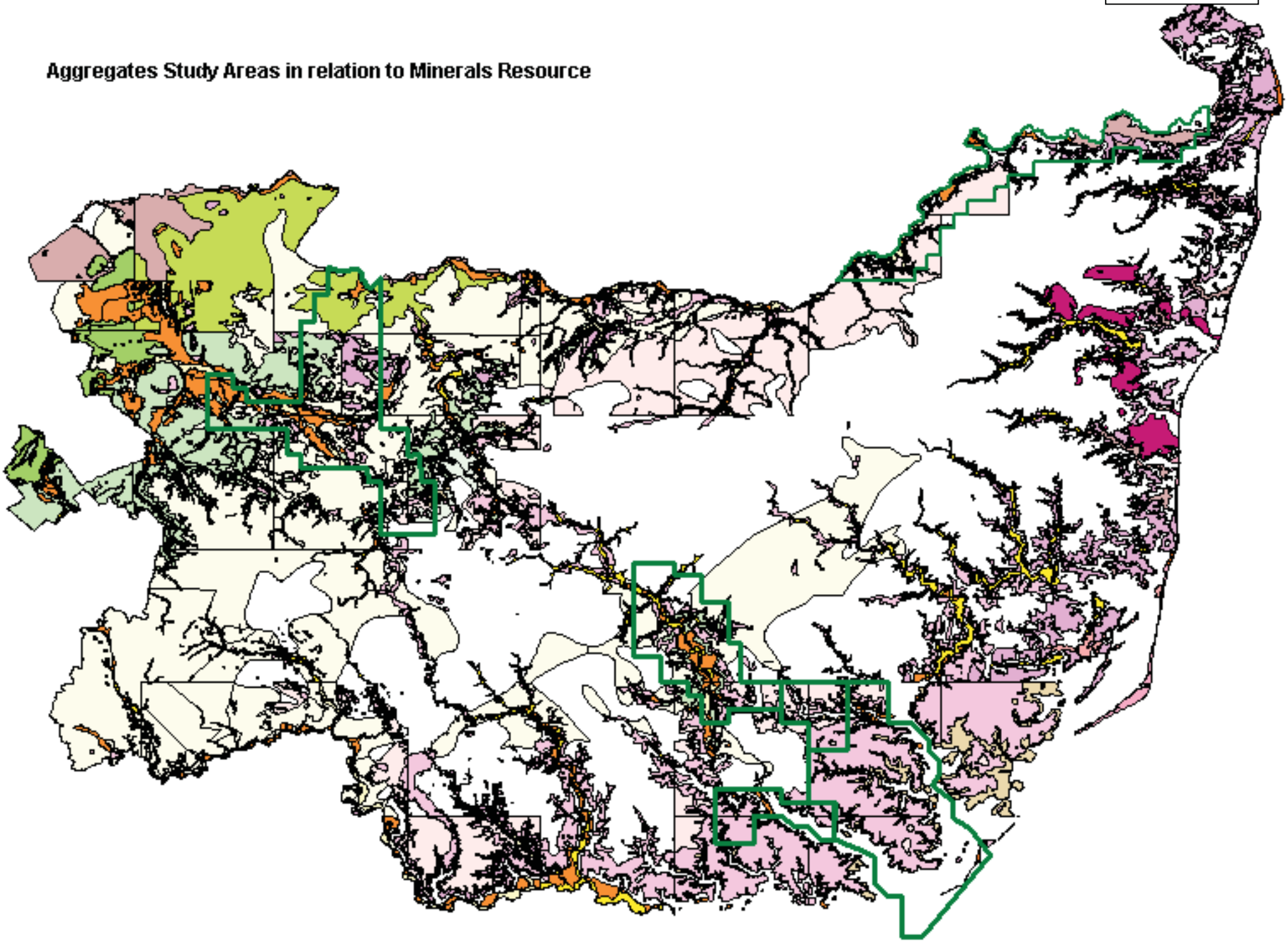

Current and proposed extraction areas
Minerals Plan 1999
Proposed site allocations 2006

Map 1.2


Lowestoft
Bury St Edmunds
Ipswich
Suffolk Aggregates Study areas
stippled areas include NMP
Parishes studied
0
5
10
miles

Map 1.3

Aggregates Study Areas in relation to Minerals Resource



Part 2 The West Suffolk Area

Background, geology and topography

The West Suffolk study area is on the west edge of the central East Anglian till plain, with "solid" chalk geology partially exposed and subsequently covered with glacial fluvial sands and gravels and with gravel terraces along the Lark valley.

The study area starts at the south on the east side of the River Lark to the east of Bury St Edmunds and continues north to cover both sides of the river north of Bury St Edmunds until Hengrave where just the west side of the river is examined. Additionally the area directly north of Bury St Edmunds extends to just south of Thetford over an area of Breckland.

Patterns of archaeological discovery
Map 2.1

Quarrying is one of a very broad mix of the events in this area which have resulted in archaeological records. There has been some extensive field survey by non professionals (eg Ingham and Wordwell parishes), significant quarry finds in the 20th century in Barnham parish to the north and more recent systematic evaluation and excavation in parishes immediately north of Bury St Edmunds and in Cavenham and Lackford in the Lark Valley in advance of extraction. Aerial photography has revealed one major complex (Fornham – Hengrave) but relatively little elsewhere despite the light soils. Recorded metal detecting has increased here in the last decade with useful results but is much less widespread than in other areas of Suffolk.

		IMPORTANCE				POTENTIAL			
PERIOD	**TOTAL**	**Vhigh**	**High**	**Med**	**Low**	**High**	**Med**	**Low**	**sites per km2**
Palaeo	7	1	1	1	4	1	4	2	1 site per every 18.5km
Mes	18		4	8	6	5	6	7	1 site per every 7.19km
Neo	43	4	1	23	15	7	12	24	1 site per every 3.01km
BA	125		24	77	24	13	84	28	1 site per every 1.03km
IA	27		4	20	3	8	13	6	1 site per every 4.79km
Rom	68	1	13	37	17	13	32	23	1 site per every 1.90km
Sax	46		5	25	16	10	18	18	1 site per every 2.81km
Med	115	17	7	55	36	29	41	45	1 site per every 1.12km
Pmed	99		14	38	47	14	37	48	1 site per every 1.30km
Mod	14		3	4	7	1	3	10	1 site per every 9.24km
Total	562	23	76	288	175	101	250	211	1 site per every 0.23km

Relative numbers of sites by period and scoring values

Chronological gazeteer

Early Prehistoric periods

In general early prehistory is split in two broad periods, the first consists of both the lower and middle Palaeolithic c.500,000-40,000BP, followed by the upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic c.40,000-6000BP During these periods society was comprised of groups of hunter fisher gatherers, practising a nomadic lifestyle and having a minimal impact on the physical environment. The main evidence for the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic is in the form of redeposited flakes and tools found in the river gravels. This evidence in the main has been found in quarry workings. Evidence is sparse for the Upper Palaeolithic in this region, partially due to the lack of cave sites. However there is the potential for material from this period to be discovered under fen deposits and under alluvium in the river valleys and this would be especially useful as there is good potential for associated palaeo-environmental material.

Palaeolithic
Map 2.2 (showing sites against the Minerals resource)
There are 7 sites dating from the Palaeolithic, 1 site per every 18.5sq km.

Of these Barnham, BNH 013, is a nationally if not internationally important site that has been discovered 3m down in a brick quarry pit. It contained lithic implements from what have been termed the Clactonian and Acheulian industries, these date from between 450,000-200,000 years ago and were manufactured by *Homo Erectus*. The importance of this site is that it showed that these two industries are contemporary and may in fact not be separate industries, but just different tool types with different uses. It can be demonstrated that the different tool types are from different and distinct activity areas within the site, thus possibly overturning a view that had been held for the last sixty years.

HNV 009 A single stuck flint flake, that was found in the pre Anglian glacial (before 410,000 years ago) sands and gravel.

BNH 012 is where two Late Acheulian hand-axes were found within a quarry pit only 1.3km to the north of BRN 013.

The remaining four entries are of single finds from not totally secure locations.

There is a moderate to high potential for discovering further Palaeolithic material in any mineral workings within this area and a likelihood that such depositsthat they would be of national importance.

Mesolithic
Map 2.3
There are 18 site records dating from the Mesolithic, 1 site per every 7.19sq km.

Of the 18 sites recorded sixteen are within or on the side of a river valley with only two being on the higher ground. The sites are areas of lithic scatters of varying size from *c* 5000 pieces at LKD 007 to single finds, usually of axe heads.

At Lackford, LKD 007, during 1947 Commander Todd and his wife excavate over 5000 lithics under wind blown sand and peat. Also close by was found a tranchet axe at LKD 004 at a later date.

In Cavenham at CAM 027 fieldwalking produced nearly 40 lithics, mainly blades but some cores and a microlith and merges with another Mesolithic scatter to the south at CAM 011. This scatter probably also merges with the another scatter at CAM 023 to the north were a further scatter containing microliths was found.

Culford, CUL 015, where approximately 30 worked flints, mainly blades and bladelets, were found in a garden; also close by was found a tranchet axe.

Little Livermere, LML 019, is a scatter of over 200 lithics found, overlooking a mere.

The remaining entries in the SMR are mainly single finds or small Mesolithic components of large later lithic scatters.

There is a moderate to high potential for the discovery of Mesolithic material within the study area especially within the Lark valley and there is the chance that this material could be found in association with palaeo-environmental evidence.

Later Prehistoric periods

The beginning of the later prehistoric period represents one of the most significant times in human history, the transition from a nomadic / semi-nomadic hunter fisher gatherer life style to a more sedentary existence based more on agriculture. This has implications for the archaeological record as people are starting to leave more evidence of their activity, this could

be in the form of more permanent structures such as houses, mortuary or ritual monuments, and agricultural evidence.

The Neolithic is the first time that pottery is used in Britain, however until the Roman period it is hand made and does not generally survive well if it is disturbed from its primary context. Thus if it is disturbed by cultivation it will not survive in the ploughsoil for any length of time. Therefore any pottery that is found from the prehistoric periods is a good indication that there are prehistoric features at that location.

Neolithic
Map 2.4
There are 43 sites dating from the Neolithic, 1 site per every 3.01sq km.

In Suffolk the distribution of Neolithic pottery strongly suggests that settlements were mainly on the light soils – in the Breckland, Sandlings and river valleys – and within a mile of a watercourse.' (Martin1999).

There is a nationally important complex of monuments on the flood plain at Fornham All Saints and Hengrave that starts in the Neolithic and continues into the Bronze Age. The earliest monuments within this area are two a double ditched causewayed enclosures (FAS 002), but they are both only partially visible in the aerial photographs. It is uncertain as to which one is the earlier or if they were in contemporary use. The northern enclosure is the larger possibly measuring up to 340m by 260m enclosing an area of *circa* 7 hectares. The second enclosure is immediately to the south of the first and measures 230m by 200m enclosing *circa* 3 hectares. The other main feature in this area is the Neolithic cursus monument FAS 004 that can be seen to run for 2km and right over both causewayed enclosures. It is therefore thought that this is a later monument. There may be two further cursus monuments, FAS 028 that cuts across FAS 004 at 104° very close to the middle of the monument and FAS 029 runs parallel to FAS 004 just to the south of FAS 028 for *circa* 150m. There are three concentrations of possible round barrows, one group at each end and one group in the middle of the cursus and it is possible that some of these monuments may infact be Neolithic hengi-form monuments rather than bronze Age round barrows. All of these monuments form part of the scheduled ancient monument area.

Occupation sites may be indicated by pottery or large flint scatters and there are seven sites that fit into this category. The majority of these sites are on the side or overlooking the river valley. Little Livermere, LML 019, is a scatter of *c* 150 flints found on a south facing slope overlooking a mere, also used in the Mesolithic. At Cavenham, CAM 003, four sherds of Grooved ware and two scrapers were found fieldwalking. Subsequent excavation on the site prior to quarry working located further Neolithic activity in the form of features and more pottery and lithics. At CAM 022, 027 and 029 the area around the east side of Cavenham mere, at various times Neolithic pottery and lithics have been found. These indicate a general spread of material covered by windblown sand suggesting an occupation site in this general area. At Fornham St Genevieve, FSG 001during initial quarry workings pottery and lithics were found in association with hearths and pits. The exact location is uncertain, but the general location is on the low lying ground near the River Lark. During an evaluation at Lackford, LKD 038, were found a burnt area, a buried soil with flints and pottery in it and a pit containing grooved ware. Both Culford, CUL 043 and Ingham, ING 018 are on high ground on plateaux . At CUL 043 a scatter of 72 flints, including a triangular arrowhead, was collected from the field surface and probably indicates a single phase Late Neolithic assemblage. At ING 018, 92 flints including blades and scrapers dating to the Late Neolithic were found on the field surface by a metal detectorist.

The remaining 29 SMR entries for the Neolithic are either single finds of mostly polished axes (or fragments of), other single finds of flint tools or the occasional scatter of unspecified size. These are fairly randomly located within the landscape with no noticeable pattern.

Bronze Age
Maps 2.5, 2.6
There are 125 sites dating from the Bronze Age, 1 site per every 1.03sq km.

65 of the 125 SMR entries are possible Bronze Age burial mounds in the form of extant mounds or ring ditches visible on aerial photographs. In this area there are four main clusters of barrow groups. The largest group, unsurprisingly, is centred around the river Lark, especially around the cursus complex at Fornham. The barrows around Fornham are a good demonstration of how the sacred/ritual landscape in the early Bronze Age continues to be focused around monuments still visible from the Neolithic period. The other barrows along river Lark are mainly on the high ground overlooking the flood plain. Two of the remaining groups in this area are located on tributaries of the river Lark to the north and these are also located on the higher ground overlooking the valleys. The last group is located at the northern most end of the study area and these barrows are focused around the Little Ouse valley and again are located on the higher ground overlooking the flood plain.

At two sites Bronze Age occupation has been located during excavation work. An excavation at Cavenham, CAM 040 unearthed six possible posthole structures, four possible hearths within charcoal spreads, numerous pits, pottery and lithic implements. At Flempton, FMP 018 the evaluation of a narrow strip of land between two quarried areas revealed area of Early Bronze Age occupation site on sand 'island' within peat and clay deposits and may be associated with a burnt flint patch, in between brown and black peat layers, at FMP 017.

The remaining entries are artefact scatters, single stray finds and sites found through excavation. Looking first at the artefact scatters that have a ceramic component, there are seven sites in this category:- At BNH 009 Bronze Age pottery was found including possibly two sherds of beaker ware and a concentration of Bronze Age flint work was found within a later Iron Age enclosure. At BNH 017 , RBK 003, TRS 001 and WRW 002 it was beaker pottery that was found, dating them to the Early Bronze Age. The location of each of these sites is on higher ground overlooking the valley floor. Only two other sites have produced Bronze Age pottery, at FAS 022 pottery was recovered from a ditch and at FMP 005 two sherds were recovered from river dredging.

The following records are large lithic scatters of Bronze Age date which probably indicate settlement sites just by the sheer amount of material so far found.

Three SMR entries probably representing one site are Ingham, ING 019, 021 and 023, fieldwalking over some years has recovered over 500 flints including scrapers and arrowheads. Another large Bronze Age Lithic scatter comprises of a number of sites that represent both the Early and Middle Bronze Age in Great Barton (BRG 033, 034, 035, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 041, 043) and a small metal hoard of Middle Bronze Age date. Rougham, RGH 048 is a Middle Bronze Age lithic scatter with over 150 flints found and again probably indicating occupation activity. At both Culford, CUL 042, and Wordwell, WRW 16 there are fairly dense widely spread lithic scatters.

Various smaller lithic scatters probably represent occupation or activity sites:

At Culford there are three small scatters (CUL 039, 040, 041) containing between 20 and 50 lithic implements, probably of Late Bronze Age date due to the crude nature of the flint work. ING 020 is a scatter of crude 43 lithics was found suggesting that these were Late Bronze Age in date and not directly linked to the group of four round barrows just 350m away.

There are 20 entries for single finds which the majority are fragments or complete bronze axe heads that have been found metal detecting. These do not have a recognisable distribution pattern and are found randomly throughout the study area.

As can be seen the distribution of sites recorded in the SMR roughly reflects the pattern of the river valleys. The distribution of ring ditches is more concentrated along the valley floor or valley slopes than other topographic areas, with a very high concentration around the Fornham cursus. Probable settlement sites also appear to be located within the river valleys, but on the higher slopes.

Iron Age
Map 2.7
There are 27 sites dating from the Iron Age, 1 site per every 4.79sq km.

There will be a negative bias in the discovery and reporting of Iron Age sites in relation to the preceding prehistoric periods and the later Roman period. This bias is caused by there being any specifically recognised Iron Age lithic industry, therefore any lithics from this date will have been recorded from an earlier period. The main metal in use would have been iron which dose not survive very well and the use of handmade pottery that also dose not survive well in the plough soil. Another problem with the pottery is that some flint tempered pottery that is not Iron Age could have been attributed to the Iron Age and obversely Iron Age flint tempered pottery could also be attributed to an earlier period.

BNH 009, part excavated double ditched enclosure (Martin 1993) on a promontory at the edge of the Brecklands overlooking Rymer Point in the southern territory of the Iceni Tribe. This enclosure is of Late Iron Age date and has two possible functions which are not necessarily mutually exclusive. It could be a defended enclosure possibly the seat of a chieftain or it could be a religious site comparable to the continental *viereckschanzen.* Whichever type of site it is, it is important as there are very few enclosed settlements dating to this period within East Anglia.

An extensive if dispersed Iron Age settlement dating to between the 4th and 1st centuries BC was evaluation prior to the extension of Ingham Quarry. At FSG 017 there were four discrete clusters of features along the line of the natural slope, just above the valley bottom that consisted of postholes, pits, gullies and occasional cremations. At FSG 013 and FSG 014 on slightly higher ground further dispersed Iron Age features similar to those at FSG 017 were found, though thought to be of a slightly earlier date.

At BNH 012 is an extensive Iron Age settlement, at the northern edge of the study area on the high ground overlooking a small stream and the Little Ouse. During quarry workings Basil Brown tried to excavate/salvage what information he could. He records that at this site there were 51 hut sites and hearths, linked by paths and had one entrance and were between 10-15 feet in diameter.

CUL 005 is an extensive area of cropmarks that could be of Iron Age or Roman in date. Within this cropmark complex three small flint tempered pottery scatters have been located, CUL 012 ING 005, ING 011. This could suggest that the presence of an Iron Age farmstead within a set of fields.

A landscape feature that could be dated to the Iron Age is the Black Ditches CAM 001. This is a linear earthwork of a bank with a ditch on the western side. It extends from River Lark (at edge of flood plain) to Cavenham brook in a north south alignment and is extant for *circa* 1000m. There is an argument that this feature could be in fact Saxon rather than Iron Age in date.

There are only seven metal detector sites in for this period in this area. At these sites only single coins are usually found and sometimes flint tempered pottery that could be of Iron Age date.

There are a further six sites located by fieldwalking and three located in the side of quarries were small scatters of flint tempered pottery was found.

Roman
Map 2.8
There are 68 sites dating from the Roman, 1 site per every 1.90sq km.

Compared to the preceding periods the Roman period should be well represented in the archaeological record. Their pottery is of a high standard and survives well even in the plough soil as dose the ceramic building materials that they use. They also have a wide ranging

variety of non ferrous metal objects including coins and brooches that are in wide circulation and frequently found by metal detectorists.

The SMR entries LKD 001, 003, 015, 016, 017, 018 and 044. are the site of a probable temple across the River lark from the major settlement at Icklingham. First located during the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery by Lethbridge who found the ruins of two small rectangular Roman buildings, which are thought to have been rifled burial vaults. There have been numerous finds from this site including the Cavenham Crowns, building material, pottery, metal work including a brooches, a figurine, votive axes two curse tablets and coin hoards. Excavation of a small central area in 1979 (unpublished) showed that traces of a structure survived but had been seriously damaged by mid 20th century cultivation.

There are three other Roman mortuary sites within this area. At RGH 001 and 002 represent a group of four roman burial mounds. These mounds were excavated in the 1840's and within the mounds were found inhumations and cremations some within chambers. These burial mounds are likely to be related to the people who lived in the villa 200m to the south east.

At ING 001 a Roman cremation cemetery was found in 1823 with possibly 12 vessels found. There are cropmarks in this area shown on aerial photographs (CUL 005) and pottery and metalwork scatters have been found close by at CUL 031, ING 005, 007, 008 and 009 and these probably represent a settlement that is probably related to the cemetery.

At ING 002 18 inhumations and one cremation were found during the construction of a railway line in 1873. This site is within 500m of a rich dense scatter of Roman material ING 010 that includes a large amount of metalwork, pottery and tile (including box tile), probably indicating a high status building a villa or a bath house.

At BRG 036 over 400 coins have been found, at least 70 pottery sherds and 14 tile fragments have been found metal detecting. Also part of the same site but probably indicating a shift in focus over time are BRG 039, a scatter of metalwork and pottery and BRG 021, a bracelet found during groundworks. This site is of probable fairly high status suggested by the amount of metalwork recovered.

Possible settlements sites.

At BNH 011 *circa* 1920 coins, pottery, glass, roof tile and flue tiles, were excavated by Mrs Caton. These finds suggest there is a high status site at this location. Close by at BNH 012 on the mainly earlier Iron Age site a few pieces of Roman material were found including a quern stone, part of a mortarium rim and some coarse pottery sherds.

Two adjacent SMR entries LML 018 and BRG 028, probably represent a single site at Rymer point. These sites have produced large amounts of Roman pottery and some Roman tile, suggesting a fairly high status building and settlement at this location.

There are five sites (CAM 006, 011, 012, 014 and LKD 019) close to each other centred around Cavenham mere. Metal detecting has located metalwork and pottery scatters also found were animal bones and tile fragments that all together suggest a settlement in this area.

Five sites very close to each other at Lackford, on the slightly higher ground close to the river are LKD 014, 030, 033, 045, and 048, where mainly coins but some brooches and pottery have been found by metal detectorists.

At LKD 002 aerial photographs have revealed a rectilinear cropmark system, were fieldwalking recovered a pottery scatter and metal detecting found some Roman coins. This is close to another pottery and metalwork scatter were some tile was also found

At the adjacent sites of WRW 003 and 006 Roman pottery sherds were found fieldwalking, possibly indicating a settlement.

The remaining sites are single findspots that either represent casual losses of coins or brooches or very small pottery scatters that probably represent manuring.

The majority of the sites are located either along the side of the river valleys or close to one of the possible roman road lines that run through this area.

Anglo-Saxon
Maps 2.9, 2.10
The distribution of the Saxon sites is very similar to that of the Roman period, with concentrations and gaps of sites in almost identical places. This appears to be a real phenomenon and not purely a pattern of archaeological discovery. Unlike the Roman period Saxon pottery dose not survive well in the plough soil and where any is found it is a good indication that there are Anglo-Saxon archaeology in the area. Also the discovery of even a single early brooch is usually a good indicator of a Saxon cemetery and these are usually within *c* 250m of a settlement.

Cemeteries
LKD 001 is a large early Saxon cremation cemetery revealed *circa* 390 cremations in a wide range of decorated urns and numerous associated burial artefacts. This cemetery was likely to have been founded on this site due to the earlier Roman mortuary buildings and possible temple complex. *Circa* 400m south east of LKD 001 is LKD 012 were a circle of 'white stones' probably burnt flint, 40-50 feet in diameter was found associated with decorated Early Saxon pottery. This could be a prehistoric burnt mound with Saxon pottery inserted into it or it could be of Saxon date and be related to the Saxon cemetery near by, in which case it could be a significant site.

At CAM 011 metalwork including a small-long brooch, a decorated square-headed brooch, a cruciform brooch, fragments of two others and one wrist clasp suggest a cemetery in this area. Also at CAM 002 two skeletons were found *circa* 1900 with iron shears, pottery and glassware which is probably part of the same cemetery. Plain pottery found at CAM 011 suggests that there may be a settlement element to this site.

LKD 045 metal detecting finds include a square headed, part of a S-shaped brooch and a bridal fitting, possibly from n early Saxon cemetery.

Sites where a single or small numbers of brooches that could indicate a cemetery are, FSM 007 a fragment of a small long brooch; FSM 013 a small long brooch; RGH 034 a fragment of a cruciform brooch. At BNH 030 two scramasaxes were found in the 1950's during house building close to a tumulus, these could indicate a Saxon cemetery if they are of an early Saxon date.

BRG 027 where a single inhumation was found in what appeared to be an open landscape 1km away from the nearest other Saxon site BRG 036 could be of a Middle Saxon date.

Possible settlements: Early
At LKD 038 excavation revealed an Early Saxon Grubenhaus, Early Saxon pits and undated field boundaries. Very close by at LKD 033 a scatter of early hand made pottery was found and on piece there was a stamp that can be paralleled to those used by the 6th century 'Illington-Lackford' potter. These sites could be related to the Early Saxon cemetery at LKD 045.
At FMP 020 three unabraded large sherds of early Saxon pottery were found in an evaluation trench. AT HNV 019 a large basal hand-made Early Saxon sherd was found.

The remaining 17 sites mainly consist of single metal detector finds.

Middle and Late Saxon possible settlements

Within 200m of each other are two sites that probably representing the same settlement, FMP 004 and WSW 005 where Ipswich ware sherds were found At WSW 006 a scatter of Thetford

ware was found close to FMP 004 and WSW 005, suggesting the settlement continued for a long time.

At LML 018 at Rymer point two sherds of Middle Saxon pottery were found.

Within the ground of West Stow Rectory WSW 038 were found sherds Thetford ware pottery as well as medieval material, suggesting the settlement at this site continued from the Saxon period into the medieval period.
At FMP 009 less than 100m away from FMP 020, Thetford type ware pottery sherds were found adjacent to the church.
At BRG 036 five sherds of Thetford ware were and in the same field two Early Carolingian copper alloy trefoil shaped mounts were also found and close by at BRG 039 an ansate brooch as found 200m to the south.

At WRW 011 Late Saxon pottery sherds were found and less than 200m to the south at WRW 004 was found Thetford ware and St Neots type ware sherds at the bottom of the hill. Close to these scatters the Church WRW 015 possibly has Late Saxon decorated stone or long and short work.

Adjacent sites at ING 008 and ING 009 on either side of a road have been found scatters of Thetford ware suggesting they represent the same settlement site. Close by at TMW 008 is a scatter of probable Saxon pottery.

At BNH 001 Basil Brown found a Late Saxon pot at the church.At BNH 007 animal bone and Saxon pottery were found during the construction of a sewage works.

The pattern of settlement (Map 2.10) in the Early Saxon period is concentrated on the low laying ground by the River Gipping. In the Middle and Late Saxon period there can be seen a shift in some of the settlements onto the higher ground. This phenomenon is not as pronounced as it is within the Gipping valley.

There can also be seen a continuity from the Middle and Late Saxon periods into the medieval period, as four out of the eight Saxon settlement sites are next to churches and three of the remaining four are within 500m of a medieval church or settlement.

Medieval
Maps 2.11, 2.12
The main urban centre that has a significance influence on this study area is Bury St Edmunds. The town has its origins in the Middle Saxon period and became a regional centre of great significance when, in 869 AD, the martyred remains of Saint Edmund were enshrined at the Saxon monastery. The Abbey was built during the 11th and 12th centuries and was a massive influence on the surrounding countryside for centuries. Due to this there is a absence of The main market in this area would unsurprisingly have been at Bury St Edmunds and it had been in existence since at least Domesday and probably further back into the Middle Saxon period.

Compared to the settlement pattern in the Gipping area there appears to be greater nucleation around the churches, such as at Barnham, Wordwell and Fornham All Saints. But there is also a pattern of dispersed settlements along roads or the river There are a number of churches in association with manorial halls and this could reflect a pattern of Late Saxon thegnly halls with dependant churches (Martin 1999). There are a few villages that were deserted in the later medieval period, in this area both Timworth and Wordwell were deserted and both are on the edge of the breckland. There is no settlement evidence between these two villages and Barnham to the north on the other side of the breckland on the Little Ouse River.

<u>Deserted medieval villages.</u>

The deserted medieval villages have been deserted for two main reasons, being moved for emparkment or shrinkage due to economic reasons.

At CAM 012 adjacent to the church are house platforms and a thin scatter of medieval metalwork has been found.

CUL 033 is the site of the original Culford village laying near the church, now in Culford Park. The village was moved in 1825-28 for the park and only church and Home Farm remain in their original location.

LML 003 is the original site of the village of Little Livermere. The village was moved circa 1735-1750, when Livermere Park was laid out. It is said that the villagers were re-housed in a row of houses called The Barracks, on the N side of The Common, just outside the western perimeter of the park

This deserted Medieval Village RBK 004, is in a pasture opposite the church with a hollow way and house platforms.

The deserted former village of Timworth TMW 011 was located around the now isolated church with at least 14 buildings are shown on Hodskinson's 1783 map.

The deserted medieval village at Wordwell (WRW 003), just east of All Saints church.

Moats
Map 2.12
In the medieval period moats are a symbol of status and though only slightly defensive in nature. However they gave the owner a defended residence that was tied up with the concept of lordship and social status. There is thought to be a correlation between the area the moat encloses and the status of the resident, the bigger the area the high the social status.

There are ten moated sites within the study area, five are to the east and south and on the clay highlands. RGH 004 is a large trapezoid moat, still containing water 550m from church, at the north east corner of Rougham green and is occupied by a C16 Grade II listed building. RHG 005 is north of Rougham green was trapezoid in shape , but has only one water filled arm, is still occupied by what was the rectory. RBK 001 is a large water filled trapezoid moat theat was the site of Rushbrook Hall, of which the filled in cellars remain. BRG 003was the site of Nacton Hall that stood within a square moat, on the north side of Conyers Green, now filled in. BRG 004 is on the north side of Conyers Green, is slightly trapezoid in shape, and is partially water filled. There are three in the area of West Stow that are cut into the peat and are in low laying aspects. CUL 034 was rectangular in shape now filled in, but could have been the original site of Culford Hall. WRW 019 is a sub-rectangular moat, shown on O/S 1880's maps. WSW 048 is a small moat shown on 1815 map but no longer there by the 1840's map. The last two are both on the valley floor and cut into sand and gravel. FAS 001 is a rectangular moat that is occupied. BNH 022is a probable moat site with adjacent fish ponds next to a probable deserted medieval village.

Agriculture

The majority of SMR entries for the medieval period are single finds or small dispersed scatters of metalwork or pottery discovered by metal detectorists. These probably represent manuring of the fields surrounding the towns and villages, as there is a distinct pattern of these types of finds clustering around the nucleated settlements, but some may be the remains of earlier more small settlements.

Post Medieval

Great House and Parks

There are numerous great houses in this area. Ampton Hall AMP 004 possibly built around 1700 in grounds with an adjoining lake/pond. It burnt down in 1885 and rebuilt in a restrained

Jacobean style by Balfour & Turner in 1885-9 and is set within the grounds of a park AMP 003 established 1728.
Adjoining Ampton Park is Livermere park LML 015, LMG 009 established 1728. *Circa* 1735-1750 Baptist Lee (of Livermere Hall) moved village (LML 003) out of park he then joined forces with the Calthorpes of Ampton Hall and enlarged the existing meres on their properties to form the existing linked Livermere Long Water & Ampton Water. Livermere Hall within Livermere Park was called Broom Hall. The estate was purchased by Baptist Lee, *circa* 1723 who enlarged the house and added two long wings. The park was sold in 1919 and the Hall was demolished in 1923 (some chimney pieces were transferred to Shrublands Hall).

Barton Hall BRG 020, an entry in a terrier of September 1566 describes the Hall as including a hall, private chamber, buttery, two rooms called `Le Maydschamber', a solar over the parlour, a kitchen and kitchen chamber, another solar above the kitchen and a servant chamber. Probably associated with this house is BRG 046 a hunting lodge.

Cavenham Hall and Park CAM 033 have existed from at least 1773. The New Cavenham Hall was built in 1898/99 and designed by Andrew Noble Prentice for H E M Davies and demolished in 1949.

The first Culford Hall CUL 021 was built by Sir Nathanial Bacon some time before his death in 1627. The Present house was built by the first Marquess of Cornwallis about 1790, by James Wyatt. The house is set within a park CUL 022, consisting of a park 200ha, with 2 ha of terraced gardens, 2 ha of pleasure grounds and 4 ha of walled gardens and is designated by English Heritage as a registered garden.

Hengrave Hall HNV 013 is a courtyard plan mansion built c.1524-40 for Sir Thomas Kytson, a wealthy London merchant. The house is one of the last examples of a house built around an enclosed courtyard with a great hall. It is constructed from stone taken from Ixworth Priory (dissolved in 1536) and white bricks baked at Woolpit. The house is set within Hengrave park HNV 011 of 172 ha.

RBK 016 the park around Rushbrooke Hall RBK 001, was in existence by 1703, when it was purchased by Sir Robert Davers from Lord Jermyn. The park was extended in the 18th century and a number of vistas were established, centred on the Hall. The Hall was built *circa* 1550 by the Jermyn family mainly of red brick and was demolished 1961.

Rougham Hall RGH 020 a large picturesque brick mansion built 1834, with battlements and towers. Could have been built to replace the earlier hall RGH 019, but is itself now in ruins.

There are three large post medieval park in this area all close to each other, at Hengrave Hall, Ampton Hall, Culford Park also a former park at Fornham St Genevieve.

Woods.
In the Lark area there are only two small areas categorised as ancient woodland, the first is in the parish of Great Barton at Barton Shrub BRG 017. The second is in the parish of Risby and called Hyde wood RBY 029.

Landscape character

The majority of this area is 18th-century and later enclosure (2.1) of former common arable or heathland. There are also patches of modern woodland planted on former common arable or heathland.

Transport and communications

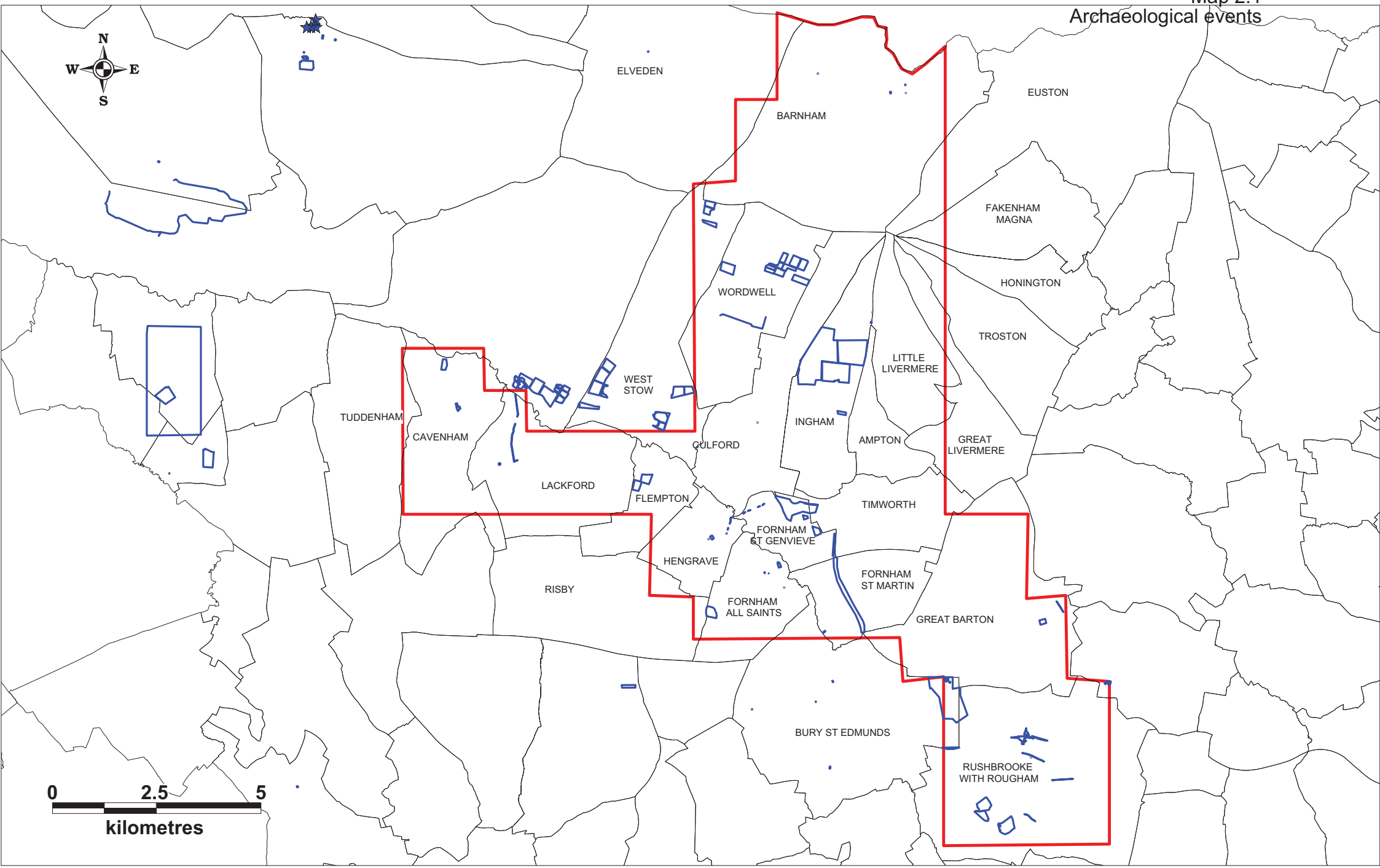
The Lark valley is not as an important a transport route as the Gipping. The river was however canalised in places and locks were inserted e.g. FAS 019 (still surviving) in 1720, to link Bury St Edmunds with Mildenhall (and a link to the Gipping was planned but abandoned with the arrival of the railways). The River Lark is then navigable to the north of Mildenhall.

Agriculture and industry.

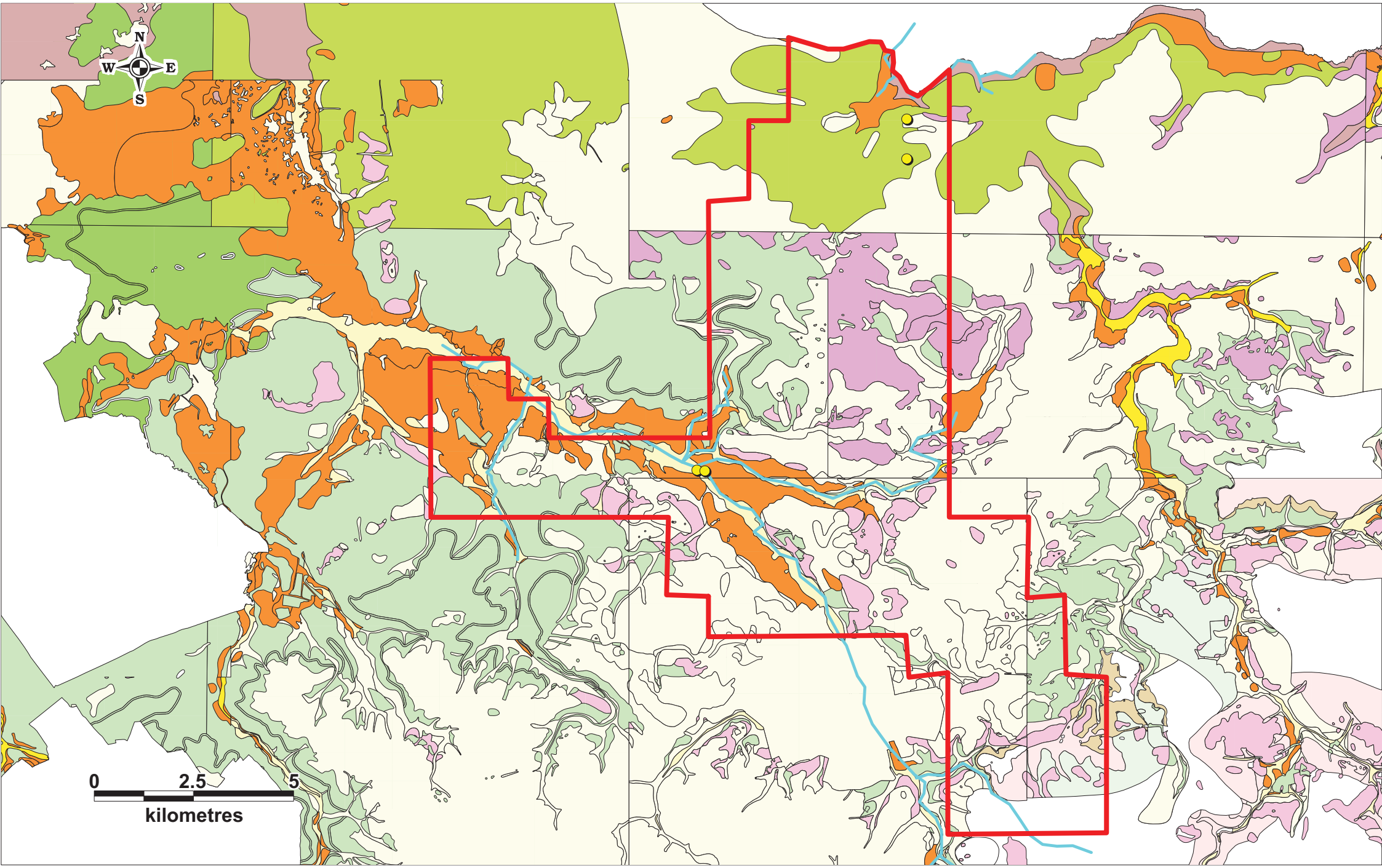
The only industrial sites are various lime or brick kilns and their associated quarry pits
The three brick kilns are CUL 009, ELV 052, MSF14612. There are three brick kiln and works sites. FMP 013 Sir William Gage's Brick & Tile Works, operated by William Long from 1861-1873 but earlier named as brick kiln and shown as number of buildings on 1840 Tithe Map of Hengrave. HNV 018 is shown on the 1880's O/S map as a kiln and brick works. BNH 048 Euston Estate brick works operated from 1855 to 1929.
The is one lime kiln at CUL 025 and one kiln of unknown use at FSG 010.

There are references mainly on maps to there being six windmills in this area at BNH 035, BRG 018, CUL 016, CUL 017, CUL 018 FSM 006 and RGH 022. There are two water mills at FSM 006 and FSG 009 in this area.

