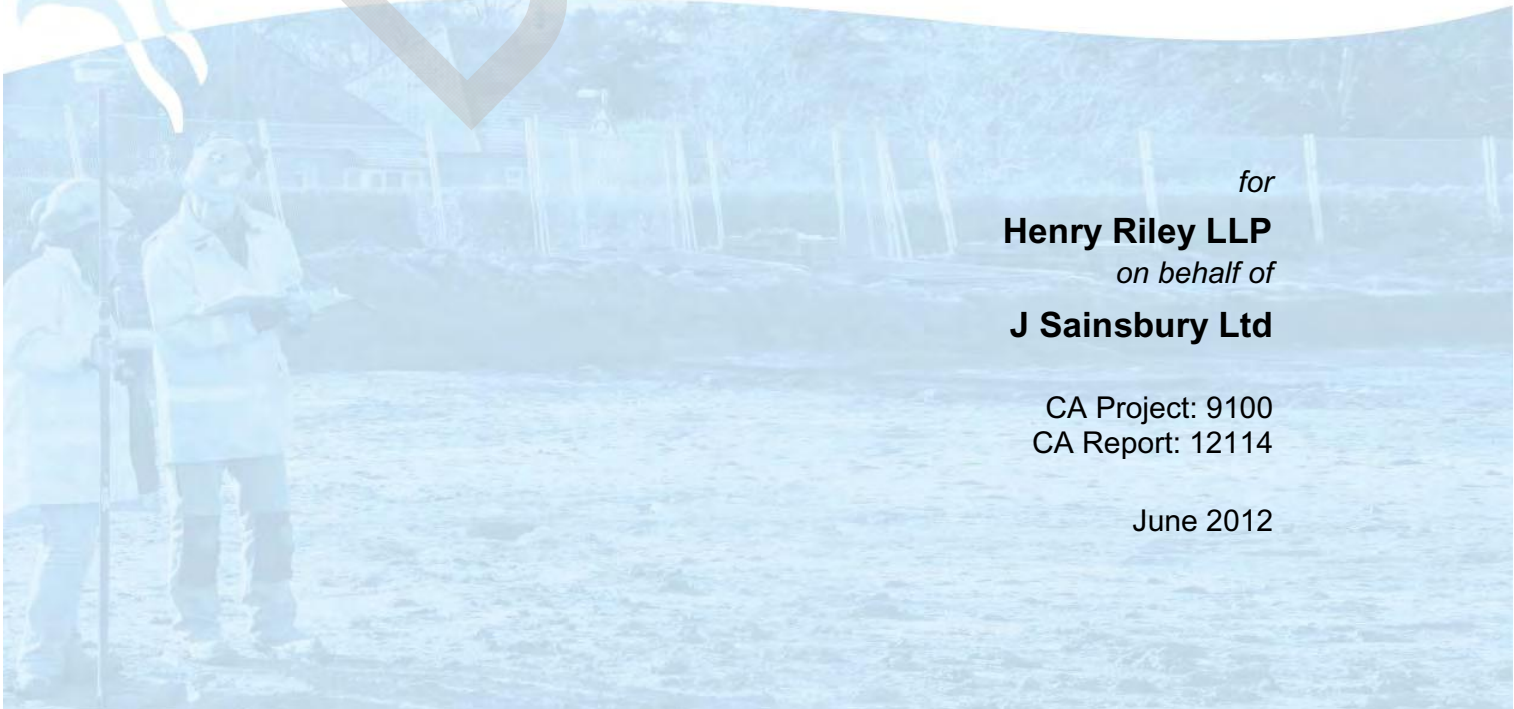


**Land at Recreation Way  
Mildenhall  
Suffolk**

Post-Excavation Assessment and  
Updated Project Design  
Vol I: Text and Figures

DRAFT



*for*  
**Henry Riley LLP**  
*on behalf of*  
**J Sainsbury Ltd**

CA Project: 9100  
CA Report: 12114

June 2012

LAND AT RECREATION WAY  
MILDENHALL  
SUFFOLK

Post-Excavation Assessment  
and  
Updated Project Design

CA Project: 9100  
CA Report: 12114

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Issue: 01	Date: 7 June 2012

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## SUMMARY

<b>Site Name:</b>	Land at Recreation Way
<b>Location:</b>	Mildenhall, Suffolk
<b>NGR:</b>	TL 7132 7447
<b>Type:</b>	Excavation
<b>Date:</b>	February – November 2010
<b>Location of archive:</b>	To be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Stores, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich
<b>Site Code:</b>	MNL 622

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February to November 2010 at the request of Henry Riley LLP (on behalf of J. Sainsbury Ltd) on land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall, Suffolk. Ten areas of excavation were undertaken across the development area, and eight areas of watching brief were subsequently monitored during the early stages of the development.

The site spanned two geographical areas, the floodplain of the River Lark to the south and higher dry ground to the north.

### *The Floodplain*

Within the floodplain, activity dating to the Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods was identified. The earliest features were a series of naturally formed alluvial and peat deposits to the south of the chalk bedrock, and an undated palaeochannel was recorded on a northeast/southwest alignment.

Evidence suggests two main phases of Roman activity in both areas of the site; an early phase centred on c.AD 70 to c.AD 150 and a late Roman phase dating to the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. On the floodplain rectilinear field or stock enclosures were re-established following episodic deposition of horizontal layers indicative of land reclamation. An inhumation burial, and a series of pits and postholes represent other aspects of the Roman activity on this low-lying area of the site.

The Roman features were sealed by localised tipping and dumped deposits of Anglo-Saxon date. Several pits and postholes of Anglo-Saxon date were revealed but did not form any coherent pattern. Evidence for a deliberate process of land reclamation and elements of a subsequent field system of medieval date were uncovered. A

sequence of alluvial and peat-like deposits marked changes in water level during this period. A decline in cultural activity was recorded from the 14th century onwards, much of the 14th-century pottery and the small assemblage of early post-medieval pottery probably arrived through manuring activity. On the floodplain there were no cut features of post-medieval date other than two parallel ditches on an east/west alignment, which correlate with boundary ditches shown on historic mapping.

### *The Dry Ground*

On the higher dry ground activity dating to the Late Bronze Age, Middle and Late Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods was identified.

The earliest feature identified was a large pit with a complex sequence of deposits contained large quantities of Late Bronze Age pottery probably dating to c. 1100-800 BC. Human skull and upper limb fragments were recovered from this pit, together with well preserved animal bone and assemblages of charred plant remains.

The excavations revealed two distinct periods of activity during the Iron Age. The Middle Iron Age was represented with a large number of features both within, and external to a rectangular double-ditched enclosure defined by two massive ditches. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from pits, ditches, gullies, postholes, tree-throws, stakeholes, burials and various silting and levelling layers. The cut features were rich in animal bone, environmental evidence and cultural artefacts, suggesting a range of activities associated with a rural settlement of some significance.

The Later Iron Age was represented by fewer discrete features suggesting a marked decline in cultural activity, but was dominated by an enormous enclosure ditch along the eastern edge of the excavation area. A number of features appeared to be associated with the ditch, or were cut into its upper fills, and included postholes, a length of palisade gully with associated postholes, a possible drying oven and a hearth. A neonate burial and an articulated dog skeleton were revealed in the fills of the ditch.

The evidence suggests the higher ground was the site of rural settlement in the Roman period, typically represented by small enclosure ditches, pits and postholes. Although no structures were immediately obvious in the pattern of the postholes, two large post pits at the north end of the site were of possible Roman date and may have marked an entrance. A range of more specific activities could be identified from

the environmental and cultural assemblages, and the remains of two drying ovens. Two inhumation burials, and a third undated but probably Roman burial, were also excavated. The dating of these features also fell into two main periods: the earlier from c.AD 70 to c.AD 150, and the later in the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

There were a number of features across the site dating to the Anglo-Saxon period which represented continuing occupation throughout this period and included a ditched enclosure, a number of short lengths of gully, and pits and postholes. A boundary ditch towards the east side of the site may mark the limit of this activity.

A major boundary ditch was established in the medieval period, running close to one of the earlier Iron Age enclosure ditches and on a similar alignment. The site was further divided by smaller boundary ditches and the truncated remains of a few curving enclosure ditches. A range of activity relating to rural settlement was suggested by a drying oven, three wells, a neonate inhumation burial and a series of large pits. The base of a large well-constructed kiln was excavated, which may have been a lime kiln. Chalk quarry pits were found at the south end of the dry ground.

Evidence for activity was much reduced on the site in the post-medieval period and only two post-medieval pits were identified within the western half of the site. Modern postholes represented fencelines relating the sites most recent former use as a social club, bowling green and car park. Five pits containing modern artefacts were also recorded and probably relate to former agricultural use.

Undated features including pits, postholes, gullies and dumped deposits were revealed within both the floodplain and on the higher ground and may date from the prehistoric period onwards.

This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation. It considers the evidence collectively in its local, regional and national context, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological evaluation and excavation was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) on land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall, Suffolk, (centred on NGR: TL 7132 7447; Fig. 1). This fieldwork followed from a desk-based assessment (DBA) undertaken in 2009 (CA 2009b). Evaluation took place between October and November 2009 (CA 2009a; Suffolk HER no. MNL 622), and excavation from February to November 2010. The archaeological works were undertaken to satisfy a condition of planning consent for the construction of a new supermarket and associated car park, as well as other associated works following the demolition of the Mildenhall Social Club (Forest Heath District Council Planning ref. F/2008/0268). The works were undertaken at the request of Henry Riley LLP (on behalf of J Sainsbury Ltd) in accordance with the documents *Brief and Specification for Excavation* (SCCAS ref:/Recreation Way, Mildenhall 2010; and Phase 2, Recreation Way, Mildenhall 2010) prepared by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service), the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and with detailed WSIs produced by CA (2009c, 2010a and 2010b) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Dr Tipper. Due to the fluid nature of the construction programme regular site 'look ahead' meetings were instigated during fieldwork to determine the extent of further archaeological works and methodologies, in consultation with the client and Dr Tipper.
- 1.2 The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008), the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1: resource assessment* (Glazebrook 1997), *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2: research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Dr Tipper, including 37 site visits throughout the fieldwork programme.



### ***Location***

- 1.3 The development area covers 4.3ha on the northern side of the valley of the River Lark, 300m to the east of the present centre of the town of Mildenhall. The site is bounded by Recreation Way to the north, Jubilee Way to the west, the municipal swimming pool to the east, and playing fields to the east and south (Fig. 2). The site slopes gently southwards towards the River Lark, from approximately 10m to 5m AOD.
- 1.4 The development site was divided into two parts. The northern part was formerly the site of Mildenhall Social Club, a two-storey 20th-century structure, a bowling green and a car park. During the archaeological fieldwork, this part was divided into a series of adjoining areas (Areas 4, 8, 9, 11–20), (Fig. 2). The southern part of the site comprising Areas 2, 3, 5–7 and 10, lay closer to the River Lark and was at a slightly lower elevation. Areas 2, 7 and 8 lay to the west of the Jubilee Centre and Areas 3, 5, 6 and 10 to the south of the Jubilee Centre and the Council Offices, on land formerly used as sports pitches.

### ***Geology and Topography***

- 1.5 The British Geological Survey (BGS 1982) records peat deposits across the southern half of the site, overlying the chalk bedrock mapped across the northern half of the site. The evaluation (CA 2009a) identified the northern limit of peat deposits. Excavation revealed a series of naturally formed alluvial and peat deposits in the southern part of the site with a possible palaeochannel recorded towards the south-eastern corner of Area 3. Excavation confirmed the presence of a chalk bedrock in the northern part of the site.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 The background information on known archaeological sites and find-spots from the area surrounding the site were researched and collated in the desk-based assessment (CA 2009b). This was undertaken by CA as a preliminary stage of archaeological investigation, and was followed by evaluation (CA 2009a). The pertinent details of the desk-based research and the results of the evaluation are summarised below.

### *Prehistoric*

- 1.7 Excavation at Bridge House Dairies, to the south-west of the site, in 2009 recorded prehistoric features (Woolhouse *et al.* 2010) (Fig. 1, 1). The earliest evidence there comprised a small Late Neolithic pit and a Bronze Age pit containing Beaker pottery. The majority of the features recorded dated to the Middle and Late Iron Age and comprised three distinct enclosure and drainage ditch systems, as well as over 100 pits and a burial. Later features were much scarcer, suggesting it fell out of use following the Roman conquest.
- 1.8 Fieldwalking has recovered Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age flint in the vicinity of the development and Palaeolithic deposits are known to the north-east. A Late Iron Age buckle and fastener was found immediately to the south of the site by a metal detectorist (Fig. 1, 2).
- 1.9 Evidence for prehistoric activity at the site (Recreation Way) was identified within the evaluation trenches. This included worked flint recovered from alluvial layers, a pit and a ditch, as well as in residual contexts. Iron Age pottery was recovered from pits and a ditch.

### *Roman (c.AD 43 – c.AD 410)*

- 1.10 Mildenhall is famous for the Mildenhall Treasure, a hoard of Late Roman silverware found approximately 2.5km to the west of the town centre in a field at West Row on the fen edge.
- 1.11 Evidence for Roman activity was found closer to the site at Recreation Way largely through metal detecting and fieldwalking. Finds include metalwork and Roman coins (Fig. 1, 3), and a cremation burial and copper brooch were recorded to the south of the site in the adjoining parish of Barton Mills.
- 1.12 Deposits dated to the Roman period were recorded within evaluation trenches. These included the uppermost layer of alluvium in Area 3, as well as a number of pits, ditches and a gully on the high ground to the north.

### *Anglo-Saxon*

- 1.13 No archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity had been recorded in the area prior to the investigations at Recreation Way. The evaluation uncovered a single sherd of pottery of possible Early or Middle Anglo-Saxon date (5th to 8th centuries AD) from a pit in Area 3.

### *Medieval*

- 1.14 The medieval centre of Mildenhall lay to the north-west of the site (Fig. 1, 4), and the cartographic evidence for the site suggests it was agricultural land on the outskirts of the town, remaining undeveloped until the 20th century.
- 1.15 The only feature of medieval date found in the evaluation trenches was a ditch in Area 3.

### *Post-medieval and modern*

- 1.16 Activity dating to the post-medieval and modern periods was found in the northern part of the site in the evaluation trenches, and included pits and a gully. The site was re-developed in the 1960s and 1970s.

### ***Preliminary Investigations***

- 1.17 As part of the preliminary investigation within the site, a Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental report on the area was compiled (STATS 2007). Boreholes were sunk into the northern and central areas of the site. These recorded a variable thickness of made ground across these areas of the site, down to 1.8m below ground level (BGL) in the northern area and 2.45m BGL in the central area of the site, indicating that these areas had been heavily landscaped, probably during the 1960s redevelopment. Selected representative window sample (prefixed 'WS') and borehole (prefixed 'BH') results are summarised in Table 1 below and illustrated on Fig. 2. The complete geotechnical report is included as a technical appendix in the DBA (CA 2009b).



Table 1: Depth BGL of selected Borehole Results (after STATS 2007)

	WS7	WS9	BH6	BH5	BH4	WS11
Made Ground	0 - 0.6m	0 - 0.2m	0 - 2.3m	0 - 2m	0 - 1.8m	0 - 2.45m
River Terrace Deposits	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.45m - 2.85m
White Chalk	0.6m -	0.2m -	2.3m -	2m -	1.8m -	2.85m -

- 1.18 The main programme of excavation was initiated to investigate the areas of archaeological interest identified in the evaluation, but as the excavation progressed the strategy evolved in response to the geotechnical requirements of the development, and the archaeological discoveries made during excavation. The outcome of this strategy was that a large area of the main development was fully excavated.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The initial evaluation enabled the following objectives to be established for the mitigation phase. These objectives were laid out in two project designs produced by CA (CA 2010a and CA 2010b) in accordance with brief specification, as follows:

- Record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- Assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural remains;
- Assess the overall presence, survival, condition and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains;
- Record any evidence of past settlement or other land use;
- Recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement or other land use that may be identified;

- Recover appropriate samples for absolute dating, particularly with regard to the dating of the peat sequences;
- Sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use.

2.2 Specific objectives for the southern part of the site (Area 3) were to:

- Elucidate the chronology of the alluvial sequences, archaeological features and peat sequences within the area through a programme of artefact recovery and scientific dating;
- Establish the date of, and further understand and characterise, the hemp 'retting' episode identified within the peat sequence in evaluation Trench 8;
- Systematically sample and analyse the bone-rich deposits across the area to gain an understanding of the activities represented, and establish whether there is any significance in their spatial distribution.

2.3 The specific objectives for these subsequent phases of work were discussed during the 'look ahead' meetings and subsequent monitoring visits.

2.4 Due consideration was made to the research issues contained within the regional research framework document for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). In particular the site had the potential to inform in the following areas identified by the research agenda:

- Iron Age agrarian economy: the site has some potential to inform on this topic through the examination of good assemblages of animal bone and charred cereal, both of which have the potential to be preserved here.
- Roman food consumption and production: the discovery of deposits containing faunal remains potentially spanning the late Iron Age to early Roman transition within the evaluation of the Phase 1 Storage tank (Area 2) is significant, giving the potential to inform on the extent to which the conquest affected patterns of production.



- Anglo-Saxon and medieval agrarian production: priority is given in the research framework to the examination of good assemblages of animal-bone and charred-cereal, both of which have the potential to be preserved here.
- Anglo-Saxon and medieval land-use changes: environmental evidence preserved within the identified sediment sequences has the potential to provide suitable samples for radiocarbon dating and palaeoenvironmental analysis (pollen and macrofossils) through sampling at very close intervals through the vertical sequence.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Following the archaeological evaluation and borehole survey (CA 2009a, Gearey 2010), parts of the development area were subject to further evaluation, watching brief or excavation as summarised in Table 2 and illustrated in Fig. 2. The evaluation and excavation areas commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision down to the first significant archaeological deposits. For the areas necessitating a watching brief, an archaeologist was present during intrusive groundwork.

Table 2

Area	Mitigation	Comments
2	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the insertion of attenuation tanks upon the archaeological resource.
3	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the car park construction upon the archaeological resource. For detailed methodology refer to the WSI (CA 2010b).
4	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the car park construction upon the archaeological resource.
5	Watching Brief	Watching brief during ground reduction for the construction of the car park.
6	Watching Brief	Watching brief during the rerouting of an electricity cable across the playing field to the south of Area 3
7	Watching Brief	Watching brief during groundwork for the construction of the car park.

Area	Mitigation	Comments
8	Watching Brief	Watching brief during the construction of a disabled access ramp at the west end of the Jubilee Centre.
9	Watching Brief	Watching brief during the insertion of a sewer pipe to the north of the Jubilee Centre.
10	Watching Brief	Watching brief during the construction of a disabled access ramp at the south-west corner of the Jubilee Centre.
11	Watching Brief	Watching brief during the construction of a disabled access ramp on the north side of the Jubilee Centre.
12	Evaluation	To investigate the potential impact of the store foundations upon the archaeological resource within the bowling green area.
13	Evaluation	To investigate the potential impact of the store foundations upon the archaeological resource within the bowling green area.
14	Watching Brief	Watching brief during the remodelling of the north-east corner of the car park.
15	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the store footprint upon the archaeological resource within the former bowling green area.
16	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the store footprint upon the archaeological resource to the west of the bowling green area.
17	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the store footprint upon the archaeological resource beneath the former social club.
17a	Watching Brief	Watching brief during the rerouting of services.
18	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the store footprint upon the archaeological resource to the west of the bowling green area.
19	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the car park upon the archaeological resource to the south of the bowling green.
20	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the car park construction upon the archaeological resource to the east of the new store. Excavation was undertaken where the proposed car park impacted upon the agreed 250mm buffer zone above the archaeological deposits.
25	Excavation	To mitigate the impact of the store footprint upon the archaeological resource beneath the former social club.

- 3.2 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of the archaeological stratigraphy where practicable. Deposits relating to funerary/ritual activity (e.g. burials) and domestic/industrial activity (e.g. pits, postholes, hearths, floor surfaces/floor make-up deposits) were investigated by

removing 100% of the deposit. Features relating to agricultural and other activities were subject to the following strategy: A 50% minimum of all pit fills was excavated (unless they fell in to the category above) along with a 10% minimum of fills from linear features, augmented by machine excavation where necessary. Slots excavated across linear features were a minimum of 1m in width, those excavated through the large enclosure ditches being stepped and widened by mechanical excavator to allow safe access the base of the ditch. Some large homogeneous deposits including the peat in Area 3 were removed by mechanical excavator. Any proposed variation to this strategy was the subject of discussion with Dr Tipper, SCCAS. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Photographs (monochrome print and digital) were taken as appropriate. All finds and samples were bagged separately and related to the context record.

- 3.3 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and sampled appropriately in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The taking of samples for paleoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic analysis from archaeological sites* (CA 2003) and advice from Cotswold Archaeology's Environmental Officer, including site visits.
- 3.4 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (CA 1995), with the exception of those deposits discussed below. The evaluation results from the floodplain area and machine stripping of Area 2 showed that a number of the widespread peat and alluvial deposits were extremely rich in large, often complete animal bones (cattle, horse, deer etc). A series of spatially separated bulk samples were taken for finds recovery. Sample size was 40L with a minimum of 10L for the thinnest deposits. Animal bone encountered during the machining of the peat between the baulks in Area 3, and during hand cleaning the alluvial deposits in Area 2 was not retained.



## 4. RESULTS

### *Chronology and preliminary dating*

4.1 Excavation revealed the remains of significant archaeological deposits, including cut features comprising pits, postholes, stakeholes, ditches, gullies, wells and a number of graves, as well as the remains of structures associated with crop-processing and a potential lime-burning kiln. The contexts fall broadly into seven provisional chronological periods;

Period 1: Late Bronze Age (c. 1100-800 BC)

Period 2: Middle and Late Iron Age (c. 350 BC – AD 50)

Period 3: Roman (1st – 4th century AD)

Period 4: Anglo-Saxon (5th – 11th century AD)

Period 5: Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD)

Period 6: Post-medieval (1540 AD – 1800 AD)

Period 7: Modern (19th – 20th century AD)

4.2 The survival of the archaeological remains were affected by ground terracing for the former bowling green and construction of the former social club, which had truncated many of the features in the northern half of the site.

4.3 The initial allocation of features to periods was based on preliminary stratigraphic analysis (by Harris matrix) and assessment of the artefacts, with pottery providing the majority of dating evidence. A refinement of the provisional phasing will be undertaken following further analysis, primarily of the ceramic assemblage.

4.4 In addition to the provisionally-dated deposits, certain features contained no artefactual material. However it was possible to assign some of these to certain periods due to their spatial relationship or similarity to other, dated deposits. Those that remain undated were assigned to a separate group (undated). Based on the assessment and provisional interpretation, the main components of each period are dealt with briefly in chronological order below.

### **Fieldwork summary**

- 4.5 The site was divided into two distinct geographical areas, the floodplain of the River Lark to the south, and higher dry ground to the north. A chalk cliff, up to 2m high, formed the northern edge of the floodplain.

