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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

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## Suffolk County Council

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**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Orion Business Park,  
Blackacre Hill, Great Blakenham (BLG017)  
Planning Application No. MS/19/99  
Report No. 99/39**

*Author : Ellen Bales.*

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# Orion Business Park, Blackacre Hill, Great Blakenham (BLG017) Evaluation Report

## Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to record any surviving archaeology within the limits of a proposed development on land at Blackacre Hill, Great Blakenham. This primary on-site evaluation consisted of a series of linear trenches, mechanically excavated to the depth of the natural subsoil. These exposed a number of scattered prehistoric ditches and a pit, which contained Iron Age (c.2,000/2500 years ago) and Neolithic (c.4,000-4,500 years ago) pottery, spread around the centre of the site, as well as a relatively concentrated area of Roman period features towards the north-east corner of the site, which included possible structural remains and cremation burials. However, it should be noted that some pottery could not be distinguished between a Neolithic and an Iron Age date.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

This report contains the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out on land at the Orion Business Park, Great Blakenham, from 1st-8th June 1999, which was funded by Hanover Financial Services Ltd. An application (MS/19/99) was made to develop a 5.7 hectare site on the eastern side of Blackacre Hill, Great Blakenham, at TM118 498 overlooking the Gipping valley, for industrial units and ancillary works, and the archaeological evaluation makes up the first part of a programme of archaeological work.

The development area is situated approximately 100m to the north of a recorded archaeological site, the cropmark of a ring-ditch (SMR no. BLG001), which is likely to indicate the site of an Early Bronze Age burial mound. This ancient monument, although excluded from the development area, does indicate that the area has potential to contain archaeological deposits. The Gipping valley itself has a high density of archaeological sites and an area of this size might reasonably be expected to contain archaeological deposits of some date.

A desk-based assessment was carried out, for which the County Sites and Monuments Record and all readily available cartographic sources were consulted for evidence of past land use and indications of archaeological sites. Documents in the Suffolk Record Office for the parish of Great Blakenham were found to be scarce, probably due to the fact that the Manor of Great Blakenham was granted by Henry VI to Eton College in 1441 (see Appendix IV). Aerial photographs of the area from the Suffolk County Council Archive were also examined for any sign of archaeological activity (Aerial Photo No.s G50 1379, ADS 45 (TM120 494 BLG 001), 1634 & 1686 098 58), although the only site which proved to be visible on these photographs was the cropmark of a ring-ditch (BLG 001) as mentioned above.

### 1.2 The aims of the evaluation

order to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

## **2. Fieldwork Methodology**

A trenching plan, agreed by the Conservation Team at the Suffolk County Council, was designed to sample 2 % of the 5.7 hectare entire site area, and to establish whether any archaeological sites exist in the application area. It was agreed with the development agent that the land designated as a 'soil dumping area', around the edge of the development area would, in fact, remain undisturbed during the development, and therefore need not be sampled during the archaeological evaluation. Therefore a total of 1,422m of trenching was opened within the proposed development area using a 360 machine equipped with a ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist.

The excavated areas and the topsoil removed from them was subjected to metal detector searches at all stages of the evaluation. The evaluation used a continuous number recording system of 'observable phenomena' under overall site numbers consistent with the County SMR. Plans were drawn at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 and a photographic record kept of features excavated. All finds were collected, processed and fully quantified. Finds and site records have been archived at the County Council Archaeological Unit at St. Edmund House, Rope Walk, Ipswich, under the site number BLG 017.

## **3. Fieldwork Results**

A plan (Fig. 2), shows the location of the evaluation trenches within the development area, and the findings within each trench are recorded in the tables in Appendix II and the results summarised below.

The machine removed a silty loam topsoil 30-35cm deep to expose a series of archaeological features cutting into the sandy gravel and silty clay subsoil. The features occurred in two broad areas of the site; in a relatively concentrated area in the north-east corner of the site, in trenches 7 and 8, and spread across the central part of the site, in trenches 3, 4 and 10. Over most of the field the topsoil lay directly over the subsoil with no evidence of occupational, or ancient buried soil levels. This absence may be partly due to plough damage, as ploughmarks were observed cutting the subsoil surface in some areas across the field.

### **3.1 Trenches 1 and 2**

Trench 1 was opened to a length of 200m before it was decided that the soil dumping area would not be disturbed during development, and the only features visible within it consisted of a ditch feature (0002), which contained one sherd of pottery, and a shallow gully, which appeared to be a ploughmark (0003).

Trench 2 was also examined and found to contain one discernible feature, a ditch (0004), which appeared to be equal to a modern field boundary ditch (0006 & 0039) encountered in other trenches (3 & 9) in this area.

### 3.2 Trenches 7 and 8: Archaeology in the north-east corner of the site.

Within these trenches a relatively concentrated area of Roman period features was revealed. A shallow ditch, c.30cm deep, (0011 & 0029) running NW-SE across trenches 7 and 8 formed the eastern boundary of these features in trench 7 (see Fig. 5). To the west of this ditch, trench 7 contained a shallow ditch feature (0012) and small sub-circular feature (0013) which may represent structural evidence in this area.

A layer of brown silt (0016) containing Roman pottery, c.20-25cm thick, covered the rest of the Roman features in this area, which consisted of a shallow gully filled with grey silt and charcoal flecks (0015) to the west of a layer of mid brown silt (0014) containing Roman pottery, which covered a thick layer of clay (0033) which also seemed to be part of a possibly structural feature (see Fig. 6). To the west of the gully (0015), several areas of burnt clay, or possible hearths, were observed (0023, 0024, 0025), bounded by another shallow ditch feature (0022), which in turn cuts a clay layer (0027), which also seemed to be part of a large, possibly timber built structural feature in this area.

Further west in trench 7, a pit feature filled with charcoal-rich material was visible (0021), also tentatively assigned a Roman date, as was a pit feature to the west (0020), which represents the western-most feature in trench 7.

Trench 8 contained a series of shallow ditches running NW-SE (east to west 0034, 0036, 0029), all of which were tentatively assigned a Roman date. Ditch 0036 was cut by a shallow circular feature (0035), and ran to the east of the third ditch in trench 8 (0029), which appeared to be a continuation of ditch (0011) from trench 7. This ditch (0029) was cut by a shallow rectangular feature (0032), which seemed to represent a cremation burial, as it contained a probable ~~second century~~ <sup>late 3rd/4th</sup> cremation finds group; two semi-complete Roman pots, one with decoration (0030), and one Cu alloy ring with three jet jewellery rings (c.3cm in diameter), although the burial itself was not encountered, and has perhaps been ploughed out.

### 3.3 Discussion

The features in the north-east corner of the development area, therefore, represent a concentrated area of Roman period features including ditches and burnt clay patches which may be hearths within what seem to be timber built structures. The area of interest may be defined as c. 1,300sq.m. in this corner of the site, and the fact that a number of features, including the cremation burial, cut earlier ditches or features in this area, suggests that there was more than one phase to this period of activity.

### 3.4 Trenches 3, 4 and 10: Features identified.

Within these trenches a series of relatively scattered prehistoric features was recorded. Trench 3 contained a number of shallow ditch features (0005, 0007, 0008), filled with pale sandy silt very similar to the natural subsoil, one of which (0005) contained a relatively high concentration of prehistoric pottery (see Fig. 4). These features did not appear to continue into the other trenches in this area (trenches 9, 2 and 11), although due to their shallow nature it is possible that they have been ploughed out in the recent past.

Two deeper (c.25-30cm) ditches filled with mid brown silt (0009 & 0010) and containing worked flint flakes were visible in trench 4 (see Fig. 4), and appeared to make up part of the prehistoric scatter of features, perhaps extending as far as trench 10, where ditch features (0042 and 0043) were recorded that may represent a continuation of the two ditches in trench 4.

