

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Land Adjacent to Carsons Drive, Great Cornard

(Planning app. no. Pre-planning)



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© December 2007

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded and commissioned by Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd. The desk based assessment was carried out by James Rolfe, of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the documentary study by Anthony M. Breen, a freelance local history researcher and the aerial photographic survey by Roger Palmer of Air Photo Services. Thanks also go to Mick Matthews for his personal comments regarding his metal detector surveys of the PDA. The project was managed by John Newman, Contracts Manager, of SCCAS and advice was given by Jess Tipper, SCCAS Conservation Team.

Summary

This archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) has been undertaken as a result of a proposal for a housing development on the land to the east of Carsons Drive, Great Cornard. This DBA includes an examination of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), the Suffolk Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data, a documentary search, an aerial photographic survey and a site walkover.

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on the eastern side of the Stour Valley 1.2km away from the present course of the river on the first area of high ground overlooking the floodplain.

There has been metal detecting and fieldwalking activity on the fields comprising the PDA. These searches have identified a large prehistoric flint scatter over approximately 70% of the PDA, a dense scatter of Roman material in the north-eastern quarter of the PDA and a low density scatter of Early Anglo-Saxon material in the same area. Of special note is the material that dates to the early 5th century AD, that is immediately after the Roman army withdrew from Britain and Germanic cultural influences start to be recognised in the material culture. There are very few sites in Suffolk that have been identified as dating to this period, potentially increasing the archaeological importance of this site.

These finds suggest there is a high potential for there to be preserved occupation deposits within the PDA for the periods identified as being present.

Consultation with the County Council Planning Archaeologist should be at the earliest possible opportunity, as archaeological investigations can have considerable time and cost implications. This consultation will determine the program of archaeological works that will need to be carried out. The first stage of works will be an archaeological evaluation consisting of a detailed topographic survey, a systematic fieldwalking and metal detecting survey, a geophysical survey and evaluation trenching. This will establish the extent, character, density and depth of the archaeological resource present within the PDA.

Further consultation would then be required with the County Council Planning Archaeologist to determine the need and scope for any further work, which could include full-scale excavation.

On the present evidence dating to the Late Roman / Early Anglo-Saxon period recovered from the PDA, the archaeology is of regional and potentially of national importance. It is therefore possible that the program of archaeological works would be a pre-determination condition of any planning application (see Section 4.2).

HER information

Planning application no.	Pre -planning
Grid Reference:	TL89694033
Funding body:	Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd

1. Introduction

1.1. Project background

This archaeological DBA has been prepared by James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd.

This DBA is the first stage of a programme of archaeological works to access the archaeological potential of the PDA.

1.2. Site description

The subject of this DBA covers an area of approximately 16.15ha centred at TL8969/4033, in the parish of Great Cornard (Fig. 1, 2 and 3).

The present land use is arable agriculture.

1.3. Geology and topography

The PDA is located 1.3km to the east of the River Stour. It is on the valley side at *circa* 35-60m above sea level. The localised topography of the PDA is high ground running roughly north-to-south, with the highest point being in the north. The ground also slopes down from the high ground to both the east and west (Fig. 4).

The PDA is on deep well drained fine-coarse loam and sandy soils, with locally clayey patches towards the south of the PDA (Fig. 5).

1.4. Scope of this report

In order to set the PDA in its archaeological context a study area of a 1km radius from its centre was selected for examination (Fig. 2).

In accordance with PPG16, the Government's guidance on archaeology and planning, (www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance9) and based on a SCCAS specification, this assessment examines the available archaeological sources. These include the Suffolk HER, reports of any archaeological investigations, all readily available cartographic and documentary sources, an aerial photographic survey and a site walkover.

1.5. Aims

To determine as far as reasonably practicable from the existing records, the previous landuse, the nature of the archaeological resource and the potential resource within the PDA.

1.6. Methods

The methodology involved interrogating the following sources of data to meet the aims of this DBA.

A search of the Suffolk HER for any records within 1km from the centre of the PDA was carried out, the results are described and mapped in the main body of the report, Section 2.1.

An examination of the literature with reference to archaeological excavations within the study area was carried out.

A search for listed buildings that may have a line of sight to the PDA was carried out. A summary is presented in the main report, Section 2.2.

An assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the PDA to identify historic landuse, the siting of old boundaries and earlier buildings, Section 2.4.

A historical documentary search was commissioned; the results have been summarised in Section 2.5, with the full report presented in Appendix 2.

The aerial photographic survey was commissioned and the archives held at Suffolk County Council SMR, the National Monuments Record Office at Swindon and the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs were examined. The results are summarised in the main report, Section 2.3, with the full details presented in Appendix 3.

An examination of the metal detecting and fieldwalking survey data recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database.

A site walkover was conducted on the 24/10/2007, for which notes and digital photographs were taken.

1.7. Legislative frameworks

PPG 16 (November 1990) provides guidance for planning authorities, developers and others in the investigation of archaeological remains. This guidance advises developers to discuss their plans, preferably at a pre planning stage, with the County Archaeological Planning Officer for any possible archaeological constraints on their development proposal. The planning guidance sets out to protect nationally and locally important monuments and their settings. There will be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* of important remains. In certain circumstances field evaluation will be carried out to enable an informed decision to be made. On sites where there is no overriding case for preservation *in situ* provision will be made for their recording and excavation prior to development.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 statutorily protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and their settings as nationally important sites. There are no SAMs within 1 km of this PDA.

Listed buildings are protected under the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act of 1990. This ensures that listed buildings are given statutory protection against unauthorised demolition, alteration and extension. Buildings are listed because they are of special architectural importance, due to their architectural design, decoration and craftsmanship; also because they are of historical interest. This includes buildings that illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history or have a close association with nationally important persons or events. There are two listed buildings with a line of sight to this PDA (Fig 12).

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, due to its flora, fauna or geological or geomorphological features. There are no SSSI's within 1km of this PDA.

2. Results

2.1. Suffolk HER search

The HER only represents the archaeological material that has been reported. It is not therefore, a complete reflection of the whole archaeological resource of this area.

It should be noted at this point that pre PPG 16 archaeological investigations were not routinely carried out on development projects. This is the case for the housing development to the west of the PDA and if any archaeological remains were encountered during its construction they have not been recorded.

2.1.1. All known archaeological sites within the PDA

There have been a series of unsystematic metal detecting and field walking surveys carried out on the fields comprising the PDA over the past six years, by a local amateur archaeologist. However, the location of any artefacts that were found was recorded with the use of a GPS (Global Positioning System) device and the distribution of these finds can be seen in Figures 7, 8, 9 10 and 11.

These surveys have located numerous artefacts dating from the Mesolithic period through to the post-medieval period.

As a general note on the distribution of the artefacts, there can be a tendency due to ploughing and the natural movement of soil for artefacts to move down-slope from their original position. Also the amateur archaeologist has spent greater amount of time searching the eastern fields of the PDA, so there will be some bias in the distribution of finds.

Prehistoric

Evidence of prehistoric activity within the PDA is mainly in the form of flint artefacts. These appear to be concentrated on the centre and the eastern side of the PDA overlooking a small stream, with a few outlying artefacts in the north-west corner (Fig 7). Some of the flints are probably Mesolithic (10000-4000 BC) in date and are the earliest artefacts found within the PDA. The majority of the flints probably date to the Neolithic (4000-2351 BC) and Early Bronze Age (2350-1501 BC) periods. Within this flint assemblage there are a large number of tools including scrapers, utilised blades and retouched flakes. The distribution of these flints probably indicates the main area of activity within the PDA during these periods.

On the summit of the hill and just to the east of the summit, *circa* 25 sherds of handmade pottery have been found that probably date to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age periods (Fig. 8). This type of pottery is fragile and quickly disintegrates in the plough soil. Therefore, when found, its position is a good indicator of the location of archaeological features of this date. This also illustrates the continued destruction to these deposits through ploughing.

Roman

A fairly dense scatter of Roman material has been located in the north-eastern field of the PDA (Fig. 9). The artefacts that have been recovered span the entire duration of the Roman occupation of Britain. The earliest artefacts are various Late Iron Age / Early Roman brooches and a coin of the Emperor Nero (45-68AD). The coins date throughout the Roman

period, the latest example is a silver coin of Honorius, who was the Emperor at the time when the last Roman legion left Britain (410AD). The pottery recovered shows a similar pattern, again indicating that the site was occupied throughout the Roman period. The artefacts so far recovered are therefore indicative of a small long-lived rural settlement.

Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon material found within the PDA is mainly restricted to a fairly small area at the top of the slope in the eastern field (Fig 10). The survival and recovery of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery, which is handmade and fragile, is a good indicator of the presence and location of the Anglo-Saxon activity within the PDA.

The most significant artefacts recovered from the PDA date to the 5th century AD. These artefacts include an amphora type strap end, three pieces of a belt buckle set, a penannular brooch and a supporting arm brooch. These types of belt fittings are thought to have belonged to those Romans who had a military or official role. The two late brooches are interesting in that they show different cultural influence. The penannular brooch is of British / western design whilst the supporting arm brooch is of Germanic origin. There are still many unanswered questions about the continuity of populations from the Roman period into the Anglo-Saxon period and the apparent adoption of a more Germanic material culture (Brown & Glazebrook). The rarity of these finds, their being found at the same location and the potential for settlement evidence indicates that the archaeology present within the PDA is of regional and potentially of national importance.

There has also been found an Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch and a few sherds of pottery that date to the 6th century. This evidence for the Early Anglo-Saxon period could either indicate that there is a continuation of settlement on the site and/or there are some burials present, as graves are where most cruciform brooches are found. Anglo-Saxons have been known to collect and re-use Late Roman objects for deposition in graves.

Medieval

There are very few medieval finds located within the PDA (Fig. 11) and there is no pattern to the distribution. These finds are considered to be casual losses.

Post-medieval

There have been a large number of post-medieval finds located within the PDA including 16 silver coins, 14 bronze coins, bells, buckles, buttons, dress fittings, pottery, tokens and weights (Fig. 11). These finds are evenly distributed over the whole of the PDA, except for the south-west corner and probably represent episodes of manuring activity over arable fields. The lack of finds from the south-west corner of the PDA may be explained by the use of this area for the extraction of clay for use in the kiln suggested by the name of the farm to the south 'Kiln Farm'. Apart from the name of the farm and the large amount of tile located to in the south-eastern corner of the PDA there is no other evidence for the date and location of the kiln.

2.1.2. All known archaeological sites within 1km from the centre of the PDA

There are eighteen entries recorded in the HER within 1km of the PDA (Fig. 6).

Palaeolithic (500,000-8300BC)

There is one entry for the Palaeolithic period within the study area **COG 008**. This is a small pale grey cherty-flint cordate hand-axe, found by a pupil at school on the edge of the school playing field.

Iron Age (800BC-42AD)

There is one entry for the Iron Age period within the study area. **COG 001**, is a single gold coin that was found in a garden.

Roman (43-410AD)

There is one entry for the Roman period within the study area **COG Misc**, is a single Roman coin found metal detecting.

Anglo-Saxon (410-1066AD)

There is one entry for the Anglo-Saxon period within the study area **COL 024**, three sceattas (coins) found in a small area over some years that may represent a small coin hoard.

Medieval (1066-1500AD)

There are four entries for the medieval period within the study area.

COG 002, is a trapezoid-shaped moat close to the parish boundary.

COG 003, is a scatter of medieval pottery.

COG 019, is a scatter of medieval metal artefacts including coins, tokens, buckles, strap fittings, harness pendants, a vessel and a pin.

COG 020, is the HER entry for Abbas Hall, an aisled hall built approximately 1289/90, also see Section 2.2. listed buildings, no 1.

Post medieval (1500-1900AD)

There are six entries for the post-medieval period within the study area.

COG 009, is the site of a brick works and lime kilns.

COG 015, is the site of a windmill.

COG 018, is a place named on Hodskinson's map of 1783 as 'Mill Tyre' suggesting the site of a medieval green and water mill.

COG 019, is a scatter of post-medieval metal artefacts including coins, tokens, spindle whorls, buckles, buttons and musket balls.

COG 021, is the site of a brick works operated by Thomas Ginn between 1844-1846.

Undated

There are five entries that are undated within the study area.

COG 004, is a cropmark of a ring ditch that is probably Bronze Age in date.

COG 005, is a cropmark of a doubled ditched ring ditch, that is probably Bronze Age in date.

COG 006, is a cropmark of a ring ditch or circular enclosure that is probably Bronze Age in date.

COG 010, is a site of ancient woodland known as Great Cornard or Abbots Hall Wood.

COG 012, is a circular earthwork in Abbots Hall Wood (**COG 010**) *circa* 42m in diameter with an inner bank and outer ditch.

2.2. Listed buildings

A search was carried out on the listed building web site <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>, which identified six listed buildings with a possible line of sight to the PDA, all of which all are Grade II (Fig. 12).

1. Abbas Hall (LB No. 277968) Grade I, is a timber-framed and plastered house with a cross wing at the west-end. One of only two examples of a late 13th century aisled hall house known in Suffolk which possibly dates from between 1270 to 1290.
2. Kiln Farm (LB No. 469607) Grade II, is a 16th century farmhouse. It is timber-framed with wattle and daub in-fill with a plain tiled roof.

2.3. Aerial photographic survey summary

An aerial photographic survey was commissioned and carried out by Aerial Photo Services of Cambridge and the full report is located in Appendix 3.

There appeared to be two local high areas, or areas that have been ploughed baldish, that is to say there is not much topsoil present and they appear light in colour. On this area in the north-eastern field there are areas of darker soil that could be pits or possibly remnant patches of deeper topsoil (Fig. 13). These features are in the area where most of the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon material has been recovered.

Other features noted in the aerial photographic survey are two areas of cultivation marks on the eastern side of the PDA by the stream and on the eastern side of the north-west field (Fig 13). Former field boundaries in the northern and southern areas visible on the aerial photographic plot Figure 13 can be seen on the 1838 Tithe map Figure 15.

Two features that were not visible on the aerial photographs were the clay extraction pits noted in the site walkover. This indicates that there is the possibility that further archaeological features that could be present within the PDA would not have necessarily shown up on the aerial photographic survey.

2.4. Historic map search

The only visible difference within the PDA at present, from what can be seen on the earliest maps is the removal of three field boundaries. From the 1813 enclosure map through to the 1826 O/S map the field boundaries are the same except for a north-south field boundary that is only shown on the 1838 Tithe map between fields 208 and 209. It is not until the 20th century that two further boundaries are removed which can be seen on Figure 13.

2.5. Documentary study summary

Anthony M. Breen carried out the documentary study in October 2007 on behalf of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The full documentary search is located in Appendix 2.