### **The Floodplain (Areas 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 10)**

- 4.6 Areas 2, 3, 5 and 6 comprised areas of excavation and watching brief located towards the southern extent of the site (Fig. 2). Area 2 was fully excavated to the natural chalk substrate, whilst Area 3 was excavated to below the level of impact of development, but not necessarily to the natural substrate over the whole area. An undated peat deposit was revealed in an area of watching brief (Area 3 South) undertaken on ground reduction between the southern extent of Area 3 and Area 6. No features of archaeological interest were observed in the watching briefs undertaken on Areas 5, 6, 7 and 10.
- 4.7 Activity dating to the Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods was identified in Areas 2 and 3.
- 4.8 A chalk cliff, up to 2m high, formed the northern edge of a floodplain and lay on a north-west/south east alignment in Area 2. The edge of the same floodplain, also formed by the southern extent of the chalk substrate, was recorded throughout Area 3 on more of an east-west alignment. It was not established if this represented the same cliff as seen in Area 2, as the alluvial deposits were not fully removed in Area 3.
- 4.9 A series of naturally formed alluvial and peat deposits lay to the south of the chalk bedrock and a possible palaeo-channel 3617 was recorded towards the south-eastern corner of Area 3 on a north-east/south west alignment. Safety considerations and the rapid ingress of water prevented excavation of a complete section across the channel but it measured at least 9m in width and at least 1.8m in depth, the full extent lying beyond the edge of excavation. A column sample of humic channel deposits which were subject to geoarchaeological assessment, date to the last phases of the infilling channel. Further analysis may recover pollen from the local environment, and plant material suitable for radiocarbon dating. Two shallow undated pits 3221 and 3223 and a shallow undated gully 3219 were cut into the upper fills

of the palaeo-channel (Fig. 12). No artefactual material was recovered from any of the fills of the channel.

- 4.10 No features dating to either the Bronze Age or Iron Age periods were recorded in Areas 2 or 3. A small amount of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery was recovered from Area 3 but was residual in later features. Approximately nine discrete pits, three discrete possible postholes, two gullies and several dumped chalk deposits in Area 3 and two dumped deposits in Area 2 predated Roman features but could not be assigned to any period at this stage. Radiocarbon dating of selected deposits, (including the palaeochannel above) may establish a chronology for this activity.

***Period 3: Roman (1st–4th century AD) (Fig. 7)***

- 4.11 Evidence for Roman activity was identified in both Areas 2 and 3. Within Area 2, a large amount of animal bone dumped into an alluvial deposit and an inhumation were of Roman date. Roman activity in Area 3 comprised a series of rectilinear field or stock enclosures, pits and a series of dumped deposits indicative of land reclamation. As with other parts of the site, Roman dating evidence seemed to fall into two main phases of activity: an early phase centred on c.AD 70 to c.AD 150 and a late Roman phase dating to the late 3rd and 4th centuries. Area 3 appears to have seen more intensive activity during the Later Roman rather than Early Roman period. The plant macrofossil assemblage from the Roman features and deposits in the floodplain consisted of emmer/spelt wheat and barley with smaller quantities of oat, spelt wheat and rye with cereal chaff suggesting arable agriculture was being carried out in the area. Flax recovered from deposits in Area 2 may represent either background flora, or that flax production was taking place within the floodplain.

***Period 3.1 Early Roman (c.AD 43–150) (Fig. 7)***

- 4.11 No Roman activity within Area 2 could be assigned to the Early Roman period.

***Area 3 (Fig. 7B)***

- 4.12 Evidence for activity that could be firmly assigned to the Early Roman period was limited to Ditch 7, remnants of a possible buried soil horizon, three pits and a gully. Early Roman pottery was also recovered from the fills of Ditch 8

together with other Roman pottery that currently cannot be more precisely dated. However this ditch has been assigned to the Later Roman period on the basis of its similarity in alignment with ditches from the later period.

- 4.13 A single sherd of mid 1st to 2nd-century Roman pottery was recovered from a possible buried soil horizon 3917 located in the northern central part of Area 3. This deposit (also recorded as 3939 and 3977), only survived as a localised deposit, identified in section only, to an average of 0.13m in depth.
- 4.14 Roman pottery of late 1st to 2nd-century date was recovered from the single surviving fill 3997 of pit 3998 (not on plan), and generic Roman pottery from fill 3938 of pit 5102, both of which were truncated by Ditch 7. This ditch, located in the central northern part of Area 3, displayed a distinct north-west/south-east alignment compared to later enclosure ditches within the area, and cut soil horizon 3939. It measured up to 2m in width and 0.75m in depth becoming wider and deeper away from its south-eastern terminus. It contained a sequence of silting fills and displayed no signs of having been cleaned out or maintained. Several sherds of Early Roman pottery were recovered from fill 3782 whilst a small quantity of Roman pottery which at the moment cannot be more precisely dated was recovered from fills 3995 and 5175.
- 4.15 Pottery of late 1st and 2nd-century pottery was also recovered from the fills of two small pits 3769 and 5169 which were cut into the top of Ditch 7 perhaps suggesting the ditch went out of use during the Early Roman period.
- 4.16 Pit 3725 in the south-western part of Area 3 and gully 5142 in the central part of Area 3, which was only observed in section, were assigned to the Early Roman period on the basis of pottery recovered from their respective fills.

### ***Period 3.2 Late Roman (late 3rd and 4th centuries) (Fig. 7)***

#### ***Area 3: The Enclosures in Area 3 (Fig. 7b)***

- 4.17 A series of shallow ditches and re-cuts, seemingly indicative of frequent maintenance, formed the northern and eastern parts of Enclosure A. The enclosure ditches varied between 0.45m and 0.9m in width, became deeper to the east and the south up to a maximum of 0.4m in depth and contained silty fills with no signs of any deliberate backfilling. The western terminus of

this enclosure was located on a high point within the natural chalk substrate and it appeared that the ditch was intended to drain to the east and then to the south towards the alluvial sand and silty clay into which the eastern part of the enclosure was cut. Roman pottery of 2nd to 4th-century AD date was recovered from the fills of Enclosure A together with further Roman pottery which could not be more precisely dated. Ditch 12 was located in the south-western part of Area 3 and may have formed the south-western part of Enclosure A. If so, this would have created an enclosure approximately 30m by 20m although the southern and north-western extents of Enclosure A were not identified.

- 4.18 Enclosure A was sealed by a thick deposit 3214 (also recorded in Area 3 as 3067, 3083, 3163, 3174-6 and 3187), up to 0.6m in depth, of silty clay mixed with frequent chalk flecking. The deposit was recorded throughout the south-eastern and south-central parts of Area 3 where the natural chalk began to slope away and where the softer alluvial deposits began to appear. It was interpreted as representing a single, deliberate large scale attempt at land reclamation and levelling prior to the establishment of further enclosures. Geoarchaeological analysis of a single monolith sample through this deposit however suggested an alluvial derivation possibly relating to seasonal flooding. Pottery recovered from this deposit suggests a late 3rd or early 4th-century AD date for this deposition. Large-scale dumping was not particularly visible in the south-western part of Area 3 where several less substantial dumped deposits suggested any attempts at land reclamation were on a much smaller, piecemeal scale.
- 4.19 Approximately fourteen pits, three postholes and four small scale dumped deposits appeared to be sealed by this episode of land reclamation. Roman dating evidence was recovered from pits 3809, 3815, 3817, 3841, 3844 and 3860 and from posthole 3202.
- 4.20 Enclosure B, consisted of a wider and deeper ditch than Enclosure A, and was cut through dumped deposit 3214. The east/west aligned part of the enclosure was cut through the natural chalk and the ditch became wider and deeper, up to 2.4m wide and at least 0.6m in depth, as it turned to a north/south alignment and was cut through softer alluvial deposits. A re-cut, particularly noticeable in this part of the ditch was indicative of silting and

waterlogging within the ditch due to the wetter natural substrate. Ditch 14 appeared to represent an attempt to drain the eastern part of the enclosure ditch although this had fully silted up and did not appear to be maintained. Ditch 9 was aligned parallel to the eastern part of Enclosure B, of a similar width and depth, was cut into the same alluvial deposits as the southern part of Enclosure B and began to turn to the east suggesting it may have been the western side of the enclosure giving an enclosure size of perhaps 25m by 18m. As with Enclosure A the south-eastern and north-western extent of the enclosure was not identified.

- 4.21 Ditch 10, measured approximately 2m in width, up to 0.4m in depth and its alignment perpendicular to the eastern arm of Enclosure B suggested it represented a sub-division of the enclosure. The eastern extent of Ditch 10 was cut by a re-cut of the enclosure. A smaller enclosure or paddock to the east of Enclosure B was represented by a series of intercutting Ditches 15, 16 and 17. This appeared to be re-cut several times and appeared to be well maintained.
- 4.22 Pottery recovered from Enclosure B, Ditch 10, Ditch 14 and Ditches 15, 16 and 17 suggests a third to 4th-century AD date for this activity. A small amount of residual 2nd-century AD was also recovered from the fills of these features.
- 4.23 Evidence for further field or stock enclosures of the Roman period was revealed in the form of Ditches 8, 11, and 18 all cut into alluvial clay in the south-western part of Area 3.
- 4.24 Ditch 8 measured approximately 1m wide and 0.45m deep and broadly echoed the same north-west/south-east alignment of other Roman ditches within Area 3. It cut Ditch 12, the possible western arm of Enclosure A, but was cut by Ditch 9 the possible western extent of Enclosure B. The eastern extent of Ditch 8 curved to a north-east/south-west alignment in a similar manner to Ditches 15-17 suggesting a similarity in function. Four sherds of pottery of Roman date were recovered from the silty fills of Ditch 8.
- 4.25 Ditch 11 lay on a similar alignment to Ditch 8 and measured approximately 1m wide and up to 0.4m in depth. Its western extent cut pit 3725 whose

upper fill 3722 produced a single sherd of Early Roman pottery. The eastern extent was not definitively identified; a short length ditch 3819 which lay in close proximity to the east adjacent to an unexcavated baulk may have represented a continuation of Ditch 11 although it was somewhat narrower.

- 4.26 A shallow ditch, Ditch 18, lay towards the south-western corner of Area 3 and ran for approximately 7m on a north-west/south-east alignment. Its eastern terminus was cut into Ditch 9 whilst its western extent lay beyond the limit of excavation.

*Other Roman Evidence in Area 3 (Fig. 7b)*

- 4.27 Two intercutting curvilinear ditches, Ditches 19 and 20, were identified in the south-western part of Area 3 cut into alluvial clays. They were both approximately 0.5m in width and between 0.3m and 0.4m in depth. Both ditches contained distinctive brown, almost peat-like, fills appeared to be derived from a different depositional process to that of the other ditches within Area 3 which had infilled through gradual silting and erosion. The earlier Ditch 19 cut Ditch 8 whilst the latter Ditch 20 cut both Ditch 19 and Ditch 18. Roman pottery of 3rd to 4th-century AD date was recovered from the fills of both Ditch 19 and 20.

- 4.28 Several discrete undated pits 3200 3872, 3875 and 3877 were identified cut into the natural substrate but sealed by dumped deposit 3214 and are therefore of Roman or earlier date.

- 4.29 Pits 3577 and 3581 both produced Roman pottery and were cut into the top fills of Enclosure B and Ditch 10 respectively suggesting the enclosures possibly went out of use during the Roman period.

*Roman Activity in Area 2 (Fig. 7A)*

- 4.30 Two deposits of alluvial chalky sand (2086 and 2096) lay at the bottom of, and lipped slightly up the side of the chalk cliff in Area 2. Roman pottery of 3rd to 4th-century date was recovered from deposits together with a very large quantity of animal bone that preliminary analysis suggested was unbutchered. It is anticipated that further analysis will be elucidate the nature of the animal bone deposition from these contexts. These deposits were both

sealed by another similar alluvial deposit 2039 from which Late Saxon pottery was recovered.

- 4.31 Grave 2021 was located at the eastern extent of Area 2 at the top of the chalk cliff and contained an extended adolescent inhumation 2019. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the backfill 2018 together with a small quantity of disarticulated infant and adult human bone. Given the abraded nature of the small amount of pottery recovered, the possibility of it being residual within a later feature should not be discounted. The grave was cut into the fill of a sub-rectangular quarry pit 2028 which contained dumps of charcoal and fired clay, but no dating evidence. This pit may be Roman or earlier, and has a similar backfill to quarry pit 2095 which lay 9m to the north-west and was also undated. Further analysis of these deposits augmented with radiocarbon dating may clarify the sequence and nature of the activity in this area.
- 4.32 A small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from soil horizon, 2012 which had formed on the side of the chalk cliff over several chalky deposits formed by erosion of the chalk substrate.

***Period 4: Anglo-Saxon (5th–11th century AD) (Fig. 10)***

- 4.33 The artefactual evidence suggests continuing activity in the flood-plain area throughout the Anglo-Saxon period, although this was much less intensive than that of the Roman period. The Roman ditched enclosures seem not to have been maintained and were sealed by some dumped deposits, and a peat-like deposit which was observed in Area 2 and Area 3. The localised nature of dumped deposits dated to the Anglo-Saxon period is more suggestive of localised tipping or dumping rather than the large scale attempts at land reclamation that were seen in the Roman period. Some Saxon sherds were recovered from the uppermost fills of Roman ditches suggesting these were still visible into the Saxon period but were not necessarily being maintained. Several pits and postholes were dated to the Saxon period but did not form any coherent pattern.
- 4.34 Single sherds of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from the fill of pit 2015 in Area 2, 3549 cut into the top of late Roman Ditch 10, and pits 3775



and 3851. Additionally a single sherd was recovered from the fill of Ditch 17 together with a small quantity of Late Roman pottery (Fig.7B).

- 4.35 Within Area 2, single sherds of Middle Saxon pottery was recovered from pits 2023, 2024 and six sherds from pit 2069. Single sherds were also recovered from pits 3180 and 5223 within Area 3. A small number of sherds were residual in Late Saxon and Medieval contexts in both Area 2 and 3.
- 4.36 Twelve sherds of Late Saxon pottery were recovered from Area 2 but the only context that could be assigned to this period was an alluvial chalky layer 2039. Several contexts within Area 3 were dated to the Late Saxon period by small amounts of pottery recovered. Single sherds of Late Saxon pottery were recovered from the fill of a narrow shallow ditch, Ditch 21, which lay in the eastern part of Area 3 and was cut through earlier Roman dumped deposit 3214 and a silty deposit 3130 which overlay the southern extremity of the same deposit.
- 4.37 A series of small-scale localised dumped deposits 3166-3169, 3182, 3987, 5128-5132 and 5199-5203 in the central and western parts of Area 3 were assigned to the Saxon period on the basis of stratigraphic relationships.
- 4.38 Other dumped and silting deposits within Area 3 have been assigned either to the post-Roman period or to a broad date range encompassing the Saxon period. It is anticipated that further analysis of both the pottery and the stratigraphic record will refine the chronology of these features.

***Period 5: Medieval (11th–14th Century AD) (Fig. 10)***

- 4.39 The floodplain area was subject to more intensive and organised activity than was seen in the Saxon period. Evidence for a deliberate process of land reclamation and elements of a subsequent field system were uncovered. Some changes in water level were evidenced in Area 2 by a sequence of alluvial and peat-like deposits.
- 4.40 In keeping with the rest of the excavated areas, a large proportion of the pottery recovered from Areas 2 and 3 was later 11th to 14th-century in date. There appeared to be a decline in pottery use from the 14th century

onwards, and is likely that much of this later pottery arrived at the site during manuring activity.

*Area 2: Medieval Evidence (Fig. 10A)*

- 4.41 A single sherd of 11th to 12th-century pottery was recovered from possible floodplain alluvium deposit 2051, in Area 2. This deposit was only identified in the southern half of Area 2 where it extended approximately half way up the chalk cliff. It had formed over alluvial deposits and earlier features of Roman date and was sealed by a thin fine-grained organic mud 2050 typical of slow-moving or closed bodies of water. It was cut by an undated Ditch 25 and pit 2054. The location and alignment of Ditch 25 suggests it represented a boundary running along the edge of the chalk cliff. Both the ditch and the pit were sealed by alluvial deposits 2010 and 2009 and a further peat horizon 2008 which displayed burning on its upper surface. Pottery of 12th to 14th-century date was recovered from 2009.
- 4.42 A large chalk quarry pit, 2046, was located at the northern extent of Area 2 and 16 sherds of medieval pottery of 12th to 14th-century date were recovered from its fills 2043 and 2044.
- 4.43 The peat horizon was sealed by a series of deep dumped silty deposits (2007, 2006, 2061, 2060, 2059, 2056, 2057, 2112 and 2113) similar to those identified in Area 3. The thick nature of these deposits, particularly 2007 and 2006 suggest an attempt to raise the ground level in response to either flooding or a rise in the water level. Dating evidence from this sequence of deposits was sparse although a small quantity of mid 12th to 13th-century pottery was recovered from 2006. Two features, 2063 and 2104, identified in section only, cut into 2059 and were sealed by 2113. Pottery of 12th to 13th-century date was recovered from the fill of 2063.

*Area 3: Medieval Evidence (Fig. 10B)*

- 4.44 A possible trackway defined by Ditches 26, 27 and 28 was identified in the northern central part of Area 3 on a north-east/south-west alignment. All three ditches were narrow and shallow, especially when compared to earlier Roman ditches. The southern extent of Ditches 26 and 27 could not be identified in the southern central part of Area 3 whilst the western extent of Ditch 28 was truncated by Ditch 24. A small quantity of Roman pottery was

recovered from the Ditches 26, 27 and 28 but these are provisionally assigned to the medieval period given their distinct alignment compared to earlier Roman ditches and the fact that Ditch 26 was sealed by a medieval peat-like horizon (3052/3063/3081/3165). It is anticipated that further stratigraphic analysis will clarify this.

- 4.45 A sequence of dumped deposits (3157, 3192, 3193, 3194 and 3195) was recorded in Area 3 sealing Roman features and suggesting another program of deliberate land reclamation. These were recorded in the southern half of Area 3 at the edge of the solid natural chalk substrate. The deposits that formed this land reclamation were not as homogenous as those used for the same purpose during the Roman period but appeared to be contemporary as no ground surfaces were recorded between the dumped deposits. The only dating evidence recorded from this series of deposits was a single sherd of pottery of 12th to 13th-century date from context 3195.
- 4.46 Ditches 22 and 23 were cut into the top of these dumped deposits. Ditch 22 ran on a north/south alignment and measured an average of 0.55m in width and 0.44m in depth and contained a single silty fill from which two sherds of residual Roman pottery were recovered. Ditch 23 ran on a broad east/west alignment in the southern half of Area 3 and cut Ditch 22. It measured an average 1.4m in width and 0.23m in depth and had a shallow uneven profile. It contained a single peat-like fill which was indistinguishable from the later peat-like horizon (3052/3063/3081/3165). Given their location on the edge of the river valley these ditches are likely to have formed part of a pastoral field system.
- 4.47 A horizon of humic silty clay 3052/3063/3081/3165 was recorded in the eastern and central parts of Area 3 where it sealed the medieval deposits described above and appeared to infill Ditch 23. Geoarchaeological assessment suggests this deposit represents a wet low-lying floodplain with pools of standing water fed by overbank flooding events. It was also identified in the higher north-central and north-east parts of Area 3. A small quantity of 12th to 13th-century pottery came from deposits 3052 and 3081.
- 4.48 Ditch 24 lay on an east/west alignment along the edge of the solid natural chalk substrate. A stratigraphic relationship between the ditch and the soil

horizon 3052/3063/3081/3165 was not recognized in evaluation Trench 9 but the ditch is interpreted as being the later as the horizon was not identified in section to the north of the evaluation trench. Pottery of 13th-century date was recovered from the fill of Ditch 24 which may have represented a re-alignment of the field system in response to rising water levels and appears to have been re-cut and extended to the east. One fill of this ditch, 3943 contained a large amount of charcoal and burnt clay fragments and appeared to derive from deliberate dumping of waste material from some form of industrial processing. The western extent of this ditch had been cut through a series of deposits which were undated due to their limited exposure and which had been dumped along the edge of the natural chalk substrate. Within the north-west part of Area 3, this edge was more pronounced than in the central and eastern parts of the area.

- 4.49 A further series of dumped deposits, 3047, 3048, 3049, 3050, 3164, 3181, 3190, and 3191 were recorded in the central part of Area 3 sealing the soil horizon 3052/3063/3081/3165. These represented a deliberate effort to raise the ground level perhaps again in response to changing water levels. The limited dating evidence recovered from these deposits was a single sherd of 12th to 13th-century pottery recovered from 3190 and it could not be established if this was residual in a later episode of dumping.

***Period 6: Post-medieval (16th to 19th century AD) (Fig. 12)***

- 4.50 Ditch 29 (2005) in Area 2 lay on east/west alignment and was cut through dumped deposits outlined in the above paragraph. Ditch 30 was recorded in section only in Area 3, on an alignment parallel to Ditch 29, and was also cut through a series of dumped deposits. The location and alignment of these two ditches may correlate with that of two ditches shown on 19th and 20th-century mapping (CA 2009).

***Undated Features (Fig. 12)***

- 4.51 Approximately seventeen undated features, the majority comprising discrete pits and postholes, were identified in the northern half of Area 2 cut into the natural chalk substrate and sealed by modern levelling deposits. The grave 2021 was cut into the fill of a sub-rectangular quarry pit 2028 which contained dumps of charcoal and fired clay, but no dating evidence. This pit may be Roman or earlier. Although undated, pit 2095 which lay 9m to the

north-west contained similar dumped deposits. Pit 2095 was sub-rectangular in plan and it measured 3.7m in length, 1.5m in width and up to 1.22m in depth with steep sides and a largely flat base but with possible steps cut into the eastern side. Several shallow postholes situated along particularly the south edge of the pit and may represent structural remnants. The pit contained several deliberately dumped interleaved chalk and charcoal deposits but there was no sign of any *in situ* burning on the sides of the pit. A large amount of fired clay or daub fragments were recovered from one of the fills 2091. The daub preserved large stake impressions and was distinctively high-fired, and the high quantity of fragments would suggest deposition from a nearby source. It is anticipated that processing of environmental samples retrieved from the fills of the pit will provide further information about its function. Absolute dating may be obtained from radiocarbon dating.

- 4.52 Shallow pits 3808, 3836, 3838 and 3843 all in the north-eastern part of Area 3, and posthole 5115 and pit 3885 in the central part of Area 3 were all cut into the natural chalk and sealed by modern topsoil.
- 4.53 A peat deposit 3870 (not illustrated), measuring at least 0.2m in depth was revealed within Area 3 South during a watching brief. No artefactual material was recovered although a sample was taken of organic material that was revealed within the peat.

#### ***The Dry Ground (Areas 4, 8, 9, 11–20 and 25)***

- 4.54 Areas 4, 8, 9, 11–20 and 25 constitute the higher dry ground to the north of the River Lark floodplain (Fig. 2). All areas were fully excavated to the natural chalk substrate, either by archaeological excavation, or archaeologically monitored during watching brief.

#### ***Period 1: Bronze Age (c. 1100–800 BC) (Figs 3 and 4)***

- 4.55 A large pit 20238, measuring 2.8m in diameter and 2.05m in depth was identified towards the south-eastern extent of Area 20 immediately adjacent to Ditch 6 (Fig. 4). This contained a complex sequence of deposits derived from erosion and weathering of the pit sides, refuse deposition, and deliberate chalk dumps (Fig. 13). A large quantity of Late Bronze Age pottery provisionally dated to c. 1100–800 BC was recovered from the pit fills,

particularly those from the upper half of the pit. Human skull and upper limb fragments were recovered from a deliberately dumped deposit 20338 within the pit. A large quantity of animal bone was recovered from fills throughout the pit consisting of cattle, caprovine and wild game. Abundant plant macrofossils consisting of spelt and emmer/spelt wheat and barley together with smaller quantities of oat grains were recovered from the fills of the pit.

- 4.56 Three sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the single fill of a small pit 20251 approximately 2.5m to the north-west of pit 20238 (Fig. 4). Bronze Age pottery was also recovered from approximately 16 other contexts but is interpreted as being residual in later features.