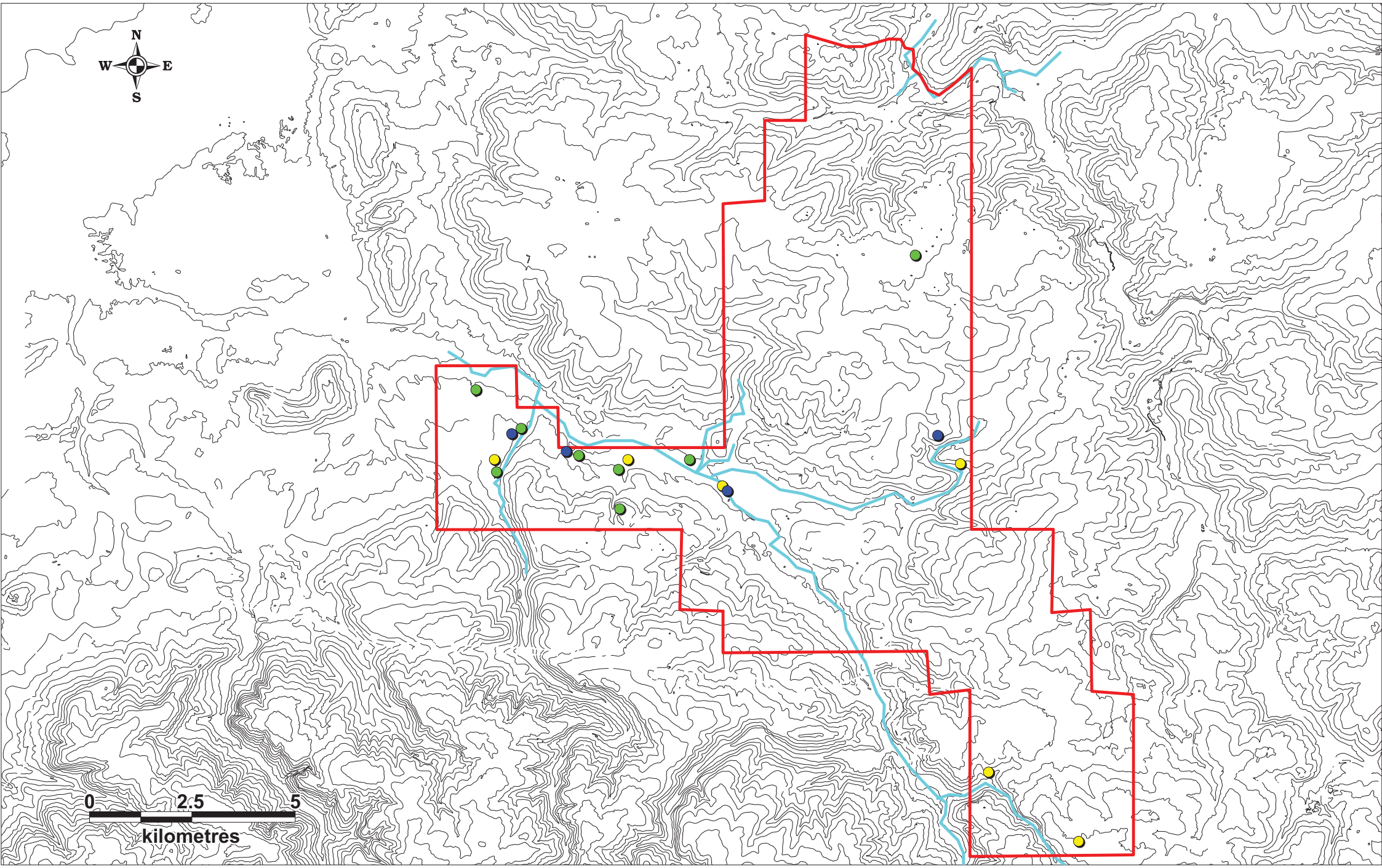
Map 2.1
Archaeological events



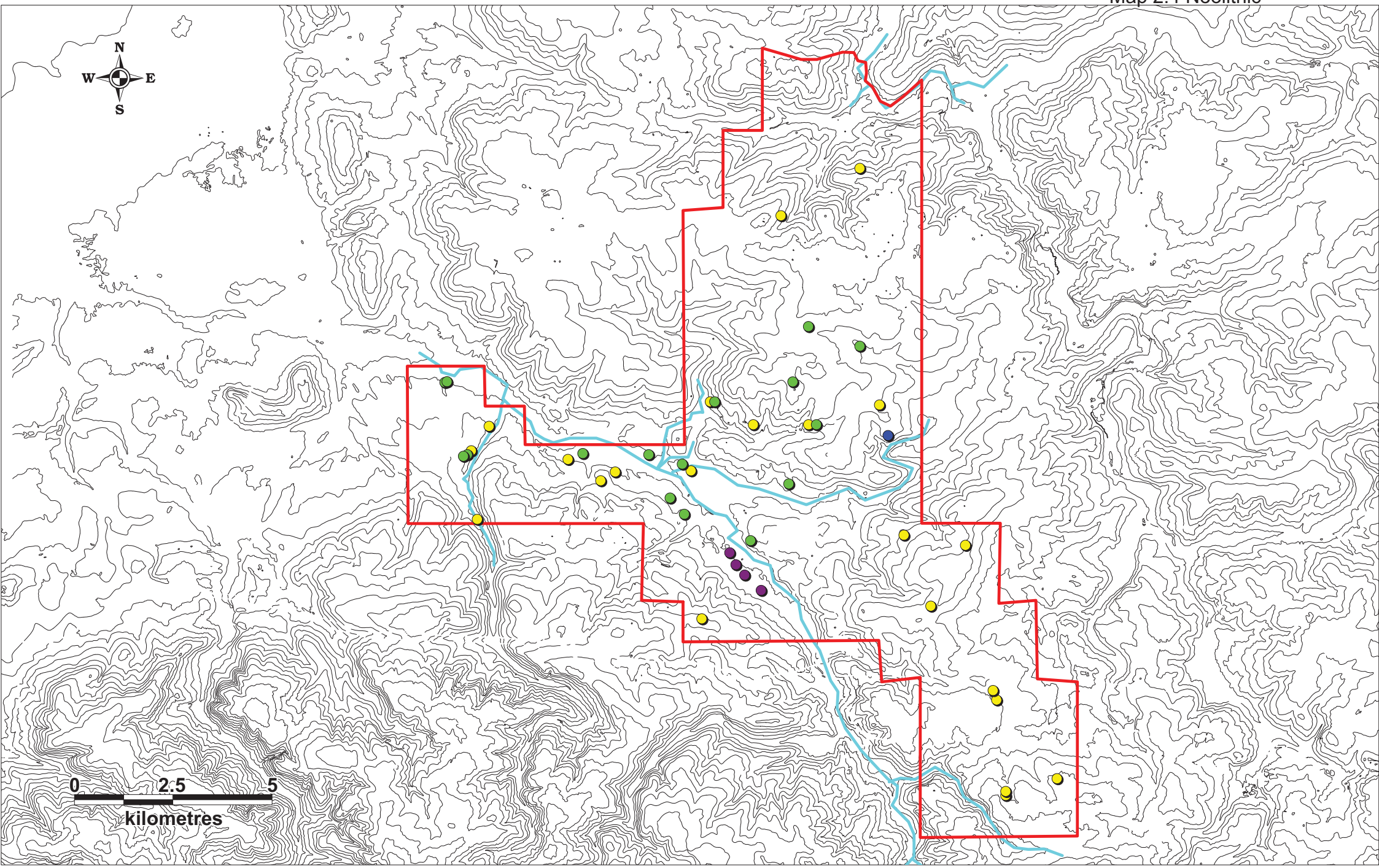
Map 2.2 Palaeolithic



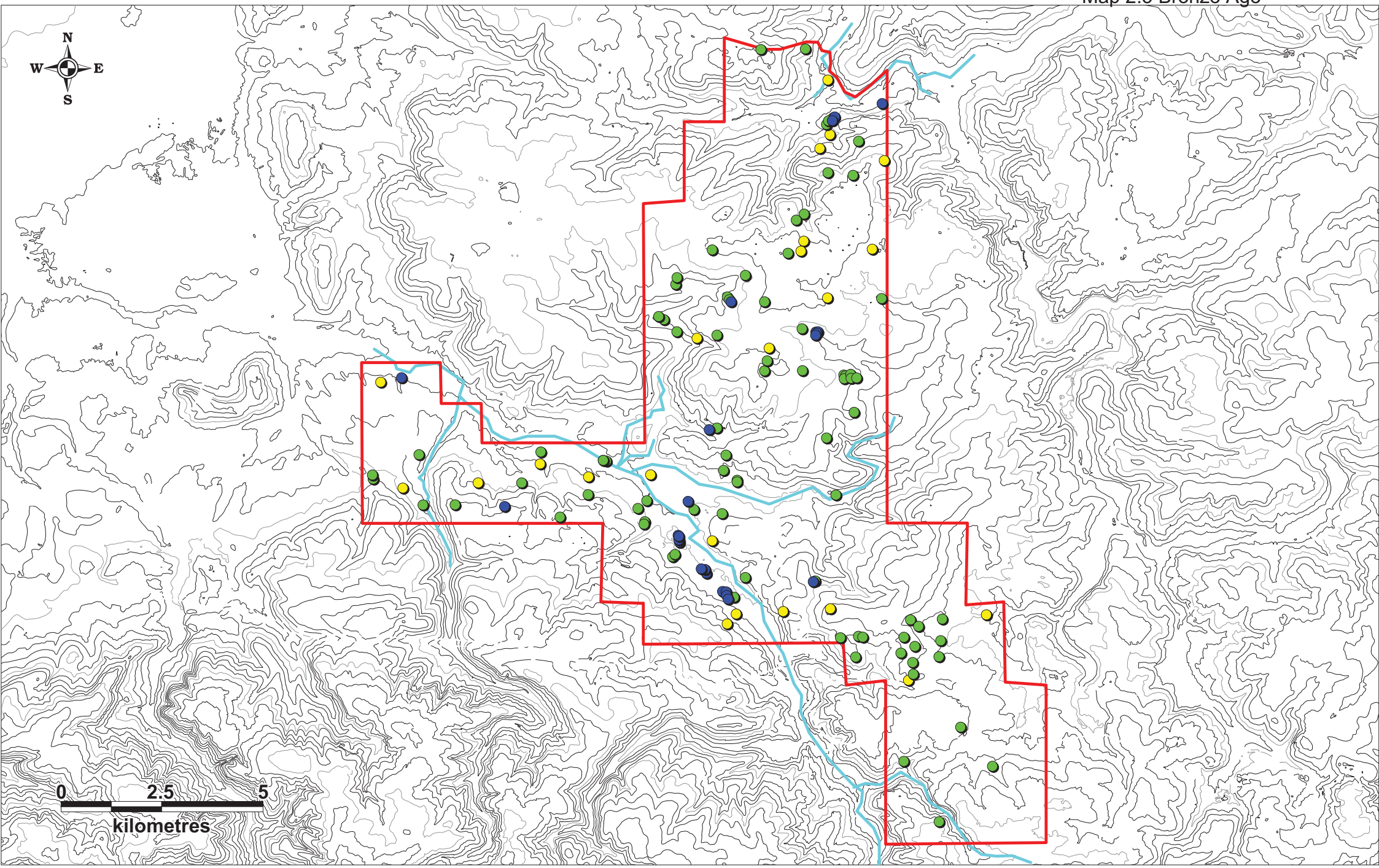
Map 2.3 Mesolithic



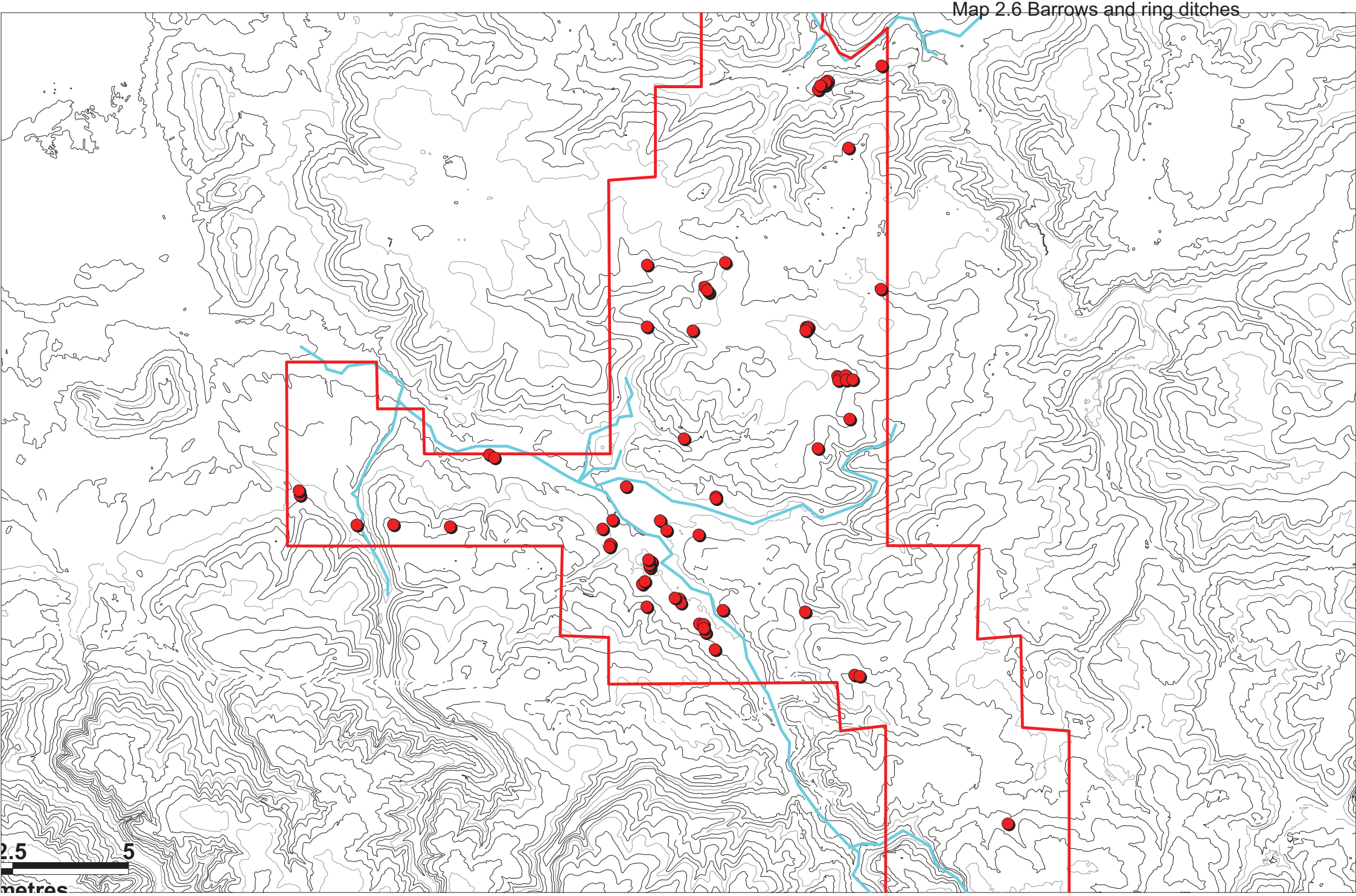
Map 2.4 Neolithic



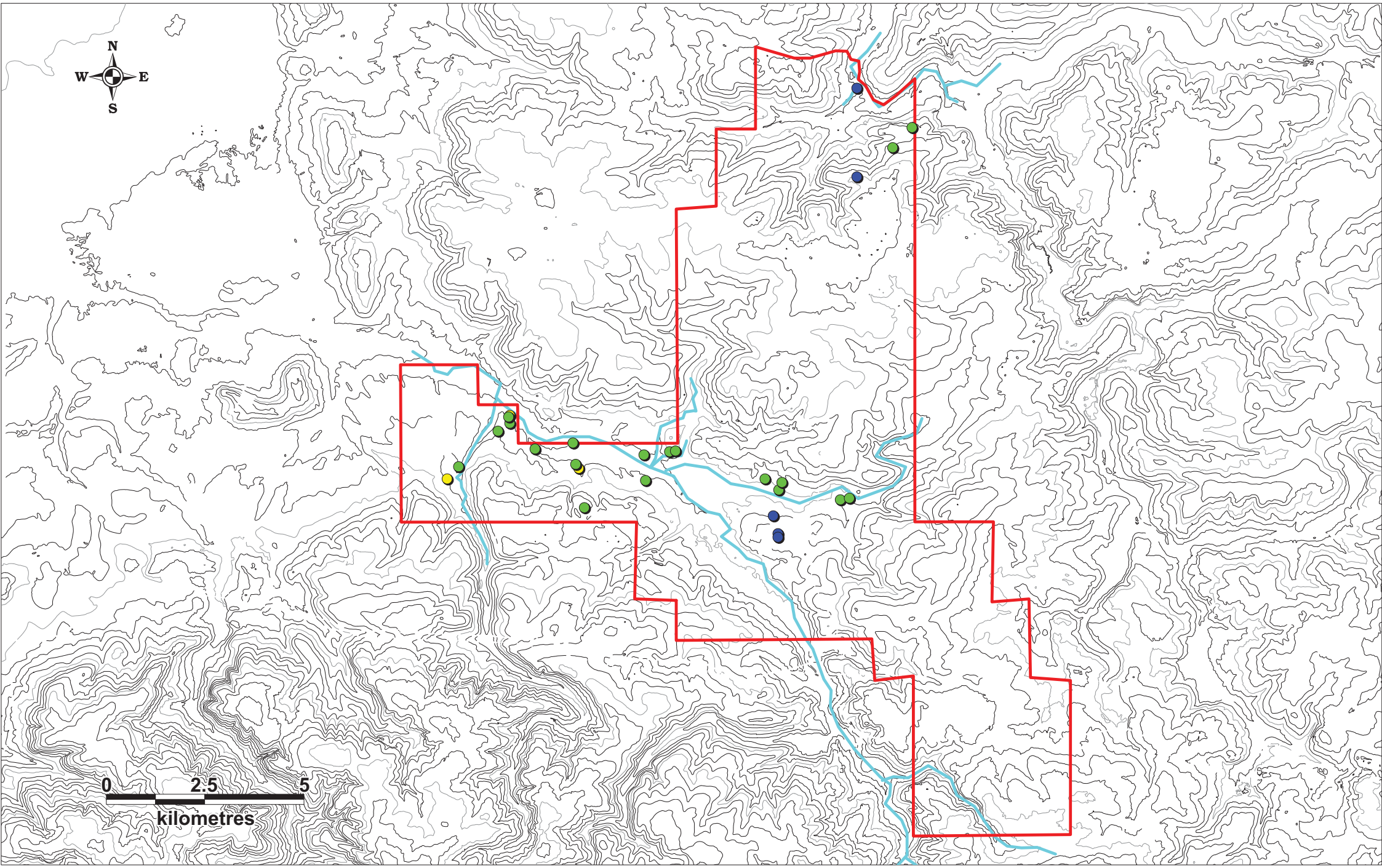
Map 2.5 Bronze Age



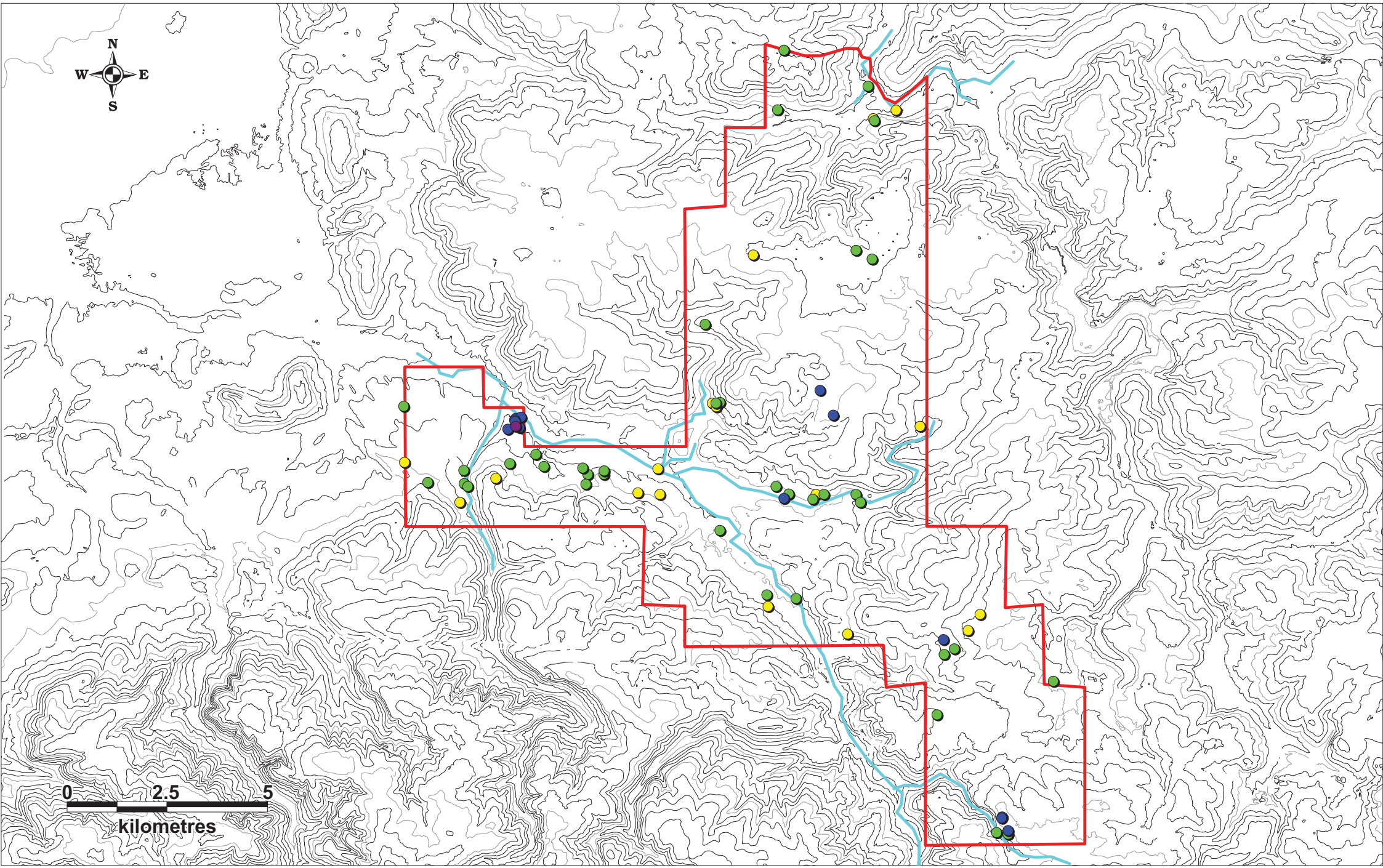
Map 2.6 Barrows and ring ditches



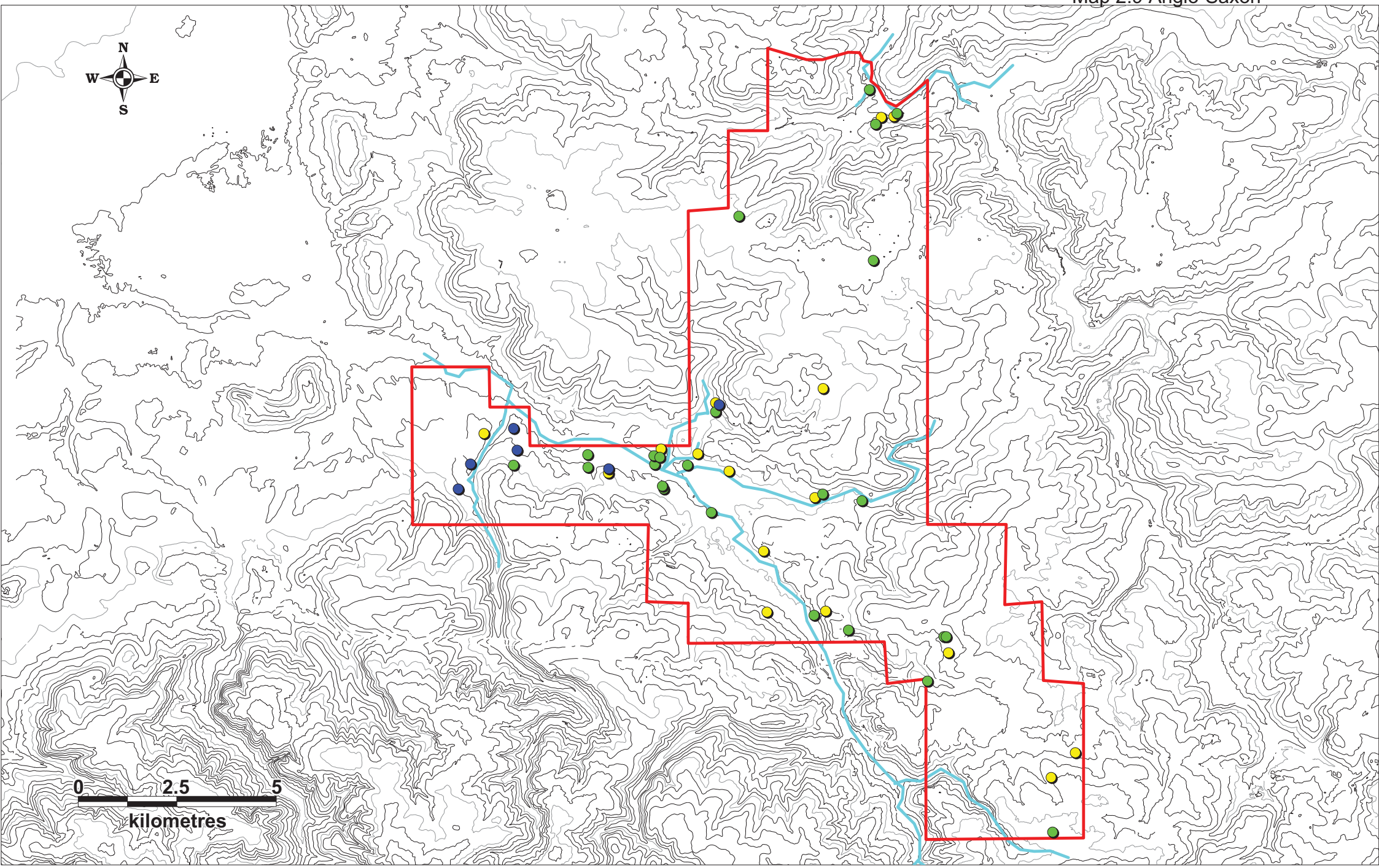
Map 2.7 Iron Age



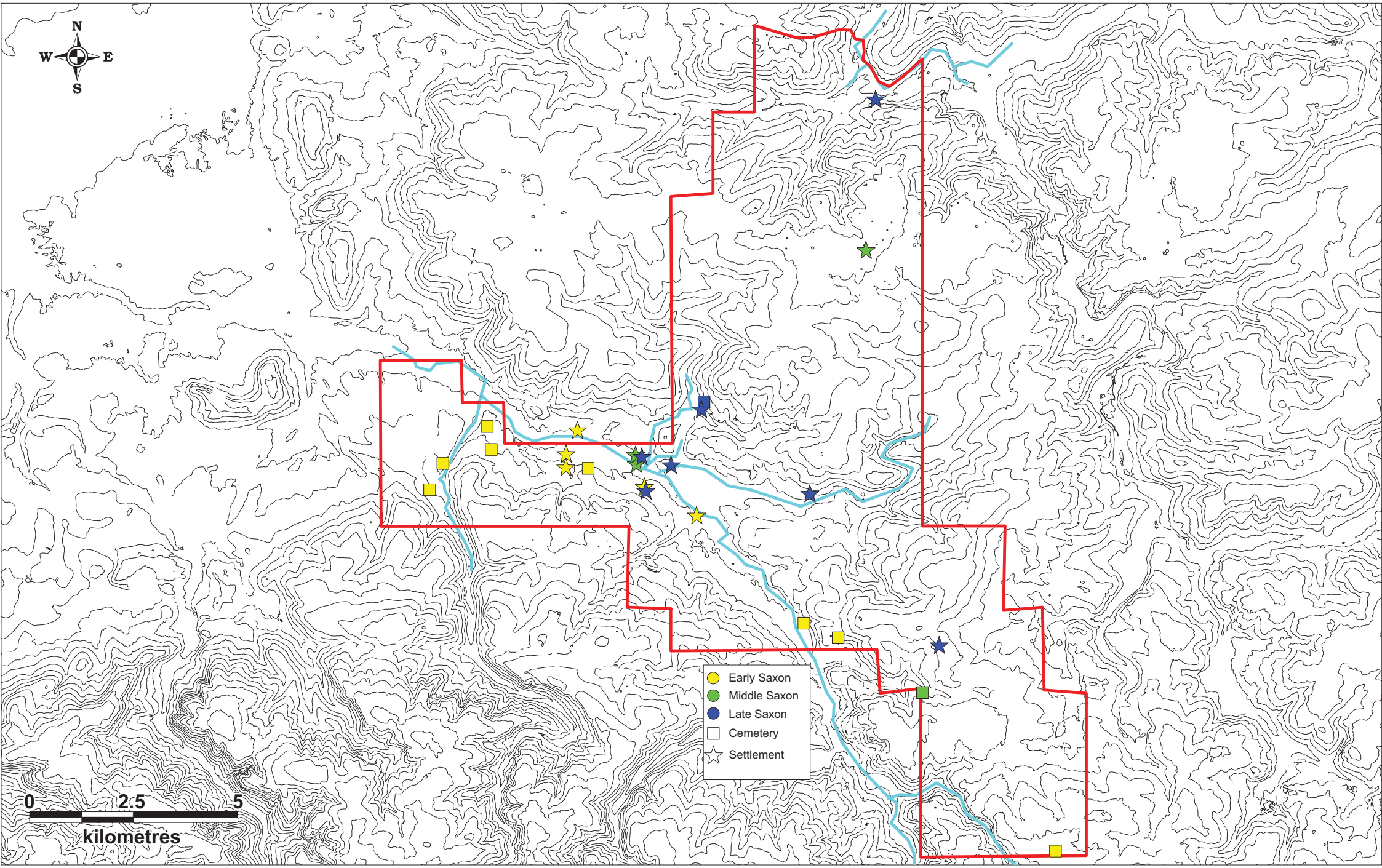
Map 2.8 Roman



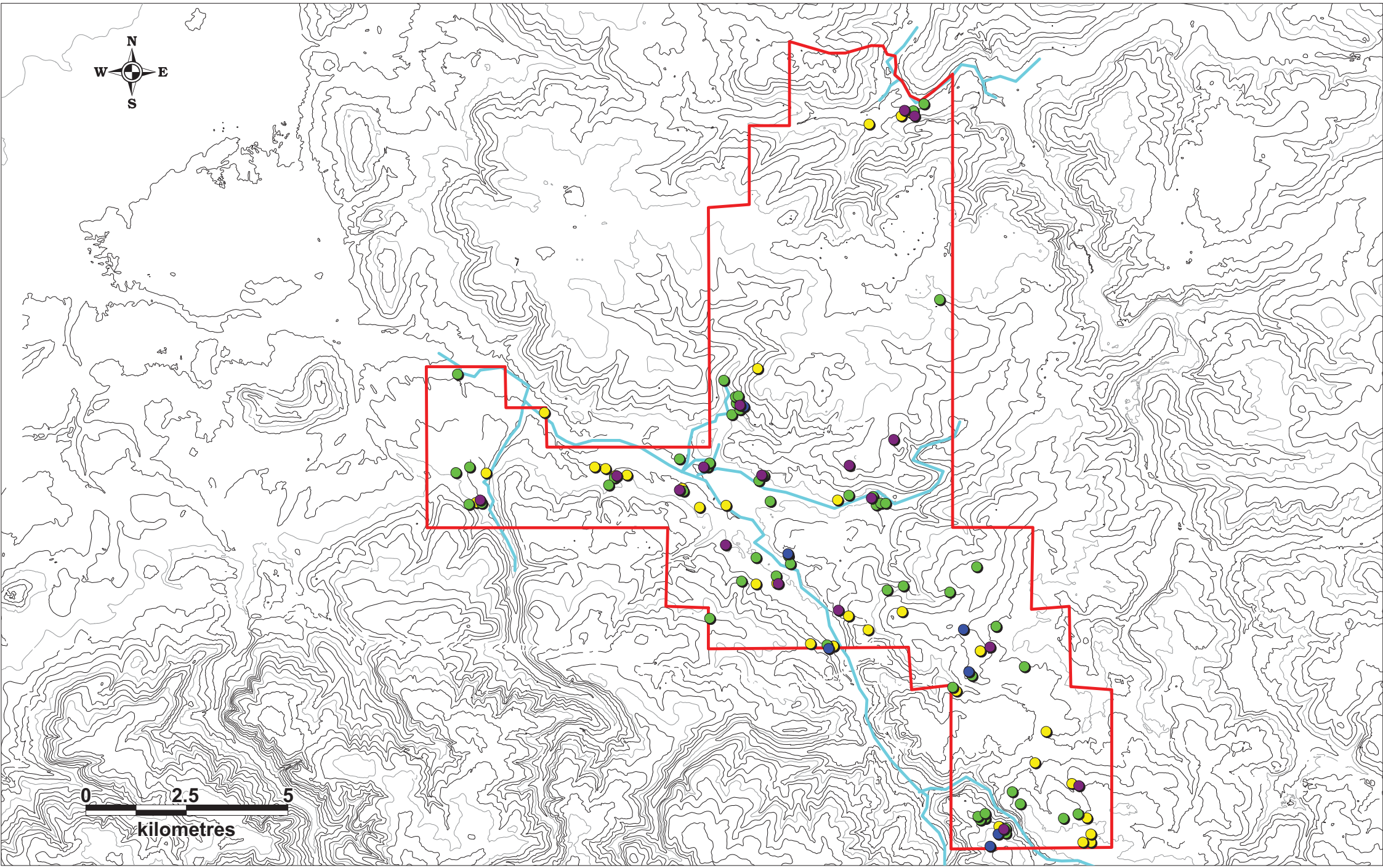
Map 2.9 Anglo-Saxon



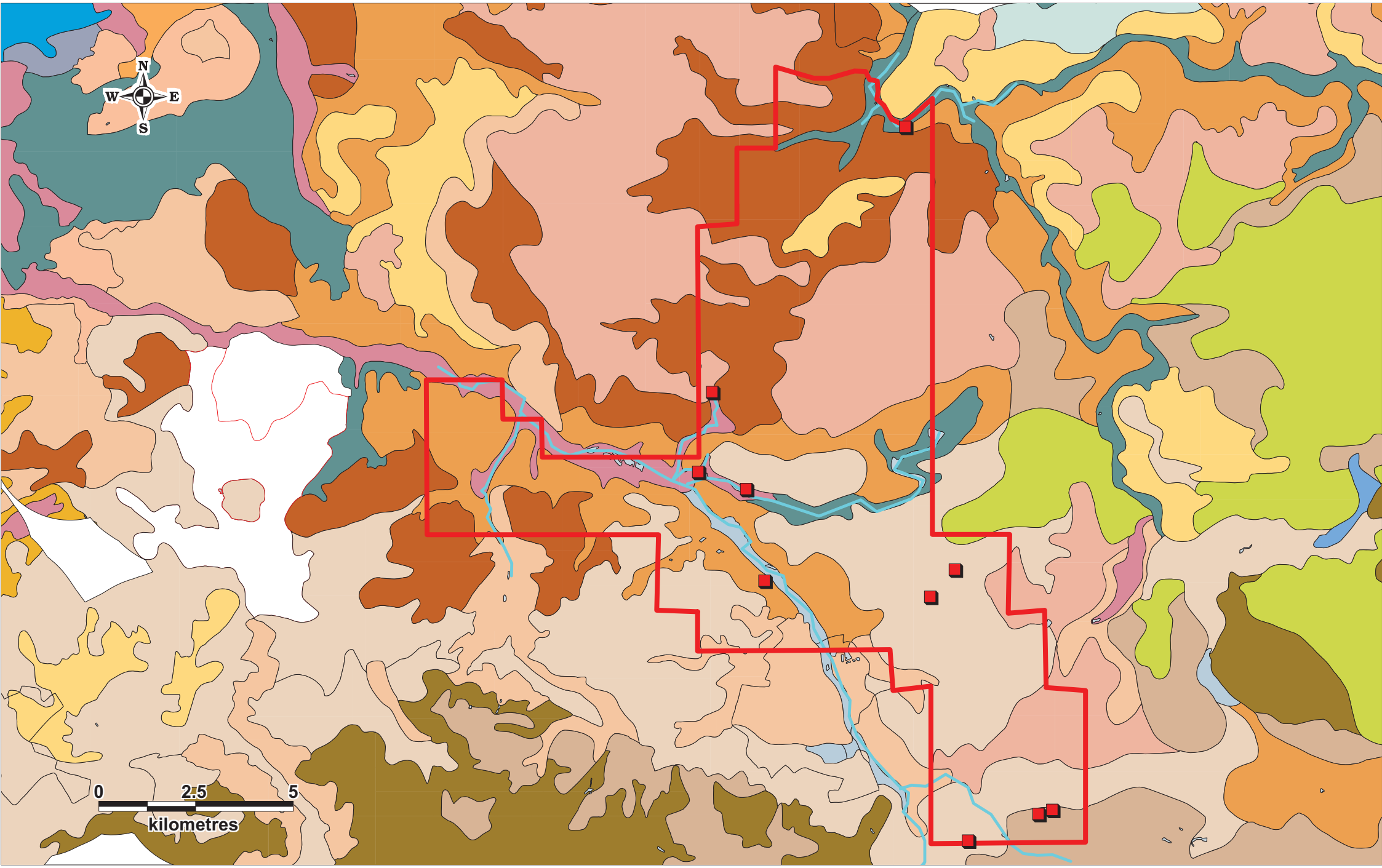
Map 2.10 Anglo-Saxon phases and possible site types



Map 2.11 Medieval



Map 2.12 Medieval moated sites against soil types



Part 3 The Waveney area

Area selected for the study
This survey area, 74 sq km, is bounded by the River Waveney, the Norfolk/Suffolk border, to the north, and comprises a two to three kilometre wide strip south of this from Weybread in the west to Barnby, on the outskirts of Lowestoft, to the east. It was selected for the aggregates project because it includes the largest long-running and highly productive extraction site investigation at Flixton near Bungay as well as previous workings and potential future areas. It was also chosen for the NMP aspect of the project because of the good quality fieldwork in part of the area and the relative lack of previous air photo evidence in the SMR, partially at least due to its geographical position on the border between two counties (although an extensive cropmark landscape has been identified in the Lothingland area between Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth to the east).

Geological and topographical background
Within the present Waveney valley a deep sequence of Anglian, fluvial and glacial deposits, overlying early Pleistocene accretions, possibly marine sediments, exist. The drift geology consists of chalky till, alluvium and a large area of fen peat to the east, with the minerals resource composed of a variety of river terrace gravels and sands. The soils (Map 3.2) are predominately peaty in the east, or poorly drained deep sands, loam or clay elsewhere (Wessex Archaeology, 1996).

The Waveney rises at Redgrave Fen in north Suffolk and flows easterly for roughly 125km, thorough Diss, Bungay and Beccles, and finally north to meet the sea at GreatYarmouth. This survey is therefore examining only the Suffolk side of this riparian landscape, and should be considered in comparison with evidence of the Norfolk NMP survey (currently ongoing) and other Norfolk evidence in their HBSMR. As settlement on valley sides often favours the north side; i.e. the south-facing slope, it is likely that Norfolk may have the greater weight of archaeological evidence.

About half of the project area east of Bungay (representing 20 to 25% of the whole) sits below 5 metres OD and so consequently, water-management systems are visible along the course of the Waveney with, in particular, extensive drains and flood defences in the east.

As with most of Suffolk, from the medieval period until the twentieth century, the agricultural economy of this area consisted of a mix of arable and pastoral, linked to a network of heaths and commons. This was probably complemented by the use of the extensive marshland natural and semi-natural resources, what Williamson (1997) has called intermediate exploitation. The economy on the Waveney probably developed a focus on dairy farming, utilising these wetlands. The dominant field pattern is irregular and suggestive of the early non-parliamentarian enclosure described by Dymond (in Dymond & Martin, 1999), although a small number of parishes to the east of the survey area contain high levels of parliamentary enclosure.

The decades following the Second World War saw dramatic changes in the character of the agricultural landscape. Intensive agriculture has encroached onto both the commons and former marshland while industrial aggregate extraction, for example at Flixton Quarry, has transformed large areas. Military development itself was concentrated mainly on the airfields at Bungay and Beccles and the area in general was largely untouched, in comparison to the Suffolk coast, for example.

Bungay and Beccles, both medieval villages that have experienced rapid expansion in the twentieth century, are the only areas of occupation of any size in the survey area. Dispersed hamlets or farmsteads dominate the current settlement pattern in the remainder of the survey region, with a notable concentration on the marsh edge. Moated sites are a frequent occurrence within these settlements and high status dwellings are present at Mettingham Castle and Flixton Hall, the latter surrounded by an extensive parkland.

The village of Worlingham has seen rapid expansion in recent years, possibly due to the growth and development at the port of Lowestoft, some 9km to the east, as well as

improvements in the road infrastructure in the surrounding area. This, as well as Beccles and Bungay, are the few areas of modern development in an otherwise predominantly rural landscape.

Methods of discovery
Map 3.1

Regular and well-recorded fieldwalking has been undertaken through a large part of this survey area by amateur archaeologist Mike Hardy. Consequently, a few parishes, namely Weybread, Mendham, St Cross South Elmham, St Mary otherwise Homersfield and Flixton parishes are disproportionately well recorded (see summaries in Proc Suffolk Institute Archaeology , Archaeology in Suffolk 1984, 1985, 1988, 1991).

The importance of recent aggregate extraction at Flixton is mentioned below. Pre-1990 (PPG16) and particularly pre-1974 the area suffered from a lack of archaeological recording because of its remoteness from museums (Ipswich, Norwich) and there was no strong local society or individual recorder comparable to Basil Brown or Grace Lady Briscoe in the west of Suffolk in the mid 20th century. Thus the only recorded material from Homersfield pit is the Roman pottery kilns examined by Ipswich Museum (Smedley & Owles, PSIA) plus some Bronze Age Beaker sherds reported to Norwich Castle Museum. We can only speculate about what was lost by comparison with Flixton and by examining material from adjacent fields.

Most of the recent recording related to development other than minerals extraction has focussed on the medieval urban areas of Beccles and Bungay. One water pipeline has been surveyed in Barsham parish, and Environment Agency drainage works in Beccles.

Metal detecting finds are recorded in isolated clusters across the area; these surveys are mostly fairly unsystematic though a single large site in Homersfield (SEY 017) has been thoroughly examined and fully reported by one individual.

Current permissions
Current aggregate permissions exist at Flixton Quarry and Weybread pit, on river terrace sands and gravels only. Weybread was largely quarried before archaeological conditions were imposed, and so little information was recovered. There is currently no extraction in this pit, although permissions do exist until 2048. Flixton quarry, however, is under constant archaeological surveillance. This has been almost continually quarried for some ?20 years, and has been subject to archaeological condition since the mid 1990's. Vast amounts of archaeology have been discovered in these river terrace deposits to the west of Flixton village revealing a nationally important landscape. As the excavations are currently ongoing limited detail is available.

Similar river terrace deposits are shown on the BGS Minerals resource map to the north of Bungay and Mettingham and Barsham, and limited areas in Mendham but these are not currently exploited. There are also extensive exposed glaciofluval deposits of sand and gravel in the eastern half of the area, but to the west there is a predominate covering of chalky till except in Weybread parish.

Chronological gazetteer

Palaeolithic
Map 3.3
12 Sites – 1 site per 6.16 sq km.
The period discussed within this section covers the period *c*. 500,000 to 10,000 BP (*c*. 8,000 BC). When considering the amount of evidence available compared to the timescale covered, it is fair to state that most aspects of the period are relatively poorly understood. However, the evidence discovered from within East Anglia has provided some of the most important information about early hominid occupation for Britain.

The majority of sites from this period are single finds, focussed on the south west of the area, although evidence is generally sparse. Two Acheulian hand axes and a prismatic core (BCC 010, BRS 002, NHC 002) were found close to the edge of the current peat platform in the east of the survey area, probably re-deposited from dredged material. The remainder of the single finds and a small group of Upper Palaeolithic worked flints (WYB 052) were found near or within gravels, probably river terrace deposits. The majority are very likely re-deposited finds, although three (FLN 057, WYB 014) were found during quarrying excavations.

The most significant find of this period is a layer of mammaliferous gravels between Gipping and Lowestoft tills, found within a post-medieval brick pit in St Cross South Elmham (SEC 007). This is an interglacial deposit on the side of a small high point on the south side of a tributary to the River Waveney, now called The Beck. The immediate area surrounding this find is likely to have been destroyed during extraction for the brickworks but its position on the tributary suggests good potential for further evidence.

Mesolithic
Map 3.4
2 Sites – 1 site every 37 sq km

Mesolithic evidence is extremely limited in this area, discovered in fieldwalking in the southwest of the area. A stray find of a core is recorded at Mendham (MDM 091), and a group of four lightly patinated flakes from a blade industry have been found whilst field walking in St Mary South Elmham (SEY 004). These were both found in reasonably close proximity to each other, the flakes coming from the south side of The Beck tributary. The core is from a promontory between The Beck and the Waveney and was found amongst Iron Age, Roman and Saxon finds on a predominantly Roman site.

Neolithic
Map 3.5
29 sites – 1 site every 2.55 sq km
The main focus of sites is on the south west of the area. Using Bungay as a centre point, the number of Neolithic sites to the west of this totals twenty-three, with only six to the east.

However the eastern sites include a group of serrated flint flakes and a polished Neolithic flint axe discovered on a layer of sand under a peat layer in Worlingham (WGM 001) and two further stray finds are also from below the 5m contour in potential buried wetland locations (Worlingham and Barnby).

Again a large number of sites recorded in this period are single stone tools ranging from axes to scrapers, and an arrowhead. They have been found during fieldwalking, metal detecting and by other similar methods. Small scatters of flint scrapers and flakes were also found whilst fieldwalking in Mendham, Weybread and St Cross South Elmham (MDM 054, MDM 097, WYB 058, SEC 047). A scatter of five cores and two scrapers were found in gravel extraction south of Weybread (WYB 045).
Most of these sites are on high ground, both on the minor tributaries of the Waveney and overlooking the main valley.

Cropmarks are visible on air photographs in Barsham parish (BRS 017), forming over two rows of parallel features, possibly post-holes or post-pits, 1-2m wide and spaced between 3 and 4m apart. This has tentatively been interpreted as an early or middle Neolithic post built structure, up to 18m long and 5m wide, which would be unique in Suffolk (the alternative interpretation is that this may be a Roman aisled building).