As well as the two ditch features (0042 & 0043), trench 10 contained a pit (0038) which contained prehistoric pottery, and a nearby shallow gully (0041) filled with pale brown silt. Both of these features were seen to cut a layer of brown silt (0040) which in turn formed an earlier feature, but contained no finds. Throughout the rest of trench 10, changes in the natural subsoil were visible, but no other archaeological features appeared to be present.

### 3.5 Discussion

The area of scattered prehistoric features, likely to be of Neolithic or Iron Age date, seem to represent occupation evidence in this area, since the existence of one or more pits containing prehistoric domestic refuse may point to occupation rather than evidence for an ancient field system, although from limited evaluation trenches such as these the evidence can be somewhat ambiguous.

## 4. The Finds by Cathy Tester

### 4.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from twenty contexts and their quantities are summarised in table 1 below. The full quantification is available in appendix V.

**Table 1: Finds Quantification**

<u>Find type</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Wt (g)</u>
Pottery	132	2057
Animal bone	12	173
Flint	17	138
Burnt flint	6	58
Fired clay	6	22
Roof tile	1	96
Iron	5	27
Glass	1	4

## 4.2 Pottery

132 sherds of pottery were recovered from fourteen contexts and the quantities of each fabric are shown in Table 2. Approximately two-thirds of the pottery was Roman in date while a third of it was prehistoric.

**Table 2: Pottery Fabric Quantities**

fabric	fabric code	No.	Wt.(g)
Grog tempered ware	GROG	2	29
Prehistoric pottery	Preh	68	648
<b>Total Prehistoric</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>677</b>
Black-surfaced wares	BSW	27	134
Unspecified buff wares	BUF	1	16
Colchester buff-ware mortaria	COLBM	6	866
Micaceous grey wares	GM	3	19
Miscellaneous grey wares	GX	15	188
Nene Valley colour-coat	NVC	8	147
Miscellaneous oxidised wares	RX	1	5
Miscellaneous white ware	WX	1	5
<b>Total Roman</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>1380</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>132</b>	<b>2057</b>

### 4.2.1 Prehistoric pottery

Prehistoric pottery was collected from five contexts. The sherds from three of them (0012, 0029 0040) were very small and abraded, and although Iron Age in date, were probably intrusive.

Ditch 0005 in Trench 3 contained thirty-seven sherds from at least three separate vessels. Most had abundant very large flint inclusions which would suggest a Neolithic date, but in the absence of diagnostic sherds, the possibility of their being Iron Age cannot be eliminated. One sherd had a hole pierced in it before firing.

Pit 0038 in Trench 10 contained sherds from a vessel with a thick upright square rim, a flat base, decorated with over-all rustication and uniformly black in colour. The flat base rules out an early Neolithic date, but it could be Grooved Ware or later Neolithic although the colour and decoration are not typical. There is a possibility that it may also be Iron Age.

### 4.2.2 Roman pottery

The Roman pottery came from eight contexts in Trenches 7 and 8.

A sequence of layers in Trench 7 produced diagnostic sherds of 2nd to mid-3rd century dates. Notable, was a Colchester buff ware mortarium (0016) double-stamped possibly by Baro or Messor and dated AD140-190.

Feature 0032 in Trench 8 produced the latest dated pottery from the site. Two nearly complete vessels thought to be accessory vessels from a cremation group were recovered. The first was a Nene Valley pentice-moulded beaker in orange fabric with a zone of multiple rouletting above and below a zone of over-slip barbotine scrolling.



It could be dated late 3rd or 4th century. The second vessel was a greyware cup of the same date.

#### 4.2.3 Discussion

The majority of the Roman pottery can be dated to the 1st, 2nd and early 3rd centuries. Apart from the cremation group, none of the forms and fabrics that characterise the late and latest Roman period were present. The prehistoric pottery evidence does not allow a definite conclusion to be made about its date.

#### 4.3 Small finds

Three jet/shale 'rings' (1000, 1001 & 1002) were found in association with cremation group 0032. They ranged from 36 to 38mm in diameter. Two of them were complete and had a flat profile about 3mm high. The third was about 85% complete with a D-shaped profile. They are not closely datable except to say that they are not early, and this would not disagree with the late 3rd or 4th century pottery date.

A copper alloy bracelet fragment (1003) was also found with the cremation group. Decorated with transverse grooves, its diameter is c.42mm and c.50% complete. It has a round profile and is about 1.5mm high.

#### 4.4 Flint

Worked flint was found in eleven contexts and included fourteen waste flakes, a blade and two scrapers. Ten of the flakes and one scraper were found in association with prehistoric pottery.

Burnt flint was found in three contexts and was associated with prehistoric and Roman pottery.

#### 4.5 Animal bone

Twelve fragments of animal bone were found in Trench 7 and were mainly associated with Roman pottery.

#### 4.6 Fired clay

Six pieces of fired clay with chalk tempering were found in association with Roman pottery in 3 contexts.

#### 4.7 Miscellaneous

Other finds included a fragment of a post medieval peg tile, a fragment of post-medieval glass, and three iron nails.

#### 4.8 Discussion

The materials which form this assemblage suggest concentrations of both prehistoric and Roman activity. Some of the material came from undisturbed features of those periods. The Roman finds were dated from the 1st to the 4th centuries, particularly up to the 3rd. Most of prehistoric material could not be conclusively identified as Iron Age or Neolithic.

#### *Acknowledgements*

Edward Martin commented on the prehistoric pottery and Jude Plouviez commented on the small finds.

## **5. Conclusion**

The evaluation shows that there are two main areas of archaeology surviving within the development area (see Fig. 3). The level of preservation, particularly of the Roman period features, is good, although there appears to be some loss through cultivation. The topsoil over the site is relatively shallow and the archaeology would certainly be vulnerable to any work in these areas.