***Period 2: Iron Age (c. 600 BC–AD 50) (Figs 3 and 4)***

- 4.57 The artefact dating suggests the main period of activity centred on the Middle Iron Age (300–50BC/50AD). Only eight sherds of probable Early Iron Age pottery were identified in the assemblage; most, or all of which was probably residual. There were a large number of features dating to the Middle Iron Age both within, and external to two massive ditches which appear to define a rectangular double-ditched enclosure. The Later Iron Age is represented by fewer discreet features albeit generally of similar form and function to those of the Middle Iron Age, and an enormous enclosure ditch along the eastern edge of the excavation area. This may suggest a likely shifting of settlement focus away from the double ditched enclosure and potentially, beyond the site limits to the east. However it must be recognised that the Middle and Late Iron Age are difficult to distinguish on ceramic grounds (see Later Prehistoric Pottery, Appendix 2). No features dating to the Iron Age period were recorded in the river floodplain (Areas 2 and 3).

- 4.58 The plant macrofossil assemblage from the Iron Age features was abundant, and informative of diet, economy, and the local environment. The cereal assemblage consisted of spelt and emmer/spelt wheat grains and cereal chaff with smaller quantities of oat, barley and rye, and suggests cereal processing activities were taking place in the area. The animal bone assemblage reflects a breeding and herding economy focussed on meat production.

***Period 2.1: Middle Iron Age (c. 300 BC–50 BC/AD 50) (Figs 3 and 4)***

- 4.59 Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from contexts relating to pits, ditches, gullies, postholes, tree-throws, stakeholes, burials and various silting and levelling layers. A number of stratigraphically later features also contained residual Middle Iron Age pottery. Major pottery assemblages were recovered from seven of the pits (15234, 16063, 19119, 19215, 20153, 21005 and 21275). The pottery assemblage was dominated by a range of slack-shouldered jars, globular bowls, and a series of tub-shaped vessels.
- 4.60 Evidence for local craft production was recovered from a number of the Middle Iron Age features including crucible and mould fragments recovered from pits 15129 and 21786 suggesting the handling and casting of copper alloy, Tri-perforated clay weights from pits 16063 and 19114, and a highly decorated weaving comb from pit 19215 suggesting the manufacture of textiles.

*Enclosure C (Ditches 1 and 5) (Figs 3 and 4)*

- 4.61 The excavations identified two massive ditches, artefactually dated to the Middle Iron Age period. Ditches 1 and 5 contained Middle Iron Age pottery, were broadly parallel, and appeared to define the east and north sides of a substantial rectangular enclosure (Enclosure C). No evidence survived for a western or southern boundary to the enclosure. The western boundary may lie beyond the limit of site to the west, but it is likely that the enclosure was open to the south or it was bounded by the former course of the River Lark (canalised in the 18th century).
- 4.62 The innermost of the ditches, Ditch 1 was aligned north/south, turning through 90 degrees to an east/west alignment at the northern extent of the site and measured up to 8m wide and 3.26m deep. The southern terminus of the ditch was identified in Area 4 approximately 15m from the river valley edge. The ditch contained a complex sequence of fills provisionally interpreted as representing multiple periods of natural silting, deliberate backfilling and bank collapse (Fig. 13). A number of the infill deposits along the northern portion of the ditch suggest the deliberate pushing in of bank material from the inside of the enclosure, followed by periods of turf formation. This may indicate remodelling or decommissioning of the enclosure. The paucity of contemporary features immediately adjacent to the inside edge of the ditch appears to confirm the presence of an interior bank.

- 4.63 Pottery of Middle Iron Age date was predominantly recovered from the middle and upper fills of Ditch 1, but was also recovered from a lower ditch fill 17536 approximately 0.6m from the base of the feature. Post-medieval pottery dating to the 16th century to 18th century was recovered from upper ditch fills suggesting the feature was still visible as a hollow in the landscape for a considerable time after it had fallen into disuse.
- 4.64 Eleven metres to the east of Ditch 1, Ditch 5 was similarly aligned north/south and equidistant from Ditch 1, turning slightly to the north-west at its northern visible extent (presumably to follow the same course as Ditch 1) and measured up to 6.75m wide and 2.9m deep. The southern limit of the ditch was not ascertained as it was outside the area of excavation. Ditch 404 revealed in evaluation Trench 4 is potentially a continuation of Ditch 5, however watching brief Area 11 to the south showed no sign of the ditch, and therefore its relationship with the river valley edge is unknown, the ditch presumably having either terminated or diverted by this point. Ditch 5 also contained a complex sequence of fills, again interpreted as representing multiple periods of natural silting, deliberate backfilling and bank collapse (Fig. 13). Further analysis of the fill deposits within Ditches 1 and 5 will be required to determine the position of related banks and the sequence and processes involved in their infilling.
- 4.65 Pottery of Middle Iron Age date was recovered from predominantly the middle and upper fills of Ditch 5. However the southernmost intervention through the ditch revealed Middle Iron Age pottery in a lower ditch fill 21180 approximately 0.3m from the base of the feature. Roman, medieval and residual Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from upper ditch fills suggesting the feature was still visible in the landscape after it had fallen into disuse.

*Features within the Middle Iron Age enclosure (Enclosure C) (Figs 3 and 4)*

- 4.66 Twenty-seven pits and five postholes of Middle Iron Age date were revealed within the area enclosed by Ditch 1.
- 4.67 The pits showed a range of sizes between 0.75m and 3.75m in width, with the larger pits also varying from sub rectangular to circular in shape, whilst



the smaller pits were generally circular. Many of the pits had steep or undercut sides, and flat or slightly concave bases. The vast majority of the pit fills were similar, often containing domestic debris. Their form would indicate they probably functioned initially as storage pits with their fills suggesting a final use for rubbish disposal. The larger pits were concentrated along the eastern margin of the site with a number of smaller pits around the periphery of the enclosure. Some of the larger pits, 16063 and 19215 contained major pottery assemblages. A number of additional pits were recorded within the enclosure and although artefactually sterile were of a similar size and form and could be contemporary.

- 4.68 Five postholes provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age period were revealed within the enclosure. Spatially separated, no obvious structures could be discerned, however a further 194 undated postholes were recorded within the enclosure and further analysis of the form and spatial relationships between postholes could potentially permit the identification of discreet structures.

*Features external to Enclosure C (Fig. 4)*

- 4.69 A number of features provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age lay between Ditches 1 and 5 and outside, to the east of Enclosure C. These consisted of 36 pits, 4 postholes, 7 stakeholes and 2 short segments of gully. Although provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age, a number of the pits and a gully cut through the upper fills of Ditch 5 and could potentially be later features containing residual Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 4.70 Of the 36 pits provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age, the vast majority were broadly similar in their size, shape and content to those within Enclosure C and likewise probably functioned initially as storage pits with a final use for rubbish disposal. Major pottery assemblages were recovered from three of the pits 20153, 21005 and 21275. Provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age based on pottery recovered from their fills, three pits 20513, 20927 and 21872 cut the upper fills of Ditch 5 and could potentially be of later date.
- 4.71 The sub-rectangular pit 20153 was typical of the form and had similar fills to many of the larger Middle Iron Age pits, although overall dimensions

between pits varied. The pit was sub rectangular in shape, had vertical sides, showed some degree of undercutting towards the flat base, measured 4.2m in length, 2.05m in width, and 1.05m deep. Redeposited chalk backfill 20730 was revealed in the base of the pit measuring up to 0.4m thick and appeared to be tipped in from the southern end. This was overlain by a 0.25m thick dump deposit 20155 containing moderate amounts of pottery, animal bone, daub, charcoal and patches of grey ash and probably represents domestic waste, again tipped in from the southern end of the pit. Deposit 20155 was sealed by a dump of redeposited chalk 20154 and probably represents the final infilling.

- 4.72 Pit 21389 was atypical of the of the Middle Iron Age pits due to its very large size. Located adjacent to the eastern side of Ditch 5, it was sub rectangular in shape and measured 7.5m in length, 3.75m in width and 1.05m deep with steep sloping sides to a flat base. The form and content of the numerous fills suggest successive dumping episodes of domestic debris, many deposits containing Middle Iron Age pottery in addition to animal bone and charcoal. The upper tertiary fills contained both Anglo-Saxon and Romano-British pottery in addition to Middle Iron Age material suggesting the pit was visible in the landscape as a hollow for some considerable time after its initial use.
- 4.73 Considerably fewer postholes and stakeholes, both Middle Iron Age and undated were revealed on the exterior of the enclosure suggesting the presence of fewer structures. This appears to indicate more structures were present within the interior of the enclosure, perhaps suggesting a focus of settlement activity. No conclusive evidence of house structures, drip gullies etc was recorded, however this may be due to the level of truncation, only the deeper features including the pits surviving.
- 4.74 Two short lengths of gully were identified to the east of Ditch 5. Gully 20877 was orientated north-west/south-east, measured 0.8m in length, 0.4 in width, 0.14m in depth and was truncated by Middle Iron Age pit 20157 to the north, and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south. Interpreted as a possible gully or pit, 21375 was orientated north/south, measured 1m in length, 0.5m in width, and 0.38m in depth and was truncated by Middle Iron Age pit 21328 to the north and pits 21377 and 21322 to the west. No additional ditches or gullies of Middle Iron Age date were identified,

suggesting little or no further land sub-division other than that defined by the enclosures.

*The Middle Iron Age burials (Fig. 4)*

- 4.75 A number of inhumation burials and quantities of disarticulated human bone were cut into and contained within the fills of Ditch 5, and have been provisionally dated to the Middle Iron Age. However a number of burials were discovered through a watching brief during the removal of the remaining ditch fill, and are therefore less secure stratigraphically. Additionally a number of Romano-British, medieval and undated burials were located in the vicinity of Ditch 5.
- 4.76 Grave 21305 cut through lower ditch fill 21180 within Ditch 5 and contained a partial articulated skeleton SK21386. Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone that may represent food offerings was recovered from the backfill 21306. The grave was subsequently sealed by further ditch fills, some containing Middle Iron Age pottery. To the north of 21305, grave 21922 contained a partly complete adult skeleton SK 21921 and was identified cut into the middle fills of Ditch 5 during the watching brief. Disarticulated human bone was also recovered from tertiary ditch fills 20789, 20792, 20840, 21003, 21091 and 21237 and could date from the Middle Iron Age onwards.

***Period 2.2: Late Iron Age (c. 50 BC–AD 50) (Fig. 3 and 4)***

- 4.77 The site showed a marked decline in cultural activity during the Late Iron Age. Ditch 6 contained Late Iron Age pottery within two middle fills, residual Middle Iron Age and Romano-British material coming from the upper tertiary fills. Two burials were also encountered cut into the middle and lower ditch fills. Two pits 18029 and 20826, on the higher dry ground of the northern part of the site also contained material provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age. In addition a small quantity of residual Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the upper tertiary fills of enclosure Ditch 1.
- 4.78 The Late Iron Age pottery assemblage consists of both wheel-thrown and handmade forms. The handmade pottery in this group may date anywhere between the late first century BC and mid first century AD - potentially overlapping in date with some of the Middle Iron Age-type wares and may account for where the stratigraphic sequence shows features containing

Middle Iron Age pottery cutting Late Iron Age features (although the Middle Iron Age pottery could be residual). By contrast, the wheel-made sherds probably date from the early to mid first century AD, and are distinct from the Middle Iron Age assemblage. During further analysis some of the provisional dates of features may be refined.

*Ditch 6 (Figs 3, 4, 13 and 16)*

- 4.79 Ditch 6 was substantially larger than the two Middle Iron Age Ditches 1 and 5 to the west, measured up to 11.5m wide and 4m deep, curved somewhat to the east, and showed a slightly different orientation, converging on Ditch 5 toward the northern limit of the site. Although similar in form with a 'V' shaped profile, this difference in alignment, size and the presence of Late Iron Age pottery predominantly in the middle and upper fills indicates that this Ditch 6 potentially formed a separate, later phase of enclosure. Ditch 6 contained a complex sequence of fills, again interpreted as representing multiple periods of natural silting, deliberate backfilling and bank collapse (Fig. 13). Further analysis of the fill deposits within Ditch 6 will be required to determine the position of related banks and the sequence and processes involved in its infilling.
- 4.80 The paucity of contemporary features may suggest Ditch 6 was enclosing an area beyond the eastern limits of the site. Although not excavated and therefore undated, a substantial linear feature on a similar alignment was revealed during the watching brief in Area 14 approximately 12m to the east of Ditch 6, and may be related.
- 4.81 A number of features appeared to be associated with Ditch 6 or were cut into its upper fills including postholes, a potential short length of palisade gully with associated postholes, a possible corn dryer and a hearth. Although the archaeomagnetic dating indicates the hearth may be of Middle Iron Age date (Appendix 21), it stratigraphically post dates the middle and upper ditch fills which have been shown to contain Late Iron Age pottery in separate interventions to the south. This suggests a Late Iron Age or later date is more likely for its construction and firing. However further analyses may refine the dating for these features.

- 4.82 Cut into the upper fills of Ditch 6, hearth 22058 consisted of a circular patch of fired reddish-orange clay 2.5m in diameter surrounded by a ring of heat-affected stones consisting of rounded flint and pink quartzite pebbles (Fig. 17). At least one phase of rebuilding 22056 was identified suggesting the feature was in use for an extended period. Archaeomagnetic dating of the fired clay lining gave an estimated 95% confidence interval for the firing of the feature as 480-130 BC. However a single cast-bronze coin recovered from deposit 22039 suggests a mid to late first-century date range for the rebuilding phase 22056.
- 4.83 Gully 21974 measured 2.75m in length and has been interpreted as a possible palisade trench. A number of postholes were cut into the base of the gully, with gully 21958 and two further postholes interpreted as a later repair or remodelling. Orientated north-north-west/south-south-east, the palisade was located immediately adjacent to the western edge of Ditch 6 at the northern end of the site, and could potentially be related to two other short undated lengths of gully 21837 and 21677, which were on the same alignment to the west and south although these did not show evidence of associated postholes.
- 4.84 To the northwest of the hearth and also cutting through the upper fills of Ditch 6, a corn dryer, 21830 consisted of a rectangular pit orientated east/west, lined with a burnt clay deposit, over which a backfill containing charcoal waste had been deposited. The eastern extent of the feature was ill defined and although the burnt clay appeared very similar to that of the hearth 22058 and it is suspected the two features are related, it was not possible to ascertain their stratigraphic relationship.

*The pits (Fig. 3 and 4)*

- 4.85 Located within the enclosure formed by Ditch 1, pit 18029 cut an earlier Middle Iron Age pit 18031, and was subsequently cut by a medieval pit 18068. Similar in form to other Middle Iron Age pits in the vicinity, it probably also functioned as a storage pit, with a final use for rubbish disposal.
- 4.86 Pit 20826 was located within what has been interpreted as a hollow in the natural chalk between Ditches 1 and 5, and contained both Late Iron Age and residual Middle Iron Age pottery. The pit showed a different form to the

Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age storage/rubbish pits identified elsewhere, being irregular in form, wide and shallow suggesting a differing and as yet undefined function. Stratigraphically a number of pits and a gully containing Middle Iron Age pottery in their fills (presumably residual) post dated pit 20826.

#### *The Late Iron Age burials*

- 4.87 A neonate burial SK 22028 was revealed in the fills of Ditch 6, and provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age. The skeleton was complete and articulated, contained within lower ditch fill 22030 (Fig. 13). No evidence of a grave cut was revealed suggesting the skeleton had been placed into the ditch rather than buried. A complete and articulated dog skeleton SK 22027 was also revealed within the middle fills of Ditch 6.

#### **Period 3: Roman (1st–4th century AD) (Figs 5 and 6)**

- 4.88 Evidence for Roman activity on the dry ground comprised two drying ovens, elements of an agricultural enclosure, at least two inhumation burials, many discrete pits and postholes the majority of which did not form a coherent pattern, and Roman pottery recovered from the upper fills of Ditches 1, 5 and 6. Two large post pits in Area 17 were of possible Roman date. The majority of Roman dating evidence suggested two main phases of activity; an early phase centred on c.AD 70 to c.AD 150 and a late Roman phase dating to the late 3rd and 4th centuries.
- 4.89 The plant macrofossil assemblage recovered from the Roman features and deposits was dominated by emmer/spelt wheat and barley with smaller quantities of oat, spelt wheat and rye with cereal chaff suggesting arable agriculture and crop processing was being carried out. The animal bone assemblage suggested a focus on bi-products such as cows' milk and wool.

#### *The drying ovens (Fig. 5)*

- 4.90 A drying oven 17048, possibly 'T' shaped, was identified in the north-eastern corner of Area 17, cut into the upper fills of Ditch 1. This had a truncated rectangular flue leading to the shallow remnants of the drying area. Large fragments of fired clay in the backfill suggested collapse or demolition of the superstructure, although no signs of fuel or processing residue were

encountered. Pottery recovered from the backfill deposits suggested a 2nd-century AD date.

- 4.91 A second drying oven 17028, approximately 10m to the south-east of 17048, had a rectangular flue leading to a square pit. Both the flue and the pit contained a clay fill with fragments of burnt clay that may have formed a thick lining, although only limited scorching was visible. Chalk lumps recovered from the top of this deposit seemed to represent tertiary backfill rather than being structural. Two postholes 17030 and 17441 revealed in the southwest and southeast corners respectively of the square pit appear to have been inserted prior to the pit being cut, and probably represent the above-ground structure of the corn dryer. A second phase of drying oven, 17067, was rebuilt on the same footprint as 17028. It contained a clay lining which was sealed by a compacted chalky surface 17346. A small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from the upper backfill deposits of the second phase of oven. Two shallow intercutting pits, 17015 and 17017, were located approximately halfway between drying ovens 17028 and 17048. The shape in plan of these two pits was similar to that of the drying ovens although no signs of any clay lining or scorching were identified. Three sherds of late 1st to 2nd-century pottery recovered from the fills of nearby pit 17133 suggest it may have been contemporary with the drying ovens.

*Continued use of Middle Iron Age Enclosure C*

- 4.92 Several sherds of 1st to 2nd-century AD Roman pottery were recovered from the upper fills of Ditch 1 where it was examined in Area 4. However several other sherds of Roman pottery recovered from these fills could not be more precisely dated and could be later. A small quantity of Roman pottery recovered from the upper fills of Ditch 5 also could not be more precisely dated. Further analysis may indicate if the upper ditch fills from which Roman pottery was recovered, represented deliberate backfill, natural silting or bank collapse.

*The postpits (Figs 5 and 14)*

- 4.93 Two large postpits 17019 and 17041, very similar in character, were located approximately 4m apart from each other in the north-eastern corner of Area 17. They both measured approximately 1.5m in diameter, 1.4m in depth and contained a substantial amount of chalk packing. Dating evidence recovered

from these features was slightly ambiguous. Late 3rd to 4th-century Roman pottery was recovered from the packing of 17019, whilst both Roman and early Saxon pottery was recovered from the final fill of the postpipe. Late Saxon pottery was recovered from the postpipe of 17041. Both postpipes were cylindrical with vertical sides measuring 0.52m and 0.62m in diameter respectively, and suggest the posts had rotted in situ. No other post pits of similar size and character were identified on site. Their very distinct size compared to other postholes in the vicinity and relative distance apart suggested they formed an entrance way. A large postpit 17244, located at the southern extent of Area 17, had a similar profile and fills to 17019 and 17041, but was comparatively shallower, measuring 0.7m in depth. Several sherds of Roman pottery, some of late 3rd to 4th-century date were recovered from the fills of this postpit.

#### *Enclosure E and associated features (Figs 5 and 6)*

- 4.94 Elements of a rectilinear enclosure, Enclosure E were identified in Areas 15, 17 and 20 and was formed by shallow ditches Ditches 31, 32 and 33. The disjointed/non-continuous nature of the enclosure can be explained by modern truncation and narrow unexcavated strips between areas of excavation. Dating evidence recovered from the fills of Enclosure E suggest a 2nd to 3rd-century Roman date. Several short lengths of ditch sub-divided the interior of the enclosure into small paddocks. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of posthole 17179, but otherwise discrete pits and postholes on the interior of the enclosure were undated, and did not appear to form any coherent pattern. The lack of industrial or more pronounced structural features within the enclosure are suggest an agricultural use for the enclosure. A well preserved neonatal burial 20979, was recovered from truncated pit 20977, in the north-east corner of the enclosure (Fig. 6) and although artefactually undated may be contemporary with this phase of activity.

#### *The Roman burials (Fig. 6)*

- 4.95 An almost complete male skeleton, SK21080, was identified cut into the upper fills of Ditch 5 (Fig. 18). This was located in a possible hollow formed by Ditch 5, a dip in the natural chalk, and many intercutting pits, the majority of which were very difficult to distinguish in plan or section. A quantity of dis-



articulated human bone was recovered from the fills of this hollow, which appeared to represent an accumulation of topsoil.

- 4.96 A grave cut 20813 approximately 6m to the north-west of skeleton SK21080, adjacent to the western side of Ditch 5, contained the complete skeleton of an older child, SK20812. The grave cut 20809 of a neonate inhumation of medieval date subsequently truncated the upper fill of grave 20813.

*Other Roman features (Figs 5 and 6)*

- 4.97 Roman pottery was recovered from approximately six other pits in Area 20. These did not form any identifiable structures or patterns. The majority of these pits produced seven or less sherds, although 22 sherds were recovered from the fill of pit 20668.
- 4.98 A possible structure measuring approximately 1m square, formed by postholes 20342, 20344, 20346 and 20348 was identified at the southern extent of Area 20, and could potentially represent a granary store or other small agricultural structure (Fig. 6). A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of posthole 20342.
- 4.99 Roman pottery was recovered from approximately nine other discrete pits and possible postholes within Area 17. These did not form any identifiable structures or patterns. They were located within a concentration of other similar undated features within Area 17.
- 4.100 Several shallow intercutting pits (4067, 4068 and 4070) identified at the southern extent of Area 4, were interpreted as chalk extraction pits. A similar pit 2046 to the south, on the edge of the chalk cliff probably performed a similar function but was later in date containing 12th to 13th-century AD pottery. Two additional sub-rectangular quarry pits 2028 and 2095, containing dumps of charcoal and fired clay were revealed to the south, and are discussed in the Floodplain section above.

***Period 4: Anglo-Saxon (5th–11th century AD) (Figs 8 and 9)***

- 4.101 The artefact dating suggests continuous cultural activity throughout the early Anglo-Saxon/medieval period. Activity from this period was identified both

within the river floodplain, and on the higher dry ground to the north and consisted of possible land boundary ditches, a ditched enclosure (Enclosure D), and a number of short lengths of gully, pits and postholes. Provisional analysis suggests smaller percentage of these features dated to the early Anglo-Saxon (5th–7th century AD) than to the middle and late Anglo-Saxon periods (8th–11th century AD). Full analysis will permit the provisional dates of features to be refined, allowing differentiation of features of early, mid and late Anglo-Saxon date. For the purposes of this assessment no differentiation between features of Early, Middle and Late Saxon date has been made.

- 4.102 The excavations identified 17 pits, 5 ditches, 13 postholes and 4 gullies on the higher dry ground of the northern part of the site provisionally dated to between the 5th and 11th centuries AD.
- 4.103 Ditch 4 was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and except for two discreet postholes to the east appeared to define the eastern limit of the early medieval/Anglo-Saxon cultural activity. Measuring in excess of 56m in length, up to 1.08m in width, and 0.68m deep, Ditch 4 terminated toward the northern end of the site and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south. A number of cuts through the northern portion of the ditch showed part of the ditch may have contained a palisade or fence; the 'V' shaped profile showed some evidence of packing either side of a central vertical slot.
- 4.104 To the west of Ditch 4 a number of gullies and ditches potentially indicated further land sub-division of early medieval/Anglo-Saxon date. However the majority of these were heavily truncated with only short segments surviving. The east and south sides of a rectangular enclosure did survive relatively intact. Enclosure ditch D was aligned broadly north-south/east-west, measured on average 0.95m in width and 0.39m in depth, and enclosed an area measuring 12m north/south and at least 3.5m east/west. Ditch 20745/20786 on an east/west alignment cut the southern part of the enclosure and was subsequently cut by early medieval/Anglo-Saxon pit 20958.
- 4.105 A number of pits of varying size were identified in proximity to the ditches and gullies and have been interpreted as probable rubbish pits. Further pits

were recorded towards the western and northern site limits. No clear evidence of land-use areas could be ascertained from the scant evidence at this stage.