An oval enclosure, possibly the remains of a Neolithic mortuary enclosure, can be seen as a low earthwork on aerial photographs in Mettingham (MTT 029). It is approximately 30m in length and 25m broad and is defined by a very low earthwork bank up to 4m wide. This feature faces north on the edge of a plateau overlooking the Waveney and its tributaries, at the highest point in the surrounding area at roughly 30m OD It may be sited on Mettingham's

former village green, and so may never have been under plough prior to being photographed in 1945. Few long barrows are known in Suffolk with only 24 entries in the SMR, none of which are confirmed.

Flixton Quarry (Map 3.7), however, proved to be exceptionally fruitful for Neolithic evidence with a Neolithic long barrow recently being found at roughly 20m OD (FLN 069), the first to be excavated in Suffolk (Boulter, *pers. comm*. 2007). It formed a continuous 40m by 17m ditch, with a central mortuary chamber at the eastern end and postholes around the entire structure, inside the ditch. A pit with a "monster" bead, a piece some 11cm long made from jet found alongside a complete Mildenhall type ware bowl was also excavated at the eastern end. Analysis of this feature and associated finds is ongoing.

A scatter of 37 flint flakes, a polished axe and three cores were recovered at FLN 046. A vast number of Neolithic pits have been recorded throughout the excavations at Flixton (FLN 009, FLN 056, FLN 057 and FLN 059). At FLN 062, further pits were recorded however their repetition in character, form and function suggests they were deliberately structured deposition rather than simple domestic disposal. Also found at FLN 062 was a curving ditch comprising two sections with opposing terminals. At FLN 013 a sub-circular posthole structure was noted with a 3m wide entrance to the NW and a posthole structure in the centre (Archaeology in Suffolk, PSIA 2001-2005 2001-2005). Again, analysis of all these excavations are ongoing but with the Neolithic evidence alone, it stands as a nationally important landscape in its own right.

Bronze Age
Map 3.6
47 sites – 1 site per 1.68 sq km (Site code FLN 061 was allocated to three ring ditches within Flixton Quarry, and FLN 069 was allocated to two)

The focus again is on the southwest area, with only thirteen sites recorded to the east of Bungay, and thirty-four to the west. The majority of these (seventeen in total) are in Flixton Quarry.

Of the forty-seven sites recorded from the Bronze Age, thirty are interpreted as ring-ditches, usually representative of a ploughed out burial mound. The majority of these features are characteristically identified during aerial photo survey, showing as circular cropmarks, although the inherent issues this interpretation brings re-iterate that this is must be taken as an assumption only.

Thirteen of these ring-ditches are located within Flixton Quarry (see Map 3.7) (FLN 008, FLN 010, FLN 011, FLN 012, FLN 013 FLN 045, FLN 055 (excavated with FLN 059 site), FLN 061, FLN 064, FLN 069). With the exception of FLN 012, all have been excavated before the recent aggregate extraction, with FLN 012 due to be dug within the next few years. At least nine of the twelve excavated had some form of central feature ranging from a square enclosure with three inverted biconical cremation urns (FLN 069) to a possible unurned cremation (FLN 064), suggesting the burial mound interpretation was correct in these cases. Two of the ditches excavated at FLN 061 were doubled; concentric circles in one case round a central feature. This was the right size and shape to be a grave but no body was recovered. It is worth noting that the sandy soils of Flixton Quarry mean that preservation of bone is extremely poor. The other double ring-ditch had no central feature although it was only partially revealed during excavation and so a feature, slightly off-centre, may still be present (Boulter, *pers. comm*. 2007). The ditches within FLN 061, FLN 064 and FLN 069 were not known about until excavation as the area was heavily planted after the first World War, before aerial photography began. Further excavations are planned in this wood over the coming years, and so a high potential for further burial monuments exists.

Ditches FLN 045, FLN 008, FLN 013, FLN 055, FLN 010, FLN 069, FLN 064 and the southerly ditch in FLN 061 appear to form a circle. This may be coincidental as there is no known feature in the centre but it is also possible that they were placed like this deliberately compliment a central feature, subsequently lost.

This group of ring-ditches is indicative of a barrow cemetery, possibly a continuation of the tradition begun in the Neolithic with the Long Barrow burial mound, a practice repeated later with the Saxon cemetery on the same site. FLN 010 was also used as a Saxon burial monument, with eleven early Saxon graves dug into the ditch itself. They are at roughly 20m OD.

A further small group of ring-ditches exists in Barsham Parish, a group of three, possibly four, were noted on aerial photographs, on the western side of a small tributary to the Waveney (BRS 005, BRS 027, BRS 028, BRS 029).

Further probable ring-ditches are noted from air photographs in Beccles (BCC 015, BCC 016), Bungay (BUN 009, BUN 024), Mendham (MDM 007, MDM 108), Mettingham (MTT 005, MTT 015, MTT 028, MTT 034), Shipmeadow (SMW 010) and Weybread (WYB 054). With the exception of MDM 007 and MTT 005, the features are scattered throughout the survey area, generally on the first gravel terrace overlooking the Waveney or its tributaries. MDM 007 however, is on the edge of Mendham Marshes, at roughly 15m OD only. This feature is irregularly shaped and its position is suggestive of an alternative interpretation to a burial mound. MTT 005 is located on gravely soil below 5m OD on the south edge of Benstead Marshes in Mettingham.

Further Bronze Age evidence is fairly sparse in this survey area. Within Flixton Quarry, small groups of early Bronze Age pits at FLN 053 and FLN 059 were revealed, somewhat expected considering the level of activity within this area at that time. At FLN 009 and FLN 065 small groups of later Bronze Age/early Iron Age pits were noted suggesting this area was occupied throughout this period. At Bungay (BUN 041) an evaluation revealed middle Bronze Age activity, including a potential structure on the south side of a tributary to the Waveney.

A number of single and small groups of finds have been recovered from this survey region. These include two socketed axes (SEY 019, MDM Misc), three spearheads (BCC 011, BUN 029, SEY 011), a double ended bronze awl (MDM 075), a flint scraper (SEY Misc), a small group of probable Bronze Age flintwork (WYB 054) and a dirk or rapier (dagger) from Mettingham (MTT 018). A further bronze arrowhead of mid to late Bronze Age has recently been discovered in a similar location to MTT 018 suggesting a high potential for further evidence from here. A possible Bronze Age hoard was revealed whilst metal detecting in St Mary South Elmham (SEY 018). The artefacts recovered were a knife, bronze cast binding and a socketed axehead. A further socket fragment and a blade spearhead tip were found within 42m of this (SEY 020) and are possibly representative of the same hoard.

At St Mary South Elmham (SEY 002) a number of Beaker sherds were recovered from the first gravel terrace during gravel extraction, strongly suggesting that either another barrow or a settlement existed here.

Iron Age
Map 3.8
20 sites – 1 site per 3.7 sq km
Again an east/west split exists with only three sites to the east, seventeen to the west. However, the three sites in the east are of high significance.

Iron Age sites and finds are generally considered to be rare. The period is considerably shorter than most, spanning only circa 850 years. There is a greater use of iron rather than flint for tools, and these, along with hand made pottery, are fragile and rarely survive. Therefore an Iron Age single find is often representative of a larger site, and could be considered as quite significant.

The distribution map shows a clear pattern of sites; most are based on or near the Waveney and its tributaries, within a few hundred metres of a water source. With the exception of SEC 035, an Iron Age pot sherd found within a Roman pottery scatter, all the sites recorded are between 25m and 35m OD and are notable in their absence from river terrace sands and gravels. This suggests a deliberate avoidance of settlement on the most fertile land, enabling

this to be used for alternative purposes, for example stock grazing. At Flixton Quarry, one of the few examples of Iron Age evidence at a lower level, small post-hole structures, enclosure ditches and field boundaries were revealed (FLN 056, FLN 057, FLN 059) possibly suggesting agricultural use rather than settlement. The Iron Age evidence at Flixton, and indeed the Roman after it, was all revealed at the southern edge of the quarry; that is, at the furthest (and a higher) point from the river so if it is settlement evidence, it is still seemingly avoiding the most fertile land.

A roughly D-shaped ditched enclosure of probable later prehistoric date is visible as a faint cropmark on aerial photographs in Mendham (MDM 112). This is adjacent to a small pottery scatter consisting of two sand tempered body sherds and a Roman greyware sherd (MDM 035) and so could be representative of a site of this date.

Eight small scatters of Iron Age pottery were found during the fieldwalking surveys by Mike Hardy, as discussed above (MDM 027, MDM 035, MDM 091, MDM 097, SEC 035, SEY 005, SEY 006 and SEY Misc) possibly indicative of settlement sites. At WYB 026 a sherd of Iron Age pot was found just to the north of a small scatter of twenty-seven flint flakes, a scraper and a knife. The flint was not datable but the presence of Iron Age pottery may indicate a site of this date.

A single silver coin was found whilst metal detecting in Bungay (BUN 030).

Also at Bungay (BUN 042), features of late Iron Age, early Roman were revealed, in the form of ditches and pits, suggesting and occupation site.

Two areas of possible Iron Age cropmarks are visible on aerial photographs in Barsham (BRS 028) and Weybread (WYB 065) parishes. At Barsham, a small ring ditch within and to the eastern side of a ditched enclosure is visible in close proximity to three probable Bronze Age ring ditches. A tentative suggestion of an Iron Age roundhouse has been made of the ring ditch, the cropmark forming over the narrow and shallow drip gully enclosing the structure. This enclosure, and indeed the Bronze Age ring-ditches with it, are on the western side of a small tributary to the Waveney, at roughly 25m OD.
At Weybread, cropmarks reveal the remains of field boundaries, a possible trackway and a probable Bronze Age ring ditch (WYB 017). The cropmarks are tentatively dated as Iron Age/Roman are at roughly 25m OD on a slope overlooking the Waveney to the north. Both these sites have high potential for further information and evidence.

At St Mary South Elmham a large Roman site has been discovered (SEY 017) at between 15 and 20m OD; metal detecting over a number of years revealing a large quantity of rich metalwork, some of which dates to the Iron Age. Finds from this date include a possible coin hoard, further single coins and pottery sherds. This is suggestive of a large settlement in this area for a number of years, beginning in the Iron Age. This site is one of the few from this date to be located within the river terrace sands and gravels and if current trends are continued, this could be seen as a potential extraction area in the future. Some extraction has occurred here in the past; Homersfield Pit just to the north (SEY 002) is now a lake.

A very significant find was made on Beccles Marshes in 2006, one of the few recorded in the peat area to the north of the survey area. During monitoring of flood alleviation schemes on the broads, a late Iron Age trackway (BCC 043), aligned NW-SE, was revealed and subsequently excavated. Large upright posts and associated wooden remains, radiocarbon dated to the late Iron Age (c.350 BC – 100AD) were thought to represent a probable causeway across the floodplain of the River Waveney. The origin, destination and indeed the overall length of this trackway is unknown, but it may be surmised that it links 'islands' within the wetland (Everett, *pers. comm.* 2007). Boney's Island (BCC 023), to the southeast of this trackway has since been alternatively interpreted. It is a roughly oval island, c. 220m x 160m, the top of which is roughly 5m OD in an otherwise almost flat floodplain, and does not appear to be an artificial construction. It is shown on the 1st edition OS map but its date and function are unknown. Trackway BCC 043 appears to roughly run in the direction of Boney's Island, which is now thought to be a possible Iron Age Marsh fort, relatively rare in Suffolk. The island was said to have been used as a prisoner of war camp during the Napoleonic Wars,

although there is no proof of this. It was also the town dump during the 1930's/1940's and so its state of preservation, should it prove to be something significant, is unknown.

Prehistoric (unspecified)
10 sites – 1 site per 7.4 sq. km

10 sites have been categorised as prehistoric, usually because the find or site is too undiagnostic to characterise further. BCC 021, BUN Misc, FLN 071 and WYB 039 were all small scatters of undiagnostic flints found at various locations across the survey area, while BUN Misc is a very crude flint axe found in a gravel pit on the west side of Bungay common. A single sherd of flint-gritted pottery was found during the monitoring of a pipeline (BRS 010) whilst at BUN 040 and BUN 042, unconfirmed prehistoric features were revealed during monitoring, with pottery and flint recovered from footing trenches, pits and at least one ditch at BUN 042. A peat layer was noted during a evaluation at BUN 045. Although no artefacts were recovered from it, it has a high potential for prehistoric evidence. During excavations at Flixton Quarry, four small posthole structures were revealed (FLN 068). The age of these buildings is unknown, but their size and shape suggests they are late Prehistoric in origin.

Roman
Map 3.9
83 sites – 1 per 0.89 sq. km.

Once more the focus is towards the west, with only twenty-one sites recorded in the east. These twenty-one again avoid the peat area around Worlingham and Beccles, but Roman sherds were found at a high level in the vicinity of the Iron Age trackway. All the recorded sites follow similar traits to the Iron Age; that is, many are between 25m to 35m OD and seemingly avoid the river terrace sands and gravels. In the Roman period there is a greater use of metal than in Prehistory, and so consequently a greater number of metal finds are recorded. Roman pottery is more robust and survives better than its predecessors although certain fabrics, particularly samian ware, are badly affected by the clay soils in this area..

Twenty-four sites are recorded of single and small scatters of Roman finds, recovered whilst metal detecting. For example, at Barsham (BRS 012) two coins and a nail were recovered, in Bungay (BUN 068) three Roman coins were found alongside two medieval silver coins and two post-medieval coins, at St Mary South Elmham (SEY 027) two bronze Roman coins were found whilst metal detecting in 2004 and in Mettingham (MTT Misc), a Roman silver ring was discovered alongside a bronze medieval ring. At St Mary South Elmham a small cluster of findspots, possibly represents a larger site: SEY 018, 025, and four sites recorded as SEY Misc are within 400m of each other, and collectively include 2 bronze brooches and 7 bronze coins.

Further single metal finds have been found under different circumstances, such as a bronze coin seen on the surface in Mettingham (MTT Misc) and two perforated bronze coins that were recovered during excavation of a Bronze Age ring ditch at Flixton Quarry (FLN 008).

Larger metal scatters are recorded, probably representative of settlement sites, the majority again found whilst metal detecting. At Bungay (BUN 027) a scatter of coins including two denarii were found alongside or close to the presumed route of a Roman road (MTT 014), only 220m from another large metalwork scatter (BUN 036) comprising a collection of 18 bronze and silver coins. This site is at roughly 25m OD on glaciofluvial deposits. Further small scatters of Roman metalwork and pottery have been recovered from Bungay, including a Colchester derivative brooch and three coins at BUN 030 and a scatter of pottery on the edge of an undated cropmark at Ilketshall St Margaret (ISM 004). An evaluation in 2000, consisting of five trial trenches (BUN 042), revealed several Roman features, ditches, pits and postholes, with associated finds

At Flixton (FLN 071) a metal detecting rally revealed a Roman metalwork scatter including a fragment of an unusual silver gilt bow brooch to the east of the present Flixton village, as well as medieval and post-medieval metalwork.

As with the metalwork scatters, clusters of pottery finds have been made in close proximity to each other, suggesting possible settlement sites, for example at North Cove. A complete pot with a cremation inside was recovered in a gas trench (NHC 006) whilst some 250m to the west Roman features and finds including pottery, box tile and coins were exposed during a topsoil strip (NHC 007). Further pottery sherds were found in a gas trench between these two sites (NHC 004) suggestive of a site of a reasonable size. A metalwork and pottery scatter was also discovered whilst metal detecting, roughly 700m to the east of the finds above (NHC 012).

A large number of finds were recovered through Mike Hardy's fieldwalking at Mendham, St Cross South Elmham and Weybread. These include single Samian and greyware sherds (MDM 050, MDM 085, WYB 035), and small scatters of the same (MDM 097, SEC 038, WYB 023). Many of these single finds and small scatters were found at lower levels, often below 15m OD. Larger pottery scatters were also noted again at Mendham (MDM 028, 029, 032, 075, 089), St Cross South Elmham (SEC 035, 046) and Weybread (WYB 040, 042). These generally consisted of a broad scatter of greywares with occasional Samian sherds. At WYB 040, a shell-gritted sherd, a possible Oxford type sherd and a colour-coated folded beaker sherd were discovered amongst a greyware scatter. This site, as with many of the other larger scatters, is on the valley side, at roughly 30m OD. A small scatter of greyware and three Samian sherds were recovered at St Cross South Elmham by Mike Hardy, with a further small scatter of greyware found immediately adjacent (SEC 031), exposed during ditch cutting.

An extensive Roman pottery scatter was recovered during fieldwalking in Mendham (MDM 091). This was a dense scatter of mostly greywares with two small fragments of Samian, as well as four sherds of probable Iron Age pottery found a promontory between The Beck and the Waveney.

A further extensive metalwork and pottery scatter is recorded at St Margaret South Elmham and St Cross South Elmham (SEM 009, SEC 052), during Mike Hardy's fieldwalking surveys. This is a site at roughly 30m OD, on the north side of The Beck, a tributary to the Waveney and includes 19 coins from SEC 052, with both roof and floor tile, as well as sherds of various Roman pottery types from SEM 009. This is indicative of a settlement with substantial buildings, possibly a villa.

At Mettingham, a pale 'L' shaped soil or cropmark approximately 15m wide is visible on aerial photographs (MTT 036). This is tentatively interpreted as a late Iron Age defended enclosure, or perhaps Roman fort (Hegarty, 2006), or a Roman enclosure ditch. If indeed it is an Iron Age hillfort, it would be one of only four known in Suffolk. Many of the known East Anglian sites demonstrate a preference for river valley locations and this site, situated at approximately 20m OD, overlooks the River Waveney. A presumed Roman road (MTT 014) runs north-south some 800m to the west of this feature, presumably a continuation of ISL 007, the route of a Roman road between Ilketshall St John and Spexhall to the south of the survey region. A number of finds have also been recovered from less than 300m to the east of the potential fort. These include a scatter of Samian and domestic pottery of 2nd-3rd century date (MTT 004), a further scatter of 'Roman' pottery sherds (MTT 006) and a silver Roman ring (MTT Misc). A metalwork scatter including a silver denarius (AD 226-9) and six bronze coins up to Valens (pre AD 364) was also recovered some 500m to the west of this feature (MTT 008). These finds are of all of a similar date and are suggestive of a mid Roman site rather than Iron Age, but regardless, this appears to be a site of great potential that would benefit from further investigation.

A potential crossing over the Waveney into Norfolk for this Roman road has been identified in Mettingham (MTT 010). A small scatter of greyware sherds were recovered, cited as being from the course of the River Waveney, or close to it. Further sources (OS Map, 1973) suggest that 'Roman remains' have been found in Norfolk on the opposite side of the river to

these finds, which, if the route of the presumed road is projected north-westerly, lie almost directly in line with this.

In St Mary South Elmham, two large Roman sites are recorded (SEY 002 and SEY 017) within 100m of each other. It is likely that these, along with the bottom stone of a sandstone quern that was found in the ploughsoil between the two (SEY 003) are all part of one extensive Roman site. AT SEY 002, a 3rd or 4th century pottery kiln was revealed with evidence of further kilns, perhaps as many as four, recovered from quarry observations. Numerous Roman coins, as well as brooches, Samian and greyware pottery, and various metal artefacts have been recorded over a 10-year period from SEY 017. Further metalwork was recovered roughly 350m to the east of this group (SEY 022), with various brooches and coins found. These seemingly represent an extensive Roman site, situated at between 15m to 20m OD overlooking the Waveney to the west. The kilns at SEY 002 were destroyed during the extraction of aggregate at Homersfield Pit, to the north of SEY 017 and so the extent of the remaining site is unknown.

Again Flixton Quarry (Map 3.7) provides a considerable quantity of Roman evidence, recovered from recent excavations. Monitoring of stripping during 1997 (FLN 053) located a discreet cluster of mid 1st century Roman features and pits including a perfect circle, c.25m in diameter, made up of closely spaced post holes, with very little in the way of features within it to suggest a purpose. A multi post hole structure and further pits were revealed at FLN 059. Two aisled buildings, a multiple burial and two pottery kilns were revealed at FLN 062. The kilns were not thought to be contemporary; both were subjected to archaeomagnetic dating which indicated one was last fired at the end of the 1st century, with the second last fired between the end of the 3rd and the early 5th centuries. Further pits, two ditches and a possible unurned cremation were found at FLN 063, all of probable Roman date (Archaeology in Suffolk, PSIA 2001-2005 2001-2005). The upper stone of a puddingstone quern with a central iron socket ring and iron staining on the exterior from the handle band was found on the surface at the edge of a field which was re-instated quarry at Flixton (FLN Misc). This may have originated from the quarry and was recovered only 600m to the west of the Roman site FLN 059. A discussed earlier, the Roman evidence at Flixton came from the southern extremities of the quarry, at the edge of the river sands and gravels.

Saxon
Map 3.10
23 sites – 1 site per 3.22 sq. km

The sites recorded for the Saxon period are again predominantly in the western area, with only three recorded to the east. They show a greater variety in position to previous periods, with sites discovered anywhere between 10m and 40m OD, and on river terrace gravels as well as glacial sand deposits. A trend they do appear to follow is occurring in small groups; that is, a couple of sites often found in close proximity to each other rather than spread over the survey area. For example in Bungay, sites BUN 020 and BUN 040 are close, as are BUN 050 and BUN Misc. In Flixton there is another small group (FLN 008, 041, 040, 053, 061, 066) and two small groups in Mendham (MDM 105, 075 and MDM 008, 091, 098). This is to be expected but the small number of Saxon sites recorded means that this is more evident within this period.

A single early Saxon brooch find is sometimes indicative of a cemetery and so is treated as of potential significance. A cruciform brooch was found metal detecting in St Margaret South Elmham (SEM 009), a small long brooch was found at Flixton (FLN 066) and a foot of the same type was recovered at Mendham (MDM 105). The find at Mendham is more significant as only 300m to the south east and further up the valley side, five further early Saxon brooches were found whilst metal detecting (MDM 075). This is very likely to be the site of a cemetery, MDM 105 probably originating from the same place as the other brooches. They are sited at c.40m OD, at the highest point in the surrounding area, overlooking a tributary of the Waveney to the north.

Further Saxon inhumations are recorded at Bungay (BUN 003) where remains indicative of burials were found in 1951 by workmen in Joyce Road. Potential for further burials at this location must be viewed as high. Pagan Saxon cremation urns were also reportedly found at Stow Park near Bungay (BUN Misc) before 1855 although the precise location of this find is unknown. A variety of metal finds have been recovered from the vicinity of these urns, including a Saxon strap end, a medieval harness fitting and a Roman coin (BUN 050).

As with other periods, the greatest evidence for the Saxon period comes from Flixton Quarry (map 3.7). Here, an inhumation cemetery, with at least 43 graves (FLN 053) was revealed during soil stripping in 1998. Eleven Saxon burials were found within the ditch of a Bronze Age burial mound (FLN 010). A further inhumation, orientated E-W, was revealed within the southern part of another ring ditch (FLN 008). A small long brooch and an early Saxon knife were recovered from FLN 057, some 450m to the south west of the known cemetery. These again are indicative of a cemetery themselves. This site is at the southern extreme of the quarry and so potential for a further burial ground in close proximity is possible. Approximately 500m the north/north-east of the graves at FLN 053, an apparent Saxon settlement was uncovered. At least three sunken-feature buildings, three post-hole buildings and twenty further Saxon buildings were excavated (FLN 061) (Archaeology in Suffolk, PSIA 2001-2005 2001-2005). Settlement does not usually follow trends in terms of its orientation to cemetery sites, and a number of communities may have used the same burial ground (Tipper, *pers. comm.* 2007). This, along with the brooch and knife from FLN 057, suggests that potential for further Saxon settlement and potentially further burials outside the current bounds of Flixton Quarry is high.

The sites and finds discussed above all hail from the early Saxon period. Archaeological evidence of middle Saxon (circa 650-850 AD) activity is extremely sparse, but the recent discovery of a pit containing Ipswich Ware in the centre of Bungay (BUN 040) is of interest. Within the Elmhams there are a few Ipswich ware sites just outside the current study area, most significantly close to South Elmham Hall (a county seat of the Bishops of Norwich), suggesting that the Saxon bishopric of Elmham may be here.

At Mendham, a Saxon Minster (MDM 008) is recorded in a will of Bishop Theodred of London (circa AD 945-951), and it is assumed that this was on the site of the Medieval Church (MDM 008). A Minster is described as a central church of a large parish served by team of priests who operated from the Minster (Dymond & Martin, 1999). Two bronze hooked tags, a form of clothes fastening, were discovered whilst metal detecting, near to the Minster (MDM 091, 098) suggesting contemporary settlement in the vicinity

Late Saxon and Medieval
Map 3.11
232 sites – 1 per 0.32 sq km.

The study area is somewhat inappropriate in terms of the later Saxon landscape, since there are two clear blocks of parishes which stretch south east from the Waveney onto the high clay – the South Elmhams plus Flixton and the Illketshalls south of Bungay and Mettingham. The possibility that Bungay was the site of a Saxon Minster serving the Illketshall block (Scarfe in Dymond & Martin 1999, 52) is supported by the recent discovery of Ipswich and Thetford wares in the town. The other medieval urban centre at Beccles was recorded as having a market by Domesday, with an Anglo-Saxon planned nucleus around an early market place (Wade in Dymond & Martin, 1999).

Both Beccles (BCC 018) and Bungay (BUN 028) are towns of at least medieval origin. Bungay, although smaller than Beccles around Domesday time, appears to have been a defended settlement of some size with its castle (BUN 004), built in roughly 1140, probably created as a result of the civil war during King Stephens reign in 1136-1153 (*ibid.)*. Much of the original medieval town remains today in both settlements with the castle and its outer bailey, known as Castle Hills (BUN 012), still a prominent feature in Bungay, although in a state of disrepair, and modern day Beccles respecting the original street pattern in most areas.

Both towns would benefit from a more detailed urban study than this survey can provide however, most planning applications within the towns are subject to archaeological condition, allowing us to begin to create a detailed history. Many small pottery scatters, medieval metalwork scatters and single finds such as seal matrices, horse harness mounts, bronze and silver coins are discovered, as expected from a medieval settlement. An area of 96 square metres was excavated prior to road widening in Bungay (BUN 016), revealing some thirty features including postholes, pits and a bread oven dated to the later 12th/early 13th centuries. In Beccles (BCC 035) an evaluation revealed dumped deposits of material containing a small amount of mixed artefacts including Thetfordware pottery, an indication of its Saxon origins. The medieval town ditch of Bungay (BUN 007, BUN 018, BUN 048) was revealed during excavation, at 18m wide and 4m deep, it was likely to have been filled in during the 13th or 14th centuries.

In both towns records of former chapels exist, with St Peters (BCC 031) and St Mary Magdalen (BCC 006), which also had a leper hospital attached, in Beccles, and the site of one in Bungay (BUN 005) marked on the OS map of 1973. Development in these towns must continue to be tightly controlled in light of the evidence they produce.

Much of the medieval evidence recovered from the survey area is as a direct result of Mike Hardy's fieldwalking surveys. Of the 232 sites recorded, 138 are within the parishes he examined; that is, from a total of thirteen parishes, over half the sites recorded are within the five fieldwalked parishes. Rather than this giving a false indication of the quantity of archaeology within these parishes, it is more likely that this is a typical representation that can be applied to the remainder of the region. The majority of sites discovered were pottery scatters, with at least 56 new sites being found this way. Finds include scatters of unglazed and glazed pottery, lava mill stone fragments and oyster shell remains and are likely to represent small settlements, since abandoned. They often occur along the routes of existing roads, suggesting a medieval origin for these routeways (Map 3.12)

Many of the sites recorded, in particular finds from St Cross South Elmham, are on high ground above 35m OD, but the very nature of the project meant that this was always likely. The fieldwalkers are unlikely to have had full access to the whole parish; the higher grounds of the arable fields obviously being more accessible than gardens of properties within villages, for example. Also because these fields have been subjected to ploughing, greater evidence will be exposed through this process.

At Mendham (MDM 109) a potential shrunken medieval settlement has been identified by aerial photography survey where cropmarks indicate possible croft enclosures and a moat. This interpretation may be supported by finds of 14th to 15th century pottery (MDM 042, MDM 078) discovered during these fieldwalking surveys (Hegarty, 2006).

The small scatters recovered are a mark of an originally dispersed, now abandoned settlement pattern, with individual farmsteads the form most common. As the buildings would have been mostly timber, little trace of them remains with scatters of pottery, brick and tile often the only evidence. A further example of this dispersed settlement pattern is found by examining the locations of medieval churches. For example, St Marys Church, in St Mary South Elmham otherwise Homersfield (SEY 013), Church of St Bartholomew in Shipmeadow (SMW 001), Holy Trinity in Barsham (BRS 003), and St George's Church at St Cross South Elmham (SEC 009) are all churches with sparse or scattered settlement in the vicinity. These structures themselves are standing medieval buildings, and so are of great importance as monuments. They would have been a focus for the community that was apparently dispersed around them.

Another common feature of the medieval landscape is the occurrence of parish churches and manorial halls in paired isolation (Martin in Dymond & Martin, 1999). At North Cove (NHC 005) and Mettingham (MTT 007) isolated churches exist, again without apparent evidence of settlement around them, and are thought to be part of hall and church complexes.

Ruined or lost churches also occur. The Domesday Survey records churches within parishes that often do not correspond with current buildings. For example at North Cove (NHC 004) a church, just to the west of the current church (NHC 005), was discovered and excavated during road construction. This was probably the second of two churches recorded in Worlingham parish in the Domesday Book, and later as the church of Little Worlingham parish, incorporated into North Cove in 1797. This area has not been knowingly fieldwalked and so evidence of this may be present.

Lastly churches also occur within villages and towns of late Saxon or medieval origin. The Church of St Andrew at Weybread (WYB 056), St Marys at Flixton (FLN 040), Holy Trinity at Bungay (BUN 020), St Marys at Bungay (BUN 006), All Saints at Mendham (MDM 008) and St Michaels in Beccles (BCC 013) are all standing buildings within current nucleated settlements. Although some have undergone extensive renovation over time, they are extant medieval buildings of high importance. Associated graveyards are also often present. In both Flixton (FLN 040) and Bungay (BUN 020) churches, possible late Saxon decorated stone or long and short work is present, suggesting a possible Saxon origin.

As said, these churches occur within current nucleated settlements; small villages of medieval origin, scattered throughout the survey area. They are relatively rare in this part of Suffolk, the dispersed farmstead pattern still predominating over much of the Waveney valley. Successful medieval settlements are ones that are still occupied to this day, in the shape of villages and towns, and so our current settlement pattern often reflects that of the medieval. Where they are of any size however, much of the development is modern. For example in Worlingham, where modern house building has almost merged this village into Beccles to the west, increasing its size dramatically. The 1880's OS map (Map 3.13) perhaps gives a fairer reflection of the size of this village previous to this recent expansion. Many listed buildings occur in these settlements, often timber framed and an indication of early origins. These occur in large numbers in Beccles and Bungay, but are also present within the surrounding villages. As with the finds scatters found during fieldwalking, they often occur alongside existing roads, suggesting these routeways are also of this date.

Two former priories are recorded on the sites and monuments record at Flixton (FLN 002) and Mendham (MDM 005). Flixton was a convent chapel of the Augustinian nunnery, founded in 1258 and closed in 1528. It is in a poor state of repair, with just one part of one wall with an arch remaining. However the site is scheduled and so subject to very tight planning conditions. Mendham, however, is not scheduled and is currently under plough. The site of St Mary's Priory (1155-1538) was largely destroyed in the 19th century with stone robbed and built into walls of Mendham Priory House, its walled garden and Priory Farm. Only isolated fragments of masonry remain. Air photographs show the former layout fairly clearly and potential for evidence, including burials must be interpreted as high.

Medieval settlement also often develops around a green (public grazing land) or common land (unenclosed land belonging to a local manor) with current evidence suggesting a 12th century origin for many of the settlements (Martin in Dymond & Martin, 1999). Both these land types occur within this survey region. Greens are found at Mettingham (MTT 017, Bungay (BUN 043), Flixton (FLN 042) and North Cove (NHC 010) whilst large commons are present at Beccles and Bungay, to the north of both of these medieval towns. These are both located in the lowlands, adjacent to the river Waveney in what was probably exceptional fertile grazing land.

Woodland extant from the medieval period, known as 'ancient woodland', is relatively rare in Suffolk and only one example of it exists in the Waveney survey area, in Flixton parish (FLN 049-052). This woodland was extensively managed during the Middle Ages, a period of great landscape pressure, and is an extant example of a controlled landscape, intensively managed as a renewable resource, but with the potential for the survival of earlier features preserved in a non-arable landscape.

Moats are a small proportion of the medieval sites recorded in this survey area and are amongst the most evocative and impressive survivals of the medieval landscape. Inspired by castles, but with token defences rather than defensive banks and walls, they offered lesser

members (rather than lords with their castles) a defended residence, linked with concepts of lordship and social status. Their distribution closely correlates with the naturally occurring boulder clay; the clay subsoil enabling cheap construction without a special lining (Martin, in Dymond & Martin, 1999), and so they occur sporadically throughout the survey area. Five potential moats were identified through air photo survey at Mendham, Mettingham and St Mary and St Cross South Elmham. MDM 109, MDM 120, MTT 026, SEY 033 and SEC 008 are all identified as large ditches, of possible medieval date. Ten confirmed moats do exist, with the eight at Barsham (BRS 001), St Cross South Elmham (SEC 003), Weybread (WYB 001), Mettingham (MTT 002) and at Mendham (MDM 003, 004, 037, 034) being occupied, and North Cove (NHC 001) and St Cross South Elmham (SEC 004) not occupied. Boys Hall at Flixton (FLN 001) was a lodge to Flixton Hall, built within a moat. The lodge was demolished in 1914 and the moat, designed with a channel dividing it into two islands, appears polluted by the adjacent sewage works. Roos Hall in Beccles (BCC 003), however, is a fine example of an occupied moat. The current building was created in 1583 and is a fine small red-brick structure surrounded by a moat, now largely filled in. This was the manor or lordship of Roos Hall which appears to have taken its name from the family of de Roos, who were lords of the manor in the beginning of the C13. Similarly Mettingham Hall (MTT 002), now a farm house, is an early 17th century construction within a moat, three arms of which are still waterfilled.

A medieval castle at Mettingham (MTT 003), is recorded. The current castle, an 1880's creation, and its predecessor of medieval origins, stood within the same grounds. The original may have been a fortified manor house only but fragments still remain, including a section of flint curtain wall and a gatehouse. A number of moats have encircled the buildings and baileys through time, the southern of which is still water-filled. This scheduled ancient monument is already heavily protected, and having originated in at least 1343, with some of the original castle still standing and probably in tact evidence within the moats, can offer us much information.

Aerial photography survey often reveals former medieval field boundaries, destroyed after the enclosure acts of the 18th century. Many examples exist throughout the survey area, too numerous to mention here. The majority of this area was subjected to early enclosure, perhaps as early as prehistoric but at Worlingham, North Cove and Ellough, just outside this region, nearly 4000 acres were enclosed by Parliamentary Act (Dymond in Dymond & Martin 1999, 104).

At Mettingham, a potential area of ridge and furrow was identified on air photos. This is extremely rare in Suffolk; usually only associated with the 'Champion' landscape of central England. They are visible as earthworks as several parallel linear banks and ditches running east to west in a field immediately to the east of Mettingham Hall. Alternatively, this could be a system of field drains.

Post-Medieval

144 sites – 1 per 0.51 sq. km.

During the post medieval period, the use of land types is much more varied with a fairly even spread of sites over the Waveney valley. The peat area to the north-east is fairly heavily utilised for the first time but the high claylands to the south of the survey region are still avoided. Many of the sites recorded in this area are metalwork and pottery scatters, remnants of occupation and manuring activity.

Land is becoming more extensively managed through this period as a result of an increasing population, with enclosure acts being implemented during the 18th century in the north east of the region in particular. Also the lowlands adjacent to the river, for example on Beccles marshes (a large flat landscape only relatively recently drained), are starting to be utilised with extensive drainage systems created, the marshes making exceptionally fertile grazing land.

Many relict ditches and banks, created as a result of this drainage effort, are evident on aerial photographs in all the parishes on the peat area to the north east. For example at Beccles (BCC 053, BCC 063, BCC 066), Barnby (BNB 007, BNB 008) and North Cove (NHC 022).

Another aspect of river management that was begun extensively in the post medieval period is the creation of water mills. These were created jointly for milling purposes and to manage the rivers themselves. A number of these still survive along the length of the Waveney and its tributaries (for example SEY 021 and BUN 037) but many are now located only by reviewing maps such as Kirby (1736), Bowen (1755) and Hodskinson (1783). For example, at Weybread, 3 water mills are identified (WYB 046, 048, 049) on both Bowen and Hodskinsons maps.

A number of windmills have also been identified in the same manner, such as in Bungay (BUN 026) and Beccles (BCC Misc). Cartographic sources, created reasonably accurately for the first time in the post medieval period, enable a greater number of sites to be recognised and explored. For example, road bridges (BUN 033, MDM 100, SEY 014) that were initially identified using these sources and that still exist today, can offer us an insight into construction methods during this period.

The post medieval Waveney valley is perhaps most famous for the flourishing pottery and clay pipe industries at Weybread, Metfield and Mendham (Metfield is not in this survey area). A number of kilns were created during the 15th century and produced late medieval and transitional ware, a green glazed or unglazed type. More were built throughout the new few centuries, with a number lasting until World War One. Frequent pottery scatters have been found throughout this parish, with Mike Hardy identifying a number of sites with the discovery of kiln furniture, pottery sherds and peg tile during his fieldwalking surveys. At Mendham, kiln waste, including fragments of kiln furniture and pottery wasters (MDM 044), and five concentrations of 17th-18th century kiln waste (MDM 056) were found whilst fieldwalking. The clay pipe industries appear to be concentrated within Weybread parish with, for example, 54 clay pipe stems found at WYB 029 and a further concentration at WYB 037.

Post medieval industrialisation is also evident through identification of potential small quarries on air photographs. At Barsham (BRS 018, 019) possible extractive pits are identified and at Mendham (MDM 111) a possible sand extraction site is identified. Where these sites are noted, it is fair to say that any existing archaeology is likely destroyed by this quarrying action.

Both Beccles and Bungay had a town gas works (BCC 042, BUN 059), neither of which remain today. Again construction of these would have been very destructive.

Extensive landscape features, such as parks and gardens, were reasonably common during the post medieval period. This led to a considerable change in the way the landscape was managed, partially in an effort to gentrify the environment. Survival of these features varies considerably with many of the associated large houses destroyed during the early 20th century, due to lifestyle and economic changes. Typically, survival varies in this survey area also. Flixton Hall (FLN 004), built circa 1615, only partially survives in the form of roughly roofed animal sheds. Its associated park has also suffered, partially as a result of the quarry at Flixton. Its origins appear to be in the early medieval period; it is first recorded sometime between 1086 and 1200 (Hoppit, in Dymond & Martin 1999) as a deer park, considered to be a status symbol at this time. This then appears to have evolved into an 18th century park of some size (Williamson, in Dymond & Martin 1999) built as an expression of status and wealth. A dovecote and icehouse (SEM Misc) were created, which both still survive today although neither is a particularly fine example of their types. As said above, Flixton Quarry has done nothing to help the survival of the park. It is likely that it was in a state of decline from the late 1800's anyway, as many similar parks and large houses were.

Relatively little information is known about North Cove Hall and Park (NHC 009). The present hall has a 17th century core but was extensively modernised during the middle of the 18th century. The park is not shown on 18th century maps but is on draft OS drawings from roughly 1815. The first detailed description appears on the Tithe Award 1848 which shows a

park remarkably like that of today; a well preserved small park with an uncomplicated history (Williamson 1994).

The wealthy post medieval landscape sits in contrast to the poorer way of life. At Shipmeadow, a hundred workhouse was erected in 1765, known as the Wangford workhouse (SMW 002). These were created in an attempt to appease the problem of poverty that was dramatically increasing, by creating places of work for the poorer population (Dymond, In Dymond & Martin, 1999). It had an associated infectious diseases hospital, as well as a chapel. The workhouse still remains; having been used as a poultry farm, it has recently been converted into dwellings.

In Bungay a fine Jacobean circular market cross exists (BUN 013), thought to date from roughly 1690. It is said to be on the site of a previous one, destroyed by fire in 1689, and is in good condition.

Modern

37 sites – 1 per 2 sq km

The majority of modern sites recorded in this study area are remnants of the two world wars. Pill boxes, air raid shelters, military camps, first world war training trenches and a WW2 airfield at Bungay (BUN 056) are noted, most of which were identified through aerial photography survey. Bungay airfield, 2km south west of Bungay, is now disused but was constructed in 1942, and used by the USAAF throughout the war, until it was sold in 1961-2. Most of the other war features are also destroyed, with the occasional pill box extant in the landscape. Flixton estate school, a building demolished in 1946 (SEC 042) is also recorded.

Undated

84 sites – 1 per 0.88 sq km

84 sites are recorded as undated in the study area. They are undated for various reasons, from pits revealed during excavation with no dating evidence in them, to cropmarks of an indeterminate style seen on aerial photographs. Any one of these features could be a significant archaeological monument and so should perhaps be treated with more caution than something of a known age, simply for their potential alone. At Flixton (FLN 048), for example, three enclosures are noted on air photos, within the area of a number of medieval finds scatters. These could be related to these scatters, or be of an alternative date, completely unconnected.

One group of cropmarks considered to have a high potential can be seen in Barsham (BRS 017), where features possibly dating from the Neolithic to the medieval period are visible as fragmentary cropmarks on aerial photographs. Lines of parallel pits are visible, possibly forming over the posthole remains of a post built structure, potentially Neolithic or early medieval in date. Also a possible ring ditch with secondary rectilinear enclosures abutting its eastern edge is visible. The date of this feature is unknown but it may be the remains of a Bronze Age barrow with much later modifications.

To the north of Beccles, on the northern edge of the marshes, a number of possible recti-linear ditched enclosures and trackways have been identified from aerial photographs (BCC 054, 055. 061, 062, 064). These were originally thought to be post-medieval; part of the extensive drainage schemes that took place during this time. However in light of the recent discovery of a trackway (BCC 043) just to the west of these features, they may be of an earlier date and so of greater significance.

38 of the sites recorded as undated are ubiquitous flint scatters found by Mike Hardy during his fieldwalking surveys in St Cross South Elmham, Flixton and Mendham. These are mostly on the clay highlands to the south west of the survey area and are undated. They are

frequent enough in their number to be significant; if they are prehistoric they may represent a large number of sites previously unknown. These clay highlands have also been heavily ploughed, possibly destroying further evidence of their context. Prehistoric pot is notoriously fragile anyway and so is unlikely to survive. This current study does not allow time for comparison of the location of these patches with the presence of known Prehistoric finds and so these scatters require further investigation.

A significant find was made in a pipe trench at Bungay during an archaeological watching brief (BUN 051). A possible corduroy trackway was noted, consisting of 'broomstick' size timber sticks running across the SW-NE cut, along the whole of a circa 5 feet wide by 60 feet long trench. This was three to four inches deep and located only 150m from the River Waveney. This is potentially a rare preserved trackway from anytime between the Prehistoric to medieval periods although its current condition must be suspected to be poor. The land between this pipe trench and the river has not been developed and so it is possible that further evidence exists.

The remains of at least two undated inhumations were found during excavation of footings for an extension in Beccles (BCC 037). Further remains were found when the trenches were deepened and so the potential for a cemetery at this location must be deemed as high. The location is outside the medieval core of the town, and so any potentially any date for these inhumations is possible.