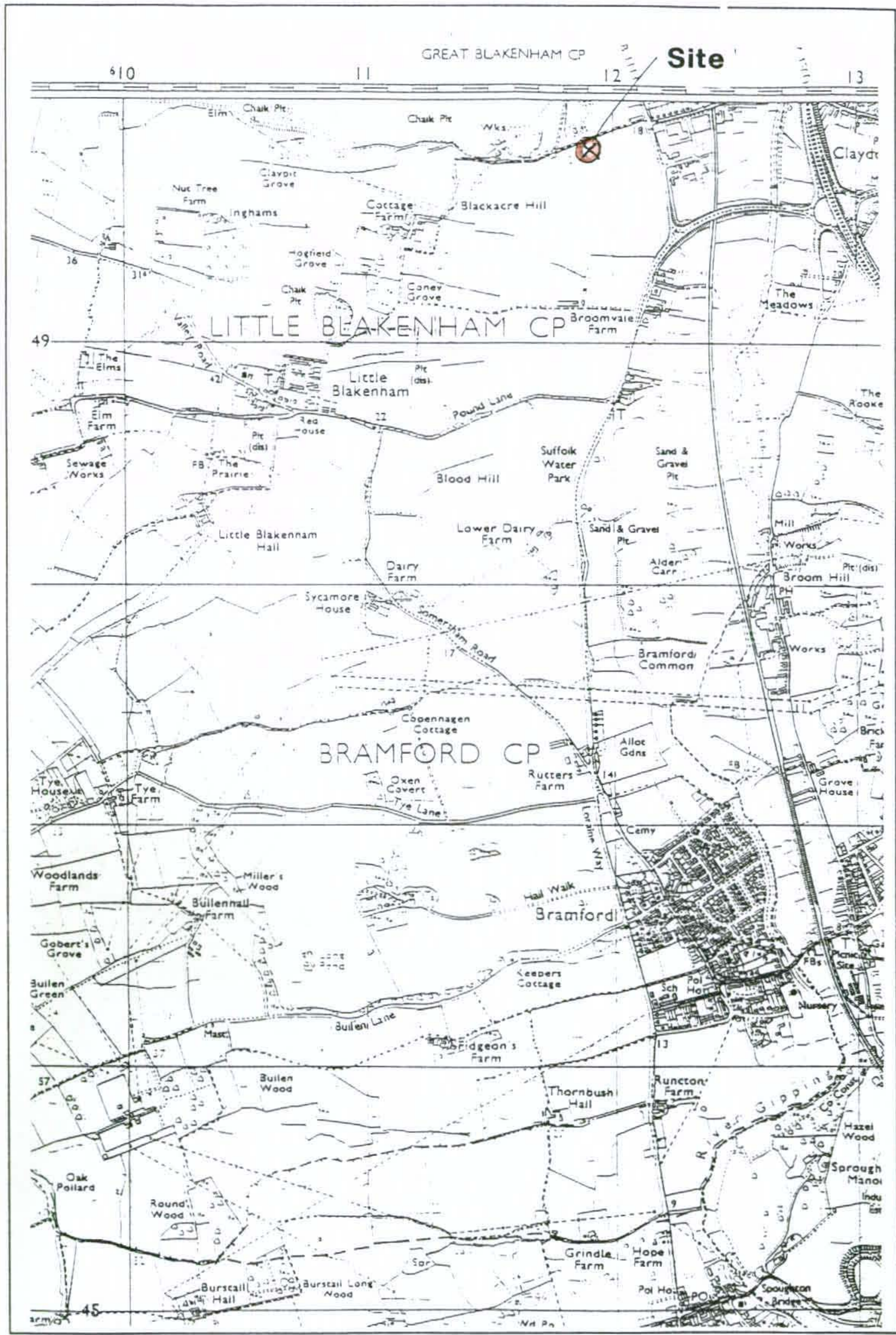
## **6. Recommendations**

It has been recommended (J. Newman letter of 10/06/99) that the main area of Roman period archaeology shown on Fig. 3 is worthy of preservation either by controlled excavation and recording, or by preservation in situ.

For a better understanding of the archaeological features visible within the remainder of the development area, a programme of monitoring the soil stripping across the entire development area, with particular emphasis on the area containing prehistoric features outlined on Fig. 3, has been recommended, so that the exposed surface can be examined for archaeological features which can then be investigated and recorded.

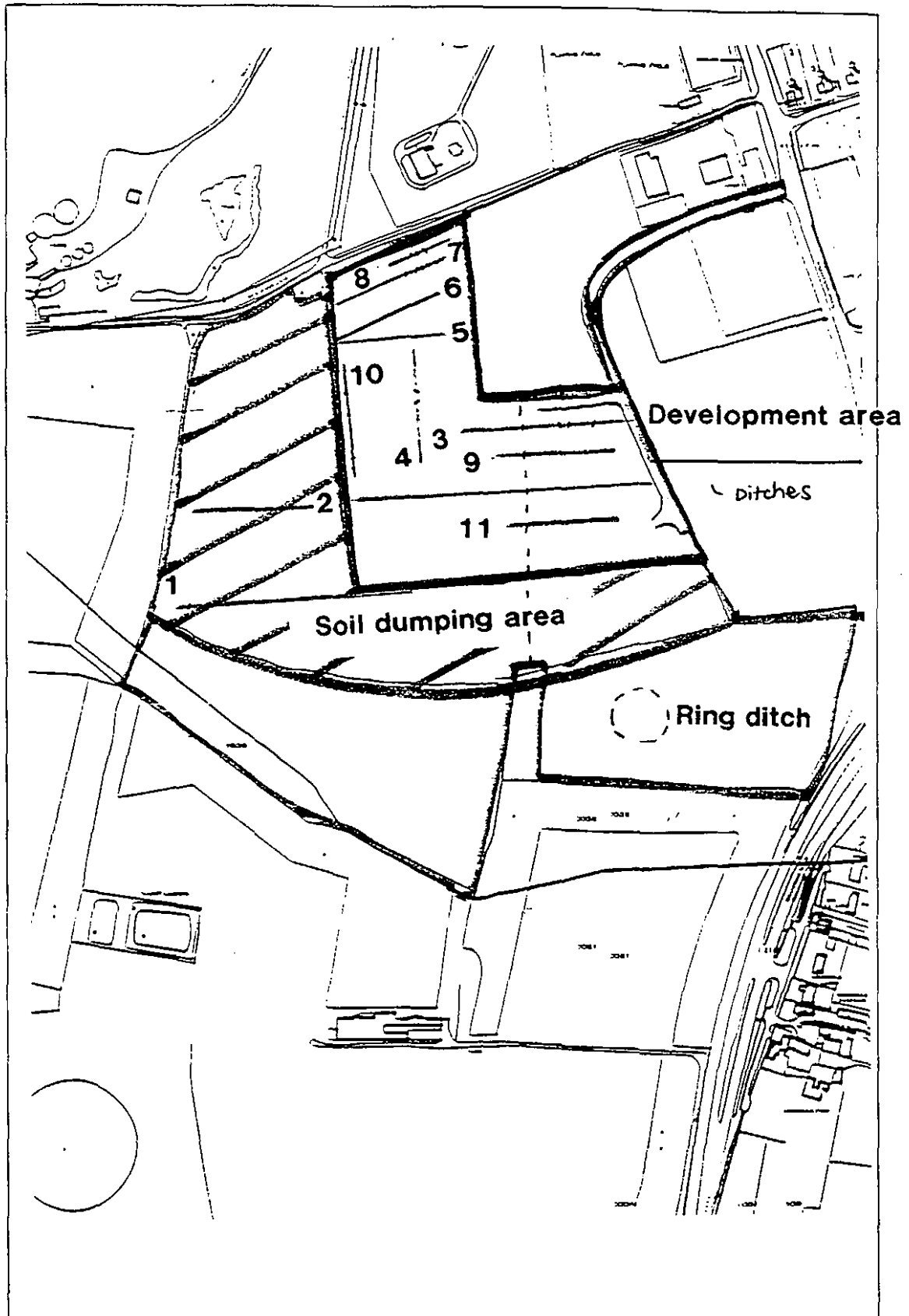
Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Division alone. The need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting service cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.