- 4.106 A few postholes contained pottery of early medieval/Anglo-Saxon date but no conclusive evidence of house structures was recorded; however this may be due to the level of truncation, only the deeper features including the pits surviving. Further undated postholes were recorded within the vicinity, and further analysis of the form and spatial relationships between postholes could potentially permit the identification of discreet structures.

***Period 5: medieval (1066–1539) (Figs 8 and 9)***

- 4.107 Activity from this period was identified both within the river floodplain and on the higher dry ground. Those on the higher ground consisted of a major boundary ditch (Ditch 2), a field boundary ditch (Ditch 3) aligned parallel to this, a probable kiln, a drying oven, three wells, several agricultural enclosures formed by shallow ditches, a neonate inhumation burial of probable medieval date, many pits and an area of chalk extraction.

- 4.108 The artefact dating suggests cultural activity continued from the Late Saxon period through to the medieval period. A large proportion of the assemblage comprised pottery of later 11th to 14th-century date. This includes both the handmade wares classified as 'early medieval' and the wheel-made greywares classified as 'medieval'; the two methods of manufacture overlapped during the 12th–13th centuries. There was evidently a decline in pottery use from the 14th century onwards, and whilst some of the late medieval wares could be contemporary with the very latest occupation on the site it is more likely that much of this pottery arrived at the site during manuring activity.

***Ditch 2 (Fig. 8)***

- 4.109 Ditch 2 was identified in Areas 15 and 17 on a slightly different north-north-east/south-south-west alignment to Iron Age Ditches 1 and 5. The ditch was cut into the natural chalk substrate, measured at least 90m in length, an average of 4m in width and 1.6m in depth. Although the southern terminus was not definitively identified it is likely that it was located in a similar position

to the southern terminus of Ditch 1, approximately 15m from the edge of the chalk cliff.

- 4.110 Ditch 2 contained a complex sequence of fills provisionally interpreted as deriving from episodes of natural silting and weathering, turf formation, bank collapse and deliberate infilling with bank material (Fig. 14). Medieval pottery of 12th to 14th-century date was recovered from several silting deposits within the ditch. Pottery of similar date was recovered from several ditch fills interpreted as bank material being pushed into the ditch although this may be residual material rather than being indicative of any date for the backfilling of Ditch 2.
- 4.111 An entranceway through Ditch 2 was suggested by two apparent termini, 17145 and 17295, identified towards the northern end of the ditch. This entrance way appears to have been closed off or re-modelled as the termini were only identified at the base of sections excavated through Ditch 2, and were substantially truncated by re-cuts.
- 4.112 Ditch 2 was substantially larger than any other ditch post-dating the Iron Age period. Its size and location in relation to the medieval core of Mildenhall suggests it represents a town boundary ditch. The ditch would appear to be of a slightly later medieval date than activity described below and may denote a change in land use.

*Kiln 20044 (Figs 9 and 19)*

- 4.113 A possible kiln 20044 was identified at the southern extent of Area 20. This was key shaped in plan and comprised an elongated oval rake-out pit immediately adjacent to a circular pit. The whole feature measured 5.8m long, 3.2m wide at its widest point and was cut into the natural chalk to approximately 1.3m depth. A shelf was cut halfway up the side of the circular pit and the whole pit was lined with a deposit 21016 of chalk mixed with sandy silt which retained the shelf cut into the natural chalk. A similar deposit 21015 was used to make a flue or stoke hole from the circular pit into the rake-out pit. At least two further linings, 20219 and 20220 were identified and both retained the shelf seen in the first lining. Some signs of heat or scorching were seen on the linings. Three sherds of 12th-century pottery were recovered from the latest lining 20220.

- 4.114 A charcoal-rich deposit 20047 in the base of the rake-out pit was the only deposit identified which related to the use of the feature rather than its construction or dis-use. No such deposit was identified in the circular pit. A single sherd of Late Saxon pottery of 10th to 11th-century date was recovered from 20047. The feature appears to have been extensively cleaned out prior to being deliberately backfilled with chalk rubble.
- 4.115 The interpretation of this feature is hampered by the lack of any processing residue with which it could be associated. It is possible that this material may lie immediately to the south in an unexcavated part of the site. The deliberate shelf cut into the natural chalk and repeated in the later linings suggests a floor or some kind of supports being placed on the shelf. Given the surrounding natural chalk, lime burning is another possible interpretation although the chalk component within the linings may exclude this interpretation.

*The medieval burials (Fig. 9)*

- 4.116 A grave cut 20809, containing the partial skeleton SK20808 of a neonate was identified cut through the upper fill of Romano-British grave 20813, adjacent to the western side of Middle Iron Age Ditch 5. Pottery dating from the 12th to 13th century AD was recovered from the grave fill 20807.
- 4.117 Medieval pottery was recovered from the same context 21003 as two sets of disarticulated human remains in the vicinity of Roman burial 21080. However, given the disturbance from many intercutting pits this is not necessarily indicative of a medieval date for this context.

*Land use and land division (Figs 8 and 9)*

- 4.118 Evidence for medieval use and division of the dry ground area was identified in the form of Ditch 3 and other ditches forming possible enclosures, and a trackway.
- 4.119 Ditch 3 lay approximately 30m to the west of Ditch 2, converging slightly toward the south with its southern terminal curving eastwards. It is not certain if this ditch represented part of field system aligned broadly parallel to the larger ditch, or a land boundary. Pottery of medieval date was recovered

from Ditch 3 together with a sizeable amount of residual material, the derivation of which is not certain. Medieval pottery was recovered from pits 4084 and 4086 cut through the southern end of Ditch 3. This suggests the ditch was no longer in use and raises the possibility that the medieval material recovered from Ditch 3 was intrusive, and that the ditch may be earlier than medieval in date. Further analysis may elucidate this.

- 4.120 A few shallow, irregular curved ditches have suffered from truncation, but possibly denoted small agricultural enclosures were dated to the 11th or 12th century. Ditches 34 and 35 were found between Ditches 2 and 3, and Ditch 36 lay to the east of Ditch 2.
- 4.121 The area to the east of Ditch 2 was sub-divided by east-west aligned Ditch 37, which possibly continued as far as the western extent of Ditch 2. Pottery recovered from this ditch dated from the 12th or 13th century suggesting a later date than the agricultural enclosures described above. Ditch 38, which lay to the west of Ditch 2, may have been a continuation of Ditch 37, although no dating evidence was recovered.

*Other medieval features (Figs 8 and 9)*

- 4.122 Medieval pottery, mostly of 12th to 14th-century date, was recovered from a large number of mostly similar sub-circular pits, which have provisionally been interpreted as refuse pits. The majority of pits were located to the south of Ditches 37 and 38 perhaps as the result of deliberate zoning. Pottery of 15th to 16th-century date was recovered from one of a small number of pits identified in the north-western part of Area 17. No difference in dating was identified between those pits to the east of Ditch 2, and those to the west.
- 4.123 Located immediately to the north of the enclosure formed by Ditch 36, Pit Group 1 comprised several intercutting sub-rectangular pits on a similar north/south alignment (Fig. 9) and different in form to the other medieval pits to the east of Ditch 5 and west of Ditch 2, which were predominantly sub-circular. Medieval pottery of mostly 12th to 14th-century date was recovered from the fills of this group but no evidence was identified to suggest any distinct use compared to the sub-circular pits.

- 4.124 A drying oven, 17182, of probable medieval date was identified in the south-western corner of Area 17. This comprised a narrow rectangular pit, interpreted as a flue, leading to a larger slightly offset square pit, interpreted as being beneath a drying floor, which contained traces of two phases of chalk-based lining. This feature appeared to have been cleaned out after its last use as no processing residues were identified. Medieval pottery of 12th-century date was recovered from two silty deposits which accumulated over the top of the last lining.
- 4.125 A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the upper fills of wells 17156, 17337 and 20151. Well 17337 abutted the northern edge of corn dryer 17182, situated along the western margin of the site, and it is unlikely both features functioned simultaneously. Well 17156 was located approximately 7.5m to the east of well 17337, a watching brief undertaken on mechanical excavation of 17156 demonstrated that it continued to a depth of at least 4.5m below the top of the natural chalk. Well 20151 cut through a Middle Iron Age pit in the south-east corner of Area 20. None of these wells were fully excavated due to health and safety concerns, and although their upper fills contained medieval artefacts, they may be of earlier date.
- 4.126 Several sherds of 12th to 13th-century date were recovered from the fill of a large shallow irregularly-shaped pit 19199 at the southern extent of Area 19. This pit measured at least 10m in length, 10m in width but only 0.15m in depth and contained a single homogenous silty fill and was interpreted as being derived from chalk extraction.
- 4.127 Few postholes of medieval date were identified giving little evidence for the presence of structures or indications of patterns of distribution. Further analysis of the form and spatial relationships between these postholes and other as yet undated postholes in the vicinity may permit the identification of discreet structures.

***Period 6: Post-medieval (16th to 19th century) (Fig. 11)***

- 4.128 Two post-medieval pits were identified within the western half of the site. Sub-rectangular pit 15039 located to the south of Ditch 38, measured 1.15m in width, 0.6m in depth and contained four fills. The lowest fill 15354

contained residual pottery of 12th to 14th-century AD date; successive fills 15038 and 15036 contained 16th to 18th-century AD pottery.

- 4.129 Pit 16122 was located immediately to the east of Ditch 3, cut through Middle Iron Age pit 16120 and was subsequently cut by undated posthole 16125. Pit 16122 was sub circular in shape, measured at least 1.65m in diameter, 0.73m in depth, and contained two fills. Twelfth to fourteenth-century AD pottery was recovered from lower fill 16123, whilst 16th to 18th-century AD pottery was recovered from upper fill 16124.

***Period 7: Modern (19th to 20th-century AD) (Fig. 11)***

- 4.130 Twenty one modern postholes were identified on the high ground and represented fencelines relating to the site's former use as a social club, bowling green and car park. Five pits containing modern artefacts were also recorded and probably relate to former agricultural use.

***Undated (Fig. 11)***

- 4.131 Undated features included postholes, stakeholes, pits and gullies. Further comparison of their form, fills, and perceived function, and the analysis of spatial relationships with dated features in the vicinity may permit further refinement to archaeological record.

***Stratigraphic Record: factual data***

- 4.132 Following the completion of the excavation an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with specifications presented in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991). A database of all contextual and artefactual evidence and a site matrix was also compiled and cross-referenced to spot-dating. The excavation comprises the following records:

Context sheets	5207
Trench recording sheets	15
Skeleton recording sheets	7
Registered artefact sheets	6
Plans (1:10, 1:20, 1:100)	111 (on 247 sheets of permatrace)
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	1057 (on 705 sheets of permatrace)



Sample sheets	277
Monochrome Films	50
Digital photograph registers	53
Matrices	11 (on 76 sheets of permatrace)

4.133 The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy was generally good across the majority of the site, although there were instances of truncation of archaeological deposits by modern structures and services. On the floodplain in Area 3, where the chalk bedrock sloped down towards the river between 0.4–0.8m of horizontal alluvial deposits survived beneath the topsoil. In Area 2 a Storage Tank had removed the upper deposits. At the north end of Area 2 archaeological features were found cut into the bedrock beneath 200mm of hardcore, but where the bedrock sloped south towards the river the depth of archaeological deposits increased to a maximum of c.1.75m. On the dry ground 20th-century construction had truncated the archaeological deposits to varying degrees. In summary, the west side of the site had suffered the most truncation from the construction of the Social Club (Area 17), and Bowling Green (Areas 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19). To the east in Area 20 approximately 0.5m of hardcore and soils laid as ground preparation for the carpark surface were removed; towards the south of Area 20 some subsoil survived, and the preservation of archaeological features improved, although no horizontal deposits were recognised. Stratigraphic relationships were numerous and in the most part of good quality although some relationships in the southern part of the site were lost through expedient machining of substantial deposits. Despite the complexity, which will only be fully resolved in the analysis stage, the majority of features have been assigned to a provisional period.

4.134 The 5215 contexts recorded during excavation have been assigned to the following provisional periods:

Period 0: Geological:	107
Period 1: Late Bronze Age (c. 1100–800 BC):	51
Period 2: Middle and Late Iron Age (c. 350 BC–AD 50):	1151
Period 3: Roman (1st–4th century AD):	873
Period 4: Anglo-Saxon (5th–11th century AD):	377

Period 5: Early medieval/medieval (1066 AD–1539 AD):	1001
Period 6: Post-medieval (1540 AD–1800 AD):	179
Period 7: Modern (19th–20th century AD):	306
Undated:	1170

***Stratigraphic record: statement of potential***

- 4.135 A secure stratigraphic sequence is essential to elucidating the form, purpose, date, organisation and development of the various phases of activity represented. This can be achieved through detailed analysis of the sequence and further integration of the artefactual and absolute dating evidence. The refined sequence will then serve as the spatial and temporal framework within which other artefactual and biological evidence can be understood.
- 4.136 The geological deposits (Period 0) associated with the palaeochannel in Area 3 have potential to inform on early environments and activity on the floodplain pre-dating the Roman deposits in this area, and deserve further analysis. The value of these deposits to contribute to the site's history will be enhanced if they can be successfully dated by radiocarbon testing.
- 4.137 The Late Bronze Age evidence from Period 1 is worthy of further study to place the activity in its wider context. Further analysis has the potential to refine the dating of the stratified deposits and to understand the activity represented by the residual Bronze Age pottery.
- 4.138 The Iron Age Period 2 was the best represented within the stratigraphic record and therefore identified as being of archaeological significance. Dominated by three enormous enclosure ditches of Middle and Late Iron Age date, further analysis of the substantial and well stratified remains holds the potential to provide a better understanding of the date, chronology and character of the activity in the Iron Age and how this relates to the wider regional context. Further analysis of the primarily residual early Iron Age pottery may identify an earlier focus of on-site activity.
- 4.139 Further analysis of the Roman Period 3 remains has the potential to provide detailed information on the establishment of the Early Roman field system in the floodplain, its development through to the later Roman period and

provide an understanding of how it relates to the Roman activity on the higher ground to the north. Data from this period can also shed light on food production and consumption, potentially spanning the late Iron Age/early Roman transition, through to the later Roman period.

- 4.140 Anglo-Saxon and medieval Periods 4-5 have been identified as significant within the regional research agenda, and further analysis of the substantial and well stratified remains from these periods has the potential to provide detailed information on local agrarian production, land use changes, define areas of specific cultural activity, and to identify discreet structures.
- 4.141 The research value of Post-medieval and Modern Periods 6 and 7 is limited. The post-medieval activity consisted of field boundaries and rubbish pits relating to agricultural use, and the 20th century saw the redevelopment of part of the site as a social club and car park.
- 4.142 Unattributed contexts included postholes, stakeholes, pits and gullies with no stratigraphic relationships to datable deposits. However further analysis of their form, fills, function and spatial relationships with dated features has the potential to allocate them to specific periods and areas of land use.
- 4.143 Detailed analysis is therefore recommended for all contexts relating to provisional Periods 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, a total of 3560 contexts. Further analysis of undated contexts, a total of 1170, is also recommended.

***Artefactual record: factual data***

- 4.144 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. All metalwork has been x-rayed and stabilised where appropriate.



Type	Category	Count	Weight (kg)
Flint	worked	294	2.7
Pottery	Late prehistoric	2139	26.8
	Roman	1647	23.2
	Post-Roman	1630	23.6
	<i>Total</i>	<i>5416</i>	<i>73.6</i>
Metals	Iron	106	-
	Copper alloy	15	-
	Lead alloy	4	-
Worked bone	Object	24	-
Metallurgical	residues	-	6.5
Coins	Iron Age	1	-
	Roman	2	-
	modern	1	-
Brick/tile	all	215	11.5
Fired Clay	Objects	4	-
	other	4333	75.4
Glass	Objects (beads)	2	-
	other	32	-
Clay pipe	all	6	.02
Stone	Worked/building stone	71	-

### *Worked flint*

4.145 Significant quantities of worked flint and unworked burnt flint were recovered. The largest groups were recovered from Areas 20 and 3 and show some variability of condition and date. The majority can be considered re-deposited, with only a small group (18 pieces) from the Late Bronze Age-phased pit 20238, probably including 'stratified' material. Raw material comprises flint of good quality, typically dark grey brown where unaffected by patination. In general the assemblage exhibits relatively high levels of breakage and edge damage, consistent with its being a mainly re-deposited group. Highest levels of patination are among material from the southern part of the site: Areas 2–4. Only 11 pieces (3.7%) feature any secondary working; the remainder largely made up of waste flakes. Dateable tool forms are limited to a microlith of late Mesolithic type, and a leaf-shaped arrowhead of Early Neolithic type. Other elements of the assemblage from the southern Areas 2–4, suggest a broadly Mesolithic date; however the large flake-dominated groups from the northern part of the site are later, likely relating to the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

### *Pottery*

4.146 The excavations yielded 1759 sherds of hand-recovered later prehistoric pottery with a further 380 sherds deriving from soil samples. In general, the hand-recovered prehistoric pottery was in good condition. The mean sherd weight was relatively high at 15.3g and few sherds were significantly abraded.

The two major components of the assemblage were handmade Middle–Late Iron Age-type wares (c. 300–50 BC/50 AD) which dominate the group, and smaller group (377 sherds) of Late Bronze Age Post–Deverel Rimbury Plainwares (c. 1100–800 BC). Also present were a few Early Iron Age sherds (c. 600–350/300 BC) and a small group of both hand and wheel-made Late Iron Age-type ceramics; most probably dating from the early to mid 1st century AD. Over 30 late prehistoric pottery fabrics were defined and most of the clays and tempering agents used in the production of the sites' prehistoric pottery could have been obtained from the immediate local landscape. Decoration/surface treatments was commonest among the Middle Iron Age group and includes 704 sherds with burnish or surface polish, representing 54% of the assemblage by sherd count or weight. This figure is high for Middle–Late Iron Age pottery groups, but is matched in a nearby assemblage at Chippenham, Cambridgeshire (Brudenell forthcoming), suggesting a local preference for pots with a lustrous surface finish. A total of 68 burnished sherds also exhibit grooved, incised and/or dot-impressed decoration on their surfaces; many forming parts of complex curvilinear and geometric patterns (some of the dot-decorated sherds having white inlay). All belong to a 'late Tène-style' decorative tradition which seems to emerge in the second or first century BC in Eastern England.

- 4.147 Roman pottery amounts to 1647 sherds; the large majority of which was hand-recovered and only four sherds retrieved from bulk soil samples. The assessment indicates that a significant proportion of the Roman group is re-deposited and occurs with post-Roman dated pottery. Despite this, the condition is good, and the mean sherd weight is moderately high for a Roman group at 14g. The pottery appears to relate to two main periods of Roman activity: an early Roman phase, probably centring on the period c. AD 70 to c. AD 150 and a Late Roman phase which is probably largely confined to the 4th century AD. The large majority of the Roman group (65% by count) comprises reduced coarsewares, most of which are likely to derive from local sources. A significant proportion are highly micaceous (types GWfm; GWm), a feature of coarsewares from the region including those known to be produced at Wattisfield, approximately 30km to the east of Mildenhall. Finewares are predominantly regional imports and of Late Roman origin, the majority from the Lower Nene Valley and the Much Hadham area (Hertfordshire).

4.148 Post-Roman pottery amounting to 1630 sherds was recovered from 327 deposits. The assemblage was generally in good condition with only minor abrasion of some residual material. Thirty-four sherds of handmade pottery were probably or certainly of Early Saxon date. The range of fabrics in this small group is comparable with other Early Saxon groups in the area, including grass-tempered, sandy, calcareous and granitic tempered sherds. Identifiable Middle Saxon material comprises 80 sherds of Ipswich Ware, including eleven jar rims and several base fragments. A relatively large Late Saxon group (512 sherds) is dominated by Thetford-type ware, including a Grimston-type Thetford ware variant and 'early medieval' sandwich wares, with small quantities of regional Late Saxon wares also present including St Neot's and Stamford Ware sherds. Much of the remainder of the post-Roman group comprises pottery of later 11th to 14th-century date (905 sherds). Included are handmade wares (some of which had wheel-finished rims) classified as 'early medieval' and the wheel-made greywares classified as 'medieval'. In this part of Suffolk, as elsewhere in rural East Anglia, the two methods of manufacture appear to have overlapped during the 12th–13th centuries. The range of coarseware fabrics present during the early and high medieval periods is broad and many of them are currently unprovenanced. It was however possible to identify some wares which were probably made in or around Bury St Edmunds, at Hedingham in Essex, at Ely in Cambridgeshire and in the Huntingdon area. Pottery dating to the Late medieval/post-medieval and modern periods is small (32 sherds and 34 sherds).

#### *Metalwork*

4.149 A total of 125 objects of metal were recovered from 83 separate deposits. The majority comprises items of iron, with small groups of objects of copper and lead alloys. The ironwork and the copper-alloy finds were X-rayed as part of a conditional assessment undertaken by a specialist conservator. Overall, the condition of the metalwork was typical for an assemblage of its date and burial environment, with the ironwork exhibiting the more significant levels of corrosion. The metalwork has been temporarily stabilised through appropriate packaging.

4.150 The ironwork comprises mainly nails and fragmentary items of uncertain use. Identifiable objects include structural fittings, knives and agricultural items. A

small number of iron items relate to Iron Age deposits including knife blade fragments and a fragmentary implement, possibly a tanged chisel for wood or bone working. Iron items of Roman date comprise mainly nails or nail fragments. All were forged types with flat disc-like heads and shafts with a square or slightly rectangular cross section and a knife blade from a Period 3 deposit. Iron objects from Post-Roman deposits also comprises large numbers of nails including seven associated with a burial. From Period 4 are a small number of bladed implements including whittle-tang knives and a portion of a set of hand shears from which was associated with pottery of Middle or Late Saxon type. A greater range of object classes among the ironwork relate to Period 5. Structural ironwork includes a possible staples/joiner's dogs and a possible hinge fragment. Other items include a near complete horseshoe was of later medieval form and three blade fragments, all probably from narrow-bladed knives with a straight back and single edge. Items from Period 5 deposits include an awl or a metalworkers punch and a buckle with rectangular frame. Buckles of this form, whilst never particularly common, appear to occur throughout the medieval period.

- 4.151 The number of copper-alloy is small though the group includes some items which are dateable by form or which are otherwise of interest. A small annular object is heavily corroded but appears to feature raised decoration. A length of chain made from fine oval wire loops is of Roman date and apparently intrusive in an Iron Age pit fill. Other Roman objects include two brooches of Colchester type which date to the mid 1st century AD, though these are seemingly re-deposited and a third, small, brooch fragment of uncertain form. Among items of post-Roman date an unusual cast object is of most interest. It is ring-like with an open rectangular external projection and offset circular loop, located internally. A harness-related use is possible though no close parallel can as yet be identified.
- 4.152 The lead-alloy objects includes probable fishing weights from medieval and later-dated deposits and one probable vessel fragment. The latter, from Period 1–3, is a rim-fragment probably from a narrow-necked vessel such as a flagon and is probably Roman.

