

THE NATIONAL TRUST ESTATE  
at SUTTON HOO  
near Woodbridge, Suffolk

An archaeological survey



SURVEY REPORT



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THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND



**RCHM**  
**ENGLAND**

**SUTTON HOO ESTATE**  
**SUFFOLK**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**NMR INDEX Event no: 1334633**

**NGR: TM 2890 4912**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

*In March 1999, the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) carried out archaeological field survey on the Sutton Hoo estate in Suffolk. The survey examined an area of riverine foreshore, marsh, woodland and agricultural land along the south bank of the River Deben opposite Woodbridge. The site of the Anglo-Saxon barrow cemetery lies on the south-eastern fringe of the survey area but, given the recent Sutton Hoo Research Project, was not included in the current work.*

*The present survey was undertaken at the request of the National Trust, who acquired the site in 1997, and who are seeking to manage the site and open parts of it to the public. Fieldwork was the responsibility of the RCHME Archaeological Field Office in Cambridge.*

The Sutton Hoo estate, some 99.5 hectares (245.89 acres) lies in the parishes of Sutton and Bromeswell, on the south bank of the River Deben (Fig 1). The estate includes low-lying ground in a strip of varying width, now partly mud flats inundated at high tide, but is composed mainly of rising ground formed into a series of combes and spurs, giving onto a plateau. The slopes have small amounts of arable and heath but are mainly wooded, the