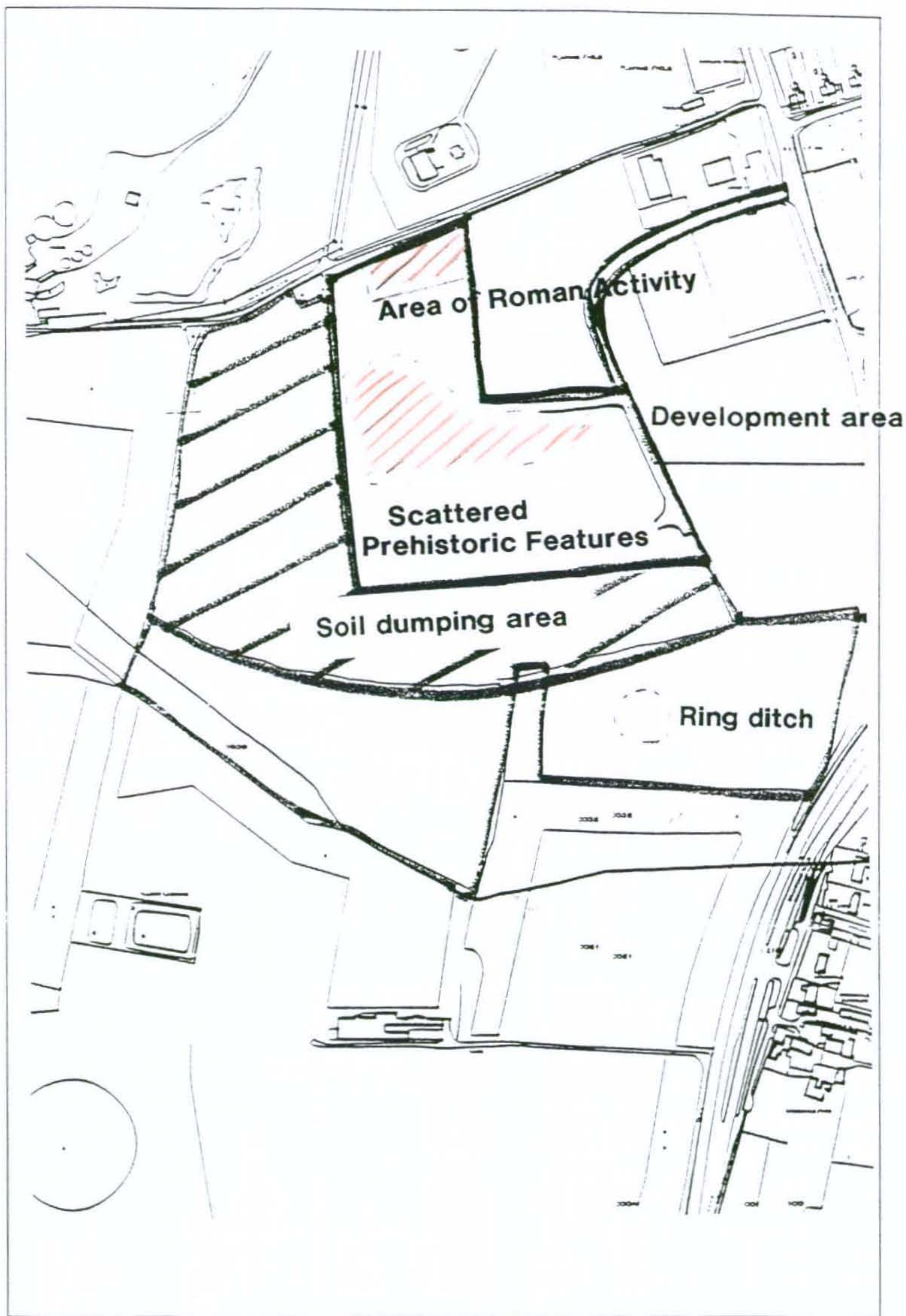
**Fig.1 Site Location Plan 1:25,000**





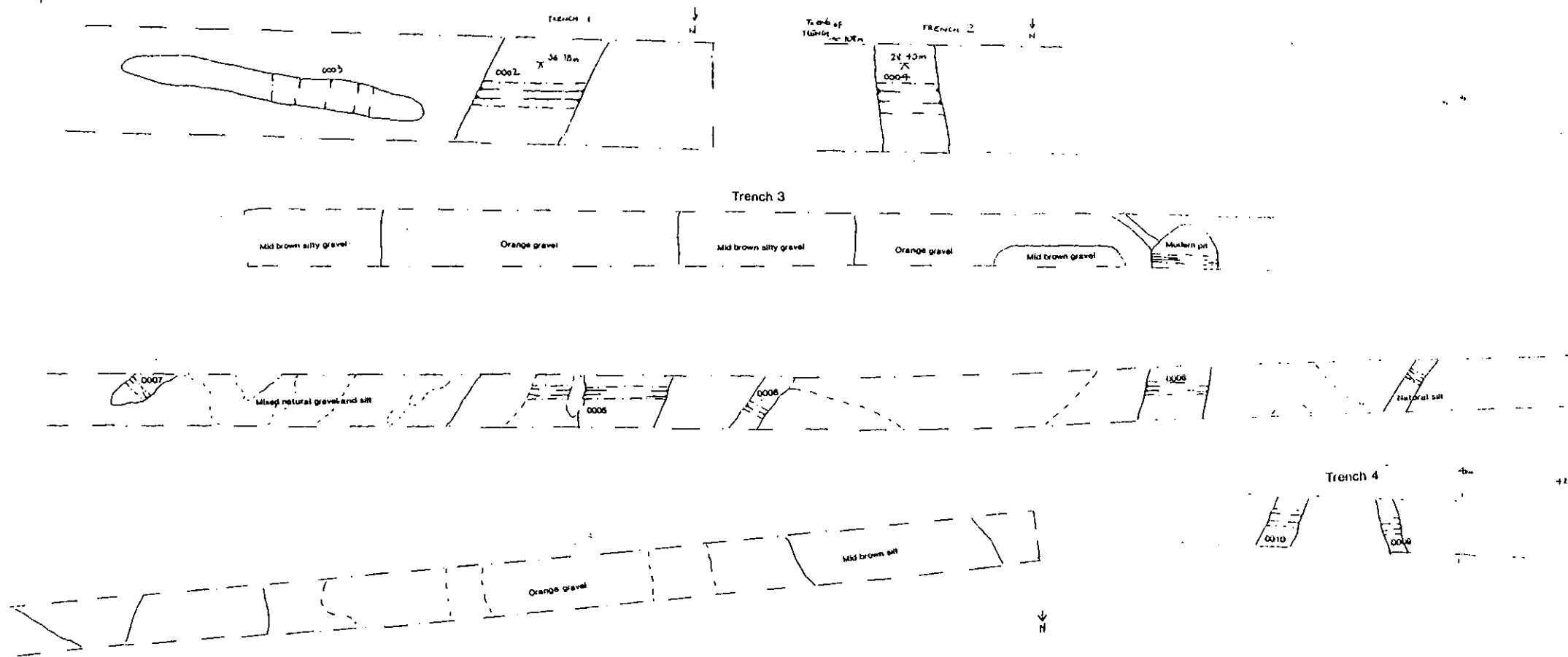
**Fig.2 Trench Location Plan 1:5,000**



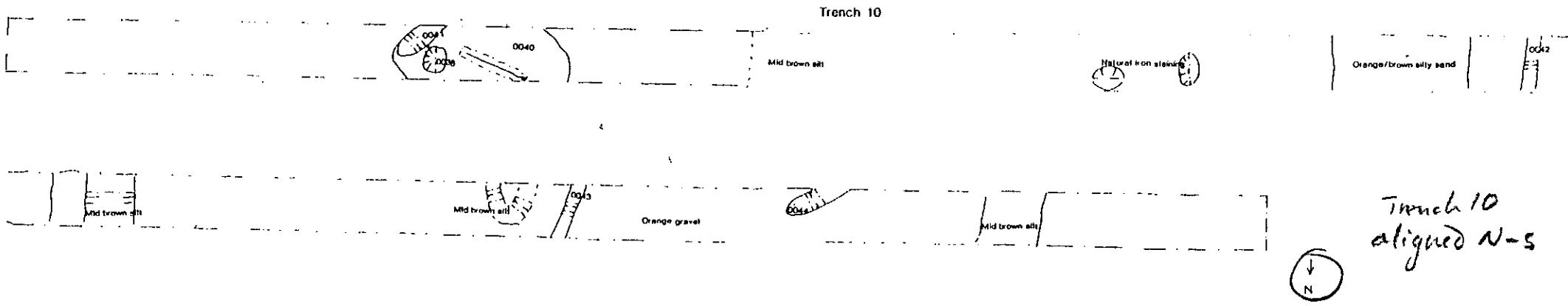
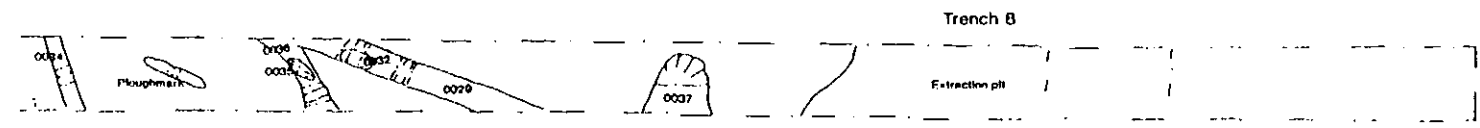
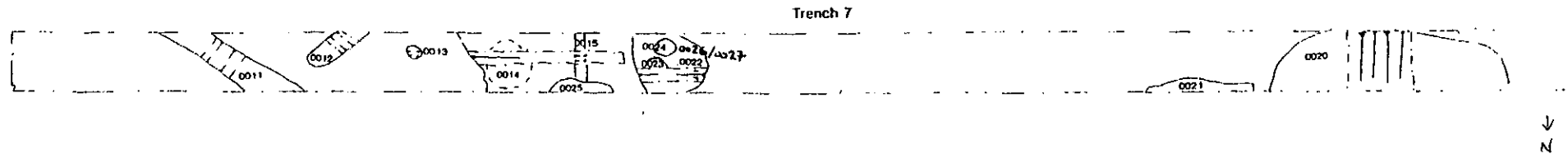


