

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/112

The Cromwell Inn, 76 High Street, Lakenheath LKH 318

J. A. Craven
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HER Information

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Funding Body: Baker & Nisbet Ltd

Curatorial Officer: Dr Jess Tipper

Project Officer: J. A. Craven

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List of abbreviations used in the text

DBA	Desk Based Assessment
HER	Historic Environment Record
PDA	Proposed Development Area
PPG 16	Planning Policy Guidance 16
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
SCCAS/CT	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service / Conservation Team
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

Summary

This Desk Based Assessment (DBA) has set the Proposed Development Area (PDA) within the known archaeological landscape through an examination of the Historic Environment Record (HER), aerial photographs and documentary search.

The PDA of approximately 912sqm lies in the centre of Lakenheath, forming part of the High Street road frontage and opposite the parish Church of St Mary. It lies towards the top of a natural slope rising from the edge of the fens to the west.

The DBA shows that there is high potential for multi-period archaeological deposits to exist upon the site. This is due to its fen-edge location within a dense band of prehistoric and Roman activity and its position within the area of archaeological importance for Lakenheath. This designation encompasses the area of the medieval town and any location within it accordingly has a high potential for Anglo-Saxon or medieval archaeological remains relating to the settlements early history. Documentary research and results from archaeological fieldwork on the adjacent plot suggest that the site will have been in use since at least the thirteenth century, with possible origins for occupation in the Anglo-Saxon period.

It is thought that there are generally no grounds to consider refusal of permission in order to achieve preservation *in situ* of any important archaeological deposits within the PDA. However as the archaeological potential of the site is high, with archaeological remains being highly vulnerable to development, a program of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching is recommended as a first stage of archaeological work. Decisions on the need for mitigation, such as archaeological excavation, will be based upon the evaluation results.

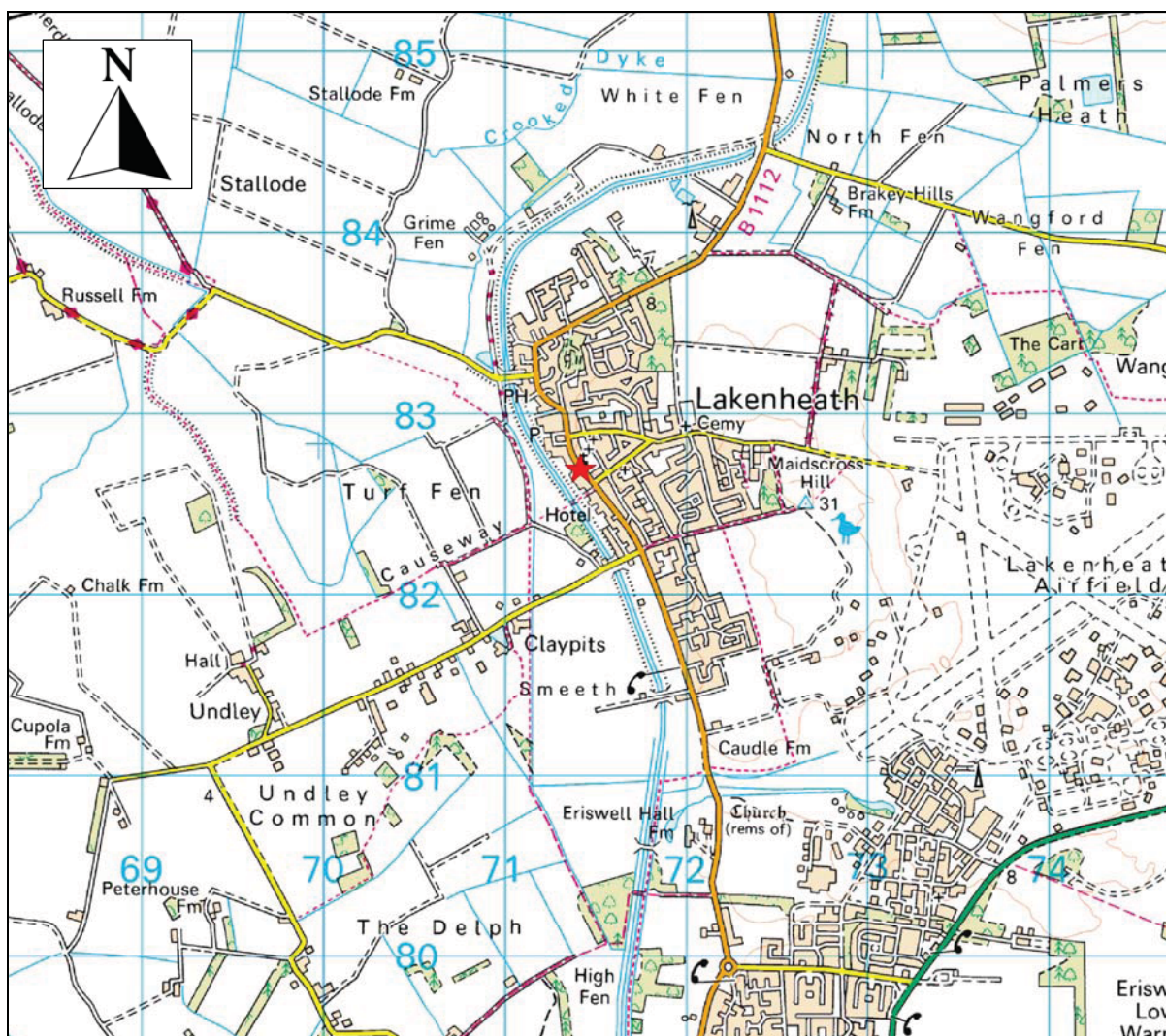
Consultation with the SCCAS/CT is advised at the earliest possible opportunity as archaeological investigations can have considerable time and cost implications. This consultation will determine the program of archaeological works that will need to be carried out.

