

Report 2873



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Evaluation at 58 Pinbush Road,
Gisleham, Lowestoft, Suffolk**

GSE 070



Prepared for
P J Spillings (Builders) Ltd
41 Pinbush Road
South Lowestoft Industrial Estate
Lowestoft
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Location: 58 Pinbush Road, South Lowestoft Industrial Estate,
Lowestoft, Suffolk

District: Waveney

Planning Ref.: DC/10/1547/FUL

Grid Ref.: TM 524 895

HER No.: GSE 070

OASIS Ref.: 115237

Client: P J Spillings (Builders) Ltd

Dates of Fieldwork: 4-5 October 2011

Summary

Archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology for PJ Spillings (Builders) Ltd on 4-5 October 2011 ahead of a proposal to extend an existing industrial unit at 58 Pinbush Road, South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, Gisleham, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

A single trench was excavated which produced two features of probable natural origin (possibly associated with trees). No finds were recovered from the features though two struck flints of earlier Neolithic date were collected from the site from an unstratified context.

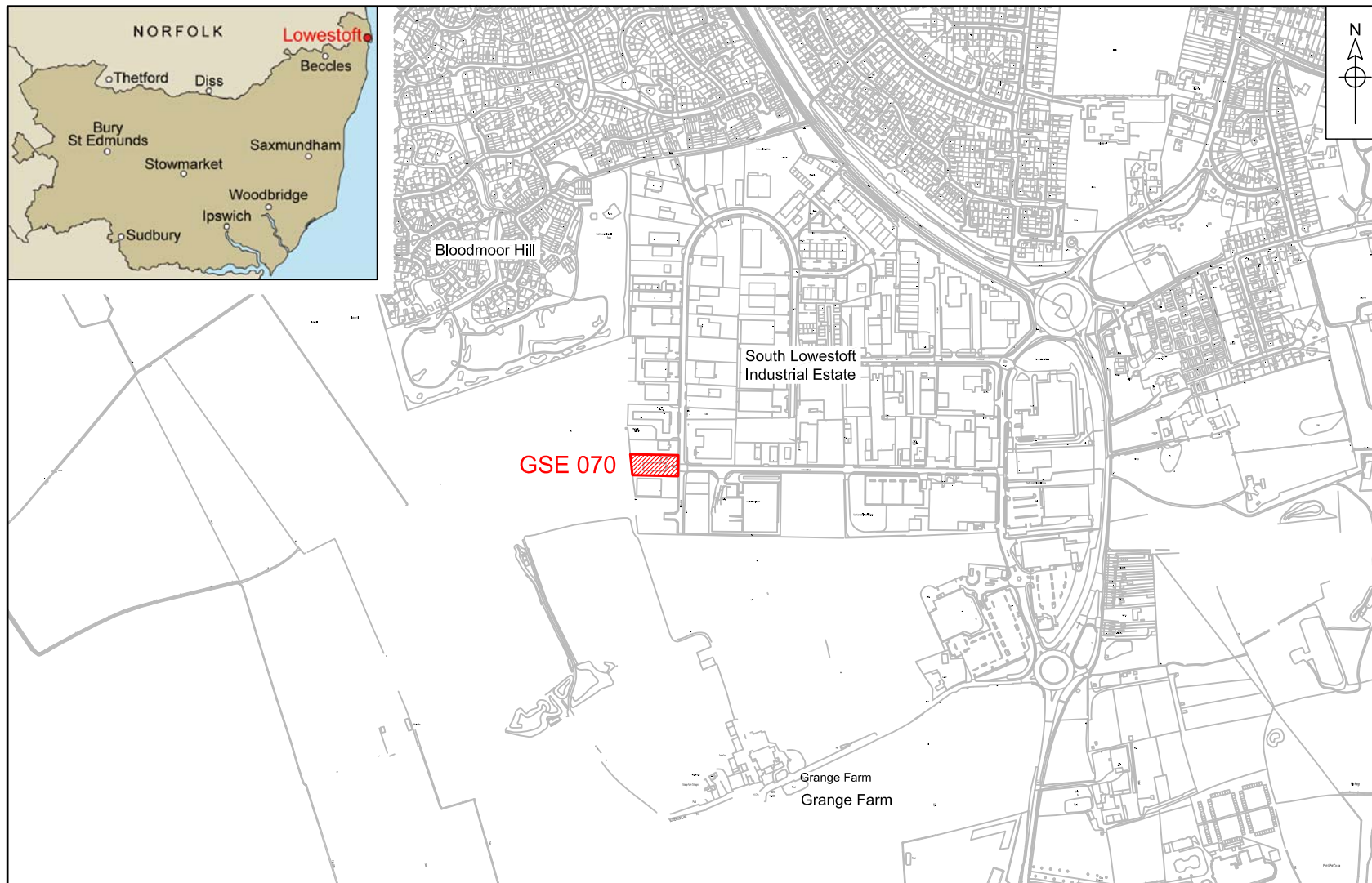
1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposal to extend an existing industrial unit at 58 Pinbush Road South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, Gisleham, Lowestoft, Suffolk (Fig.1) resulted in Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team stipulating that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken prior to consideration of the proposal in accordance with PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

NPS Archaeology were commissioned by PJ Spillings (Builders) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trench of the site in order to assess the likely impact upon any surviving archaeological deposits and therefore allow an informed decision to be made the treatment of any remains found.

The proposed development area measuring c. 28.0m by 12.0m in size (336m sq), is located on the west side of Pinbush Road where it forms a T junction with Haddenham Road at c.11.50m AOD (Fig. 2). The development area comprises a roughly rectangular block of land immediately adjacent to north of the existing building (currently occupied by Elite Interiors), and is currently rough ground used for storage.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Waveney District Council (Ref. DC/10/1547/FUL) and a Brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2873/DW). This work was commissioned by P.J. Spillings (Builders) Ltd and funded by Elite Interiors Ltd



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0 1000m

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000 (after Watkins, P., 2011, 1)

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in PP5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Suffolk County Council following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The South Lowestoft Industrial Estate is situated little more than 1km inland from the North Sea coast, on the interfluvium between the valleys of the River Waveney to the north and the Hundred River to the south. This plateau is dissected by many minor, mostly dry, dentritic valleys, one of the largest of which runs south-westwards from Lowestoft through nearby Carton Colville. To the east of Gisleham a much smaller north-west to south-east aligned valley branches off from this unnamed channel, running past a slight bluff known as Bloodmoor Hill. The proposed development area itself is situated on a gentle north-west facing slope to the south-east of Bloodmoor Hill at an altitude of 11.50m OD.

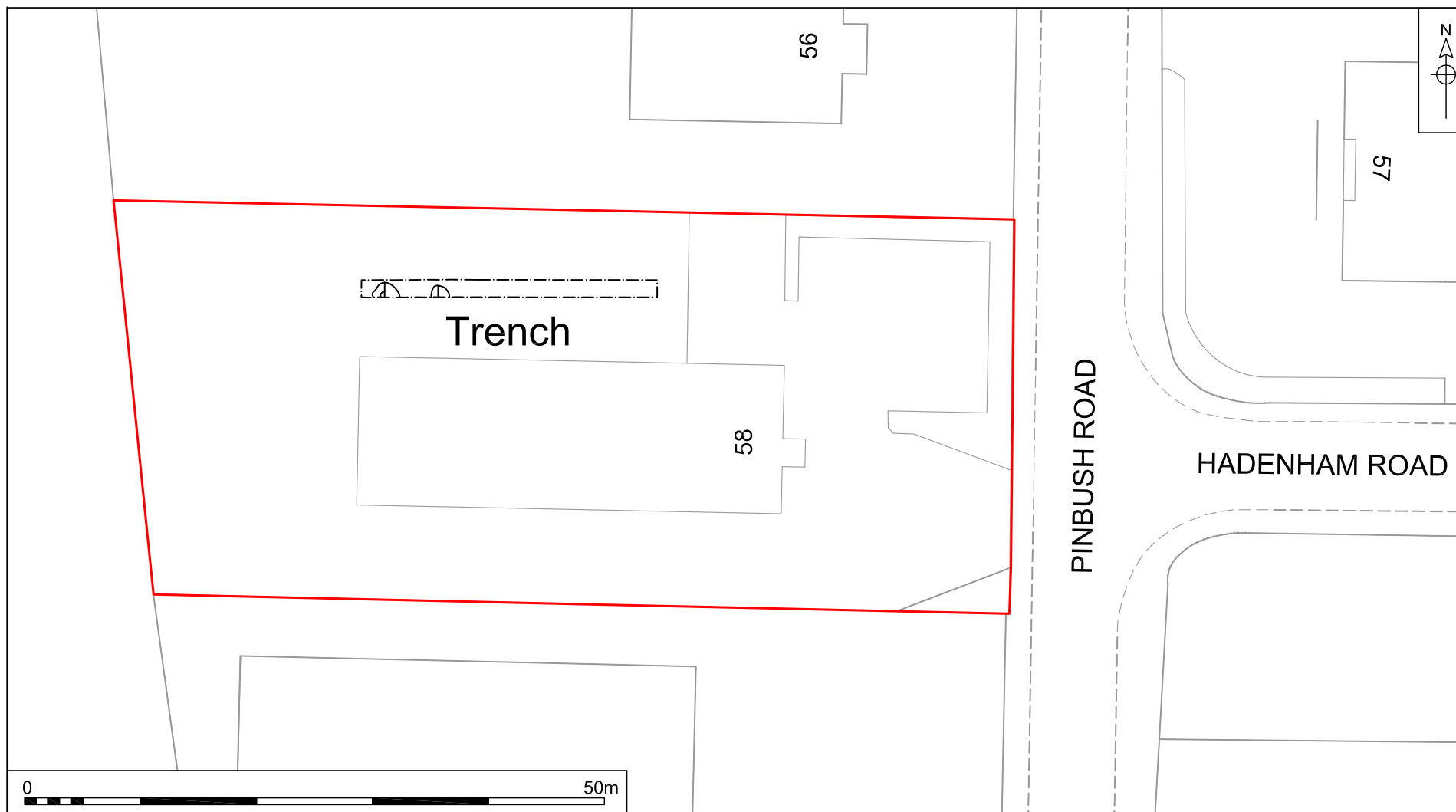
The solid geology of this area consists of Cretaceous chalk, overlain by Palaeogene clays and the various sands, gravels and mudstones of the Crag Formation (BGS 1996). None of these deposits outcrop within the study area, the plateau between the River Waveney and the Hundred River comprising younger, Anglian deposits of the Lowestoft Till formation. Chalky, pebbly, sandy clay (till) predominates, although ribbons of Aldeby Sands and Gravels are present along the various valleys, with the predominantly sandy deposits of the Corton Formation exposed along their margins (BGS 2000). The soils within the study area are mostly brown sands, although there are broad expanses of heavy stagnogleys overlying the main area of clay till. On the margins of the till the brown sand comprises a mix of fertile clay-loams and sandier less fertile deposits (Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009, 3).