Figure 1  
Sutton Hoo,  
location map





THE NATIONAL TRUST

# Sutton Hoo Estate

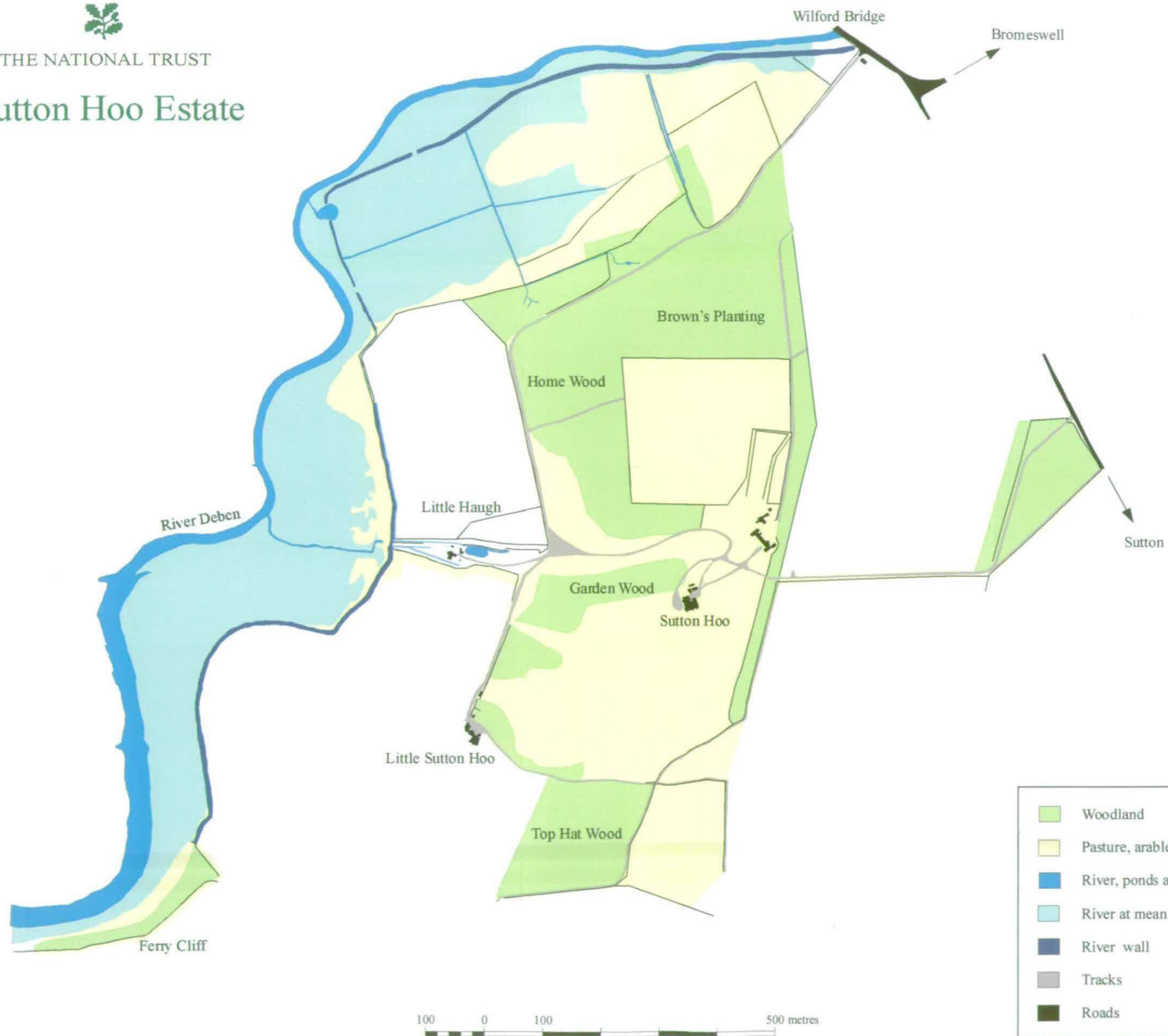


Figure 2  
General plan of the  
Sutton Hoo Estate

result of extensive planting in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, for shooting on an estate centred initially on Little Sutton Hoo and later on Sutton Hoo house. Much of this woodland is now fairly mature and includes both deciduous and evergreen species. The low ground near the river is taken up by wood, marsh and mud flats (Fig 2).

The purpose of this survey was simply to locate, survey and interpret any *upstanding* archaeological features, including those in the estuarine mud of the Deben foreshore. As such it is essentially a gazetteer, to form a supporting document for the wider research and interpretation being carried out by the National Trust on the estate as a whole.

The evolving landscape of the earlier medieval, Romano-British and prehistoric periods has been the subject of extensive fieldwork and research for the Sutton Hoo Project, centred on the barrow cemetery but extending into a wider area, including the estate. For the present purposes, it is sufficient to note that finds of the early medieval, Romano-British and prehistoric periods have been made previously on and around the estate and more can be expected - indeed another early medieval cemetery was excavated in 2000 near Sutton Hoo house. These finds are simply outlined in a gazetteer below.

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century AD, the present Sutton Hoo Estate formed part of a large holding in Sutton and Bromeswell parishes belonging to Robert Mather. It comprised a mixture of unenclosed heathland pasture on the higher ground to the east and enclosed fields on the slopes and low ground towards the river. This is a pattern which had developed in the late medieval period but which concealed, especially in Sutton, a complex pattern of ownership that had resulted from the breakdown of a medieval open field system (Warner 1985, 17). The 17<sup>th</sup>-century holding was centred on a settlement on the lower ground, now called Little Sutton Hoo ("the Howe"). Further buildings stood a little to the north at Little Haugh.

Some of this 17<sup>th</sup>-century field pattern is still recognisable on the 19<sup>th</sup> century tithe maps for Sutton and Bromeswell (SRO: FDA 247/A1/1b; FDA 43/A1/1b). However, in 1873 the Lomax family bought the estate and established themselves at Little Sutton Hoo, making alterations to the house and grounds. Furthermore, the whole estate was modified for shooting, with the creation of new plantations to provide habitat and cover for game, including what is now Top Hat Wood and Home Wood by 1902 (OS 6-inch 1905). In 1910, John Chadwick Lomax began to build a new house on a bluff high above the Deben, named Sutton Hoo, and further plantations were established thereafter.

There was extensive military activity during the Second World War, especially on the heathland to the west and south-west of the estate. However, aerial photographs reveal extensive use of the estate by military vehicles (NMR: US/7PH/GP/LOC/288/12014).