1. Introduction

1.1. Project Background

This archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) has been prepared by J.A. Craven of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Baker & Nisbet Ltd.

A planning application for the redevelopment of the site to residential dwellings, involving the conversion of The Cromwell Inn public house and demolition of a coachhouse, has been approved with a condition requiring a programme of work to record archaeological remains. This DBA is the first stage of these works and will assess the archaeological potential of the Proposed Development Area (PDA).



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Figure 1. Site location plan

1.2. Site description

The subject of this DBA covers an area of approximately 912sqm, centred at TL 7142 8270, in the parish of Lakenheath (Figs. 1 and 2). The village of Lakenheath lies on the south-east edge of the fens, now marked by the modern 'Cut-Off Channel'. The village High Street lies c.125m-150m to the east of the Cut-Off Channel, on a broadly parallel alignment. The PDA lies in the centre of the village, within the Conservation Area, and forms part of the western road frontage to the High Street, opposite the graveyard of the Church of St Mary's, with the Cut-Off Channel to its rear.

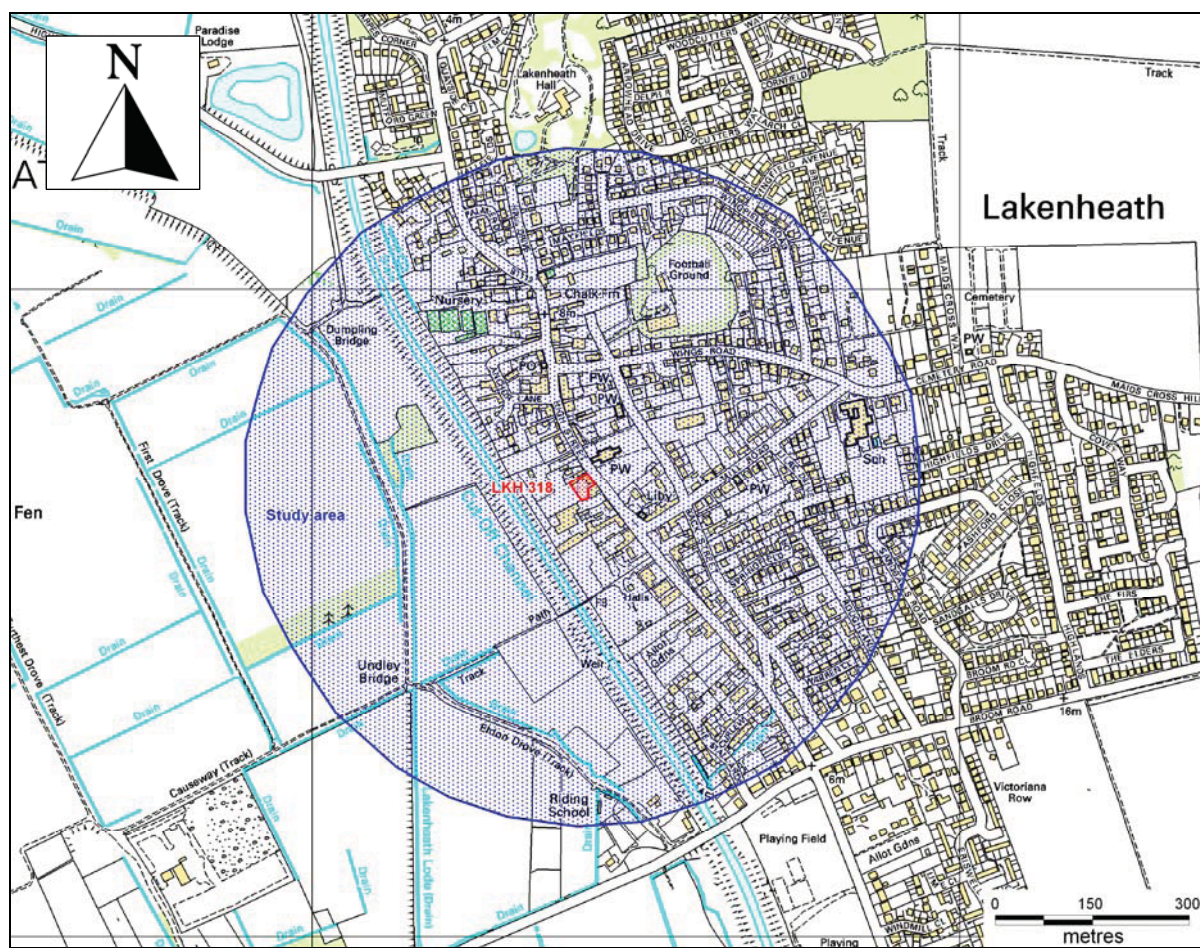


Figure 2. Study area plan

The site is comprised of the former inn itself, a 19th century building of special architectural interest (Edwards 2006) which forms the road frontage to the east, with a terraced flint built row extending west wards from its rear on the northern side. A separate coachhouse of the same date (Edwards 2006) lay in the south corner of the site but has recently been demolished. The centre of the site is occupied by a

courtyard of modern tarmac and was bounded on the southern edge by chalk block constructed buildings in the neighbouring plot forming a substantial 17th century farm complex of national special architectural or historic interest (Edwards 2006), several of which have been recently demolished.

1.3. Geology and topography

The PDA is located 80m east of the Cut-Off Channel and modern fen edge on a slight west facing slope, which rises from the fen to a height of c.8-9m above sea level within the site (Fig. 3). The site lies on well drained calcareous sandy soils overlying chalky drift (Ordnance Survey 1983).