The site itself has a particularly mixed geology, lying as it does across the boundary between an area of Corton sand and the main clay till formation. This change in the underlying geology has been confirmed by archaeological work on Hadenham Road (GSE 065 Crawley 2006, CAC 035 Heard 2010).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The primary source of archaeological information used in compiling this section of the report was the Suffolk Historical Environment Record (SHER), which details a wide range of archaeological discoveries and sites of particular historical interest. In order to best characterise the likely archaeological potential of the site data was collated from all SHER records that fell within approximately 1km of the site.

Other sources of information included the National Monuments Record (NMR), The Portable Antiquities Scheme and a number of cartographic sources. The results of these searches are summarised below by period.



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

A desk-based assessment of this area was carried out in 2011 and much of the information from this section is drawn from that report (Watkins 2011).

Evidence for prehistoric activity

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

(Figure 3)

The site lies approximately 1km from where erosion of the Pakefield cliffs is continuing to reveal Lower Palaeolithic Cromer Forest-bed deposits. These deposits, at the base of the cliffs, have produced *in situ* worked flints of international significance (GSE 061). No finds of Palaeolithic date have been recovered from elsewhere within the area.

The only Mesolithic finds recorded within the study area is a collection of struck flints recovered during the main Bloodmoor Hill excavation (CAC 016). This small assemblage included microliths, burins, scrapers and knapping debitage: a range of tool types suggestive of low-level, unspecialised utilisation of this landscape during the period (Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009).

Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age

(Figure 3)

There is much more tangible evidence for Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age activity within the area, with several archaeological interventions having revealed remains of this date – although the actual number of features present has generally been fairly limited. By far the most significant remains were uncovered during work at the Hadenham Road recycling centre (CAC 035), a short distance to the east of the proposed development area. This excavation revealed an Early Bronze Age pit containing a flint knife, a unique lozenge-shaped jet plaque and parts of a collared urn. A further small pit or post-hole produced a single sherd of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age beaker pottery, although this may well have been residual. Middle Bronze Age activity was represented by several pits containing Deverel-Rimbury style barrel-shaped urns, one of which contained a cremation burial (Heard 2010).

Although the various archaeological investigations undertaken near Bloodmoor Hill have recovered well over 1,000 worked flints of Neolithic and Bronze Age date few physical remains of this date were identified. These included a shallow, heat-reddened feature containing sherds of cord impressed Peterborough Ware-style Neolithic pottery, revealed during the evaluation of the Swallowfields site (CAC 014). Although pottery sherds representing several Bronze Age traditions were recovered during the subsequent excavation (CAC 016), only a single feature - a pit - could be tentatively dated to this period (although it was thought that a number of nearby undated features may have been of a similar age). A Bronze Age metal axehead was also recovered during this work (from the area of evaluation CAC 014).

Elsewhere in the area Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age activity is represented by a range of artefacts (predominantly worked flint) which are summarised in Table 1.

SHER Ref.	NMR Ref.-	PAS Ref.	Grid ref.	Description
CAC 013	-	-	TM 522 898	Neolithic pottery and struck flints found during trial trenching of site in 1995. Later prehistoric pottery of a less certain date was also recovered.
CAC 036	-	-	TM 5278 8955	An archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to the extension of a factory revealed a burial soil containing lithic implements. Although these were not closely datable they were probably of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date.
CAC 042	-	-	TM 5182 8985	A small number of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery sherds recovered during the excavation of what proved to be a predominantly Late Bronze Age settlement site. A number of presumably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint implements were also found.
CAC 044	-	-	TM 5153 9020	Sherd of possible Beaker pottery found during construction of Carlton Park Playground. Three flint-tempered prehistoric sherds of less certain date were also recovered.
GSE 006	392449	-	TM 528 897	Neolithic polished flint axe. Circumstances of discovery uncertain but presumably a chance find.
GSE 008	-	-	TM 513 888	Cutting edge from a small partially polished Neolithic flint axe. Circumstances of discovery not recorded but presumably a chance find.
GSE 016	-	-	TM 5182 8932	Scatter of worked flint found spread across 50 yard area. Of Neolithic/Bronze Age type with fabricator and several scrapers present.
GSE 017	-	-	TM 530 896	Large triple ribbed socketed Bronze Age axe found by chance during digging with an excavator. A potentially Neolithic flint flake was also found.
GSE 065	-	-	TM 5256 8944	Three sherds of Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery recovered during archaeological evaluation. A flint of probable Neolithic date was also found.
LWT 025	-	-	TM 5338 9013	Worked flints found during excavations for new classrooms at Pakefield Primary School. Potentially Neolithic in date.
-	-	SWYOR-77DD10	TM 534 902	Several prehistoric flint flakes of uncertain date found during fieldwalking
-	-	SWYOR-77F281	TM 534 902	Neolithic secondary flint flake found during field walking
-	-	SWYOR-780383	TM 534 902	Late Neolithic or Bronze Age flint end scraper found during field walking
-	392455	-	TM 52 89	According to Page (1911) Neolithic implements had been found in considerable numbers on Bloodmoor Hill, Gisleham. Among them are a well-worked knife and a broken chipped axe. These are not precisely located
-	868542	-	TM 51 89	A Middle Bronze Age side looped bronze spearhead. Not precisely located
-	868543	-	TM 51 89	Neolithic fabricator in grey flint discovered in a garden. Not precisely located

Table 1. Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age finds within study area

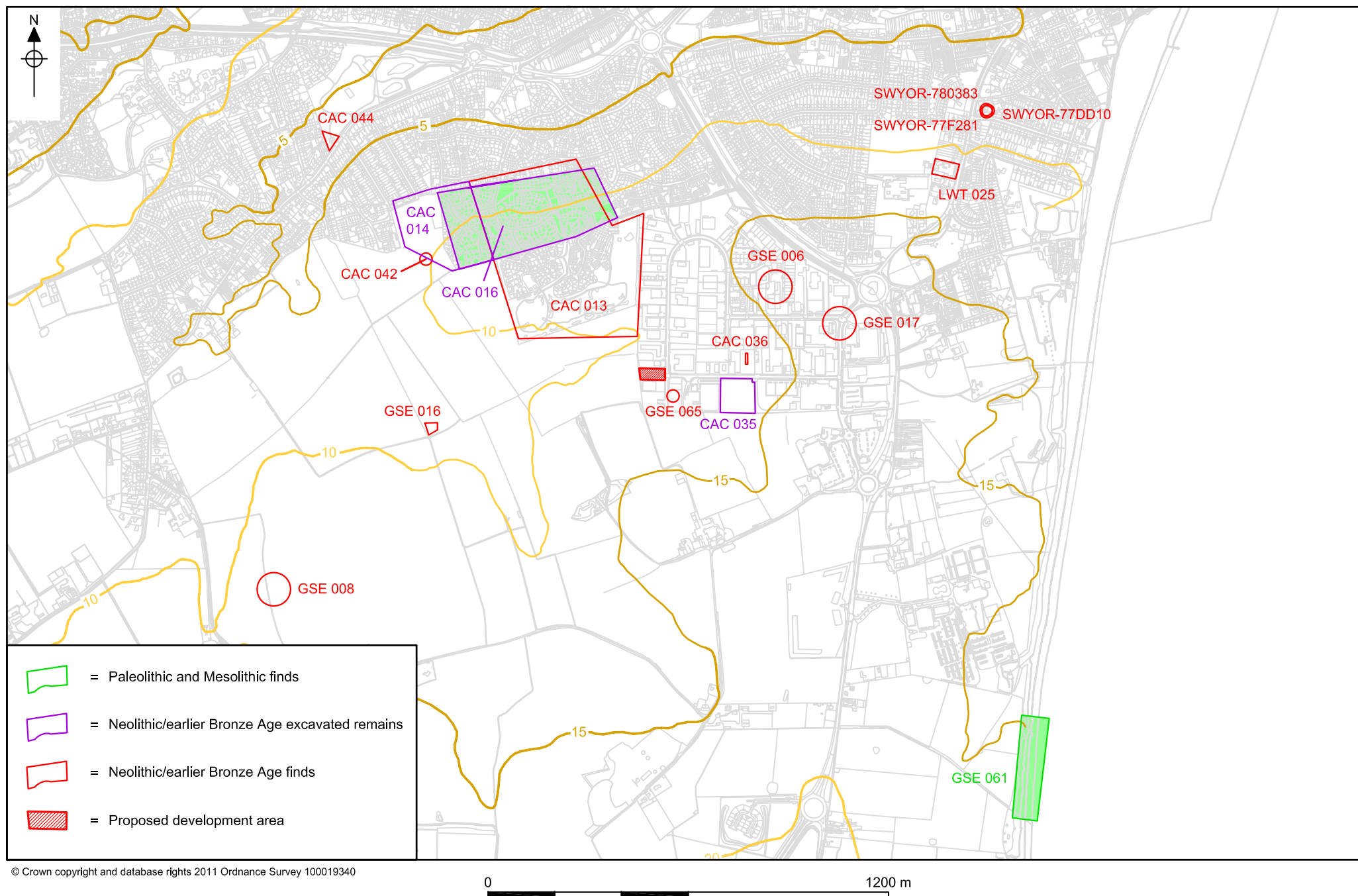


Figure 3. Evidence for Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age activity. Scale 1:15,000 (after Watkins 2011, 4)