**Fig.3 Areas of Archaeological Activity**



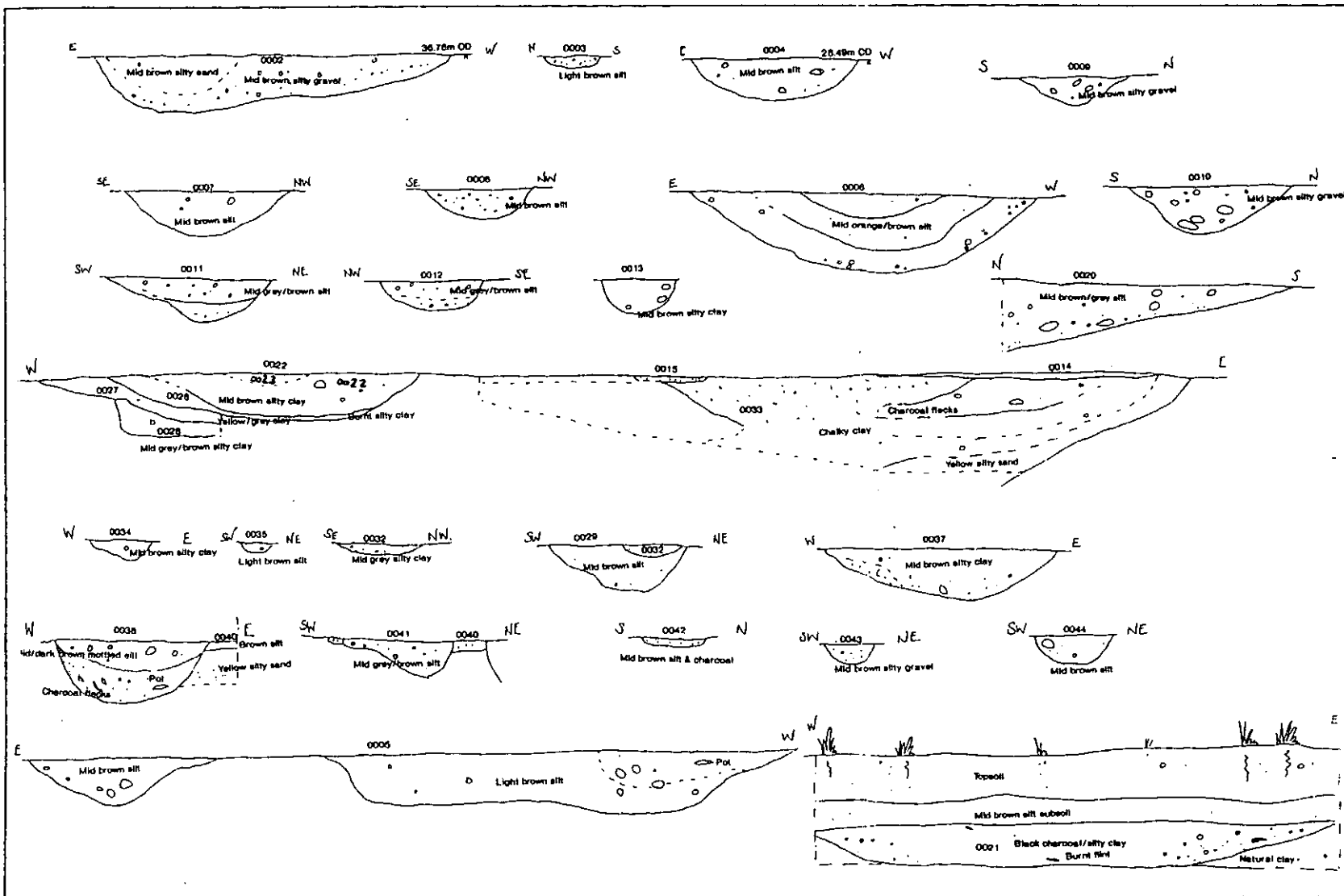


**Fig.4 Trenches 1 & 2 (Scale 1:100) & Trenches 3 & 4 (Scale 1:200)**



**Fig.5 Trenches 7, 8 & 10 (Scale 1:200)**

Fig.6 Sections (Scale 1:40)





## Appendix I

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

#### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Evaluation by trial trench

#### ORION BUSINESS PARK, BLACKACRE HILL, GREAT BLAKENHAM

##### 1. Background

- 1.1 An application (MS/19/99) has been made for the erection of industrial units and ancilliary works on land at the Orion Business Park, Great Blakenham
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the evaluation.
- 1.3 The development area lies within 100m of a recorded archaeological site: Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record no. BLG001, the cropmark of a ring-ditch, indicating the site of prehistoric burial mound. The development area is also large (approximately 5.7ha.) and the average density of archaeological sites in Suffolk is one per 5ha.
- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, and access to the site, are to be negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 The submission of a Project Design based upon this brief and accompanying outline specification is an essential requirement. The final selection of an archaeological contractor should not take place until the Project Design has been approved by this office.

##### 2. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological sites exist in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological sites within the application area.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, the possibility of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Evaluate whether waterlogged organic deposits are likely to be present in the proposal area.

- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 It is recommended that the desk-based evaluation precedes the field evaluation. The results of the desk-based work should be used to inform the trenching design. There is a possibility that some aspect of the site history may even indicate that further evaluation is not necessary.

### 3. **Specification A: Desk-Based Assessment**

- 3.1 Consult the County Sites and Monuments Record, both the computerised record and any backup files.
- 3.2 Examine all the readily available cartographic sources (e.g. those available in the County Record Office). Record any evidence for archaeological sites (e.g. buildings, settlements, field names) and history of previous land uses. Where possible photocopies or tracing should be included in the report.
- 3.3 Provide a transcription of archaeological features from all available air photographs held by Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport Department and its SMR, at a scale of 1:2500.
- 3.5 Ascertain whether there are other constraints on the site (e.g. SSSI, County Wildlife Site, AONB, Tree Preservation Order, etc).