General comments on the potential of the area

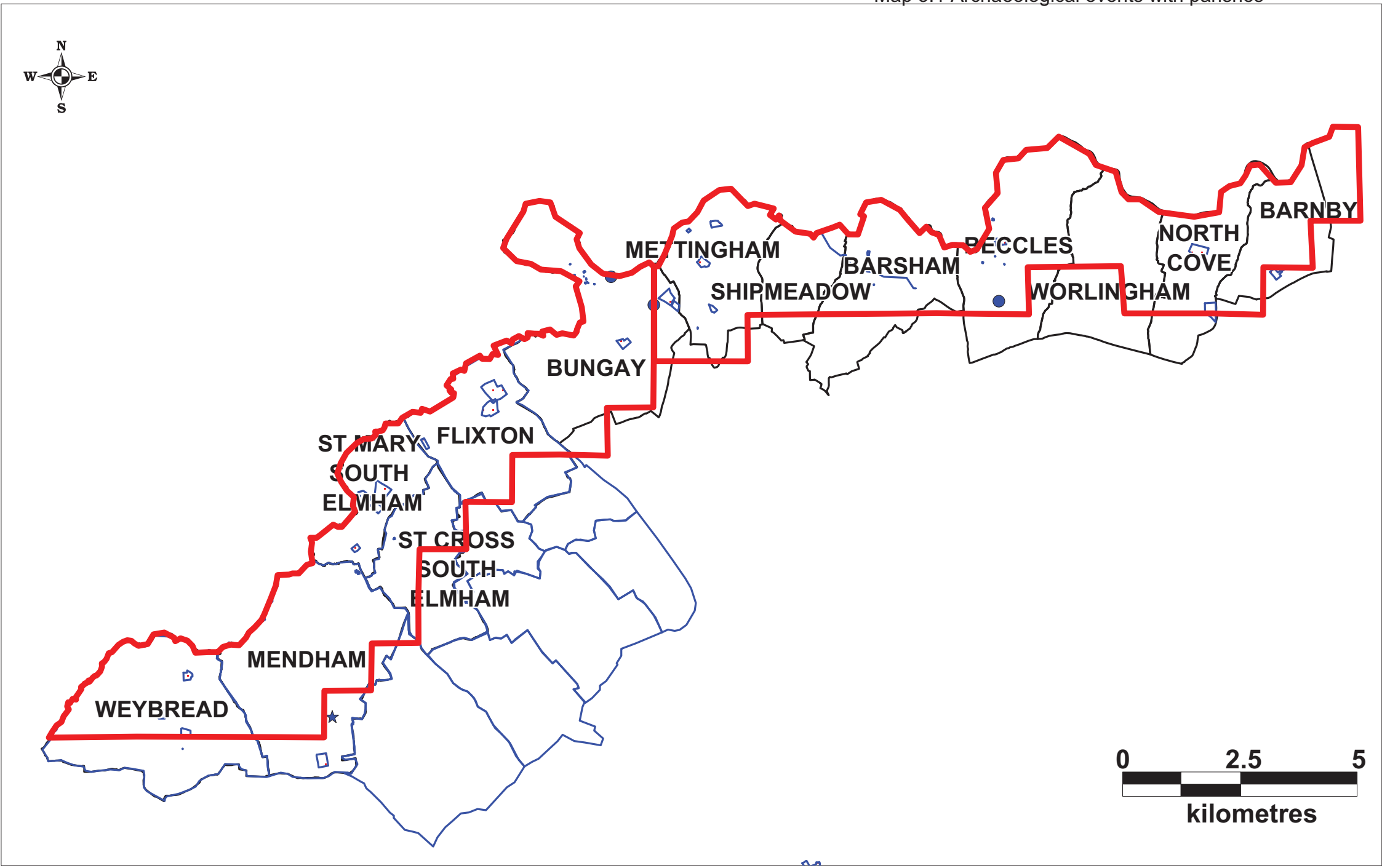
The Waveney valley seems fairly typical in terms of the type and quantity of archaeology discovered here. Few vastly unexpected sites have been recorded. The exception to this is perhaps Flixton Quarry, where the quantity of evidence revealed is surprising. It is worth debating whether this is in fact typical, and if the same degree of excavation and investigation was carried out anywhere else along the Waveney valley, would a similar archaeological landscape be revealed? Current gaps in our evidence may be due to the archaeology being well preserved, or still to be found, rather than it not existing. The quarry is the only area of extensive sands and gravels within the valley and this in itself may be significant; a preference for easy soils may be enough of a focus for this land to be utilised. Or did the building of the Long Barrow, a ritual monument, in the Neolithic period create a focus and significant landscape for subsequent settlers right until the end of the Saxon period? This site, as with the rest of this study, should be looked at in conjunction with results from the Norfolk side, which is likely to have a greater weight of evidence due to its situation on the south facing slopes of the valley.

Quarries, by their very nature, are always likely to produce good archaeological evidence. Their location on the edge of current or former rivers makes them ideal locations for settlement, as well as the sands and gravels offering favourable conditions for early agriculture.

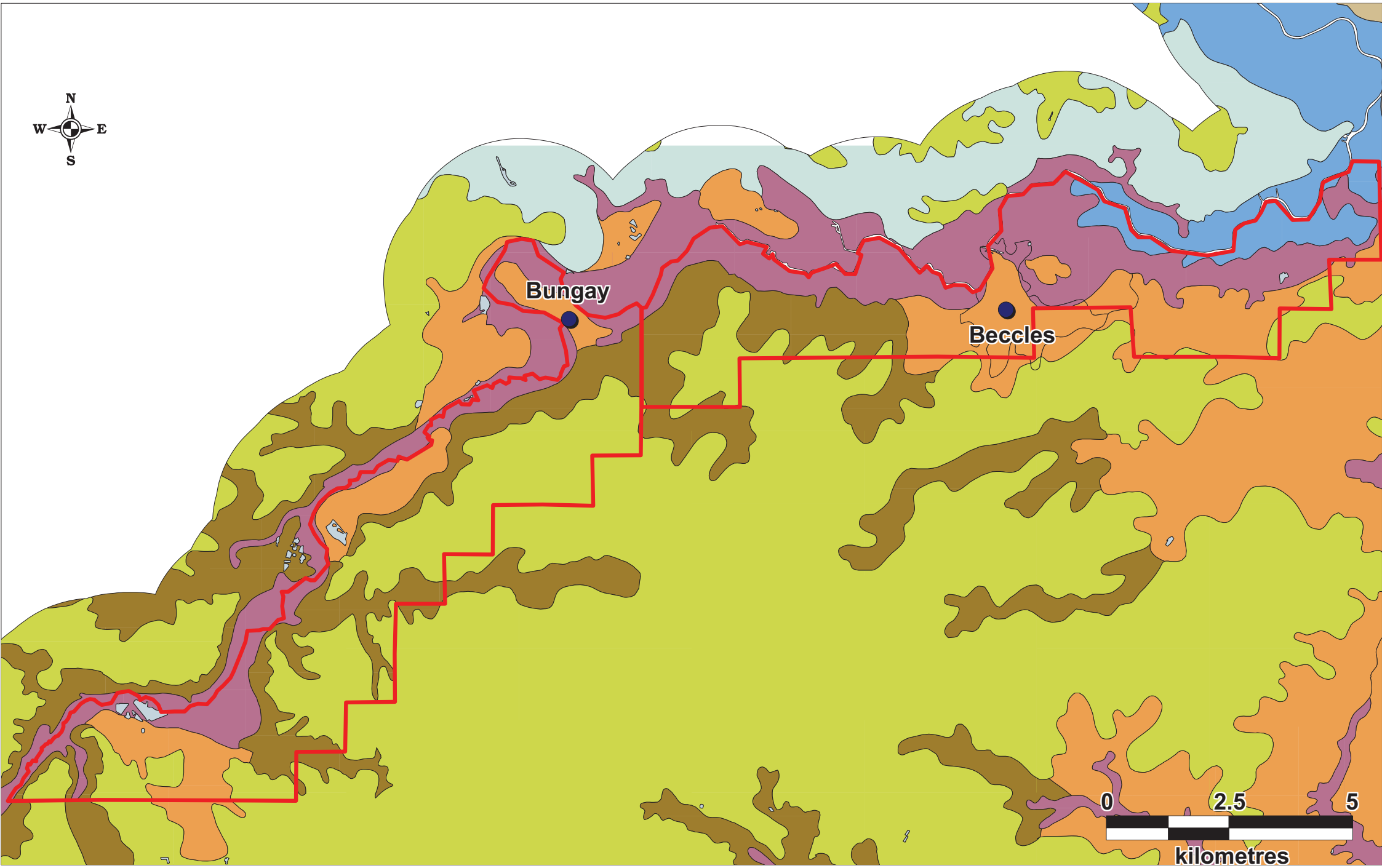
It is probable that much evidence still remains undiscovered in this survey area. Much of it is high claylands, which make identification of features through aerial photography study notoriously difficult. A large proportion of archaeological sites are identified in this manner, and features are much harder to identify in clay.

The peat to the north east of the area, surrounding the medieval settlement of Beccles, also offers much potential. The wetland nature of this soil type enables a high degree of preservation of archaeological evidence and although comparatively little evidence is currently recorded in this area, its potential must be viewed as high. There is some suggestion both from recent fieldwork and in the air photo evidence that there are slight rises, potential “islands” of drier land in the past.

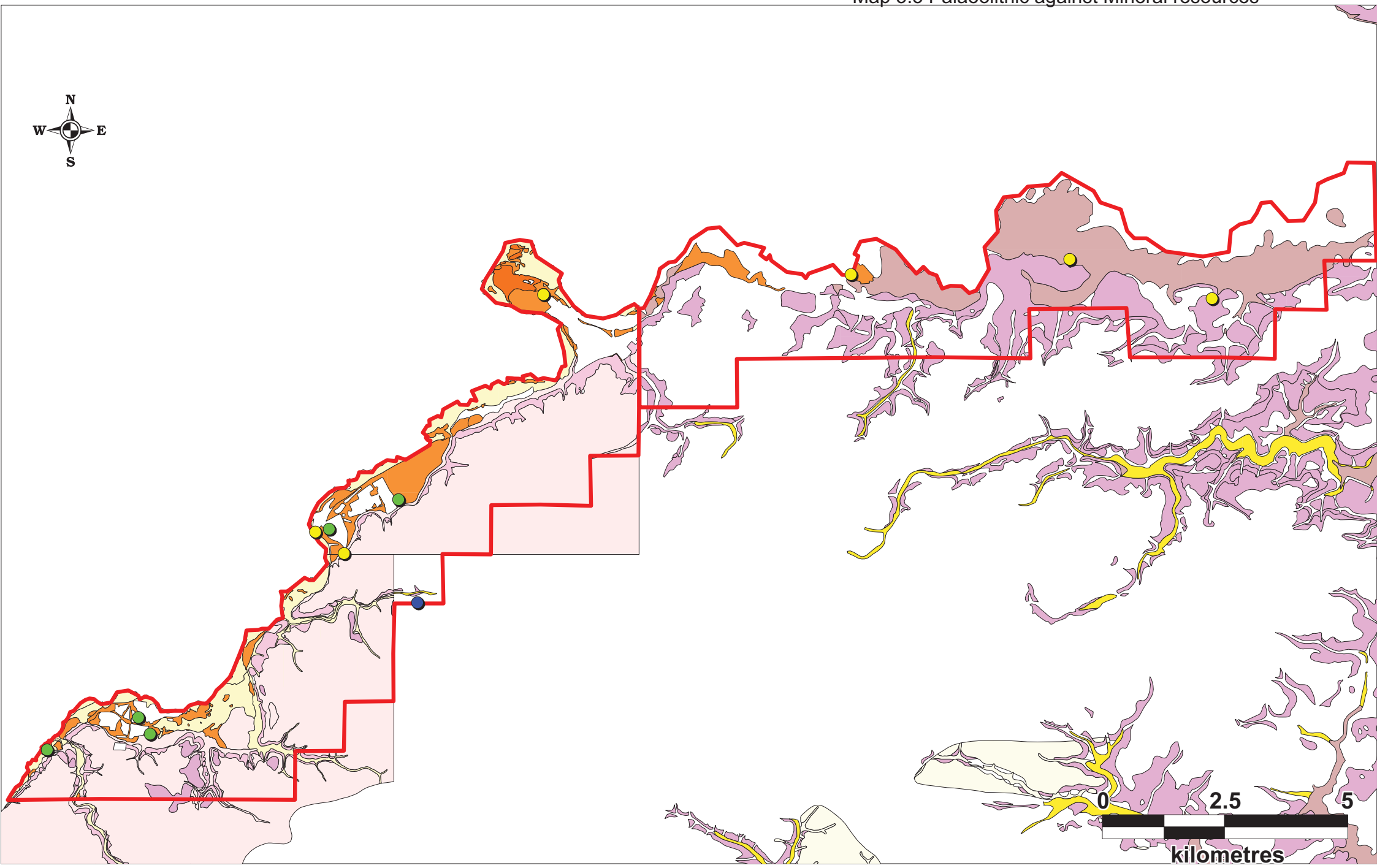
Map 3.1 Archaeological events with parishes



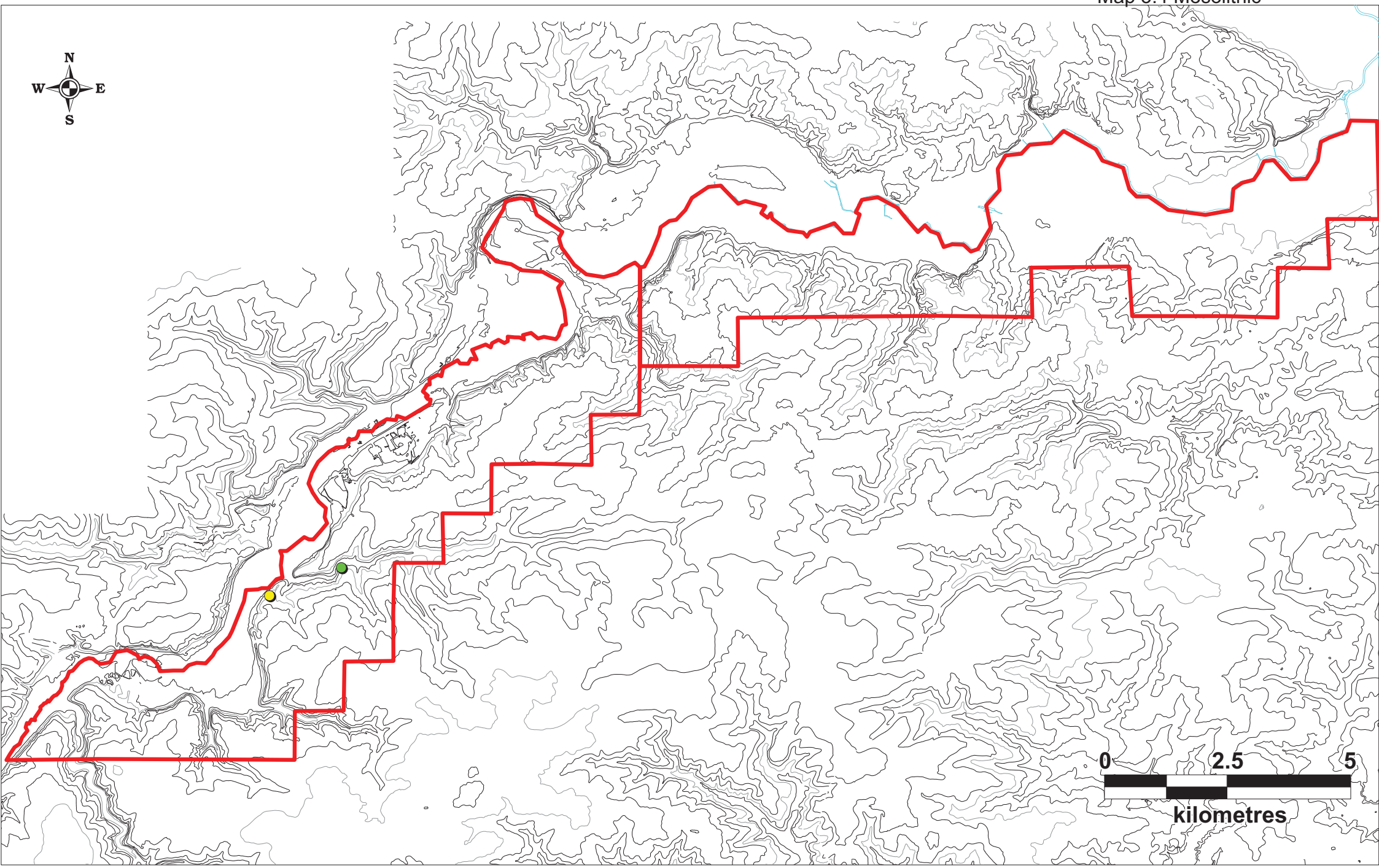
Map 3.2 Soils



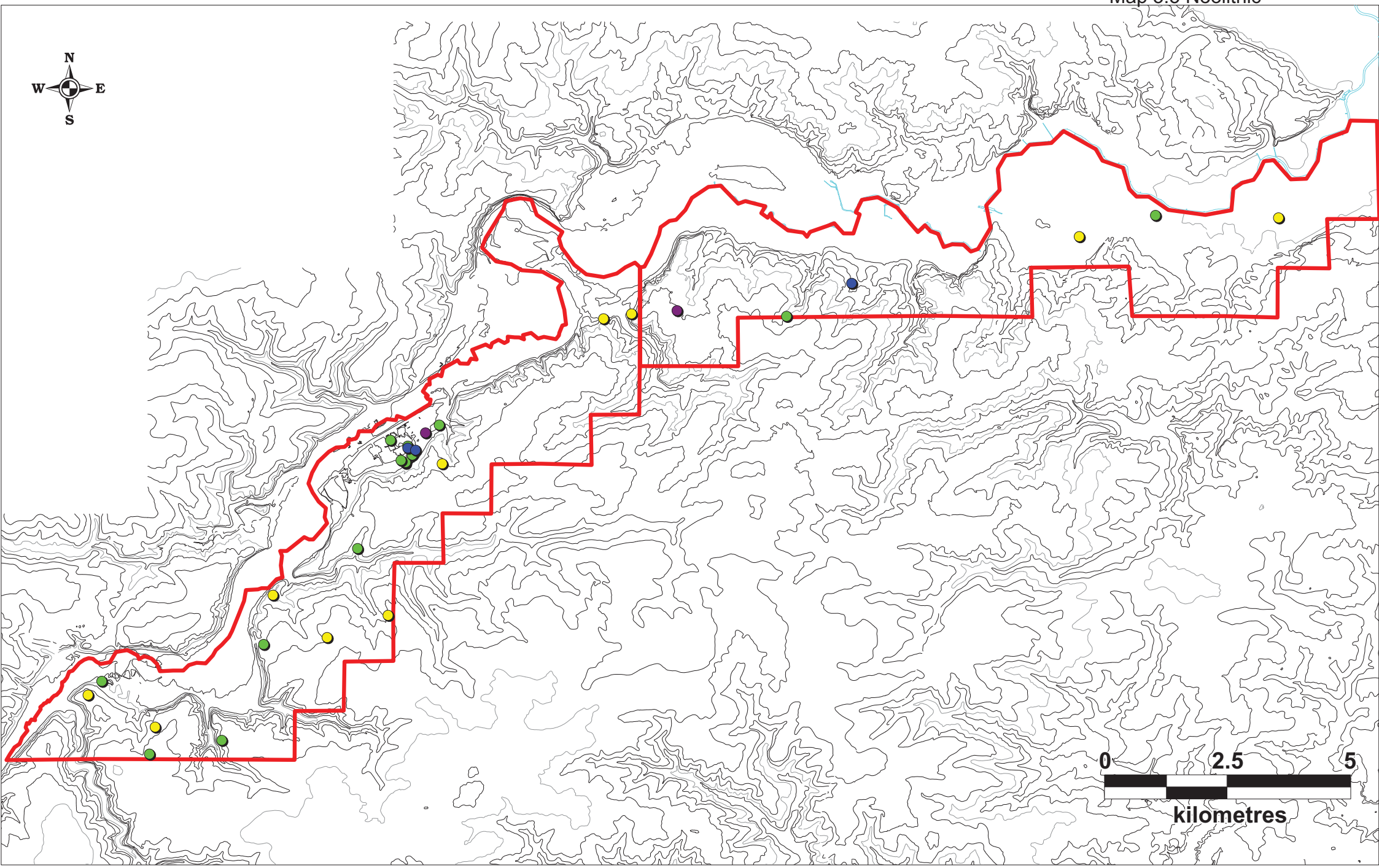
Map 3.3 Palaeolithic against Mineral resources



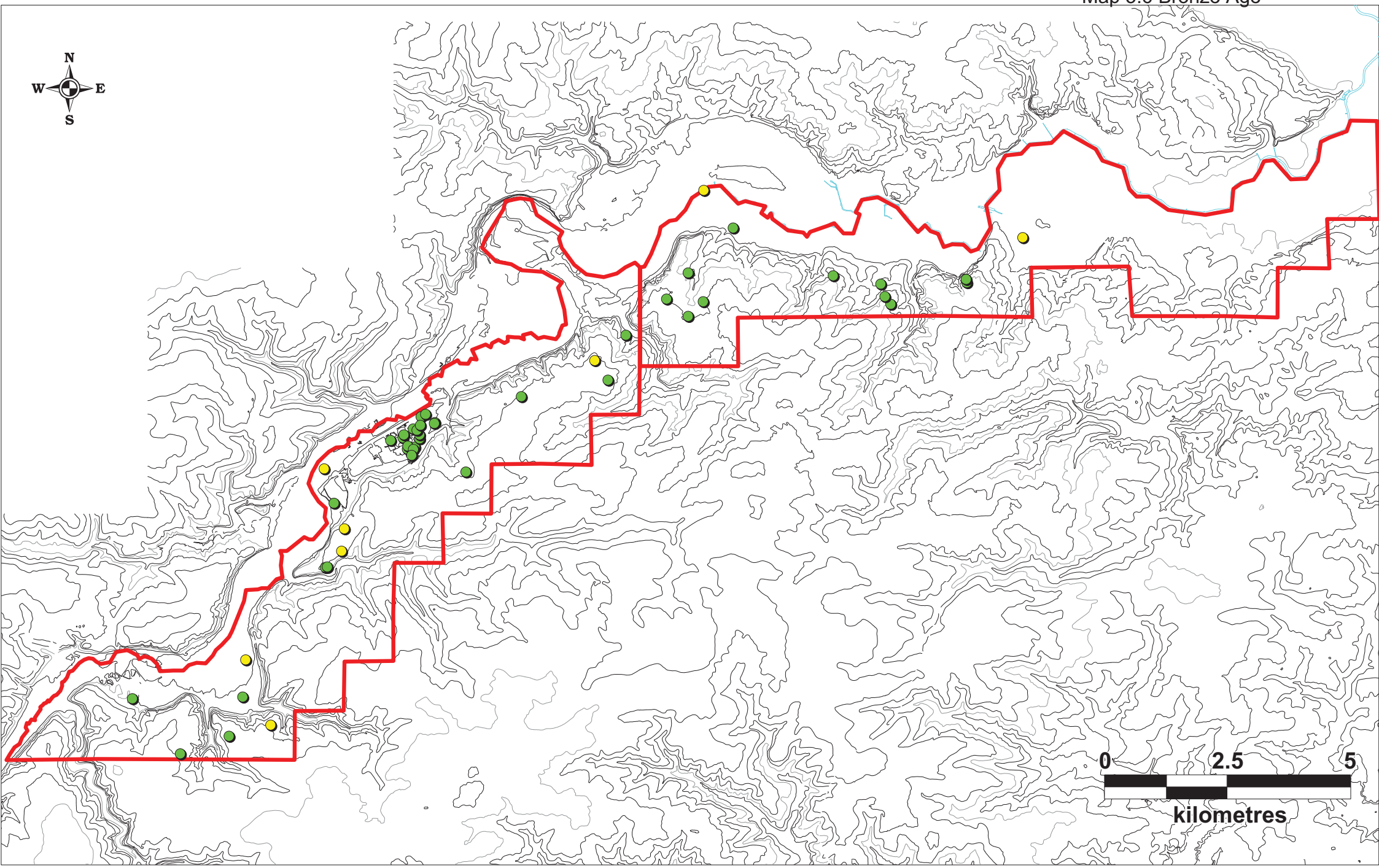
Map 3.4 Mesolithic



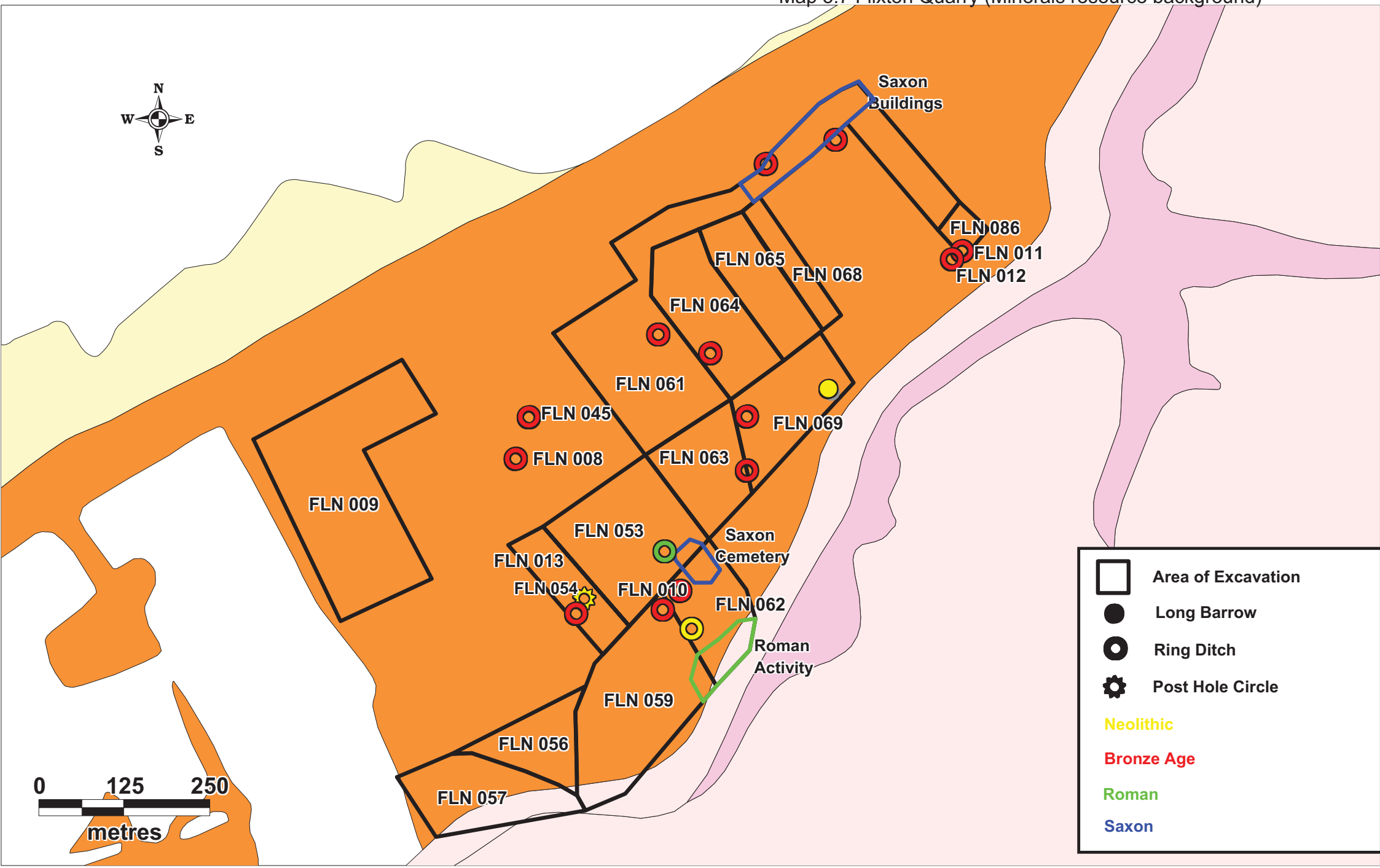
Map 3.5 Neolithic



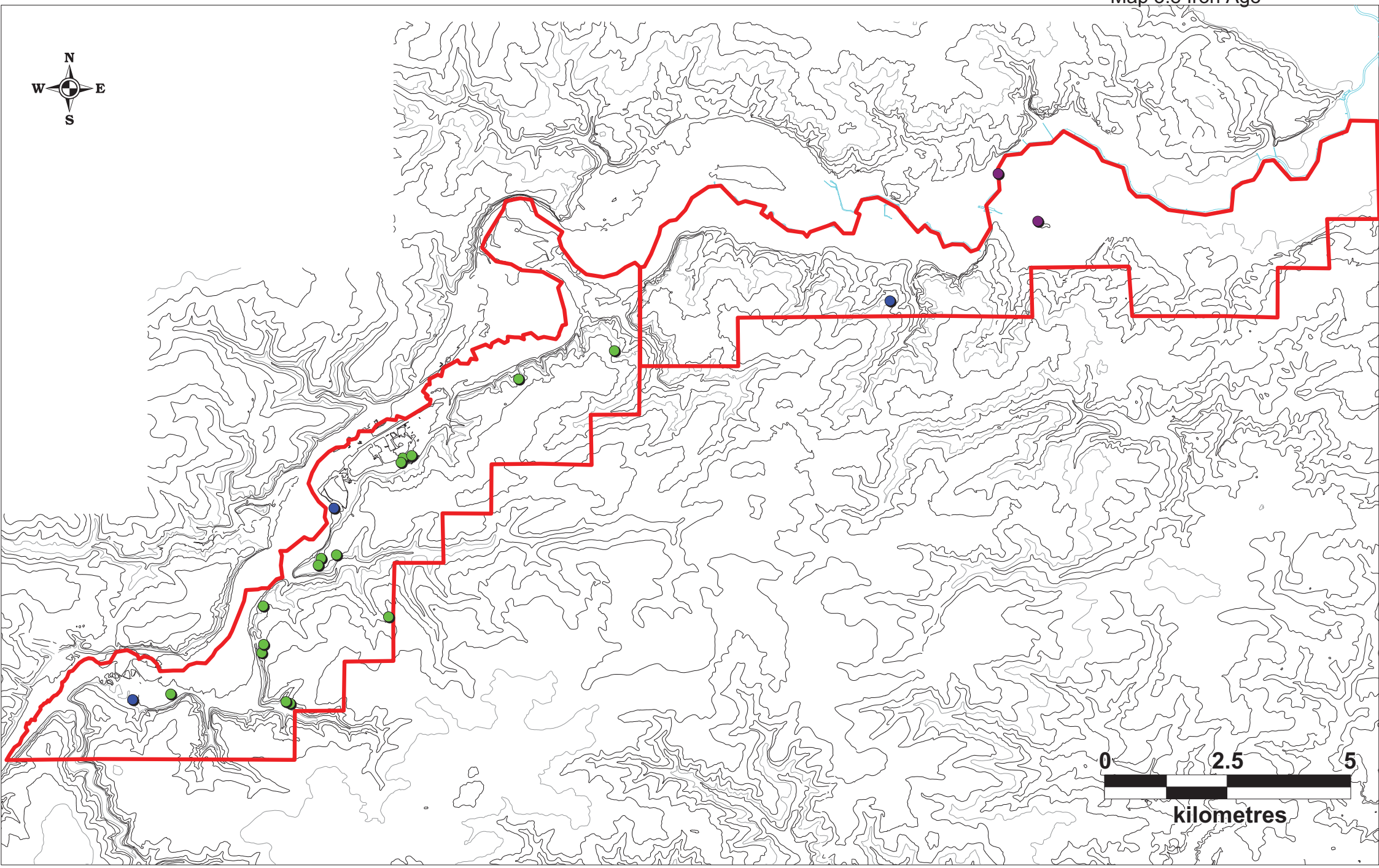
Map 3.6 Bronze Age



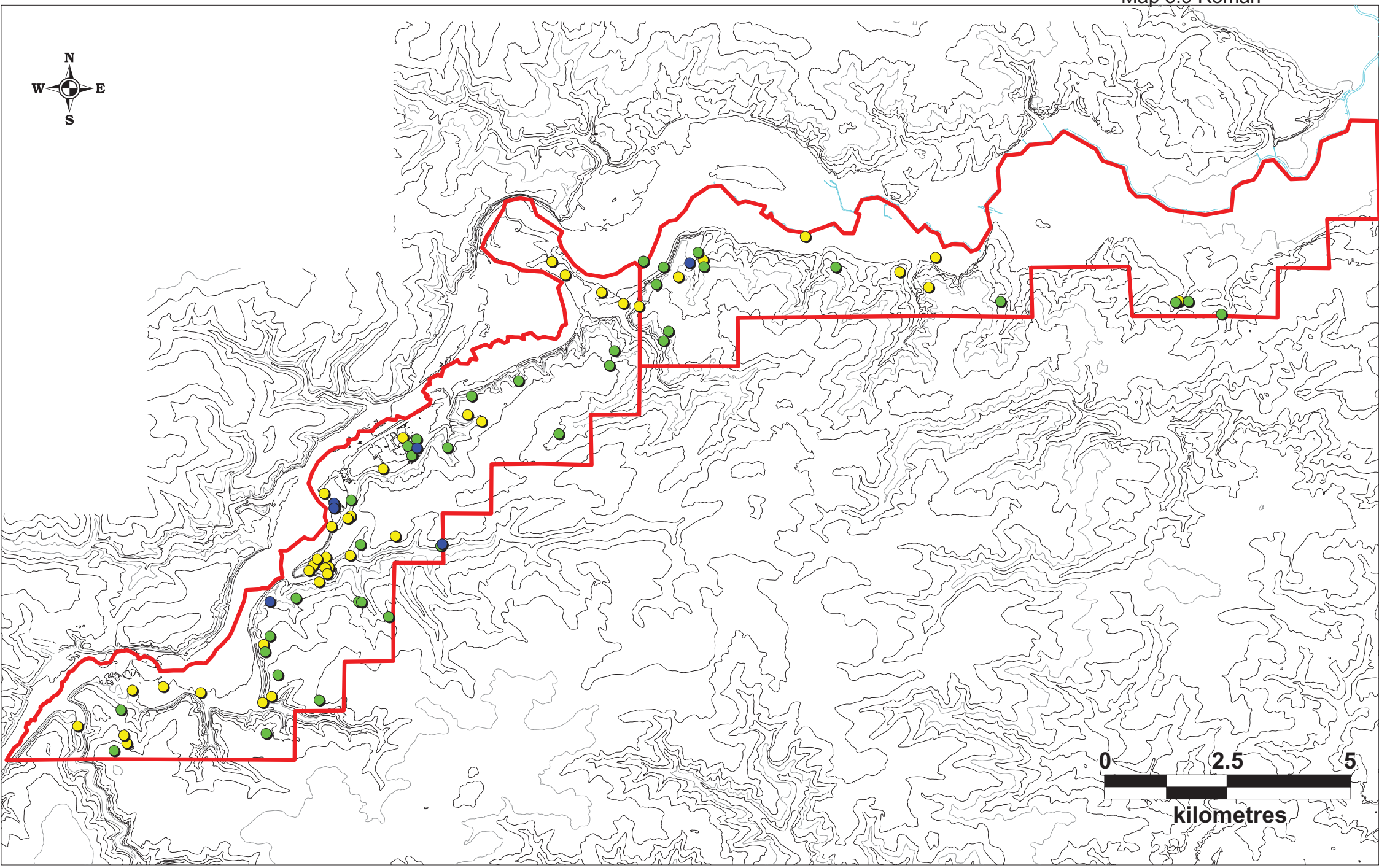
Map 3.7 Flixton Quarry (Minerals resource background)



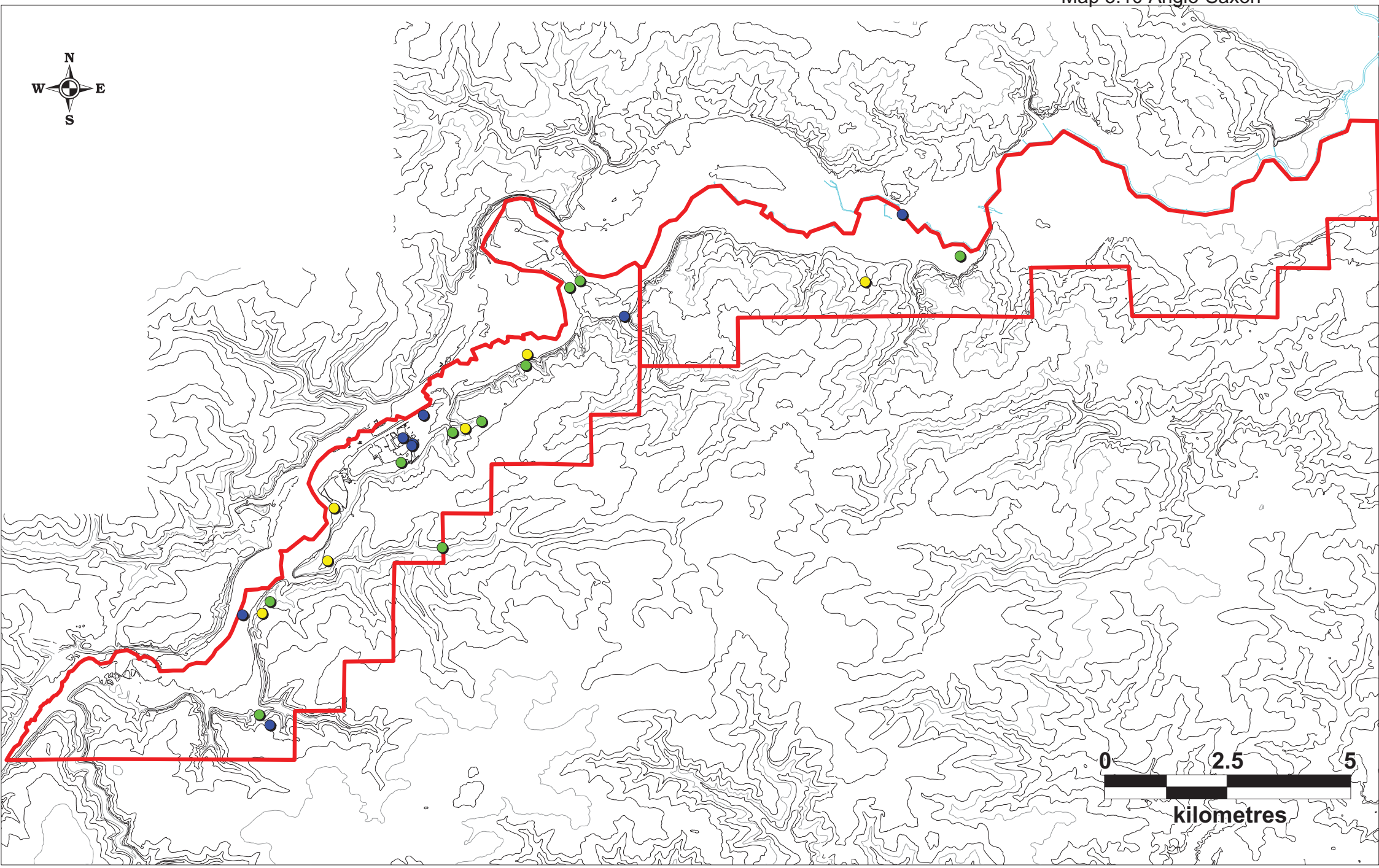
Map 3.8 Iron Age



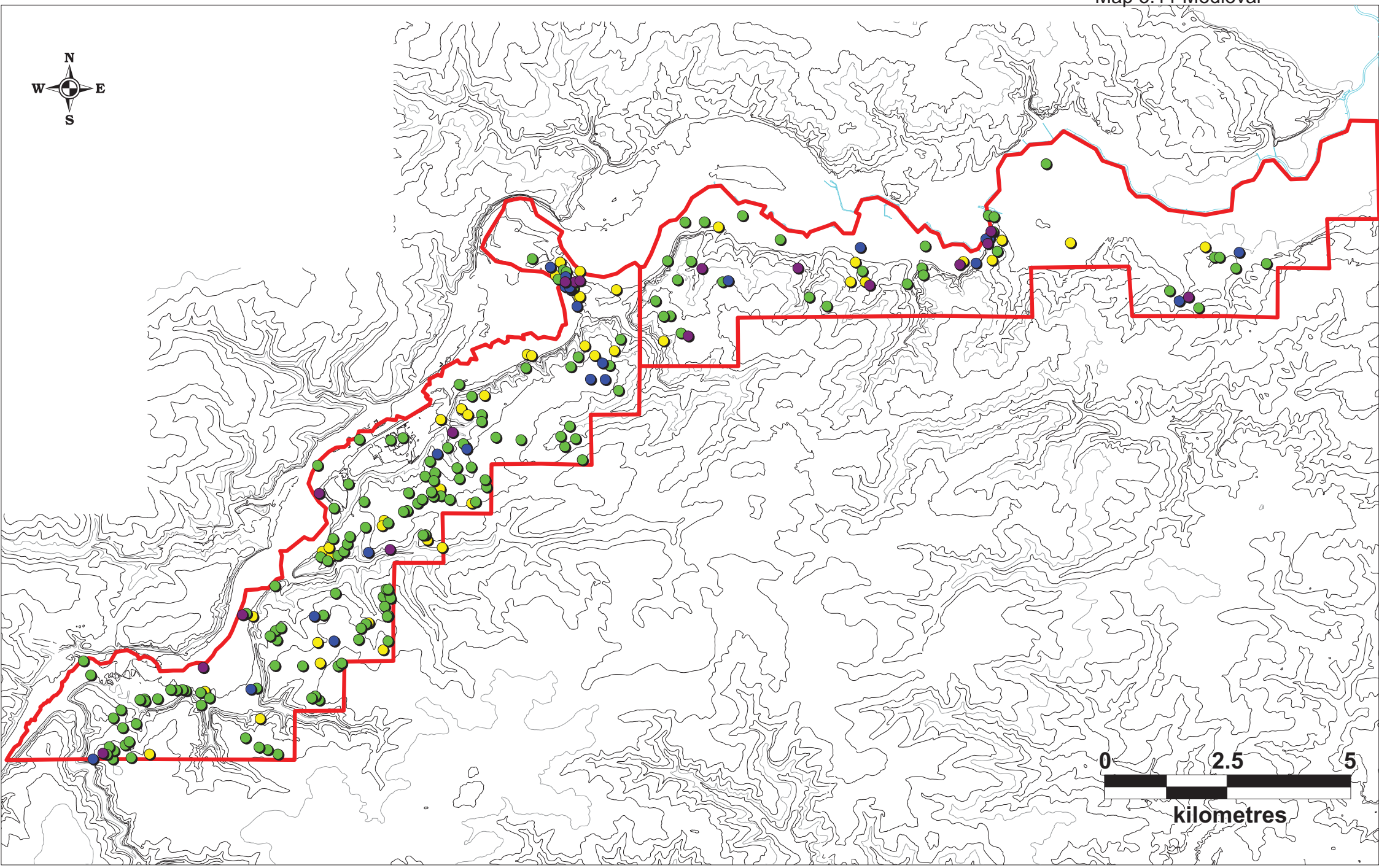
Map 3.9 Roman



Map 3.10 Anglo-Saxon



Map 3.11 Medieval



Map 3.12 Fieldwalking results1985

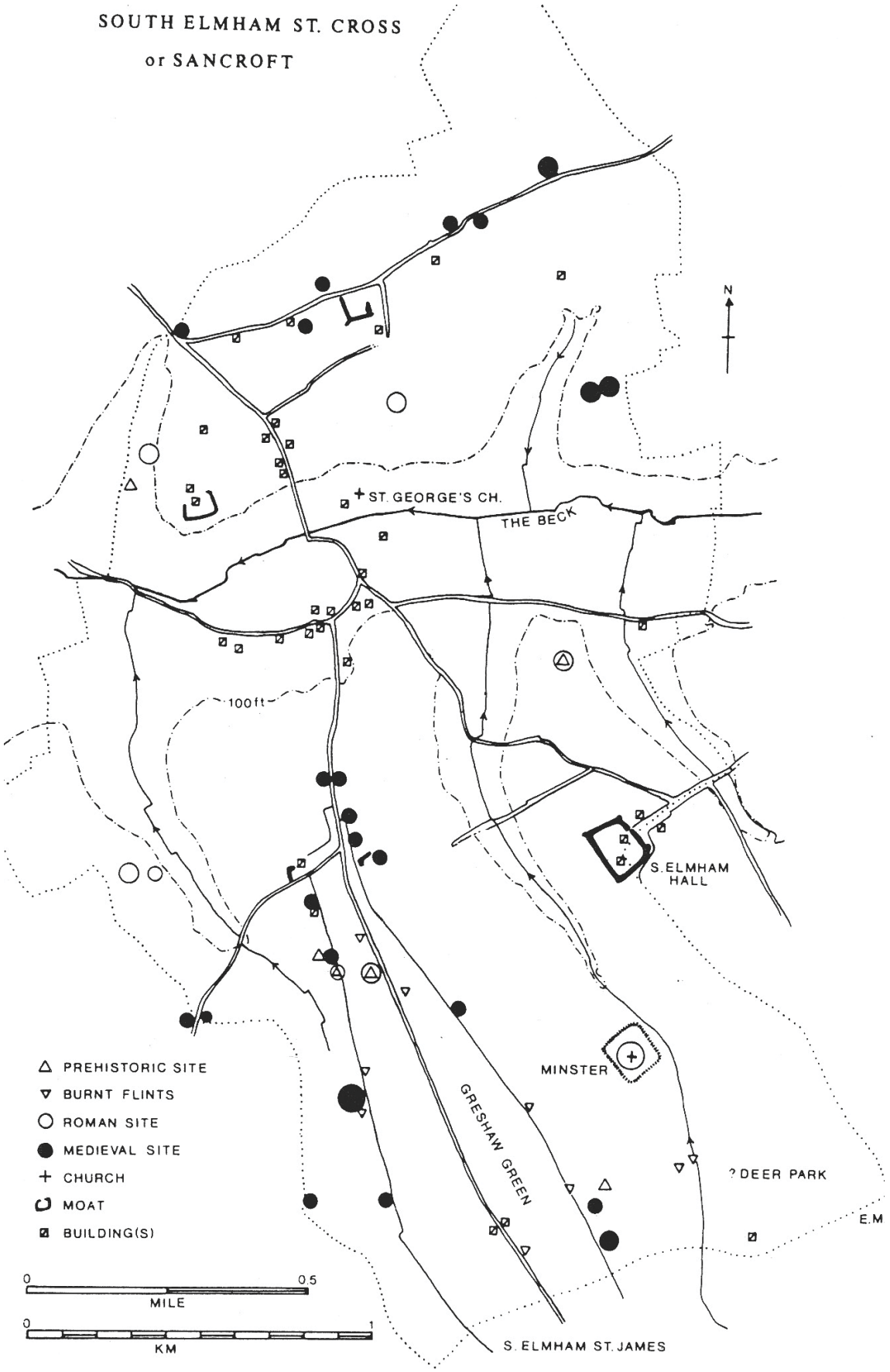
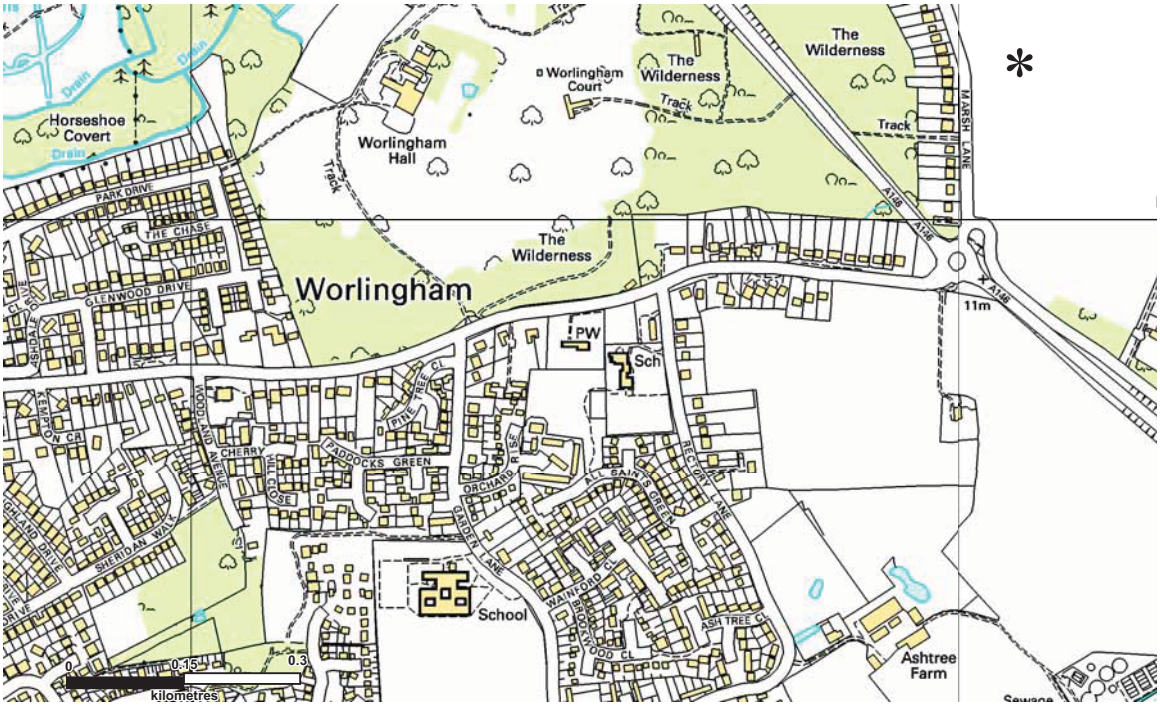


FIG. 29 — Archaeological sites in South Elmham St Cross.