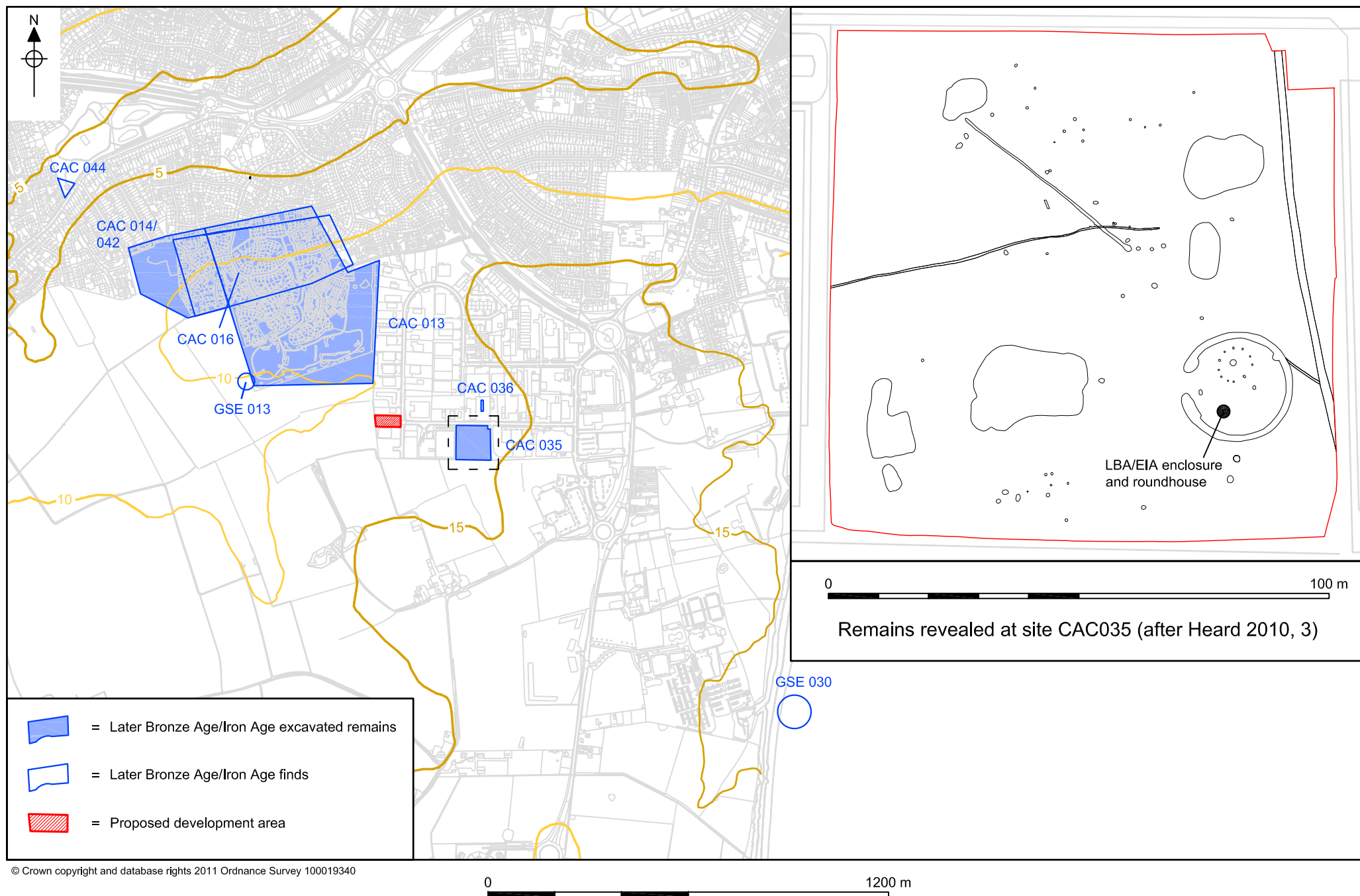


Figure 4. Evidence for later Bronze Age and Iron Age activity. Scale 1:15,000, inset 1:1000 (after Watkins 2011, 5)

Later Bronze Age and Iron Age

(Figure 4)

From the Late Bronze Age onwards there has proven to be much more tangible evidence for the occupation of this landscape. The evaluation and subsequent excavation of a site near Bloodmoor Hill (CAC 014/042) has revealed a Late Bronze Age settlement site of some significance. A wide range of features was revealed, including round-houses, four-post structures and pits; all of which produced what appeared to be Late Bronze Age pottery.

A settlement site of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, also of some significance, was identified during the excavation of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre site on Hadenham Road (CAC 035). Here a single post-built round-house was identified set within a circular enclosure. A number of other features, including pits and at least two ditches may have been of a similar date, although some were more convincingly dated than others (Heard 2010).

Clear evidence for later Iron Age activity has proven to be more elusive. The larger of the two evaluations undertaken near Bloodmoor Hill (CAC 013) revealed several ditches and some form of curved slot containing Iron Age pottery, although these were to the south of the area subsequently investigated. Features in the northern part of the site initially interpreted as part of a Late Iron Age/Roman site were shown by the excavation (CAC 016) to be exclusively Roman, although a small amount of Iron Age pottery was recovered (Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009).

Limited additional evidence for later Iron Age activity has come from artefactual material recovered from a further four sites within the area. These are summarised in Table 2.

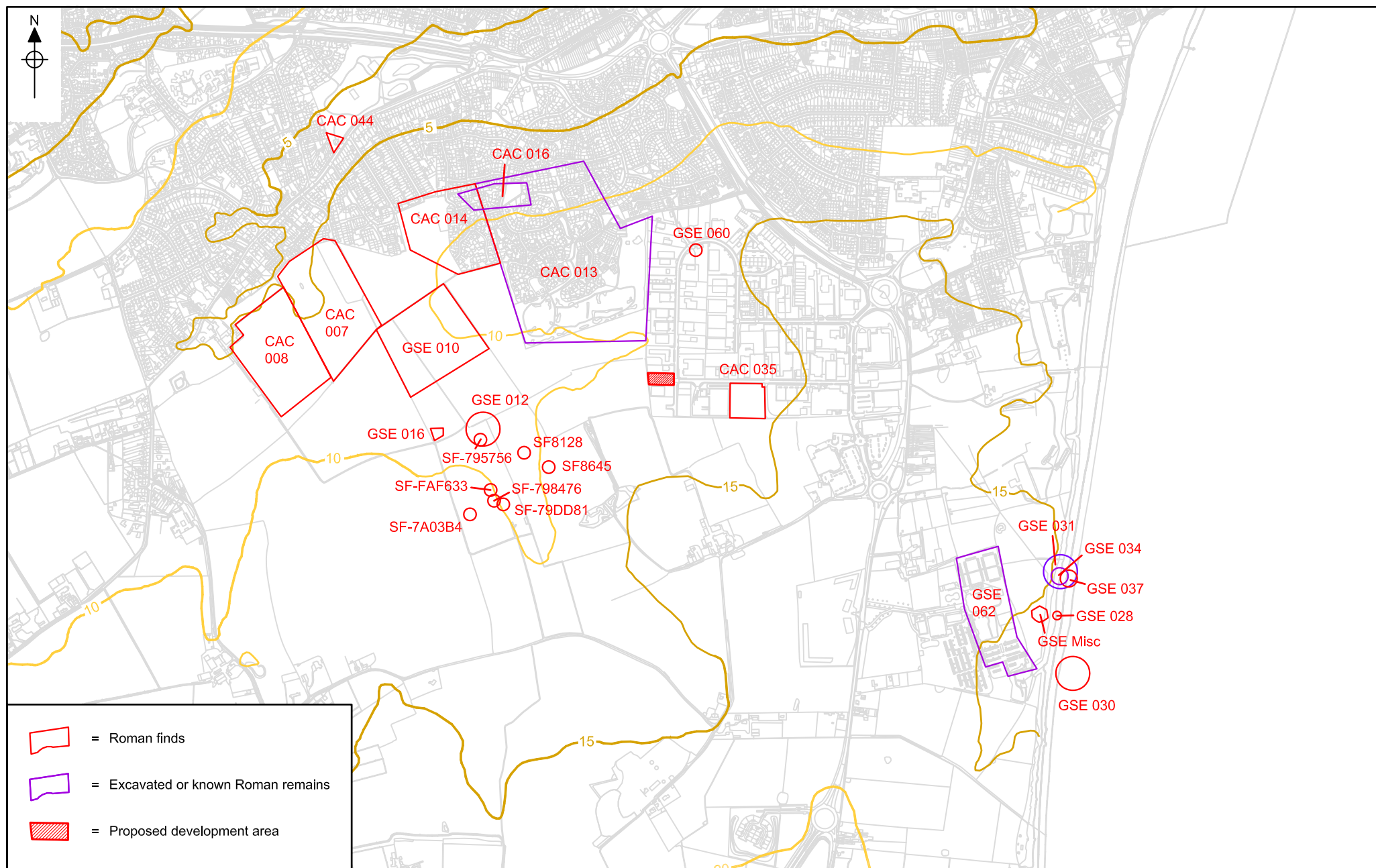
SHER Ref.	NMR Ref.-	PAS Ref.	Grid ref.	Description
CAC 036	-	-	TM 5278 8955	Area of burnt ground associated with Iron Age pottery. Revealed during archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to construction of factory extension. It was unclear whether this represented the remains of an actual feature, such as a hearth.
CAC 044	-	-	TM 5153 9020	Iron Age coin (silver Iceni unit) found during construction of Carlton Park Playground. Three flint-tempered prehistoric sherds of less certain date were also recovered.
GSE 013	-	-	TM 5206 8960	Iron Age La Tene-type bow brooch found during metal-detecting
GSE 030	-	-	TM 537 886	Iron Age coin (Icenian gold quarter stater) found during metal-detecting

Table 2. Later Iron Age finds within study area

Evidence for Roman activity

(Figure 5)

The large Bloodmoor Hill excavation revealed part of Roman trackway and its associated field system (CAC 016 Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009). The remains of several non-domestic buildings were also present. Although the settlement focus associated with these remains was not revealed within the excavated area,



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0 1200 m

Figure 5. Evidence for Roman activity. Scale 1:15,000 (after Watkins 2011, 6)

the quantity of artefactual material recovered along with the recovery of ceramic building material suggested that it was probably relatively close by.