### 4 **Specification B: Field Evaluation**

- 4.1 Examine the area for earthworks e.g. banks, ponds, ditches. If present these are to be recorded in plan at 1:2500, with appropriate sections. A record should be made of the topographic setting of the site (e.g. slope, plateau etc). The Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service must be consulted if earthworks are present and before proceeding to the excavation of any trial trenches.
- 4.2 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 2% of the site area and be positioned to sample all areas of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches should be a minimum of 1.5m wide; the length of trench to fulfil the percentage requirement should be computed on the nominal basis of 1m wide trenches. In practice trench width will be determined by machine bucket size; a toothless 'ditching bucket' of at least 1.40m width is expected unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. The trench design must be approved by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team before field work begins.
- 4.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be

under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

- 4.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 4.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of an archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced detector user.
- 4.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 4.11 Plans of the archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 4.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 4.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

## 5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 5.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 5.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.
- 5.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principle of *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation. The conclusion should include a statement of the archaeological potential of the site.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope must be given. A second phase will not be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established. A second phase cannot be developed in detail at this stage.
- 6.5 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.6 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

- 6.7 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.8 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

Specification by: Edward Martin

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284-352442

Date: 3rd March 1999

Reference: BLGspec.doc

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**

**Appendix II Tabular Summary of Trench Results BLG017**

No.	Length	Description	Sub-soil type	Depth to Archaeology	Contexts
1	200m	Runs along the southern edge of the site, follows the line of a proposed drain for the site, to the north of a ring ditch identified on an aerial photo. It contained silty loam topsoil to a depth of 35-40cm over orange sandy gravel subsoil. Two features were identified at the western-most end of the trench, one of which (0002) contained 1 fragment of pottery, the other (0003) appeared to be a modern ploughmark and did not contain any finds.	sandy gravel	40cm	0002 & 0003
2(a) & 2(b)	108m & 225m	This trench was excavated in two sections, both running east-west on the same line, trench 2 (a) at the western edge of the site within the soil dumping area, and trench 2 (b) further west, within the development area. One feature (0004) was noted in the eastern section, trench 2 (b), which appeared to represent a field boundary ditch, as it was on the same line as a ditch in trench 9 which contained modern finds.	sandy gravel	40cm	0004
3	132m	Trench 3 ran east-west across the site, parallel to the existing developed area, and contained a number of apparently prehistoric features (0005, 0007, 0008), as well as a modern field boundary ditch (0006).	sandy gravel	35-40cm	0005 to 0008.
4	100m	North-south trench, parallel to the existing development area, and at right angles to trench 3. This trench contained two shallow ditches (0009 & 0010) running east-west across the trench, which contained flint flakes and appeared to be prehistoric in date. The subsoil changed in the northern half of this trench from being entirely sandy gravel to containing a certain amount of clay patches.	sandy gravel and silty clay areas in northern half.	40-50cm	0009 & 0010
5	100m	East-west trench, containing one (Pmed) gravel-filled feature (0017) at its western end (possible gravel extraction pit).	sandy gravel with some silty clay at eastern end	35-40cm	0017
6	100m	NE-SW trench parallel to the northern field boundary, containing two possible gravel extraction pits at its western end (0018 & 0019).	sandy gravel & silty clay	35-40cm	0018 & 0019

No.	Length	Description	Sub-soil type	Depth to Archaeology	Contexts
7	100m	NE-SW trench, parallel to northern field boundary, in which the main density of Roman features on the site seemed to be located. Shallow ditches and silty layers containing Roman pottery, as well as possible hearths, or burnt clay areas (0023, 0024, 0025), and an area of charcoal (0026) were identified as well as features cut into the natural silty clay and sandy gravel subsoil.	sandy gravel with bands of silty clay visible throughout.	45-75cm	0011 to 0016 & 0020 to 0029 & 0033.
8	57m	NE-SW trench, parallel to northern field boundary, containing several Roman features, including a possible cremation finds group (0030, 0031 & 0032), which did not appear to contain cremated bone.	sandy gravel with bands of silty clay.	40-75cm	0029 to 0032 & 0034 to 0037.
9	100m	E-W trench, parallel to trenches 2 & 3, containing one modern field boundary ditch (0039), and no other visible features.	sandy gravel	35-40cm	0039
10	100m	N-S trench, parallel to trench 4, containing a pit feature (0038) containing prehistoric pottery, and several linear features, which seem to be prehistoric in date.	sandy gravel, clay at N end.	70-90cm	0038 & 0040 to 0043
11	100m	E-W trench, south of and parallel to trench 2. Shallow topsoil, c. 35-40 cm over sandy gravel subsoil. No visible archaeology in trench.	sandy gravel		
	<b>1,422m</b>	<b>Total length of trenching</b>			

Feature ID	Identified	Description	Cliff	Cut by	Over	Under	Phase	Period	Trench
0001	Topsoil	Mid brown loam topsoil over entire area of site.						Mod	
0002	Ditch	Mid brown silty sand and gravel-filled ditch c. 40cm deep.							1
0003	Ditch/gully	Shallow gully (possible ploughmark).						Mod	1
0004	Ditch	Ditch filled with mid brown silt, 30 cm deep, which seems to be equal to 0006 and 0039 in trenches 3 & 9. (Probable field boundary ditch).							2
0005	Ditch	Shallow ditch feature filled with pale-mid brown sandy silt visible only in trench 3, containing pre-historic pottery.							3
0006	Ditch	Ditch filled with mid brown silt, which appears to be equal to 0004 and 0039 in trenches 2 & 9.							3
0007	Ditch	Ditch filled with pale-mid brown sandy silt which appears to butt end within trench 3.							3
0008	Ditch	Very shallow ditch feature, possibly a natural soil change visible in trench 3.							3
0009	Ditch	Shallow ditch running e-w across trench 4 filled with mid brown silt and containing flint flakes.							4
0010	Ditch	Ditch running e-w across trench 4 to the south of 0009 filled with mid brown silt and containing 1 flint flake.							4
0011	Ditch	Ditch filled with mid-dark grey-brown silt running n-s across trench 7, probably equal to ditch 0029 in trench 8.							7
0012	Ditch	Shallow ditch feature with mid brown silty fill visible in trench 7.							7
0013	Pit/Posthole	Sub-circular feature (possible pit) filled with mid grey-brown silt.							7
0014	Layer	Layer of mid grey-brown silt containing Roman pottery, over a layer of clay 0033.			0033	0016		Roman	7
0015	Gully	Shallow gully filled with dark grey/brown silt and charcoal flecks.				0016		Roman	7
0016	Layer	Layer of brown silt containing Roman pottery covering area of Roman features in trench 7.			0014	0001		Roman	7
0017	Pit	Mid grey-brown silty gravel fill of possible shallow gravel extraction pit at western end of trench 5.						PMed	5
0018	Pit	Grey-brown gravel fill of possible gravel pit at western end of trench 6						PMed	6
0019	Pit	Grey-brown gravel fill of possible gravel pit at western end of trench 6, further west than 0018.						PMed	6
0020	Pit	Pit feature in trench 7 filled with mid grey silty gravel.							7
0021	Layer	Blackened charcoal-rich layer (possible feature) seen in section to the east of pit feature 0020 in trench 7.							7
0022	Ditch	Dark grey-brown silty gravel-filled ditch feature cutting clay layer 0027 below.	0026	0027					7
0023	Layer	Possible hearth area of pink burnt clay.							7
0024	Layer	Possible hearth area of pink burnt clay in trench 7 near to 0023							7
0025	Layer	Burnt pink clay area near gully 0015 and layer 0014.							7
0026	Layer	Dark silty layer containing charcoal beneath ditch fill 0022 and above clay 0027.		0022	0027				7