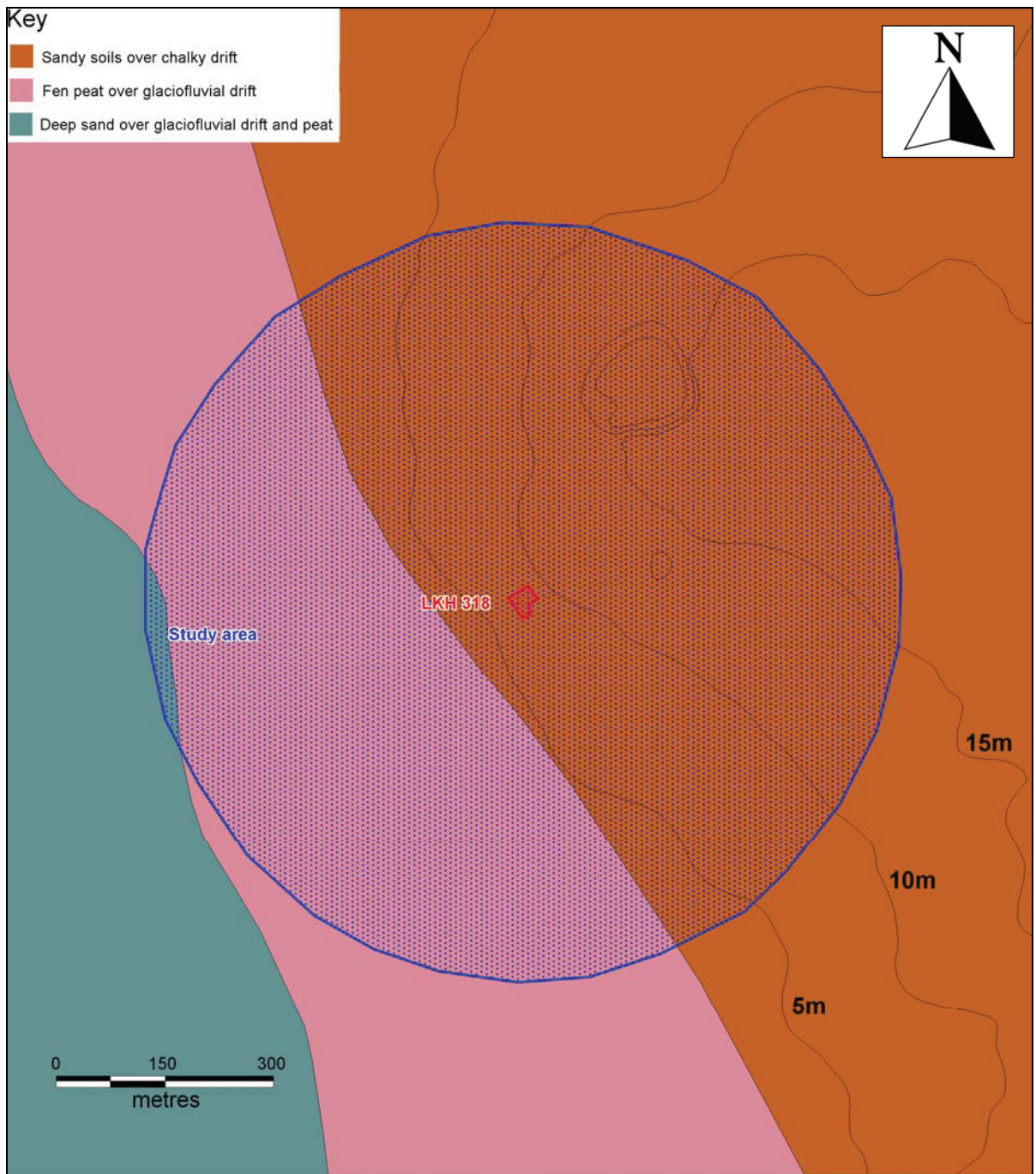
1.4. Scope of this report

In order to set the PDA in its archaeological context a study area of a 500m radius from its centre was selected for examination (Fig. 2).

In accordance with PPG16, the Government's guidance on archaeology and planning (<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg16>) and based on a SCCAS/CT specification by Dr Jess Tipper, this assessment examines the available archaeological sources. These include the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), reports of any archaeological investigations, all readily available cartographic and documentary sources and a survey of aerial photographs held by SCCAS.

1.5. Aims

To determine as far as reasonably practicable from the existing records, the previous landuse of the site, and the nature and potential of the archaeological resource of the site prior to its development.



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Figure 3. Geology and topography

1.6. Methodology

The methodology involved interrogating the following sources of data to meet the aims of this Desk Based Assessment.

- A search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record for any records within 500m of the site, Section 2.1-2.3.
- An examination of the literature with reference to archaeological excavations within the study area.
- A search for listed buildings within the study area, Section 2.4.
- A survey of aerial photographs held by the Suffolk County Council HER, Section 2.4.
- A historical documentary search was commissioned, Section 2.6.

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 500m 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 seven listed buildings with 250m of the PDA (Fig 5).

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 Historic Environment Record search

The HER only represents the archaeological material that has been reported (Fig. 4), this is the 'known' resource. It is not therefore, a complete reflection of the whole archaeological resource of this area because other sites may remain undiscovered. This is considered as the 'potential' resource.

2.2. All known archaeological sites within the PDA

The PDA lies within both the town Conservation Area and LKH 254, the designated area of archaeological importance of Lakenheath, near opposite the parish church. The settlement is recorded as a town c.1100 and was granted a market in 1201 and a later fair and market in 1309.

2.3. All known archaeological sites within 500m of the PDA

LKH 026: Stray find, Roman coin, 3rd century.

LKH 058: Medieval pottery finds scatter.