Features revealed by cliff collapse suggest that there was also some form of Roman site much closer to the coast. In one location a large pit containing Roman pottery, tile and quern was exposed (GSE 034), close to where a dark band containing further tile and 'flat bricks' had been observed (GSE 031). Samples taken from this dark deposit were shown to contain abundant charred cereal remains, particularly spelt. According to local tradition there was an archaeological excavation at Pakefield Holiday Camp following the discovery of a Roman mosaic in c.1939 (GSE 062). However, it is suggested in the SHER record that this mosaic was in fact part of a disused lighthouse shown in this area on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map.

A reasonable number of other sites within the study area have produced Roman artefacts, including two within the South Lowestoft industrial estate and numerous locations to the west and south of Bloodmoor Hill. These finds are summarised in Table 3.

SHER Ref.	NMR Ref.-	PAS Ref.	Grid ref.	Description
CAC 007	1057873	-	TM 514 898	Two mid 4th-century coins and a thin scatter of Roman greyware sherds found during metal-detecting
CAC 008	-	-	TM 513 895	Roman items including the pin from a Colchester derivative brooch, a 3rd-century coin and a bronze disc brooch, found during metal-detecting
CAC 014	-	-	TM 518 898	Two unstratified sherds of Roman pottery found during archaeological evaluation.
CAC 035	-	-	TM 5275 8944	Three abraded sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of ?Roman brick or tile found during an archaeological excavation. A large ?quarry pit containing evidence for Early Saxon activity in its upper fills may have been opened during this period, although this was far from certain
CAC 044	-	-	TM 5153 9020	Roman objects including a continental type 1st-century brooch and a sherd of samian found during construction of Carlton Park Playground. A jet bead found at the same time was also possibly Roman.
GSE 010	-	-	TM 5186 8964	Early Roman Colchester derivative rear-hook brooch found during metal-detecting
GSE 012	868546	-	TM 519 893	Scatter of Roman pottery and coins, presumably found during metal-detecting
GSE 016	-	-	TM 5182 8932	Two Roman coins found during metal-detecting. These were found stuck together suggesting they may have come from a hoard
GSE 028	-	-	TM 5365 8880	Sherd of Roman pottery residual within a large medieval pit exposed by cliff collapse
GSE 030	-	-	TM 537 886	2nd-century Greek coin found during metal-detecting
GSE 037	-	-	TM 53704 88916	Four Roman coins found during metal-detecting.
GSE 060	-	SF1717, SF1724	TM 526 899	Roman metal objects, including a pin, a stud and a coin found during metal-detecting.
GSE Misc	-	-	TM 53622 88810	Bronze coin of Greek Emperor. Technically Iron Age in date though probably deposited in the Roman period.

SHER Ref.	NMR Ref.-	PAS Ref.	Grid ref.	Description
-	-	SF-795756	TM 519 893	Roman silver coin found during metal-detecting
-	-	SF-798476	TM 520 891	Late Roman coin found during metal-detecting
-	-	SF-79DD81	TM 520 891	Late Roman coin found during metal-detecting
-	-	SF-7A03B4	TM 519 891	Roman coin found during metal-detecting
-	-	SF8128	TM 520 892	Early Roman Colchester derivative brooch found during metal-detecting (Polden Hill type)
-	-	SF8645	TM 521 892	Cast copper-alloy mount of possible Roman date. Found during metal-detecting. Shaped like a cherub's head. Almost identical to SF-FAF633 – from same mould and/or object?
-	-	SF-FAF633	TM 519 891	Cast copper-alloy mount of possible Roman date. Found during metal-detecting. Shaped like a cherub's head. Almost identical to SF8645 – from same mould and/or object?

Table 3. Roman finds within study area

Evidence for Early, Middle and Late Saxon activity

(Figure 6)

The evaluation and excavation of the Swallowfields site near Bloodmoor Hill revealed a well-preserved and largely complete Early Saxon settlement occupied from the 6th to the early 8th century. Work at this nationally significant site revealed 38 sunken-feature buildings, nine post-built structure, more than 250 pits, hearths and several extensive artefact-rich surface deposits (CAC 016 Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009). Evidence for industrial activity was also recovered, including well over 100 crucible fragments moulds for annular brooches, tuyere (the aperture through which air is blown into in a metal working furnace or hearth) fragments and smithing slag. An associated cemetery comprising 26 burials - some furnished with mid-to-late 7th-century grave goods – was also found (Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009).

Bloodmoor Hill has long been associated with Saxon activity; a barrow opened in 1758 (GSE 003, NMR 392440) being one of the first recorded excavations of an Anglo-Saxon burial (Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009, 11). A report to the Society of Antiquaries described the skeleton as associated with a gold coin pendant and a pendant with an onyx intaglio. There are also a number of further antiquarian references to the discovery of Early Saxon metalwork and other items from the Bloodmoor Hill area. Although initially the area was thought to be the site of a battlefield it seems likely that a flat-cemetery of 5th– to 6th-century date lies in the vicinity of the barrow. More recently, metal-detecting within the area has recovered a significant number of additional Early Saxon objects. These finds (summarised in Table 4) are clustered around Bloodmoor Hill and provide significant further evidence for the postulated flat cemetery, many of these items being possible gravegoods. It is probable that these finds broadly define the limits of this cemetery, particularly as recorded metal-detecting has taken place to the south of this cluster.

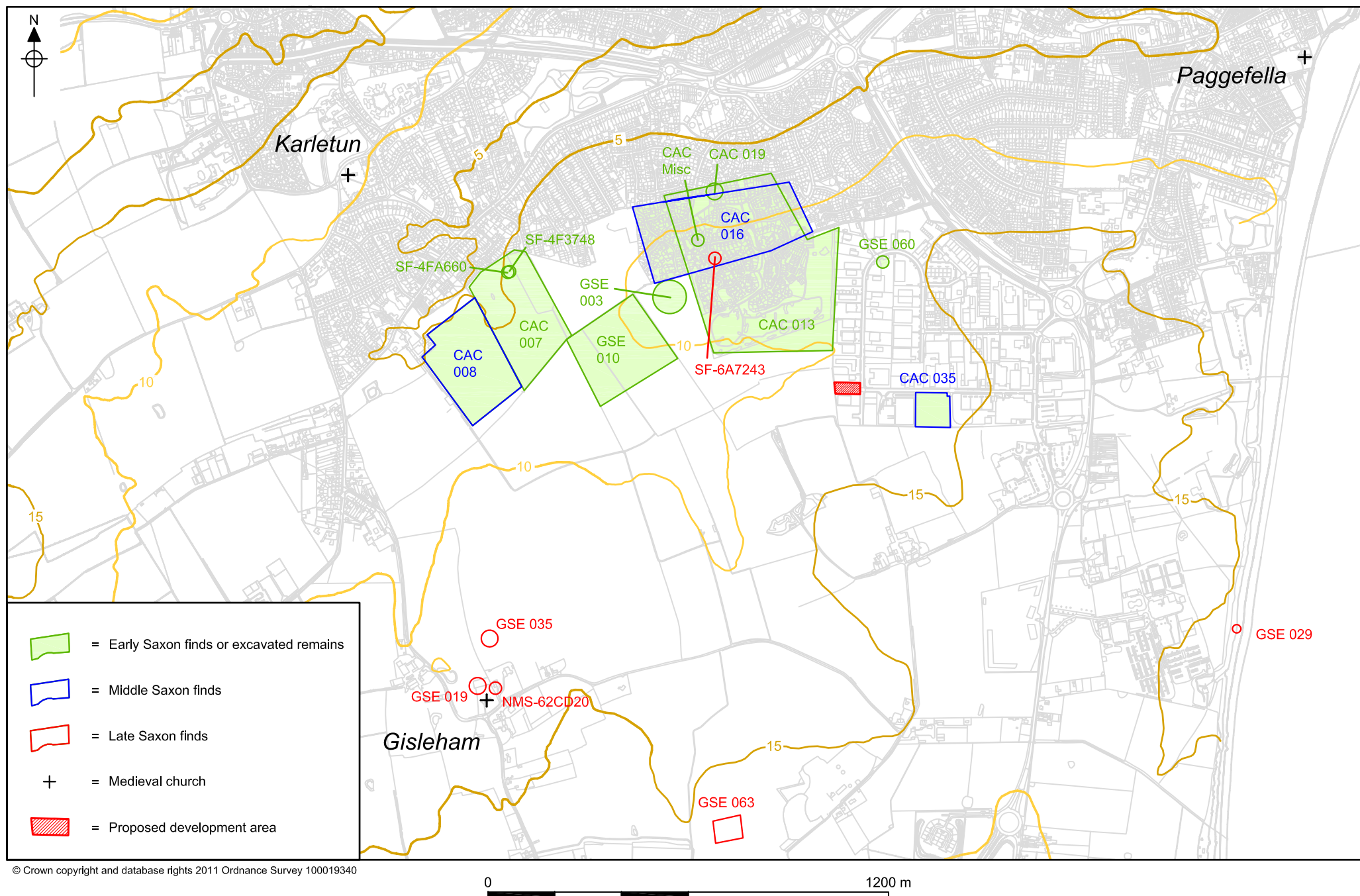


Figure 6. Evidence for Early, Middle and Late Saxon activity. Scale 1:15,000 (after Watkins 2011, 7)