### *Worked bone*

- 4.153 Twenty-four worked bone or antler artefacts were identified from 22 deposits or as unstratified finds. The majority of items date to the Iron Age and early medieval periods. Objects of Iron Age date include a number of items associated with the manufacture or working of textiles including a highly decorated weaving comb, needles and possible weaving tablets. Personal objects or items associated with dress include toggles of red deer antler and bone, one of which is highly decorated. A perforated canid canine may be another toggle or perhaps a pendent. A handle from was cut from a section of red deer antler tine. It features a small circular hole for a tang and may be from an awl or possibly a file. Also among the Iron Age material are unfinished or 'practice pieces' with ring and dot decoration which suggest that bone working was taking place on site. Worked bone items of Anglo-Saxon date include a comb from and, less-certainly a needle.

### *Coins*

- 4.154 Four coins were recorded which date to the Iron Age, Roman and modern periods. Identification was difficult in two instances, due to soil or corrosion products obscuring the surface detail. A cast-bronze potin can be attributed to the Cantii tribe of Kent and probably dates to the mid to late first century BC. Two copper-alloy Roman issues were identified, though both will require cleaning to confirm identification. Provisional identifications are as *nummi* of Late Roman type. A threepence piece of George VI dated 1938 was also recovered as an unstratified find.

### *Ceramic Building Material*

- 4.155 The Roman ceramic building material consisted of 26 fragments weighing 2.5kg. Of these 19 were identified as pieces of roof tile with 12 fragments of *tegula* and three of *imbrex*. Three fragments were identified as box-flue tile with two exhibiting distinct combed "keying". A limited range of fabric types were identified within the Roman ceramic building material. The excavations provided no clear evidence for a Romanised building on site, however the brick and tile hints that such a structure may have stood in the vicinity.
- 4.156 Fragments of flat roof tile predominantly in a hard, deep red sandy fabric, and with some preserving peg holes are considered of later medieval or post-medieval date. A small number of medieval/early post-medieval brick



fragments were also identified mainly based on thickness. The post-medieval and modern brick assemblage comprises 13 fragments, which were identifiable by larger size and, for the modern examples, from 'frog' indents and the use of stamps including 'LBC' (London Brick Company).

#### *Fired clay*

4.157 A total of 4337 fragments of fired clay weighing 75.4kg were recorded from 219 deposits. Fragments of daub and other structural-like material were identified, as were a number of objects. The majority of material comprises amorphous fragments for which original form or function could not be determined. Small quantities of fired clay were derived from the Late Bronze-Age dated pit. The majority of the assemblage was associated with the Iron Age (Period 2), Roman (Period 3) and Late Medieval (Period 5) provisional phases. A large proportion of the daub-like material was distinguishable from its with its pale colouring and highly fired appearance, probably indicative of prolonged exposure to a consistently high heat. A substantial group of material of this type recovered from Area 2 exhibited structural details.

4.158 Fired clay objects occur as tri-perforated triangular weights of Iron-Age type, which are typically interpreted as for use with vertical, warp-weighted looms. Complete and fragmentary examples of this class of object were recorded from perforations across all three corners was retrieved from four Period 2 deposits.

#### *Glass*

4.159 The glass assemblage consisted of 34 fragments (407g), including hand-recovered material and fragments from processed soil samples. The majority of the hand-recovered material comprises modern bottle and window glass. The soil-sample derived material consists of very small fragments of uncertain age. A single small fragment of window glass from a Period 5 deposit is probably medieval. It is much decayed and does not preserve original edges of other features such as paint.

4.160 A complete annular bead with a decayed surface is comparable with Iron Age forms in its size and proportions. A second, smaller bead (external diam. 4mm). is also opacified though is probably of dark green colour and probably later medieval in date.

*Clay tobacco pipe*

- 4.161 The clay tobacco pipe assemblage consisted of six unmarked stem fragments weighing 14g.

*Stone*

- 4.162 A total of 63 objects of stone were recorded. In addition there are small quantities of building stone and burnt stone and two further items were considered to be unworked.
- 4.163 The stone finds were derived from Periods 2–5, with the majority coming from Period 4 (Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon) and Period 5 (medieval). Only two of the dated finds are complete, a spindlewhorl and a loomweight, both of which belong in the Middle Iron Age. In addition, a nearly complete decorated chalk gaming piece from an unphased deposit may date to the early medieval period base on its similarity to objects of this date from York. The majority of stone objects dating from the Roman to medieval periods consist of Niedermendig lava from the Rhineland, which was recorded from 49 contexts and used both for rotary querns and millstones. Much of the lava is fragmentary, and some is likely to be re-deposited. Further quern/millstone materials comprise six pieces of Millstone Grit, mainly from Period 3 (Roman) and two of greensand which is most likely to be Spilsby Sandstone (Periods 2 and 5). Locally available stone consisted of chalk, clunch, quartzite, quartzitic sandstone and fine-grained sandstone. A bracelet fragment in Kimmeridge shale from a Period 2 deposit was imported from Dorset. Small quantities of grey or black slate from Period 5 may also be non-local, though these might possibly have been found in glacial deposits.

*Metallurgical residues*

- 4.164 The assemblage comprises archaeometallurgical residues occurring at a low density from (107) deposits. Activity from the Iron Age (Period 2) includes evidence for the casting of copper alloy objects, with a small number of crucible and mould fragments. The restricted occurrence of these materials might indicate an occasional activity rather than a persistent one. There is also a low level of occurrence of microresidues from iron working. Romano-British (Period 3) metalworking evidence indicates iron working (smithing), with at least some undertaken with coal as fuel. The early medieval evidence

(Period 4) indicates iron working, which is more substantial than for the Roman period. The medieval period (Period 5) includes a large number of contexts containing iron working residues. Coal-fuelled smithing is represented among some of the possibly later material. Post-medieval residues (Periods 6 and 7) are likely to include some residual material, together with contemporary use of coal, not necessarily for metallurgical purposes.

### ***Artefactual record: statement of potential***

#### *Worked flint*

- 4.165 The lithics group, though not insubstantial, is largely re-deposited and of limited significance. The most notable aspects of the group are the Mesolithic elements from southern part of the site and a small Late Bronze Age group from Area 20. Both elements are of regional significance and merit mention in any published account of the site. A version of this report utilising recording undertaken as part of assessment, and final site phasing might be adapted for publication. In addition a small number of flint tools should be drawn.

#### *Pottery*

- 4.166 The prehistoric pottery from Mildenhall constitutes a relatively large multi-period assemblage with regionally-important Late Bronze Age and Middle-Late Iron Age components. As such it warrants further analysis and reporting at publication level. Compared to Cambridgeshire and Essex, few Late Bronze Age assemblages have been recovered from Suffolk, and this group represents a small but significant addition to the county corpus. Key feature assemblages include the Late Bronze Age pottery from pit 20238 material which finds local parallel with the larger published assemblage from Game Farm, Brandon (Last 2004). Radiocarbon dates are needed to refine prehistoric ceramic chronologies in Suffolk, and both feature groups would benefit from a programme of absolute dating. Further study of fabric and form of the Early Iron Age assemblage will potentially clarify ambiguities between Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age components of the assemblage and will contribute to the analysis of the site sequence.

- 4.167 The Middle–Late Iron Age assemblage is perhaps of greater significance owing to the number and variety of fineware ‘late La Tène-style’ decorated sherds, and the large number partial vessel profiles recovered. In particular, it is the decorated component which makes this assemblage of regional importance. Examples these fineware decorated sherds should be illustrated to exemplify this significant assemblage, along with a selection of form-assigned vessels. Radiocarbon dating will be crucial in pinning down the ceramic chronology, to assist in further analysis of the stratigraphic sequence and to contribute to a relative site chronology, and should target at least one of the large feature assemblages with over 500g of pottery. Integrating this information with the pottery dating will therefore be critical and further analysis is required to resolve the issue of residuality. To fully explore the significance of the quantity of fineware decorated pottery, it would also be worthwhile submitting a selection of these sherds for thin-section analysis. This might help establish whether or not they derived from the same source, or whether we are seeing different pots, made in different places, brought to the site.
- 4.168 Further study of the Late Iron Age assemblage, and in particular the wheel-made component is required to clarify the presence of this late Iron Age pottery and to contribute to resolving the issue of residuality. This must occur before embarking on a detailed description of the spatial distribution of pottery, or any other discussion of depositional practices, pottery use or status.
- 4.169 Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of Mildenhall has revealed no substantive evidence for Roman activity. This is despite the discovery of the exceptional Mildenhall treasure hoard to the north-west of the town, which suggests that a major Roman estate or high-status settlement existed in the vicinity. Although relatively modest in its size and with a proportion certainly re-deposited, the Roman pottery assemblage is of some significance as evidence for long-running activity which extends into the later 4th century, the likely date of the hoard. This aside, there are relatively few published assemblages from Roman ‘consumption sites’ in this area and the publication of this group will contribute towards a greater understanding of pottery supply patterns locally. It is also recommended that the decorated samian be examined by a recognised specialist in order to characterise and confirm dating.

4.170 It is the first large assemblage of Post-Roman pottery to have been excavated in Mildenhall, and one of the few west of Bury St Edmunds (within Suffolk). Such a large group has very high potential to further our knowledge of medieval pottery of this period in the region. Two aspects are of particular significance: firstly the lack of so-called 'Mildenhall ware', suggesting that the few sherds collected during the Fenland Survey (SMR ) may have been made elsewhere; secondly the presence of wares which had previously only been found in Bury St Edmunds and which do not occur on rural sites to the north, south and east of the town. Internally to the site, there is good potential from this assemblage to provide evidence for dating and phasing for the post-Roman activity; together with evidence for pottery use, consumption and possibly manufacture; trade links both within and outside East Anglia; and status of the occupants. Spatial distribution of the pottery will almost certainly be of value in determining the growth and decline of areas within the site, and use of pottery associated with any structures, ovens and wells.

#### *Metalwork*

4.170 The metal finds assemblage generally suffers from soil and corrosion accretion, which in a number of cases, obscures surface detail and hinders identification. While the majority of artefacts require no further conservation work, some objects require specialist cleaning to clarify form/construction, identification and date.

4.171 A number of items among the metalwork are of significance in helping with interpretation (chronological and functional) for this site. Existing catalogue entries for all Iron Age, Roman, early and late medieval metalwork should be enhanced, with relevant typologies consulted, and discussed with relevance to the local and wider setting. Comparisons should be drawn from assemblages from other Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman sites in the region. Selected items of intrinsic interest or which contribute to the chronological or functional understanding of the site, should be drawn. The potential of the post-medieval/modern and undated material is limited and no further work is required.

### *Coins*

- 4.172 The stratified Iron Age and Roman coins are of some archaeological significance as chronological markers serving to refine dating provided by the pottery and other artefact classes. The Roman *nummus* from deposit 3755 requires cleaning in order to confirm identification.

### *Worked bone*

- 4.173 The worked bone/antler includes some significant items indicative of crafts activities and/or useful as chronological markers. Existing catalogue entries for the Iron Age and post-Roman should be enhanced, with relevant typologies consulted, and comparisons drawn with objects from other Iron Age and post-Roman sites in the region. Selected items of intrinsic interest or significance relevant to site function, should be described and illustrated for publication.

### *Ceramic Building Material*

- 4.174 As a group the ceramic building material is of limited archaeological significance. The Roman assemblage was small, fragmented and well dispersed. While possibly indicating the presence of a Romanised building in the area, the material presents limited potential for further analysis and requires no further work. Analysis of the medieval and later material would also provide little further information and no further work is recommended. The Roman and medieval material should be described within a paragraph in the final publication.

### *Fired clay*

- 4.175 The majority of the fired clay is of very limited interpretative value and warrants no further analysis. Of greater interest are the quantities highly fired material which appears to relate to an as-yet undefined high-temperature process. Some limited further analysis is recommended for this material to include description of 'fabrics' and comparisons across the groups characterised as of this type. The clay weights are also of significance as further suggestive of (textiles-related) crafts activities relating to Iron Age site use. These should be described fully and illustrated as part of the final publication.

### *Glass*

- 4.176 The vessel and window glass is of very little significance and warrants no further analysis. The glass beads should be described fully and illustrated, or photographed, with a descriptive paragraph for the final publication.

### *Clay tobacco pipe*

- 4.177 The small group of clay tobacco pipe stem fragments is of low archaeological significance and does not warrant further analysis.

### *Stone*

- 4.178 This assemblage is of some significance at local or regional level, of assistance in demonstrating the significance of imported Niedermendig lava. This material appears to have first arrived in Mildenhall in Roman times, with further quantities being brought in the early medieval and medieval periods and perhaps later; a pattern that is repeated all over East Anglia and indeed further afield. Millstone Grit also seems to have arrived in East Anglia in some quantity, though probably mainly during the Roman period and this could have come most of the way by boat, using available rivers and quite possibly an East coast sea route via the river Humber. Few of the stone artefacts are suitable for illustration, the most potential candidate being The Middle Iron Age spindlewhorl will be illustrated as a complete example of the type. Two further objects of interest are the enigmatic faceted rod, which could be medieval and the near complete gaming piece, which is possibly Anglo-Saxon or medieval. There is potential for the use and date of these objects to be investigated through comparative material, and both of these will be illustrated.

### *Metallurgical residues*

- 4.179 Metallurgical residues occur across the site and over a broad stratigraphic age range and are suggestive of a persistent low level of blacksmithing activity from the Iron Age to late Medieval period. The iron-working residues on the site are so sparse that they do not merit further investigation, or even detailed description in a final report, though their occurrence should be noted. Their significance for further investigation is greatly reduced by the lack of evidence for metallurgical activity actually within the excavated area, and there are no certain metallurgical features.

### *Copper-alloy casting*

- 4.180 The Iron Age copper-alloy casting is worthy of description in the final report, although but no additional analysis. The crucible fragments are worth illustrating and a review of the fabrics by the Iron Age pottery specialist would be worthwhile to establish any links with other ceramic materials. Further investigation should be pursued to attempt to identify the artefact represented by the Iron Age mould fragment.

### ***Documentary Evidence: factual data***

- 4.181 The manor of Mildenhall was, until the dissolution of the abbey of Bury St Edmunds in 1539, part of the abbey's vast estates in West Suffolk and its revenues were allocated to the office of cellarer. Following the Dissolution, the manor first passed to the Crown. The Crown appears to have leased the manor to a succession of different tenants until the manor was granted to Sir Henry North in 1614. Following the death of a second Sir Henry North in 1695 the manor passed to his sister the wife of William Hanmer. At the death of Sir Thomas Hanmer in 1746 the manor and estates passed to his nephew William Bunbury (Copinger 1909). In the schedule to Young's 1834 map of Mildenhall and in the 1933 sale particulars for the sale of the Bunbury Estate the then heads of the Bunbury family are identified as the owners of this site, though at both dates the property was tenanted.
- 4.182 Following on from the research undertaken for the DBA, published works, manuscripts and maps relating to Mildenhall held at the Suffolk Record Offices were examined with a view to assessing their potential to trace the land history of the site back to medieval times. The site of a kiln was discovered during excavation and this assessment included the pursuit of documents containing references to kiln sites in Mildenhall. Research included consultation of a large collection of earlier manuscript sources for the manor of Mildenhall held at the Suffolk Record Office, as these can be utilised to research the land history of some areas of the parish back to the medieval period. The research as also included a search for documents relating to adjoining properties, as the property descriptions as they appear in deeds often name the owners and previous owners of the adjoining lands. In addition all earlier copies of the OS maps and other historic maps were examined, as well as a series of published sources.



- 4.183 Documents relating to the period before the Dissolution when the manor of Mildenhall was part of the estates of the abbey of Bury St Edmunds include the 'comptus rolls' in which the income of the manor is described. The rolls for 1390-92 and 1400-01 are held at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds. Twenty-five additional rolls covering years in the period 1381-1467 held at the British Library Manuscript Room were not consulted for the purposes of this assessment (ref. British Library BL Add. Ch. 43061 and Add. Ch. 53116-53140). A translation of the 1501 rental of Mildenhall has been published (Breen 2008). The book includes indexes of the names of the tenants, the minor place names within the parish and the occupation of the tenants where this was recorded in the text of the document. The value of the manorial records for tracing tenants and their occupations was determined through a comparison of the surnames given in the 1381 Poll Tax returns for Mildenhall (Powell 1896) with those given in the 1501 rental. The land use of the site following the Dissolution has been examined through manorial and court rolls and through map regression, using information from the early OS maps, Young's map of 1834 and the earliest enclosure maps.
- 4.184 It has not been possible in the assessment to trace the history of this site through a process of retrogression using maps and their schedules, and then once the owners have been identified, through searching either manorial records or property deeds relating to this site. The kiln site does not appear to be either of the two sites mentioned in 16th-century records.

***Documentary Evidence: Statement of potential***

*Primary research*

- 4.185 Although it has not been possible to trace the history of this site through a process of retrogression using maps and their schedules and through searching either manorial records or property deeds relating to this site, it may well be possible to identify the owners of this site through a reconstruction of the arrangement of the tenements in High Town that adjoined the river as they appear in the 1501 rental as at that date.
- 4.186 Documents relating to the River Lark Navigation were not examined for the assessment and the bundle of deeds and other documents relating to the

mill at Mildenhall that includes 'objections to a scheme for raising the water level' (ref. E18/760/2/3) should be examined. These documents might offer an explanation as to why the River Lark is embanked in this area of Mildenhall and a date for the embankment of the river.

#### *Additional research*

- 4.187 The late medieval manorial records for the manor of Mildenhall offer the greatest potential for further research. It should be possible to place this site in its historical geographic context by reconstructing the layout of High Town through the use of the property descriptions as they appear in the 1501 rental. As a full translation of this rental has been published, it is much easier to identify the references to the properties than trying to use the original record. The 1574 field books that are set out in a geographic sequence can be used to further define the historic geography. These field books can also be used to identify the positions of the houses burnt in the 1507 fire. Both the rental and field books can be combined with contemporary manorial records, probate material and other records to help to understand the commercial and industrial activity in this part of Mildenhall in the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

#### ***Biological record: factual data***

- 4.188 All ecofacts recovered from the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. A 10-litre sub-sample of each environmental sample taken was processed for the purposes of this assessment.

Type	Category	Count	Weight
Human bone	Skeleton	11	
	Disarticulated	141	
Animal bone	fragments	-	311kg
Samples	environmental	245	

#### *Human bone*

- 4.189 The human remains comprise of 11 skeletons (3 neonates/infants, 1 juvenile; 2 adolescents; 5 adults), and 141 disarticulated bones that was recovered

from 16 additional contexts. It is anticipated that further human remains are present in the animal bone material, but in minor quantities. The remains are from both formal burial contexts and potential charnel features, and appears to primarily date to the Iron Age and Roman periods. The disarticulated material predominately derives from early medieval and medieval contexts, and is likely to represent remains of earlier truncated burials.

#### *Animal bone*

- 4.190 The animal bone material is substantial and exceptionally well preserved, and comprises a total of 311kg. The species identified include cattle (*Bos taurus*), caprovine (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus sp.*), horse (*Equus caballus*), dog (*Canis familiaris*), cat (*Felis catus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), possibly fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), hare/rabbit (*Leporidae sp.*), bird (*Aves sp.*) and frog (*Rana temporaria*). Based on the preliminary phasing, the greatest proportion of the material was recovered from the Middle/Late Iron Age (26.23%) and medieval features (22.16%).
- 4.191 The distribution of species based on the preliminary phasing suggests that the widest diversity of species was present in Roman and medieval deposits. The main domesticates (cattle, caprovine and pig) dominated the assemblage, and relatively little evidence of wide fauna has been identified. The animal bone material also includes production waste from bone crafting, and cut marks and breakage patterns due to the slaughter and butchery processes are easily recognised. Some pathological specimens were also present in the material, and included, for instance, a fractured dog cranium from a context (3016) dated between Periods 1–5.

#### *Plant macrofossils and charcoal*

- 4.192 Charcoal and plant macrofossils were submitted for assessment from 245 flots taken from Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval features. The material from the dry area of the site consisted mainly of plant macrofossils indicative of the cultivation and processing of crops including predominantly spelt wheat from the late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods, and free-threshing wheat from the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. Other species identified included oats, barley, and rye. Cereal chaff recovered consisted of glume bases, culm nodes, paleas and rachis internodes. Another species of economic value identified was flax.

4.193 Other species identified included those representative of hand-collected foodstuffs such as hazelnut shells. There were also several weed species identified. Arable weed species were represented by chess, stinking chamomile, cleavers, corn cockle and field gromwell. There were also species indicative of disturbed areas such as dock, fat hen/goosefoot and common chickweed, and a grassland/pasture environment, for example thistle, medick and buttercup. Plants indicative of a hedgerow/scrub/ woodland environment such as elder and possible bracken fronds were also present.

4.194 From the floodplain area of the site, there was a series of dumping events which resulted in the identification of carbonised cereal remains as discussed above as well as seeds indicative of a wetland environment including bog bean, pondweed, celery-leaved buttercup, rushes and horned pondweed. Charcoal fragments were identified as alder/hazel, hazel, dogwood, oak, ash, hawthorn/rowan/crab apple, cherry, elm, gorse/broom, birch and willow/poplar.

#### *Molluscs*

4.195 Eighteen samples were examined for molluscs, including seven waterlogged flots and residues. A number of land-snails (95) were also hand-collected during excavation. The assemblages contain both terrestrial and fresh-water species. None of the assemblages from Late Bronze Age and Middle to Late Iron Age pits and ditches contain shade-loving species, and all contain open country and intermediate species with no freshwater or aquatic species present, and thus are all generally indicate of open country conditions. All the Romano-British assemblages from both ditches and alluvium, were taken from the area of the site on the edge of the floodplain of the river, and are dominated by aquatic taxa.

#### *Sea shell*

4.196 A total of 768 shells (3239g) were hand-collected from Periods 2-7. The assemblage comprised oyster, mussel and freshwater mussel, and represent food waste. Oysters, were recovered in the highest quantities (count and weight) in the Roman period. Mussel shells however were recovered in the highest quantity (count and weight) in the medieval period.

### *Insects*

- 4.197 Insect fauna from 14 samples from deposits in Areas 2 and 3 were assessed. One sample came from a layer of 2nd to 3rd century AD (Period 3) alluvium in Area 2, the remainder of these fauna were provisionally dated to the medieval period. The fauna were well-preserved and moderate to large in size. The majority of the insect fauna recovered were Coleoptera (beetles), with habitats that indicate that areas of slowflowing or standing water was present, with evidence for dense stands of waterside vegetation. In both the Roman and medieval deposits there were fauna suggesting the presence of grassland or meadows and grazing animals in the area.

### *Geoarchaeology*

- 4.198 A series of 18 samples were assessed, taken from undisturbed sediment in monoliths and as bulk samples from a series of nine sampled sequences from several enclosure ditches, pits and a palaeo-channel. This included contexts from Iron Age and medieval ditch sequences, and Roman, Saxon and medieval alluvial sequences. All of the sampled ditch sequences were consistent, in that typical primary, secondary and tertiary infills were not immediately identifiable, indicating either that the ditches had been cleaned out after the ditch sides had become stable, or that the chalk is particularly hard, strongly structured, and not prone to extensive weathering. Assessment suggested that there was no development of soil horizons within the fill sequences. The majority of the deposits sampled in the alluvial sequences are overbank alluvium. Most are underlain by sands, or sands and gravels thought to have derived from late glacial or early post-glacial outwash rivers. Most of the deposits described as 'peat' or 'peaty' in the field are transported and deposited sediments, rather than evidence of in situ peat development. *In situ* peat and minerogenic silty peats were only identified in one sequence. The deposits indicated that gradual incremental development of floodplain with alluvial soils, was probably by seasonal flooding with some occasional higher energy flooding events. The deposits become more calcareous over time, possibly suggesting the thinning of chalky soils on the slopes within the catchment of the Lark. One deposit indicated the presence of still water, possibly a pool and it is possible that this was related to retting.