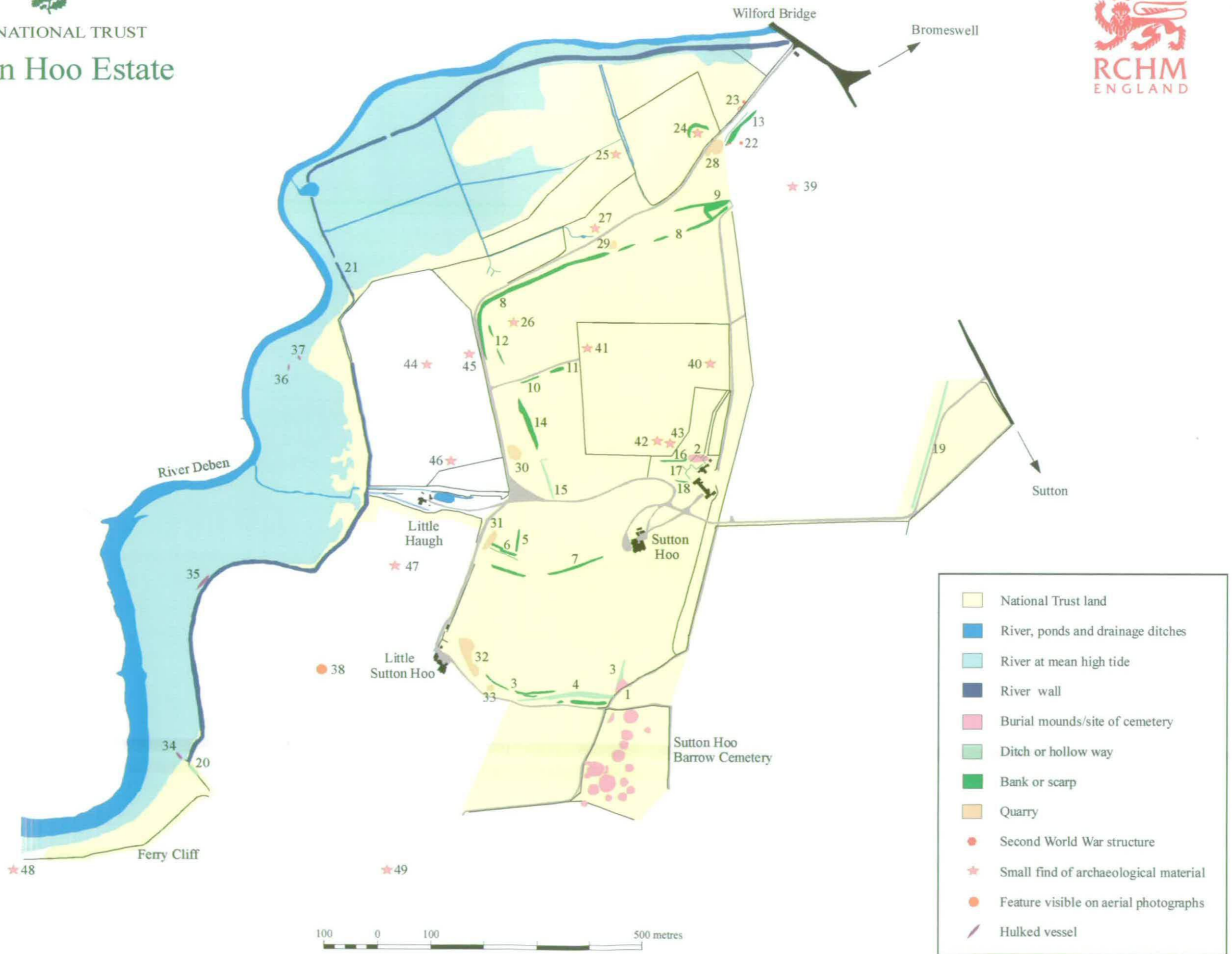


Figure 3  
Archaeological features  
and finds on the  
Sutton Hoo Estate

## 2. GAZETTEER and INTERPRETATION

The following details all archaeological features recorded during the field survey, as well as those sites previously known. All words and letters shown in **bold** in the following text appear on Figure 3.

1. **TM 2882 4886**: a low semi-circular mound situated against a field boundary and cut by the adjacent track. The mound measures approximately 10m along the field boundary and 15m into the field, and is only 0.2m in height. It is possibly another round barrow of the Sutton Hoo cemetery but this suggestion would need further investigation.

2. **TM 2897 4930**: excavations in 2000 revealed a cemetery comprising cremations and inhumations, provisionally dated between the 6th and early 7th century AD: some of the cremations were within ring ditches and grave goods included a hanging bowl. Other finds included a possible Bronze Age ring ditch, fragments of prehistoric or Romano-British boundaries, and sheep graves from a post-medieval sheep fold.

### **Linear features**

3. **TM 2856 4888 to TM 2869 4885 and TM 2881 4886 to TM 2882 4891**: a former field boundary, showing as a very slight and intermittent scarp or bank along the edge of the hollow way (4) and as a short stretch of shallow ditch extending north-eastwards from (1). This redundant boundary was a strong earthwork in 1971 and originally formed part of a large squarish field enclosing the combe, possibly that shown on William Haiward's map of 1629 (hereafter, the 1629 map) (Fig 4; NMR: OS 71/156/165; SRO: JA1/48/2). It is certainly shown in 1836, with heathland beyond, and known as *Hoo Hills* in 1844 (BL OS 1-inch, 1836; SRO: FDA 43/A1/1b). It was still a functioning field in 1928 and 1945 but by the latter date its eastern side had been replaced by a new boundary a little to the west (OS 6-inch 1928; NMR: 106G/UK/832/3070).

4. **TM 2880 4883 to 2862 4883**: an east-west hollow way descending the slope from a point at the northern end of the Sutton Hoo barrow cemetery, to join the present track from Little Sutton Hoo. It is 11.5m across and up to 1.0m deep, the northern side smooth and gradual while the southern side is much steeper and broken. There are traces of a broad flattened bank, 9.0m wide, adjoining the eastern end along the southern side. This hollow way and its continuation as the existing track to Little Sutton Hoo is part of an old route from the Deben ferry across the heath, which appears on John Norden's map of 1600-1 (hereafter, the 1601 map) and on the 1629 map (Fig 4; SRO: V5/22/1; JA1/48/2). It was also the link between the settlement at Little Sutton Hoo on the low ground and its sheepwalk on the plateau.



5. TM 2862 4912 to 2862 4916: a short length of bank and ditch, running north to south diagonally across the spur and down the slope in Garden Wood. The whole earthwork is very denuded, with the bank 3.0m wide and 0.4m high, the ditch 3.0m wide and 0.4m deep. Although certainly a boundary, probably a medieval/post-medieval one, it does not appear on any map and its origin is, therefore, uncertain. It could even be prehistoric (Fig 5; see Concluding Remarks below).