The main points identified in the documentary study that affect the archaeological resource are the two fields named on the apportionment for the 1838 Tithe map (Figure 15) 'First Pit Field' (209) and 'Further Pit Field' (208). The areas where the extraction pits were dug will have destroyed any archaeology that was once present. These pits are probably the ones that were seen in the site walkover, Section 2.6. and roughly positioned in Figure 18. These extraction pits were for clay that would have been used in a close by kiln. The evidence for this kiln is in the various field names on the 1838 Tithe map (Figure.15) 'Further Kiln Lay' (205a), 'Upper Kiln Lay' (205), 'Middle Kiln Lay' (206) and the farmhouse just to the south of the PDA 'Kiln Farm'. However, the date of the kiln or its exact location is not known. The only other piece of evidence that may have an impact on the archaeological resource is the field called 'Coneyfer' (161) (Figure 15), suggesting that this field was the site of a medieval rabbit warren. The remaining fields within the PDA are 'New Field' (211) that was listed as arable and 'Marsh' (161a) that was listed as pasture.

2.6. Site walkover

A visit to the site was made on the 24th of October 2007. The whole of the PDA is arable land and had recently been drilled. Digital photographs were taken and notes were made about the topography and soil conditions.

The main areas of note were the two large depressions on the southern field of the PDA probably being the extraction pits mentioned in the documentary study (Figure 18). In the south-eastern corner of the PDA was a large scatter of tile (Figure 18).

3. Assessment of impacts and effects

3.1. The archaeological potential of the PDA

The location of the PDA on the slope of a river valley overlooking the floodplain and on generally light soils would have been a favoured area for settlement throughout time. This is demonstrated by the large amount of archaeological material that has been recovered from within the PDA dating from the Later Prehistoric period through to the post medieval period.

The large scatter of prehistoric flints found within the PDA is indicative of settlement activity. This evidence suggests that there is a high potential for further prehistoric material including occupation deposits to be found within the PDA.

The few sherds of later prehistoric pottery dating to the Later Bronze Age or Iron Age indicate that there was activity within the PDA during these periods. There is a moderate to high potential for some archaeological deposits dating to this period.

The dense scatter of Roman material that is confined to the north-eastern field of the PDA probably indicates the extent of a Roman occupation area. There is a high potential within this area of the PDA for significant Roman occupation deposits to be encountered. There is also the potential for non-occupation deposits to be encountered outside of this area.

Possibly the most significant archaeological material from the PDA is from the 5th century AD, the transitional phase at the end of the Roman period and the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon period. There are very few sites identified either within Suffolk or nationally that date to this period and any sites identified have the potential to help with the understanding of the cultural changes that took place during the Roman withdrawal from Britain and the growing influence of Germanic culture in Suffolk. The evidence so far recovered from the PDA suggests that this site could be settlement and/ or a cemetery dating to this period.

The small amount of Anglo-Saxon material dating to the 6th century so far found could represent settlement or possibly burial remains. There is a moderate to high potential for more material of this date to be encountered within the PDA.

The medieval and post medieval archaeological material is indicative of stray losses and manuring, suggesting that there is a low potential for stratified deposits of these dates.

Based on the evidence to date, the overall potential for archaeological material to be encountered within the PDA is high. The possible exception is the western side of the PDA, where less pre post-medieval material has been found. There could however be non-archaeological reasons for this apparent difference. There may be a greater depth of colluvium on the lower ground on the west side of the PDA and this would make it harder for metal detectors to locate material through the greater depth of soil. If this is the case conversely any archaeology that is present beneath any colluvium build-up would be well preserved.

3.2. Potential of preserved archaeological remains within the PDA

There are two main factors that will have affected the survival of any archaeological material, within the PDA, these are agricultural activities and mineral extraction.

Ploughing can damage archaeological material, this is especially destructive if sub-soiling and deep ploughing techniques have been used.

There is also evidence for clay extraction in the southern part of the PDA. The documentary search revealed that two fields on the Tithe map of 1838 were called 'First Pit Field' (209) and 'Further Pit Field' (208) Figure 15. Two large depressions were noted during the site walkover and these probably relate to this activity. A topographic survey would accurately locate these features and any others that were not so visibly apparent. The archaeology will have been destroyed within the areas where clay extraction was carried out in the post-medieval period.

The overall survival of the archaeological resource should be moderate to good. However, evaluation by trial trenches would need to be carried out to fully assess the survival of the archaeological deposits, as there could be differential preservation across PDA, due to agricultural practices.

3.3. Assessment of the impact of the development on the archaeological resource

From the information provided, the development will have five distinct areas each having a different effect upon the archaeological resource.

In the area that is being retained as agricultural land the archaeological resource will continue to slowly deteriorate due to plough damage, unless it is returned to pasture.

In the area that will be planted with trees the archaeological resource will be seriously damaged due to the action of the roots.

In the area that the houses will be built the archaeological resource will be seriously damaged and possibly destroyed due to the use of footings, roads, service trenches, or terracing / earth moving.

In the area that is assigned as habitat improvement, it is not possible to say what the impact will be as it is unclear what this will entail. If it means returning the area to pasture this would preserve the archaeology, but if it means further tree planting or the creation of wildlife ponds etc, this would have a serious negative affect upon the archaeological resource.

In the area that will be a public open space the impact upon the archaeology will depend upon the type of open space proposed. If the area were to be grassed over this would preserve the archaeology, but if it involves further tree planting or landscaping this would have a negative affect upon the archaeological resource.

4. Mitigation measures

4.1 The PDA

Archaeological mitigation would need to be carried out in a staged approach, each stage informing and targeting the next stage of the mitigation process.

Consultation with the County Council Planning Archaeologist should be at the earliest possible opportunity, as archaeological investigations can have considerable time and cost implications. This consultation will determine the program of archaeological works that will need to be carried out. The first stage of works will be an archaeological evaluation consisting of a detailed topographic survey, a systematic fieldwalking and metal detecting survey, a geophysical survey and evaluation trenching. This will establish the extent, character, density and depth of the archaeological resource present within the PDA.

A topographic survey should be carried out to identify the areas where clay extraction has been carried out. This also needs to be done to set a base line that the later stages of work and results can be set against, to assess the truncation of the archaeology through erosion / ploughing.

A systematic fieldwalking and metal detecting survey is needed to clarify and enhance the distribution of the archaeological material present within the PDA.

A geophysical survey to identify the below ground surviving archaeological features will help identify areas where evaluation trenching will be most effective. This should be carried out initially in the north-east field. Further geophysical survey may have to be carried out in the area with potentially deeper colluvium after evaluation has taken place to assess the suitability for geophysical survey.

Targeted evaluation trenching of 5% of the PDA will enable identification and assessment of the extent, character, density and depth of the archaeological deposits present.

Further consultation would then be required with the County Council Planning Archaeologist to determine the need and scope for any further work, which could include full-scale excavation.

On the present evidence dating to the Late Roman / Early Anglo-Saxon period recovered from the PDA, the archaeology is of regional and potentially of national importance. It is therefore possible that the program of archaeological works would be a pre determination condition of any planning application (see Section 4.2).

4.2. Archaeological evaluation

Applicants for planning consent are reminded that national guidance recommends that potential archaeological sites are evaluated (fieldwalking and/or geophysical survey and/or trenching) prior to the determination of any application and that refusal of consent is an option to ensure that nationally important sites are preserved *in situ* (PPG16 paragraphs 8, 27 and 28).

Purchasers of land should be aware that, until an evaluation is undertaken, it is usually impossible to define the extent of archaeological work that may be required on a site and

equally difficult to calculate the likely cost and time implications. Bearing this in mind developers are strongly advised to undertake archaeological evaluations at the earliest opportunity to clarify the likely archaeological work required and its cost.

5. Conclusions / Recommendations

Through an examination of the Suffolk HER, a documentary search, an aerial photographic survey, the metal detected and fieldwalked material previously recovered and recorded on the PAS and a site walkover, this DBA has set the PDA within its immediate archaeological landscape. It has been demonstrated through the artefactual evidence recovered from the fields comprising the PDA, that there has been occupation activity here from the Later Prehistoric period through to the Anglo-Saxon period.

There is a high potential for preserved stratified occupation deposits to be present within the PDA.

There will be a difference in the destruction of the potential archaeological resource within the different areas of the development.

Consultation with the County Council Planning Archaeologist should be at the earliest possible opportunity, as archaeological investigations can have considerable time and cost implications.

Archaeological mitigation would need to be carried out in a staged approach, each stage informing and targeting the next stage of mitigation process. This should include a topographic survey, a systematic fieldwalking and metal detecting survey, a geophysical survey and a targeted trial trench evaluation. Together these processes will enable identification and assessment of the extent, character and density of the archaeological deposits.

Depending upon the results of the evaluation, the proposed land use and construction methods that will be used in the development, further consultation would then be required with the County Council Planning Archaeologist to determine the need and scope for any further work, which could include full-scale excavation.

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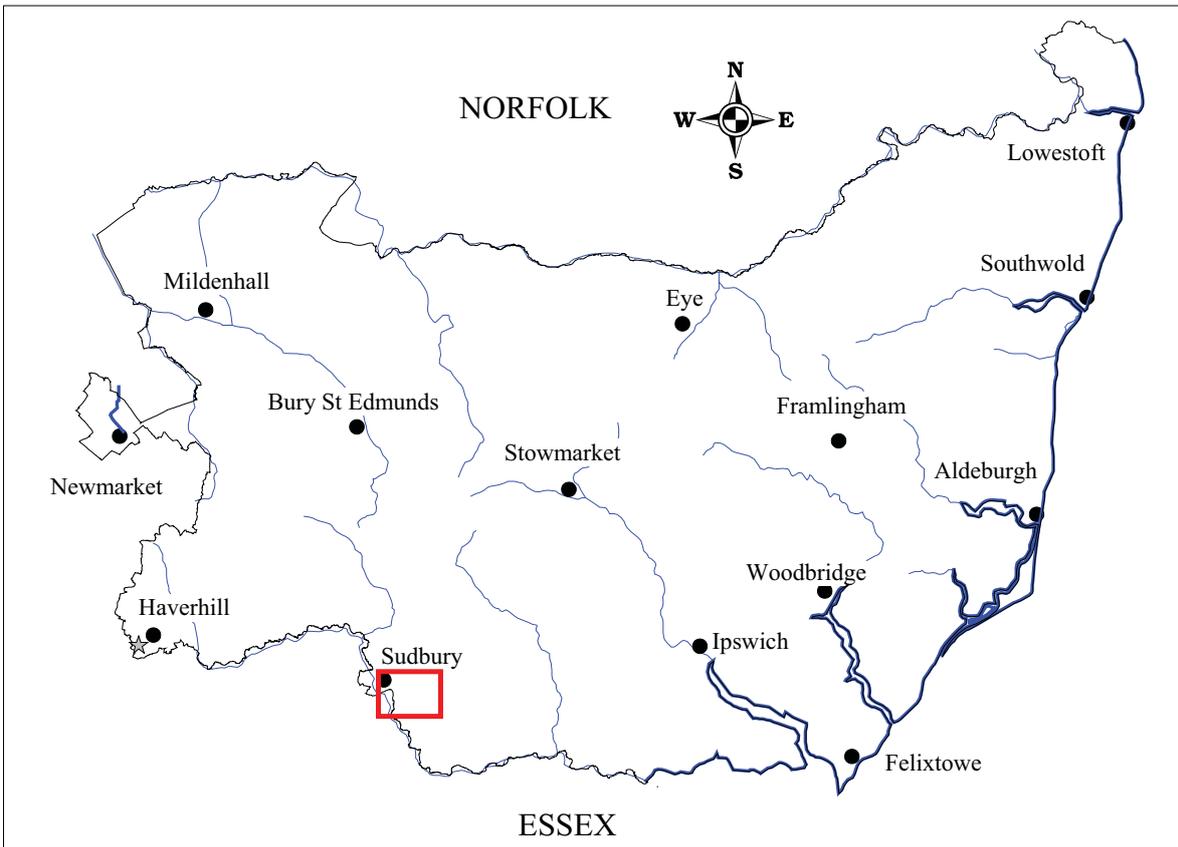
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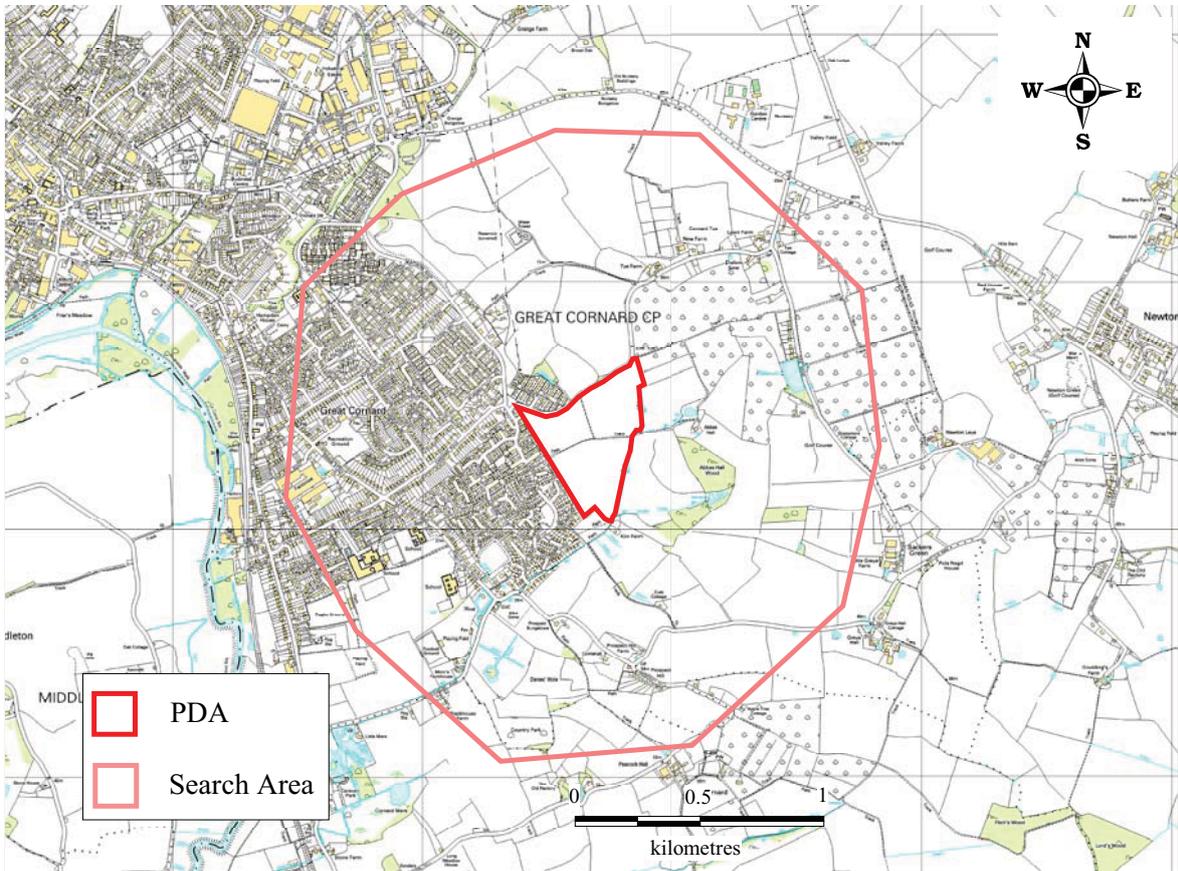
Disclaimer