Map 3.13
Worlingham

Extract from 1880's OS map



Part 4 The Gipping Area

		IMPORTANCE				POTENTIAL		
PERIOD	**TOTAL**	**Vhigh**	**High**	**Med**	**Low**	**High**	**Med**	**Low**	**sites per km^2**
Palaeo	6		3	3			6		1 site per every 11.5km
Mes	9		3	5	1	2	6	1	1 site per every 7.6km
Neo	16			6	10	1	2	13	1 site per every4.3km
B/A	79		11	47	21	1	57	22	1 site per every 0.87km
I/A	55		9	24	22	6	20	29	1 site per every 1.25km
Rom	167	2	11	69	85	9	68	90	1 site per every 0.41km
Sax	89	2	18	32	37	34	13	42	1 site per every 0.77km
Med	187	11	5	92	79	15	63	109	1 site per every 0.36km
Pmed	106		9	15	82	8	17	81	1 site per every 0.65km
Mod	2				2			2	1 site per every 34.4km
Total	716	15	69	293	339	76	252	389	1 site per every 0.09km

Summary of site scoring within the Gipping Area

Selection of the area

This area, 68.83 sq km, focuses on the Gipping valley between Ipswich and Stowmarket, with an extension to the east along the tributary valley north of Ipswich to meet the north-west edge of the Felixstowe study area. It was selected because the area has seen one of the greatest concentrations of gravel extraction in the region – most of the valley floor in Bramford, Claydon, Barham and Creeting St Mary is now a series of lakes, with higher level gravel pits in Barham, Coddenham and Barking. Remaining areas of valley floor are currently beginning to be extracted at Barking (Gallows Hill) and are proposed at Creeting St Peter in the north of the area. Chalk has also been exploited in the area (eg Needham Market) and was extracted for a major cement works in Great Blakenham, now disused. The only intact middle valley profile is at Baylham Mill, Coddenham, where the scheduling of the Roman forts and settlement area prevented extraction in the 1970's.

Background topography and geology

The Gipping valley runs roughly south-east to north-west. It forms, with the Lark in west Suffolk, a corridor across the glacial boulder clay till of central Suffolk, probably used as a route from prehistory onwards. Today the river, canalised as far as Stowmarket in the early 19th century, main railway and major road route (A14, now linking Felixstowe docks to the Midlands) all run parallel within a kilometre of each other through the area. Small tributaries feed the valley from both sides, mainly slight to the south-west but with larger valleys on the east just north of Ipswich and from Hemingstone and Coddenham.

Patterns of discovery and potential bias

Map 4.1

The high level of mineral extraction accounts for many archaeological discoveries in this area. Before the 1970's little systematic recording was done and major sites are characterised by a list of finds with no information about their original contexts. Only recently (post PPG16 and subsequent revised conditions on outstanding permissions) have extensive area excavations taken place on some quarry areas. The major road schemes in this area also predate PPG 16 (and overlap with the beginning of the county archaeological service) but good quality records (unpublished) exist for some of the work on Iron Age and Roman deposits on the A14 at Coddenham. There has not been any extensive survey projects, but one individual has fieldwalked much of Barking parish as an amateur project. Less systematic but widespread metal detecting has been recorded since the late 1970's when contact was first made with the

Ipswich and District Detector Club and very large amounts of data have been recorded from certain key sites. There has also been fairly broad and thorough detecting in Akenham and Whitton parishes.

Chronological Gazetteer

Early Prehistoric

In general the early prehistory is split in two broad periods, the first consists of both the lower and middle Palaeolithic c.500,000-40,000BP, and the upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic c.40,000-6000BP. During these periods society was comprised of groups of hunter fisher gatherers, practising a nomadic lifestyle and having a minimal impact on the physical environment.

Palaeolithic
Map 4.2
The main evidence for the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic is in the form of redeposited flakes and tools found in the river gravels. This evidence in the main has been found during quarry workings. Evidence is sparse for the Upper Palaeolithic in this region, partially due to the lack of cave sites that can be found in other regions. There is the potential for material from this period to be discovered under fen deposits and in alluvium in the river valleys that would be especially useful as there is good potential for associated palaeo-environmental material.

There are 6 sites dating from the Palaeolithic, 1 site per every 11.5sq km.

Three of the sites are within the floodplain BRH 001, BRH 003 and BRH 023. BRH 001 is a single find of a hand axe, BRH 003 a small scatter of Upper Palaeolithic flints, BRH 023 is an assortment of partially fossilised bones found in gravel workings.

On the higher ground there are 3 sites: BRF 001 where worked flakes and reindeer bones were allegedly found in the red crag at a former chalk pit. At BRF 011 and BRF Misc, lithic implements were found in or around a brickwork pit.

There is a very important site *c* 1km south of the study area, IPS 018 where 134 hand-axes, 20 levallois flakes, several hundred flakes and numerous mammalian bones were retrieved.

There is potential for the discovery of further material from the Palaeolithic from various contexts, but mainly from any quarrying activity, and it is from quarrying that the majority of evidence has been recovered. Therefore the distribution of quarries has a direct correlation with the distribution of Palaeolithic material.

Mesolithic
Map 4.3
There are 9 sites dating from the Mesolithic, 1 site per every 7.9sq km.

The areas around three of these sites have a notably greater potential than the rest of the sites. Arguably the most important of these is BRH 003, were a flint scatter was excavated within an 18 inch thick black layer. If any of this site survives un-quarried (perhaps to the west of the railway line) there is the potential for further Mesolithic material to be discovered and associated with it important palaeo-environmental evidence.

At CRM 027 a small evaluation found over 232 lithic implements during the excavation of a section of a Bronze Age ring ditch indicating that there may be undisturbed material in the area.

At Pipps Ford CDD 060 and 006, lithic implements were found and a “harpoon”. The remaining sites are single finds or small or badly located scatters.

Seven of the nine sites are located on or very close to the valley floor and the two sites located on the higher ground are single finds of an axe-head and a mace-head, suggesting that the main focus of activity was within the valley near the river.

Neolithic
Map 4.4
There are 14 sites of dating from the Neolithic, 1 site per every 4.30sq km

In Suffolk the distribution of Neolithic pottery strongly suggests that settlements were mainly on the light soils – in the Breckland, Sandlings and river valleys – and within a mile of a watercourse. (Martin1999).

There are no major monuments of a Neolithic date in this area. Although there is the chance that one or more of the round barrows that have been attributed to the Bronze Age could be Neolithic monuments.

Five sites are of special note: at CLY 021 a large pit possibly a shaft measuring 3m deep by 2.5 m in diameter was found. These features are more common in the Iron Age but are thought to have their origins in the Early Bronze Age. This one could possibly be a very early example as Late Neolithic pottery (grooved ware) was found near the base. At CRM 001 a series of pits were found filled with a black soil that contained Grooved ware indicating a settlement site. These are the only two Neolithic sites in this area that have produced pottery. At CDD 001, 70 flints were found from the top of a chalk pit, this is a fairly concentrated group and represents some kind of activity at this site and at CDD 060 an unspecified number of flint scrapers and arrowheads were found in and around a quarry At CDD 009 an unspecified number of flints were found during an excavation.

The remaining 9 sites are single finds of axe fragments or arrowheads, 4 were found on the main valley floor and the remaining 5 were found on the higher ground overlooking the valley.

All of the entries are located on the loamy well drained soils, however outside the study area there are sites that are on the heavier soils, but these entries are still overlooking or within valleys.

Oddly there is only one entry that is located on the south-western side of the Gipping.

Bronze Age
Map 4.5, 4.6
There are 79 sites of dating from the Bronze Age, 1 site per every 0.87sq km

49 of the sites are ring ditches, with the majority (43, Map 4.6) sited along the river Gipping and the remaining six on tributary valleys. The largest concentration is in a linear barrow cemetery approximately 1.5km long comprising of 18 ring ditches of various sizes including 3 double ring ditches on the eastern side of the river Gipping at Barking and Baylham.

Of the remaining 31 SMR entries there are three settlement sites and these are:-

BRH 015 is part of an excavation at Sandy Lane quarry that uncovered a late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age settlement, that included house structures and ovens/furnaces that were associated with “Darmsden” ware pottery. This site is located on the high ground on the east side of the valley overlooking the river Gipping.

BRK 009 is another settlement site this one on the west side of the Gipping valley located on high ground overlooking the river. This site is the “Darmsden” style pottery type site.

At CRM 001 ‘Woolards’ sand pit, possible cremations were found, but it could also be a possible settlement site. Flints and pottery were found in pits at this site. It also appears that the occupation of the site may date back to the Neolithic and continue into the Roman period, the area around this site has high potential for further material.

These three possible settlement sites are on the high ground on the edge of the valley overlooking the valley floor. This location may be an indication of the kind of areas at which further sites of this type may be found. Also they have been found in areas being or about to be quarried.

25 of the remaining sites were discovered by metal detectorists and were mainly single artefact finds (or fragments of artefacts) mainly axe fragments but some blade and spear fragments. There is a chance that any of these could represent a hoard that has yet to be fully discovered. All but one of these finds was found on the higher ground surrounding the Gipping valley. Though there may be a bias in the distribution due to agricultural practices (very little if any ploughing on the valley floor), rather than a true representation of the Bronze Age activity in the area.

The two remaining entries are CDD 002 a beaker supposedly found in the rectory grounds and at BRK 020 where a scraper and a barbed and tang arrowhead and a few flakes were found in a trial trench.

Iron Age
Map 4.7
The position of the settlement sites is probably due to the exploitation of the different land types. The settlements are positioned between the low lying pasture on the valley floor and the higher pasture on the plateaux. The position on the slope that would be a good area for arable cultivation, as it would be self-draining.

There are 55 sites of dating from the Iron Age, 1 site per every 1.25 sq km

Settlements
There are five definite settlement sites within this area three are on the higher ground and two are on the lower ground. Both of the low lying sites are of late Iron Age date, whilst the three sites on higher ground all have a early Iron age component.

Early and Middle Iron Age
BRK 009, BRK 020 are the same site and close by but the exact location is uncertain is BRK 013. This site is the type site for the “Darmsden” style pottery of LBA / EIA date. At these sites various features including a ditched enclosure, pits, postholes, ditches hearths and possible structures were found along with pottery, both of the “Darmsden” style and also later Iron Age “Belgic” style pottery. These features are thought to represent an occupation/ settlement site that began in the Bronze Age and carried through to the Roman period.

BRH 015,is an occupation site on the high ground on east side of the Gipping valley. Two ovens and a possible round house were found associated with “Darmsden” style pottery and a saddle quern stone. Also within the immediate area and should be considered part of the same site are BRH 006 and 013 where pottery and animal bone were found and BRH 043 where pits, postholes, enclosure ditches and pottery were found. This site continued into the Roman period. (Martin 2003).

Roughly contemporary with BRH 015 is BRH 017 (and also probably part of the same site are SMR entries BRH 010, 016, 018), where features and pottery were discovered during excavation and metal detecting probably representing some kind of settlement. This site is on a very similar topographic situation and 500m to the south of BRH 015.

Late Iron Age
CDD 003, CDD 009 and CDD 017 are all probably the same site or very closely related sites that are under or just outside the Roman settlement at Coddenham. These sites possibly represent the precursor settlement to the later Roman town that grew up around the fort. At these sites numerous I/A coins, brooches, pottery and features including post holes, pits, gully’s, ditches, a well, a hut circle and a possible shaft have been found. This site is located on the valley floor.

CDD 050 is a Late Iron Age occupation site where a field system, ditches, pits, three shafts, and a possible house were found along with a loomweight and over 200 sherds of pottery. This site is on the high ground to the east of the Gipping valley overlooking a tributary valley.

CLY 005 is an artefact scatter containing animal bone, pottery, spinning/weaving equipment, coins and brooch's and probably represents a settlement. This is a low lying site on the valley floor.

At all these sites there is potential for further material to be found.

Other possible settlements or areas of activity
Possible settlement sites include AKE 002 and 006, CDD 022 MD, CRM 001 Q, IPS 187 redev, IPS 387 eval, indicated by small amounts of pottery and some metal work, all of which are on the higher ground.

There are 20 sites that are just coin findspots. The majority are on the higher ground overlooking the river valleys with only 2 on the valley floor.

Roman
Map 4.8
There are 167 sites of dating from the Roman, 1 site per every 0.41sq km

As can be seen from the table above the Roman period is very highly represented within the SMR compared with most other periods. Undoubtedly there was a great deal of Roman activity centred on this part of the Gipping valley. But to some extent there will be a slight bias in that Roman pottery survives well in the plough soil, as does the plentiful metalwork and coins; combined with this area being heavily metal detected, there may a skewing of the statistics. However the material does show a great deal of Roman activity in this area.

Some of the Roman sites appear continue from earlier Iron Age sites on the same locations, but there are also sites that appear to be founded on new previously unsettled locations. The pattern of settlement and general activity appears to be concentrated on the higher ground overlooking the river valleys as in the preceding periods, but there is more evidence for activity on the lower ground.

The most important sites in this area are CDD 003 (CDD 009, CDD 017, CDD 063) and CDD 016 the large Roman settlement of *Combretovivm* and the associated forts just to the south, both of which are designated as scheduled ancient monuments. Their topographic position is on the valley floor having a commanding position next to the river and at the intersection of several Roman roads. The forts and roads were established at the beginning of the Roman period and the town grew up around it and became a focus for the area.

At CDD 004 three cremations were found to the east of CDD 003 possibly along the line of a Roman road and there is potential for further mortuary remains to be found in this area.

At CRM 003, to the immediate north of the large Coddenham settlement, is a probable villa with high potential for good survival of below ground remains as it is under permanent pasture, on low lying ground.

Settlement and/or industrial sites.
There are at least eleven probable settlement sites that could range from a villa, small agricultural settlement and industrial site. The majority of the probable settlements are again located on the higher ground, but there are becoming more finds on the lower laying areas.

Three probable fairly high status sites on very similar topographic locations on the higher ground on the west side of the Gipping valley and are fairly equidistant are BRK 009, BLG 004 and the sites around BRK 088.

A group of sites within 250m of each other, on high ground overlooking the River Gipping probably represent a single site of high status. At BRK 088, 043, 044, 045, 046, 106. a large

amount of metalwork has been recovered during metal detecting, including over 300 coins, over 25 brooches, also pottery and a large amount of pottery. A small evaluation found a pit and it contained a large amount of tile and pottery.

Another site where large amounts of metalwork has been found metal detecting on high ground overlooking the River Gipping is BLG 004 were over 150 coins, 38 brooches and large amounts of pottery and tile have been found. This represents a high status site probably a settlement.

At BRK 009, the 'Darmsden' site Roman finds including pottery, rotary querns and metalwork have been found during excavation in the upper fills of Iron Age pits and in purely Roman features probably represent a Roman Settlement

Another site on the high ground overlooking the Gipping valley, but on the east side is another important site BRH 019 metalwork spread and BRH 043 an enclosure where pottery kilns, pits and postholes, probably representing structures have all been found during excavation. This Roman site probably evolves from the preceding Iron age occupation on the same site.
This site is on a very similar topographic location to BRH 019 and only 500m to the south. It is a group of six SMR entries BRH 007, 010, 016, 017, 018, 045, that probably represent a single site and are within 150m of each other. At these sites pottery, metalwork and features have all been found, both by excavation or metal detecting and like BRH 019 appears to have been in continued occupation from the IA.

A group of four sites AKE 002, 006, 014, and 017 that are within 250m of each other on the northern slope of a side valley to the Gipping probably represent a fairly high status settlement with a tiled roof. A large quantity of metal work has been found at this site including over 40 brooches, numerous coins, a figurine and jewellery also pottery and tile have also been found.

CDD 019 is another important site, again on the high ground but this time on a side valley to the Gipping. It has been examined by metal detecting, fieldwalking and limited trial trenching that have discovered a large amount of metalwork, pottery, tile on the surface and also in ditches that have been excavated. The tile suggests there was a building on the site and there is also evidence for metalworking, here suggesting a fairly important if not large settlement.

The site at CLY 005 was discovered during the construction of the Claydon bypass. On this site were found pits ditches and other features as well as large quantities of pottery, a small quantity of metal object, scrap bronze and quantities of slag that suggest this site had was partly an industrial site concerned with metal working and also with a possible settlement element.

The site at CDD 022 is less than 200m south west and down slope of CDD 019.and is a widespread scatter of metalwork and some pottery and there is also some evidence of metalworking debris. However there has been geophysical survey and some limited excavation on the site but this has not revealed any Roman features. This may indicate that the material on this site has been washed down slop from a high site possibly CDD 019 or that the material was collected from elsewhere by the Anglo-Saxons who were living and perhaps trading on this site.

CDD 035 is a varied metalwork scatter containing coins, brooches. Other copper alloy jewellery and some pottery. The site has a low laying situation on a side valley of the Gipping, 450m to the north of CDD 022, and probably represents some kind of settlement.

At the site of BLG 017 the most significant discovery was a complex of 4 ovens (possibly for bread). Although no actual structural remains were found it is thought that there was a relatively intensive occupation the site based on the amount of pottery and daub that was found in pits on the site. This site is on the high ground on the valley side overlooking the River Gipping.

At CDD 047 on the high ground on the east side of the river Gipping overlooking the main settlement of *Combretovivm* a scatter of 50 sherds of 1st and 2nd century pottery is probably indicative of a settlement at this site.

Hoards

Four coin hoards have been located within this area. At WHI 001 plough dispersed silver coin hoard containing 59 coins and a gold ingot were found metal detecting. The closest other Roman finds located so far are over 500m away. At BAD 002 or 004 (find spot uncertain) a ceramic vessel was found containing silver denarii and again this hoard is not very close to any other Roman finds. CDD 043 is where a small coin hoard of 14 silver coins and this find is close to the potential settlement at CDD 035 220m away. At BAY 018 a hoard of 33 bronze coins were found within a larger metalwork scatter comprising of BAY 015 and BAY 021 just to the south of *Combretovivm* close to the road (BAY 014) heading south.

There are four smaller metalwork scatters with a ceramic element that could possibly representing small occupation sites. Three metalwork scatters that probably represent just one site are CLY 012, 014, 020 located on high ground on the east side of the Gipping valley. Here metal detectorists have found coins and brooches and this site could represent a settlement but no pottery has been reported from the site. At AKE 027, 029 and 032, a single site, Roman coins and brooches were found on the slope of the hill. At BAY 013 fifteen coins, two brooches, a cosmetic grinder and some pottery have been found. At BRK 015, 082, 103, pottery and some metalwork was found probably indicating a settlement on this site on the high ground overlooking a valley just of the main Gipping valley to the east. At CRM 028 a low laying site pottery including samian and mortaria has been found as well as coins brooches and a ring.

Four pottery scatters of uncertain quantity, were found by Mrs Sheila Herring during a fieldwalking survey in Barking, at BRK 015,BRK 023, BRK 082, BRK 083.

There are a further 111 SMR entries that represent the Roman period. At these sites, mainly metal detector located, only single or very small amounts of metal work or pottery has been recovered. This could mean that there is not a proper site and it is manuring debris, or alternatively that there could be a site but it hasn't been seriously disturbed (more likely on low lying sites).

Anglo-Saxon

Map 4.9

Saxon pottery dose not survive well in the plough soil and where any is found it is a good indication that there are Anglo-Saxon archaeology in the area. Also the discovery of even a single early brooch is usually a good indicator of a Saxon cemetery and these are usually within *c* 250m of a settlement.

Early Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries

At CDD 050 evaluation and excavation revealed a cemetery containing at least 36 graves dated to the 7th century this included a rare bed burial. It appears that the cemetery extends further to the north and west. Also at this site two sunken featured builduings were found.

The area around CDD 003 and 017 may represent a cemetery where an Anglo-Saxon pot was found along with fragments of human skull and also metal work including a cruciform brooch. This site is at the southern end of the earlier Roman settlement of *Combretovivm.*

200m to the east of CDD 022 is CDD 023 where six brooch fragments and other metalwork and pottery has been found suggesting that there could be a cemetery on this site. At CDD 035 *c* 400m to the west of CDD 022, metal detectorists have found a large scatter of Anglo-Saxon metalwork including brooches, jewellery, a dagger and a strap end.

On the other side of the small valley opposite CDD 022 is CDD 027. Here metal detectorists have found numerous pieces Early Anglo-Saxon metalwork including various brooches. Also within 150m of this site are CDD 021, 036 and 048 where metalwork including early brooches have been found and all these sites could represent cemetery.

At CDD 057 and the adjacent site of CRM 043 various Anglo-Saxon metal work including early brooches, of which there were one or two very fine cruciform types. HMG 019 and 021 - early brooches found in this area metal detecting also indicate a cemetery.

Single or a small numbers of brooches at a site could indicate a cemetery and examples of these are:- At AKE 001, two 6th century cruciform brooches were found in the grounds of Akenham Hall, although the exact location is not certain. AKE 022 a fragment of a cruciform brooch. BLG 011 a single early saucer brooch was found metal detecting. At CDD 019 cruciform and disc brooch were found with a few other metal artefacts. BRH 026 cruciform brooch. At BRH 027 two early brooches were found down slope from BRH 030 and BRH 016.

Middle-Saxon cemeteries
BRH 009 is another gravel pit where numerous skeletons have been recovered. These remains appear to be mid-late Anglo-Saxon in date as they were orientated east-west and have no grave goods. There is also an equal proportion of women, men and children and they may have been associated with a wooden chapel.

At IPS 247 three graves aligned east-west were found in a settlement complex.

Early Anglo-Saxon Settlement evidence
BRK 104 is in the area of a proposed quarry (AOS1) and during evaluation of this low laying site on the west bank of the River Gipping evaluation revealed numerous features including two sunken featured buildings and early Anglo-Saxon pottery, from the ditches flanking a Roman road that passes through the site.

At NMD 008 part of an early Anglo-Saxon settlement was excavated, with two *Grubenhaus* pits and ditches , some containing loom weights, spindle whorls pottery and a comb.

BRH 003 sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery found during railway construction.

At CDD 022 an important and rich scatter of metalwork has been recovered from this site over many years. Later work including geophysical survey and excavation revealed an occupation layer, a post –in-trench hall and two sunken featured buildings. No burials were found even though early Anglo-Saxon brooches were found. (Also see CDD 027, 035)

Middle-Late Saxon Settlement evidence
At BRK 020 a single sherd of Ipswich ware found on the Darmsden Iron Age site. And at WTN 015 a single sherd of Ipswich ware found on high ground overlooking the river.

At BRH 010, 016, 017, 018, 045, there is a settlement on the high ground overlooking the River Gipping to the west. Metal detectorists have recovered pottery and metalwork all over this area. At the northern end of this area is BRH 030 were a complete small long brooch was found and this could represent a cemetery area.

At CDD 066 and MSF19081 sherds of Thetford ware were found within the village of Coddenham.

At BAY 013 three sherds of Thetford ware 150m to the north east of Baylham

BLG 004 two brooches and a strap end; close by at BLG 008 a strap end and 4 hooked tags

Analysis of Anglo-Saxon settlement and burial pattern.
Map 4.10
In the early Anglo-Saxon period the settlement evidence is all on the lower ground in the river valleys very close to the river e.g. BRH 003, BRK 104, CDD 022 and NDM 008. The cemeteries are generally in very similar topographic positions with some on slightly higher ground on the valley slopes e.g. those around CDD 022, also at CDD 017, CDD 003, CDD 057 AND CRM 043.

In the Middle Anglo-Saxon period there is a noticeable shift in both settlement and cemeteries to higher ground e.g. settlements at CDD 019, BRH 010, BRH 016 and cemeteries at BRH 009 and IPS 247. This settlement pattern is similar to that seen in the Iron Age period.

In the Late Saxon period settlement and cemeteries appear to remain on the high ground, as no evidence has so far been found for low laying sites. At all three of the known Late Saxon settlements in this area at BAY 013, CDD 066 and BRH 017, 045, and also at the Middle Saxon site at BRK 020, there is a Medieval church. This shows a continuity of settlement and focus into the medieval period, that could suggest that at other medieval churches there is the possibility of there being Saxon material in the vicinity.

Needham Market is atypical, as there is an Early Saxon settlement next to a post-Domesday church, but this perhaps to be a coincidental co-location.

Medieval
Map 4.11
The main urban centre that has influence over this area in the medieval period is Ipswich with its docks and connections to the continent. The town grew out of a Middle Saxon settlement that was the major industrial centre and trading port of Suffolk. The main market in this area would have been at Ipswich to the south and Stowmarket (previously called Thorney) to the north, these two towns that would have had some influence over this area.

As mentioned above there is a continuity of settlement from the Late Saxon period into the medieval period, centred round the parish church.

The rural settlement pattern in this area is of a mixed nature, mainly of dispersed settlements such as at Barking, Darmsden and around the Creeting parishes. This phenomenon can be seen in the way that concentrated pottery scatters indicating occupation, cluster at fairly regular intervals along the side of roads, e.g. between Darmsden and Tarsten Hall. There are occasional nucleated villages such as Coddenham, centred around the church and the main street. Another phenomenon is isolated churches in association with manorial halls e.g. at Barking (BRK 018) and Barham (BRH 017). This is thought to reflect a pattern of Late Saxon thegnly halls that have dependant churches (Martin in Dymond and Martin 1999).

Moats
(Map 4.12)
In the medieval period moats are a symbol of status and though only slightly defensive in nature. However they gave the owner a defended residence that was tied up with the concept of lordship and social status. There is thought to be a correlation between the area the moat encloses and the status of the resident, the bigger the area the high the social status. There are ten moated sites within the Gipping area, all being situated on the clay uplands, with a greater concentration in the north east of the study area. CRP 001 is a circular moat only showing as a cropmark and thought to be early in date. There are partially remaining moats at CDD 031, CLY 003, CRM 008, 009, 010, CRM 011, SRL 008 and two possible moats at BRH 044 and BRK 017.

Agriculture
The majority of SMR entries for the medieval period are single finds or small dispersed scatters of metalwork or pottery discovered by metal detectorists. These probably represent manuring of the fields surrounding the towns and villages as well as some abandoned small settlements, as there is a distinct pattern of these types of finds clustering around the nucleated settlements and also by the roads along the lines of the dispersed settlement.

Post Medieval

Parks
There is one large post medieval park in this area, Shrubland Park BRH 021. The full area of Shrubland Park is 175 ha with elaborate and extensive Italianate terraced gardens and

pleasure grounds of 25 ha. The most famous feature in the gardens at Shrubland Hall is the grand staircase designed by Sir Charles Barry in 1851-1852 and it is well known that this was based on part of garden of Villa d'Este at Tivoli.

BRH 021 is the site of Barking Hall, occupied by Francis Theobald (Knight) in 1680 and was the Seat of Earls of Ashburnham from circa 1756. Divided into tenements and occupied by the poor and was demolished 1926. Stables and walled garden remain.

HMG 024 is Hemingstone or Styles Hall and garden. The Hall was built in 1558 by William Styles and the garden certainly existed before 1749. The Hall is located at the foot of a fairly steep south-facing slope and it is from this slope that the gardens extend, going to the back of the house. There is no park but the garden has a network of walks and terraces and to the west of the hall is a walled garden.

Woods

In the Gipping area there are two areas of ancient woodland. The first and largest is in the parish of Barking and is made up of six wooded areas that are separated by small area of fields, these are around Priestly wood and Bonny wood (BRK 091, 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097). The other area is in the parish of Barham and is the southern part of Shrubland Park (BRH 031, 032).

Historic Landscape Character

The majority of the area is pre 18th century enclosure (1.1) random fields, with a few small areas of coaxial fields. There is also *c* 15% post1950s agricultural landscape with boundary loss from random fields (3.1).

Transport and communications

The Gipping valley has always been a route of communication and transport connecting the port at Ipswich with the interior of Suffolk. Two roads were turnpiked that ran through the valley (1711), the Ipswich to Scole and the Colchester to Bury St Edmunds, one on either side of the river and these roads are still in use today. Later in 1793 the River Gipping itself was made navigable from Ipswich to Stowmarket. There are various features of this that can still be seen, such as the lock at BAY 035. The Railway was built in 1846 and this too ran along the Gipping valley by the river and connected Ipswich to Norwich and Cambridge.

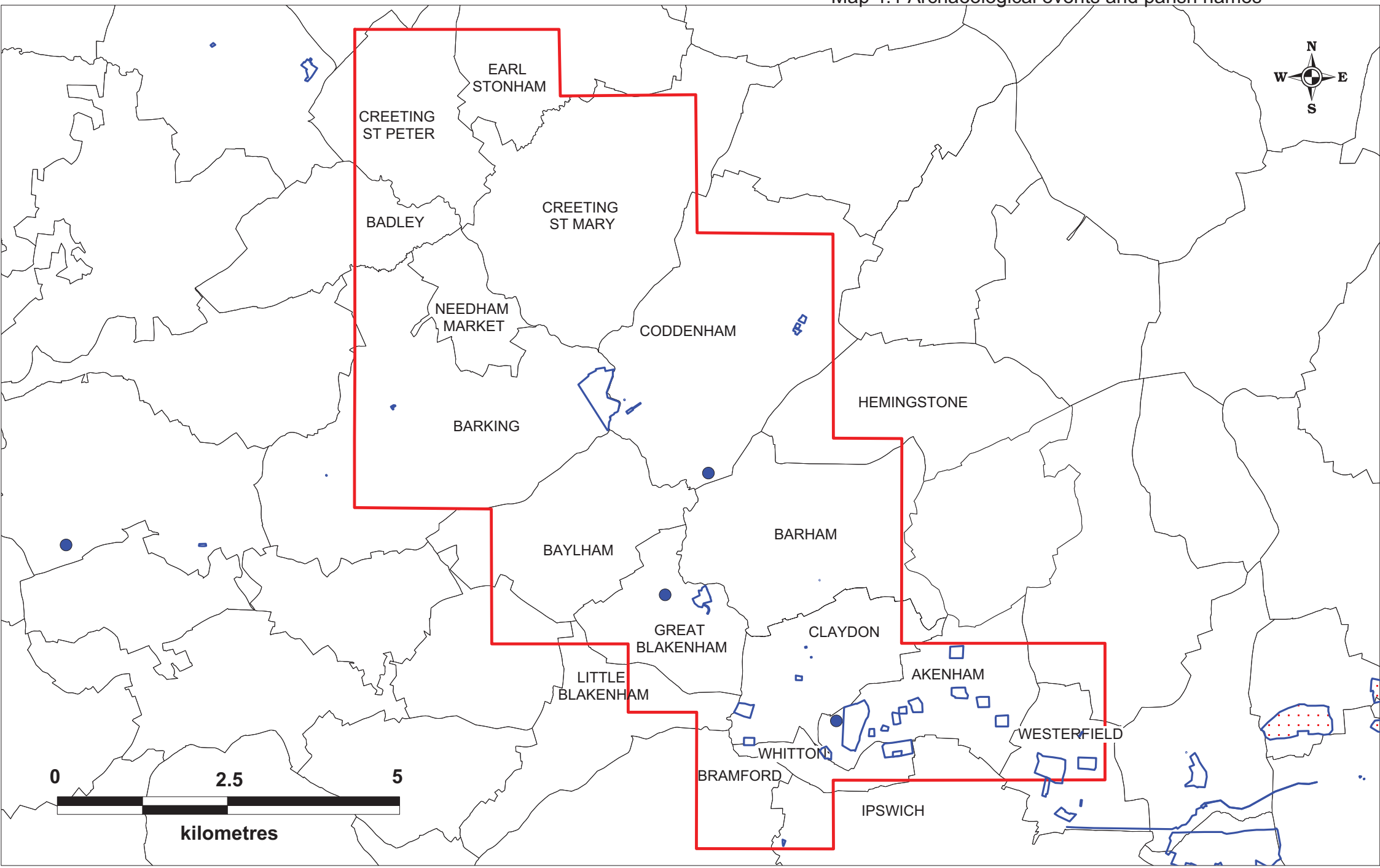
Agriculture

NDM 014 is a water mill on River Gipping first marked Kirby's map of 1736. BAY 030 is another r water mill said to have been standing at the beginning of the 17th century at this site on the River Gipping. Windmills are known from five sites in this area, at CRM 023, CRM 024, NDM 016, and CDD 033.

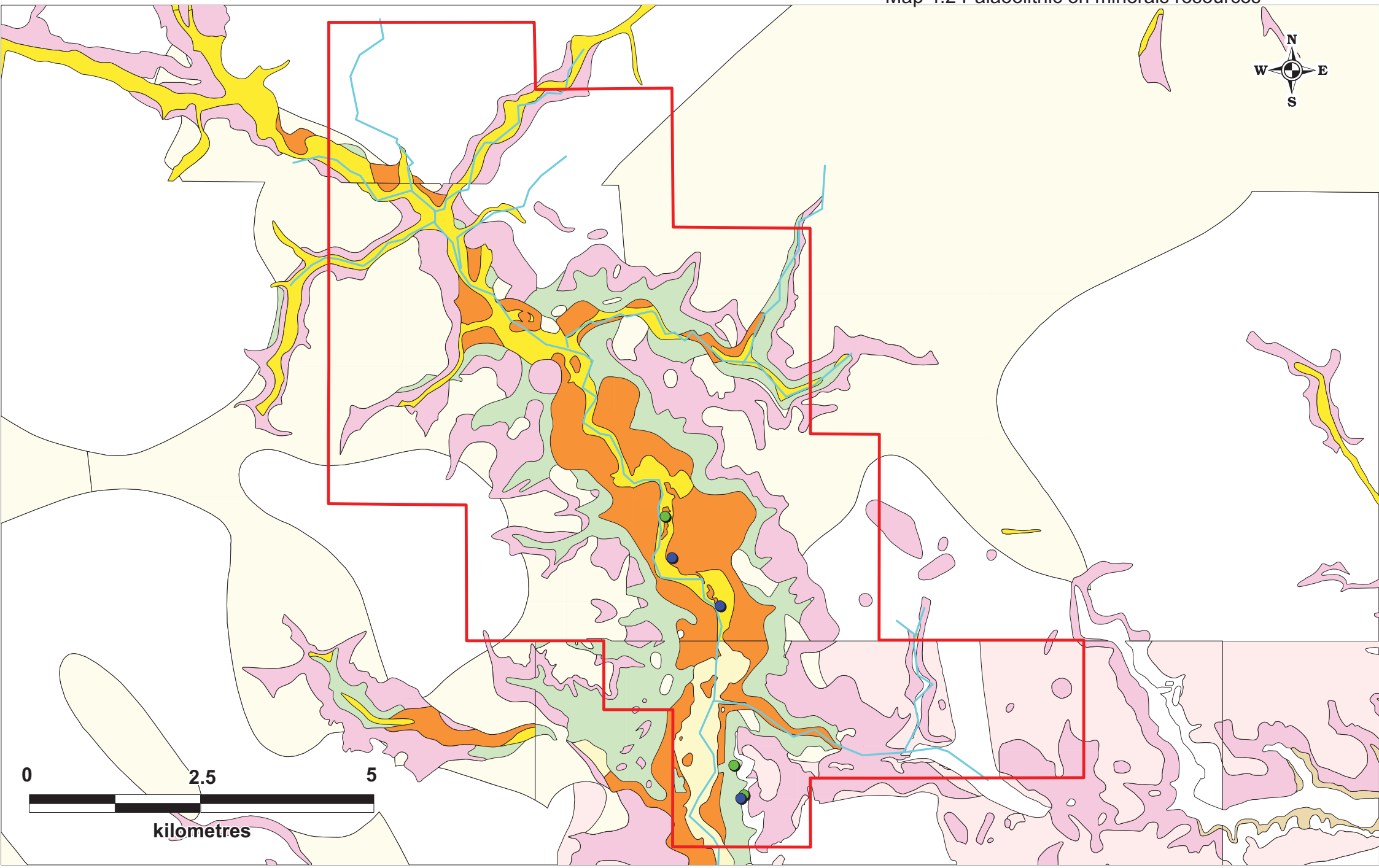
Industrial

The only industrial sites on the SMR are various lime or brick kilns and their associated quarry pits. There are six lime kilns , two of which CDD 040and 041 are of national importance being still extant. The remaining four are at BRF 001, CLY 009, CLY 011 and NDM 009. The only two brick kilns are at BRF 039 and BRF 042 next to each other.