opno	Identifier	Description	Cuts	Cut by	Over	Under	Phase	Period	Trench
0027	Layer	Redeposited clay layer below dark layer 0026 and above 0028, cut by ditch 0022.		0022	0028	0026			7
0028	Layer	Dark silty layer containing charcoal visible in section below clay layer 0027				0027			7
0029	Ditch	Mid brown silty clay-filled ditch, possibly a continuation of ditch 0011, in trench 8.		0032					8
0030	Pot	Semi-complete decorated vessel 2nd century Roman, probably representing part of a high-status cremation group, found within feature 0032.						Roman	8
0031	Small find	Three jet rings (1 complete), c. 3cm in diameter and 1 Cu alloy decorated ring, found in feature 0032, part of a 2nd century high-status cremation group.						Roman	8
0032	Grave	Shallow rectangular feature filled with mid grey-brown silt on the edge of ditch 0029, representing a cremation burial, although there was no cremated bone visible.	0029					Roman	8
0033	Layer	Clay layer beneath brown silty layer 0014.				0014		Roman	7
0034	Ditch	Ditch feature running NW-se across trench 8.							8
0035	Pit/Posthole	Shallow circular feature near ditch 0029, filled with silty gravel. Cuts ditch 0036.	0036					Roman	8
0036	Ditch	Shallow ditch cut by circular feature 0035		0035				Roman	8
0037	Ditch	Butt end of ditch filled with grey-brown silty gravel in trench 8.							8
0038	Pit	Pit filled with layers of brown silt and grey/charcoal rich silt at s end of trench 10, containing prehistoric pottery.	0040						10
0039	Ditch	Ditch in trench 9 which seems to be equal to feature 0004/0006. Dark silty fill which contains modern finds and is therefore a possible field boundary ditch.						PMed	9
0040	Layer	Layer of mid brown silty material over whole area cut by pit 0038 and feature 0041.		0038 0041					10
0041	Ditch	Semi-linear feature near to pit 0038 which cuts brown layer 0040.	0040						10
0042	Gully	Shallow gully filled with mid-dark grey/brown silt which cuts an area of brown iron-stained silt, probably natural.							10
0043	Ditch	Shallow ditch running roughly e-w across trench 10.							10

## Appendix IV

### Documentary Search, Blackacre Hill, Great Blakenham

#### Introduction

The documentary search to examine all the readily available cartographic and documentary material was carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich. There are very few documents for the parish of Great Blakenham. The likely reason for this lack of material is the Manor of Great Blakenham was granted by Henry VI to Eton College in 1441. Eton remained the principal landowner in the parish through to modern times. It will be shown that this site was owned in the last century by another land owner John Peacock, though he did not live in the parish. The Record Office do not hold any deeds or other material relating to his ownership of the property and without such documents and in the absence of any early manuscript maps this report is very limited in its scope.

#### Maps

A series of 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey maps, sheet number, 66 SW have been copied for this report. The site within a large open field lies south of a roadway leading to Blue Barn Cottage as shown on 1905 edition. The only other feature within this area is a trackway to the south of the site which meets the main road opposite Blakenham Lodge. The eastern end of this trackway where it meets the road has cut through the surrounding landscape. The site appears to be on a gentle slope that rises to the west. There are a number of chalk pits in the area at Little Blakenham, on Blackacre Hill and on the 1928 edition of this map at Column Field. The 1:2500 maps give an acreage of 66.75 acres for the field.

The only other earlier large scale map of this area is the Tithe Map of 1840 (ref. P461/29). On this map the large field is sub divided into six smaller fields. The site is within one of the largest of these field numbered 190 it is described in the apportionment that accompanies the map as "Front Field" arable, measured at 20 acres and 25 perches. The adjoining fields were

184 Middle or Broom Field	arable	20 a 2 r 32p
185 Broom or Edwards Field	arable	3 a 2r 03p
186 Broad Oak	arable	5 a 1r 16p
188 Seven Acres	arable	6 a 3r 26p
189 Eight Acres	arable	9 a 0r 00p

All these fields were owned by John Peacock and occupied by John Hayward Buckingham who lived at Blakenham Lodge. His farm consisted over 139 acres and was the second largest farm in the parish. The largest farm of over 280 acres was occupied by Charles Cooper but owned by Eton College and included the field 183 just to the west of the site. These two farms combined with two others of 134 and 99 acres covered nearly three quarters of the entire parish.

#### Conclusion

A careful search was made without success of the indexes in Ipswich to find any other earlier material relating to this site. Copinger in "The Manors of Suffolk" mentions that John Peacock had purchased the "Manor of Dunstall, otherwise Blakenham upon the Hill otherwise Little

Blakenham" in 1835. This manor was later sold to the Cullum family of Hardwick House, near Bury St Edmunds and their estate papers are now held at the Record Office in Bury. Bury do hold a limited amount of material relating to Little Blakenham but nothing for this parish.

White's Directory of 1844 mentions under Little Blakenham that "great quantities of limestone are got and burnt here for agricultural and building purposes" and the maps evidence suggests that this was also true of Great Blakenham.

## References

### Maps

1:10,560	Ordnance Survey Map sheet number 66 SW	1928
1:10,560	Ordnance Survey Map sheet number 66 SW	1905
1:10,560	Ordnance Survey Map sheet number 66 SW	1889
P461/29	Tithe Map Great Blakenham	1840
FDA29/A1/1a	Tithe Apportionment	1840

### Printed Works

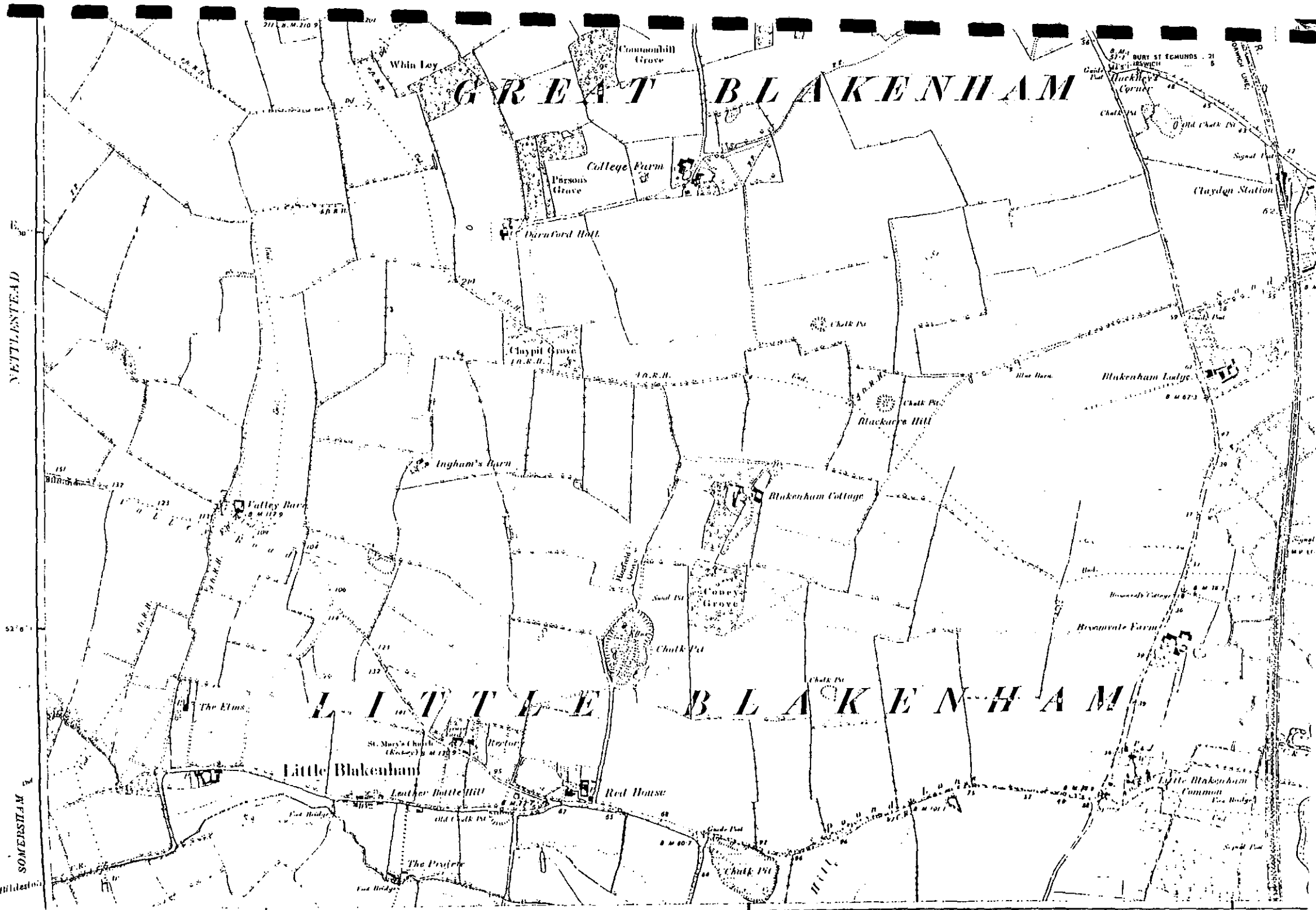
W.A.Copinger "The Manors of Suffolk" vol. II	1908
W.White "Directory of Suffolk"	1844