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



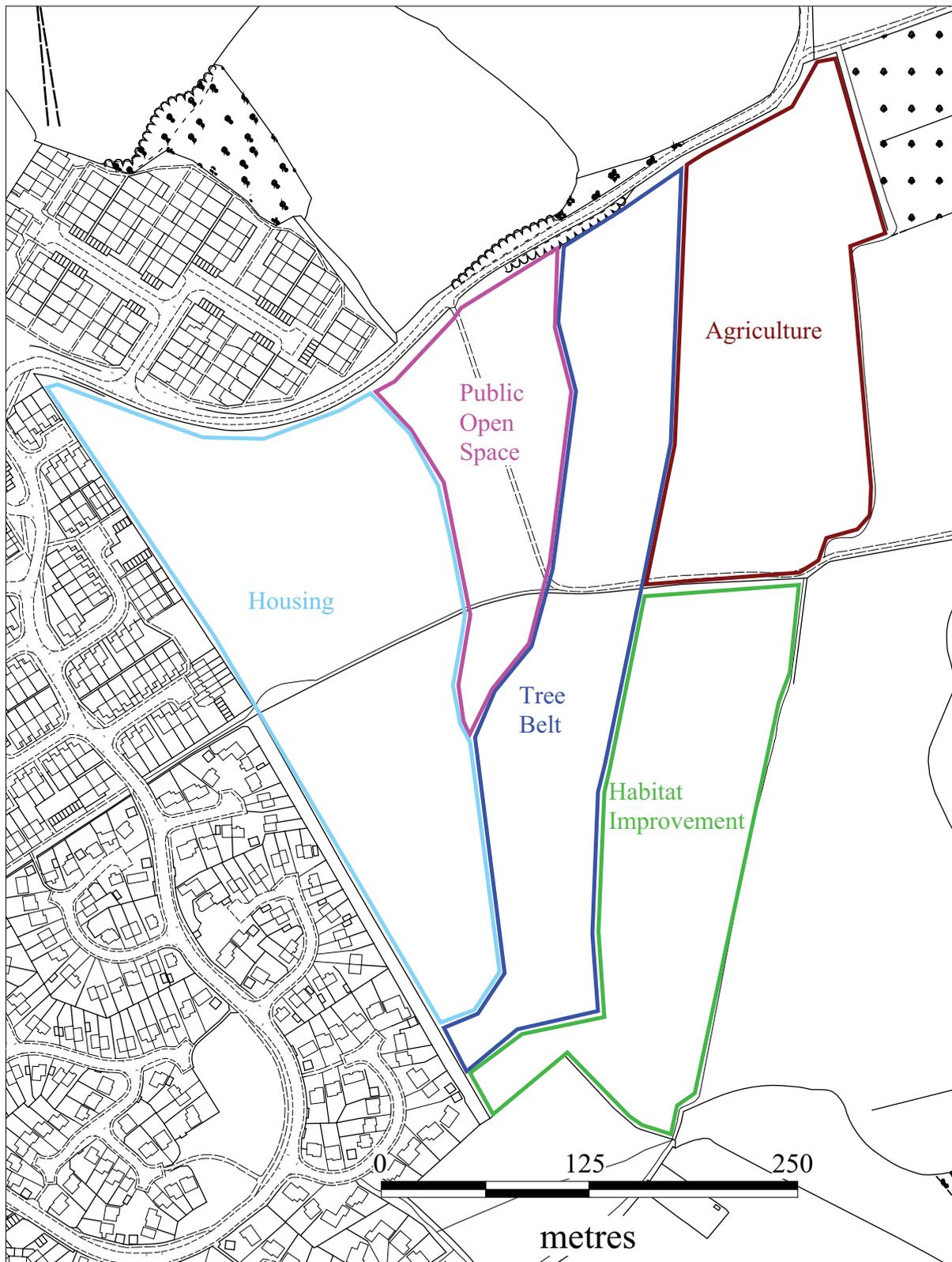
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Figure 1. Location of PDA



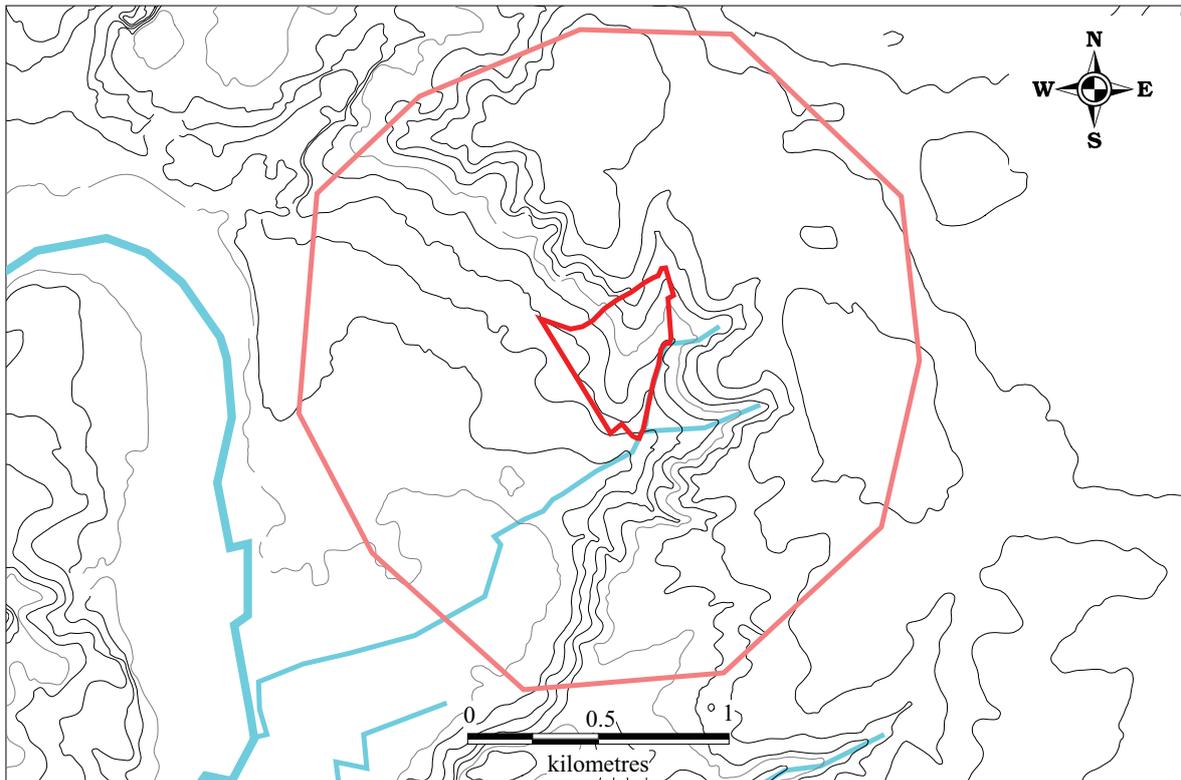
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Figure 2. The PDA and the 1km study area



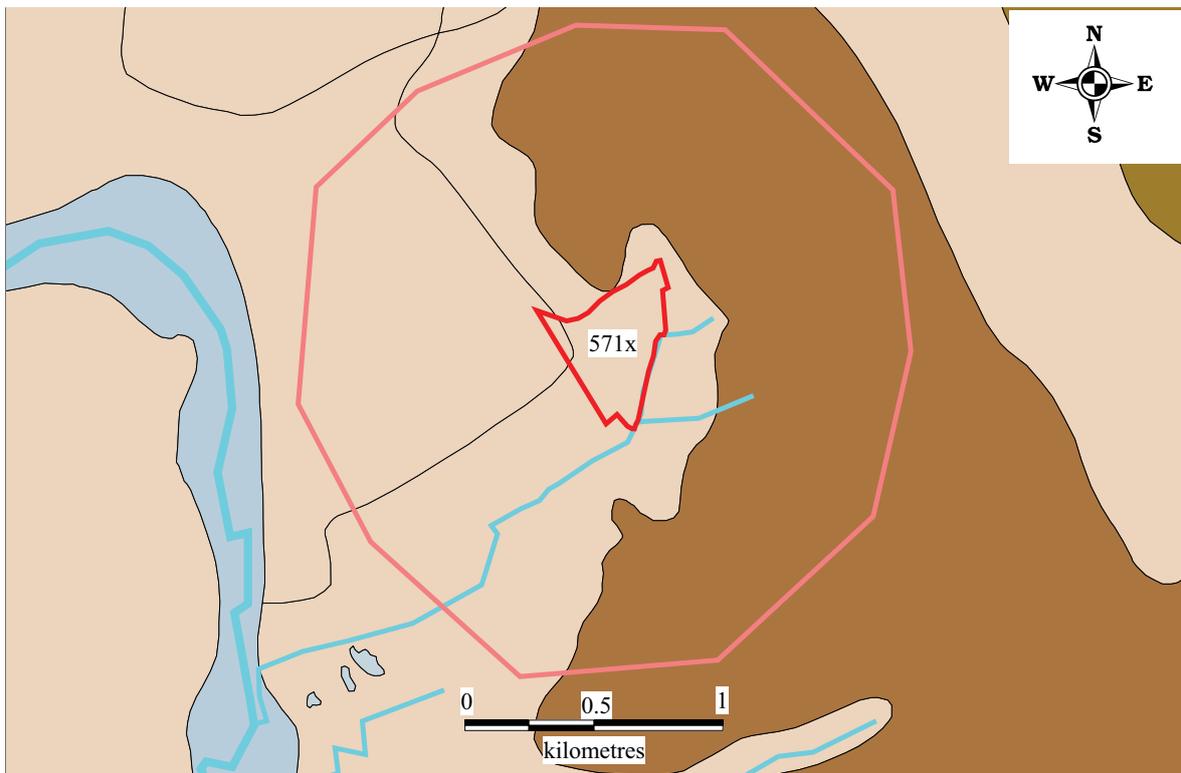
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Figure 3. The proposed landuse within the PDA



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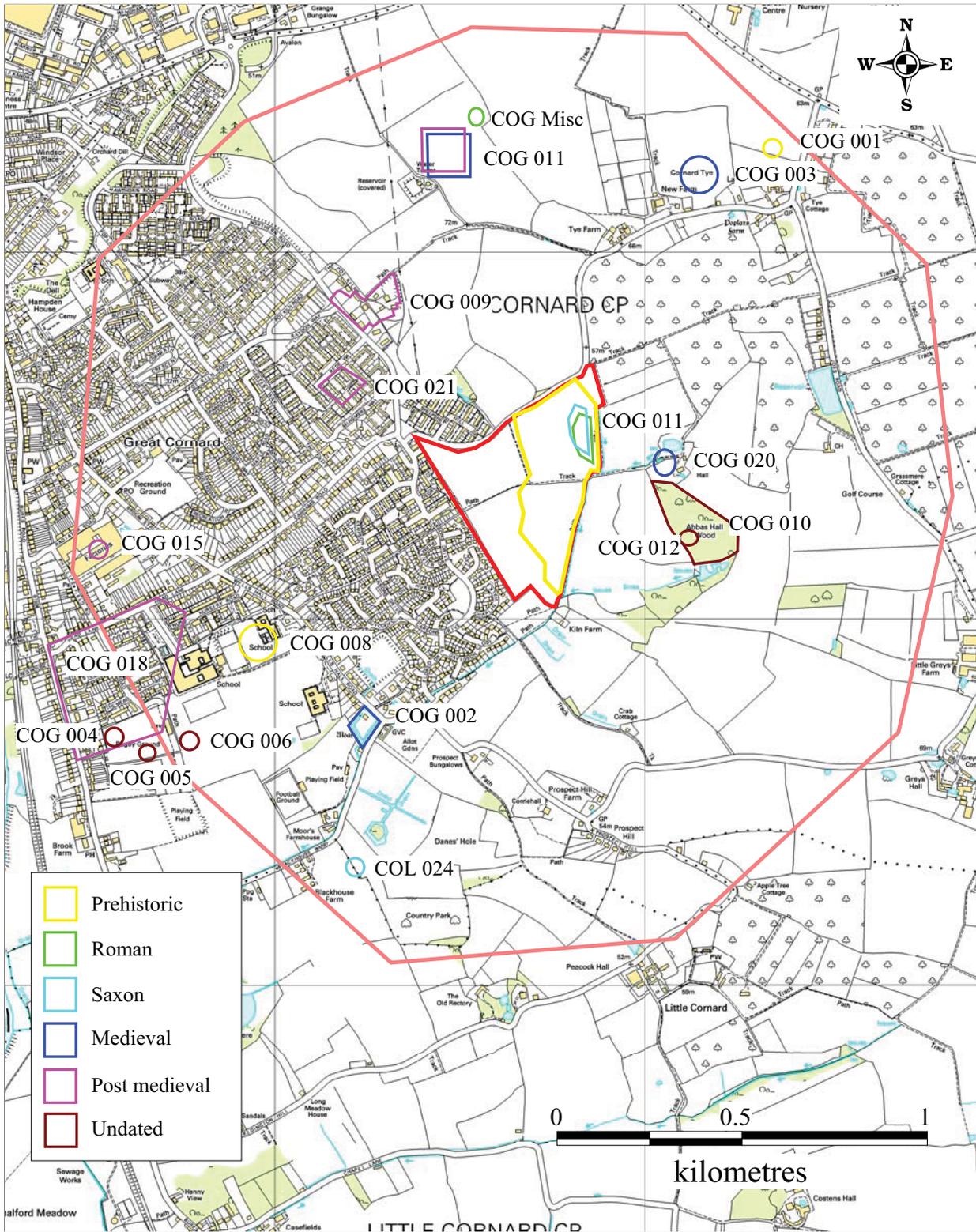
Figure 4. Topography of the PDA and the surrounding area