6. TM 2858 4913: a small rectangular platform, some 25.0 m by 4.0m, cut 1.5m back into the slope on the south side of Garden Wood. A short terrace extends for 26.0m eastwards from the platform. On the western side, the platform is cut by a small quarry, 31. The purpose of this feature is unclear but it is possible that a small building may have stood here, perhaps an ornamental structure connected with Sutton Hoo house. The terrace appears to mark the southern boundary of Garden Wood from at least 1881 (OS 6-inch 1889).

7. TM 2857 4910 to TM 2864 4907 and TM 2868 4908 to TM 2878 4911: a small terraced path, 2.5m wide, which ascends the combe to Sutton Hoo house. This feature was a footpath from at least 1881 but was used by vehicles in the Second World War (OS 6-inch 1889; 1905; 1938; NMR: US/7PH/GP/LOC/288/12014).

8. TM 2902 4980-2855 4960-2856 4950; a large boundary feature describing an L-shape in Brown's Planting and How Wood. At the eastern end, it is a bank 3.3m wide, with a height of 1.0m on the downslope but only 0.2m upslope. With progress westwards it becomes a long and prominent scarp up to 5.0m wide and 1.5m high. Having turned south adjacent to the present track, the slope is 4.8m wide but only 0.4m high, and fades out quickly. This feature is probably the large boundary shown on the 1601 map, which formerly separated enclosed land from open heath. It formed part of the boundary of field 344, *Swelly Walk*, in 1843 and 1889 (but see 12 below) (SRO: V5/22/1; FDA 43/A1/1b; OS 6-inch 1889).

9. TM 2900 4979: a prominent rectangular platform formed by an L-shaped scarp, 5.0-8.0m wide and 0.9-1.5m high, attached to the northern face of feature 8 at its eastern end. It might be the site of a small farm building, as it is positioned just outside the north-eastern corner of the field called *Swelly Walk* in 1843, but this remains speculative (SRO: FDA 43/A1/1b).

10. TM 2863 4945 to TM 2867 4947: a slight ditch, 3.3m wide and 0.5m deep, along the edge of a track in How Wood. It is possibly the site of a fence at the northern end of a conifer plantation known in 1902, but may also be the result of damage caused by vehicles during the Second World War (OS 6-inch 1905; NMR: US/7PH/GP/LOC/288/12014).



Figure 4  
*The Sutton Hoo Estate:  
 the known field pattern  
 in the early 17th  
 century, superimposed  
 on the present  
 landscape*

	National Trust land
	Burial mounds
	Early 17th-century fieldpattern (after Royle 1988)

11. TM 28704948: a hollow, 3.6m wide and 0.9m deep, with a bank along the southern side, 5.8m wide and 0.5m high. The feature has sharp edges and appears to be of modern origin.

12. TM 28574957 to TM 28604949: a slight scarp, 1.5m wide and 0.4m high, running along the contour on the western side of How Wood. This may be the former western boundary of the field *Swelly Walk* as shown in 1843, diverging from the earlier line of feature 8, and remaining as a plantation boundary until at least 1938 (OS 6-inch 1938). However, aerial photographs taken in 1944 show a track used by military vehicles on a similar alignment (NMR: US/7PH/GP/LOC/288/12014).

13. TM 29074998 to 29024992: a linear scarp, 2.2m high up to 8.7m wide, cut into the hillside and forming a slight terrace along the scarp edge. Its purpose is unknown but may be the western extremity of sand quarries known in 1881 (OS 6-inch 1891). Alternatively, its proximity to a pillbox 22 may hint at a military origin.

14. TM 28634942 to TM 28664932: a broad and shallow hollow way or ditch, 9.6m wide and up to 1.0m deep, traversing the slope on the western side of How Wood. This feature appears to be the trackway alongside the plantation, shown in 1925, but its depth might suggest an earlier origin serving the same purpose (OS 6-inch 1938). It also appears to have been used extensively by military vehicles in the Second World War (NMR: US/7PH/GP/LOC/288/12014)

15. TM 28674930 to TM 28694923: a denuded bank and ditch descending the slope into the combe on the southern side of How Wood. The ditch is 3.9m wide and 0.4m deep, with the bank on its eastern side, 4.8m wide and 0.3m high. The stub of a junction with another boundary survives at the northern end, leading off to the east. Together they form the north-western corner of a field called *Swelly Whin* in 1843. The main feature was redundant by 1873 (SRO: FDA 43/A1/1b; HD 80/2/2). The ditch descending the hill also appears to have been used as a track by military vehicles in the Second World War (NMR: US/7PH/GP/LOC/288/12014).

16. TM 28904930 to 28944930: a scarp, 2.6m wide and 0.5m high, defining the edge of a narrow terrace along the scarp edge. This feature is probably the southern boundary of the former field, *Swelly Whin*, as shown in 1844, or perhaps a track or path running parallel to it (SRO: FDA 43/H1/1b).