### ***Biological record: statement of potential***

#### *Human bone*

4.199 The human bones were of exceptionally good preservation, and the remains warrant a full and comprehensive osteological and palaeopathological analysis. The scientific analysis will, other than provide the basic demographic data such as age, sex and stature, reveal past life experiences, the mortality structure and treatment of the deceased in these past societies. It is recommended that the remains are made subject to an ambitious radiocarbon programme, which would aid the interpretation of the disarticulated material and provide an understanding and insight into the use of the site as a burial ground throughout the centuries.

#### *Animal bone*

4.200 The animal bone material is of great potential for further study, and a further osteological analysis and report of Periods 1–5 is warranted. This material is of an exceptionally good degree of preservation, and has only suffered minor post-depositional fragmentation. These conditions, together with the fact that the assemblage is of significant size, gives it a very high scientific value.

4.201 By period, the best potential lies in those that generated the greatest quantities of bone, as this is a prerequisite for any valid statistical analysis of the recovered analytical data. Based on the preliminary phasing of the material, these comprise predominately bones from Late/Middle Iron Age and medieval deposits. A less statistically viable outcome is expected to be generated from dated material of the smaller quantities, however these will nevertheless yield insights into species present and therefore which husbandry economies that were in place.

4.202 Further analysis of the material will enable an insight into the economic use of the Mildenhall site, such as changes in husbandry regimes, economies and possibly social structures throughout the past. This will add greatly to the current conception of the nature of past economies in British archaeological research.



*Plant macrofossils and charcoal*

*Period 1: Late Bronze Age*

- 4.203 Further analysis of the plant macrofossils from pit 20238 will be used to examine the evidence for crop selection and husbandry and to aid wider understanding of the adoption of spelt wheat during the Bronze Age. Further analysis of charcoal from selected samples taken from this pit will help to reconstruct local woodland composition and allow some inferences as to local woodland composition and management to be made.

*Period 2: Middle to late Iron Age*

- 4.204 Further analysis of plant macrofossils will aim to ascertain whether crop processing was taking place on site and to characterise crop selection, use and husbandry during this period. The assemblage will be analysed for information regarding the reduction in the use of emmer wheat and more widespread use of spelt wheat. Charcoal from the selected samples will be fully analysed to provide information regarding fuel use and woodland composition and management in this area. This data will then be available to feed into larger research review projects in the East of England to help compliment palynological data to interpret trends in woodland clearance.

*Period 3: Roman*

- 4.205 Further analysis of selected plant macrofossil material will be used to examine crop harvesting and processing techniques. In particular, further evidence of vetches may indicate their use as a fodder crop and/or their use to improve soil fertility. Further analysis of samples containing flax seeds will aim to provide information as to whether this represents background flora or whether flax processing was taking place. Information regarding woodland composition and management, and fuel usage can be collated from further analysis of the charcoal.

*Period 4: Anglo-Saxon*

- 4.206 Further analysis of selected plant macrofossil samples has the potential to provide information regarding crop preferences and husbandry during this period and whether they were grown for subsistence use or trade. Of particular interest is period in which free-threshing wheat takes over from spelt wheat at the end of the Roman period and these samples may aid in characterising this period more clearly. Further analysis of recommended

charcoal samples will determine whether there is an increase in the use of fuelwood from scrub woodland areas which may indicate woodland regeneration at the end of the Roman period.

#### *Period 5: Medieval*

- 4.207 Further analysis has been recommended on selected samples in order to determine whether crops were being cultivated for subsistence use or trade and also to aid understanding of crop selection and husbandry. Initial assessment suggests the use of dredge (oats and barley) and other crop mixtures being cultivated. There is a continued identification of vetch seeds which, as well as being a fodder crop, may indicate efforts made to improve the fertility of the soil. Full analysis and broad characterisation of the selected charcoal samples is hoped to provide information regarding the use of wood as fuel, woodland composition and management.

#### *Molluscs*

- 4.208 A significant number of the assemblages examined for the assessment contain sufficient shells to be statistically viable for further analysis, and to indicate the potential to define more precisely the nature of the local land-use and occupational environments. There is the potential not only to define the major change from dry to wetter conditions that is evident between the earlier periods and the Roman period, but also to define subtle and significant variations, such as changing conditions of wetness in the Romano-British occupation phase, and of changing land-use, i.e. meadow, pasture, arable or occupied trampled habitats in the Bronze Age to Iron Age phases. These local environments can be examined to a limited extent spatially within each phase of activity, and if enough chronological control is available, within each phase too. The changing conditions can be compared with broader regional environmental patterns.

#### *Sea shell*

- 4.209 The small size of the sea shell assemblage were recovered limits the potential for further analysis, and no further work is recommended for the sea shells, with the exception of a summary of these findings in the publication report.





### *Insects*

4.210 All the fauna are well preserved and further identification of the taxa present to species level has the ability to inform us as to the nature of the water conditions and the composition of the reed bed in areas Areas 2 and 3 of the site. The fauna indicate that we are dealing with areas of reed swamp which suggest rising water tables in the medieval period at least. The faunas also have some potential in terms of reconstructing the nature of the surrounding environment. There are several indicators for the presence of pasture and grassland in the area but, since the number and range of these taxa are relatively restricted, any reconstruction of the wider landscape will be to some extent limited. The insect fauna have a degree of regional importance in that there are very few insect fauna of medieval date which are not from urban contexts, with most work in Suffolk and Norfolk coming from a range of Pleistocene sites, and Bronze Age trackways. It is recommended, therefore, that the insect fauna from the samples are fully identified, classified into ecological groupings and that a report for inclusion in any site publication is produced.

### *Geoarchaeology*

4.211 The assessment provided information regarding the deposition sequences in the ditch fills, and in particular whether buried soil horizons were present. The preliminary interpretational framework would be enhanced by more detailed examination of one, or two of the key alluvial sequences, the gyttja sequence (a fine-grained nutrient-rich mud), the medieval peat and the humic palaeochannel fills (Period 0). These proposed enhanced descriptions together with those provided here by assessment would then provide the basis for geoarchaeological interpretation and reporting on a feature and site-based level. Where pollen may survive, analysis of small sequences may be informative selected contexts from the medieval gyttja, the medieval humified silty peat, and the early palaeochannel. Pollen may provide information of the any activities relating to the gyttja and provide a longer landscape and land-use history for the Lark floodplain and its interflaves, into which the place the archaeological activities.

4.212 Although soil or sediment micromorphology might provide confirmation of the nature of the soil material in the ditches, the sediment geoarchaeology answers most of the archaeological questions adequately.

## 5. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 5.1 The potential for further analysis and understanding of the site as a whole, and of the various individual datasets within it, can be judged when the artefactual and biological data are combined with the stratigraphic record and documentary evidence. This potential varies both between types of data and between the chronological periods represented.
- 5.2 The large Bronze Age pit has a deep sequence of deposits from which information regarding local habitat and cultural activity can be derived. Information from the relatively large and well-preserved assemblage of environmental remains and the well-stratified pottery assemblage may be enhanced by radiocarbon dating, to refine the dating of this activity and the pottery with which it is associated. However as the only feature of this period in the excavated area, its potential to inform on Bronze Age activity on site or in the wider sphere is limited by its isolation.
- 5.3 Iron Age activity is widespread on the northern higher ground, and the sequence includes a series of substantial enclosure ditches. A large pottery assemblage and a degree of stratigraphic relationships between features suggests there is good potential to refine a sequence of activity which will be informed and enhanced by large and well-preserved assemblages of animal bone, seeds and charcoal. Aspects of economy, status can be examined in sufficient detail to contribute to an interpretation of the on-site Iron Age activity, and also to contribute to the wider debates on regional patterns of settlement and agrarian practices, and the impact that the Roman conquest had on these.
- 5.4 Roman activity is represented by relatively few features on the high ground, but also by features and deposits on the floodplain. With an analytical approach to the stratigraphic sequence, environmental and geoarchaeological evidence, the character of the environments and the activities represented by the site data of this period in both areas of the site can be explored. On the high ground, evidence for crop-processing is a notable feature of the Roman structural remains, and the environmental evidence. There is potential for the

geoarchaeological, mollusc, insect evidence and possibly pollen and scientific dating (subject to further analysis) to chart changing environmental conditions from pre-Roman deposits through to the medieval period.

- 5.5 Evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period is more insubstantial, but suggests continuing occupation, the nature of which may be more fully elucidated by stratigraphic analysis, radiocarbon dating and a full consideration of a number of currently undated features within the excavated area. The Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery assemblage is large, with good potential to assist the dating and phasing of the post-Roman activity; together with evidence for pottery use, consumption, trade and possibly manufacture. The animal bone and environmental evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period and the medieval period has the potential to chart changing economic practices, including crop-processing and animal husbandry.
- 5.6 The medieval sequence includes a large boundary ditch whose significance in relation to the location of medieval settlement evidence and the location of the post-medieval and modern core of Mildenhall will be explored through further archaeological and documentary research. Although many of the features of this period are undiagnostic, some features such as the drying oven and possible kiln may be related to the settlement's economy.
- 5.7 A total of 11 articulated human burials and 16 contexts with disarticulated human remains are spread across the date ranges represented by the provisional phasing, although the majority have been found with Iron Age or Roman material. With the high possibility of residual material within these burial deposits, a programme of radiocarbon dating is regarded as of considerable importance in the analysis of the significance of these remains.

## **6. STORAGE AND CURATION**

- 6.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices, Kemble, whilst post-excavation work proceeds. The site archive and artefactual collection will, with the agreement of the legal landowner, be deposited with the County Archaeological Stores which have agreed in principle to accept the complete

archive upon completion of the project. The site archive (including sensitive artefacts) will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Stores, Bury St Edmunds, and bulk artefacts will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Stores, Ipswich (Unit 4).

## 7. UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The principal objectives remain as per the CA Project design: To ensure that a full and detailed record of the site was compiled, to elucidate the form, function and status of the archaeology on the site, to establish its chronology and phasing, and to compile information which would form the basis of a fully detailed report for publication. To achieve this, the following updated objectives have been set out:

- **Objective 1: Summarise the evidence for early prehistoric activity, and establish a date for the palaeochannel in Area 3**

The evidence for a concentration of Mesolithic flint in the southern area of the site will be briefly discussed with reference to local evidence from this period. The formation of deposits within the palaeochannel will be characterised through further analysis of the sediment geoarchaeology of the monolith samples which represent the last phases of infilling of the palaeochannel. The potential for these deposits to contribute to a history of the local landscape and land-use in the environs of the Lark floodplain may benefit from analysis of the surviving environmental remains, including pollen. These deposits predate the earliest Roman activity in the site sequence, but their potential to inform on the impact of human activity on the environment would be enhanced by more precise dating, which may be achieved by identification of waterlogged plant matter suitable for radiocarbon measurement.

- **Objective 2: Refine the date and nature of the Bronze Age activity, and place this activity in its wider context**

A refinement of the dating of the Bronze Age pottery assemblage from the site will be sought through radiocarbon dating and comparative studies of regional assemblages to allow more accurate dating of the stratified deposits

within pit 20238, and the activity represented by the residual Bronze Age pottery.

The extent of the late Bronze Age activity on the site will be explored through the evidence from the stratified deposits within pit 20238 and the spatial distribution of Bronze Age pottery within residual contexts. The limited number of securely dated Bronze Age features limits analysis. However, further analysis of the artefacts, and the environmental evidence from pit 20238 (human and animal bone, seeds and charcoal) has the potential to cast some light on the nature of the activity taking place on the site, the economy, and the local environment. The significance of the location of this activity on the edge of river floodplain and in relation to the Middle Iron Age enclosure ditches will be explored. The evidence will be discussed with reference to the wider region, and contemporary evidence from other published sites, for instance Barham, Suffolk (Martin 1993), and topics for discussion may include the adoption of spelt wheat, Bronze Age burial practices. Successful radiocarbon dating of the Late Bronze Age pottery from Mildenhall will contribute to a refinement of the date range of Post-Deverul Rimbury pottery in Suffolk, which is currently poorly dated. The role of radiocarbon dates to refine the chronology of the Bronze Age period subdivisions on an intra-regional basis has been identified in recent review of regional research priorities (Medleycott 2011, 20).

- **Objective 3: Discuss the nature of the Early Iron Age activity**

The small corpus of Early Iron Age pottery at Mildenhall is mostly derived from residual contexts. Stratigraphic and spatial analysis may establish a source of this material, and whether a focus of on-site activity can be identified. Aspects of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition will be briefly discussed, particularly with reference to the regional tendency for Early Iron Age settlement patterns and locations to differ from those of the Late Bronze Age (Medleycott 2011, 29). The nature of the Early Iron Age–Middle Iron Age transition will be examined in relation to regional patterns of occupation in these periods, with the use of comparative evidence including the results of excavations along the Norwich Southern Bypass (Ashwin and Bates 2000).

- **Objective 4: Establish the chronology of the Iron Age activity**

The majority of the Iron Age activity has been provisionally dated to the Mid Iron Age, with a smaller element of Early, and Late Iron Age pottery within features. Provisional assessment of the pottery and the stratigraphic sequence has highlighted an overlap of the Late Iron Age handmade wares and earlier forms, which is manifest in the high level of residuality within the provisional site sequence. Refinement of the dating of the Iron Age pottery assemblage is therefore key to a better understanding of the chronology of the Iron Age activity, and further analysis of the pottery assemblage will be augmented by radiocarbon dating as appropriate. Establishing the absolute chronology of this period continues to be a 'central concern' of Iron Age studies in the region (Medleycott 2011, 29). It is recognised that the choice of appropriate samples for radiocarbon dating is essential, but it is also important to correlate the pottery evidence with other well-stratified artefacts. At Mildenhall, there is good potential for chronologically diagnostic elements of the artefact classes, including the worked bone and metalwork to refine the dating of the features. Further stratigraphic analysis of the features combined with a refined dating framework will allow a better understanding of the chronology of the Iron Age activity.

- **Objective 5: Discuss the form and nature of the Iron Age features, and the significance of the activities that they represent.**

The character of the occupation in the Middle-Late Iron Age period will be examined with reference to regional themes of colonisation and land allotment (Bryant 2000, 14), for which the date and function of the large enclosure ditches is key. An interpretation of the activity represented by the pits and postholes within, and to the east of the enclosure ditches will be sought through further analysis of the form and function of these features and their spatial and stratigraphic relationships. This analysis, combined with examination of the artefacts and environmental evidence may identify structures, and zones of activity and land-use, both across the site and through time. The distribution of pottery, provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age, within the substantial palisaded Ditch 6, and in a small number of other features, including a corn dryer and a hearth suggest a shift in activity to the east. The proposed analysis of the pottery and further stratigraphic analysis may serve to clarify issues of dating and residuality identified in the assessment stage, and allow a better characterisation of the activities represented through analysis of the form and function of these features.

- **Objective 6: Assess the evidence for the agricultural economy and its place in the local environment in the Middle and Late Iron Age**

The East Anglia Research Agenda notes that 'a greater understanding of the agricultural economy of the region is likely to be crucial in understanding the social, economic and cultural processes which took place during the Iron Age' (Bryant 2000, 14) The large well-preserved animal bone assemblage has potential to inform on aspects of animal husbandry, and the varying importance of milk, meat and wool to the economy of the site, and the assessment has shown that there is also potential to identify animal breeds within the assemblage. The abundant charred plant macrofossils seeds provide evidence for crop processing and for crop selection, use, and husbandry during this period. The association of this evidence with site features including storage pits, corndryers and a hearth will be examined. The environmental evidence for other foodstuffs, for weeds and for species used as fuel will help to build a picture of the local environment and exploitation of wild resources. Aspects of the economy will also be explored through examination of the artefactual evidence for weaving and textile making, and for other economic and craft activities. The well-preserved and stratified assemblages of animal bone and environment evidence at the site promise to make an important contribution to the study of the changing dynamic of cereal and livestock in the agrarian economy throughout the Iron Age period of occupation. and this analysis will form a basis for comparison with the evidence from the later Roman period (Objective 10). The environmental conditions on site may be elucidated through the environmental evidence, and augmented by land snail evidence and geoarchaeological analysis of soil monoliths.

- **Objective 7: Assess the significance of the Iron Age human remains**

The human bone represented as burials and disarticulated bone will be analysed within refined stratigraphic and dated sequence. The bone is well-preserved and there is potential for osteological analysis to inform on aspects of health and the economic status of the individuals represented. The significance of the burials and the processes they represent will be discussed as aspects of the Iron Age activity on site and with reference to mortuary practices of the period. The chronology, distribution and range of types of Iron Age burial have been identified in the recent review of the Regional Research

Agenda as in need of further study. The phenomenon of 'ad hoc' burials and 'spare parts' in Iron Age boundary ditches is an aspect of this research to which the evidence from Mildenhall can be most appropriately applied.

- **Objective 8: Place the Iron Age activity on site in its wider context**

Settlement evidence from Mildenhall will be compared with recently published evidence, including Flixton Park Quarry (Boulter 2003) and Carlton Colville (Burnham *et al.* 2003), and most specifically in relation to the excavations at the Bridge House Dairies site at Mildenhall, where activity is concentrated on the Middle-Late Iron Age period (Woolhouse *et al.* 2010). The extensive remains of Iron Age date at Mildenhall have potential to contribute to some of the topics which a recent review of the Regional Research Agenda have highlighted as remaining as important areas of analysis, in particular settlement chronologies and dynamics, and aspects of social organisation, settlement form and function. For the latter topic, the Middle Iron Age evidence from Mildenhall is particularly significant, as evidence from this period is still lacking. The large pottery assemblage includes the largest corpus of late 'La Tène'-style decorated sherds to be excavated in East Anglia. This assemblage is of intrinsic significance for the discussion of regional pottery styles, and its implications on a regional basis for the site's function and status will also be explored.

- **Objective 9: Examine the evidence for the two periods of Roman activity (Early and Late) represented in the site record, and seek an understanding of this activity through comparative studies of Roman rural settlement evidence excavated in the region**

The evidence for activity throughout the Roman period will be characterised through further analysis of the dating evidence, stratigraphic sequence, form, fills and spatial patterning of the features. Differences of land use between the higher dry ground and Areas 2 and 3 on the edge of the river floodplain will be explored with supporting evidence from the environmental record and soil analysis. The apparent gap in activity between the earlier and later Roman periods will be examined through analysis of all aspects of the site record, and will be set within the wider pattern of shifting settlement. Specific features on the site may benefit from comparison with similar excavated elsewhere, for instance the corndryers at Mytle Row, Hethersett and Sedgford in Norfolk (Medlycott 2011, 41) and the results of further analysis of the Roman remains



will contribute to Roman rural settlement studies on a regional level (Medlycott 2011, 47). There are a small number of burials provisionally assigned to the Roman period by the pottery in their fills and their relationship to Roman and later features. Further analysis of the skeletal remains, the burials, and their locations on site, may cast light on the individuals buried and the burial practices they represent. Unaccompanied burials are difficult to date, and any ambiguity in the dating of these burials that emerges during analysis may be tested by radiocarbon measurement, where appropriate.

- **Objective 10: Compare the Iron Age and Roman evidence in order to explore the impact of Roman cultural and economic influences.**

The physical evidence for land divisions, structures and zones of activity will be examined for continuity and change between the Late Iron Age and Early Roman features, and indicators of continuity and change in environment, resources, and economic exploitation will be sought in the environmental and artefactual evidence. The changing environmental conditions on site indicated in the preliminary analysis may be elucidated through the environmental evidence, and augmented by land snail evidence and geoarchaeological analysis of soil monoliths. The well-preserved and stratified assemblages of animal bone and environment evidence are found in both the Iron Age, and the Roman period, and are complemented by physical evidence for crop-processing and stock management. The potential of this evidence to inform on aspects of the agrarian economy of both periods has been discussed above, and the impact of the Roman Conquest on patterns of production is a regional research topic to which this work will contribute (Murphy 2000, 21). Transitions will also be sought within the artefactual data, and in particular the pottery, for which changing patterns of supply and use may be informative, both on a site-based level, and on a regional basis. Any insights gained will contribute to on-going data-gathering and research on the Iron Age/Roman transition highlighted in a recent review of regional research objectives (Medlycott 2011, 31, 47). The continuing use of the site into the Roman period can be directly contrasted with the excavations at Bridge House Dairies, where activity appears to cease completely before the Roman period. The dynamics of settlement shift and continuity will be discussed on a local and regional level, and the evidence will contribute to a national synthesis of the late Iron Age/early Roman transition (Creighton 2000 and 2006).

- **Objective 11: Refine the date and sequence of the Anglo-Saxon activity**

A secure stratigraphic sequence is key to identifying the periods of activity represented by the Early, Middle and Late Saxon pottery assemblage, and this will be achieved through detailed stratigraphic analysis of the excavated features, and further integration of artefactual, and where appropriate, radiocarbon dating evidence. Although the body of evidence from the early medieval period is small, it would appear to represent activity spanning the Early Anglo-Saxon to Late Anglo-Saxon period. Further analysis of the evidence from this period may establish shifting patterns of activity across the site. The evidence will be discussed in relation to regional trends for shifting settlement (the so-called 'Middle-Saxon shuffle'), which is traditionally associated with the desertion of earlier settlement locations (Wade 2000, 23).
- **Objective 12: Examine the nature of the Anglo-Saxon settlement and its economic basis, and set it in the wider context**

Truncation has adversely affected the survival of some of the remains particularly on the dry ground, however provisional assessment suggests some zoning of activity. Further analysis of the features and their fills to investigate their form, function and spatial relationships may elucidate the nature of the activity represented, which appears to include structures as well as cut features representing settlement on the dry ground, and small-scale, probably peripheral activity in Areas 2 and 3 on the floodplain. Interpretation of the evidence may be assisted by comparison with better preserved examples of excavated Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area, including Bloodmoor Hill (Dickens et al 2005) and Flixton Quarry (Boulter 2003). Priority will be given to the detailed examination of secure animal and charred seeds and charcoal in order to characterise the economic basis of the settlement and to contribute to regional research into Post-Roman changes to the agrarian economy, geographical variations in agricultural production and changing land-use (Wade 2000, 25).
- **Objective 13: Examine the nature of the medieval settlement, its economic basis and the response to changing environmental conditions**

Full stratigraphic analysis combining pottery and other artefact dating evidence will allow a more focussed discussion of the sequence of activity during the medieval period. The location of the large boundary ditch (Ditch 2)

will be explored with reference to its stratigraphic and spatial relationship to other features from this period. Aspects of land-use and economy will be examined through feature analysis and the evidence from the environmental and faunal remains. Preliminary analysis suggests that the environmental remains can inform on cereal husbandry and crop processing, whilst the faunal assemblage suggests an increase in butchery waste in this period against waste material from meat consumption. The evidence will be compared with contemporary sites within the region and the wider area, and will contribute to future synthesis of regional agricultural practices in this period. The evidence from Areas 2 and 3 suggest wetter conditions prevailed in the medieval period on the floodplain. The archaeological evidence for a sequence of horizontal deposits representing ground-raising and alluvial deposits and a series of pits and ditches will be more fully examined through further analysis of the stratigraphic sequence and the environmental evidence. This analysis may allow a fuller picture of the changing environmental conditions throughout the period, and the human exploitation of this environment, which may include flax processing and stock management.