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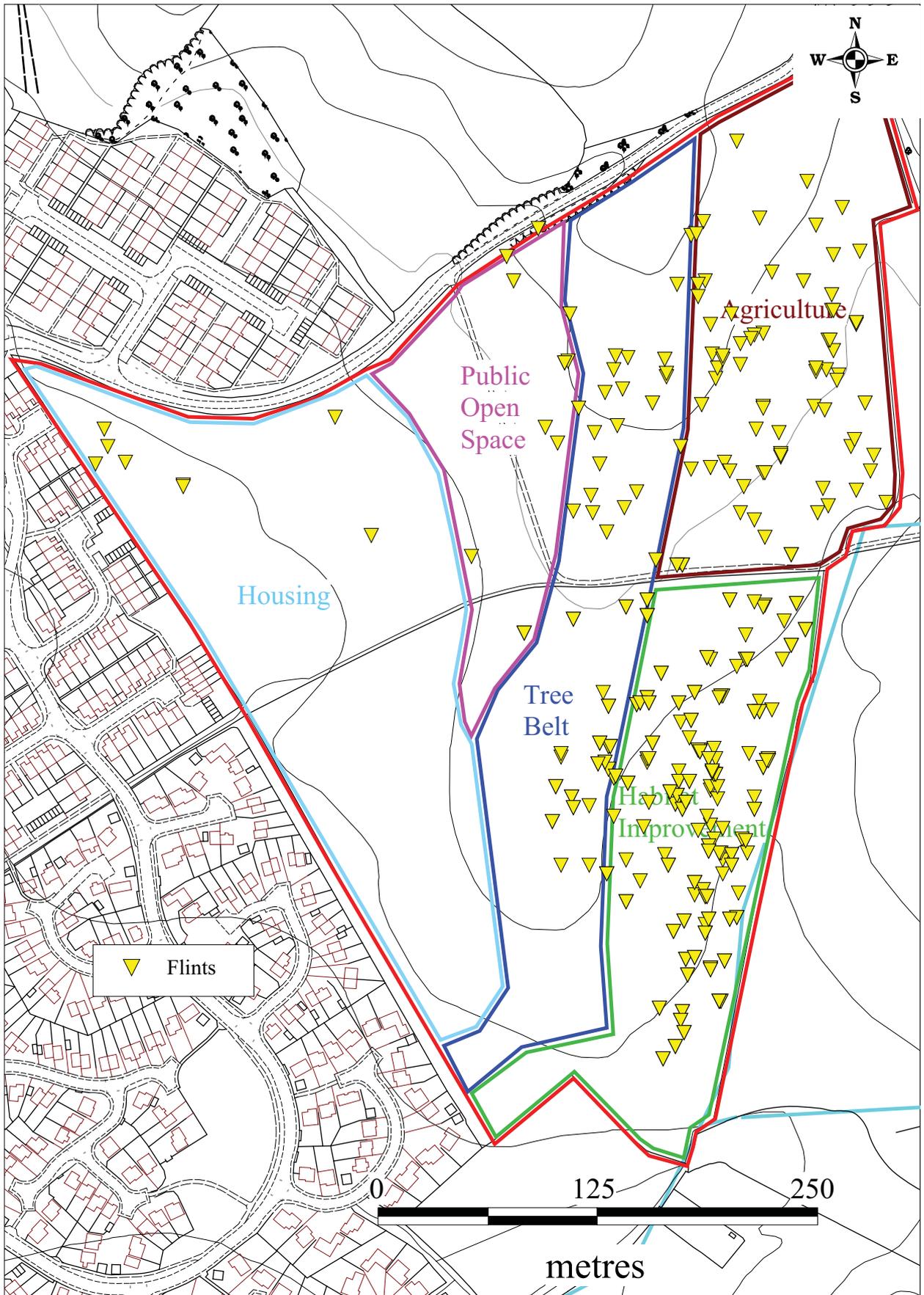
Figure 5. Soils of the PDA and the surrounding area

(Map symbol and soil type: 571x Deep well drained fine-coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty in places over gravel)



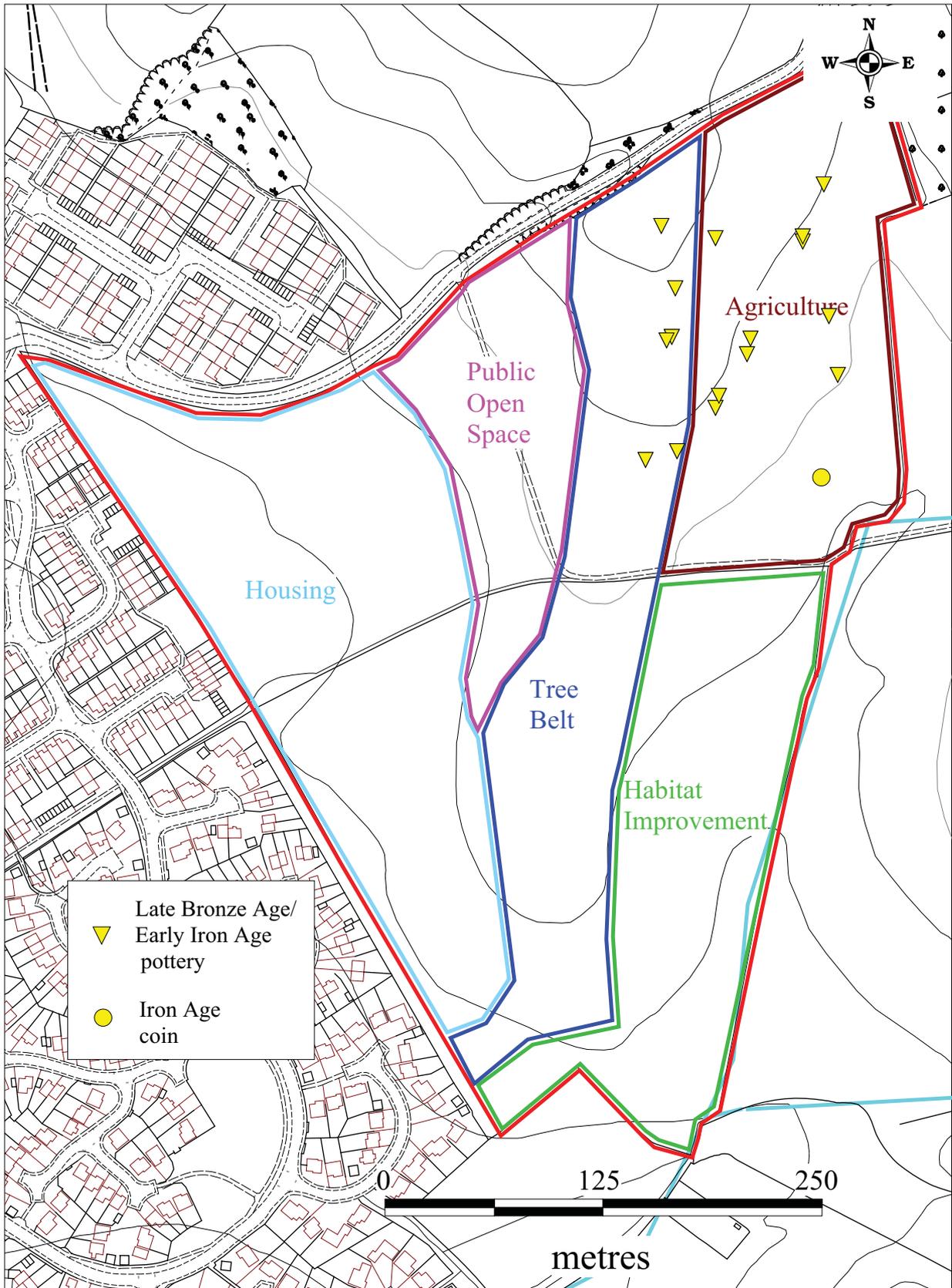
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Figure 6. All sites recorded on the HER within a 1km radius from the centre of the PDA



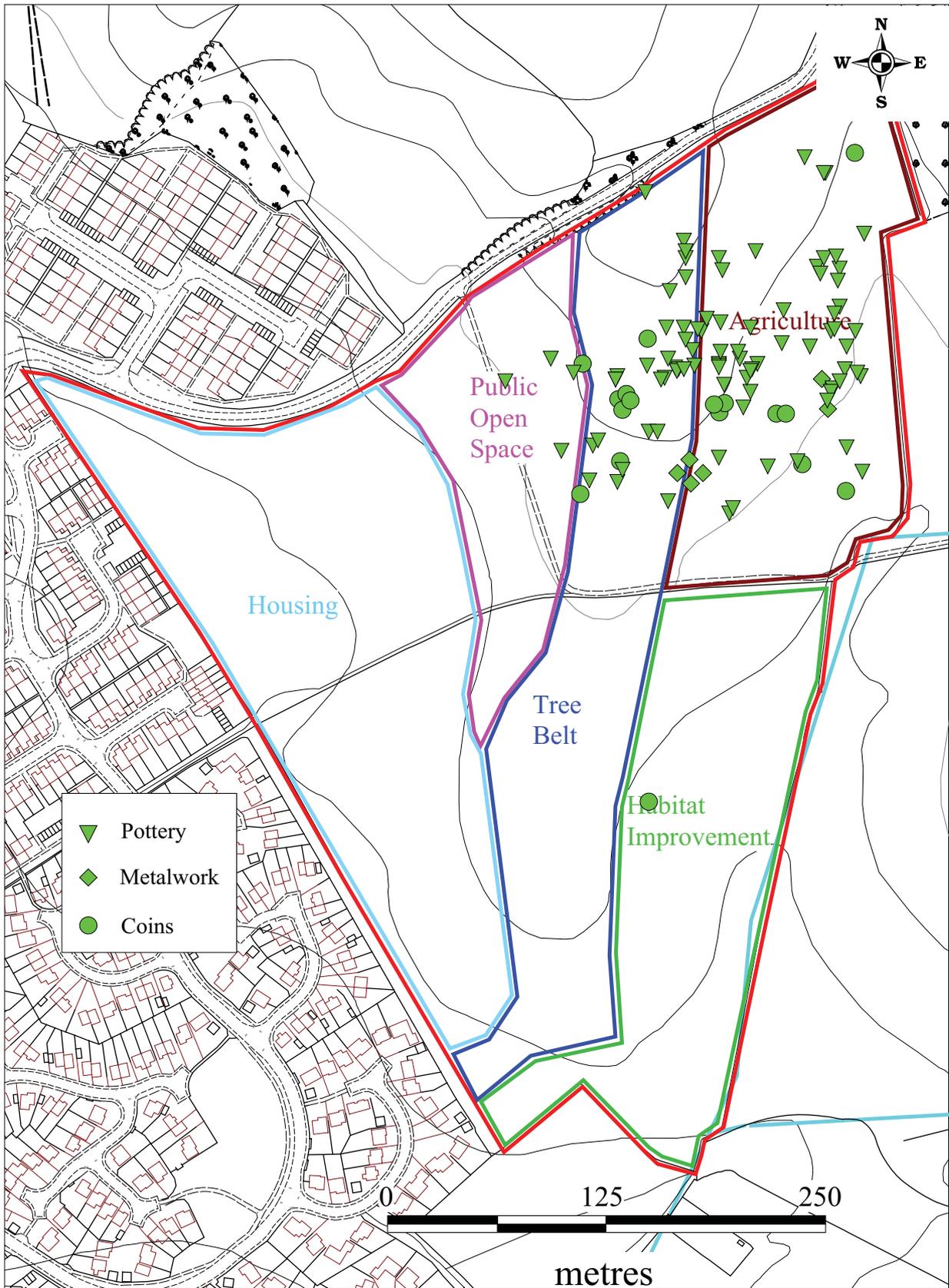
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Figure 7. Distribution of flints found within the PDA



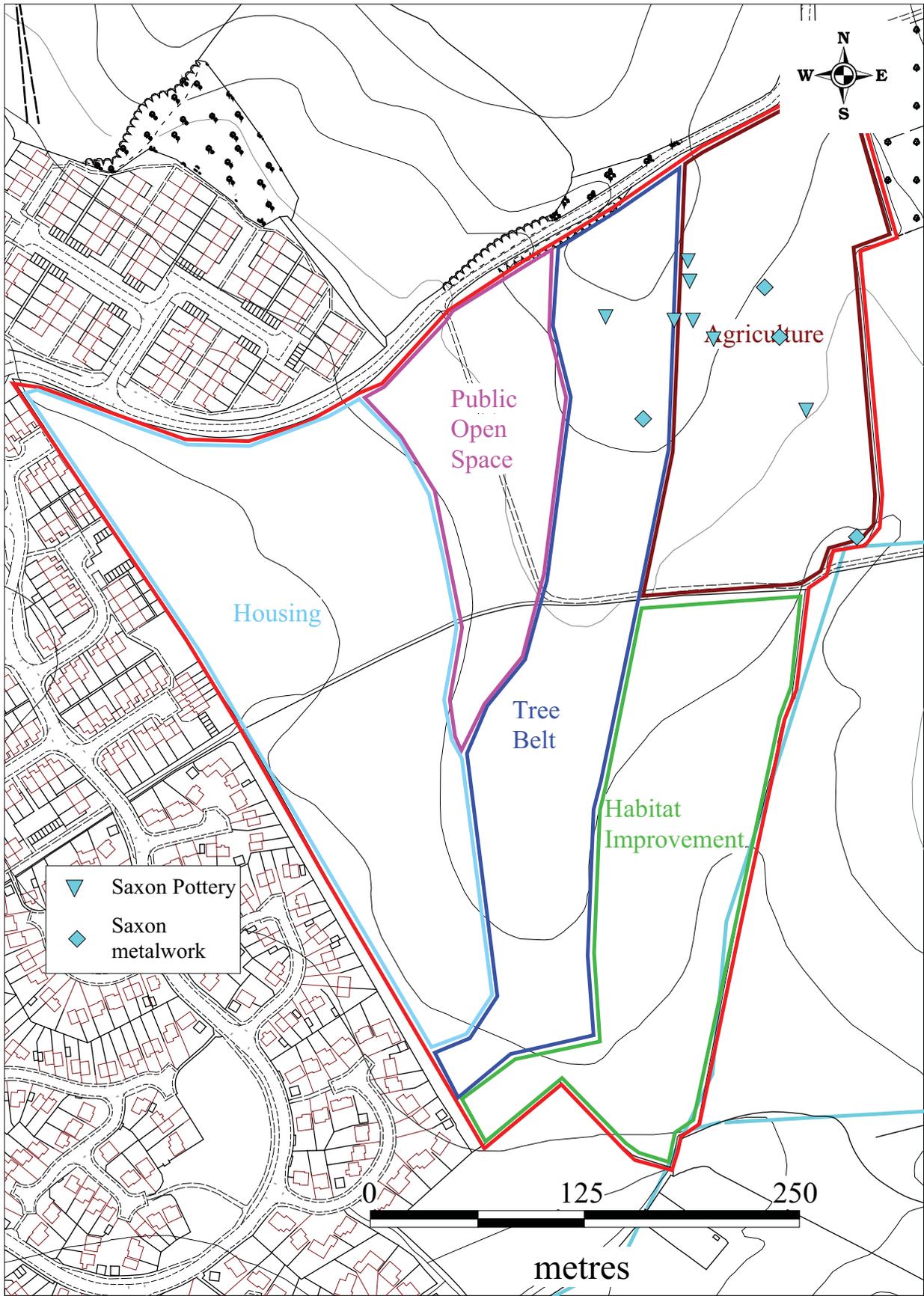
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Figure 8. Distribution of Later Bronze Age / Iron Age pottery and an Iron Age coin found within the PDA