17. TM 28964929: a series of banks forming two enclosures on the north-western side of the coach house to Sutton Hoo house. These are prominent features up to 2.5m wide and 0.9m high, with the remains of grown-out yew hedging. These enclosures formed ornamental

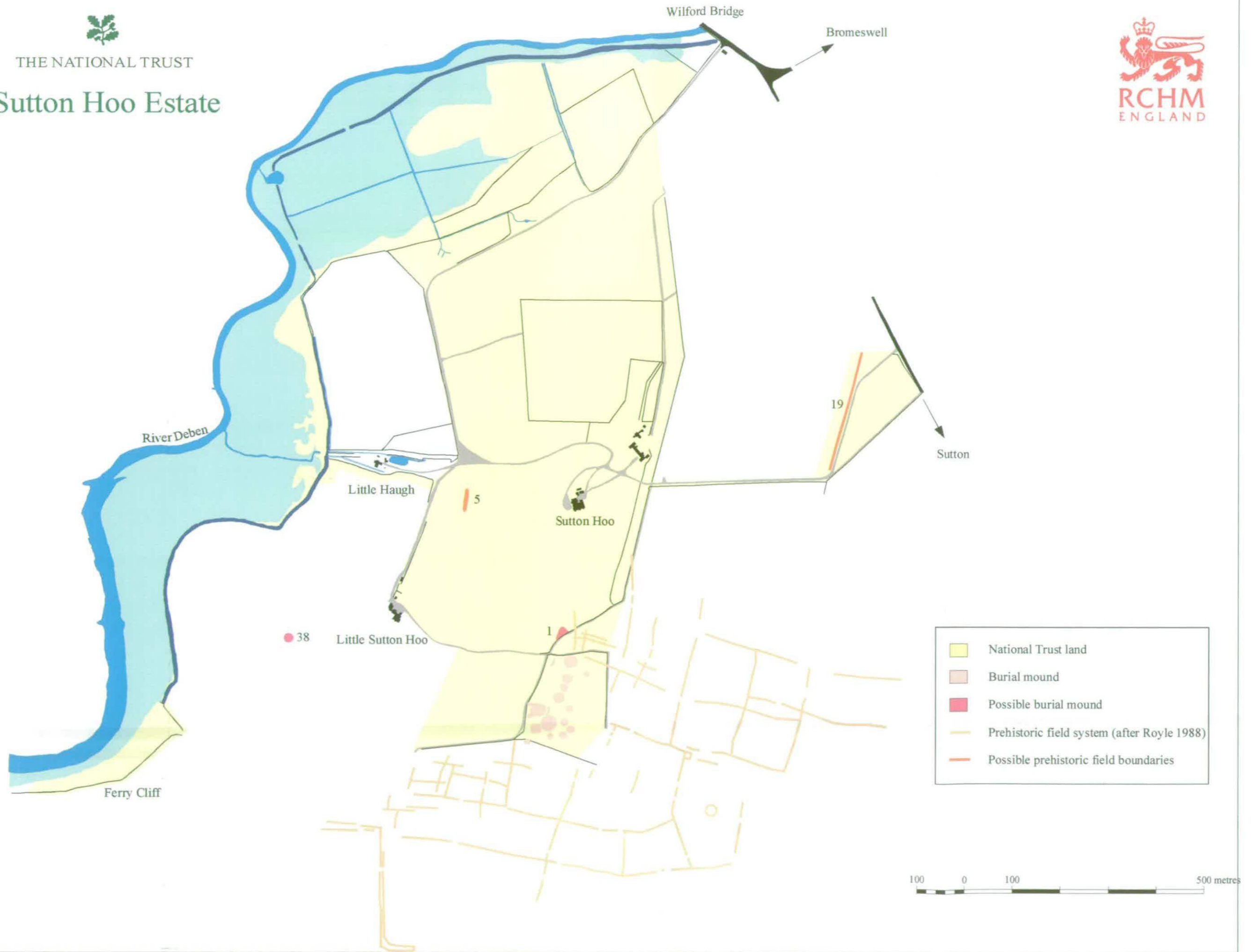


Figure 5  
The Sutton Hoo Estate:  
prehistoric field system  
south-west of the estate,  
superimposed on the  
present landscape

garden compartments and connect with a lane leading off to the north-east, similarly hedged. There are greenhouses nearby. A sheepyard or fold stood immediately to the east in 1873 and 1902 and was destroyed when the coach house was built around 1910 (SRO: HD 80/2/2; OS 6-inch 1905).

18. TM 2892 4926 to TM 2895 4926: a slight scarp, purpose unknown.

19. TM 2936 4917 to 2944 4946: a very spread bank, 5.6m wide and 0.4m high, along the south-eastern edge of a shelter belt, and cut by the approach track to Sutton Hoo. Its size, plus the absence of a bank around the rest of the belt, suggest an earlier origin as a boundary feature. It is on the same alignment as a prehistoric field system, now ploughed out in fields immediately to the south, and is conceivably of that date (Fig 5).