- **Objective 14: Discuss the significance of the medieval evidence in relationship to the location of the post-medieval town centre, and place this shift within the wider context of the long-term history of activity revealed in the archaeological sequence**

The implication that Ditch 2 represents a major settlement boundary in the medieval period will be discussed in relation to medieval settlement patterns in the region. Archaeological evidence for the decline in use of the site in the later medieval/early post-medieval period begs the question of why the site did not maintain its prominence into the post-medieval period to become the core of modern Mildenhall. This question will be explored using archaeological evidence for shifting patterns of late medieval and post-medieval settlement in the area, and the historic evidence from documentary and cartographic sources, as well as the factors that may have influenced this shift revealed within the excavated evidence. The site would appear to be the location for almost continuous activity from the late prehistoric period onwards, although the nature and significance of this activity has fluctuated throughout. The post-medieval decline will be discussed in relation to the complex relationship between environmental, social and political change that

has shaped the changing patterns of land-use and occupation revealed in the archaeological sequence.

- **Objective 15: Support the chronological development of the site through a suite of Radiocarbon dating, using Bayesian statistical analysis as a second stage of the programme, as appropriate**

A suite of radiocarbon dating is proposed for the value that the absolute dating of selected contexts may bring to interpretation of the site, and to refine the site chronology established through stratigraphic analysis and dated artefacts. Priority has been given to the dating of contexts with the highest potential to make a contribution to the research objectives set out above. A maximum of 13 contexts are proposed for the dating programme in the table below. Two samples of human bone will be submitted from each articulated burial, and for the remaining features, two samples of different materials from each context will be selected, unless a second material is not available. The selected contexts are all from securely stratified deposits, although exception has been made for some burials from less securely stratified contexts, where an intrinsic date of the skeletal material is sought.

Initial assessment of the contexts in the table below suggests that there is sufficient well-preserved charred/waterlogged environmental material, charcoal, animal bone or human bone to obtain successful radiocarbon dates from these assemblages. However, it is possible that some of the material submitted for dating may fail to give a good result. In these circumstances, it may be possible to substitute other material from the same context, or submit material from other related contexts which have the potential to contribute to the same research priorities. Further suitable material may be identified following processing of the samples that have been recommended for further analysis.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Provisional Period</b>	<b>Suitable material</b>	<b>Max no. dates</b>
3617	3593	Geological/Period 0	watrlggd plant material/wood	2

20238	20336	1	anbn/charrd plant	2
20238	20338	1	human bone	2
Deposit 3663	3663	1-3	anbn/charcoal	2
9095	2091	2	seeds/charcoal	2
21035	20587	2	anbn/charcoal	2
Ditch 5	SK21386	2	human bn	2
Ditch 5	SK21080	3-4	human bn	2
Ditch 6	SK 22028/22030	2	human bn	2
(Large posthole) 17019	17034	3	charcoal	1
Kiln 20044	20047	5	seeds/charcoal	2
Pit 15234	15281	?5	seeds/charcoal	2
20290	20292	Undated	anbn	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>number of</b>			<b>24</b>
<b>dates</b>				

Establishing a relative chronology for the site sequence may be augmented by a second stage of analysis, using the application of the Bayesian statistical approach to a series of radiocarbon dates within key stratigraphic sequences. The Bayesian method uses archaeological information to refine radiocarbon dating. This can result in a framework for a relative, rather than a calendar chronology, enhanced by a 35% reduction (on average) in the date ranges of calibrated radiocarbon dates (Bayliss and Bronk Ramsay 2004, 26; Bronk Ramsay 2009, 338). The decision to undertake this second stage of work will be made following the results of the first suite of radiocarbon dates and is dependant on two factors: firstly the outcome of these dates, and secondly, the identification, following these dates, of a number of securely stratified, primary deposits within a key stratigraphic sequence, or sequences, in the excavated data. During further analysis, contexts with suitable material for dating will be subjected to rigorous assessment of the taphonic processes

by which the materials entered the archaeological deposits, beginning with the premise that 'every sample is residual until proven otherwise' (Bayliss and Bronk Ramsay 2004, 33). Key sequences will be sought where this analysis will contribute most effectively to specific research objectives identified above; of which the chronology of the Iron Age activity (Objective 4) will be a primary target, but others may be considered. The Bayesian analysis will be undertaken by a specialist, who will be involved in the initial decision-making, and the selection of samples. It is anticipated that no more than eight additional dates will be sought for this analysis.

## 8. PUBLICATION

- 8.1 The results from this excavation, merit publication and are of obvious regional significance, it is proposed that a Cotswold Archaeology monograph report be published in East Anglian Archaeology Series.

### *Synopsis of Proposed Report*

#### **Recreation Way, Mildenhall, Suffolk:**

#### **Excavations in 2010-11 (working title)**

by Mary Alexander, Tim Havard and Ray Holt

#### **Abstract**

Brief summary of main findings of the project 1000 words

#### **Introduction** (with contribution by Simon Cox)

Project & arch. background, topography, geology 2500 words

#### **Excavation Results**

Palaeochannel, Bronze Age and Earlier Prehistoric 2400 words

Iron Age 5500 words

Roman 4500 words

Saxon 3000 words

Medieval 5000 words

Post-medieval 1000 words

Sub-total: 24900

**Documentary** (Anthony M. Breen) 2500 words

#### The Finds

<b>Flint</b> (Ed McSloy)	1000 words
<b>Late Bronze Age Pottery</b> (Matt Brudenhall)	1500 words
<b>Iron Age Pottery</b> (Matt Brudenhall)	3500 words
<b>Roman Pottery</b> (E.R. McSloy and Gladys Monteil)	3000 words
<b>Post-Roman Pottery</b> (Sue Anderson)	3000 words
<b>Metallurgical Residues</b> (Tim Young)	1200 words
<b>Fired Clay</b> (Angus Crawford)	500 words
<b>Metal Artefacts</b> (Angus Crawford)	1500 words
<b>Worked Bone and Antler</b> (Angus Crawford)	1500 words
<b>Coins and Glass beads</b> (Angus Crawford)	500 words
<b>Worked Stone</b> (Fiona Roe)	1200 words

#### The Environmental Evidence

<b>Radiocarbon Dating</b> (Sarah Cobain)	2000 words
(including Bayesian Analysis (Frances Healey)	total 4000 words)
<b>Archaeomagnetic Dating</b> (Neil Suttie)	850 words
<b>Human Bone</b> (Jonny Geber)	4500 words
<b>Animal Bone</b> (Jonny Geber)	9000 words
<b>Fish Bone</b> (Phil Armitage)	500 words
<b>Plant Macrofossils and Charcoal</b> (Sarah Cobain)	8000 words
<b>Land Snails and Geoarchaeology</b> (M.J. Allen)	5000 words
<b>Pollen</b> (M.J. Allen)	2000 words
<b>Insects</b> (David Smith)	1000 words

**Sub-total:** **54,750**

#### Discussion

<b>Prehistoric</b> (Andrew Mudd)	2000 words
<b>Iron Age</b> (Andrew Mudd)	5000 words
<b>Roman and the Roman/Iron Age transition</b> (Neil Holbrook)	5000 words
<b>Anglo-Saxon</b> (Mary Alexander)	2000 words
<b>Medieval and post-medieval</b> (Mary Alexander)	3500 words
<b>Patterns of continuity and change</b> (Mary Alexander)	2500 words

<b>Conclusions</b> (Mary Alexander)	1000 words
<b>Acknowledgements and Bibliography</b>	6000 words
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>27,000 words</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106,650 words</b>
	<b>(c. 107 pages)</b>

**Illustrations:**

Location of site	1 page
Site plans with phasing	12 pages
Interpretive plans	5 pages
Reconstructions	3 pages
Site photographs	5 pages
Documentary (Cartographic and figures)	5 pages
Flint	1 page
Pottery late prehistoric	7 pages
Pottery (Roman)	3.5 pages
Pottery (Post-Roman)	4 pages
Crucible fragments	0.5 page
Loomweight	0.5 page
Metal	6 pages
Worked bone	2 pages
Worked stone	1 page
Glass beads	0.5 page
Human bone (pathologies)	1 page
	<b>58 pages</b>

**Tables:**

Flint	0.5 page
Pottery late prehistoric	2 pages
Pottery (Roman)	1.5 pages
Pottery (Post-Roman)	2 pages
CBM	0.5 page
Human Bone	5 pages
Animal Bone (tables and figures)	20 pages
Fish Bone	1.5 pages



Plant macrofossils	12 pages
Charcoal	6 pages
Molluscs	2 pages
Insects (tables and figures)	4 pages
Geoarchaeology	4 pages
	<b>51 pages</b>

**Total Publication Estimate: 216 pages**

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## 9. PROJECT TEAM

9.1 The post-excavation and publication programme will be under the management of **Martin Watts MIFA** (Head of Publications)/**Mary Alexander MIFA** (PX Manager/Principal Author 1: PrA 1), who will co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

**Ray Holt and Tim Havard** (Project Officer: PO 1/PO 2):

Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparation, research and archive.

**Andy Mudd** (PX Manager, Principal author 2: PrA 2)

Publication discussion: Bronze Age and Iron Age

**Neil Holbrook** (Chief Executive Officer, Principal author 3: PrA 3)

Publication discussion: Roman and Iron Age/Roman transitions

**Simon Cox** (Head of Fieldwork, Principal Author 4: PrA 4)

Publication introduction

**E.R. McSloy** (Finds Officer: FO):

Specialist report preparation and liaison, post-excavation phasing.

**Peter Moore** (Senior Illustrator: SI):

Production of all site plans, sections and artefact drawings.

**Andy Baines** (geomatics Officer: GO)

Digitising, survey, spatial analysis

9.2 Contributions by the following external consultants will be managed by the Finds Officer and Environmental Officers:

**Matt Brudenhall** (Freelance)

**Gladys Monteil** (Freelance)

**Sue Anderson** (Freelance)

**Tim Young** (Freelance)

**Later Prehistoric Pottery**

**Samian Pottery**

**Post-Roman Pottery**

**Metallurgy**

<b>Fiona Roe</b> (Freelance)	<b>Worked Stone</b>
<b>Karen Barker</b> (Freelance):	<b>Metalwork conservation</b>
<b>Julie Jones</b> (Freelance):	<b>Hemp analysis</b>
<b>M.J. Allen</b> (Freelance)	<b>Land Snails, Pollen and Geoarchaeology</b>
<b>David Smith</b> (University of Birmingham):	<b>Insects</b>
<b>University of Glasgow:</b>	<b>Radiocarbon dating</b>
<b>Frances Healey</b> (University of Cardiff)	<b>Radiocarbon Dating (analysis)</b>
<b>Neil Suttie</b> (Liverpool University)	<b>Archaeomagnetic dating</b>

**Documentary Research** by **Anthony Breen** (Freelance) and **Reconstruction Drawings** by Jake Lunt (Freelance) will be managed by **Mary Alexander** (PX Manager).

- 9.3 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management, will be externally copy-edited and externally refereed by **Tom Moore** (University of Durham) and **Abbey Antrobus** (Suffolk Conty Council).

## 10. TASK LIST

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION/ COST
<b>Project Management</b>		
	HOP	5
	PXM	18
<b>Project meetings</b>		
	PXM	4
	HOF	2
	PO 1	2
	PO 2	2
	FO	2
	EO 1	2
	EO 2	2
Key external specialists attendance (pottery)	Specialists	FEE
<b>Stratigraphic Analysis</b>		
Analysis	PO 1	55
	PO 2	35
	FO	5
Review of stratigraphy	EO 1	1
	EO 2	1
Quality assurance	PXM	15
Spatial analysis/digitising	SI	20
	GO	3
	PO 1/2	7
Data entry	PS	20
<b>Research, comparanda</b>		

	PO 1/2	6
	PrA 1	3
<b>Flint</b>		
Analysis and report	FO	2
Illustration	SI	1
<b>Pottery: Prehistoric</b>		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
Thin-section analysis (up to 10 sherds) and report	Specialist	FEE
Illustration	SI	8.5
<b>Pottery: Roman</b>		
Analysis and report	FO	6
Samian	Specialist	FEE
Illustration	SI	5
<b>Pottery: Post-Roman</b>		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
Illustration	SI	3
<b>Metallurgy</b>		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
Illustration (crucibles)	SI	2
<b>Fired Clay</b>		
Analysis and report	AFO	3
Illustration (loomweight)	SI	0.5
<b>CBM</b>		
Report preparation	FO	5
<b>Coins</b>		
Report preparation	AFO	0.5
Conservation	Specialist	FEE
<b>Metal artefacts</b>		
Conservation	Specialist	FEE
Analysis and Report	FO	5
Illustration	SI	3.5
<b>Worked bone and antler</b>		
Analysis and report	FO	3
Illustration	SI	4
<b>Glass</b>		
Illustration	AFO	0.5
	SI	0.25
<b>Worked stone</b>		
Report preparation	Specialist	FEE
Illustration	SI	0.25
<b>Human bone</b>		
Analysis and report	EO 1	7
<b>Animal bone</b>		
Analysis and report	EO 1	73.5
<b>Fish bone</b>		
Report	Specialist	FEE
<b>Plant macrofossils and charcoal</b>		
Processing	FA	39
Analysis and report	EO 2	52.5
Hemp identification	Specialist	FEE
<b>Pollen</b>		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
<b>Molluscs</b>		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
<b>Insects</b>		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
<b>Geoarchaeology</b>		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
<b>Specialists quality assurance</b>		
	FO	3
	EO 1	2
	EO 2	1
<b>Archaeomagnetic dating</b>		
Report summary	Specialist	FEE
<b>Radiocarbon dating</b>		
Analysis (up to 32 samples)	Specialist	FEE

Bayesian analysis	Specialist	FEE
	PXM	1
Report preparation	EO 2	8
<b>Documentary research</b>		
Research and report	Specialist	FEE
Editing	PrA 1	3
Figures	SI	4
<b>Specialists liaison</b>	FO	3
	EO 1	4
	EO 2	2
Finds admin and packaging/courier	AFO	3
<b>Preparation of publication report</b>		
Cover design	SI	2
Introduction	PO 1	3
	PrA 4	3
	SI	1
Figure preparation/liaison	PO 1	10
Excavation results	PO 1	15
	PO 2	5
	PrA 1	10
	SI	12
Compilation of specialist reports, tables etc.	PO 2	4
Discussion, conclusions		
<i>Bronze Age/Iron Age</i>	PrA 2	15
<i>Roman</i>	PrA 3	6
<i>Saxon/medieval</i>	PrA 1	9
<i>Themes/conclusion</i>	PrA 1	8
Interpretive figures	SI	6
Reconstruction drawings	Specialist	FEE
Bibliography	PO 1	6
Abstract/Acknowledgements,	PrA 1	2
Compilation and primary editing	PrA 1	20
<b>Submission to external referees</b>		
	PXM	2
Quality assurance	HOP	5
Revisions	PrA 1	5
	PrA 2	5
	PO 1/2	8
	FO	4
	EO 1/2	6
	SI	2
<b>CA Quality approval</b>	CEO	2
<b>SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT</b>		
	PXM	2
<b>Proofs</b>	PrA 1	4
<b>Archive</b>		
Research archive completion	PO 2	3
	AFO	5
	PS	15
Microfilm		FEE
Deposition		FEE
	AFO	2
<b>Publication</b>		
Printing	EAA	FEE

Key: CEO: Chief Executive Officer, HOP: Head of Publications; HOF: Head of Fieldwork; PXM: Post-Excavation Manager; PO 1/PO 2: Project Officer; FO: Finds Officer; EO 1: Environmental Officer, (environmental); EO 2: Environmental Officer (osteologist), AFO: Assistant Finds Officer, SI: Senior Illustrator; GO: Geomatic Officer, PS: Project Supervisor; PA: Project Archaeologist, FA: Finds Assistant  
PrA 1-4: Principal Authors 1-4

## **11. TIMETABLE**

- 11.1 For a publication project of this scale, CA would normally predict to have completed a publication draft within 18 months of approval of the updated publication project design. A detailed programme will be produced on approval of the updated publication project design.

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### **Suffolk Record Office Bury St Edmunds**

Maps

HD 1180/57 Sale Particulars Bunbury Estate Mildenhall 1933  
1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map sheet number Suffolk XXI.13 1904  
1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map sheet number Suffolk XXI.9 1882

#### *Manuscript Maps*

T97/2 Tithe Map Mildenhall 1858  
T97/1 Tithe Apportionment Mildenhall 1858

#### *Mildenhall Rural District Council*

EF 505/1/81 Mildenhall Inclosure award and map 1812  
EF 505/1/82 Map of Mildenhall Parish by W.H. Young 1834  
EF 505/1/83 Map of the eastern half of Mildenhall Parish by David Haylock 1851 (not available for research).

#### *Suffolk Quarter Sessions Records*

Q/RI 30B Enclosure Map 1812  
Q/R1 30A Pre-Enclosure Map c. 1807  
Q/RI 24 Enclosure Award Mildenhall 1812

#### *Bunbury Collection*

E18/410/1 Copy of Enclosure Act Mildenhall and associated papers 1807  
E18/410/2 Copy of Enclosure Award Mildenhall 1812  
E18/452/13/9 Deed of Feoffment Kelle Meadow and other lands 31 October 1584  
E18/452/13/10 Final Concord Kelle Meadow 2 March 1584/85  
E18/452/14/14 Meadow called Auncells now called the Lyme Kelles with a cottage built on it in Neates Way'  
E18/452/14/16 Lease Kelle Meadow and other lands 13 September 1584  
E18/452/14/17 Counter-part deed of feoffment Kelle Meadow and other lands 31 October 1584  
E18/452/20A/8 Dower rights in third part of land called Lymekell 1582  
E18/452/110 Deeds relating to the manor of Aspoll 1557 - 1683  
E18/454/5-7 Field books Manor of Mildenhall 1574  
E 18/454/14 A Terrier of all Sir Henry North his lands both free & copy as also such lands as he holdeth by lease as well of the Kings Magestie as of Trinity Colledg in Cambridge made & taken the 4th of March in the 9th year of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord King James annoq dom 1611  
E18/455/12-17 Rentals Manor of Mildenhall 1762-1785

E18/722/1/1 Lease Lime Kiln close and other pieces in Mildenhall 13 December 1825

*Solicitors' Collection*

1374/7 Draft Court Book Manor of Mildenhall 1759-78

1374/8 Draft Court Book Manor of Mildenhall 1759-78

1374/9 Draft Court Book Manor of Mildenhall 1779-1786

1374/27 Schedule to William Young's Map of Mildenhall 1834

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- ▬ site
- ▬ excavation areas
- archaeological feature
- modern
- previous evaluation trench showing archaeological features
- ⊕ borehole locations
- line of break of slope in chalk bedrock
- northern extent of palaeo-channel



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall  
 Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Plan, showing areas of excavation of  
 archaeological features and evaluation  
 trenches

PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

P:\9100\_Mildenhall\_PXA\Illustration\Drafts\9100\_PXA\_drafts\draft\_3\9100\_Mildenhall\_PXA\_Fig 2.dwg







- site
- excavation areas
- Late Bronze Age
- Middle Iron Age
- Late Iron Age
- other periods
- modern
- - - line of break of slope in chalk bedrock
- ⓐ ⓑ ⓓ section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Period 1: Late Bronze Age and Period 2: Middle and Late Iron Age**

PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	3
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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 TL



- ▬ site
- ▬ excavation areas
- Late Bronze Age
- Middle Iron Age
- Late Iron Age
- other periods
- modern
- ⓐ ⓑ section location

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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall  
 Suffolk**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Period 1: Late Bronze Age and Period 2:  
 Middle and Late Iron Age, detail of Area  
 20**

PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>4</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:200	

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TL



- site
- excavation areas
- Roman
- other periods
- modern
- - - line of break of slope in chalk bedrock
- ⓐ ⓑ section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 3: Roman - The dry ground

PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>5</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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AREA 12

AREA 20

- site
- excavation areas
- Roman
- other periods
- modern



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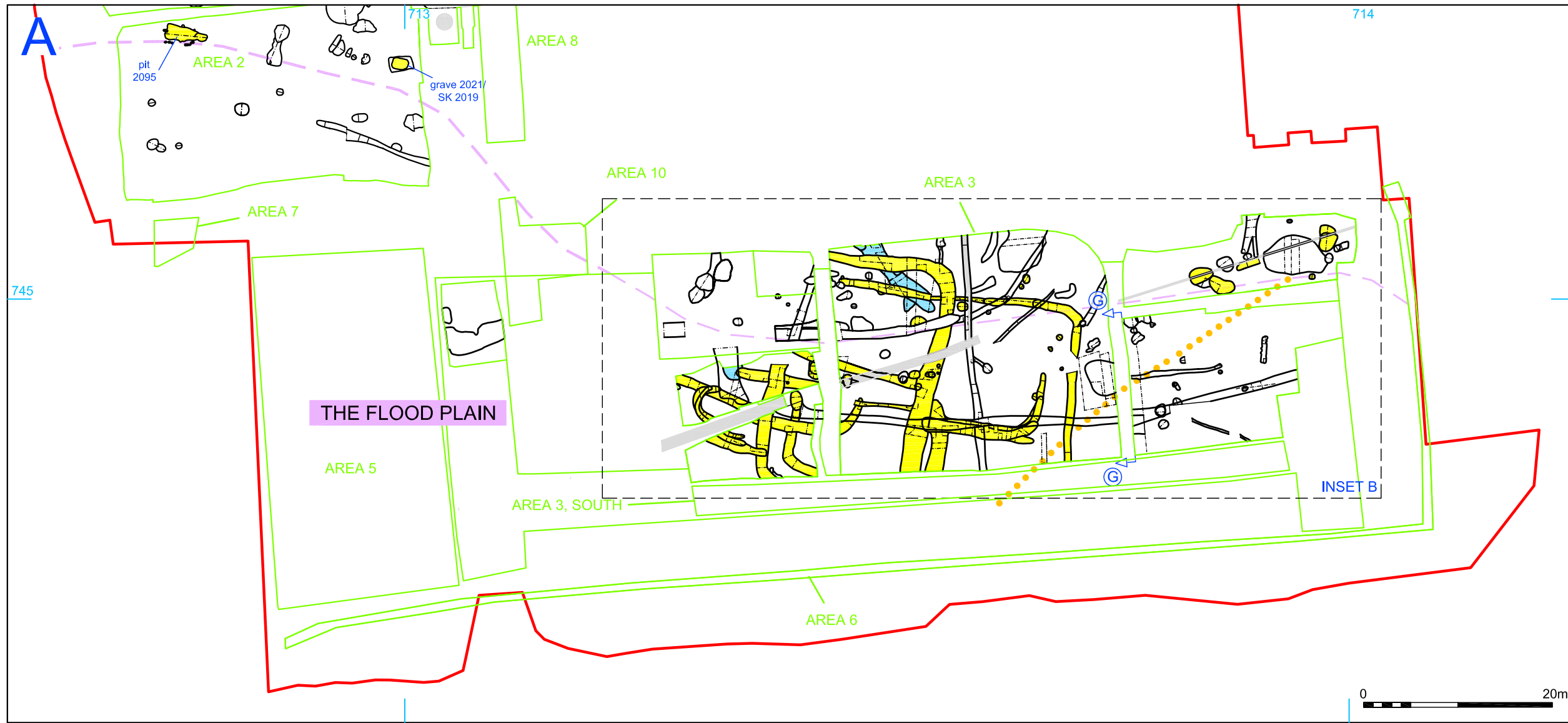
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall  
 Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 3: Roman - The dry ground, detail  
 of Area 20