LKH 076: Iron Age and Roman pottery excavated from or near small ditch found during garden landscaping.

LKH 086: Medieval pottery finds scatter.

LKH 112: Medieval Church of St Mary.

LKH 129: Post-medieval windmill, shown on Hodkinson's map of 1783 (Fig. 19) and 1850 tithe map.

LKH 130: Medieval and post-medieval finds scatter identified by fieldwalking and metal detecting. Possible medieval/post-medieval fair site.

LKH 151: Post-medieval lime kiln lying within former chalk pit.

LKH 161: Post-medieval windmill depicted on Hodskinson's map of 1783 (Fig. 19).

LKH 163: Post-medieval causeway from Lakenheath High Street across Turf Fen to Babbridge, as shown on map of c.1616.

LKH 181: Multi-period finds scatter. Bronze Age rapier blade fragment, Iron Age coin, Roman brooch, medieval metalwork and post-medieval finds. Adjacent to LKH 163 causeway and LKH 130 possible fairground site.

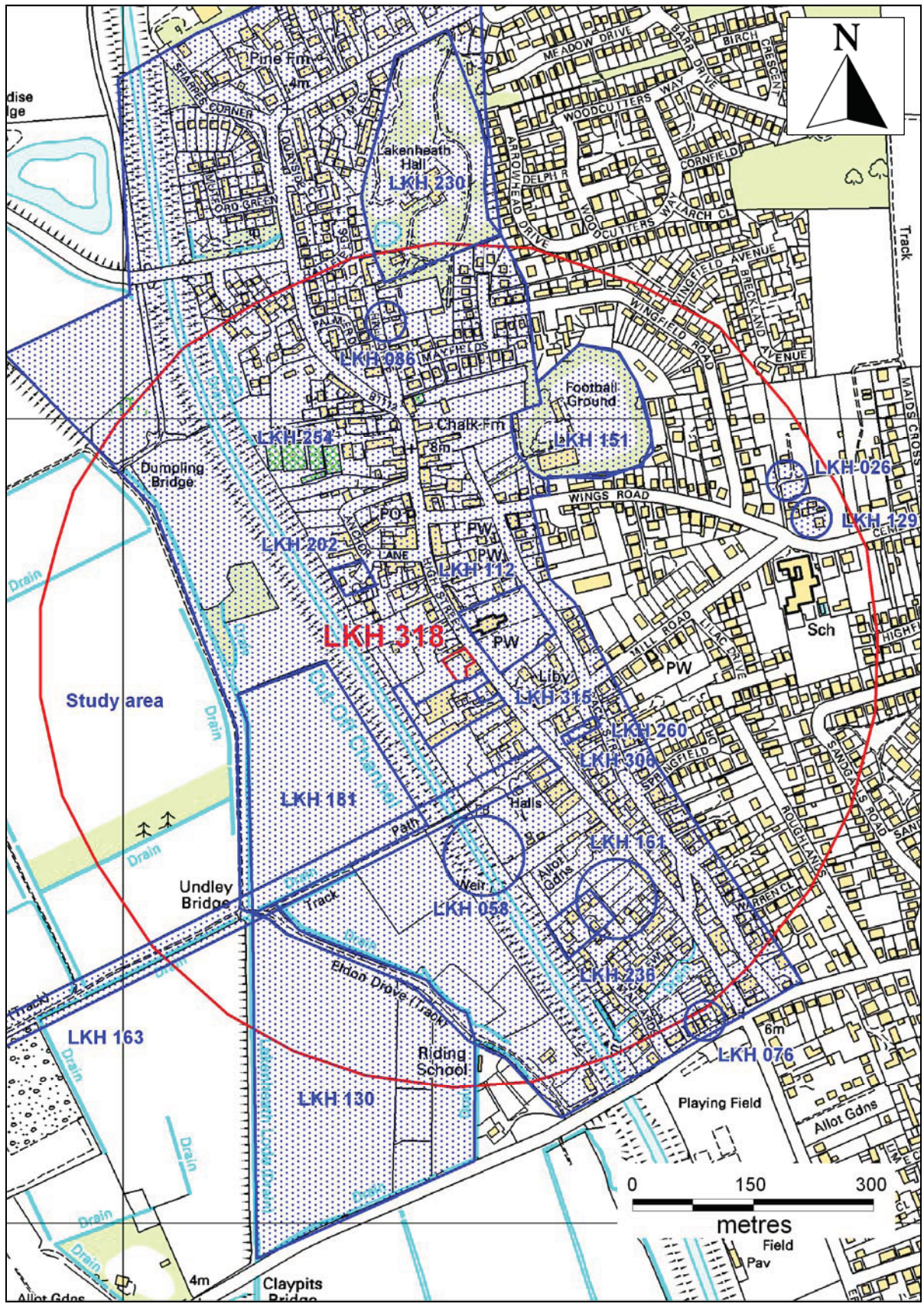
LKH 202: Prehistoric burnt and worked flints, Middle Saxon Ipswich ware pottery and medieval pottery collected during monitoring of house footings.