NETTLESTEAD

SOMERSETSHIRE

# G R E A T B L A K E N H A M

# L I T T L E B L A K E N H A M



LXV. S. E.  
26 1/2

NETTLESTEAD PH.

AT 52 1/2

SOMERSHAM PH.



# GREAT BLAKENHAM

# LITTLE BLAKENHAM

Cotton Hill Grove

Whin Jay

Parson's Grove

College Farm

Dufford Hall

Claypit Grove

Ingham's Barn

Valley Barn

The Hingolow

Hogfield Grove

College Farm

Cony Grove

Blackacre Hill

Blakenham Lodge

Broomvale Cottages

Broomvale Farm

St. Mary's Church

Little Blakenham

Leather Bottle Hill

Little Sun. Sch.

Little Red House

The Prairie

Little Blakenham Common

Huckney's Corner

Huckney's House

Claydon Station

Cement Works

Column Field Quarry (chalk)

Tank

Oak

The Elms

Pound Lane

IPSWICH & NORWICH MAINLINE

113

R.M. 58.2

10

66

R.M. 60.4

80

B.M. 36.9

38

R.M. 57.1

88

130

100

B.M. 36.8

50

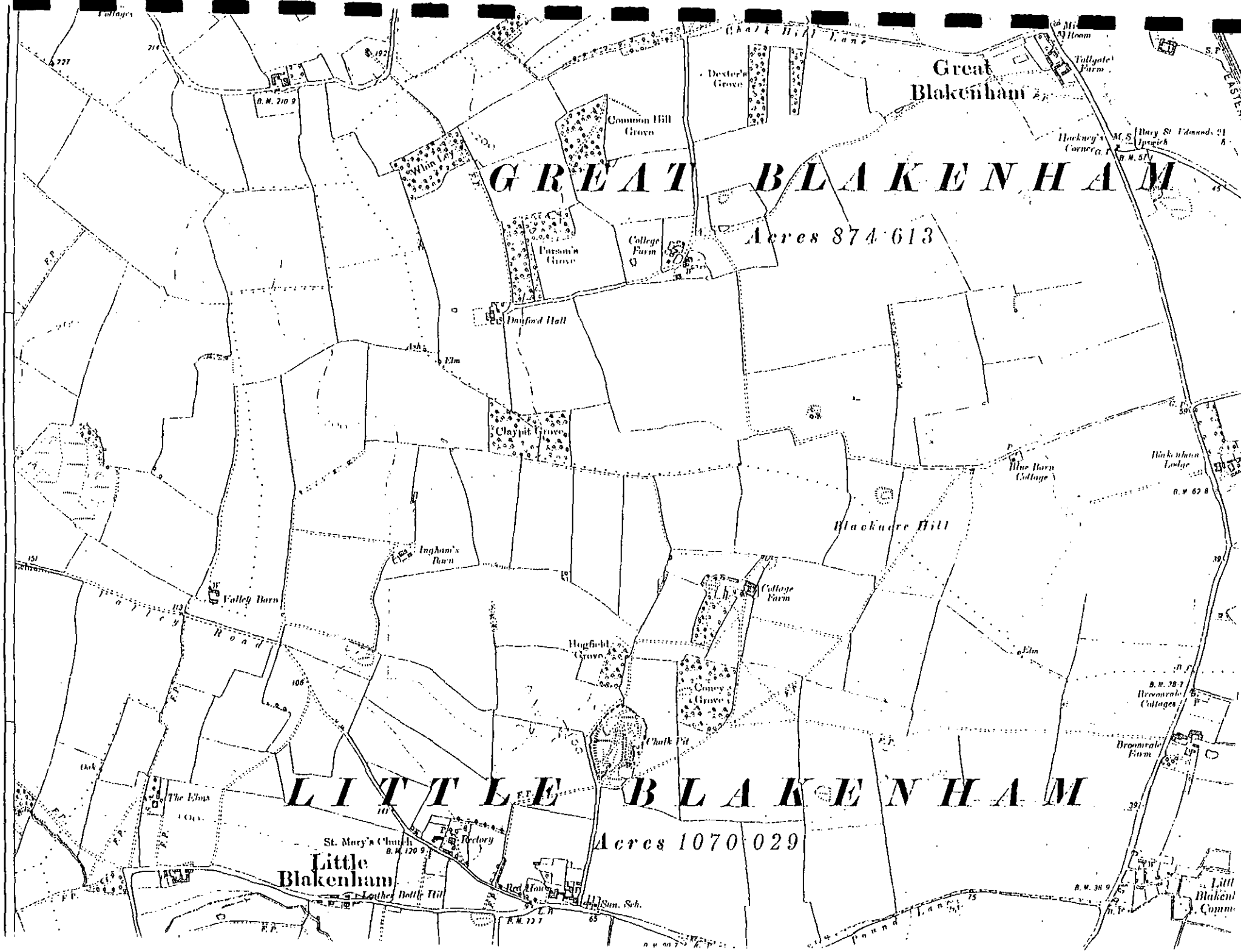
19.7

50

86

EM

S.F.



# G R E A T B L A K E N H A M

Acres 874.613

# L I T T L E B L A K E N H A M

Acres 1070.029

LXV. S. E.  
30"

NETTLESTEAD PH.

LAT. 52° 6'

SHAM PU.





Tithe Map  
Great Blakenham  
1840

red / Harry B. Gunning  
Assistant Tithe Comr



## Appendix V

## Orion Business park, Blackacre Hill, Great Blakenham (BLG017): The Finds

OP No	Pottery		Animal bone		Fired clay		Flint		Burnt Flint		Miscellaneous	Spot date
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)		
0001	1	13					1	2			Fe nail	LIA
0002	1	16										LIA
0005	37	348					2	12	1	5		IA or Neolithic
0009							1	1				
0010							1	10				
0012	1	1										IA? Preh
0013	1	5			2	8						Rom
0014	22	133	7	124			1	6				E/MC2-MC3
0015	1	6							1	6		Rom
0016	8	884	2	19	2	10						Mid-LC2
0027			1	3								
0028			1	1								
0029	2	8										Preh Rom
0030	16	271			2	4						LC3-C4
0032							1	6			Fe nail frags	
0033	2	8	1	26								Rom (early?)
0037	11	68					1	1				Mid-LC1
0038	28	293					8	99	4	47		IA or Neolithic
0039											1- peg tile; glass frag; Fe nail	
0040	1	3					1	1				Preh (intrusive)
1000											Small find - jet/shale ring	
1001											Small find - jet/shale ring	
1002											Small find - jet/shale ring	
1003											Small find - Cu alloy bracelet	
Total	132	2057	12	173	6	22	17	138	6	58		