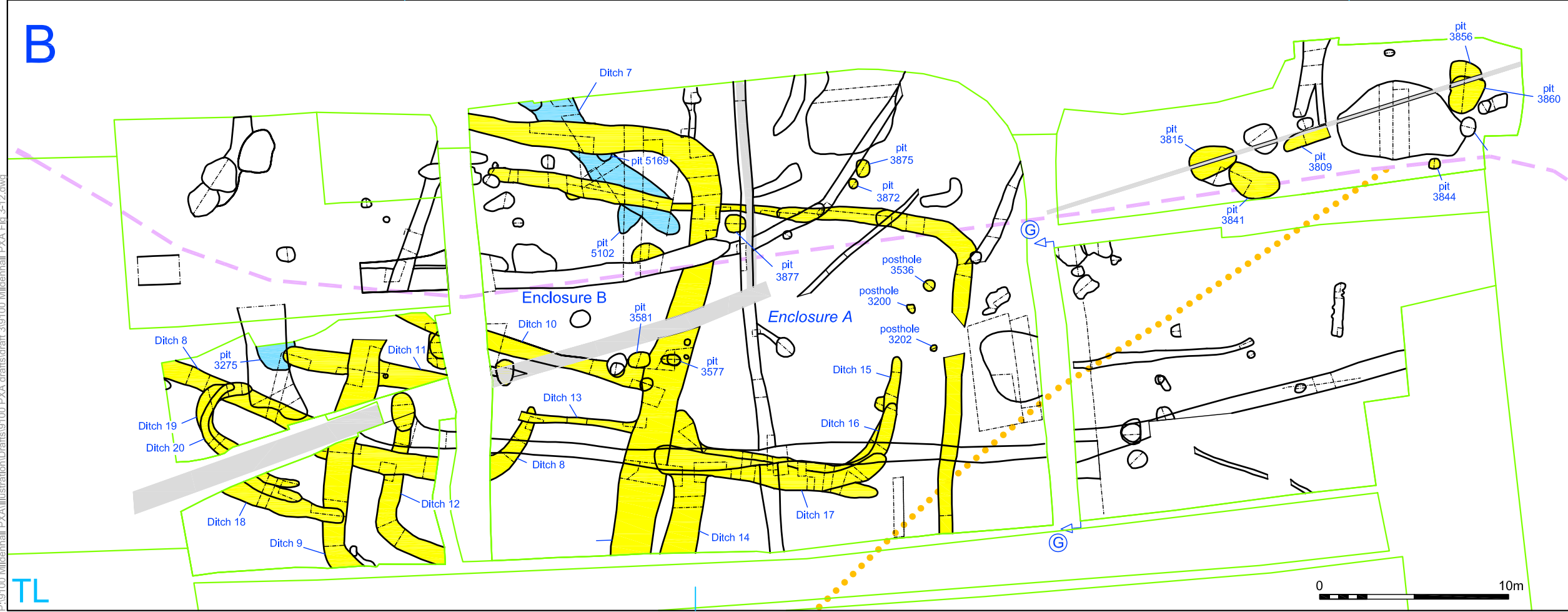
PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	6
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:200	

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TL



- site
- excavation areas
- early Roman
- late Roman
- other periods
- modern
- - - line of break of slope in chalk bedrock
- northern extent of palaeo-channel
- ⓐ ⓑ section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 3: Roman - The flood plain

PROJECT NO. 9100 DATE 19-01-2012 FIGURE NO.  
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00 7  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A3 1:500 & 1:250

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TL



- site
- excavation areas
- Anglo-Saxon/early medieval
- medieval
- other periods
- modern
- - - line of break of slope in chalk bedrock
- A-A' B-B' section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 4: Anglo-Saxon/Early medieval and Period 5: medieval - The dry ground

PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>8</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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- site
- excavation areas
- Anglo-Saxon/early medieval
- medieval
- other periods
- modern

0  10m

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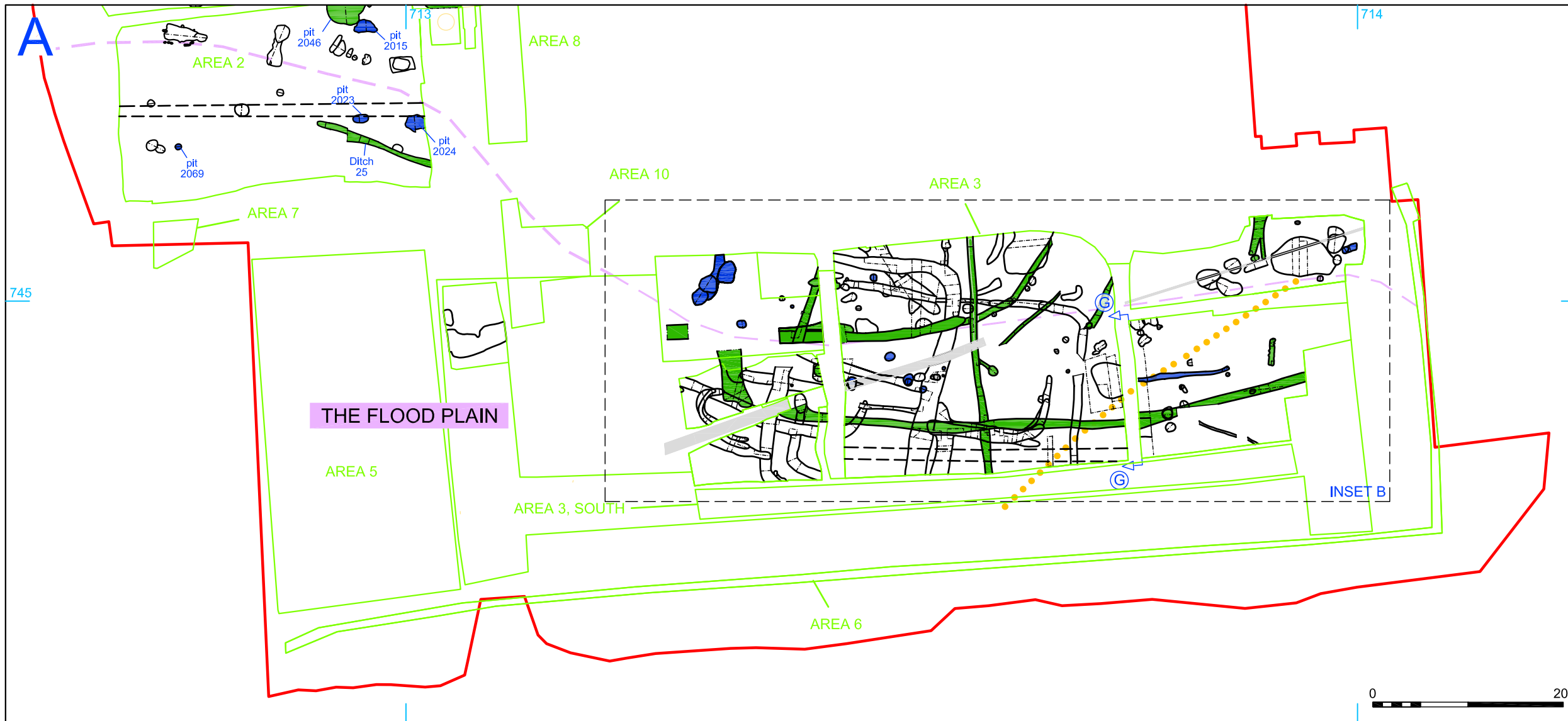
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Period 4: Anglo-Saxon/Early medieval  
 and Period 5: medieval - detail of  
 Area 20**

PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>9</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:200	

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- site
- excavation areas
- Anglo-Saxon/early medieval
- medieval
- other periods
- modern
- - - line of break of slope in chalk bedrock
- ⓑ ⓐ ⓐ section locations
- northern extent of palaeo-channel



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall Suffolk

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Period 4: Anglo-Saxon/Early medieval and Period 5: medieval - The flood plain

PROJECT NO. 9100 DATE 19-01-2012 FIGURE NO.  
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00 10  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A3 1:500 & 1:250

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TL





- site
- excavation areas
- post-medieval
- undated
- other periods
- modern
- line of break of slope in chalk bedrock



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall Suffolk**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Period 6: Post-medieval and undated - The dry ground**

PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>11</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

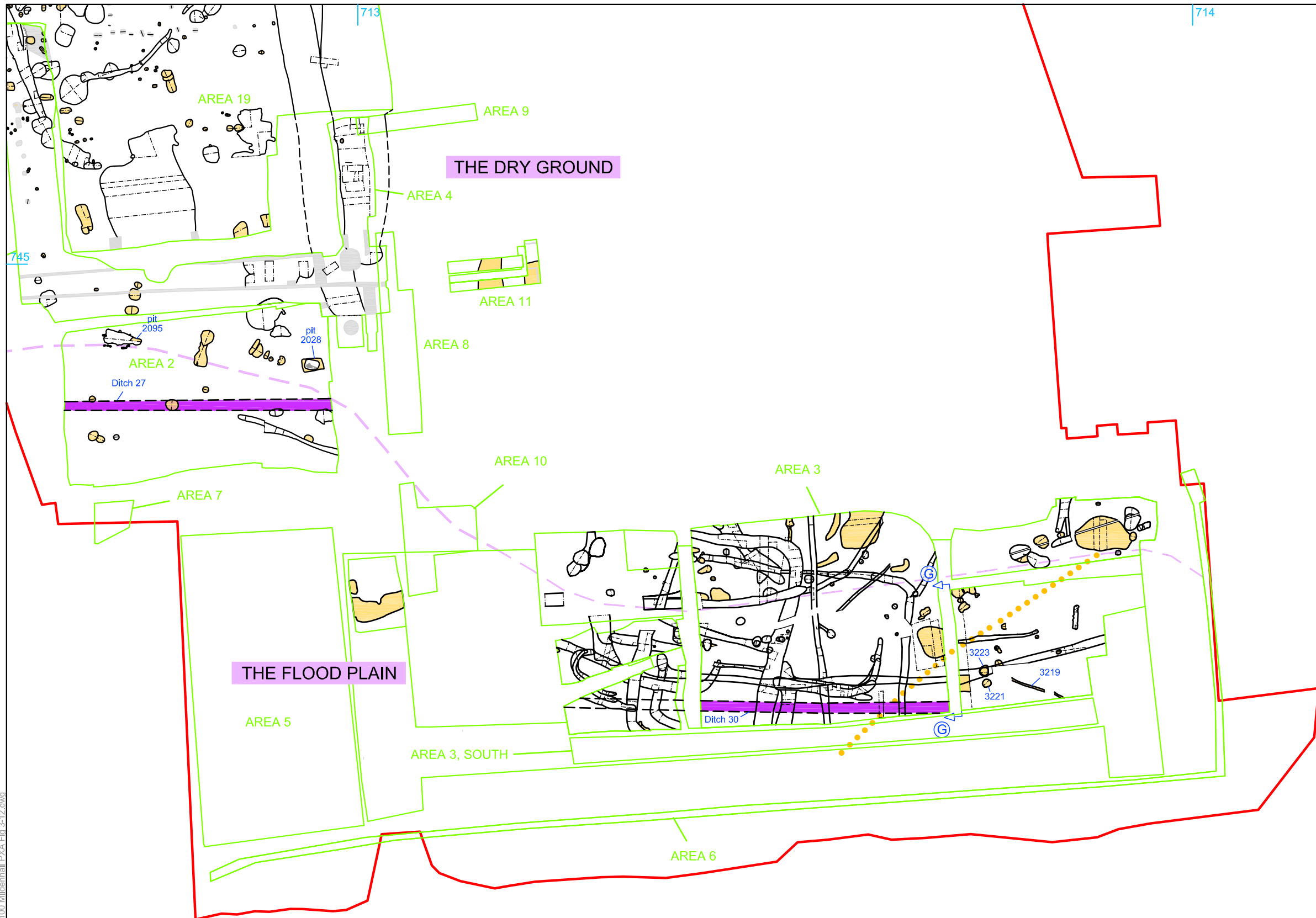
746

713

745



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- site
- excavation areas
- post-medieval
- undated
- other periods
- modern
- - - line of break of slope in chalk bedrock
- northern extent of palaeo-channel
- Ⓜ section location



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall  
 Suffolk**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Period 6: Post-medieval and undated -  
 The flood plain**

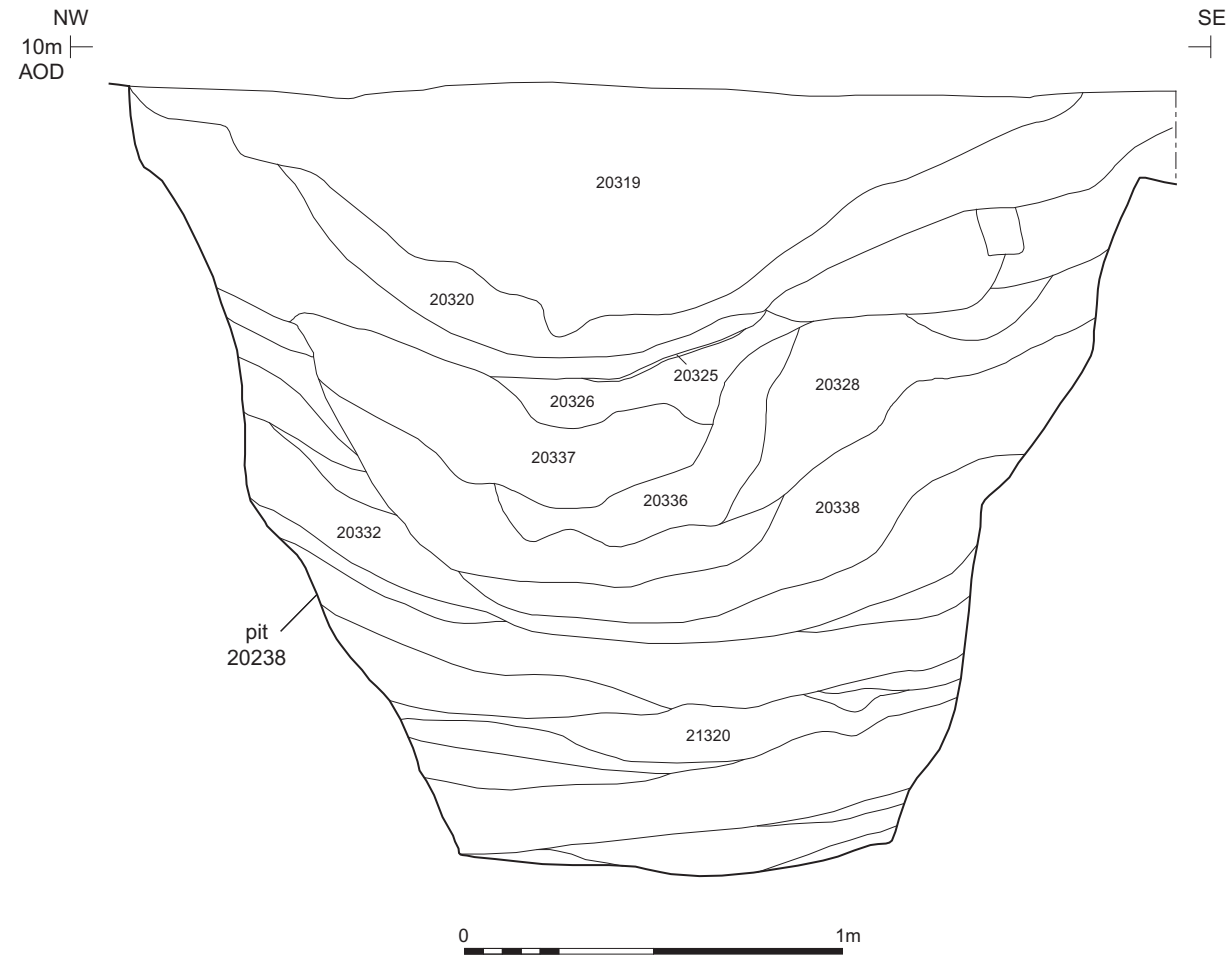
PROJECT NO.	9100	DATE	19-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>12</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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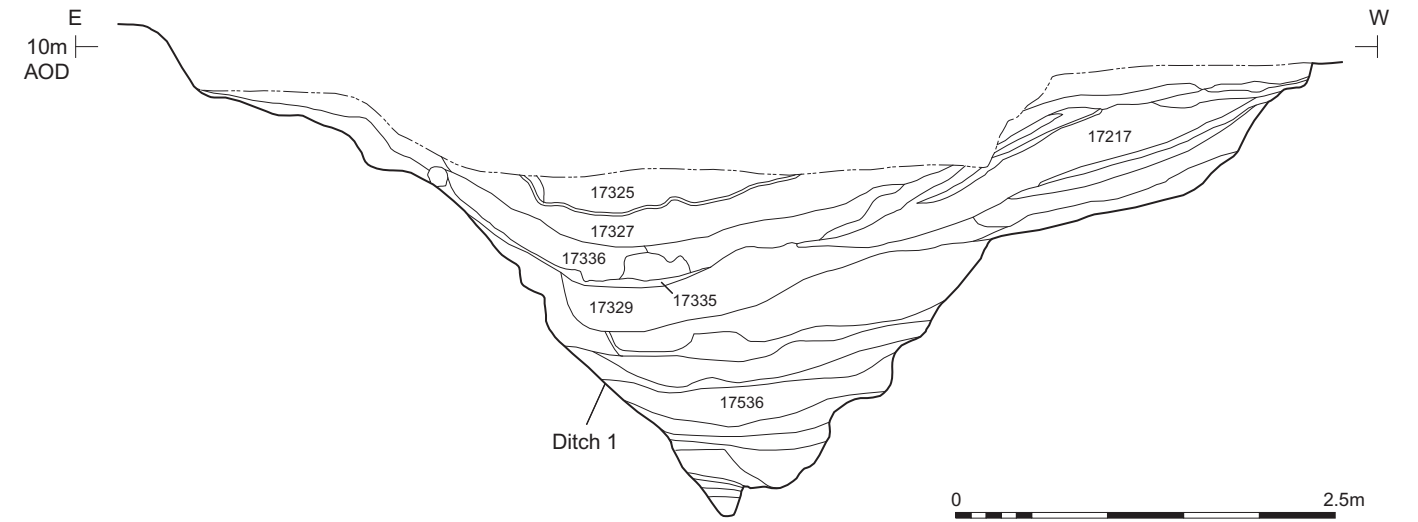
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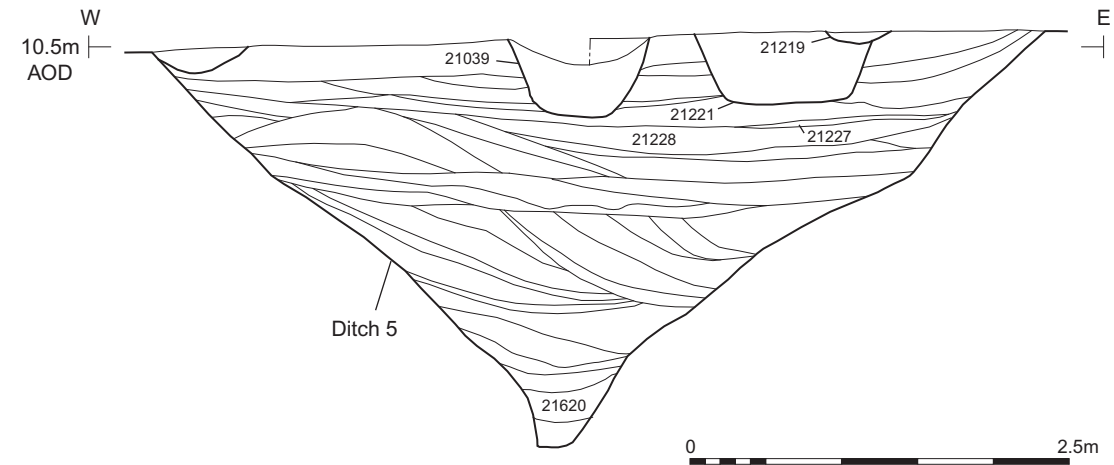
Section AA, Bronze Age, pit 20238 (1:20)



Section BB, Middle Iron Age, Ditch 1 (1:50)



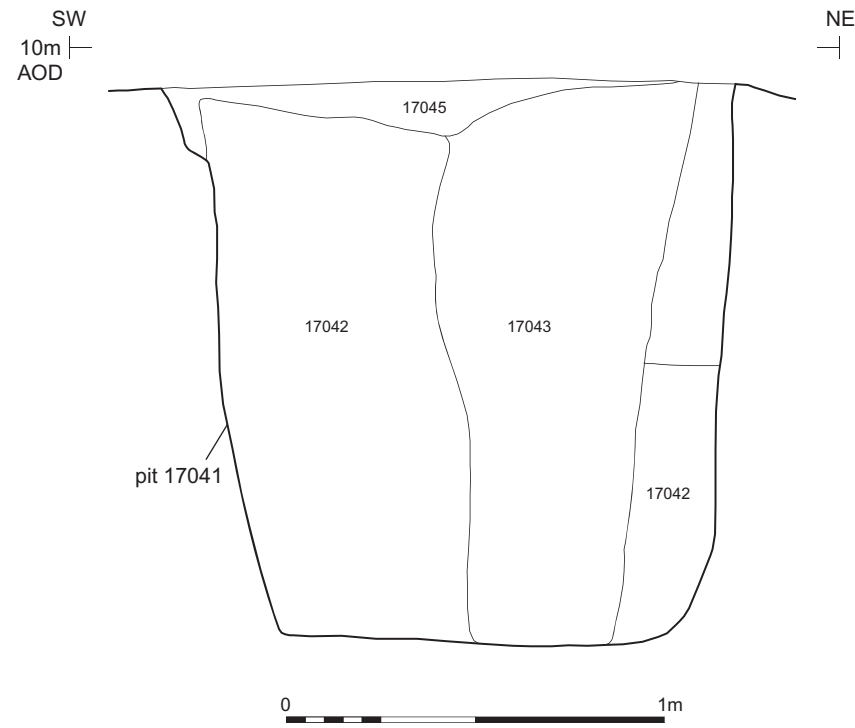
Section CC, Middle Iron Age, Ditch 5 (1:50)



Section DD, Middle Iron Age, Ditch 6 (1:50)



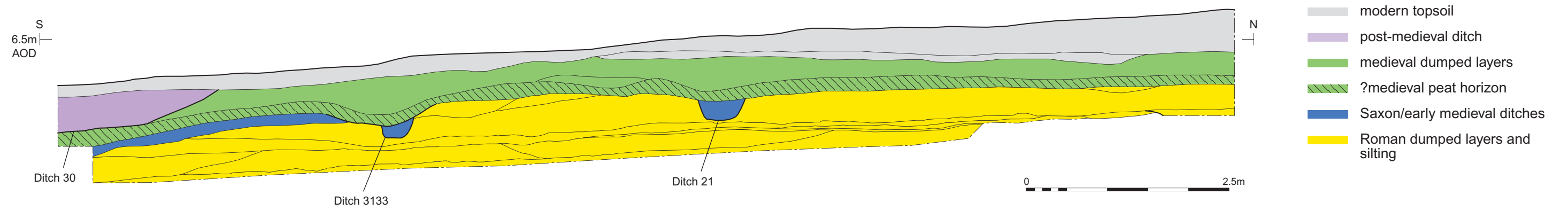
Section EE, Roman, postpit 17041 (1:20)



Section FF, medieval, Ditch 2 (1:20)



Section GG, north-south baulk, Area 3 (1:50)



- modern topsoil
- post-medieval ditch
- medieval dumped layers
- ?medieval peat horizon
- Saxon/early medieval ditches
- Roman dumped layers and silting

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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall  
 Suffolk**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Sections**



15



16



17



18

15 Area 15, site of the Former Social Club and Bowling Green, looking south-east

16 Late Iron Age Ditch 6 looking north-east

17 Late Iron Age hearth, 22058 looking south (scale 1m)

18 Romano-British burial SK 21080, looking north (scale 1m)



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land at Recreation Way, Mildenhall  
Suffolk

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Medieval kiln 20044, looking south  
(scales 1m and 2m)**

PROJECT NO. 9100 DATE 15-02-2012  
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*FIGURE NO.*

**19**