20. TM 2803 4868 to TM 2801 4871: a prominent bank in Apricot Hill Plantation, 4.0m wide and 1.2m high, with a ditch 4.2m wide and 0.9m deep, stretching from the base of Ferry Cliff to the Deben. An ancient oak is growing on the bank, while a stream runs along its south-western side. This boundary appears on the 1629 map and it persists until the tithe map of 1844, when it formed part of an arable field called *Apricot Hill*, although this section helped to divide the field from a pond in the north-western corner. With the merging of woodland in Ferry Cliff and Apricot Hill, the boundary became disused in the 20th century (SRO: JA1/48/2; FDA 43/A1/1b).

21. TM 2830 4965 to TM 2823 4985: the former *marsh wall*, built to protect a group of fields reclaimed from the flats alongside the Deben. The wall has been breached for some time, allowing flooding of the fields, which have largely reverted to mud flats inundated at high water. Although flooding probably occurred periodically at unusually high tides, the fields were abandoned after 1945 (NMR: 106G/UK/832/4071-2). The surviving accessible section of the marsh wall reveals the careful construction to keep out the tidal flow: it has a clay core, revetted on the inside with vertical timber planking set edge to edge and still standing up to 1.3m high. The side facing the river has two parallel timber revetments set 1.7m apart, the gap filled with a dumped stone core which has now spilled outwards (cover photo).

#### Pillboxes

22. TM 2905 4992: pillbox 1, situated on the crest of the hill to command an extensive view of the Deben (Fig 7). Built early in the Second World War, it is of the hexagonal type 22, the standard rifle and light machine gun (LMG) pillbox for 6 men, constructed of shuttered concrete with a smooth finish and traces of camouflage paint. There are six embrasures, five of identical pattern placed centrally to each face, suitable for rifle or LMG, and a sixth for



rifle only, adjacent to the entrance (Fig 6) . The five embrasures have splayed and stepped side walls, inside and out, (to prevent ricochets) and an internal splay to their upper surfaces. The entrance is protected by an L-shaped blast wall, butt jointed to the main structure and further secured by a metal tie rod above the entrance. The blast wall is pierced by a rifle embrasure, which aligns with the one adjacent to the entrance, enabling a field of view to the river.

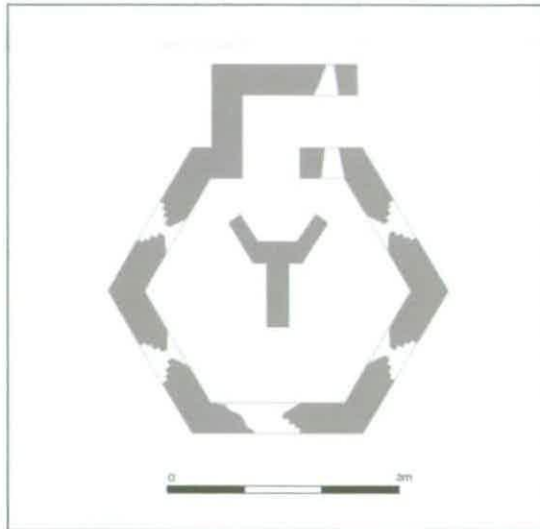


Figure 6  
Plan of pillbox 1

The interior is half whitewashed and has a central brick roof support. Beneath the five embrasures are remains of hinged shelves for ammunition and support for the weapon. Each embrasure is 0.25m wide and 0.22m deep.

Several small holes in the vicinity of the pillbox may have been slit trenches.

23. TM 2905 5000: pillbox 2 is alongside the track leading from the B1083 to Little Sutton Hoo. It is identical except that there is not a rifle embrasure in the entrance face. Rather, it is placed in the blast wall which looks back along the track to the main road. There are wooden plugs in the entrance, indicating the former presence of a doorframe.

Adjacent to the pillbox on the west are the remains of an associated open position, defined by concrete-filled sandbags, now obscured by soil and vegetation.



Figure 7  
Pillbox 1, from the south

Adjacent to the pillbox on the west are the remains of an associated open position, defined by concrete-filled sandbags, now obscured by soil and vegetation. The side walls splay outward to the rear, giving a maximum width of 10.4 m for the position; it is 5.7m from front to rear. Just outside each end of the position to the rear is an upright concrete post, 0.9m high. This position may have been an observation position, a vehicle park off the track, or perhaps for a small artillery piece. The concrete posts may have supported a chain barrier.



#### **An enclosure?**

24. TM 2896 4995: a prominent curving scarp situated in rough grass just above the marsh. The scarp is up to 7.0m wide and stands 1.1m high. Small quantities of medieval pottery, datable to the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, were recovered from molehills on the scarp and its vicinity, and it is possible that the scarp is part of a contemporary enclosure.