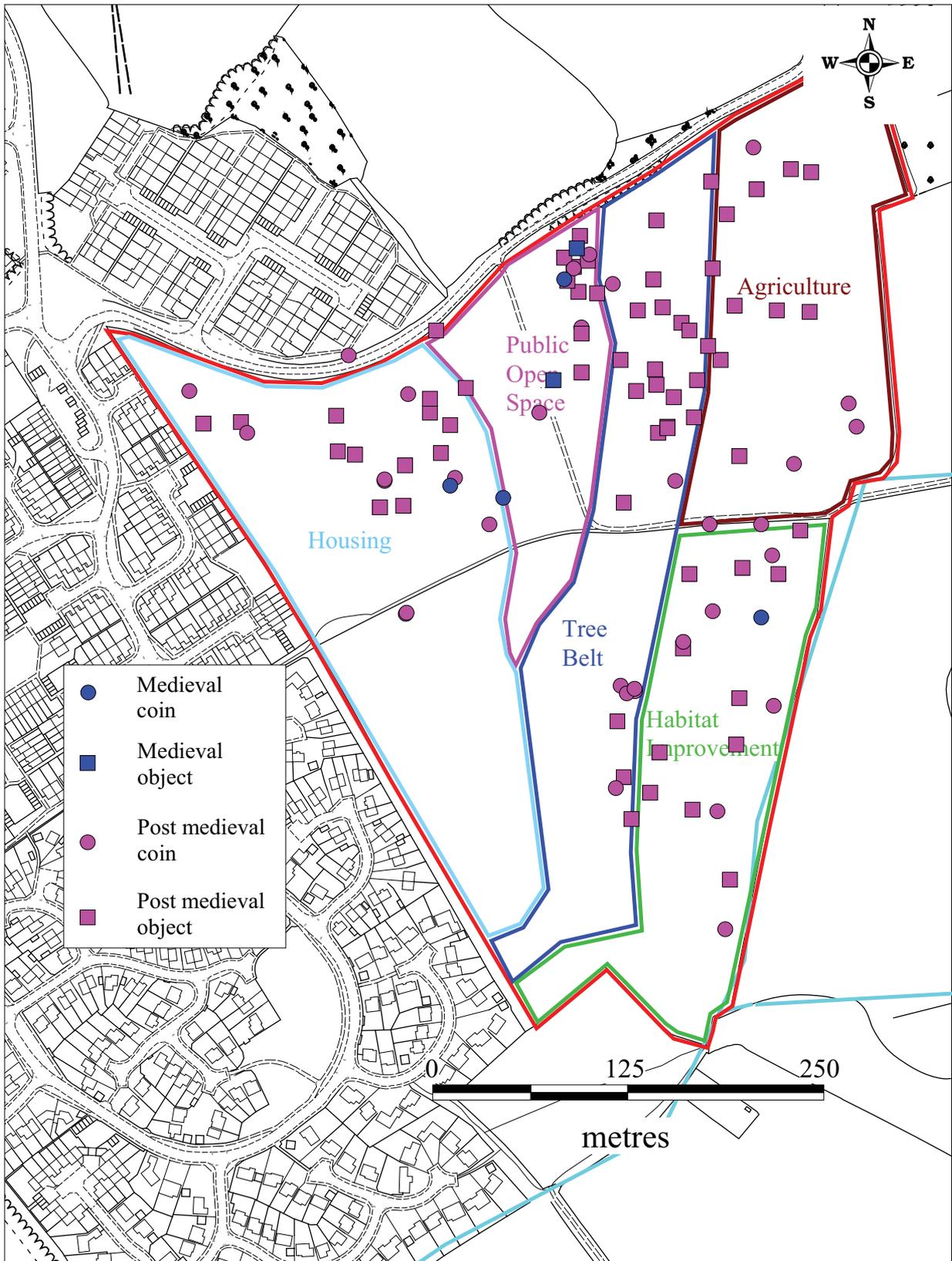
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Figure 9. Distribution of Roman material found within the PDA



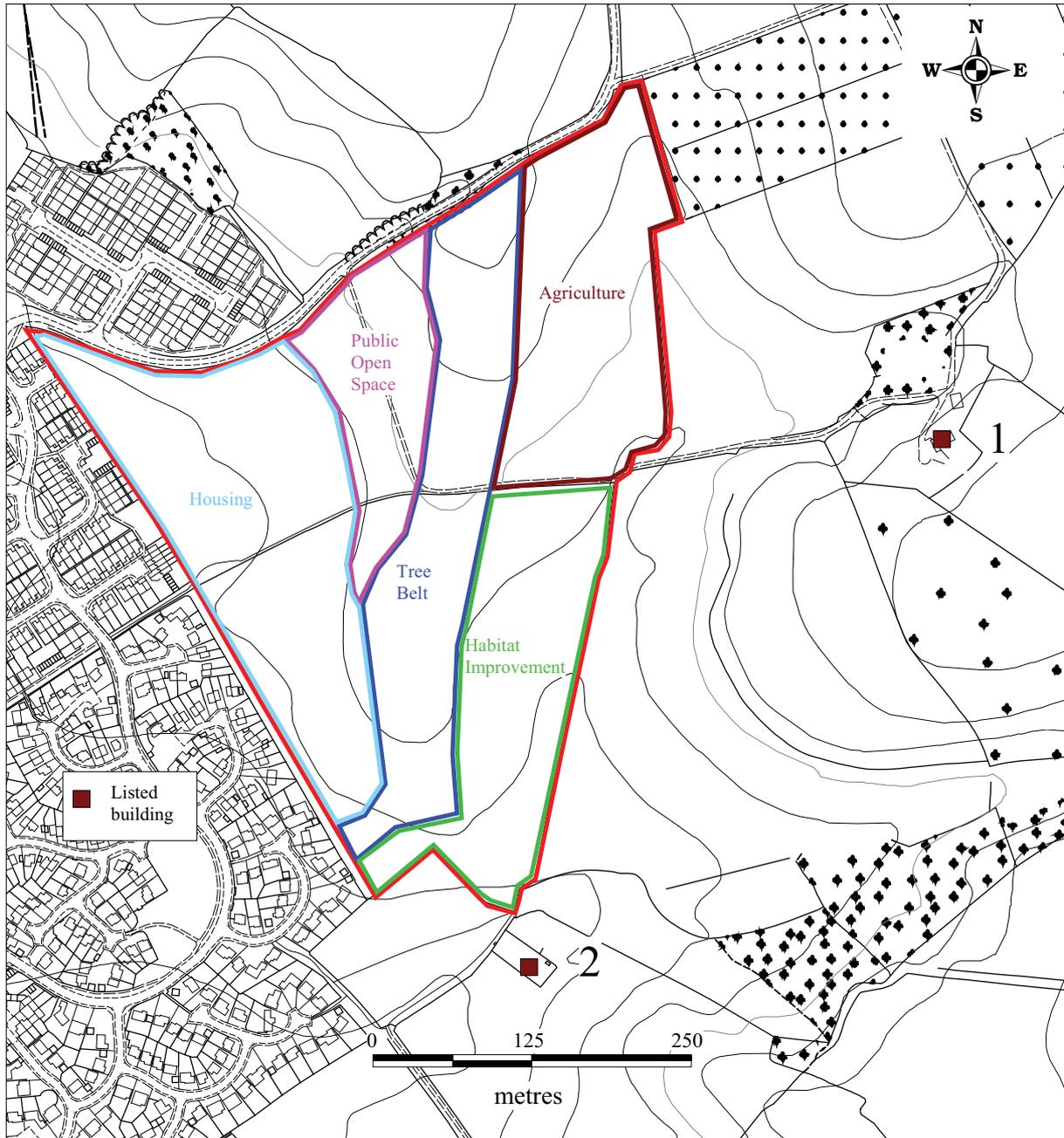
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Figure 10. Distribution of Anglo-Saxon material found within the PDA



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Figure 11. Distribution of medieval and post-medieval material found within the PDA



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Figure 12. Listed buildings with possible line of sight to the PDA
 (numbers referred to in the text)

Land east of Great Cornard, Suffolk:
Features identified on aerial photographs



- Development Area
- Possible archaeological features
- Pit
- Ridge and furrow
- Recent features
- Former field boundary
- Natural features
- Patterned ground
- Higher ground

Original photo interpretation at 1:2500 level based on
photographs at CUCAP/ULM and NMRC.
Air Photo Services Cambridge
November 2007
Drawing: 0716GtCornE.dwg

Figure 13. Results of the aerial photographic survey

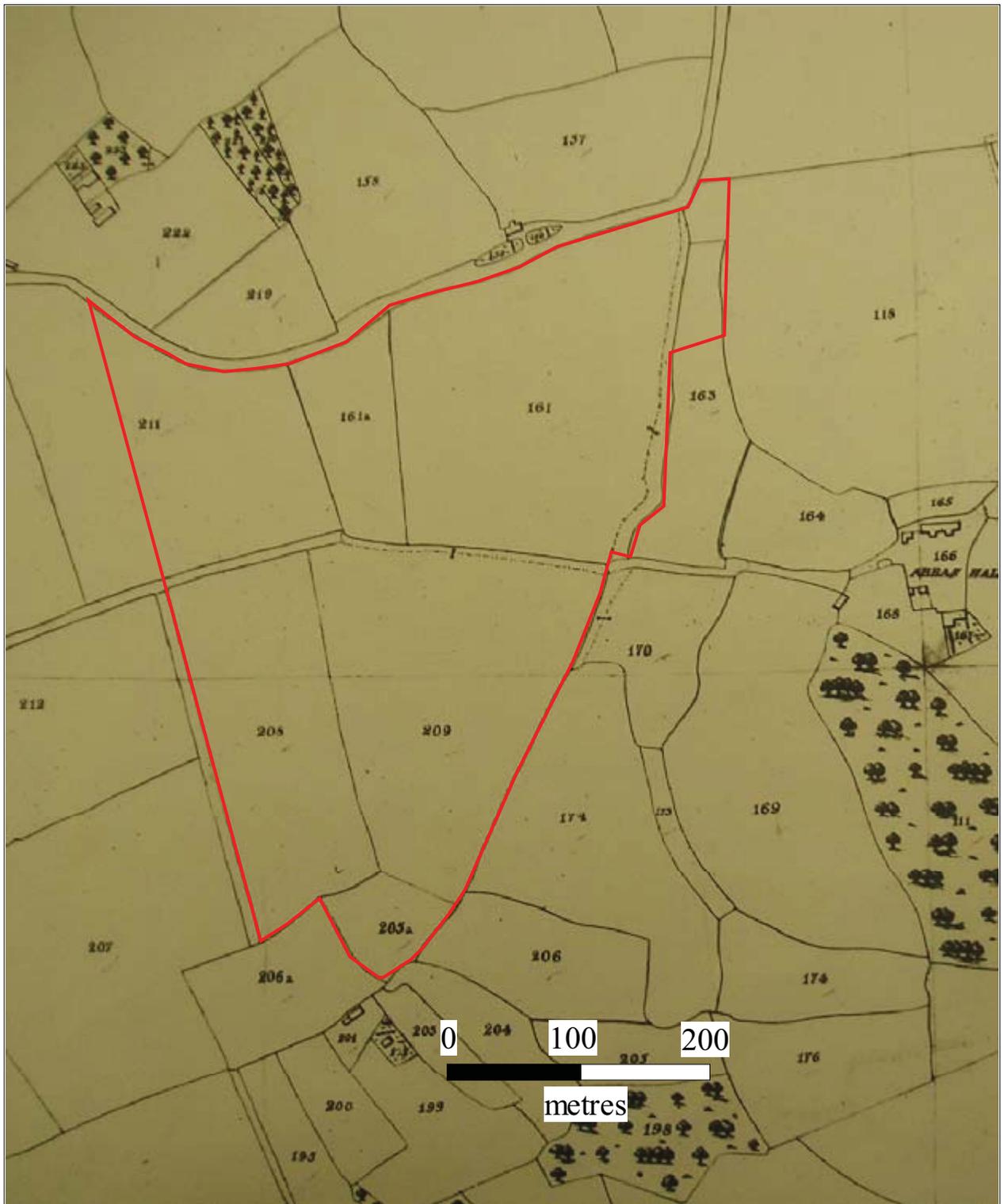
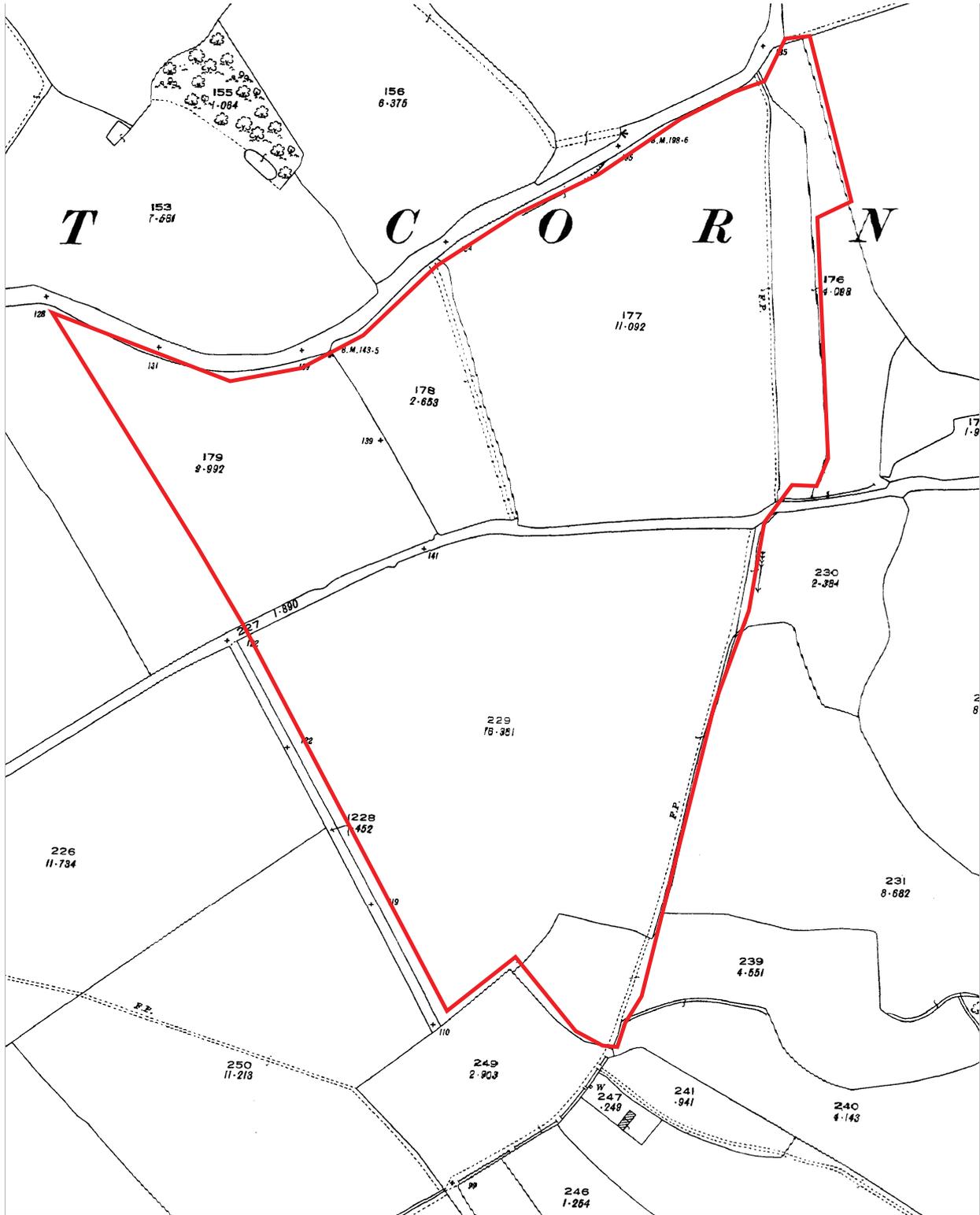
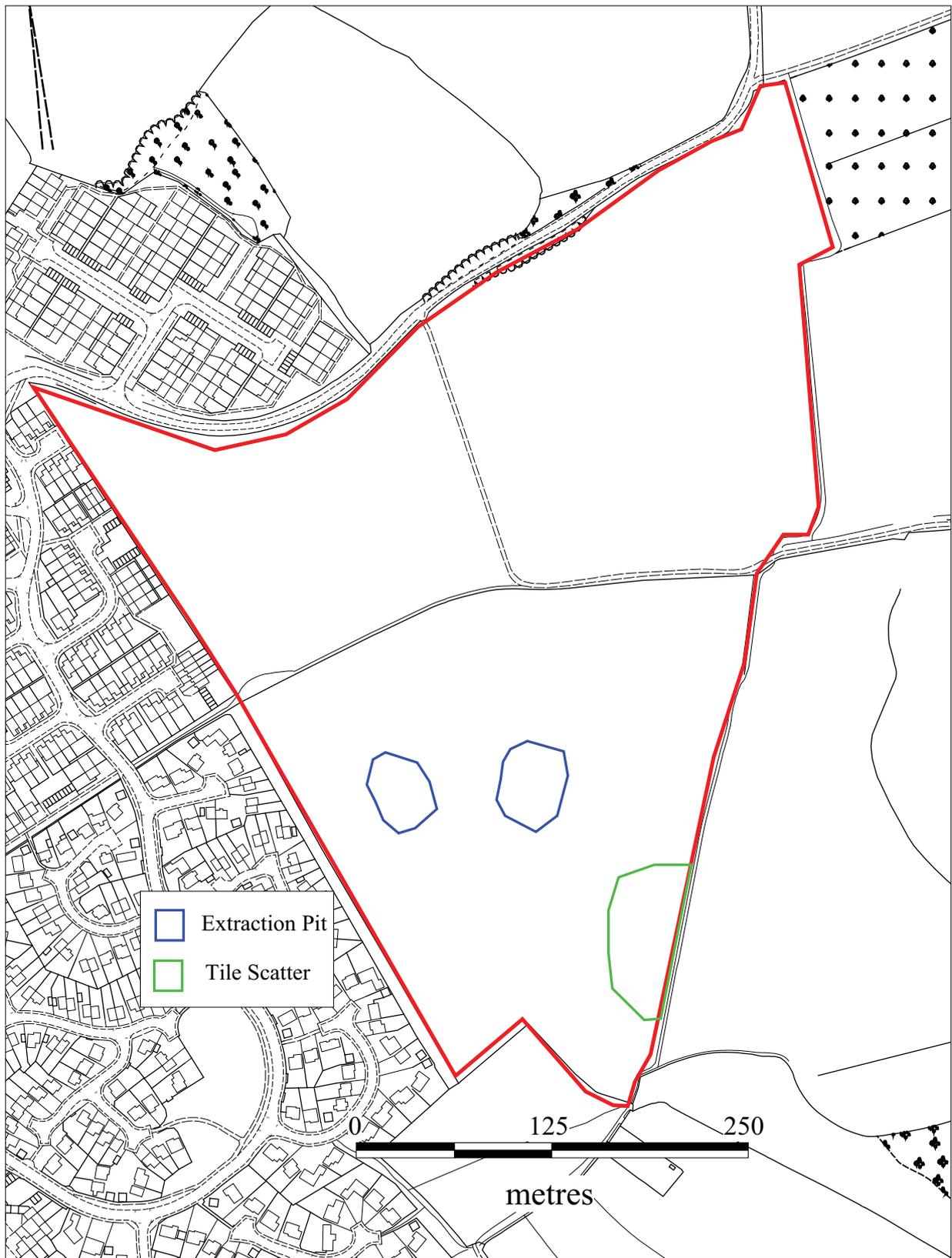