SHER Ref.	NMR Ref.-	PAS Ref.	Grid ref.	Description
CAC 007	1057873	-	TM 515 898	Four Early Saxon brooch fragments found during metal-detecting. Three are from cruciform brooches
CAC 008	-	-	TM 513 895	Early Saxon cruciform brooch with missing foot found during metal-detecting. A foot of ?another cruciform brooch, apparently burnt, was also found
CAC 019	-	SF2151	TM 5211 9009	Early Saxon copper alloy disc brooch for during gardening
CAC Misc	-	-	TM 521 899	Early Saxon silver anthropomorphic pendant recovered with metal-detector. Found either on spoil from the archaeological excavation or within the adjacent building site.
GSE 010	868545	-	TM 518 896	Several significant Early Saxon objects found during metal-detecting, including a composite 7th-century disc brooch, a 6th-century gold pendant, a complete cruciform brooch and a second coin pendant (using a 7th-century solidus of Clothar II)
GSE 060	-	SF449, SF450	TM 526 899	Fragmentary gilt copper alloy Early Saxon sleeve clasp found during metal-detecting. A late Early Saxon or very early Middle Saxon copper alloy buckle was also recovered
-	-	SF-4F3748	TM 514 898	Incomplete Early Saxon cruciform brooch found during metal-detecting
-	-	SF-4FA660	TM 514 898	Early Saxon copper alloy buckle plate found during metal-detecting. Decorated with interlace design

Table 4. Early Saxon finds within study area

Early Saxon objects have been recovered from only two other sites within the area, although both were within the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate. In addition to objects found during metal-detecting near Pinbush Road (GSE 060), there was also evidence for Early Saxon activity recovered during the Hadenham Road excavation (CAC 035). Here sherds of handmade Early Saxon pottery were found alongside fragments of lava quern and an Anglo-Saxon ring-shaped loom weight, all within the upper fills of what appeared to be some form of quarry pit (Heard 2010).

There is no evidence to suggest that the Swallowfields settlement was occupied beyond the early 8th century. The demise of this settlement fits with a widespread shift in the region's settlement pattern that appears to have occurred around this time, with earlier sites and a more fluid settlement model being abandoned in favour of new locations that, in many cases, endure to this day.

We know from Domesday that the main settlements surrounding the site today were established by the end of the Late Saxon period, with Gisleham, Carlton Colville (Karletun) and Pakefield (Paggefella) all listed. For Gisleham, Domesday records two estates, one held by Hugh de Montfort, the other by Earl Hugh (Morris 1986). There are no references to any specific buildings or land types. Research elsewhere in the region suggests that these early settlements were most likely focused close to where the parish churches now stand. Support for this theory comes from the Gisleham and Pakefield enclosure map which names one of the blocks of common land shown in this as 'Mootway Common'. Whether any of these settlements had their origins in the preceding Middle Saxon period is

unclear. The ~ham suffix is often taken to indicate a relatively early settlement (Warner 1996), although this cannot be confirmed archaeologically for Gisleham at present. Apart from the 7th- and early 8th-century finds from Swallowfields, Middle Saxon finds are rare within the area. They are limited to an Ansate 'caterpillar' brooch and a silver sceatta found during metal-detecting near Bloodmoor Hill (CAC 008) and a single sherd of Ipswich Ware pottery found as an intrusive artefact in a prehistoric feature during the Hadenham Road excavation (Heard 2010).

Finds of Late Saxon date recovered from the area are summarised in Table 5. These are also fairly sparse, with most having been recovered from the vicinity of Gisleham itself.

SHER Ref.	NMR Ref.-	PAS Ref.	Grid ref.	Description
GSE 019	-	-	TM 5139 8861	Late Saxon bronze strap end fragment with zoomorphic terminal. Circumstances of discovery not recorded.
GSE 029	-	-	TM 5365 8878	Late Saxon Thetford Ware sherd found following cliff collapse
GSE 035	-	-	TM 5142 8875	Late Saxon disc brooch found during metal-detecting
GSE 063	-	-	TM 52140 88185	Saxon 'ring' pin of Viking style found during metal-detecting
-	-	NMS-62CD20	TM 5144 886	Incomplete Late Saxon copper alloy cheek-piece
-	-	SF-6A7243	TM 521 898	Late Saxon coin (silver penny of Athelred II) found during metal-detecting

Table 5. Late Saxon finds within study area

None of the various archaeological interventions within the area have revealed have revealed feature that could be convincingly dated to either the Middle or Late Saxon periods.

It is interesting to note that the earlier barrow on Bloodmoor Hill stands at what was the junction of the Lowestoft, Carlton Colville and Pakefield parish boundaries. There is an (entirely plausible) suggestion that this area acted as a meeting place (moot) for the Mutford Hundred, to which all of these parishes belonged (Lucy, Tipper and Dickens 2009, 11).

Evidence for medieval and early post-medieval activity

(Figure 7)

While the medieval settlement pattern is likely to have broadly mirrored that of the present day the precise nature of land use during this period is somewhat difficult to establish.

Apart from the parish churches the only surviving medieval features within this landscape are the moats surrounding Gisleham Hall and Pakefield Hall (GSE 002). The former can be linked to the medieval manor of Gisleham Hall/Gisleham with Pies, the latter to the manor of Pakefield Pyes (Copingier 1905). A second manor, known as the Manor of Pyes Hall is recorded as having existed in Gisleham although whether it was associated with a dwelling within the parish is not clear. It appears to be distinct from Pakefield Manor and appears to have been consolidated with Gisleham Hall manor in 1645 (Copingier 1905). Little other

evidence for medieval settlement survives, although it appears Gisleham was probably a relatively minor village; it was certainly not as prosperous as nearby Carlton Colville, which was granted both a market and a fair in the 13th century (Letters 2010).

In many ways the best source of evidence for the nature of the medieval landscape is the first topographically accurate maps produced during the post-medieval period. Hodskinson's map of 1783 (Fig. 8) shows the study area before it was fundamentally altered by enclosure. The village of Gisleham appears to have been no bigger at this time than it is today, with both of the moated halls and most of the parish's farmsteads arranged around the margins of a large area of common land called either Runhill Heath (Hodskinson's map) or Rothenhall Heath (enclosure map of 1799). This heath was shared with the neighbouring parish of Pakefield. There are numerous examples of this form of 'common-edge' settlement in the region (Warner 1996) and it is now thought that settlements such as this may well have begun to drift away from their original cores quite early in the medieval period. Many of the farms and buildings shown on Hodskinson's map still exist in some form today, including Grange Farm near the site itself. Although the name 'grange' suggests this particular farm may be of some antiquity the first cartographic source to name it (the late 19th-century First Edition Ordnance Survey map) refers to it as Rudd's Farm. A John Rudd is recorded as the recipient of newly-enclosed land in 1799 and the farm was almost certainly originally named after this family. It does though remain possible that this or other dwellings surrounding the heath have earlier origins, although all of the various extant farm buildings appear to be exclusively post-medieval in date.

The heath itself is certainly likely to have long been uncultivated common waste land, its shape and extent closely corresponding with the main area of heavy clay soil. The land worked during the medieval period is likely to have lain on the more fertile sandier soils on the margins of the heath, although there is little direct evidence for how the landscape was arranged at this time. Presumably much of the better quality land was laid out as open common fields. Unenclosed strip fields such as these can still be seen on a 1787 map of nearby Kessingland (Warner 1996), though if present in Gisleham it seems they were gone by the time that such maps were drawn. It is notable that the parliamentary enclosure act that covered Gisleham and Pakefield pertains only to common waste land, again suggesting the arable land had already been enclosed.

Although remains of medieval date have been identified during several of the archaeological interventions to have taken place within the area these have generally been of limited significance. These include a series of medieval ditches revealed during the evaluation and subsequent Swallowfields excavation (CAC 013/016). A large medieval quarry was also exposed, along with various medieval and post-medieval metal objects. Cliff collapse to the south-east of the proposed development area has revealed a series of substantial medieval pits (GSE 024, GSE 028, GSE 029, GSE 032 GSE 033), two of which each produced over 800 sherds of pottery and one more than 400 sherds. Unfortunately the context of these features is unclear.

Unless present in significant quantities unstratified medieval finds generally provide only limited information about the distribution and nature of activity during the period. Material tended to be increasingly spread by agricultural practices such