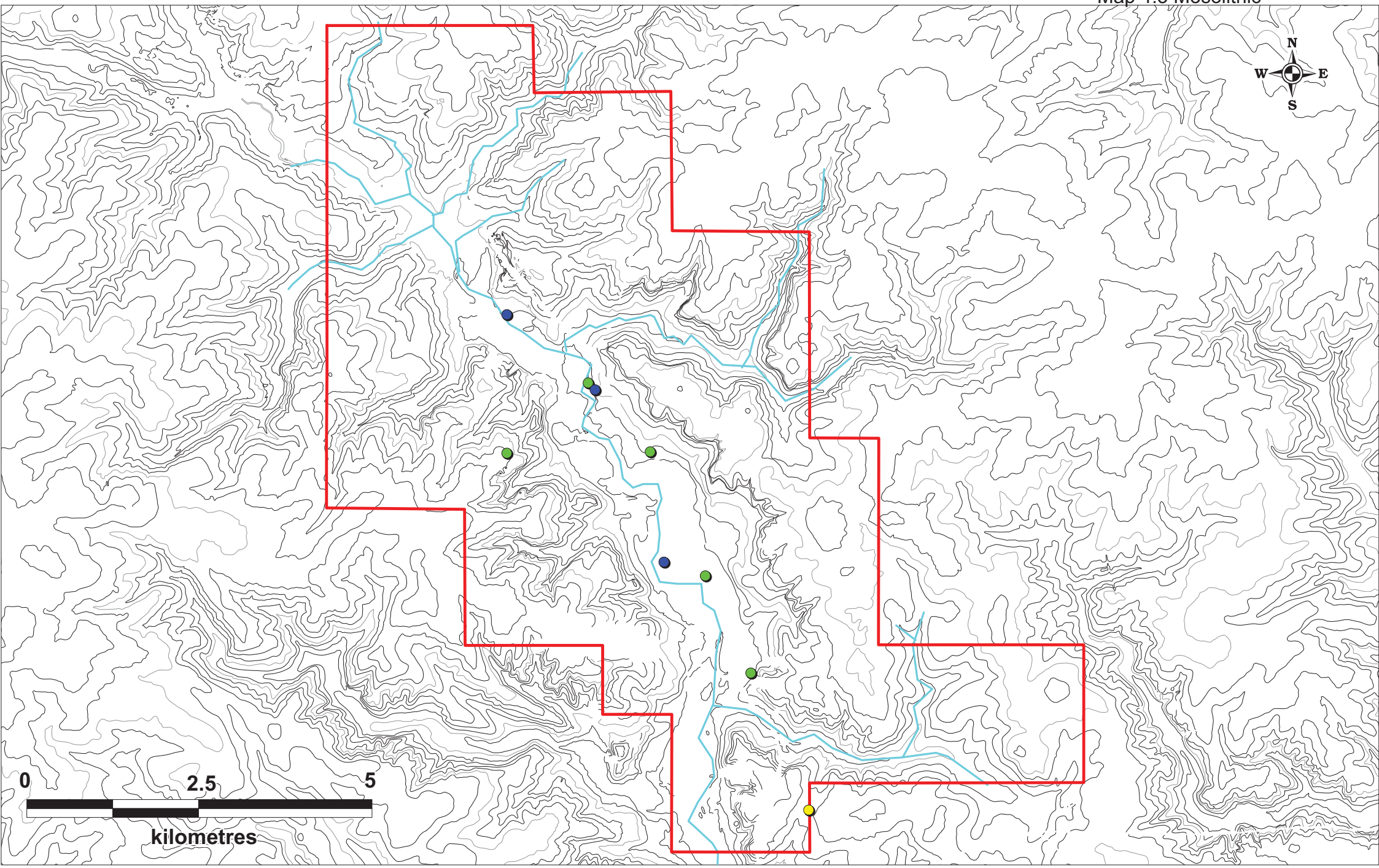
Map 4.1 Archaeological events and parish names



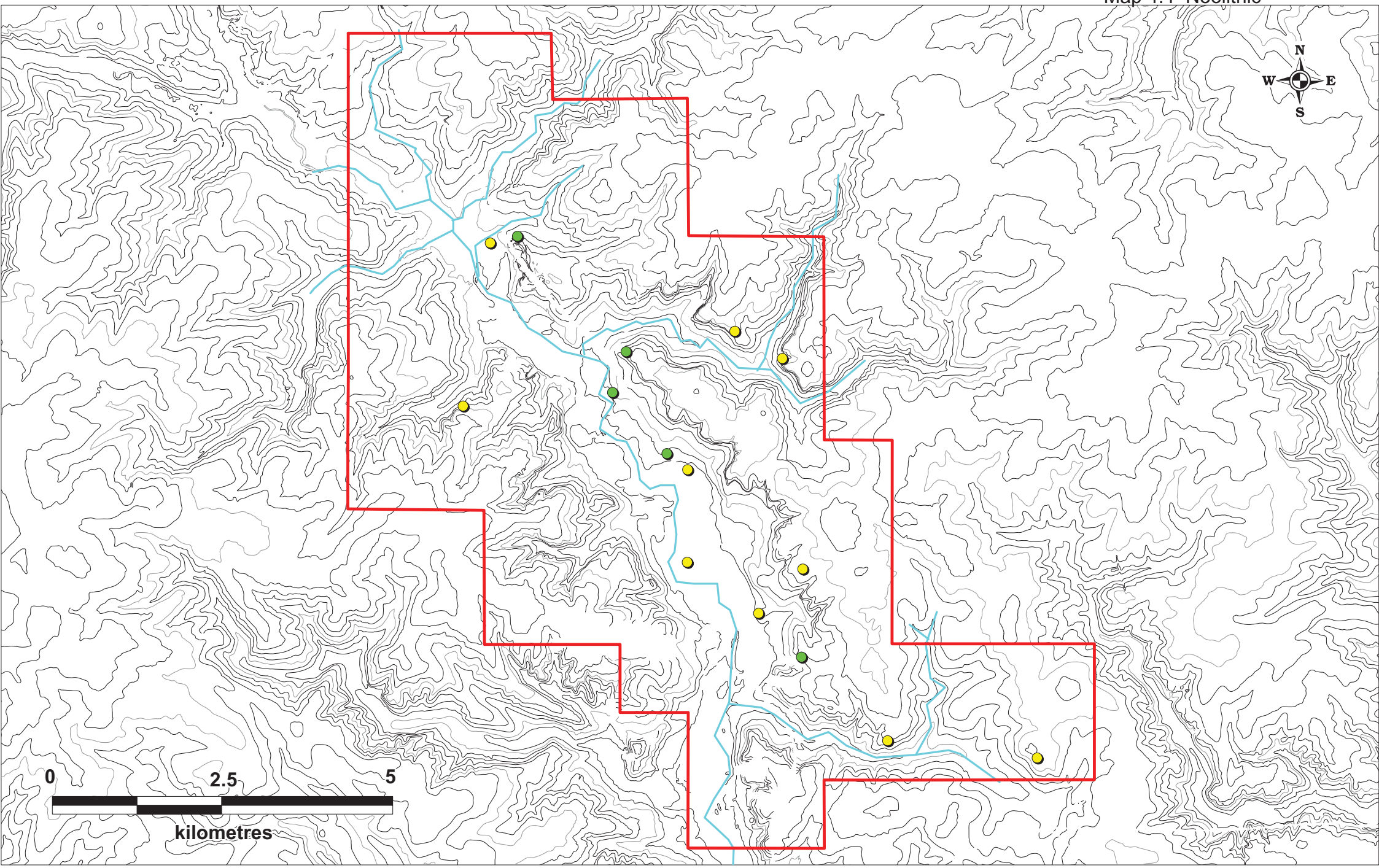
Map 4.2 Palaeolithic on minerals resources



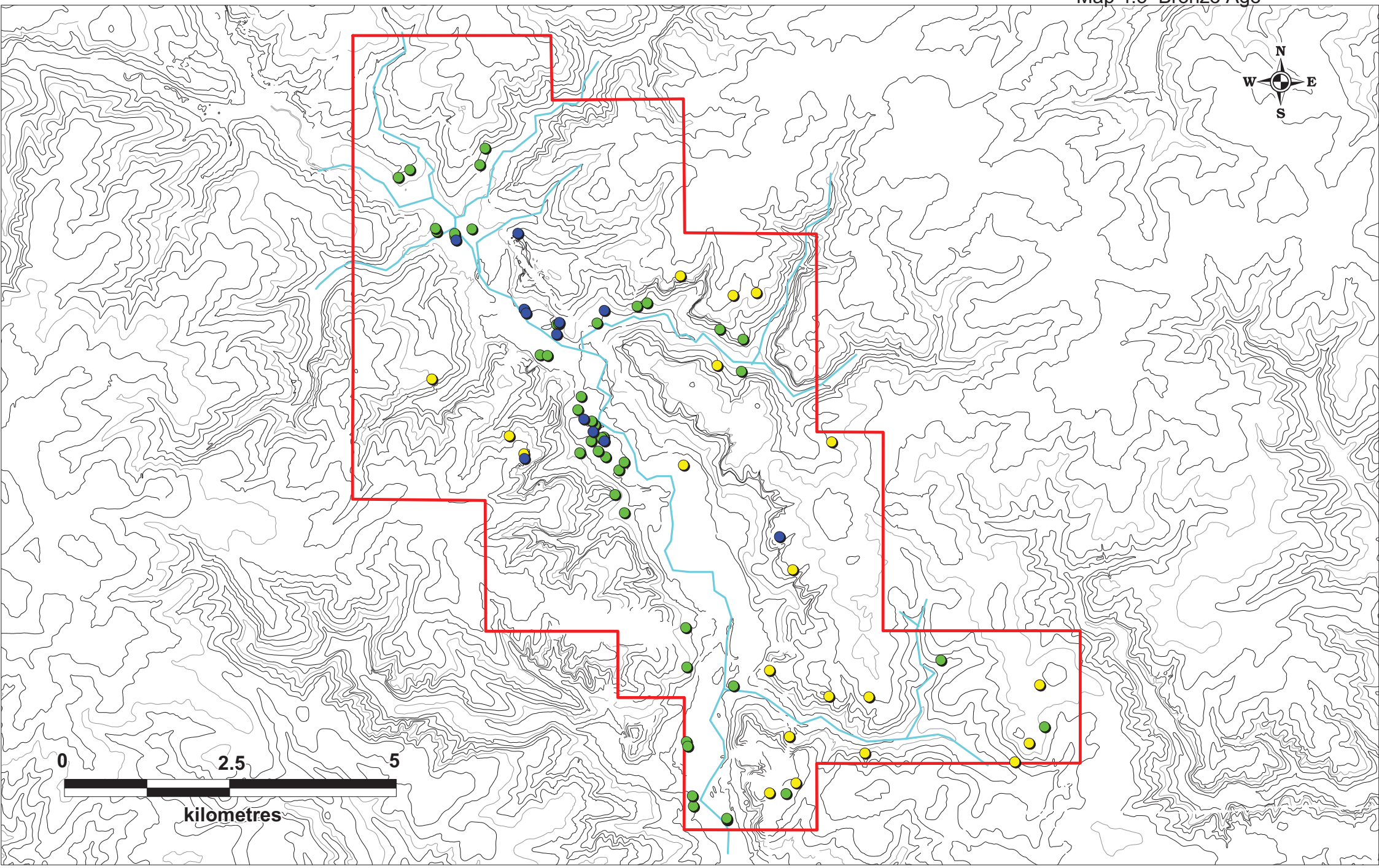
Map 4.3 Mesolithic



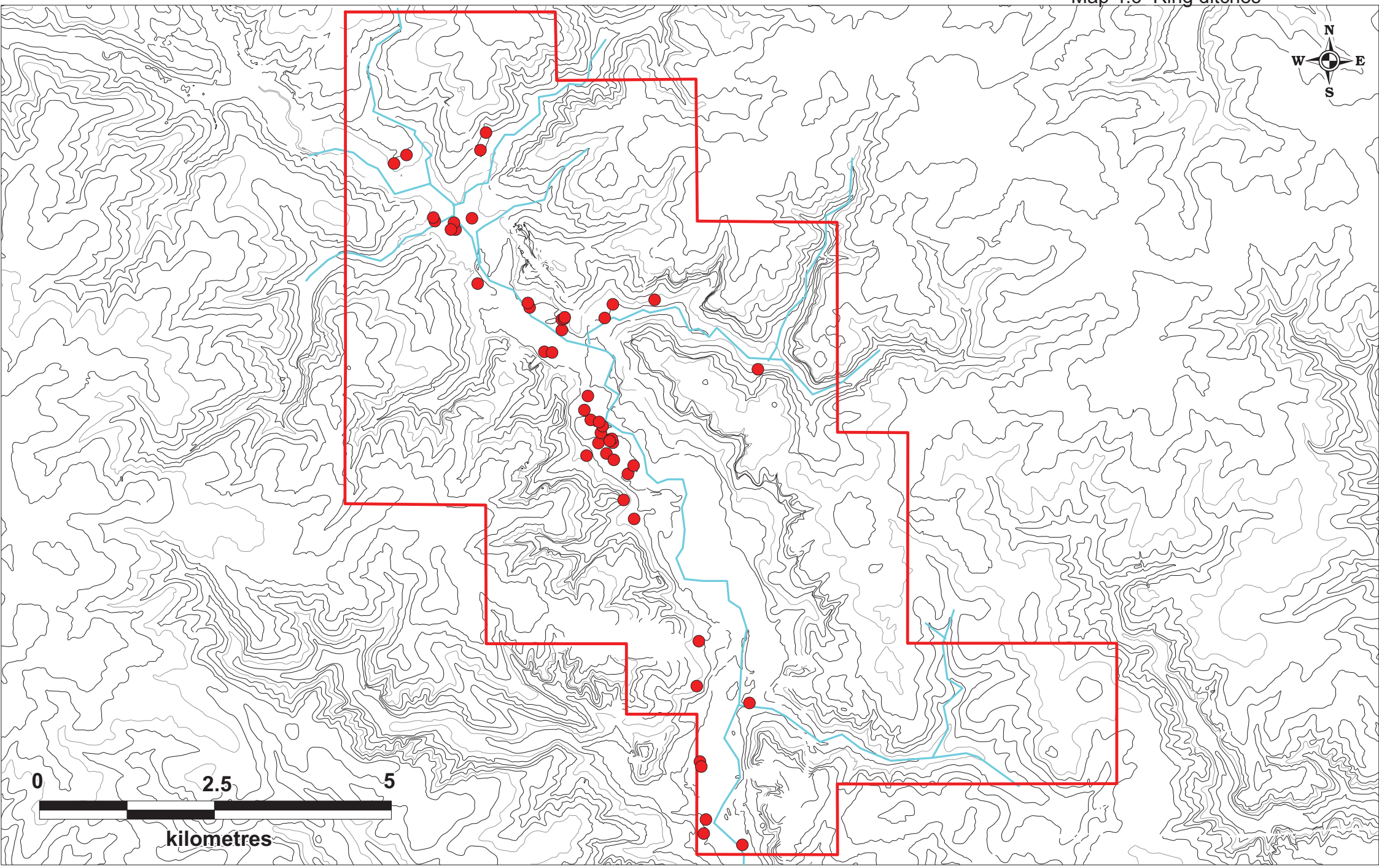
Map 4.4 Neolithic



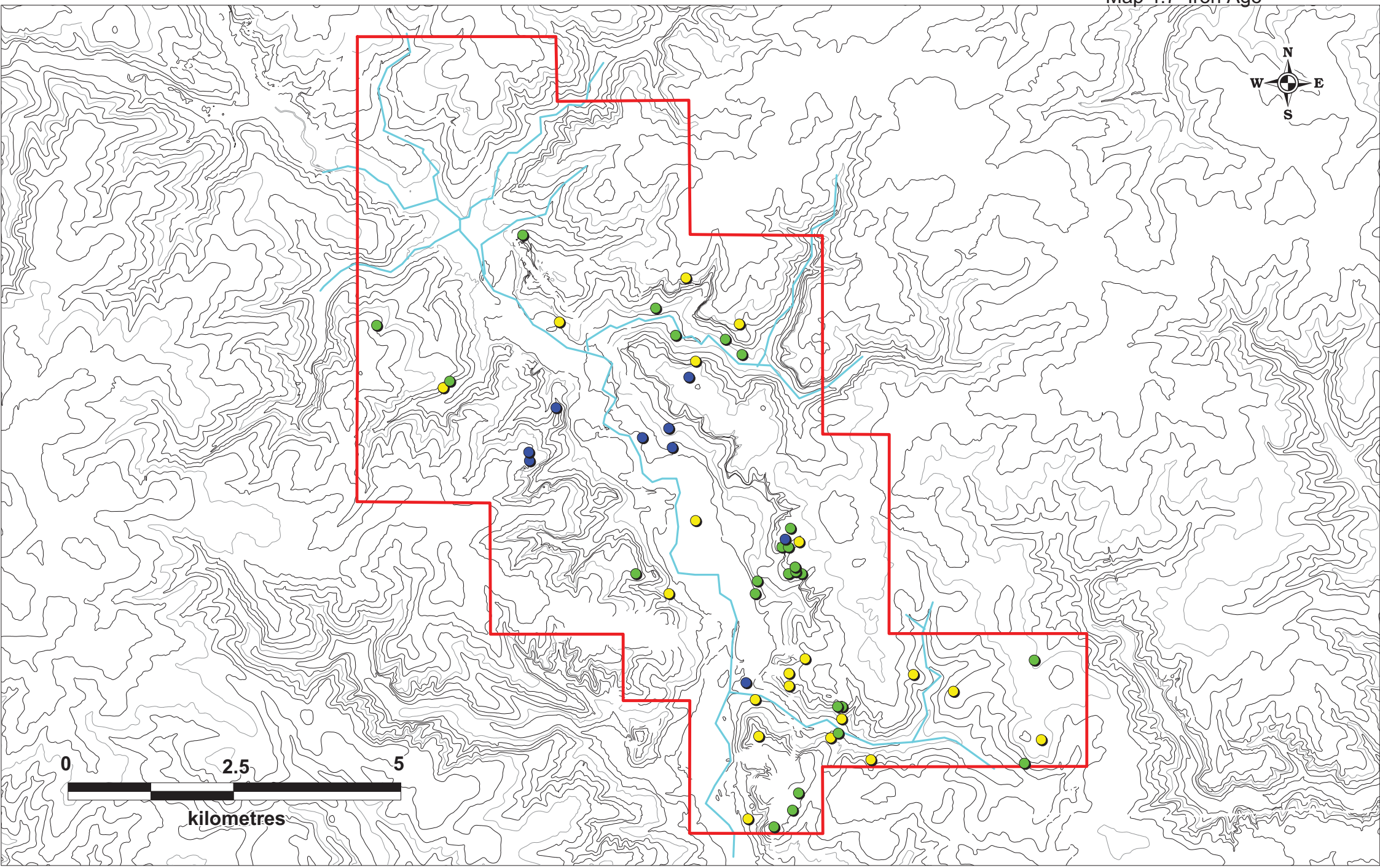
Map 4.5 Bronze Age



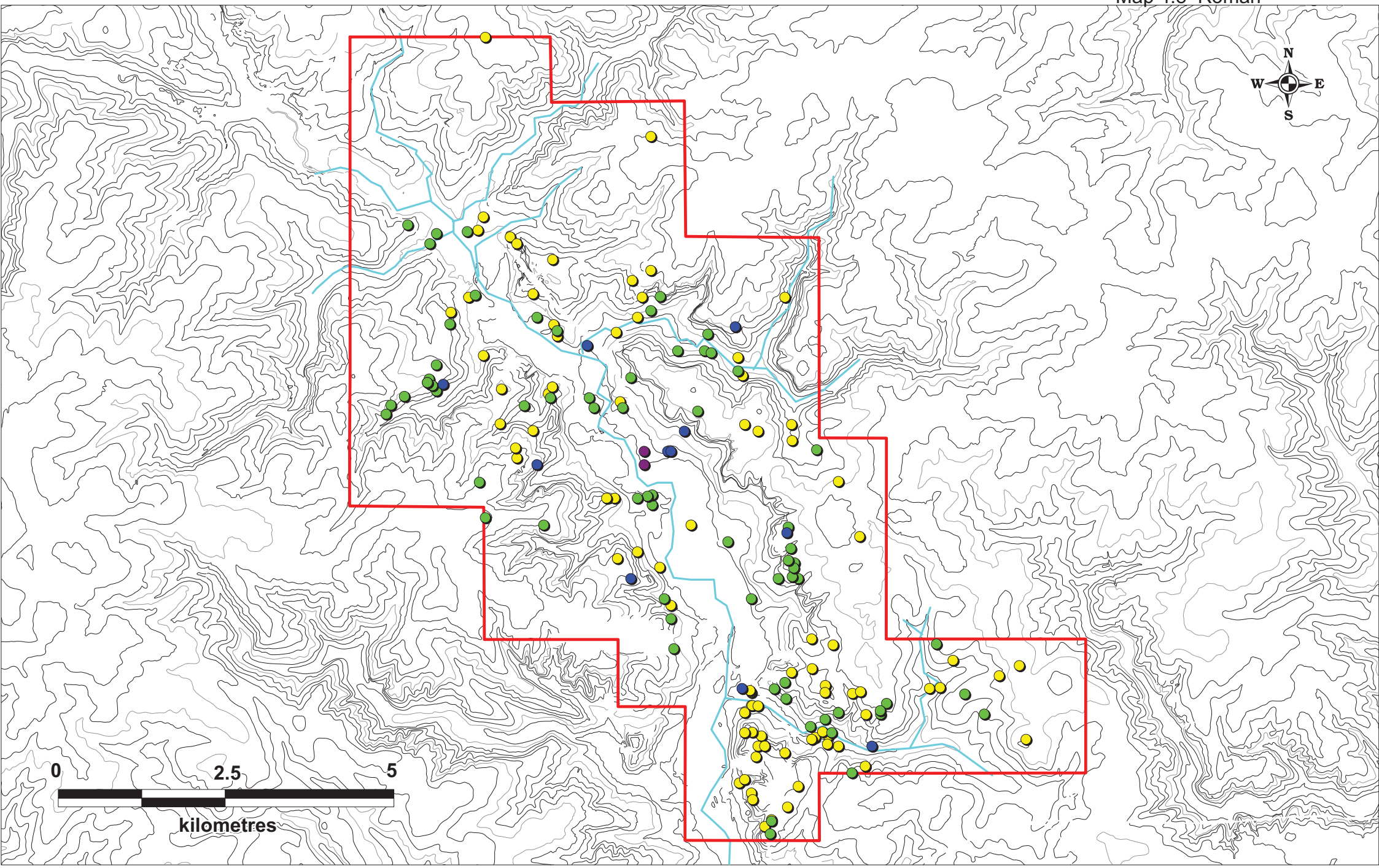
Map 4.6 Ring ditches



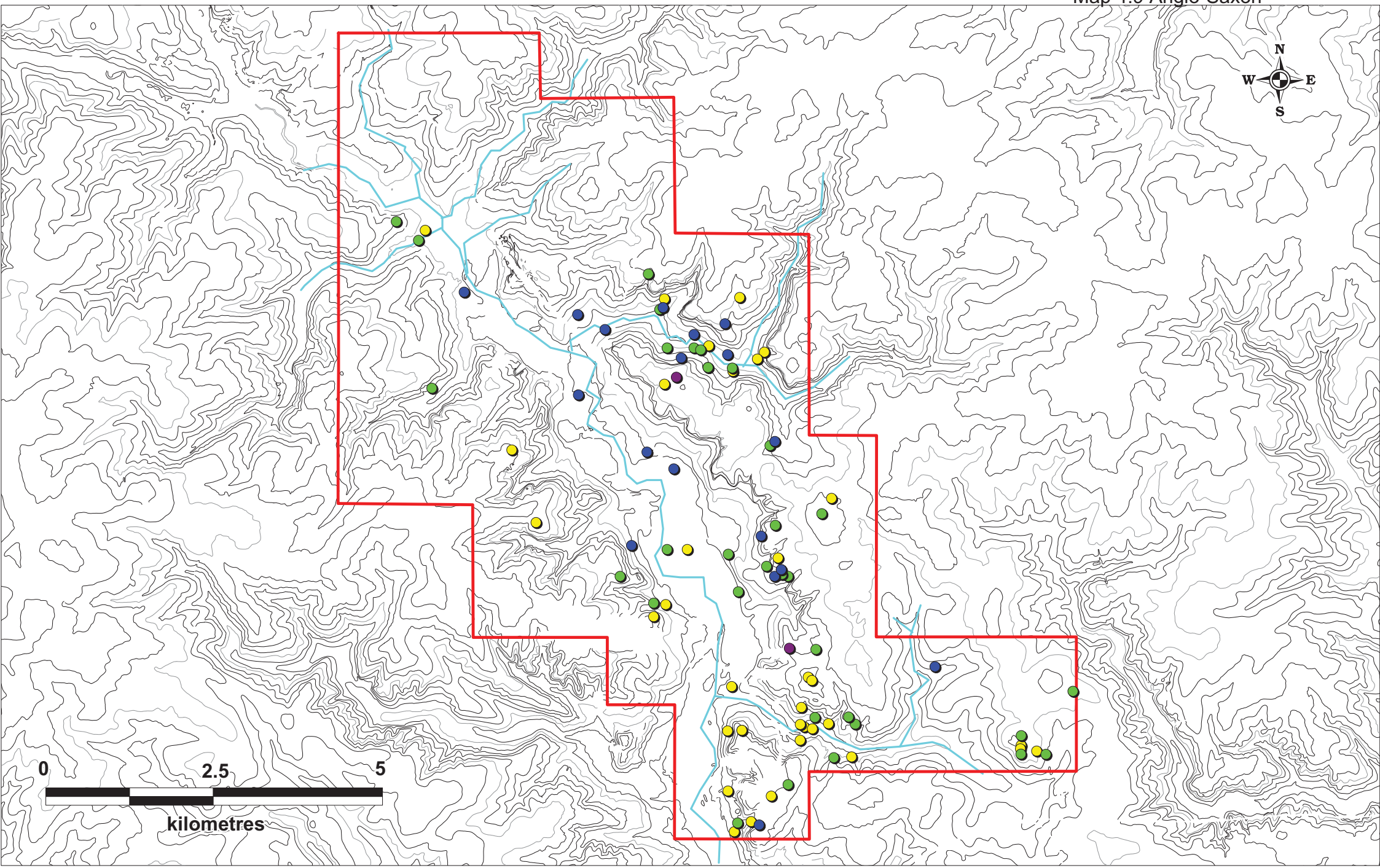
Map 4.7 Iron Age



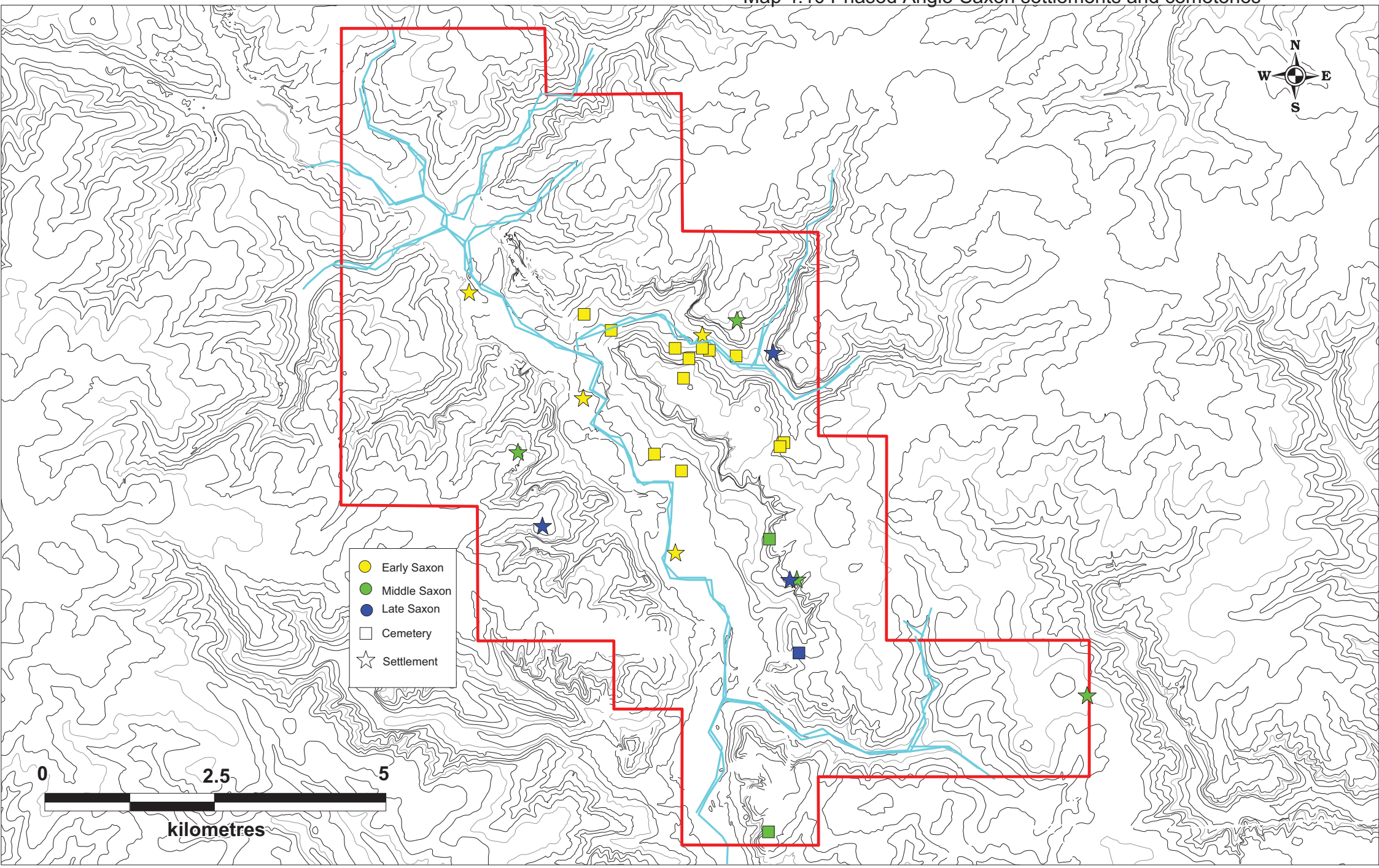
Map 4.8 Roman



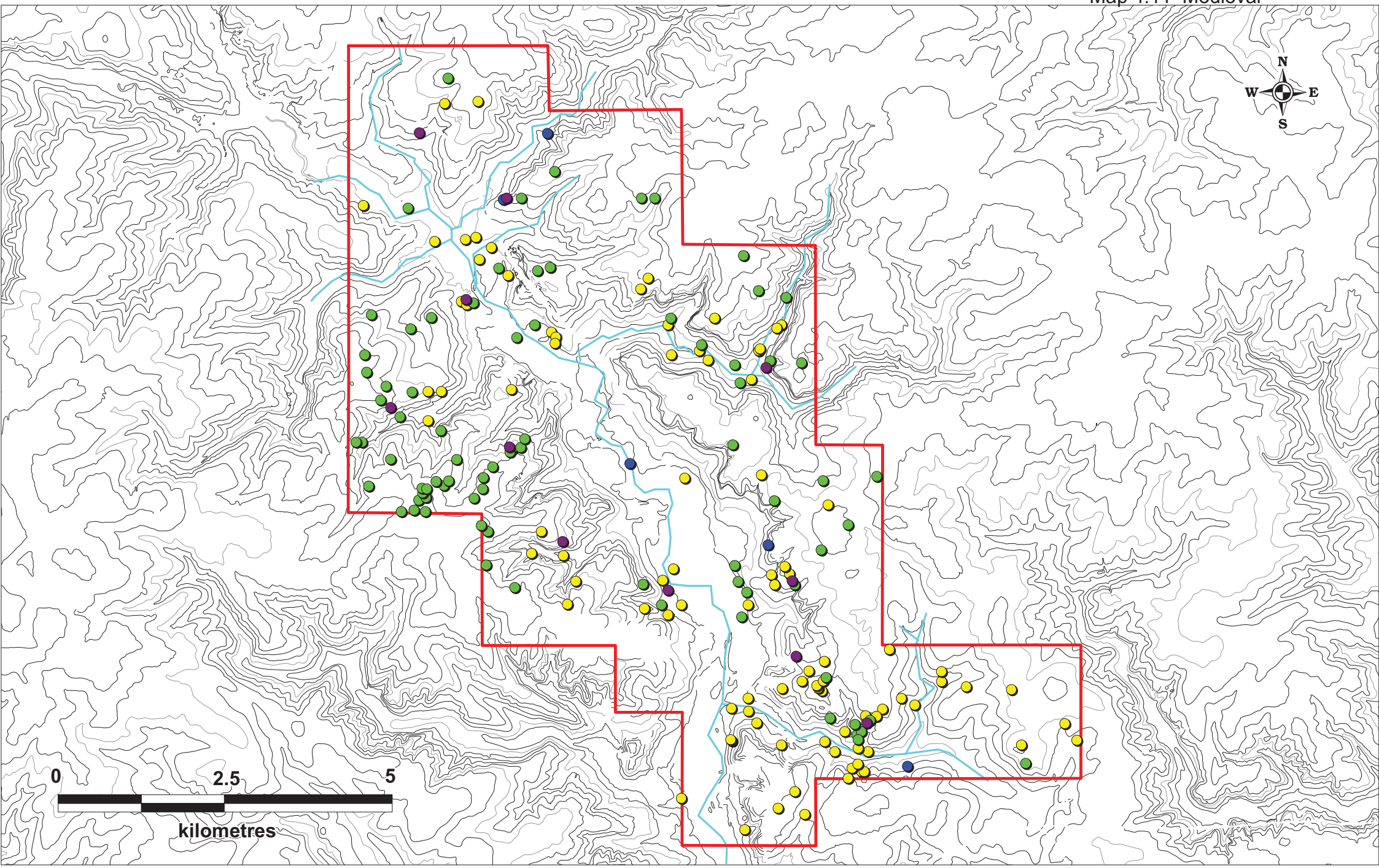
Map 4.9 Anglo-Saxon



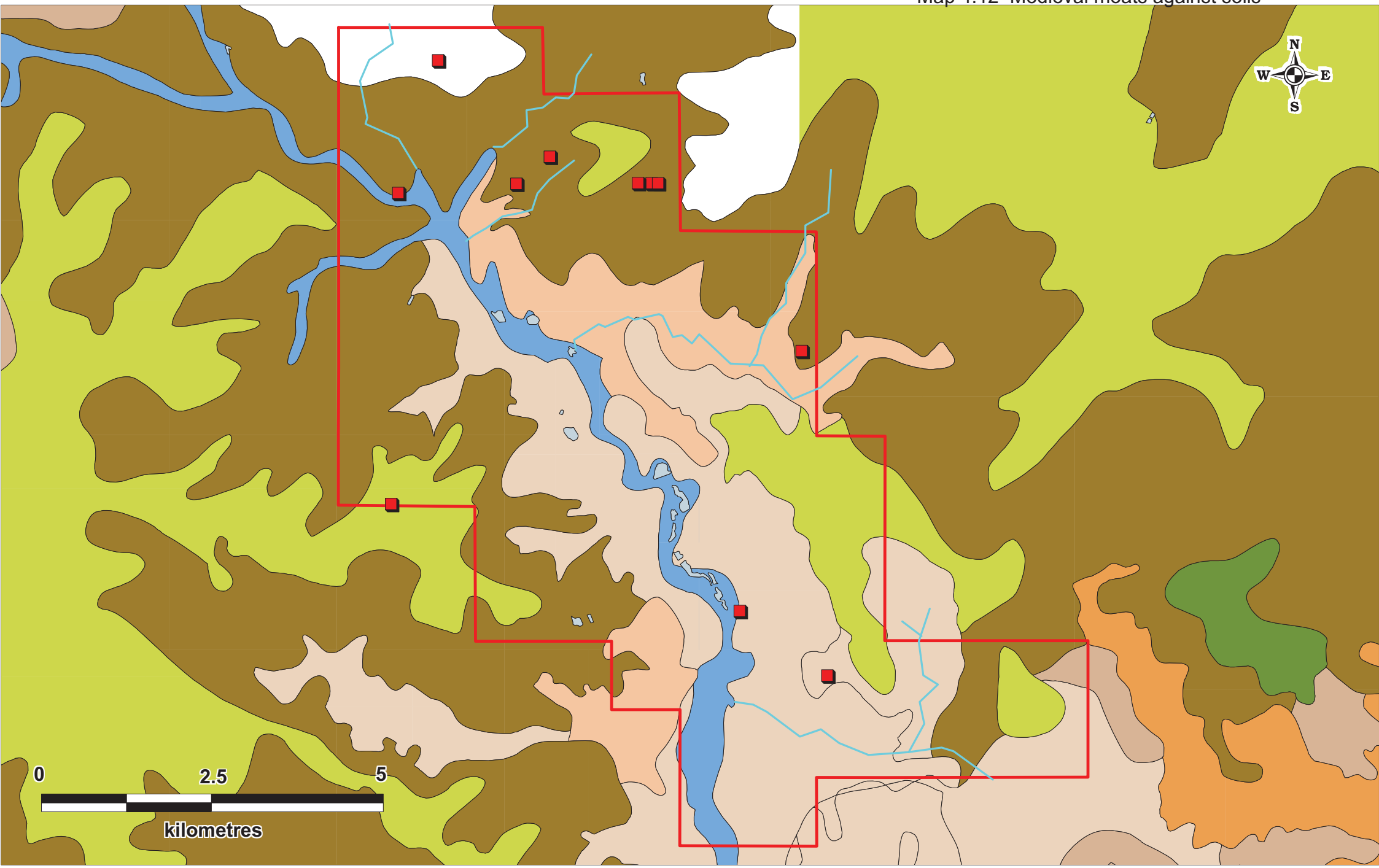
Map 4.10 Phased Anglo-Saxon settlements and cemeteries



Map 4.11 Medieval



Map 4.12 Medieval moats against soils



Part 5 The Felixstowe area

Selected area of the study

The Felixstowe peninsula was the first area selected for the Aggregates project study, and specifically for NMP work, because recent work relating to the rapid survey of the coastal left a central block of the peninsula unmapped that was clearly of considerable potential. The air photograph mapping now covers the peninsula as far north-west as Ipswich and north-east to Woodbridge. Although the NMP did not include the middle and upper reaches of the Fynn valley this has had SMR enhancement and is included in the gazetteer, as is the area of Wherstead parish south of Ipswich on the west side of the Orwell estuary – both these areas have significant areas of former extraction, current permissions and future minerals potential. The total area studied is 172 sq km. As well as direct minerals potential it is an area of high development activity generally with the urban areas of Ipswich and Felixstowe, the growing container port at Felixstowe and the transport links inland from the port.

Background: geology, soils, topography and landscape character

The character of much of the area is essentially coastal and estuarine, with narrow but well drained and reclaimed tributary valleys feeding into the Orwell and Deben estuaries and dividing the peninsula on a west-east alignment into a series of low headlands, only rarely approaching thirty metres O.D. The largest river valley systems are the River Fynn and its tributaries draining east into the Deben via Martlesham Creek and the Mill River draining much of the central area also into the Deben. Shorter streams draining into the Orwell include the Levington Creek.

The geology is dominated by glacial sands and gravels, with Crag deposits exposed along the valleys and river terrace sand and gravel in the Fynn valley in the north (BGS). To the north of the Fynn the Boulder Clay covers the higher areas.. In the Belstead Brook valley south of Ipswich there are further terrace deposits, including the type site exposure for the Ipswichian interglacial at Bobbit's Hole, Wherstead (now a sewage works).

The soil map (Map 5.1) correspondingly shows clay and loamy seasonally waterlogged soils in the north. Otherwise the soils are mainly deep sandy and deep loam types, the loamier element derived from an aeolian element in the drift geology. Excavations regularly expose a fine loess-like subsoil over sands and gravels between Felixstowe and the east side of Ipswich which appears to cover any distinguishable archaeological layers; this material may contribute to the wide extent and clarity of the cropmarks. The northern edge of the peninsula and the south-eastern corner have extensive areas of marine alluvial deposits.

As seen towards the coast (Hegarty and Newsome 2005; Dymond 1999), from the medieval period until the twentieth century the agricultural economy of the survey area probably consisted of a mix of arable and pastoral, highly dependent on the heath and commons. From the mid-twentieth century increasing intensification of arable agriculture encroached onto areas of pasture and heath. However, again in common with the remainder of the coast, aerial photographs of the 1940s show that by this point, many fields on the higher areas of well drained soils had been under arable cultivation for some time.

The current settlement pattern is a mix of isolated farmsteads, country estates and small nucleated villages with historic, probably medieval cores. Ipswich and Felixstowe are the largest settlements. Both towns have seen extensive modern growth, particularly post-Second World War, but Ipswich in particular has influenced the character of the survey area, with neighbouring villages expanding and new housing encroaching onto former heath commons.

Minerals extraction

The history of small scale extraction includes coprolite (phosphatic nodules from the Crag ground for artificial fertiliser in the 19th century) pits – noted in Foxhall, Kirton and Felixstowe on the SMR but common throughout the peninsula. Brick kilns are recorded at Gt Bealings (misc), Kirton (025), Felixstowe, Rushmere (Misc), Trimley St Martin (049 and 057),

Wherstead (043, 045) and were commonly closely associated with brickearth pits. Twentieth century mineral extraction has been focussed until recently on the two main east west valley systems (Mill River and Fynn), but now includes several active pits and proposals in the general glacial sands and gravels areas. Given the location in relation to large population centres of Ipswich and Felixstowe, plus the good communications and the lack of AONB constraint this seems likely to continue in the future.

Patterns of discovery and potential biases
Map 5.2
The improving and mapping of archaeological "events" in the SMR for the area (excluding Felixstowe parish) allows an overview of potential bias in archaeological distributions. Extensive areas in the northern half of the area were systematically fieldwalked as part of the SE Suffolk survey, particularly in Great and Little Bealings, Martlesham and Waldringfield, with smaller areas in parishes in the west half of the Fynn valley. Elsewhere there are various levels of investigation in response to development threats, including gravel extraction, marshland reversion in Trimley and agricultural reservoirs as well as smaller housing etc developments. Water pipelines have given a limited insight into areas otherwise little investigated such as Bucklesham and Hemley. The level of recent archaeological fieldwork remains very low in some parishes such as Levington and Kirton.

Another major source of information for this area is the cropmark evidence. Since the 1970's it has been apparent that the Felixstowe peninsula was exceptionally rich in cropmarks – comparable only to the Shotley peninsula to the south with the Tendring peninsula in north Essex or to Lothingland in north-east Suffolk/south-east Norfolk. In these areas there are not only good examples of individual features such as ring ditches and enclosures but also multiperiod areas of enclosed landscapes and trackways. Fitting this evidence into the chronological outline of the area presents problems as only occasionally are there dated elements, which have been noted wherever possible. Otherwise some possible dates have been suggested on the basis of the morphology of the features. Fuller information is available in Hegarty 2006 (the NMP report for this project) and in Hegarty & Newsome 2004 (NMP report for the coastal strip).

Chronological gazetteer

		IMPORTANCE			POTENTIAL				Site per km2
PERIOD	**TOTAL**	**High**	**Med**	**Low**	**High**	**Med**	**Low**	**None**	
Palaeo	7		2	5		3	3	1	1 site per 25 sq km
Mes	12		4	8	1	3	4	2	1 site per 14 sq km
Neo	65	6	8	51	3	8	44	10	1 site per 2.6 sq km
BA	316	48	205	63	35	196	58	27	1 site pe 0.5 sq km
IA	62	6	39	17	1	34	20	7	1 site per 2.7 sq km
Rom(43 Fex excl)	178	6	83	89		6	80	91	1 site per 1 sq km
Sax	119	2	57	60	1	39	74	5	1 site per 1.4 sq km
Med (15 Fex excl)	239	29	109	101		2	136	99	1 site per 0.7 sq km
Pmed	278								1 site per 0.6 sq km
Mod	205								1 site per 0.8 sq km
Undated cropmarks	171								1 site per 1 sq km
Total	1652	97	507	394	49	499	393	55	1 site per 0.1 sq km

Summary of the numbers and scoring of recorded sites by period

Palaeolithic
Map 5.3
(4 SMR records)

At first sight the few Palaeolithic sites show a concentration along the Mill River valley; this however is largely a product of investigations by Reid Moir of Ipswich Museum hunting for (pre-glacial) artefacts in the Crag deposits in pits in Foxhall during the early 20th century, and all of these have been classified as probably of natural origin. This leaves an extremely sparse distribution of probably re-deposited single finds dating to the Lower Palaeolithic (c. 400,000 to 100,000 BP) – possible Clactonian flakes from beach deposits at Felixstowe Ferry (FEX 090), single bifaces from Brightwell and Kesgrave. – in marked contrast to the productive extraction pits within Ipswich.

Mesolithic
Map 5.4
(11 SMR records, 5 of them single findspots)

As in the Palaeolithic the best available evidence for human activity is often simply assemblages of flint tools. Cut features such as pits, hearths etc are extremely rare. Only in one excavation in the study area (BEL 022) is a Mesolithic assemblage associated with a possibly man-made feature. There are further assemblages and finds in the Fynn valley and its tributaries (MRM 023, BEG 004, BEL 018, PLY 018,) which are all on the sands and gravels, fairly high (25 – 35m OD) on the valley sides and crests.

A second group of findspots on the Orwell estuary (IPS 001, NAC 003) may derive from *in situ* deposits recorded as in/below river alluvium and “in cliff” – these potentially might indicate unusually well preserved sites being eroded.

The discovery of Mesolithic material is often as a result of investigations for other period material (eg in the Bealings quarry, Sinks Pit) and is the earliest material found in the poorly recorded excavations at Rookery Mound, Great Bealings (BEG 004). Only one site (PLY 018) was identified in systematic fieldwalking. It remains difficult to predict where Mesolithic activity is likely to occur, but any site where the flint assemblage remained in situ, such as the estuary side or perhaps unploughed deposits at BEG 004 would be extremely important.

Neolithic
Map 5.5
Exclusively Neolithic (as opposed to flint scatters of indeterminate prehistoric date) comprises 62 records, the majority (39) being single finds.

There are occasional hints of activity along the coasts with a scatter and a stray axe just above 5m in the Felixstowe marshes area, and items from close to the Orwell on both the Wherstead (WHR Misc) and Ipswich (IPS 001, IPS 008 – also Meso?) sides. Elsewhere very little has been found on low ground in the valleys.

Potentially significant sites have been identified as cropmarks: a possible cursus (KIR 049), and mortuary enclosures (LVT 055 (24x14m), LVT 014(>30x20m) and BUC 051(20x30m)). Another oval enclosure in Martlesham, MRM 049 (c.30x40m) is also mapped. Otherwise identified sites consist of settlement features, almost always pits. The latter are focussed on the Fynn Valley and have largely been the product of gravel extraction investigations (Little Bealings) and the 19th century finds at Rookery Mound (BEG 004) but with an absence of anything diagnostically Neolithic in the west part of the valley. Both earlier Neolithic and late assemblages (Grooved ware) are represented. Two Neolithic pits, one containing Grooved Ware, were also found in excavation of the Iron Age enclosure at Foxhall (FXL 013) on the north side of the Mill river valley. Stray finds are almost entirely flint and stone, mostly axes, and are similarly distributed on the sides and crests of the Mill river valley, and on many of the inlets around the estuaries. The high areas of the southern part of the peninsula are largely empty.

Bronze Age
Maps 5.6, 5.7
289 records are listed as Bronze Age if all barrows and most ring ditches are included, and these are the majority (*c.*217). The area includes a large cemetery of upstanding barrows, Nacton Seven Hills, and further surviving mounds, in small groups or singly, on former heathland in Martlesham, Nacton, and Levington parishes. Cropmark evidence adds more groups, generally of less than ten, as well as many single examples (for caveats about identifying ring ditches as Bronze barrows see Hegarty & Newsome 2004). Numbers drop markedly in the north, particularly in the Playford-Tuddenham area of the Fynn valley which was not covered by NMP, but the number of possible sites in Bealings is also lower than on the main peninsula. Despite this the average distribution of barrows/ring ditches is greater than one per sq km (1 per 0.8sq km). Also noted as of particular interest as having complex features are the concentric ring ditches (BEG 006, FXL 046, HMY 040, LVT 015, 043 MRM 024, NAC 035, NBN 003, 022) and a possibly triple ring ditch at KIR 045. Barrow locations are generally high across the main part of the peninsula with a slight preference for south facing crests in the Fynn Valley area.