#### **Small finds**

25. TM 2882 4990: further pottery sherds of medieval date were found on the surface at this location to the west of 24.

26. TM 2862 4957: pottery sherds of late Romano-British date (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries) were found on the surface at this location.

27. TM 2876 4974: pottery sherds of late Romano-British date (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries) were found on the surface at this location.

#### **Quarries**

Several small disused quarries are cut into the slope along the track leading from the B1083 to Little Sutton Hoo. All were for sand, gravel or brickearth. They are situated at:

28. TM 2900 4991: shown as a scarp in 1881 (OS 25-inch 1881).

29. TM 2880 4972: shown as a sand pit in 1880 and named as such in 1902. By 1925 it appears as a scarp only (OS 25-inch 1881; 1904; 1927).

30. TM 2862 4932.

31. TM 2857 4885.

32. TM 2854 4889 and 2853 4894: named as *Crag Pit* in 1880 (OS 25-inch 1881).

33. TM 2881 4972.



Figure 8  
The hulk of the  
spritsail barge  
Dover Castle, in the  
estuarine mud of the  
Deben at low tide.  
The stern is at lower  
right of the picture

### Hulks

Parts of four hulked vessels were observed and recorded in the estuarine mud:

34. TM 280 487: the carvel-built hull of a spritsail barge, beached bow to bank, half exposed at high water, totally accessible at low water but filled with silt to about 0.3m (Fig 8). The barge is some 23.4m (76ft 9in) long, 5.2m (17ft) wide and approximately 0.54m (1ft 9in) deep. No deck survives although most of the hull does, except that the stern post and rudder have broken away and lie in the river mud immediately adjacent (Fig 9). The wooden



Figure 9  
The detached rudder  
and stern post of the  
spritsail barge Dover  
Castle, in the mud of  
the Deben

keelson is intact and has the ferrous socket for the main mast *in situ*, about one third of the length from the bow.

This hulk has been identified as British Registered Merchant Ship no 67038, *Dover Castle*, a 50-ton spritsail barge built as a stack barge in 1872 by Stephen Taylor at Sittingbourne. The first



owner was George Payne at Warden Court, on the Isle of Sheppey, but the barge was quickly sold to James Strutt of Maldon. Subsequently, it changed hands on several occasions; in 1874 to James Dent of Maldon, in 1881 to John Dent of London and in 1901 to Thomas Goymer of West Wick, Bradwell. In 1911 the owner was Clem Parker of Bradwell and in 1923/30 R Skineer of Woodbridge. It was hulked at its present location in 1935, probably initially as a houseboat, but is now in an advanced state of decay (Perks 1996, 19).

35. TM 2803 4906: the iron hull of a small ship, hulked near the riverbank with bow facing downstream (Fig 10). The ship is 38.5m (126ft 4in) long, 5.6m (18ft 5in) wide and survives to a height of about 1.4m (4ft 7in). The hull, now silt-filled to about 0.4m, is built of overlapping and riveted iron plate, with an iron keelson and bulkheads, and a now fragmentary wooden plank lining. The housing for a propeller shaft and parts of the engine survive in the stern .

This vessel has been identified as the steam dredger *Holman Sutcliffe*, built c 1890 and brought to Woodbridge by Jock Pollock to dredge gravel "from the bar". It was cut down to the waterline in the late 1920s/early 1930s and hulked at her present location early in the Second World War (Suffolk SMR: SUT 108). It is visible on aerial photographs taken in September 1945 (NMR: 106G/UK/832/4071-2).



Figure 10  
The iron hull of the  
steam dredger  
*Holman Sutcliffe*, in  
the mud of the Deben.  
The bow is on the  
right of the picture

**36. TM 2820 4948:** the remains of a small clinker-built boat in the river mud, submerged at high water and accessible only at low water, with the bow downstream. It is filled with silt to 0.3m. Only the bow section survives intact. Nevertheless, the boat was at least 14.3m (46ft 11in) long, though not much longer, 3.4m (11ft 2in) wide, and survives to a height of about 0.6m (1ft 11in). The keel is visible at the bow, where it has the protection of a ferrous band; there are also external ferrous stringers. A central bulkhead is visible and the hull planking is held together by copper rivets.

**37. TM 2821 4950:** the remains of a small clinker-built boat in the river mud, submerged at high water and accessible only at low water, filled with silt to around 0.3m. The surviving fragment is 9.2m (30ft 2in) long, 3.6m (11ft 10in) wide survives to a height of 0.4m (1ft 4in). The hull planking is held together by copper rivets.



Figure 11  
Little Sutton Hoo (top right) with cropmark of a ring ditch (centre right)(extract of NMR: TM2848/13/78)

#### Miscellaneous features

**38. TM 2825 4889:** a ring ditch - possibly from a flattened round barrow - and adjacent linear features - the latter probably post-medieval drainage ditches - are visible on an aerial photograph taken in 1980, in the field immediately south of Little Sutton Hoo. It appears to be located on a small "island" of what must have been drier ground before marshland next to the River Deben was reclaimed and enclosed (Fig 11). It has not been investigated.