LKH 230: Evaluation at Lakenheath Hall identified post-medieval pits and ditches.

LKH 236: Evaluation and monitoring to the rear of 132 High Street identified a series of nine ditches, predominantly aligned north-south, containing pottery dating to the 12th-13th century (Craven 2004). These ditches were roughly parallel to each other and were on a similar alignment to the High Street and the surrounding modern property boundaries, indicating that the current land division in the area is a continuation of the medieval layout. Archaeological deposits were well preserved and sealed at depth under layers containing medieval and post-medieval material and a thick garden topsoil.

LKH 260 and LKH 306: Monitoring of footing trenches only identified an undated sand layer which may represent earlier activity.

LKH 315: 82/82A High Street. Site of a small 17th/18th century farm. Archaeological evaluation identified long standing site boundaries possibly originating in the Middle Saxon period (Caruth & Craven 2008). Rubbish pits with medieval pottery, medieval building debris and postholes indicated existence of a medieval farm, pre-dating the existing buildings of chalk clunch construction. Report on monitoring of site development, including building and documentary surveys, in production.



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Figure 4. Nearby sites on the Suffolk HER

2.4. Listed buildings

There are five listed buildings within 500m of the site (Fig.5). The following information has been drawn from the English Heritage Listed buildings online database at <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>.

Brewery House, Anchor Lane. LBS No. 275832. TL 7133 8281. Grade II. Late 18th or early 19th century house. Gault brick with hipped plaintiled roof.

11 and 13, Anchor Lane. LBS No. 275833. TL 7129 8283. Grade II. 2 Houses, formerly one, dating to early 18th century with probable 16th or 17th century core and 19th century alterations. Flint and brick rubble construction with brick quoins and pantiled roof.