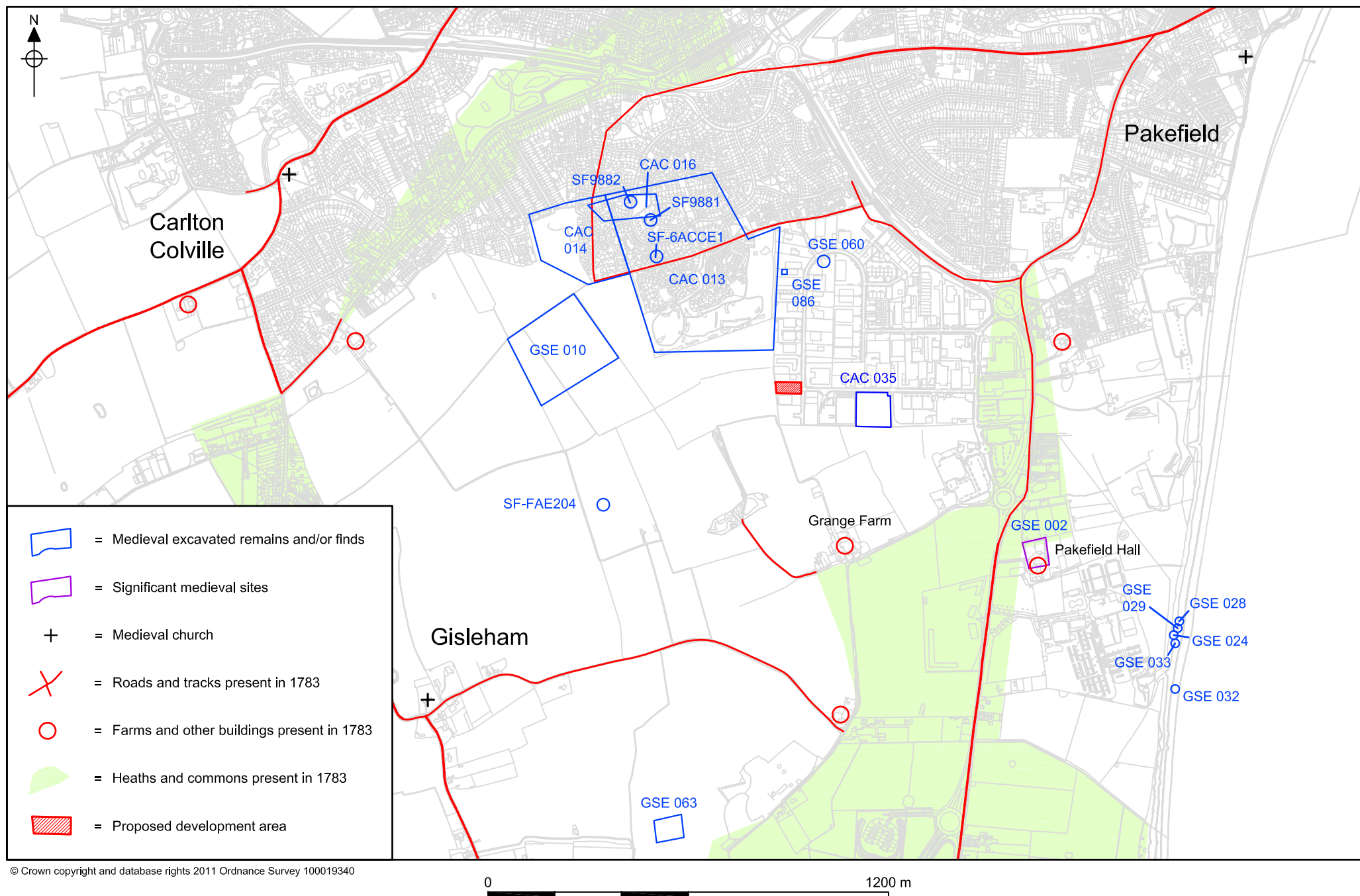


Figure 7. Evidence for medieval and early post-medieval activity. Scale 1:15,000 (after Watkins 2011, 8)

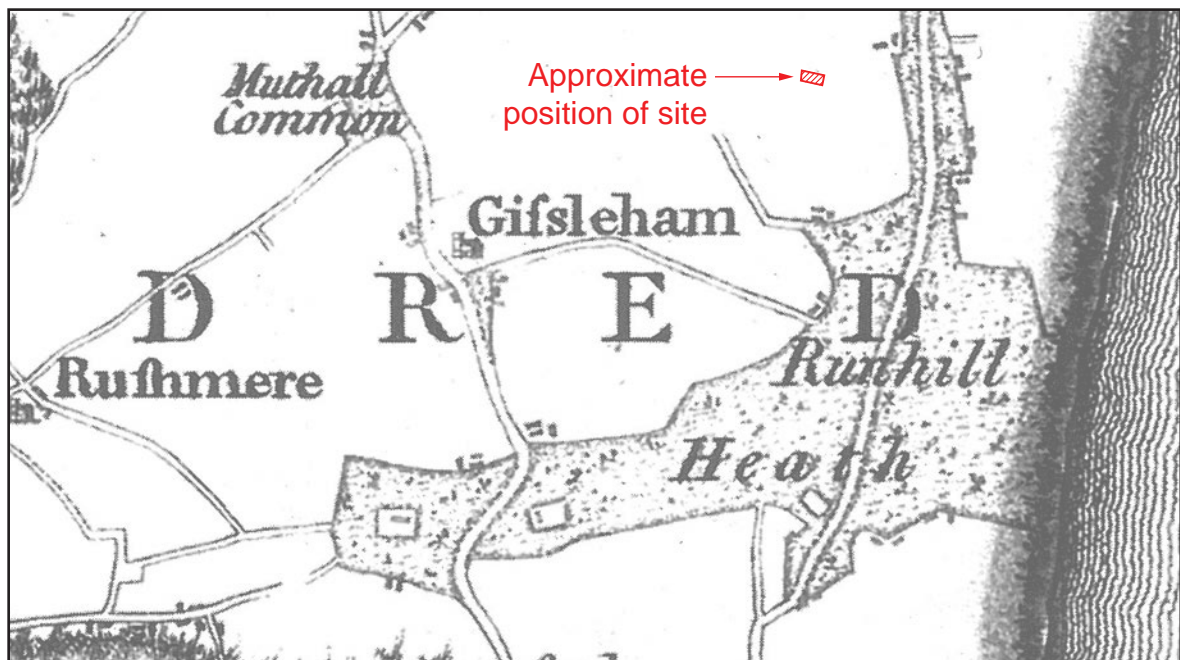


Figure 8. Detail of Hodskinson's map of Suffolk in 1783
(reproduced from Hodskinson and Dymond 2003)

as nightsoiling and many of the metal objects will represent isolated accidental losses. The finds recovered from this study area, summarised in Table 6, appear to be no exception, providing little additional information.

SHER Ref.	NMR Ref.	PAS Ref.	Grid ref.	Description
CAC 014	-	-	TM 518 898	Various medieval finds, including pottery sherds a strap end and a bronze buckle/brooch, found during archaeological evaluation. None of the excavated features appeared to date to this period.
CAC 035	-	-	TM 5275 8944	Small number of medieval sherds recovered from unstratified contexts and the surface of ?quarry pits.
GSE 010	-	-	TM 5176 8960	Medieval seal matrix of 14th or 15th century date found during metal detecting
GSE 060	-	SF449, SF450	TM 526 899	Medieval metal objects including a buckle and a spur found during metal detecting
GSE 063	-	-	TM 52140 88185	13th-century medieval coin found during metal detecting
GSE 086	-	-	TM 5248 8985	Single sherd of medieval courseware found within a ditch of possible post-medieval date
-	-	SF-6ACCE1	TM 521 898	Early 14th-century medieval coin found during metal detecting
-	-	SF9881	TM 520 900	Medieval strap fitting found during metal detecting
-	-	SF9882	TM 520 900	Medieval ring, possibly part of a buckle, brooch or a suspension ring. Found during metal detecting
-	-	SF-FAE204	TM 519 891	Rim fragment from a medieval copper-alloy vessel found during metal detecting.

Table 6. Medieval finds within study area

Later post-medieval and modern land-use

(Figure 9)

Post-medieval and modern sites of interest within the area are documented by a wide range of sources, with cartographic sources providing by far the most information.

Known sites include a number of brick and pipe works, these being clustered in the eastern half of the area, exploiting the particularly fine-grained till deposits present in this area and presumably using the London Road (which had been turnpiked prior by at least 1799) to transport their products. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows one brickworks in the vicinity of the site, lying to the east of the London Road (LWT 134). By the time the second edition was created in 1907 there were two further brickworks present near the site, one to the north-east (GSE 042) and one to the south-east (GSE 026). Each of these brickworks appears to have had their own individual clay pits within their bounds, close to the kilns and drying sheds. In several cases these large quarries have gone on to be used as waste dumps (e.g. GSE 026).

This landscape is dotted with the remains of other pits, including two large examples that lie approximately 250m to the south-west of the site. These were unrelated to the late post-medieval brick industry although the tithe apportionment lists one as a clay pit. The other is marked simply as a pit, although the First Edition Ordnance Survey map marks it as a sand pit. It appears that these pits

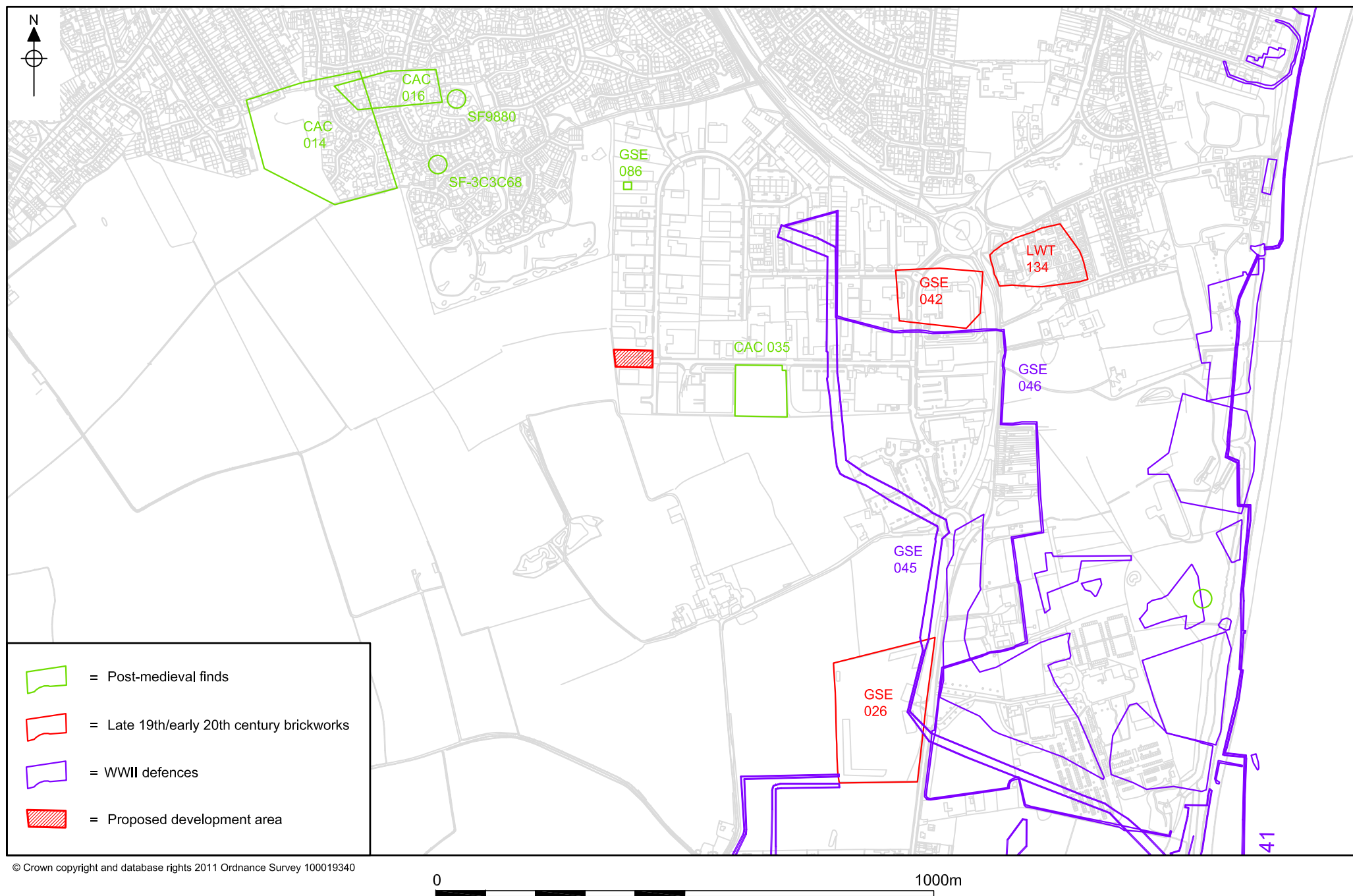


Figure 9. Post-medieval and modern sites. Scale 1:10,000 (after Watkins 2011, 10)

were probably present since at least the late 19th century. Bloodmoor Lane is shown on the map of 1783 terminating at the location of these pits, as it does today (the enclosure map suggests that it was known as Scratch Bush Lane around this time).