Over half (c. 38) of the 70 sites that are not identifiably barrows or ring ditches are single finds. Not all are potentially domestic as there are several “urnfield” type sites (BEL 005, BEL 006) in the north part of the area. Finds of the later Bronze Age were rapidly distinguished and are shown in a different colour on the map but show no obvious distinctive distribution.

A percentage of the ring ditches were noted as “very large” ie 25 – 48 m diameter in the NMP report but none were extracted as being causewayed which might suggest later Bronze Age circular enclosures rather barrows – however this possibility should be borne in mind when assessing any large ring (and it should be noted that the enclosure of this type recently excavated south of Lowestoft was only 22m in diameter). For example IPS 423, a narrow ditched ring 39m in diameter, with a gap (possibly poor crop definition rather than an entrance) to the south and MRM 086, 47m in diameter with a 2.5m wide ditch and possible entrance to south. Also of note is a large ring (TYN 053) enclosing an area 37m in diameter with possible large pits inside and a possible curvilinear annexe enclosure with funnel entrance to the south.

There is so far little evidence to suggest that any of the other types of cropmark sites plotted are earlier than the Iron Age. Excavated early Bronze Age features are commonly small pits (eg in advance of quarrying in Little Bealings, BEL 018 and in pipeline works at Bucklesham, BUC 033) but one of the linear features identified in reservoir works in Trimley (TYN 074, Boulter 2000, SCCAS report 2000/28) contained large pieces of a Beaker. The latter feature had not been plotted as a cropmark, whereas later probably Iron Age-Roman ditches seen in the reservoir works were identified in the NMP work.

No shoreline sites have been identified except IPS 007, an area already noted for earlier material.
The Fynn valley system has a fairly strong distribution of activity, particularly along the north sides at 25m to 30m OD, but diminishing to the west with very little found in Tuddenham. Features, mainly pits, have been identified in the extraction sites in Little Bealings and Kesgrave. In the rest of the area sites and finds are fairly sparse and largely reflect investigations such as pipelines. It is interesting to note that some of these are on the higher areas between the valleys, for example Bucklesham 033 and 048 are on the edge of an area later mapped as heath.

Iron Age
Map 5.8
62 records are listed in the SMR as Iron Age but this excludes the purely cropmark evidence, much of which is suggested to be later prehistoric or Roman on morphological grounds. Fieldwalking and metal detecting add significantly to the identification of sites – given the vulnerability of hand made pottery all surface sherd finds have been regarded as potentially representing settlement activity in the scoring.

The Iron Age sites are the first where buildings and enclosures can positively be identified in this area. The most completely excavated is a rectilinear enclosure with associated circular structures (FXL 013), located on a 20m OD crest facing south over the Mill river valley; the site has not yet been published except in summary (Proc Suffolk Inst Archaeol 1992, 384-386), and this should be a research priority.

More commonly, at least in the Fynn valley area, settlements were not enclosed – for example Great Bealings, BEG 010 where two round house slots were recorded (Martin 1993,43). At Clickett Hill, Trimley St Mary (TYY 026, unpublished, report pending) a circular post-built structure was either late Bronze Age or Iron Age; other features include ditches, perhaps forming stock enclosures and a possible trackway, with activity continuing into the Roman period (more regular rectilinear enclosures and tracks, cremation burials).

Several excavations of Bronze Age barrows and ring ditches have produced evidence of Iron Age activity – in some cases, such as Wherstead (WHR 027) a small pit outside but near the ring may be a coincidental co-location, but the placing of large potsherds in the ditch fills at Brightwell (BGL 001) and at Levinton (LVT 024) and insersted into the mound at Brightwell (BGL 004) suggest a deliberate re-visiting of the sites. The transect of a ring ditch at Trimley (TYN 029) also found Iron Age sherds in the upper ditch fill, and a row of posts within the ring were radiocarbon dated to the 6th century BC.

Late Iron Age evidence is quite sparse (13 records): single coins result from detecting activity in Bealings, Hasketon, Nacton, Trimley St Martin, Kirton, and Martlesham. Belgic pottery is recorded from Kirton and Nacton. The most significant assemblage is of moulds for the manufacture of decorated terret rings, found with Belgic pottery at Waldringfield (WLD 001). The distribution of the late finds corresponds well with the “hill top settlements” pattern discussed below.

Cropmark enclosures: Although there are obvious risks with attributing dates purely on the basis of morphology to cropmark features it is suggested that the more curvilinear large enclosures are of prehistoric date. This has been confirmed in a pipeline excavation across one of these enclosures (BUC 015, 029) which is about 120m wide, with a radiocarbon date of 200BC to AD 80 (at two sigma probability) for charcoal samples from the eastern enclosure ditch and handmade and late Iron Age stamped wares from internal features. A more rectilinear system seems to be joining the northern side of the enclosure, with an inner square enclosure with central ring, most likely a circular building and perhaps representing modifications to the site at the end of the Iron Age or early in the Roman period. This complex is situated above 25m adjacent to the northern edge of Levington Heath. Part of a morphologically very similar enclosure (TYN 033), also c.120m wide, lies on the 20m contour on one of the minor valleys draining into Falkenham marshes. Another, slightly smaller but similiar shape enclosure fragment in Brightwell (BGL 026) also lies above 25m overlooking a Mill river tributary.

On morphological grounds the NMP interpreted a D-shaped enclosure (FEX 096), 65m wide and perhaps associated with a trackway along its straight edge, as early or middle Iron Age – this is located on a 15m OD spur on the south side of Felixstowe marshes. In the same area are isolated small ring ditches which might represent unenclosed Iron Age settlement, and linked to the same trackway a partial rectilinear enclosure which may perhaps be later Iron Age or Roman. A similar shaped enclosure (MRM 049), c.60m wide, is adjacent to the oval enclosure identified above as possibly Neolithic on a spur above the Deben, and is not apparently related to fragments of a rectilinear system in the vicinity.

Another class of cropmark enclosures that might repay further study are the small squares which just might represent the remains of square barrows – these have been noted at Kirton (KIR 005, 048), Trimley (TYN 011), Stratton Hall (SNH 029) and Bucklesham (BUC 026).

Correlations between excavated data and cropmark features also include a small ditch containing a few Iron Age sherds at Waldringfield (WLD 016) which is part of a rectilinear system – however another similar parallel ditch produced medieval sherds.

Settlement distribution and location:
A consistent pattern of hilltop location at around 30m OD at regular (c.700m – 1km) intervals was identified in the Fynn valley area in Martin 1993 (EAA65, Settlements on Hilltops, 56-57, Fig,38). To the west the inclusion of Culpho parish shows that there is activity higher up (above 35m OD) beyond the valley on the edge of the heavier clay soils. The "hilltops" pattern continues along the Deben, and is also visible on the north side of the Mill river where sites are generally on the 20m contour and slightly wider spaced (1-1.5km intervals), extending as far west as Foxhall (FXL 013). Although there are hints of similar distributions in the south part of the peninsula there is a lack of extensive fieldwork in areas such as Nacton, Levington, Kirton and Falkenham – and stray finds such as FLK 011 (a large sherd stray find of Darmsden ware) raise the possibility that activity may be masked in the coastal marshes.

Roman
Map 5.9
There are 221 Roman period records in the SMR; however 43 of these refer to finds within Felixstowe which have not been fully assessed for this study.

At present there are no known Roman road lines within the area, apart from a suggestion that the placename "Stratton" should refer to one, and the likelihood that Felixstowe was linked into the road network. Although lengths of ditched trackway are common in the cropmark evidence, and indeed the Stratton Hall area shows several of these following a line similar to the A12 route from Felixstowe, none have the characteristic straight lengths of the typical planned Roman road. It remains quite possible however that the Roman roads on light soils were not defined by ditches so are not identifiable as cropmarks – and it is also possible that the line (pre-20th century route) of the A12 exactly follows the Roman line above the short valleys on the south side of the peninsula.

Although well excavated Roman evidence is scarce within Felixstowe the finds suggest a substantial settlement from the 1st century, probably focussed on the northern part of the present town. The position of the final collapsed remains of a late Roman shore fort (probably not named in the Saxon shore list in *Notitia Dignitatum*) now lies some 200metres out to sea, probably originally on the south side of a small east-west valley and an unknown distance from the coastline at the time but perhaps placed to control access to the Deben and the Kings Fleet inlet to the north.

The salt extraction industry is well recorded with numerous "Red Hills"on the north Essex coast and estuaries but has been more elusive in Suffolk. Field observation and air photography now show that such sites are common around the Trimley marshes (about one site every 500 metres, below the 5m contour but near the landward side of the reclaimed salt marshes, sites TYN 018, 073, TYY 001, 014, 015, 044) and that they also occur on the marshes north of Felixstowe (sites FEX 099, FLK 034, KIR 038). Where there is dating evidence from these sites it seems to be early Roman (in north Essex the sites are late Iron Age and early Roman) and not 3rd or 4th century.

Few of the rural settlements show evidence for villa-type buildings. At Martlesham (MRM 039) there is evidence for a high quality tessellated floor with glass tesserae, and a well furnished 1st century cremation was found c. 250 m to the north (MRM 008). In Wherstead (WHR 030) a cropmark double rectangular enclosure also shows at least one probable aisled timber building and Roman metalwork, pottery and tile is recorded from the area; further Roman features (WHR 009) and a group of late third century coin hoards (WHR 001, 067) lie 500-800m away.

Although apparently lacking high status Roman buildings some of the finds scatters suggest large and wealthy settlements – for example an area on the Martlesham/Waldringfield parish boundary (MRM 032, WLD 013, 015) overlooking the Deben and very likely related to an area of rectilinear enclosures and tracks (MRM 025). There is another similar correlation between surface finds (MRM 034, 037) and similar cropmark systems (MRM 026, 051). Here Iron Age pottery is also recorded (and ring ditch features within part of the enclosure system). Surprisingly, given the extent of the cropmark systems to the south of this, many of which are

similiarly likely to be of Roman date there are not many other correlations with surface finds, but this is likely to reflect the low level of field survey.

There is no simple methodology for comparing surface finds scatters of this period to try to differentiate different character sites, although certain patterns may be worth further study – for example there is a low level of later 4th century coinage in much of east Suffolk, but certain sites (including the Martlesham cropmark-related scatters discussed above) do produce late coinage. It is also noticeable that there are more crossbow brooches (commonly associated with late Roman officials and army officers) than normal in Suffolk – six derive from the study area out of a total nineteen recorded in the county.

Only two pottery production sites are known, unsurprisingly given the resources of the area do not include many clay deposits nor extensive woodland areas, and both (MRM 007, WHR 037) are 1st century in date, probably pre-Flavian.

The general distribution of sites can be seen as a continuation and intensification of the Iron Age patterns. In the Fynn valley and the Deben coast the "hilltops" distribution continues, but with sites also extending north along the upper valley in Tuddenham parish. The Mill river valley is however much sparser – and since the Iron Age sites result from fieldwalking it is likely that this is a real absence of activity. A strong pattern of sites on the crests overlooking Trimley marshes are presumably the settlements from which the salt extraction sites on the coast were operated.

Anglo Saxon
Maps 5.10, 5.11
119 records in the SMR are listed as Anglo-Saxon – 41 records contain early Anglo-Saxon (c 420-650) material, 52 contain middle Saxon material (c.650-850) and 44 contain late Saxon (c 850-1065). The early sites were also roughly classified as probably settlement (8) or potential cemetery (29), with metalwork generally classed as potentially cemetery.

In the Fynn valley area the early Anglo-Saxon possible settlements (none have produced good evidence of buildings) are situated on the valley sides at around 20m OD; in most of the area the cemetery material is similarly located except in Tuddenham where single fragments of brooches are recorded widely and higher up the tributary valleys to around 40m OD (and here just onto the edge of the heavier clay soils). The evidence derives from gravel pit finds and excavations in Bealings plus metal detecting and occasionally fieldwalking finds. A majority of the later saxon material is found in similar locations in the Fynn valley area but extends onto the clay soils to the north in Culpho and Grundisburgh. Oddly later Saxon finds are very scarce in Playford and Tuddenham both in the area of early saxon (metal detected) finds and to the north (perhaps due to a lack of survey?). There is no reason to doubt that the pattern of shift from early Anglo-Saxon sites to new locations found elsewhere in the county (eg as discussed by West in West Stow, EAA24, 1985, 161-162) is true here, but it is not as clear cut and the evidence less closely related to the medieval churches than elsewhere.

In the main peninsula early Anglo-Saxon finds are fairly sparse, and so far completely absent from the Mill river valley and its tributaries although they do occur on the minor valleys on both the north and south sides of the peninsula, though also almost absent from the Levington Creek area apart from a single late 4th or 5th century brooch (NAC 054). The discovery of ditches containing Saxon pottery in evaluation at Brackenbury, Felixstowe (FEX 088) is of interest because of the proximity of the late Roman shore fort and settlement. In Martlesham (MRM 034) field survey has identified a probable ploughed out sunken featured building on a south-facing slope between 15 and 20m OD, close to an area of Roman finds. Cemetery evidence is extremely sparse, generally only single metal finds to suggest possible burials, but at least one of the round barrows at Brightwell (BGL 017) contained an Anglo-Saxon cremation group and was apparently constructed in the Anglo-Saxon period rather than the Bronze Age. So far none of the Bronze Age barrows in the area have been shown to be the focus for more extensive inhumation burial groups.
Finds of mid-later saxon date are slightly less sparse, and do occur in the Mill river and Levington Creek valleys.

The later Saxon and Medieval landscape
Maps 5.12, 5.13
From the 8th century onwards the port and town of Ipswich would have had a significant effect on this area. There was also a small medieval town and port at Woodbridge (market in 1227) to the north east and markets were also granted to Kirton (Croxton, 1270) and Great Bealings (1227) in the study area.

Walton Castle, the late Roman Saxon Shore fort (FEX 030), is one possible location for an early monastery and for the see of bishop Felix granted by King Sighebert in the 630's at *Dommoc*. In the 12th century the site was also probably used for a castle by Hugh Bigod and contained a chapel. The parish of Walton, now the western part of Felixstowe, contained a church (FEX 079) and a Benedictine priory (FEX 031) and a royal manor (Walton Old Hall, FEX 037).

The parishes lacking a church in Domesday are Falkenham, Waldringfield and Little Bealings. There are several Domesday vills and parish churches which have partially or completely disappeared (eg FXL 005, PFM 008, SNH 002, TYN 021, KSG 017) – overall there is an impression of numerous often small settlements at the beginning of the medieval period with a marked decline in population by the early post medieval period.

A small Augustinian priory at Alnesborne, perhaps partially surviving as a barn (NAC 001) was in ruins by the beginning of the 16th century.

The pattern of medieval (and later) settlement in the Fynn valley area intensifies that established by the later Anglo-Saxon evidence. Culpho is the only "upland" parish largely within the study area, with settlement including the now isolated church (CUP 003) overlooking the heads of the upper tributary valleys. The moated hall (CUP 001) is 350m away, and fieldwalking showed intervening settlement along the roadside. Playford church (PLY 014) is also fairly isolated, situated on the 30m contour on the south facing side of the valley – the typical location regularly exploited in this area – whereas the substantial moated Hall (PLY 006), of which the visible elements are mainly 16th century and later, is 600m away on the 10m contour just south of the river at the bridging point and using this situation to feed the large moat and fishponds. Although fieldwalking and pipeline observation has identified numerous possible small settlements in Playford, particularly in the northern part of the parish, the fact that only some relate to the pattern of roads and tracks evident on the 19th century maps suggests that some of this material results from manuring of arable land.

In the main area of the Felixstowe peninsula the broad pattern of site density very clearly reflects the level of fieldwork (denser in Martlesham, Waldringfield, Hemley, Trimleys) but the preferred locations within these better researched areas compare well and can allow some predictive comments. The large areas of heathland taken from 18th and 19th century maps show a complete absence of any medieval material. Parishes overlooking the Deben have activity on the small tributaries – Martlesham church (MRM 045) and hall overlook the estuary, but settlement has probably later drifted west to the A12 main road route. There are further surviving farms and surface finds scatters on the tributaries to the south, including Waldringfield church (WLD 001) and Hemley church (HMY 005) with scatters of later saxon and medieval material in gaps between existing properties on the access road running east to the estuary. South of the Mill river inlet the churches at Kirton (KIR 014) and Falkenham (FLK 014) are in similar locations, with additional settlement around the green to the west of Kirton church.

The Mill river and its tributaries also provide a consistent if sparser focus for settlement – to the north the churches of Newbourne (NBN 017, with small village nucleus), Brightwell (BGL 023 with hall 200m away and intervening late Saxon – medieval scatter, BGL 027), and Foxhall (FXL 005, church and hall). Bucklesham church (BUC 044 and village nucleus) is the only major complex the south side of the Mill river and is surrounded by a complex of trackways and fields, some surviving and some cropmark evidence, indicating some survival of a relatively ancient landscape to the north of Levington Heath. The recent discovery of middle Saxon and later cemetery and settlement evidence at Purdis Farm (PFM 008) is

probably the site of the Domesday vill with church named *Brihtolvestuna*. It is situated very high on the Mill river system at 35m OD, just north of Nacton Heath.

The more limited evidence along the south side of the peninsula shows churches and other sites in Nacton, Levington and Stratton Hall, plus the hamlets of Alston (TYN 021) and Grimston (TYN 008) in Trimley, all situated on inlets overlooking the Orwell. The adjacent parish churches of Trimley (TYN 020, TYY 017) however sit on high ground (25m) controlling the narrow (1.5km) gap between the Kings Fleet and Falkenham marshes to the east and the Trimley marshes and Grimston tributary to the south-west; finds scatters follow the roads east towards Walton and north-east towards Kings Fleet.

Post-medieval and modern landscapes

The historic landscape character of the area is predominantly pre-18th century enclosure patterns except for the heaths and most of Martlesham and Waldringfield parishes which are later. Some areas of the Fynn valley have been extensively re-shaped by 20th century agriculture. Much of the late 20th century expansion of housing and industrial development east and south of Ipswich has, fortunately, been over the low value heathland. The saltmarshes around Felixstowe include a small area of preserved early (pre-1600) reclamation at Trimley (under pressure from docks expansion and nature conservation modification) and probably early but re-modelled reclamation at Felixstowe/Falkenham.

Several aspects of the recent landscapes are particularly worthy of note. Firstly the Orwell coast has a succession of woods (NAC 049, SNH 010) and parks (NAC 041, 042, 043) with associated large houses which are both of intrinsic historic interest and are potentially preserving and concealing archaeological deposits of all earlier periods.

Secondly the area contains numerous 20th century defensive structures (and earlier structures on the Felixstowe shore) including an early airfield (Martlesham). Although as a general rule, particularly after the Iron Age, there are few surviving archaeological remains on the heathlands they were extensively used for real and practice defensive systems in both World Wars.

Historic environment characterisation and management, particularly in relation to aggregates extraction

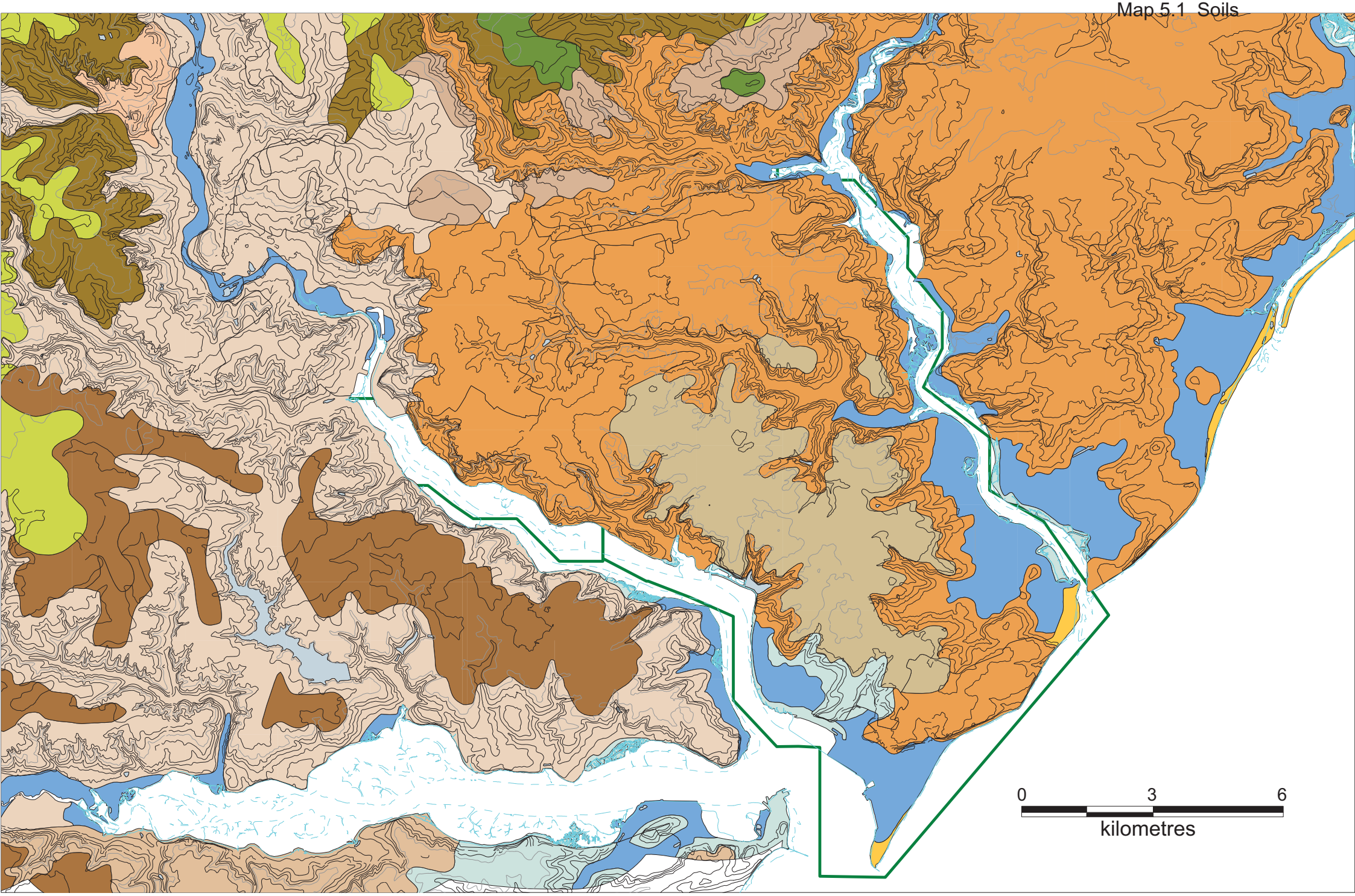
1. The Fynn valley area: although only one extensive area has been recently extracted (Little Bealings) there have been many small sand pits in the past which have produced significant finds. The gravel terraces have substantial archaeological sites of all periods from the Mesolithic onwards. From the Iron Age on it is possible to postulate that certain localities, such as south facing crests, are likely to have settlements and perhaps more activity occurring on the lower slopes in the saxon and medieval periods. The 19th century finds from Bealings House (Rookery mount, BEG 004) suggest that extensive prehistoric remains might survive on a valley side where agriculture had been minimal (and this area remains unploughed).
2. The Deben estuary margin has similarly quite consistent patterns of settlement on all the minor tributary valleys. The cropmark evidence shows rectilinear fields and trackways extending over the intervening high ground, perhaps in later prehistory or the Roman period – the area of Walk Farm, Martlesham, although currently unploughed heath/wood, has considerable potential for less damaged elements of the cropmark systems to continue through it.
3. The Mill river valley seems at times to have been less attractive for settlement than the coast and the Fynn valley, but at time of expansion (Iron Age, late saxon/early medieval) it is well populated.
4. Most of the high heath areas of the peninsula have a low level of visible archaeological activity after the Iron Age – the principal monuments are ritual structures, particularly Bronze Age barrows. Aggregate extraction on Waldringfield heath has produced a relatively low density of features. (However extraction areas on Levington Heath, Bucklesham do include cropmark enclosure systems, though these

are less complex than those to the north around Bucklesham village). Presumably these areas were always used for rearing sheep – there remains potential for research examining the cropmark systems, particularly the extensive trackways some of which seem to run onto the heaths. Whether the tracks mainly relate to medieval sheep management or are much earlier is not yet clear – the dating evidence from excavations at Clicket Hill Trimley which includes various field enclosures and tracks will be of interest in this context.

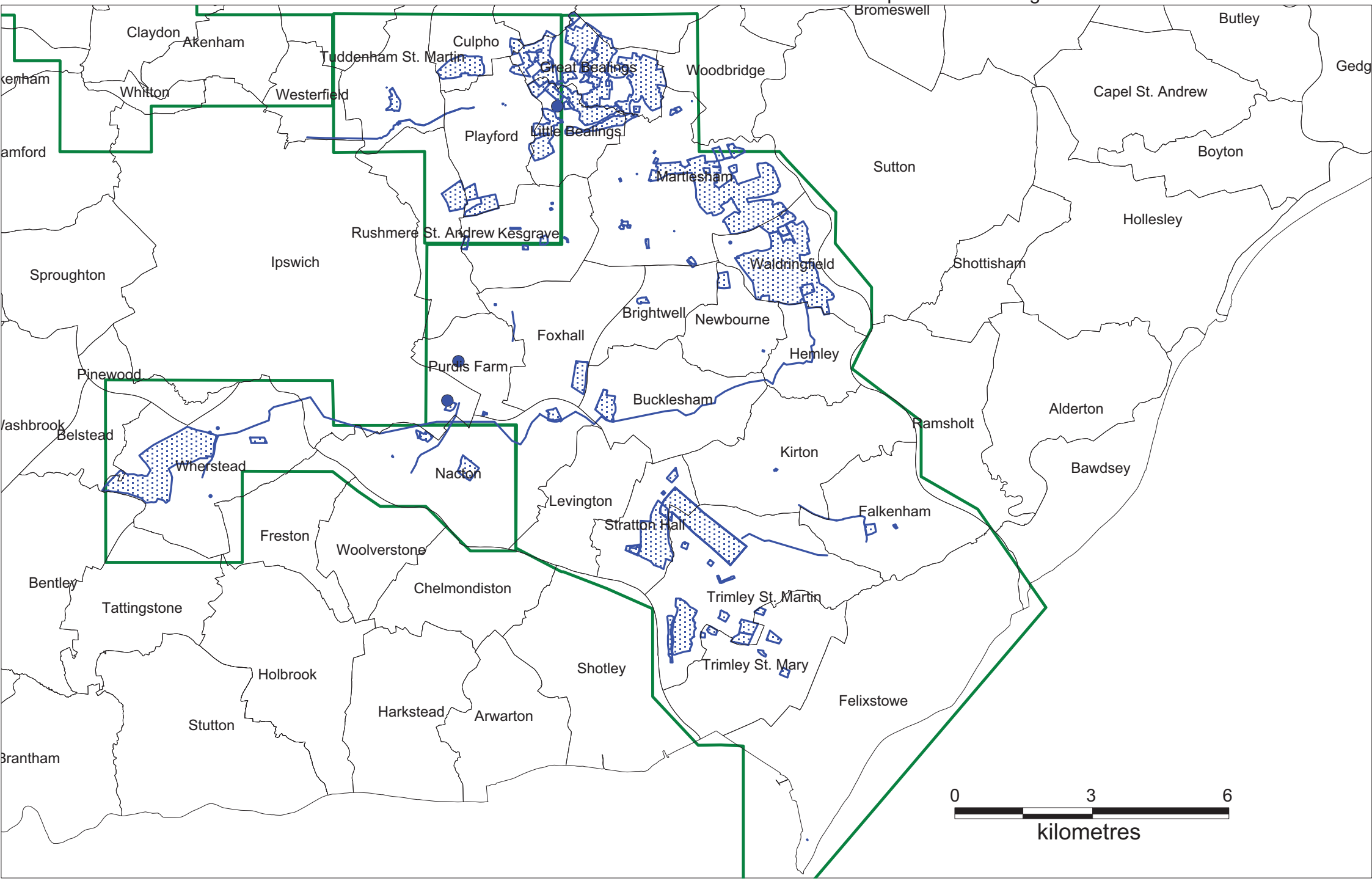
5. The Orwell side of the peninsula provides less data except in Trimley, but clearly has very high potential for most periods, concealed and protected by the woods and parks mentioned above.

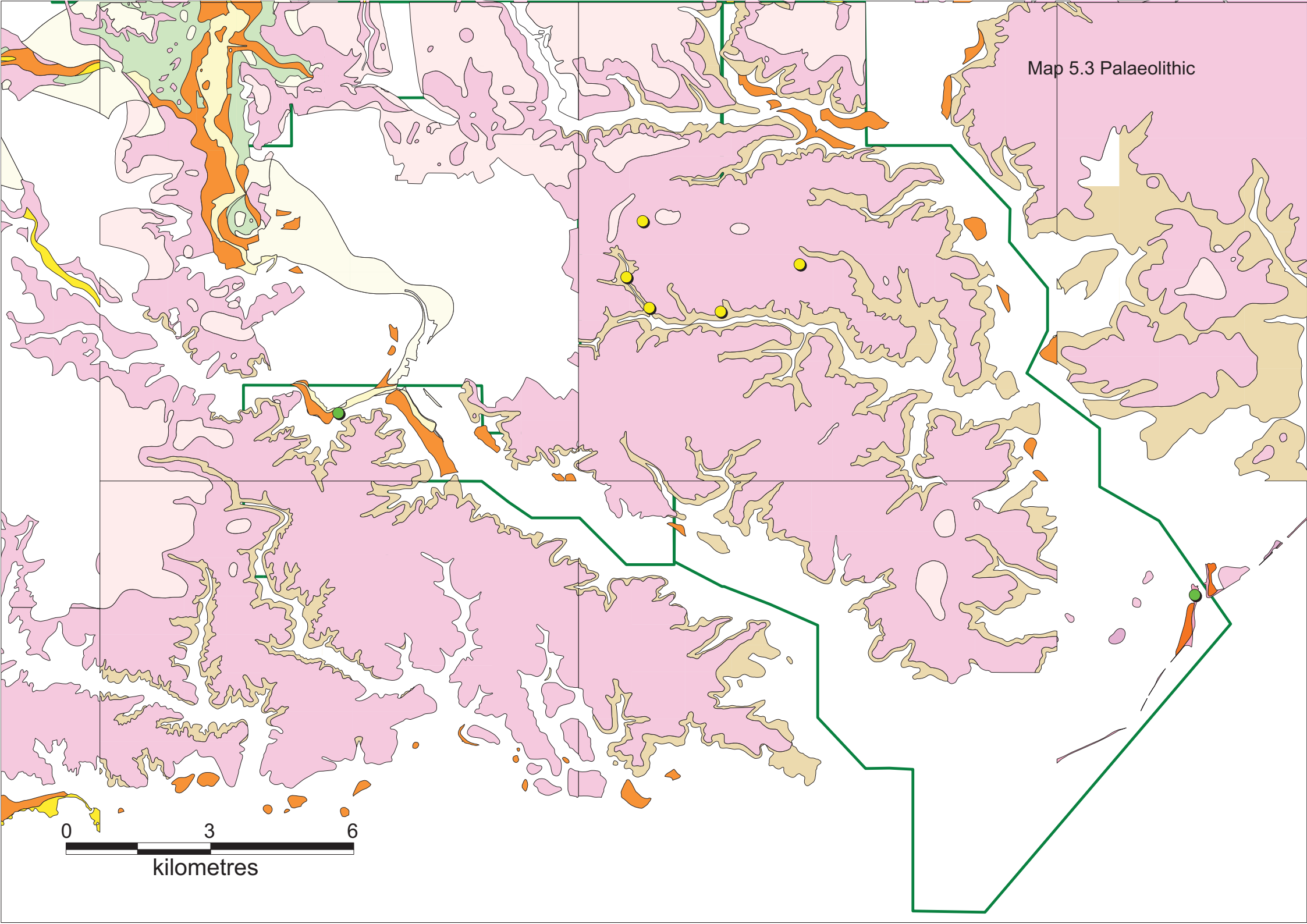
It should also be noted that in places on the peninsula agricultural reservoirs are being created on a scale almost comparable to minerals extraction.

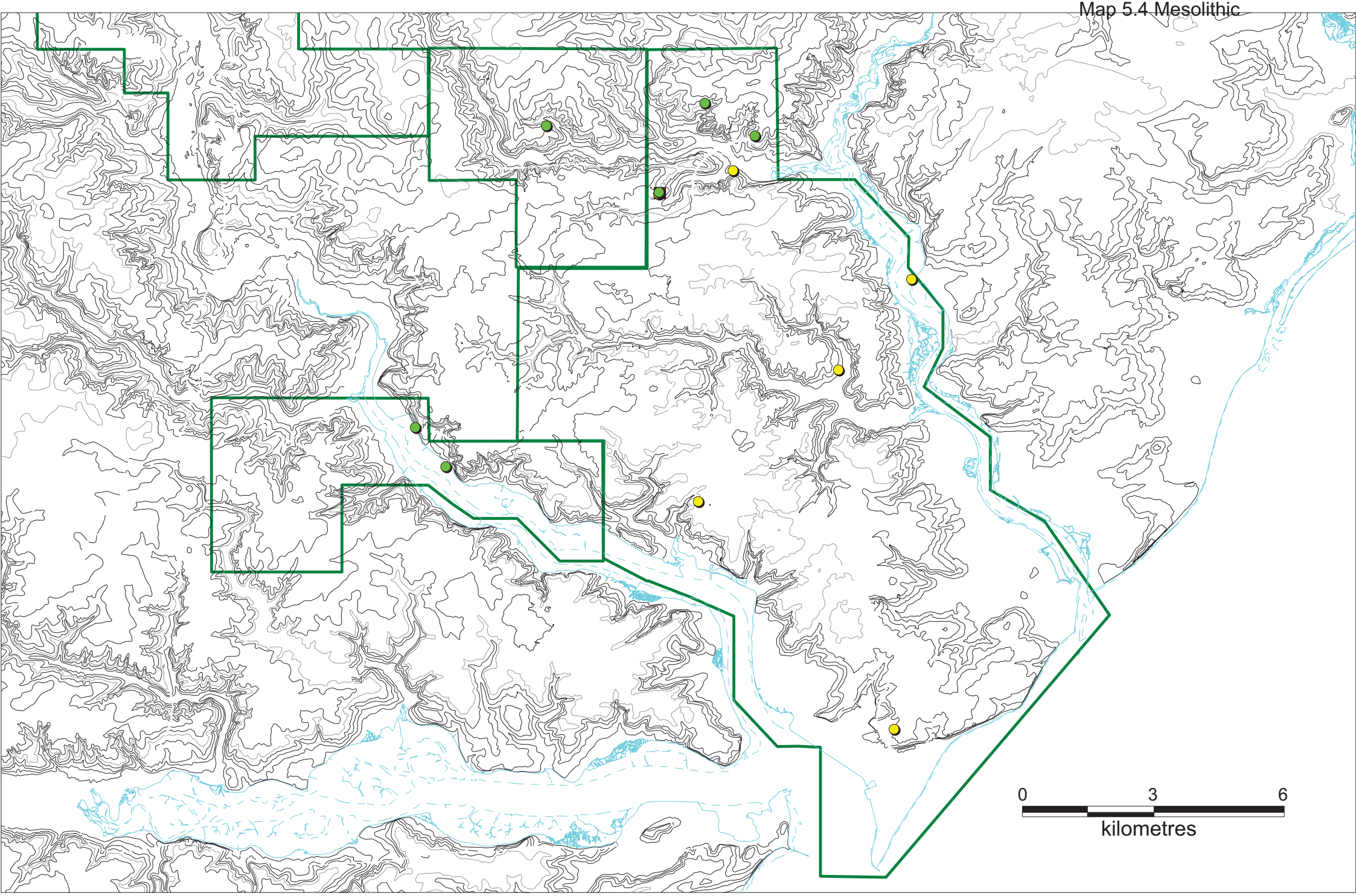
Map 5.1 Soils



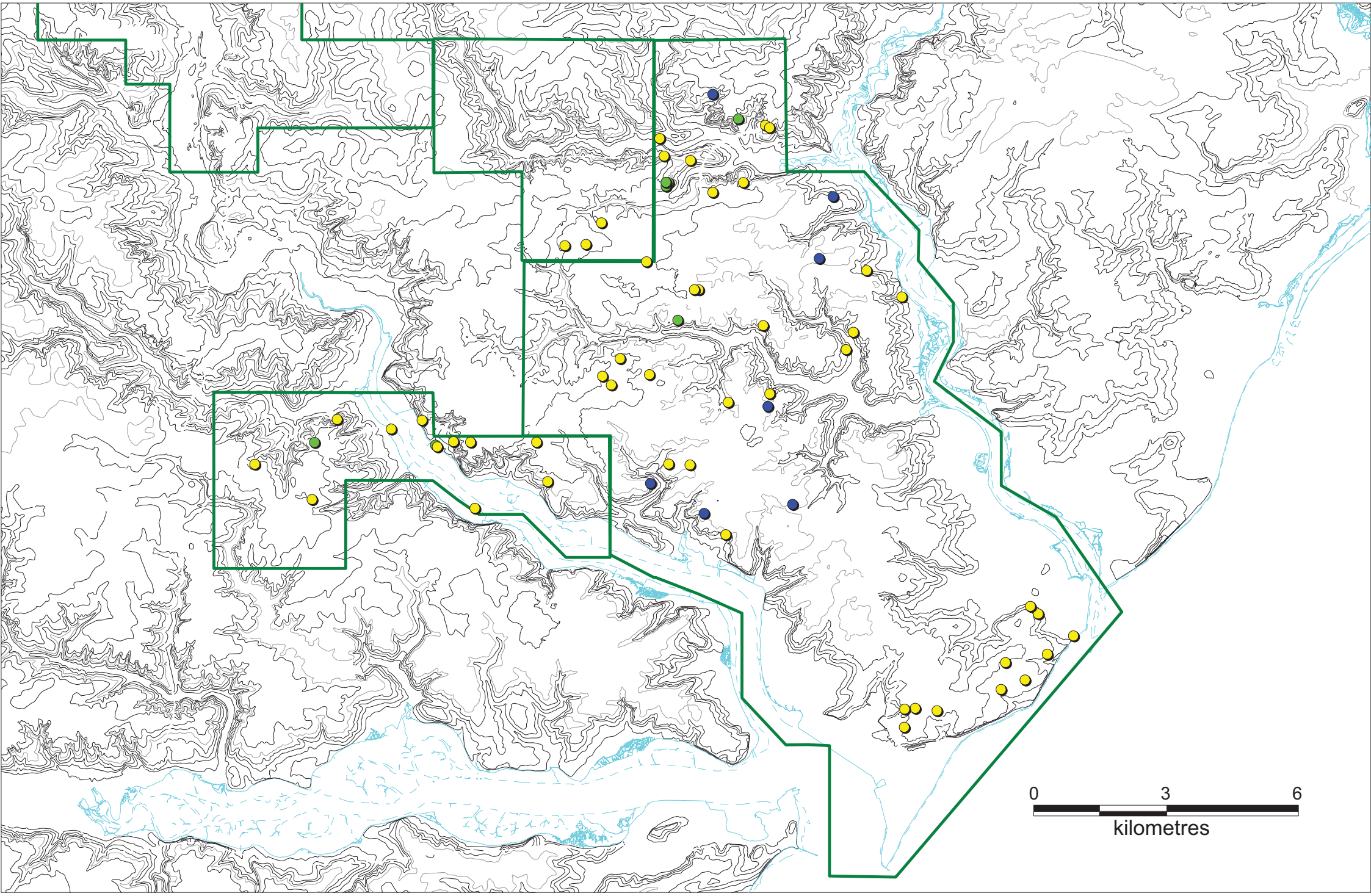
Map 5.2 Archaeological Events and Parishes