Figure 15. 1838 Tithe map and the PDA



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Figure 17. 1926 Ordnance Survey map and the PDA



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Figure 18. Approximate location of features noted on the site walkover

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for a Desk-Based Assessment

LAND AT CARSONS DRIVE, GREAT CORNARD, SUFFOLK

1. Background

- 1.1 A planning enquiry has been made for residential development on Land at Carsons Drive, Great Cornard, Suffolk (TL 8969 4037) (see accompanying plan).
- 1.2 The proposed application area measures 14.50 ha. The site comprises a ridge of land aligned approximately north to south, and situated at c. 30.00 – 55.00m AOD, on the eastern side of, and over-looking, the Stour Valley. The underlying glaciofluvial drift geology comprises deep loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravels.
- 1.3 The proposal affects a large area which has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation. There is high potential for archaeological sites of all periods to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.4 A desk-based assessment of the known and potential archaeology for the application area is required as the first part of a programme of archaeological work. Further information concerning the location, extent, survival and significance of the known archaeological remains on the site, as well as the potential for further archaeological remains to survive, is required. This brief sets out the requirement for an initial stage of work comprising an archaeological desk-based assessment and walk-over survey.
- 1.5 This initial stage of assessment will lead to a further programme of works, likely to consist of a general programme of archaeological evaluation (field-walking and metal-detecting survey, geophysical survey and trial-trenching). **A further archaeological brief will be required for any subsequent stage of work from the desk-top assessment**

2. Objectives

- 2.1 To collate and assess the existing information regarding archaeological and historical remains within and adjacent to the site shown in the accompanying plan. It is important that a sufficiently large area around the target area is studied in order to give adequate context; in this instance an area with boundaries 1,000m beyond the parcel boundaries will be the minimum appropriate.
- 2.2 To identify any known archaeological sites which are of sufficient potential importance to require an outright constraint on development (i.e. those that will need preservation *in situ*).
- 2.3 To assess the potential for unrecorded archaeological sites within the application area.
- 2.4 To assess the likely impact of past land uses and the potential quality of preservation of below ground deposits, and where possible to model those deposits.
- 2.5 To assess the potential for the use of particular investigative techniques in order to aid the formulation of any mitigation strategy.

- 2.6 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below. In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards.

3. Specification

- 3.1 The assessment shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 3.2 Collation and assessment of the County Historic Environment Record to identify known sites and to assess the potential of the application area.
- 3.2 Collation and assessment of all cartographic sources relevant to the site to identify historic landuse, the siting of old boundaries and any earlier buildings. Where possible copies should be included in the report.
- 3.3 Assess the potential for historic documentation that would contribute to the archaeological investigation of the site.
- 3.4 Re-assessment of aerial photographic evidence and, where relevant, a replotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist with relevant experience at a scale of 1:2500. It should be possible to obtain residual errors of less than \pm 2m. Rectification of extant mapped features such as field boundaries and buildings shall be undertaken in order to give additional indication of accuracy of the transcription.
- 3.5 Examination of available geotechnical information to assess the condition and status of buried deposits and to identify local geological conditions. Relevant geotechnical data should be included as appendices to the report.
- 3.6 Ascertain whether there are other constraints on the site (e.g. SSSI, County Wildlife Site, AONB, etc).
- 3.7 A site visit to determine any constraints to archaeological survival.

4. Report Requirements

- 4.1 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 1 month) from the end of fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the County Historic Environment Record. A full digital copy of the report will be supplied to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).
- 4.2 Assemble, summarise and order the available evidence.
- 4.2 Synthesise the evidence and place it in its local and/or regional context.
- 4.3 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence within the regional context. The conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, highlighting any research priorities, and the significance

of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 4.4 Comment on the reliability of the evidence and give an opinion on the necessity and scope for further assessment including field evaluation.
- 4.5 A comprehensive list of all sources consulted (with specific references) should be included.
- 4.6 A copy of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within six months.
- 4.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 4.8 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 4.9 A digital copy of the air photographic evidence should be supplied with the report for inclusion in the County Historic Environment Record; AutoCAD files should be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files and ArcView.
- 4.10 The IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (1999) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.
- 4.11 Publication of the results, at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*), shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.
- 4.12 The involvement of SCCAS/CT shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 5.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to SCCAS/CT one week in advance of its commencement.
- 5.3 Any variations to the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with SCCAS/CT prior to them being carried out.

References

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------|--|
| Glazebrook, J. | 1997 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1: a resource assessment. East Anglian Archaeol. Occ Pap. 3</i> |
| Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: research agenda and strategy. East Anglian Archaeol. Occ Pap. 8</i> |

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Email: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 9 November 2007

Reference: / CarsonsDrive-GreatCornard2007

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

Appendix 2

Documentary Study by A.M Breen

Land off Carsons Drive, Great Cornard: Documentary Report

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds. This site is in the civil parish of Great Cornard between an area of recent housing to the west and the site of Abbas Hall and Abbas Hall Wood further to the east. The houses along Carsons Drive are not shown on the revised 1968 edition of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey plan (ref. sheet number TL 8940). The site is crossed by a track way and footpath that formerly led from the site of Cloggs Hall Farm on Wells Hall Road on the west and to Abbas Hall in the east. The northern limit of the site rests on the bye road that is a continuation of Canhams Road leading to Cornard Tye to the east.

The Suffolk Archaeological Unit have supplied copies for the purposes of this report of the early editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps of this area labelled or endorsed '1902' and '1928' together with a copy of Hodskinson's 1784 map of Suffolk.

Maps

This site is shown on second edition of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map sheet number LXXIX.4. On the second edition published in 1904 the site then comprised of three fields to the south of the road to Cornard Tye numbered from west to east 179, 178 and 177. These were divided by the track way from Cloggs Farm to Abbas Hall from another field to the south numbered 229 on the map. At the southern end of this field there is a further small enclosure numbered 248 and measured at 1.168 acres. This small field is not shown on either the copy of the second edition or third edition published in 1926 available at the record office. There is a track way between the fields 178 and 177 running north – south shown on the maps and to the west of the site another track or road way running north – south and numbered 228 on the maps.

The Tithe map for the parish of Great Cornard is dated 1838 (ref. T141/2). This site was then divided into six fields. Five of these fields are described in the separate apportionment (ref. FL554/3/16) under the then ownership of the trustees of the late James Goodeve Sparrow, who were 'John Josselyn senior, John Josselyn junior and – Stubbings Esq.'. The land was then in the occupation of William Taylor senior. The three fields to the south of the road are numbered from west to east 211, 161A and 161. The field 121 is described 'New Field' measured at 10 acres and in arable use. This field is measured at 9.992 acres on the Ordnance Survey map of 1904. The next field 161A is described as 'Marsh' 2 acres 2 roods and 7 perches and its cultivation as pasture. This field corresponds to field 178 on the 1904 map and measured at 2.653 acres. The next field is 161 'Coneyfer' 11 acres 1 rood 23 perches was then in arable use and this field corresponds to 177 on the Ordnance Survey map of 1904 where it is measured at 11.092 acres. The name 'Coneyfer' suggests the site of a medieval rabbit warren. To the south of the track way the two fields numbered 208 and 209 were again part of this farm and both were in arable use. The field 208 was described as 'Further Pit Field' and measured at 6 acres 3 roods and 20 perches and 209 was described as 'First Pit Piece' 9 acres 2 roods and 31 perches. By 1904 these two fields had been combined into one field 229 measured at 16.407 acres on the copy supplied by the archaeological unit but 16.397 acres on the copy at the record office. The total acreage of this farm in 1838 was

154 acres 2 rood and 17 perches. These lands included the site of Abbas Hall numbered 166 and Abbas Hall Wood numbered 111 and measured at 7 acres 1 rood and 31 perches. The woods are measured at 6.822 acres on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map. Also attached to this farm there are four fields two are named First Wood Field 112 and Middle Wood Field 113, and the other two are named Further Wood Field 114 and 115 all lying in the area to the east of Abbas Hall Wood.

To the south of these two fields the field numbered 205A on the tithe map or 248 on the Ordnance survey map, was then the property of Rev Robert Eden and in the occupation of his tenant 'William Taylor junior'. The field is described as 'Further Kiln Lay' in arable use and measured at 1 acre and 23 perches. Some of the adjoining fields had a similar name and these include 205 'Upper Kiln Lay' and 206 'Middle Kin Lay'. The total acreage of this farm was 177 acres 1 rood and 4 perches. The farmhouse was within the plot 273 and this is marked as 'The Wrongs' on the map.

This parish was subject to an act of enclosure. The act for '*inclosing lands in Great Waldingfield cum Chilton and Great Cornard*' was passed in 1811 and the commissioner appointed under the terms of the act was '*John Josselyn the younger of Sproughton*' (ref. FL 514/1/12). The award and map is dated 1813. Though the field boundaries in the immediate area of Abbas Hall appear to be very similar to those shown on the tithe map there are a number of minor changes in the field boundaries on the western side of this site.

The award set out the line of various private roads described on pages 31-32. One of these private roads is numbered 9 on the map formed the western boundary of the field numbered 208 on the tithe map and corresponds to the road numbered 228 on the Ordnance Survey map. This is described in the award as '*One private road in the said parish of Great Cornard beginning near the south east in the corner of an enclosure of land belonging to William Hubbard and proceeding in an east direction through the open fields of Great Cornard aforesaid to the north west corner of the fifth allotment hereby made to the said James Goodeve Sparrow and thence in a south direction and a straight line to the eighth allotment hereby made to the said William Taylor*'. Another private road to the south and numbered 10 is described as '*One other private road ... beginning at the north end of Brook Field Lane and proceeding in an east direction along the south side of Brook Field to the south corner of an enclosure belonging to the Reverend Job Wallace called Kiln Lays*'.