#### Previous finds

**39. TM 2915 4985:** numerous finds from fieldwalking surveys in 1983-4 and metal detector surveys of 1987-9 indicate activity in several periods. They include a scatter of Neolithic flintwork and a single sherd of Iron Age date. A thin scatter of Romano-British pottery goes with several brooches and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century coins. Middle and late Saxon artefacts include brooches and coins with pottery represented by Ipswich and Thetford Ware forms. The



sequence continues with 12/13<sup>th</sup> century pottery, quern fragments and buckles, and is completed by post-medieval pottery and military finds including musket balls, the latter possibly from a civil war encampment (Suffolk SMR: BML 006).

**40. TM 2900 4950:** a field boundary ditch of Iron Age date, discovered in an evaluation excavation in 1997 (Suffolk SMR: BML 018).

**41. TM 2876 4952:** fieldwalking finds include a small Romano-British pot scatter along with parts of two brooches (Suffolk SMR: BML 010).

**42. TM 2890 4934:** more finds from fieldwalking surveys in 1984-86 and 1995, and metal detecting in 1986, all indicate important Saxon activity. The finds include fragments of a rare 7<sup>th</sup>-century bronze bucket with a Greek inscription (the 'Bromeswell Bucket'), accompanied by pottery of early and middle Saxon date. There was also a coin pendant of the emperor Honorius, put in its mount in the 7<sup>th</sup> century (Suffolk SMR: BML 009).

**43. TM 2892 4933:** the tip of a Bronze Age spearhead, from metal detecting in 1986 (Suffolk SMR: BML 009).

**44. TM 2845 4950:** fieldwalking in 1984 revealed a scatter of Neolithic flintwork, a single sherd of probable Iron Age date and scatters of Romano-British and medieval pottery. All are thought to be out of context, brought in for recent landfilling (Suffolk SMR BML 005).

**45. TM 2854 4952:** a sherd of Ipswich Ware, from fieldwalking (Suffolk SMR BML 005).

**46. TM 2850 4930:** cropmarks on aerial photographs indicating a rectangular layout of ditches, possibly for drainage (Suffolk SMR BML 005)

**47. TM 2840 4910:** fieldwalking in 1984 produced fifteen Neolithic flints, a scatter of medieval pottery of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date and a medieval iron knife (Suffolk SMR SUT 036).

**48. TM 2770 4850:** a medieval bronze buckle, in the form of a Jew's harp, found in 1984 (Suffolk SMR: SUT 037).

**49. TM 2840 4850:** fieldwalking recovered a scatter of Romano-British/Iron Age pottery and Neolithic/early Bronze Age flints including arrowheads (Suffolk SMR: SUT 047).

### 3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The survey has reinforced and added to the existing picture of a rich and varied archaeological landscape along the east bank of the Deben. Although earthworks do not survive well on the sandy soils of the area and are easily levelled by agriculture, some do survive on the estate, mainly in the form of boundary features. Some of these correlate with a field pattern known from the 1600 and 1629 maps, and their late medieval origin seems assured (Fig 4). Present and previous finds of medieval pottery, and a possible enclosure (24), may indicate associated settlement sites.

Although fragments of this late medieval field pattern have survived the creation of the shooting estate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it seems that, for the estate at least, there is little co-incidence of medieval and prehistoric boundaries (Fig 5). Features 19 and, though less likely, 5, are possible exceptions. However, finds from fieldwalking and metal detecting indicate the extent of prehistoric and Romano-British activity on and around the estate (features 39-47).

Of particular interest is the discovery of part a low mound and a ring ditch - the one (1) on the plateau near the Sutton Hoo cemetery, the other (38) on low ground which must once have been at the very edge of the Deben. The true nature and antiquity of both features are unknown but they do look like burial sites.

The hulking of small vessels (34-7) in the mud of the Deben is not only of intrinsic interest. It can be seen historically as only a late manifestation of a much longer link with trade and the sea, while the possibility of other, earlier finds of abandoned vessels and associated settlements on the shore, cannot be discounted.

Finally, the two pillboxes (22-3) are a solid reminder the Second World War. These two formed part of a group protecting the Deben and Wilford Bridge, as well as the intense military activity on Sutton Common and Woodbridge airfield.

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#### **4. SURVEY and RESEARCH METHODS**

The Sutton Hoo estate was traversed on foot by Paul Pattison, Moraig Brown and Anwen Cooper, in transects approximately 30m apart. Subsequently, archaeological features were surveyed digitally using a Leica TC1610 electronic theodolite and EDM, supplemented by conventional graphic survey.

This report has been researched and written by Paul Pattison. Research was limited to enable preliminary interpretations of surveyed features. The illustrations are by Paul Pattison and Louise Barker.

The survey archive and a copy of this report have been deposited in the National Monuments Record Centre in Swindon, the public archive of English Heritage, under reference no 1334687.

#### **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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