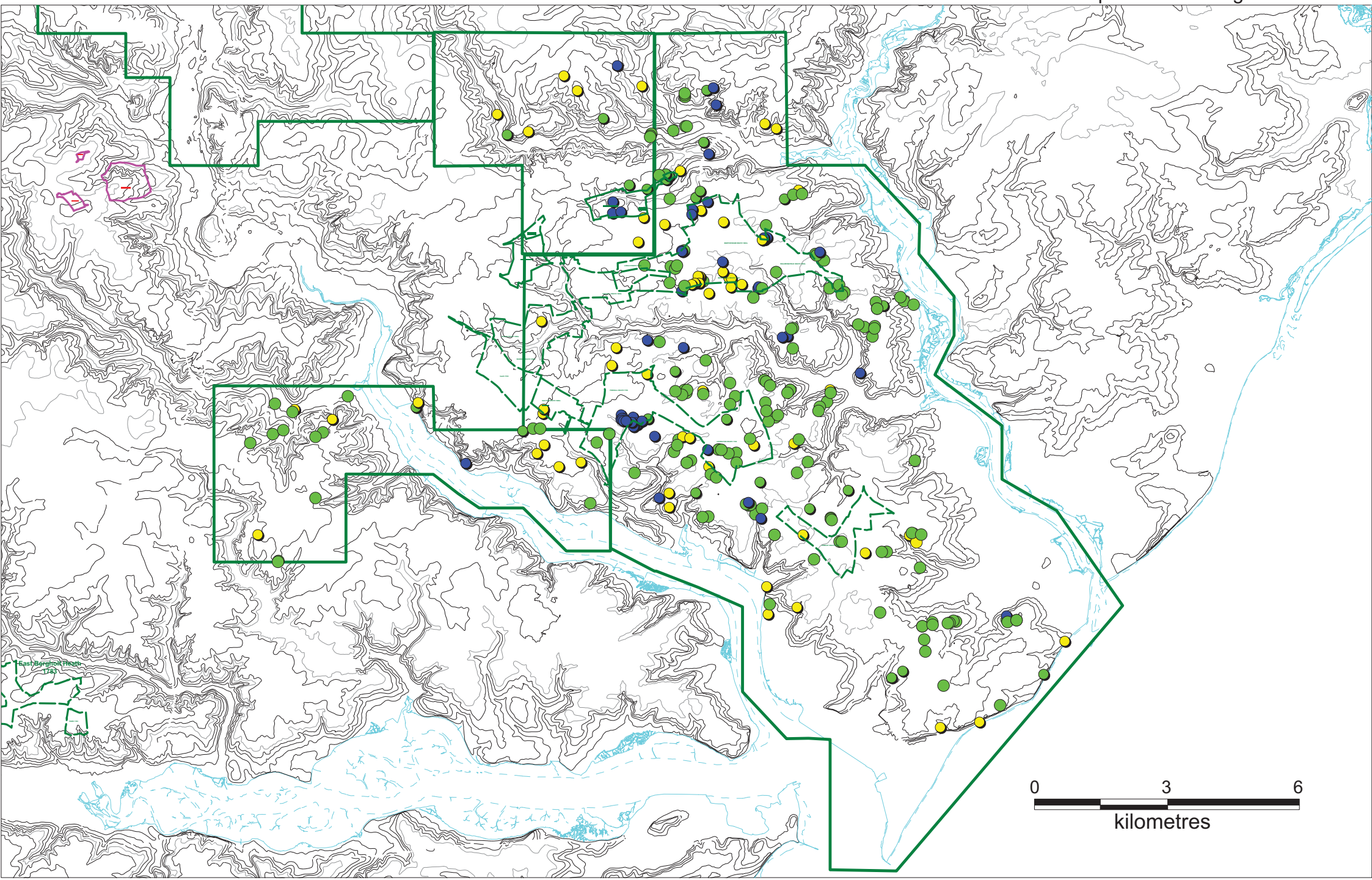

Map 5.3 Palaeolithic
0
3
6
kilometres


Map 5.4 Mesolithic
0
3
6
kilometres

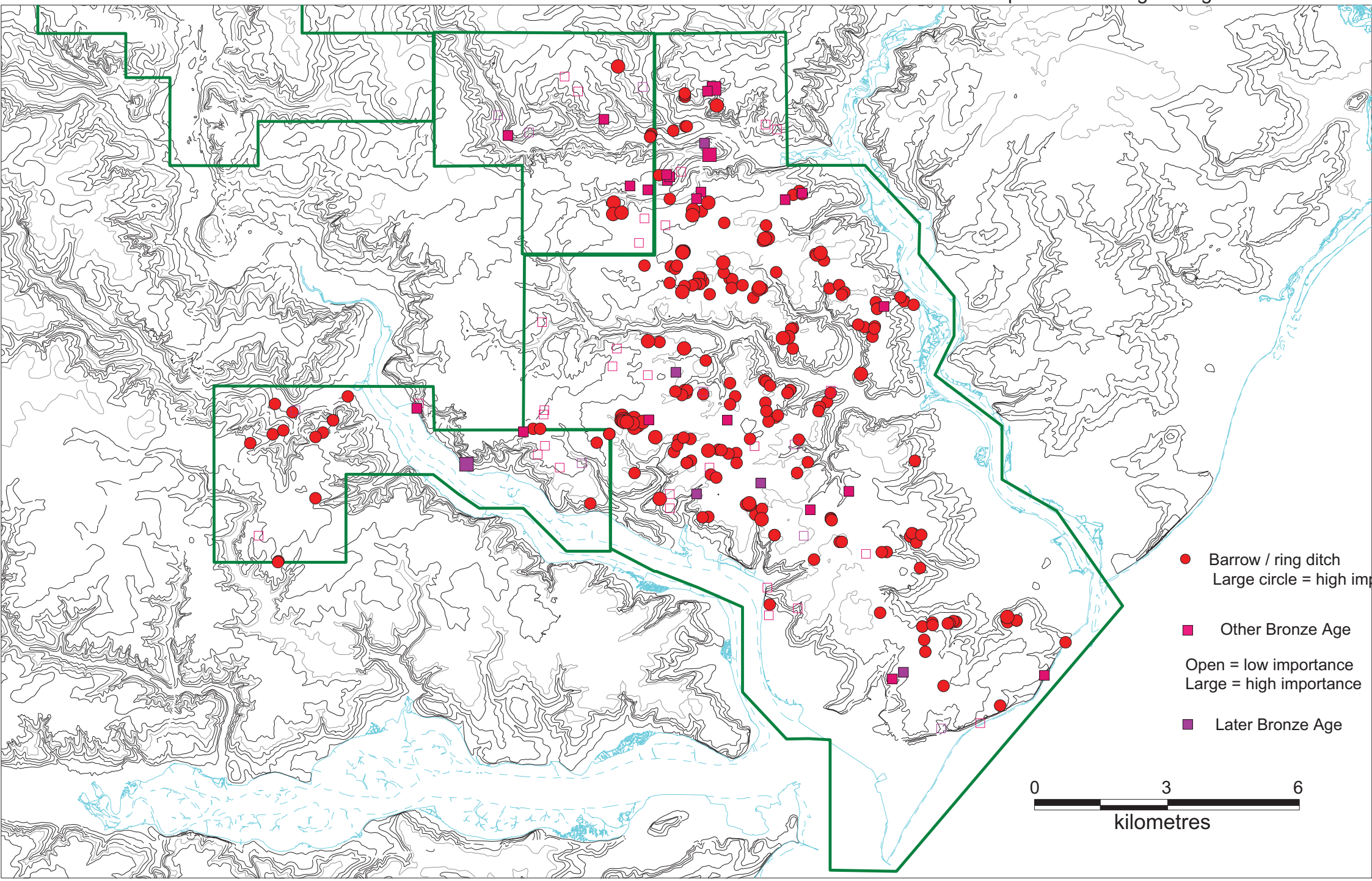
Map 5.5 Neolithic



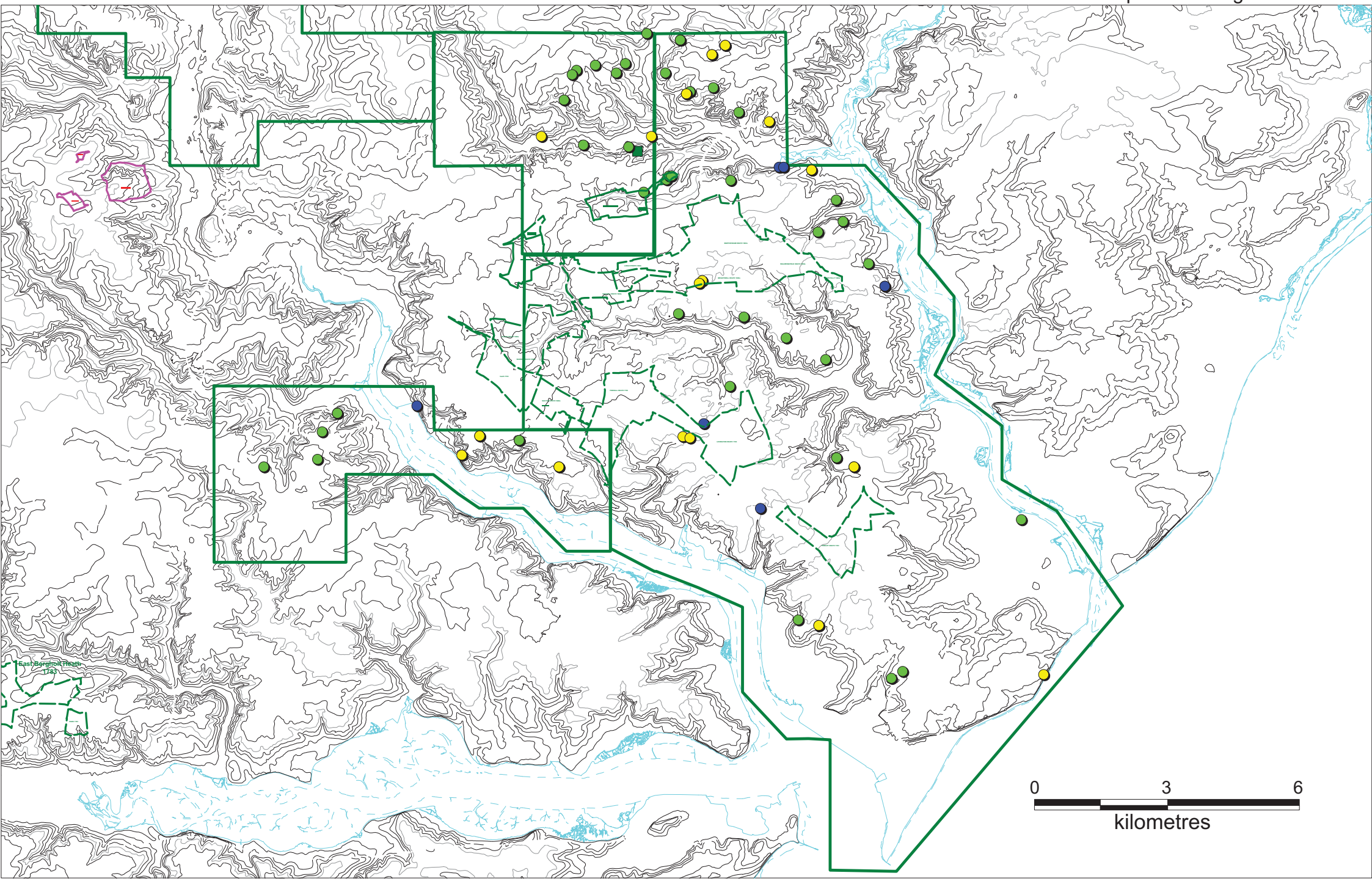
Map 5.6 Bronze Age

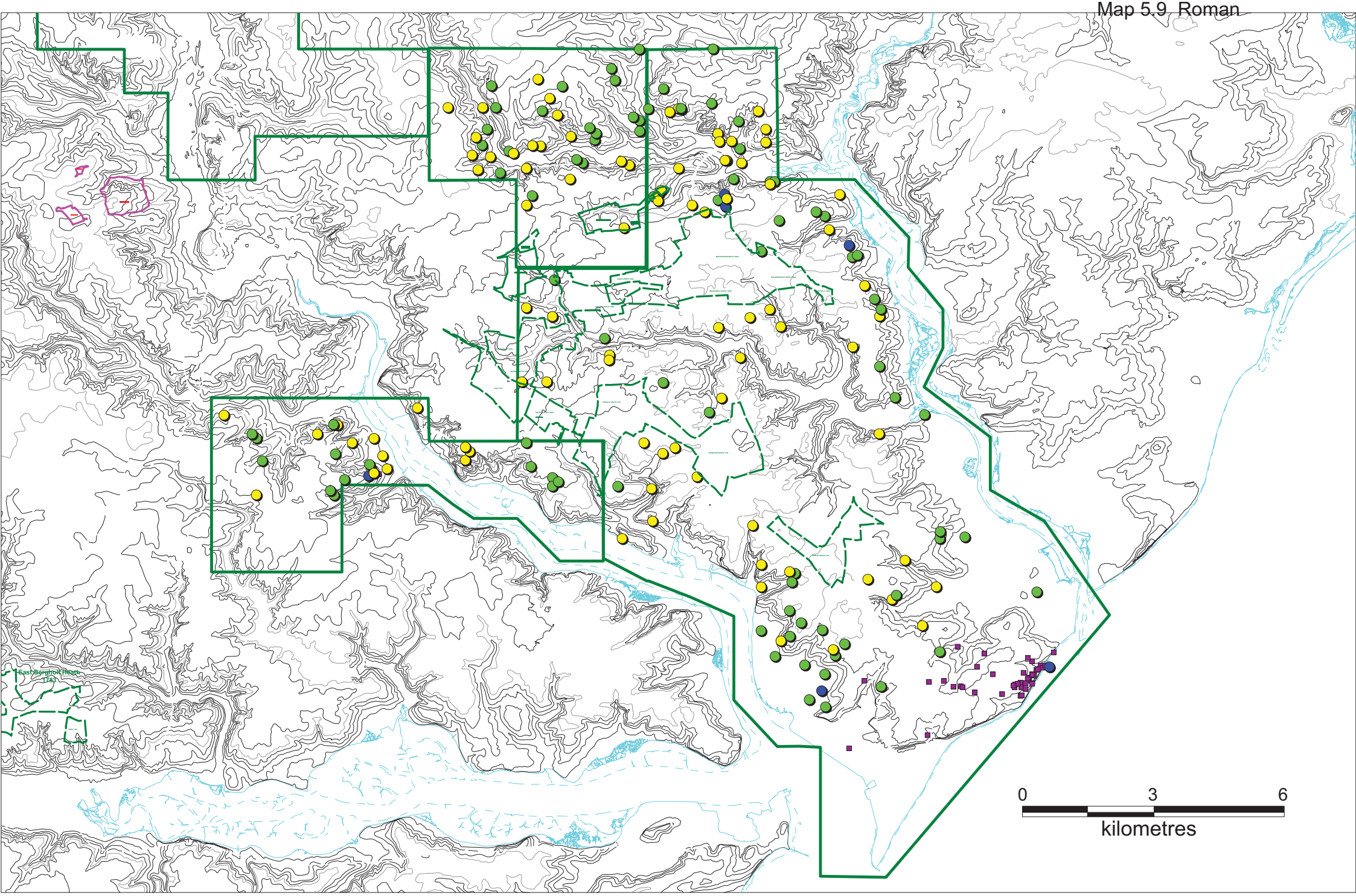


Map 5.7 Bronze Age categories

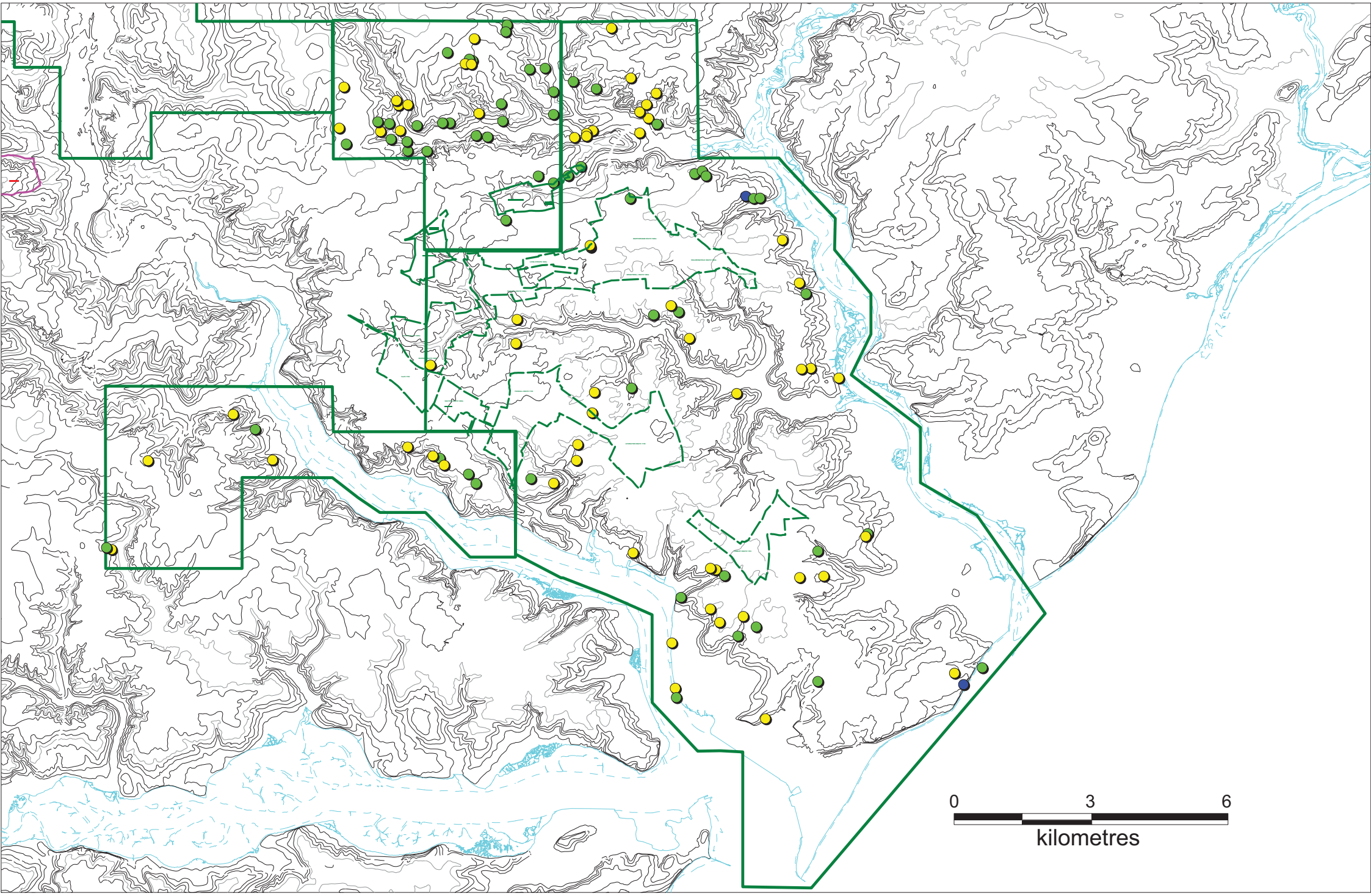


Map 5.8 Iron Age

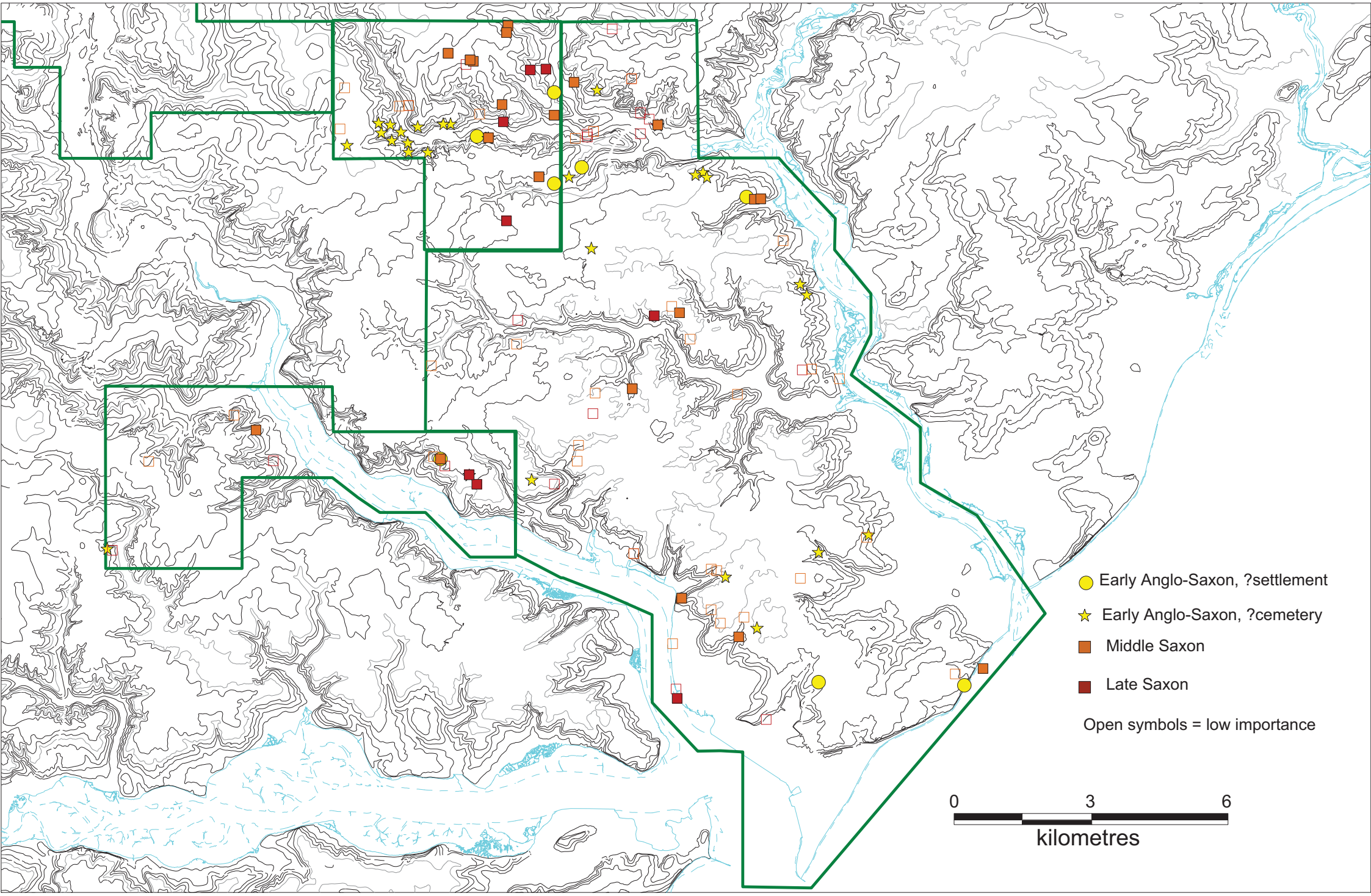



Map 5.9 Roman
East Bergholt Heath
1743
0
3
6
kilometres

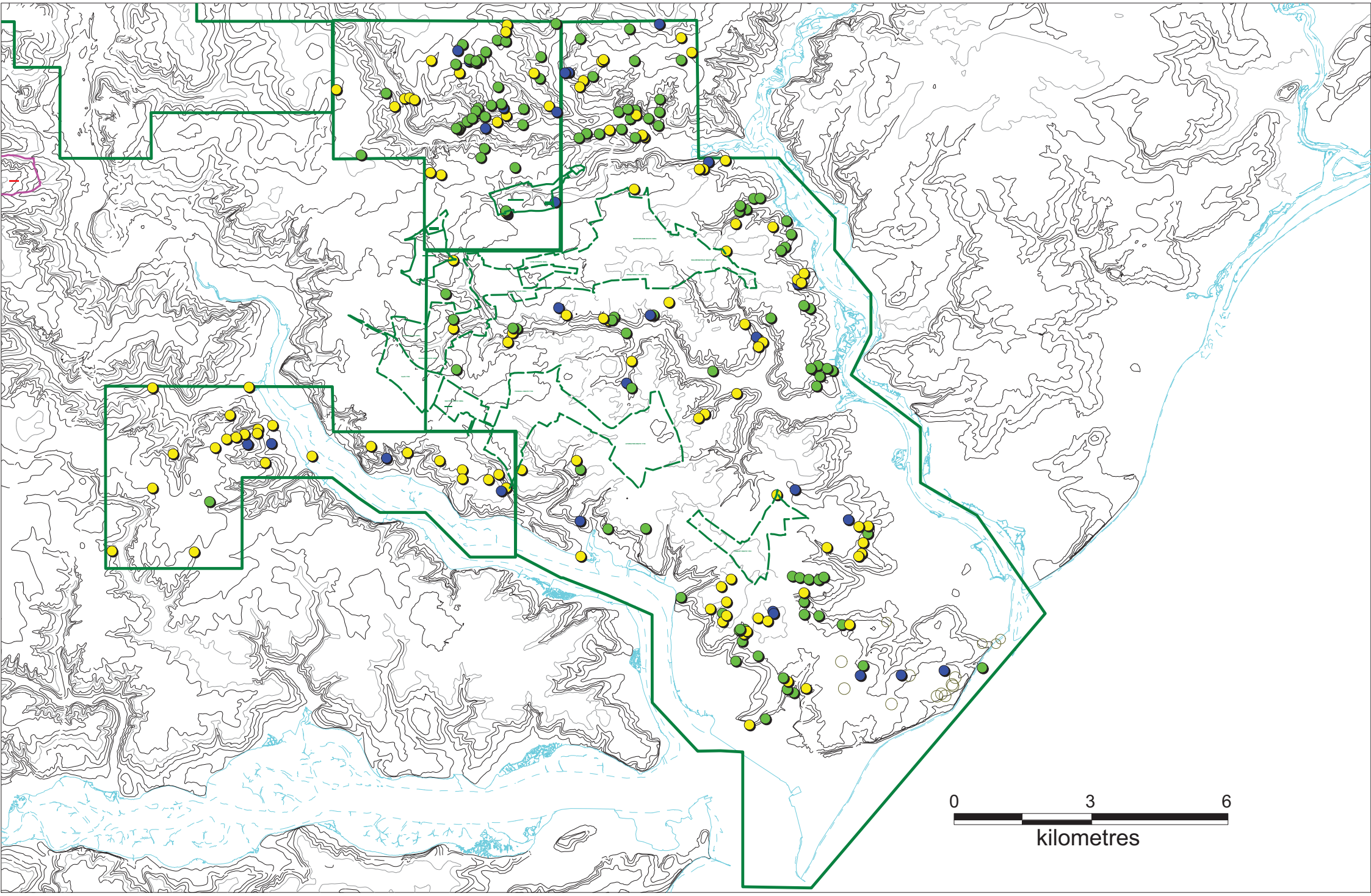
Map 5.10 Anglo-Saxon



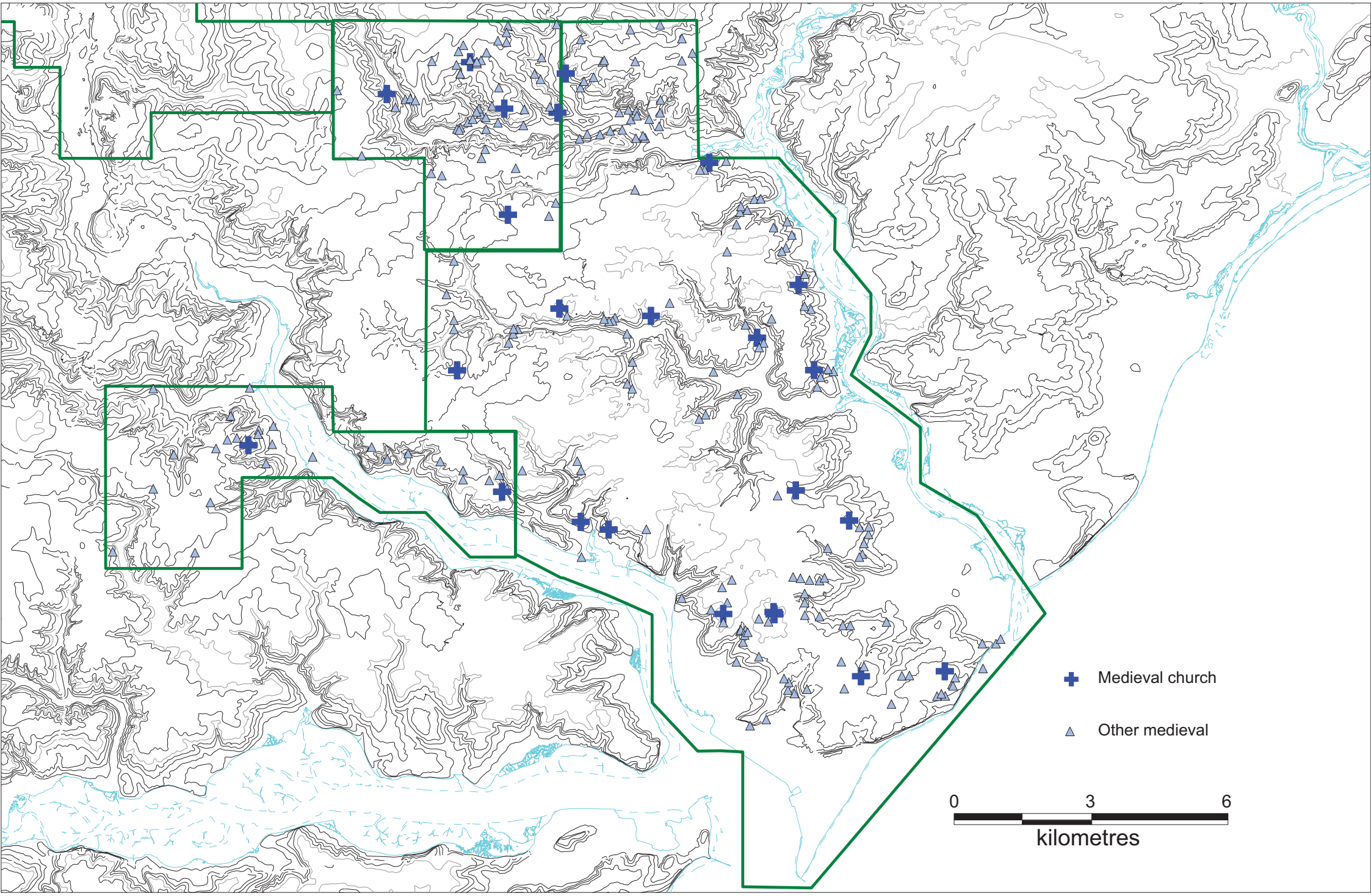
Map 5.11 Anglo-Saxon phased



Map 5.12 Medieval



Map 5.13 Medieval churches



Part 6 Conclusions

Although each area selected for this study is within the areas having sand and gravel mineral resources (BGS 2003), and each has currently active extraction sites, the areas do vary in historic environment character. This is illustrated in Fig 1 by comparing the relative chronological periods of the site records for each area and for the Suffolk SMR as a whole. Much of this variation is due to topographic and soil differences but some is a result of different types of archaeological intervention and study – for example the National Mapping Programme has recorded drainage works and World War structures, raising the numbers of modern records in the Waveney and Felixstowe areas.

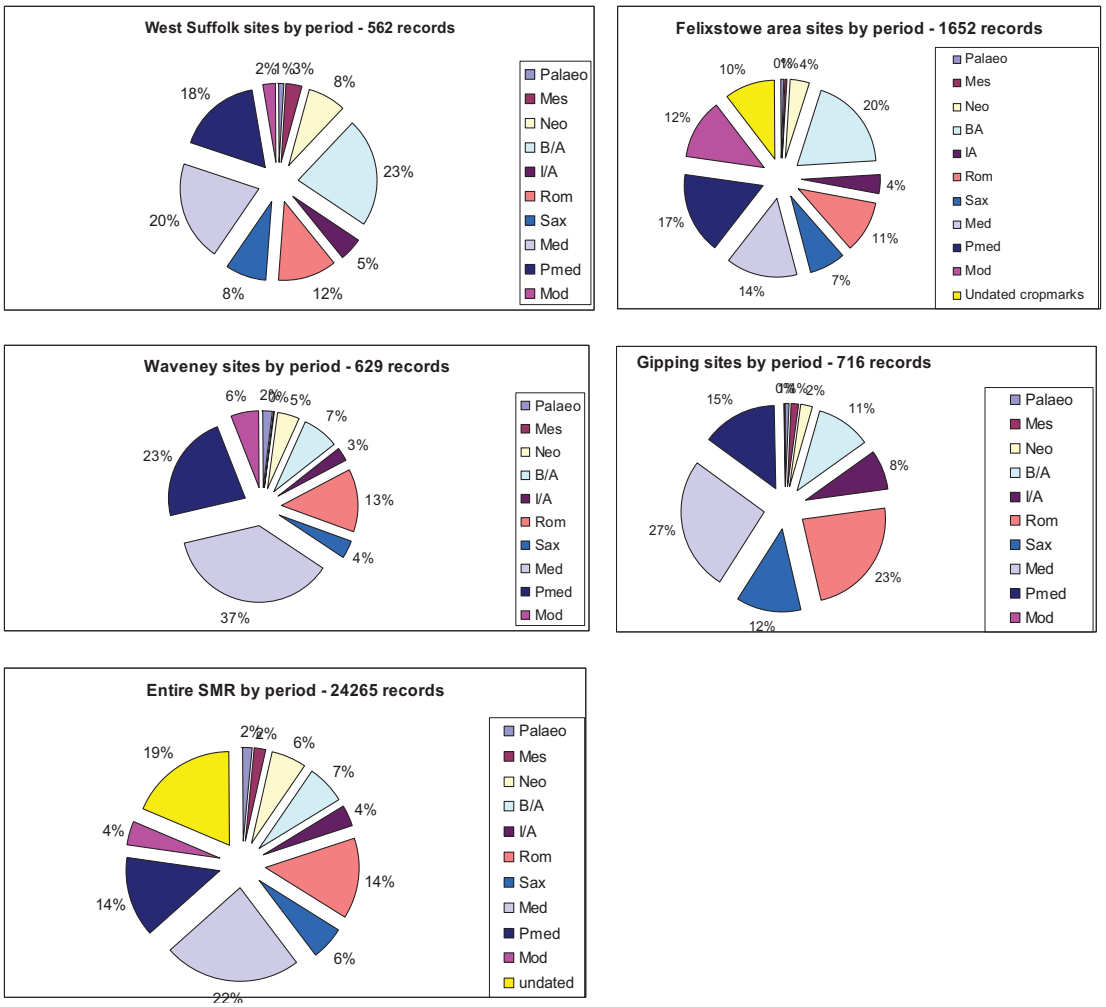


Fig.1 Breakdown of sites by period in each study area and the complete SMR

Summary of research potential and management options in the aggregates areas

Lower Palaeolithic
Suffolk is rich in important Palaeolithic sequences, some of which (including Barnham within the West Suffolk study area) have been re-examined in recent years. There has been one major new discovery in recent years on the coast at Pakefiled, just east of the Waveney area, where worked flints from the Cromerian Forest beds are amongst the earliestevidence of hominid activity in Europe (potentially 700,000

BP). This discovery was largely the result of careful archaeological survey by a non-professional.

Of the study areas the Waveney and West Suffolk both include areas on the line of the pre-Anglian Bytham river (identified as a regional area of potential by L Austin in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 6) and the existing site data also shows the potential of the Lark, Gipping and Waveney valleys for Palaeolithic deposits. Prediction beyond this generality is virtually impossible and it is suggested that all large scale intrusions (ie gravel extraction and similar) should include provision for regular expert examination of working sections.

Upper Palaeolithic – Mesolithic
Evidence for the relatively rare Upper Palaeolithic long blade industries occur within the Waveney study area at Weybread and just south of the Gipping area at Sproughton – in both valleys there is the potential for further deposits (though the area has been much reduced by old extraction in the Gipping) and good preservation where alluvial or peat deposits may have accumulated over sites. Cross correlation with the Suffolk River Valleys project may further indicate areas of potential. The same is true for the Mesolithic but in addition there are exceptionally rich artefact deposits in the West Suffolk area where blown sand has accumulated over sites, and there is some evidence of potentially good preservation on the Orwell shoreline in the Felixstowe area.

Neolithic – Bronze Age – earlier Iron Age
Monumental structures (ie causewayed enclosures and cursus plus probably later ring ditches including probable hengiform rings) are only definitely identified within the study areas in the Lark valley, West Suffolk, at Fornham All Saints, on a series of air photos. There is concern that scheduling has not prevented attrition through cultivation of this very important prehistoric complex – the present condition needs assessment by examining recent air photos (or commissioning new ones) for potential deterioration, followed by selective keyhole excavation. It should also be taken out of cultivation at the earliest opportunity.

The large group of ring ditches in the Gipping Valley (Baylham – Barking) is similarly located on the lowest terrace – it is possible that some of this complex might also be later Neolithic hengiform structures. An NMP study of the Gipping might usefully increase knowledge of this complex. The group should be treated as a single complex and preserved as such, rather than each ring ditch being assessed in isolation in reponse to development pressures.

The only barrows surviving as earthworks (except for one interesting newly identified possibility in Mettingham in the Waveney area) are on the Brecks (including one small group at Ingham Seven Hills) and on the heathland areas of the Felixstowe peninsula, including the group at Seven Hills. Although each barrow is separately scheduled, the complex should be managed as a single entity. The Felixstowe area also has cropmark evidence for possible Neolithic long mortuary structures, one of which has recently been excavated at Flixton in the Waveney.

Later Bronze Age flat “urnfield” cemeteries only occur in the Felixstowe area, with extremely little evidence of contemporary burials elsewhere.

In all the areas there is a tendency for non-funerary evidence of prehistoric activity to be found (often as result of minerals extraction or other large developments) in the same locations over long periods of time. This does not necessarily represent “continuity” of settlement, indeed there may be clear signs of discontinuity, but rather

repeated use of similar favourable locations. These sites are difficult to identify and characterise by systematic survey because of the poor survival of diagnostic pottery in ploughsoil and the rarity of enclosed settlements and thus of distinctive cropmarks.

A distinctive topographic pattern of settlement has been identified in the Iron Age in the river valleys of the Felixstowe area (Martin 1993) on spurs overlooking the valleys; a similar pattern is emerging in the Gipping valley though some material has also been found on the lower terrace here and perhaps also in the Waveney. In the Lark valley however there seems to be more lower terrace activity but some substantial sites, including the Barnham enclosure, are in “hilltop” positions.

More analysis of the individual cropmark enclosures and the more extensive trackways and field-like enclosures on the Felixstowe peninsula would be useful – it has not been possible even to score every potential enclosure reliably because of the lack of dating evidence and comparable morphological data. Useful regional comparative data (from central-south Essex and Cambridgeshire) was listed in Brown & Murphy in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 10 and a potential research project described for the adjacent and very similar Stour valley area (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 12). Key sites for publication are the Foxhall enclosure and the Trimley St Martin (Clicketts Hill) site, the latter particularly for dating evidence of the trackways. All future development related fieldwork in this area must take full account of the cropmark evidence at the planning stage so that opportunities to elucidate extensive landscapes are not missed.

Later Iron Age – Roman
By the later Iron Age there is a widespread pattern of relatively permanent settlement and associated patterns of land division – for example the layout of field enclosures at Flixton on the Waveney seems to be Iron Age, and some elements of the Felixstowe cropmarks can be confirmed as late Iron Age – early Roman by associated finds as well as by morphological comparison. In the Waveney the more limited cropmark evidence does include a few enclosures and trackways likely to be of this date. Many later Iron Age settlements continue into the Roman period – a general pattern in south-east England; more detailed analysis might show variations in duration into the Roman period (S Bryant in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 16).

The later Iron Age timber circle at Flixton is currently a unique, perhaps ritual monument and a reminder of the types of site which are virtually invisible except in area excavation.

The Gipping and the Waveney each have sites with assemblages of exceptionally early Iron Age coinage (at Claydon largely destroyed, at Homersfield with more potential).

The Roman conquest and the activity following the Boudican revolt probably establish all the Roman roads identifiable in the study areas, and the strategic importance of the Gipping route is demonstrated by the two phases of 1st century fort at Coddenham. There seems also to be evidence for a substantial pre-Roman focus at the Coddenham site, both within and beyond the scheduled area. There is an unpublished excavation archive from the 1970’s for this site which needs assessment for publication, plus other elements (a huge collection of detector finds records, a kiln producing stamped mortaria, material from 1950’s excavations) which need at least to be made more accessible for future study.

Other major Roman centres in or peripheral to the study areas are Felixstowe (a modern urban context) and Icklingham to the north of the Lark, but with a probably

closely related temple at Lackford. The latter is also a candidate for publication assessment given the association with the “Cavenham crowns”, the rarity of such sites in the region and the proximity to the Lackford Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery.

The character of rural settlement is distinctly different in the various study areas, with more sites certain or likely to have villa-type buildings in the West Suffolk and Gipping areas, few in the Felixstowe area and only one possibility identified in the Waveney. The combination of villa and roadside barrow burials at Rougham is exceptional (current work by Hella Eckhardt on the East Anglian Roman barrows may increase our understanding of this group of sites), but the association of probable villa and cemetery at Ingham is also rare in East Anglia where burials outside the urban sites tend to be dispersed around settlements.

Early Anglo-Saxon
The early Anglo-Saxon marks a hiatus in the landscape, at least in terms of identifiable settlements, with all areas showing some signs of a shift in the middle/later Saxon period and the new settlements forming the basis of the medieval landscape, much of which is still visible today. The relationship of early Anglo-Saxon to late Roman is more difficult to examine, partly because of the disparity in the amount of evidence. The study areas each have between one and three known settlements with typical sunken featured buildings and these tend to be on the lowest terraces of the valleys (of these sites Needham Market should be assessed for publication), whereas cemeteries and finds suggesting cemeteries may occur on higher ground, including re-using Bronze Age barrows, though still usually on lighter soils. The exception to this is a group of finds from Mendham on a hilltop site and apparently clay soil (Soil Survey 411d, Hanslope) which would repay further survey. Although Roman settlement evidence is much commoner, and does extend onto the heavier soils, similarities in Roman and early Anglo-Saxon distributions were noted (particularly in the West Suffolk area, but also in the pattern of low activity in the Mill river valley in Felixstowe area) which would repay more detailed analysis.

At present the identifiable patterns of very early fields, eg the Felixstowe area cropmarks, seem to bear little relation to the surviving pre-18th enclosure landscapes except perhaps for trackways particularly around Bucklesham which might prove to be very early landscape elements surviving into the post-medieval and modern layouts.

The predominantly 7th-8th century high status (“productive site”) activity at sites in the valley west of Coddenham village, including the excavated cemetery on the south side of the valley is an important complex – various accounts of aspects of the site have been published and the need for further analysis and perhaps publication of the large finds groups needs assessing.

Later Saxon, Medieval and later

The selection for study of primarily lighter soil areas relating to mineral resources gives an odd distortion to the later historic environment pattern. Only the edges of the areas where they include heavier clay soils show the very typical Suffolk landscape features such as greens and moats in any quantity. The occasional moated sites on lighter soils are generally in low lying valley locations, demonstrating a determination to follow the fashion of the time wherever possible.

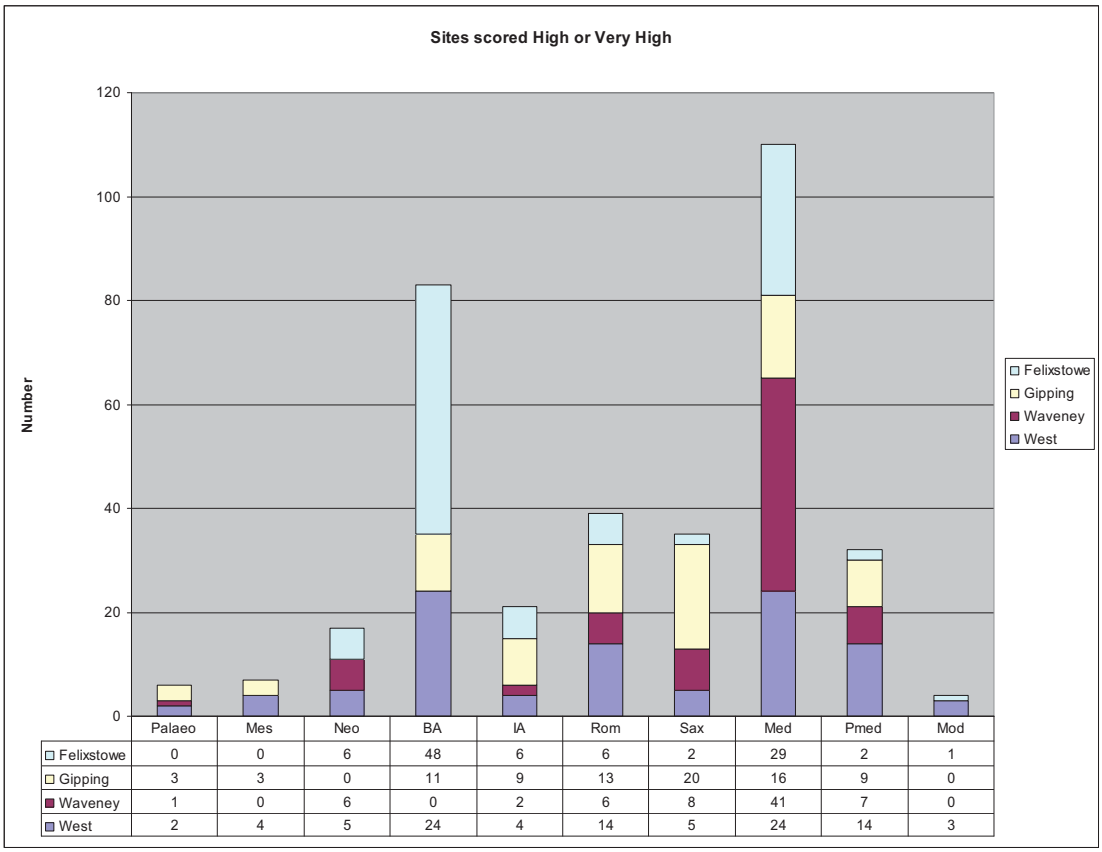
Throughout the areas the likelihood of later saxon activity in the vicinity of the churches is a recurring theme (particularly in the Gipping), but the occurrence of

middle and late saxon material elsewhere is worthy of note (especially in West Suffolk and Felixstowe areas) as indicating early dispersed settlement.

The towns (Bungay, Beccles, Felixstowe) require more detailed urban assessments and the village settlement envelopes should be defined on the SMR for development control purposes by combining the 19th century OS map data with historic building information.

Failed medieval settlements are relatively common in the Felixstowe and West Suffolk areas, partly reflecting the marginal nature of the sandy soils. Emparkment is also a significant factor, particularly in West Suffolk.

Although many individual moated sites and religious houses are protected by scheduling (these having been covered by MPP in this area) the study points out that Mendham priory (Waveney) remains under the plough.



	Palaeo	Mes	Neo	BA	IA	Rom	Sax	Med	Pmed	Mod
Felixstowe	0	0	6	48	6	6	2	29	2	1
Gipping	3	3	0	11	9	13	20	16	9	0
Waveney	1	0	6	0	2	6	8	41	7	0
West	2	4	5	24	4	14	5	24	14	3

Fig.2 Numbers of sites scored of high importance in each area by period

General management themes

Individual sites that were scored high or very high in the study were defined as either of national significance or of regional significance with high potential for good archaeological data to survive. There should be a presumption of preservation in situ for these sites unless further evidence can be produced to show the scoring should be adjusted. The varying numbers and periods represented by these sites are shown in Fig 2.

The study has consistently shown the high importance of the river valley terrace deposits as locations for sites particularly from the Palaeolithic to the Anglo-Saxon. The example of Flixton demonstates previous losses and future potential in the Waveney. The lack of large area excavation on the destroyed areas of the Gipping floor means that this area lacks a comparable dataset, and highlights the importance of the few surviving areas (including the large area scheduled as part of the Roman settlement at Coddenham).

Throughout the study areas there is a preference for south-facing locations, even where the gradient is relatively slight, but this is by no means exclusive. A few areas can be defined as having relatively low potential, particularly from the Iron Age onwards, namely the heathlands of the Felixstowe area and the high breckland in the West Suffolk area – but even these would always need assessing for surviving earthworks.

These results need to be tied in with the results of the Suffolk River Valleys project to define the high potential areas for currently unidentified settlement related to palaeoenvironmental data eg the east part of the Waveney area, and other valleys and meres where there is good multiperiod evidence (eg Cavenham).

The study has improved skills and methods for examining multiple datasets with the SMR. It has highlighted some inconsistencies and gaps in the SMR (for example it is not easy to identify multiperiod sites, more use needs to be made of the hierarchical potential of the software) but has greatly improved the quality of the data available for future research and management decisions within the study areas.

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