The fifth allotment to James Goodeve Sparrow is trimmed in yellow on the map and is described on another page 98 of the award as '*One other piece of land lying in the open fields of Great Cornard containing by measure two acres one rood and thirty six perches bounded by land belonging to the said James Goodeve Sparrow towards the north east and the west*'. Another piece numbered 6 and measured at 3 roods and 20 perches is described in very similar terms as part of the former open field. He was also awarded another piece numbered 4 on the plan described as '*lying in the open fields of Great Cornard containing by measure thirty one perches bounded by the lands of James Goodeve Sparrow towards the east by the ninth described private road towards the south by land allotted to the said William Hubbard and Deborah his wife towards the west and ending at a point towards the north*'.

There is also an allotment to John Sparrow numbered 4 on the plan to the west of the field numbered 211 on the tithe map. This piece was measured at 1 acre 1 rood and 28 perches and was again part of the '*open fields*'. Jacob Sparrow also received allotments under the award trimmed in green on the map and numbered 2. This piece was measured as 33 perches and described as '*bounded by land belonging to the said Jacob Sparrow towards the west*'.

and north by the road leading from water mill in Great Cornard to Newton towards the south'.

The piece awarded to William Taylor trimmed in red is again described as '*in the open fields*' it was measured at 2 acres 1 rood and 38 perches '*bounded by land allotted to the Reverend Job Wallace in part by the ninth described private road in part and by land allotted to the said James Goodeve Sparrow in other part towards the north by land allotted to the said Job Wallace towards the east and west and by the tenth described private road towards the south*'. Though the lands allotted to Reverend Wallace and William Hubbard are outside the area of this study, both are described as being in the award as haven been in the '*open fields*'.

There are no earlier large-scale maps of this area at the record office. The site of Abbas Hall is named as 'Abbot Hall' on Hodskinson's 1784 map of Suffolk and is shown with a large area of woodland. In a collection of papers relating to the title to this estate there is the reference to a payment '*By Cash paid Mr Sparrow his expences in having the Estate measur'd and mapp'd £3 12s 0d*' dated 28 March 1771 (ref. HD 1773/1/11).

The Manor of Abbas Hall, Great Cornard

The title to the lordship of this manor was sold at auction on 30 September 1964 (ref. HD 1510/24). The sale catalogue included an extract from W. A. Copinger's '*Manors of Suffolk*'. The manor had passed '*about the end of the 14th Century to the Convent of the Blessed Virgin, West Malling, in which it remained until the Dissolution*'. After passing through the hands of various families in the seventeenth century it passed to the '*Eldred family and remained in it until 1770, well over 100 years*. It then passed to James Sparrow who died in 1777'. It appears to be the case that James Goodeve Sparrow was at one time lord of this manor.

The various court books now in the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds were part of this sale. The name of James Goodeve Sparrow does not appear in the index to the contemporary manorial court book as his lands formed part of the demesne (ref. HD 1510/5). The index to this volume does mention copyholders with the surname Sparrow who held copyhold lands from this manor. As an example Jacob Sparrow mentioned in the enclosure award entered his copyhold lands '*All that messuage called Hustlocks and six acres of arable land*' on the 24 July 1800 following the death of his father John Sparrow. The father John Sparrow of Newton, Suffolk had entered the same property on 19 February 1752. Jacob Sparrow had previously acquired other lands from Sir Thomas Charles Bunbury on 2 June 1788.

The names of Mr John Sparrow and Jacob Sparrow appear in a list of the quitrents of the manor dated 26 April 1770 (ref. E19/240). This rental is part of a small bundle of documents that includes a '*view*' manor '*by virtue of the Kings Commission*' dated 13 May 1609. This document described the fishery of the manor and the bounds. The same details appear in Court Book 'A' and were printed in the 1964 sale particulars.

A William Taylor is also mentioned in the same court book (1788 – 1837) beginning with an entry for '*one barn and yard*' and lands connected to a tenement called '*Trussells*' at the court in June 1788. He died in 1799 and was succeeded by his nephew also William Taylor. It appears to be the case that both Williams were consolidating their land holdings. At a court held on 22 May 1810 William Taylor the nephew entered '*all those seven pieces or*

parcels of land lying in Brookfield containing nine acres and on rood ... now in the occupation of William Taylor'.

The court books are of great value in tracing the history of the copyhold estate and earlier court rolls dating from 1512 are in the British Library's Manuscript Collection (refs Add. Ch. 24720-24740, 40011 & 14359-62). At the British Library there is also a 'Supervisio per R. Agas' that is a survey of the manor dated 1592 (ref. Sloane 3664).

There are 14 documents relating to John Eldred's title to the estate held in the record office in Bury St Edmunds (ref. HD1773/1/1-14). These documents do not include any original deeds for the estate, but are contemporary solicitors' papers. In the 1770's this estate was tenanted farm. The tenant for life Mrs Wale had died on 9 February 1770 and was succeeded by George Piper who paid £112 for '*The Farm and Great Tythes lett*' (ref. HD 1773/1/12).

This collection includes a number of rentals of the manor, none of these documents mentioned either Mrs Wale or George Piper as a manorial tenant. A document entitled '*A Short Schedule of writings belonging to the Mannor of Abbas Hall Estate and premises in Great Cornard*' lists the previous owners of the estate from 1592 onwards. In that year the manor was granted by letters patent to Thomas Felton though shortly afterwards in August 1594 it appears the manor was leased to Thomas Hayes. In 1609 Thomas Hayes assigned his lease to John Brond who in turn assigned his interest to another John Brond in 1638. The name of John Eldred appears in the list for the first time in January 1645. On 5 July 1660 a Thomas Brond transferred his title to this manor and a survey was taken at this time.

In March 1770 the documents '*the title, deeds and writings*' were in the hands of Mr Robert Bridge an executor of Mrs Ann Wale. The title to the estate as described in the short schedule is stated as '*belonging to me in Right of my wife also for the use of James Sparrow Esquire in Right of his wife Also for the use of John Goodeve Esquire in Right of his wife and for the use of Miss Bridget Bernard being the persons intituled to the said manor Estate and premises called Abbas Hall in Great Cornard*' (ref. HD1773/1/6).

The parties named at the end of the short schedule appear to have been the beneficiaries of the will of a Mr John Eldred each having an interest in the estate. There is a copy of his will in the file dated 9 September 1738 (ref. HD 1773/1/4). At the time of his will the farm was in the occupation of a Joseph Wynne. He had left the rents from the property to his sister Ann Eldred who through her marriage was later known as Mrs Ann Wale. After her death the property passed to the four daughters of Revd Mr Bernard of Earls Colne in Essex. The four daughters and the numbers of their children in 1770 were Margaret who had married James Sparrow and then had six children, Ann who had married Revd John Harrison and had four children, Elizabeth who had married John Goodeve but had not children and Bridget Bernard who was not married.

There is a copy of one lease of the estate dated 28 September 1761 in which Ann Wale had demised the property to Joseph Winn then described as '*All that messuage or tenement and farm commonly called or known by the name of Abbas Hall with the outhouses buildings barns and stables yards gardens and orchards thereunto belonging and also all the lands meadows pastures feedings and underwoods thereunto belonging or anywise appertaining containing together by Estimation (blank) acres more or less as the said messuage or tenement farm lands and premises are situate lying and being in Great Cornard and then in the occupation of the said Joseph Winn his assignee or assigns ... to hold for 20 years from 10th October then next (if she so long lived) paying the yearly rent of £112*' (ref. HD 1773/1/3).

By 1774 the estate of Abbas Hall has passed into the possession of James Sparrow who on 15 February of that year leased the property for twenty years to Mr William Taylor (ref. 1790/1). The text of the original lease states that the farm '*containing together by estimation one hundred and forty acres*' and had been '*late in the tenure or occupation of George Piper ... and now are in the tenure or occupations of the said William Taylor ... Except and always reserved out of this present demise and lease ... all manner of timber, timber trees, trees likely to become timber, pollards, bollings, and all other trees*'. There are several other clauses in the lease relating to repairs of buildings, the rights to underwood and the manuring of fields.

There is also another earlier deed dated 19 January 1647 in the form of a bond of Joseph Brond, a woollen draper of Colchester, Essex '*one of the sonnes of John Brond late of Little Birch in the aforesaid county of Essex*'. He had discharged '*John Brond of Dedham ... clothier ... Robert Stevens the elder & Robert Stevens the younger of Dedham aforesaid clothiers*' of their responsibilities as trustees under the terms of the will of John Brond as to '*All that mannor of Abbas Hall alias Great Cornard in the countey of Suffolk and also of and in all that Mill called Great Cornard Mill and the lands thereunto belonging with the appurtenances scituate and being in Great Cornard aforesaid or els where in the said countey of Suffolk and also of and in all those woods and the soile thereof called Abbas Hall woods scituate and being in Great Cornard aforesaid by estimation thirty four acres and now in the severall tenures and occupacons of Phillip Sturgeon yeoman & Frances King miller*' (ref. HD 911/3a). This document had been purchased for 2s 6d in 1933 before being deposited in the record office in a miscellaneous collection.

The will of Joseph Winn of Great Cornard dated 12 March 1762 is in another miscellaneous collection (ref. HD572/1192/1). His lease from Ann Eldred would have limited his rights over the estate.

Other Repositories

The manuscripts documents at the record office in Bury St Edmunds are all in what the archivists have termed 'artificial or miscellaneous' collections. This description can be further qualified in that the documents when deposited at the record office were not collections of official papers or the estate papers of one family or solicitors records. The documents in Bury St Edmunds state that there was a survey of this manor in 1660 and the estate was again surveyed and mapped in 1770. These two documents if still extant would be invaluable to the further study of the historic landscape. In order to determine whether or not these documents and possibly others are held at another repository an extensive search has been made of on-line indexes to archives, including the index to the National Archives at Kew, the combined indexes listed on the Access to Archives, NROCAT the online catalogue the collections held at the Norfolk Record Office and SEAX the online catalogue to the collections held at the Essex Record Office.

At the Norfolk Record Office there are documents relating to lands in Great Cornard including a 'Valuation & Particulars of the Cornard Estate Abbas Hall' from 1771 onwards (ref. WLS/XXXIV/27/418 x 6). These documents are in the Walsingham (Merton) Collection. They appear to relate to the same period as the documents in Bury St Edmunds suggesting that they were the papers of another heir of John Eldred. Other documents in this collection relate to the tenement or farm known as 'Browns. Though the documents should be considered in a more detailed study of the historic landscape of this parish, it should not be assumed that these are the main estate collection for Abbas Hall.

At the Essex Record Office, there are a number of documents relating to Great Cornard in the Majendie Family collection. This family main place of residence was Castle Hedingham in Essex. The collection includes a deed dated 1646 for the 'site of manor of Abbas alias Great Cornard and land (100 acres) now in the occupation of Philip Sturgeon and formerly Thomas Bedingfield, the rectory or parsonage and advowson of Great Cornard, the watermill called Great Cornard Mill with mill house and lands (4 acres) in the occupation of Francis Kinge, Abbas Hall Wood (34 acres) in the occupation of Phillip Sturgeon, a farm called Wronges' etc (ref. D/DMh/T74). There are also six deeds dated 1656-1673 for various lands in Great Cornard including 'Ardly alias Awdly Wood with messuage lately built on it called Ardly Wood House by Joseph Mann, previously in the occupation of Philip Sturgeon ... partly freehold and partly copyhold of the manor of Abbas Hall; two closes of pasture called Manns ... 1 piece of arable land in Church Filed alias Tunman Field ... 1 piece of arable land to the south ... all of which were sometime part of the demesne of Abbas Hall' (ref. D/DMh/T77). These are interesting documents suggesting that the demesne had been consolidated into a single landholding contained within a single curtilage or boundary before the middle of the seventeenth century.

There is also a copy dated 4 July 1783 of a miscellaneous deed dated 28 November 1733 at the Essex Record Office (ref. D/DU 256/20). This deed is a pre-nuptial settlement. The parties include the names of 'John Eldred of Olyvers in Stanway' and 'Rev Thomas Barnard, clerk Vicar of Earls Colne' amongst others. The list of properties begins with the 'Manor and mansion house of Abbas Hall alias Great Cornard' and includes 'Abbas Hall Wood' 34 acres. An archival note added to the document states 'The deed creates complex entails'. These would have been settled in part by the agreement circa 1770 inferred in the documents in Bury St Edmunds.

At the National Archives there are a few documents relating to this manor in the medieval period. In 1318, an inquisition was held in relation to the lost of crown revenue from the grant of Thomas de Grey and the abbess and nuns of Malling of 'messuages, land and rent in Little Cornard, Great Cornard, Newton and Bures in exchange for messuages, land and rent in the same places' (ref. C143/134/13). In the early fifteenth century there are further records relating to a dispute between John Cruch 'receiver of Cornard Manor for Malling Abbey' and Thomas West relating to rent of messuages and lands at Cornard (ref. C1/16/136). There should also be further records relating to the abbey or convent amongst the records of the court of Augmentation established to deal with monastic and ecclesiastical property following the dissolution 1536-1539.

The records held at the British Library have already been mentioned. Unfortunately the survey of 1660 and the survey and map of 1770 no longer appear to be extant.

Conclusion

In the absence of the earlier surveys and maps, the earliest cartographical source readily available for the study of the earlier history of this site is the enclosure map of 1813. The map shows small areas of enclosure on the western edge of this site, that had formerly been part of the open fields, but other field boundaries appear to be consistent with the later maps. The field names are given in the tithe apportionment of 1838 and include evidence of areas of extraction in Pit Field and Further Pit Piece, the site of a medieval rabbit warren in the field named 'Coneyfer'. There is, however, evidence that the field boundaries may have been relatively recent.

The various deeds relating to the ownership of the property and the one deed relating to the tenancy do not offer a full list of the field names or acreages of the various parcels of land forming Abbas Hall Farm though they clearly indicate that this farm had been the former demesne lands of the manor. These records do offer a total acreage for Abbas Hall Wood. In three deeds dated 1646, 1647 and 1733, one at Bury St Edmunds the other two at the Essex Record Office the total acreage of the wood is given as 34 acres. The 1646 deed in Essex gives the total acreage for the rest of the farm as 100 acres and combining these two totals it is reasonable to suggest a demesne of 134 acres with another 3 ½ acres added to the farm at the time of the enclosure award of 1813. The total is still a little short of the acreage of 154 acres 2 roods 17 perches given in 1838, however the major difference between 1646-47 and 1733 compared with the maps is the total acreage of the woodland from 34 acres down to around 7 acres. The 1774 deed for the tenancy of William Taylor held at Bury St Edmunds places restrictions on the tenant's right to cut timber and it is not unreasonable, as this is a common clause in such agreements, to suggest that a similar clause would have existed in the earlier tenancy agreements. The woods may have extended to the east of the existing acreage possibly in the area of the fields 112 – 115 listed in the 1838 tithe apportionment if the measurement of 34 acres for Abbas Hall wood was accurate.