Although the antiquarian description of the Saxon barrow refers to 'Blood Moore Hill' it is interesting to note that both the enclosure map and the tithe apportionment refer to Blood Mill Hill rather than Bloodmoor Hill. It is therefore possible that a windmill stood in the area around this time, although there is no other evidence for this.

The various archaeological evaluations and excavations undertaken in this area have revealed little extra information about the nature of post-medieval activity; the features uncovered mostly relating to old field boundaries (CAC 014, CAC 016, CAC 035 and GSE 086). The two post-medieval finds found within 500m of the proposed development area are both only recorded in the PAS database and consist of a spur (SF9880) and a strap fitting (SF-3C3C68). As with the medieval material these items provide little additional information.

WWII defences

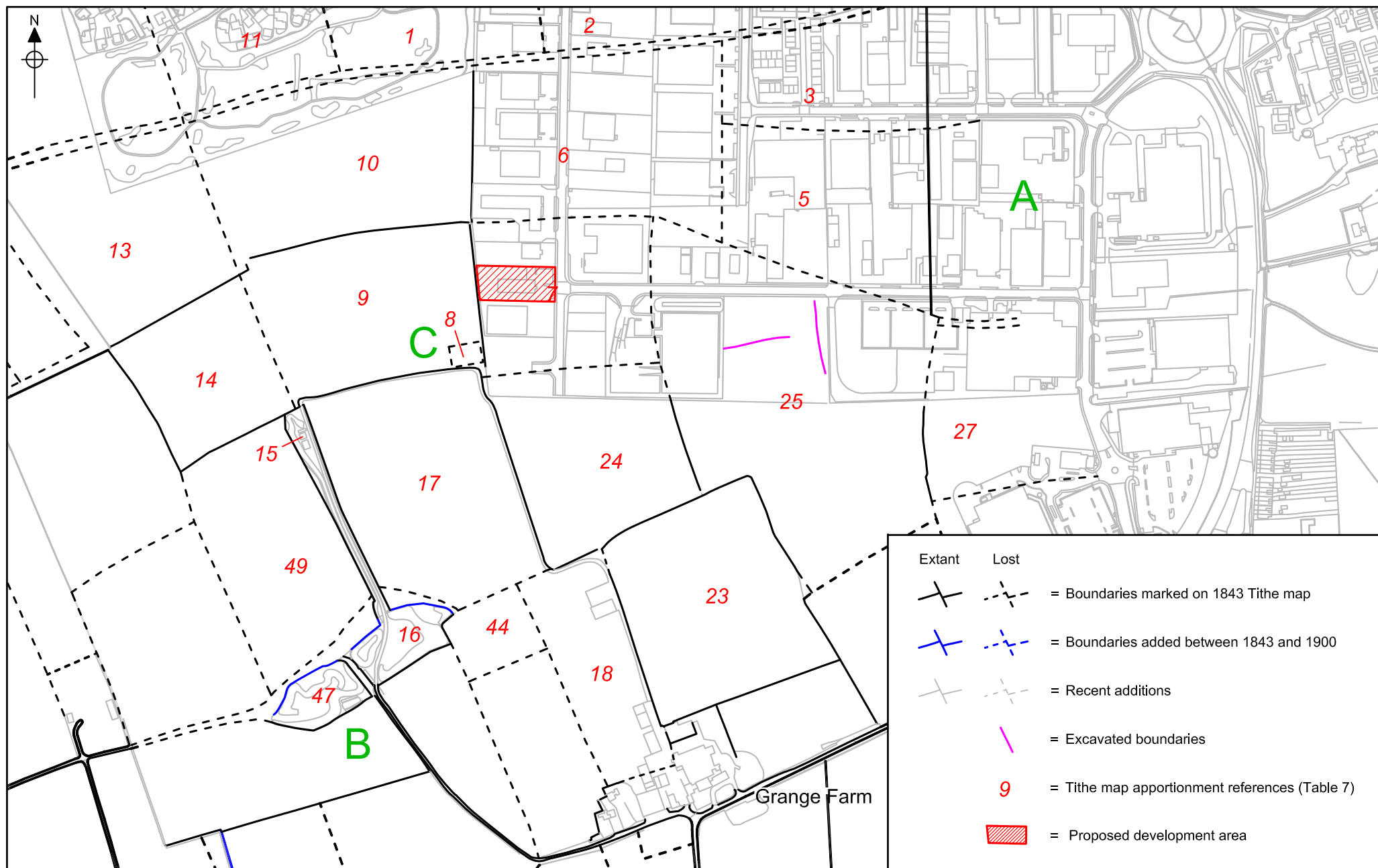
During WWII a complex series of defences were built along the East Anglian coast. Typically, little remains of those constructed within the area, their precise nature and locations being determined through the analysis of contemporary aerial photography. The defences comprised a wide range of features including barbed-wire obstructions, gun emplacements, anti-aircraft batteries and trenches. The fields to the east of the proposed development area were also crossed by a line of anti-tank tubes (GSE 046) and a substantial anti-tank ditch (GSE 045). Both were constructed in 1941 and were still present in 1944. Cropmarks of the anti-tank ditch were previously misinterpreted as the remains of a trackway (SHER KSS 026). No such features appear to have been present within the site itself.

Recent land use within the proposed development area

(Figure 10)

Recent land use within the bounds of the site itself can best be charted through the various cartographic sources, the Tithe map of 1843 being the earliest to depict the site in detail. The majority of the predominantly sub-square fields shown in the vicinity of the site survive to this day, the obvious exception being those lost to modern development to the north. There appears to have been relatively little boundary loss or addition. The origin of these fields is uncertain; it appears that much of the land within the parish may have been largely enclosed by a relatively earlier date, so they may have already been of some age by the time the tithe map was drawn. It certainly appears that a degree of boundary loss had occurred by this time, the excavation to the east of the site revealing at least two boundaries not shown on the Tithe map but that nevertheless fit well with this field system although neither was dated as post-medieval. (The north-south aligned feature was dated as modern, although there is nothing about its post-medieval finds assemblage that would preclude an earlier date. The other ditch was tentatively dated as LBA/EIA due to the presence of a small amount of prehistoric pottery.)

The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation project categorised this land as 18th century and later enclosure (Land Use Consultants 2008) and the various



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Figure 10. The site: recent land use. Scale 1:5000 (after Watkins 2011, 11)

estate maps consulted would certainly suggest that much of the parish's agricultural land was largely enclosed by the beginning of the 19th century.

As would be expected these fields were almost all put to arable use in the 19th century, much as they are today. Table 7 list the names and land uses ascribed to the site and its environs in the tithe apportionment.

Map ref.	Description	Land-use
1	Pin Bush	Arable
2	Ten Acres & Winding Piece	Arable
3	Part of Russel Close	Arable
4	Hammonds Close	Arable
6	Gisleham Close	Arable
7	Lower Peartree Close	Arable
8	Bullock shed and yard	-
9	Lower Bullock Shed Close	Arable
10	Bottom Close	Arable
11	Grove Close	Arable
13	Lower Blood Mill Hill Close	Arable
14	Anguish's Close	Arable
15	Plantation	Wood
16	Clay pit and drift	-
17	Upper Bullock Shed Close	Arable
18	Home Close	Arable
23	Stackway Close	Arable
24	Upper Pear Tree Close	Arable
25	Gisleham Piece	Arable
27	Upper Boundary Piece	Arable
47	Pits and drift	-
49	Upper Porters	Arable

Table 7. Land descriptions recorded in tithe apportionments

The only structures marked within the bounds of the site are a three conjoined buildings shown to the west of what is now Pinbush Road (Fig. 10 marked as 'C'). These are described as 'bullock sheds and yard' in the tithe apportionment. Cattle

sheds such as these were frequently added to barns in the late 18th and early 19th century in order to create stall yards where cattle could be fattened on turnips during the winter months, producing a rich manure (Williamson 1997, 33). The 20th-century Ordnance Survey mapping suggests that this barn complex was largely gone by 1927, although the 1940s RAF aerial photographs of the area show some form of smaller structure in this location.

There are no other features of note within the proposed development area on either the Tithe map or any subsequent cartographic sources.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that a single linear trial trench measuring 28.0m long and 1.80m wide was to be excavated aligned along the long axis of the proposed extension which is an east to west alignment.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator belonging to the building contractor equipped with a 1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. Excavation was carried out in 100mm spits until either natural geological deposits or archaeological deposits were identified. The trench was placed approximately central to the development area. On completion of the work the trench was not backfilled on the request of the building contractor.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

One environmental sample (a 40 litre bulk sample) was taken from fill [02] of possible pit [01].