There is some scope for further research, but this would be only beneficial in the context of a detailed study of the historic landscape of this parish rather than in relation to the archaeological assessment of this site.

Anthony M Breen October 2007

References

References to documents held at other repositories and which have not been examined for this report appear in the text. Only the documents available at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds are listed below:

Maps

1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map Sheet Number TL 8940 Revised Edition 1968
1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map Sheet Number LXXIX.4 Third edition pub 1926
1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map Sheet Number LXXIX.4 Second edition pub 1904

T141/1 & 2 Tithe Apportionment and Map Great Cornard 1838
FL514/1/12 Enclosure Map and Award Great Cornard 1813

Manorial Records

Manor of Abbas Hall, Great Cornard

E19/240 Rental 1770 and View of the Manor 1609

E3/1/4 Court Rolls 1512-1773 (incomplete)

HD 911/3a Bond re Lands in Great Cornard Joseph Brond, Colchester 19 January 1647

HD1510/1 Court Book B 1716 – 1742

HD 1510/2 Court Book C 1714 – 1748
HD 1510/3 Court Book D 1749 – 1760
HD 1510/4 Court Book E 1761 – 1787
HD 1510/5 Court Book F 1788 – 1837
HD 1510/6 Court Book G 1839 – 1856
HD 1510/7 Court Book H 1856 – 1880
HD 1510/8 Court Book I 1881 – 1932
HD 1510/9 Volume marked ‘Court Book 1624 to 1760’ containing extracts from court books
1624-1785 At Front view of Manor 1609

HD 1510/24 Sale Particulars Abbas Hall 1964

HD1773/1 Evidence of title to the estate of John Eldred esq, dec’d and succession to it 1738-
1773

1790/1 Lease for 20 years Abbas Hall farm Great Cornard James Sparrow esquire to Mr
William Taylor dated 15 February 1774

Appendix 3

Aerial photographic survey

LAND EAST OF GREAT CORNARD, AREA CENTRED TL896403, SUFFOLK:

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

REPORT No: 2007/16

DECEMBER 2007

Commissioned by:
Suffolk County Council
Environment and Transport
St Edmund House
County Hall
Ipswich IP4 1LZ

**LAND EAST OF GREAT CORNARD,
AREA CENTRED TL896403,
SUFFOLK:
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT**

SUMMARY

This assessment of aerial photographs examined an area of some 14.7 hectares (centred TL896403) in order to identify and accurately map archaeological, recent and natural features and thus provide a guide for field evaluation.

Traces of ridge and furrow are the only definite archaeological features identified.

A scatter of pits, possibly of archaeological origin but perhaps natural, occurs on slightly higher ground in the northeast part of the Development Area.

Photographs indicate geological disturbance in the form of patterned ground resulting from periglacial action. This may confuse or mask the appearance of archaeological features.

Recent field boundaries and a possible spring were also identified and mapped.

Original photo interpretation and mapping was at 1:2500 level.

**LAND EAST OF GREAT CORNARD,
AREA CENTRED TL896403,
SUFFOLK:
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT**

Rog Palmer MA MIFA

INTRODUCTION

This assessment of aerial photographs was commissioned to examine an area of some 14.7 hectares (centred TL896403) in order to identify and accurately map archaeological, recent and natural features and thus provide a guide for field evaluation. The level of interpretation and mapping was to be at 1:2500.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL FEATURES FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

In suitable cultivated soils, sub-surface features – including archaeological ditches, banks, pits, walls or foundations – may be recorded from the air in different ways in different seasons. In spring and summer these may show through their effect on crops growing above them. Such indications tend to be at their most visible in ripening cereal crops, in June or July in this part of Britain, although their appearance cannot accurately be predicted and their absence cannot be taken to imply evidence of archaeological absence. In winter months, when the soil is bare or crop cover is thin (when viewed from above), features may show by virtue of their different soils. Upstanding remains, which may survive in unploughed grassland, are also best recorded in winter months when vegetation is sparse and the low angle of the sun helps pick out slight differences of height and slope.

Such effects are not confined only to archaeological features. Any disturbance of soil and bedrock can produce its own range of shadow, crop and soil differences and it is hoped that a photo interpreter, especially one familiar with local soils, is able to distinguish archaeological from other features. There may, however, remain some features of unknown origin that cannot be classified without specialist knowledge or input from field investigation.

PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND MAPPING

Photographs examined

The most immediately informative aerial photographs of archaeological subjects tend to be those resulting from observer-directed flights. This activity is usually undertaken by an experienced archaeological observer who will fly at seasons and times of day when optimum results are expected. Oblique photographs, taken using a hand-held camera, are the usual products of such investigation. Although oblique photographs are able to provide a very detailed view, they are biased in providing a record that is mainly of features noticed by the observer, understood, and thought to be of archaeological relevance. Searches identified no observer-directed photographs of the Development Area or its immediate environs.

Vertical photographs cover the whole of Britain and can provide scenes on a series of dates between (usually) 1946-7 and the present. Many of these vertical surveys were not flown at times of year that are best to record the archaeological features sought for this Assessment and may have been taken at inappropriate dates to record crop and soil responses that may be seen above sub-surface features. Vertical photographs are taken by a camera fixed inside an aircraft and with its exposures timed to take a series of overlapping views that can be examined stereoscopically. They are often of relatively small scale and their interpretation requires higher perceptive powers and a more cautious approach than that necessary for examination of obliques. Use of these small-scale images can also lead to errors of location and size when they are rectified or re-scaled to match a larger map scale.

Cover searches were obtained from the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP) and the National Monuments Record: Air Photographs (NMRAP), Swindon. All photographs were taken during routine vertical surveys.

Photographs consulted are listed in the Appendix to this report.

Base maps

Digital data from original survey at a scale of 1:2500 or greater were provided by the client.

Study area

Photographs were examined in detail for an area extending one modern field beyond the assessment area. Land to the east was also examined in a recent assessment of aerial photographs (Palmer 2006).

Photo interpretation and mapping

All photographs were examined by eye and under slight (2x) magnification, viewing them as stereoscopic pairs when possible. Digital copies of the most informative were transformed

to match the digital map data using the specialist program AirPhoto (Scollar 2002). All digital photographs were enhanced using the default setting in AirPhoto before being examined on screen. Transformed files were set as background layers in AutoCAD Map, where features were overdrawn using standard conventions and making reference to the original prints. Layers from this final drawing have been used to prepare the figure in this report and have been supplied to the client in digital form.

Accuracy

AirPhoto computes values for mismatches of control points on the photograph and map. In all transformations prepared for this assessment the mean mismatches were less than $\pm 2.00\text{m}$. These mismatches can be less than the survey accuracy of the base maps themselves and users should be aware of the published figures for the accuracy of large scale maps and thus the need to relate these mismatches to the Expected Accuracy of the Ordnance Survey maps from which control information was taken (OS 2007).

COMMENTARY

Soils

The Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983) indicates the area to have a bedrock of chalky till/boulder clay (soil association 411d: HANSLOPE). On this are two later deposits: glaciofluvial drift (soil association 571x: Ludford) underlies the Development Area and to its east is (soil association 582d: HORNBEAM 3). The aerial photographs examined show that crops on the glaciofluvial drift respond to sub-surface variations.

Archaeological features

The only definite archaeological features identified are two small groups of ridge and furrow cultivation that were recorded on early photographs in pasture fields that had preserved their upstanding form. This type of cultivation is likely to have been more extensive in the past but has probably been erased by recent ploughing as, in later years, was the mapped ridge and furrow.

Possible archaeological features

A scatter of what may be pits of archaeological origin were photographed on two dates (1974 and 1989). These are slightly suspect as they occur close to areas of geological disturbance and may result from that. However, their location on locally-high ground may add credibility to their being archaeological.

Non-archaeological features

Patches of patterned ground, resulting from periglacial action, have been recorded in and adjacent to the Development Area. It is possible that this could confuse the appearance, or mask the presence, of any archaeological features that may have been cut into it, but nothing was seen on any of the photographs examined that suggested the presence of any artificial features other than those noted above.

Some earlier field boundaries have been mapped although these were removed after the date of the earliest photographs on which they were extant land divisions.

The map indicates a possible spring just east of the Development Area. This has been photographed as what seems to be a damp area, although that difference in tone may be due to a patch of different soil.

Land use

Fields in the Development Area were used as pasture on some dates between 1946 and 1962 but were in arable use by the date the next photographs were taken (1974). Since then the land appears to have been wholly in arable use although there have been only five photographic flights over it in that time.

Houses on the northwest side of the Development Area were under construction in 1974, but the larger estate that abuts the west side was first visible in photographs taken in 1989. Before that date, land immediately to the west was in arable use but showed archaeological evidence.

The amount of arable use, and the fact that differences in crop growth have indicated natural features in the Area, suggest that sub-surface archaeological features may have been similarly visible on those dates. None has been identified on the photographs although this absence may be another case of observations noted elsewhere, that natural and archaeological features are not always visible via crop growth at the same time. In those places, crops have indicated natural features (for example, frost cracks) earlier in the year than archaeological ditches, and there have been years when known archaeological features were not seen in fields that, earlier in the same season, had shown natural. Field work may, therefore, identify features that were not evident on the photographs examined.

REFERENCES

- OS, 2007. <http://www.ordnancesurvey.gov.uk/productpages/landline/positional-background.htm>
- Palmer, R., 2006. *Great Cornard mains reinforcement pipe, Great Cornard WT to Upper road, TL894411 to TL908375, Suffolk: aerial photographic assessment*. Air Photo Services Report No: 2006/18.
- Scollar, I., 2002. Making things look vertical, in Bewley, R.H. and Rączkowski, W., (ed). *Aerial archaeology: developing future practice*. NATO Science Series, Vol 337, 166-172.
- SSEW, 1983. *Soils of England and Wales: sheet 4: Eastern England (1:250,000)*. Soil Survey of England and Wales, Harpenden.

APPENDIX

Aerial photographs examined

Source: Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (searched 22 October 2007)

Vertical photographs

K17-AL 77-78 23 June 1976 1:15000

Source: National Monuments Record: Air Photographs (cover search 19592)

Vertical collection

<i>Sortie Number</i>	<i>Library Number</i>	<i>Cam Pos</i>	<i>Start Frame</i>	<i>End Frame</i>	<i>National Start</i>	<i>Reference End</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Scale 01:00</i>
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/119	341	RV	6211	6212	TL899402	TL890401	03-Apr-46	10200
RAF/106G/UK/1635	423	RS	4076	4078	TL902401	TL891400	09-Jul-46	10000
RAF/540/706	1249	RP	3112	3115	TL901393	TL893392	09-Apr-52	5100
RAF/540/706	1249	RS	4111	4115	TL902403	TL891402	09-Apr-52	5100
RAF/58/955	1312	RP	3115	3116	TL891400	TL896401	23-Sep-52	5000
RAF/58/955	1312	RP	3128	3129	TL896406	TL893405	23-Sep-52	5000
RAF/58/955	1312	RS	4124	4126	TL892405	TL899407	23-Sep-52	5000
HSL/UK/83/54	1689	V	6765	6767	TL900394	TL889395	23-Oct-83	6200
RAF/58/5304	2067	F21	28	29	TL901403	TL892402	13-Jul-62	10000
RAF/58/4646	2204	F44	581	581	TL891412	TL891412	28-Aug-61	12000
RAF/58/299	3061	V	5219	5221	TL888403	TL897392	05-Aug-49	7700
RAF/58/575	3265	V	5144	5145	TL895395	TL891400	05-Oct-50	8000
RAF/58/480	4916	V	5172	5173	TL895405	TL899400	05-Jun-50	8000
US/7PH/GP/LOC166	6860	V	5025	5027	TL911377	TL920402	30-Jan-44	15000
US/7PH/GP/LOC188	6871	V	5011	5012	TL875417	TL886426	29-Feb-44	15000
MAL/80040	7654	V	134	134	TL899394	TL899394	16-Dec-80	12000
MAL/80040	7655	V	225	225	TL892415	TL902415	16-Dec-80	12000
OS/72092	10258	V	62	64	TL890407	TL890398	21-Apr-72	5000
OS/67064	11028	V	20	21	TL902404	TL902398	27-Apr-67	7500
OS/67064	11028	V	28	29	TL891398	TL891404	27-Apr-67	7500
OS/74090	12036	V	209	211	TL892404	TL904405	30-May-74	7500
OS/74090	12036	V	237	239	TL901397	TL889398	30-May-74	7500
OS/74091	12037	V	183	184	TL893411	TL898410	30-May-74	7500
OS/74232	12077	V	382	384	TL889410	TL903408	17-Sep-74	7500
OS/74232	12077	V	397	398	TL899395	TL892395	17-Sep-74	7500
OS/83195	13071	V	6765	6767	TL900395	TL889395	23-Oct-83	6200
OS/89041	13412	V	66	68	TL896406	TL897397	12-Mar-89	5200
OS/89061	13430	V	185	187	TL893407	TL895392	30-Mar-89	8100

Most informative photographs

K17-AL 77

RAF/540/706: 4112, 4114

RAF/58/955: 3116

OS/89041: 67

OS/89061: 185

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Air Photo Services has consulted only those aerial photographs specified. It cannot guarantee that further aerial photographs of archaeological significance do not exist in collections that were not examined.

Due to the nature of aerial photographic evidence, Air Photo Services cannot guarantee that there may not be further archaeological features found during ground survey which are not visible on aerial photographs or that apparently 'blank' areas will not contain masked archaeological evidence.

We suggest that if a period of 6 months or more elapses between compilation of this report and field evaluation new searches are made in appropriate photo libraries. Examination of any newly acquired photographs is recommended.

That the original working documents (being interpretation overlays, control information, and digital data files) will remain the property of Air Photo Services and be securely retained by it for a period of three years from the completion date of this assessment after which only the digital files may be retained.

It is requested that a copy of this report be lodged with the relevant Sites and Monuments Record within six months of the completion of the archaeological evaluation.

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Land east of Great Cornard, Suffolk:
Features identified on aerial photographs



- Development Area
- Possible archaeological features
- Pit
- Ridge and furrow
- Recent features
- Former field boundary
- Natural features
- ▨ Patterned ground
- ▨ Higher ground

Original photo interpretation at 1:2500 level based on
photographs at CUCAP/ULM and NMRC.
Air Photo Services Cambridge
November 2007
Drawing: 0716GtCornE.dwg