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was established using GPS900 RTK Rover. The TBM had a value of 12.42m OD. Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

On commencement of machine excavation at the eastern end of the site a modern service trench was suspected to be present running in a north to south direction adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. It was therefore decided to reduce the length of the trench slightly in order to avoid this feature.

Results are tabulated below accompanied by a photograph of the trench.

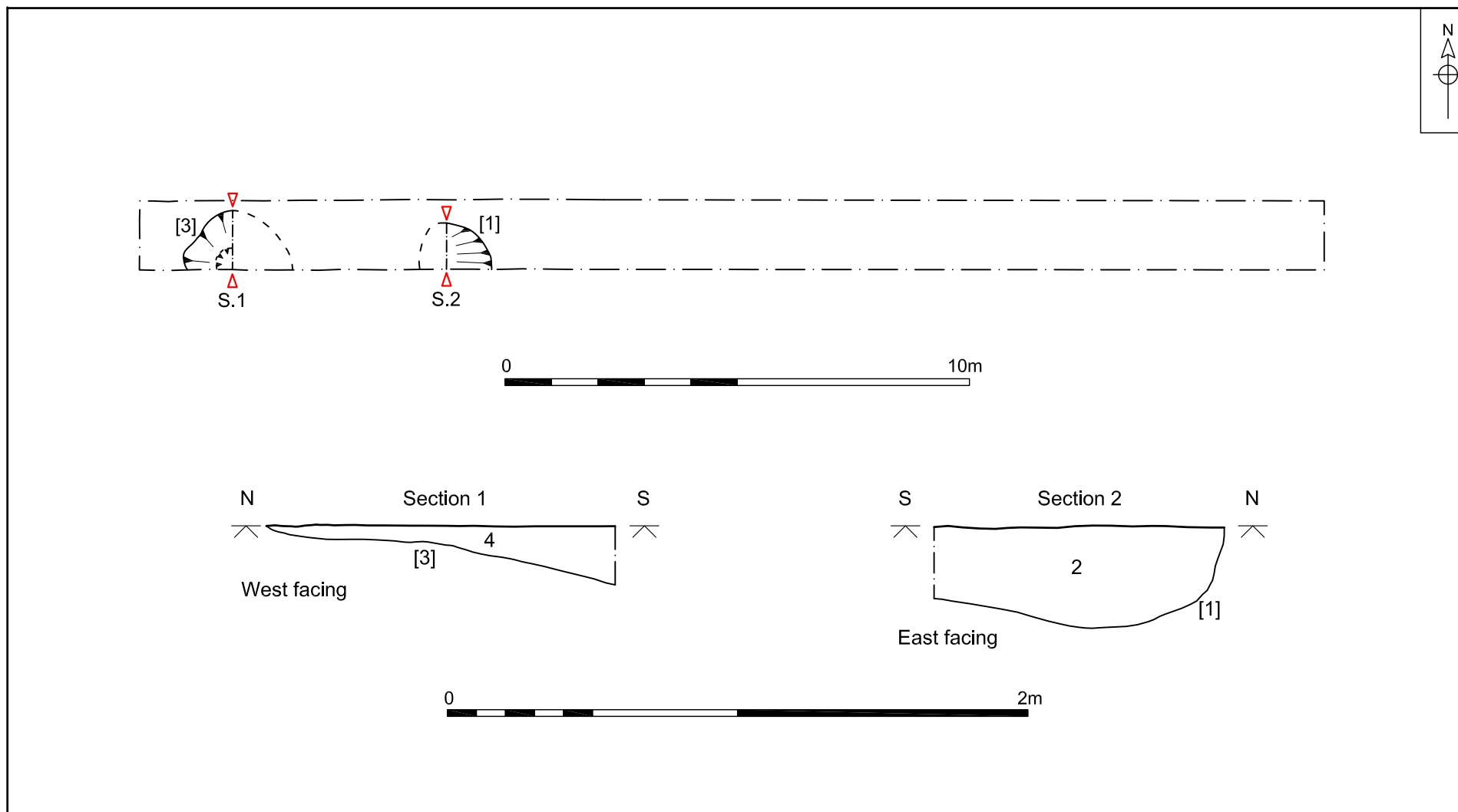


Figure 11. Trench plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

Trench 1



Fig. 11

Location

Orientation	East-West
East End	
West End	

Dimensions

Length	25.50m
Width	1.50m
Depth	0.90m west, 0.70m east

Levels

East End Top	11.62mOD
West End Top	11.49m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Pit/tree throw	Pit/tree throw	0.35m	0.90-1.25m
02	Fill of [01]	Pale brown silt sand	0.35m	0.90-1.25m
03	Pit/tree throw	Pit/tree throw	0.20m	0.90-1.10m
04	Fill of [03]	Pale brown silt sand	0.20m	0.90-1.10m
05	Unstratified finds	Finds recovered from surface of natural during machining		
06	Buried topsoil	Mid brown sand silt	0.25m	0.65-0.90m
07	Modern make-up	Sand and gravel with modern rubbish	0.60m	0.00-0.60m

Discussion

Two features were excavated and recorded in this trench, both considered to be pits or tree throws located at the western end of the trench.

Sub-circular feature [03] measuring 2.30m from east to west was seen to truncate the natural geology and extend beyond the edge of the trench to the south (Plate 1). It was situated some 2.0m from the western end of the trench. A 1.30m wide portion of the feature was available for investigation which was half sectioned. On excavation the feature was found to have a very gently sloping, uneven north to south aligned side which continued into the southern section of the trench. The feature was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.20m. The fill of the feature [04] consisted of a pale yellowish brown silt sand with a moderate amount of flint pebbles and stones. No finds were recovered from the feature which was interpreted as being of natural formation, very probably a tree throw.

A second feature [01] was also seen to truncate the natural geology and extend beyond the edge of the trench to the south. It was situated some 6.50m from the western end of the trench. A 1.00m wide portion of the feature was available for investigation which was half sectioned. On excavation the feature was found to have steeply sloping northern and western sides with a concave base. The feature was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The fill of the feature [02] consisted of a quite dense but soft pale yellowish brown silt sand with rare occurrences of

Trench 1

flint pebbles. The section displayed vertical root channels. No finds were recovered from the feature which was suspected to be of natural formation, probably a tree throw with just a slight possibility that it was a pit. A 40 litre bulk sample was taken from fill [02].



Plate 1. Feature [01] looking east



Plate 2. Feature [01] and section looking south

Both of the features in the trench were sealed by topsoil [06] with an average thickness of 0.25m. This deposit, which extended over the full area of the trench, was a compact mid brown sand silt with occasional pieces of flint gravel and rare occurrences of charcoal flecking. This topsoil had in turn been buried by a 0.60m-thick modern layer of make-up/levelling material [07]. This deposit consisted of mixed yellow sand and gravel interspersed with modern rubbish such

Trench 1

as plastic and brick fragments.

The natural geology at the site was a bright orangey-brown sand with patches of flint pebbles and more clayey sand.

Two unstratified struck flints [05] characteristic of manufacture in the earlier Neolithic period were recovered from the surface of the natural geology during machining.

6.0 FINDS

All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. A full list of all finds by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Flint

by Andrew Peachey

Trial-trench excavations recovered two flakes (20g) of struck flint from [05]. The un-patinated flakes were manufactured from very dark grey, near black, raw flint with a thin slightly pitted white cortex that suggests it was sourced from local gravel deposits.

The struck flint is comprised of a side scraper and a blade-like un-corticated flake of debitage. The side scraper was formed by the application of abrupt re-touch to one lateral edge of a blade (primary flake) that was struck from a prepared (abraded) striking platform. These characteristics indicate both flakes were manufactured in the earlier Neolithic period.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Plant Macrofossils

by Val Fryer

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

One sample from fill [02] from pit/tree throw [01] was submitted for analysis. The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Appendix 3. All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots and arthropod remains were also recorded.

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

7.1.2 Results

The flot is extremely small (<0.1 litres in volume) and limited in composition. Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present, other plant remains are not recorded, and the assemblage is largely composed of black tarry and porous residues, many of which appear to be derivatives of the combustion of coal.

7.1.3 Conclusions

In summary, although the charcoal fragments may be contemporary with the feature from which the sample was taken, it would appear quite likely that much of the remaining material within the assemblage is intrusive within the fill.

Because of the paucity of this assemblage, it is difficult to give recommendations for a future sampling strategy. However, on the basis that there is additional evidence for prehistoric activity within the Gisleham area, it is suggested that, if further interventions are planned, plant macrofossil samples should be taken from any well-dated features recorded during excavation.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Although the site is clearly situated in an area of high archaeological potential little evidence was recovered during this work to suggest any past use of this particular plot of land. The two unstratified earlier Neolithic struck flints are probably more indicative of 'background noise' from activity of that period in the vicinity of the site than on the site itself.

It is clear from previous archaeological excavations carried out in the vicinity that archaeological features of this date can be sparsely distributed. Hence this work cannot guarantee the absence of archaeological remains being present elsewhere on the site, and should such remains be present it is likely that the proposed development would have a severe impact on them.

Acknowledgements

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The report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Cut		Pit/tree throw	Uncertain	1
02	Deposit	01	Brown slightly silty sand	Uncertain	1
03	Cut		Tree throw	Uncertain	1
04	Deposit	03	Brown slightly silty sand	Uncertain	1
05	U/S Finds		Finds recovered from the surface of the natural	Uncertain	1
06	Deposit		Mid brown sand silt - buried topsoil	Uncertain	1
7	Deposit		Sand and gravel with mod rubbish - modern make-up	Modern	1

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Total
Uncertain	Pit/tree throw	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
05	Flint – Struck	2	20g	Prehistoric

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	2

Appendix 3: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	1
Context No	02
Feature No.	01
Feature type	Tree throw
Charcoal <2mm	x
Charcoal >2mm	x
Charred root/stem	x
Black porous and tarry residues	xx
Fish bone	x
Small coal frags	x
Vitreous material	x
Sample volume (litres)	56
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Key to Table: x = 1–10 specimens xx = 11–50 specimens