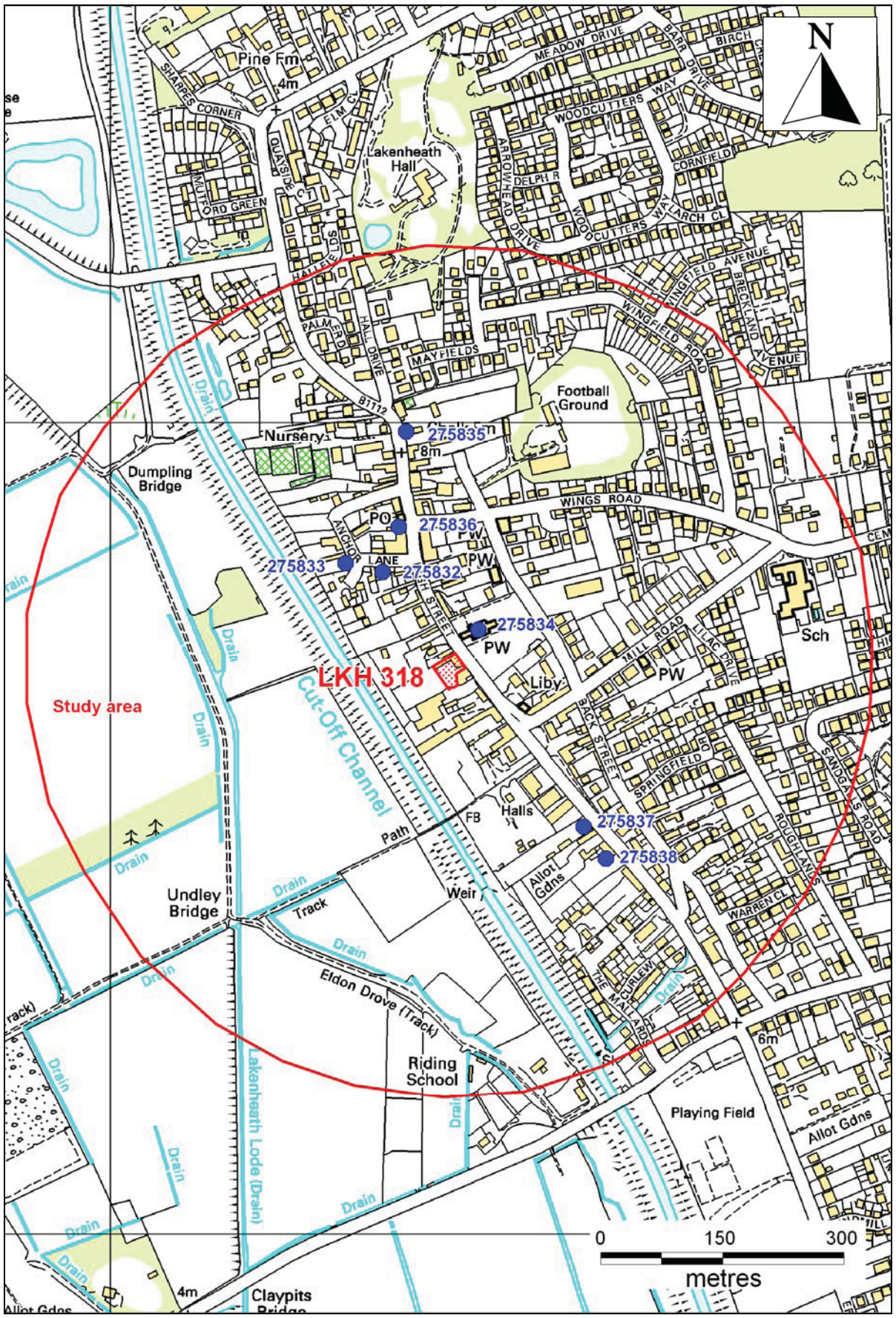
Church of St Mary. LBS No. 275834. TL 7145 8274. Grade I. Medieval church with origins in the 12th century and substantial additions through the 13th to 15th centuries. Restorations carried out in 1892 and 1904.

Chalk Farmhouse, High Street. LBS No. 275835. TL 7136 8299. Grade II. House and surgery, c.1700 with 15th century core and 19th/20th century alterations. Flint and brick rubble with gault brick quoins, hipped plaintiled roof. Small part of substantial 15th century clunch built house to rear.

42, High Street. LBS No. 275836. TL 7135 8287. Grade II. Early 19th century house, Gault brick with plaintiled roof.

102, High Street. LBS No. 275837. TL 7158 8250. Grade II. House, c.1800, Gault brick with plaintiled roof.

124, High Street. LBS No. 275838. TL 7161 8246. Grade II. Hotel and shop, formerly a house. Mid 18th century with probably late 16th century core and 19th century alterations.



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Figure 5. Listed buildings within study area

2.5. Aerial photographic survey

A study of available aerial photographs held by SCCAS in digital and printed format have identified two features of minor interest. The majority of the study area, and the site itself, lies within the built up part of the town, a landuse which is not conducive to this sort of survey. To the west of the Cut-Off Channel the study area encompasses flat fenland used for arable agriculture which offered potential for useful results.

In the 1945 aerial black and white photo coverage of the area (Fig. 6) the fields appear to be under crop but do not show any identifiable features or cropmarks within the study area. To the west however elements of the buried natural fen topography are evident in the irregular cropmark patterning. The most obvious difference to the present layout of the study area is the absence of the Cut-Off Channel.



Figure 6. 1945 aerial photo

The 1991 aerial colour photo coverage (Fig. 7) shows fields under crop. Two curvilinear cropmarks, showing as green against the yellow fields, are visible due west of the site on the edge of the study area (Fig. 11).



Figure 7. 1991 aerial photo

The 1999 aerial colour photo coverage (Fig. 8) is of a clearer resolution and again shows the surrounding fields under crops. The two curvilinear features to the west are again just visible but may be a part of the buried natural fen-edge topography. To the south-west, just outside of the study area is a faint east-west linear mark running between natural cropmarks (Fig. 11).



Figure 8. 1999 Aerial photo

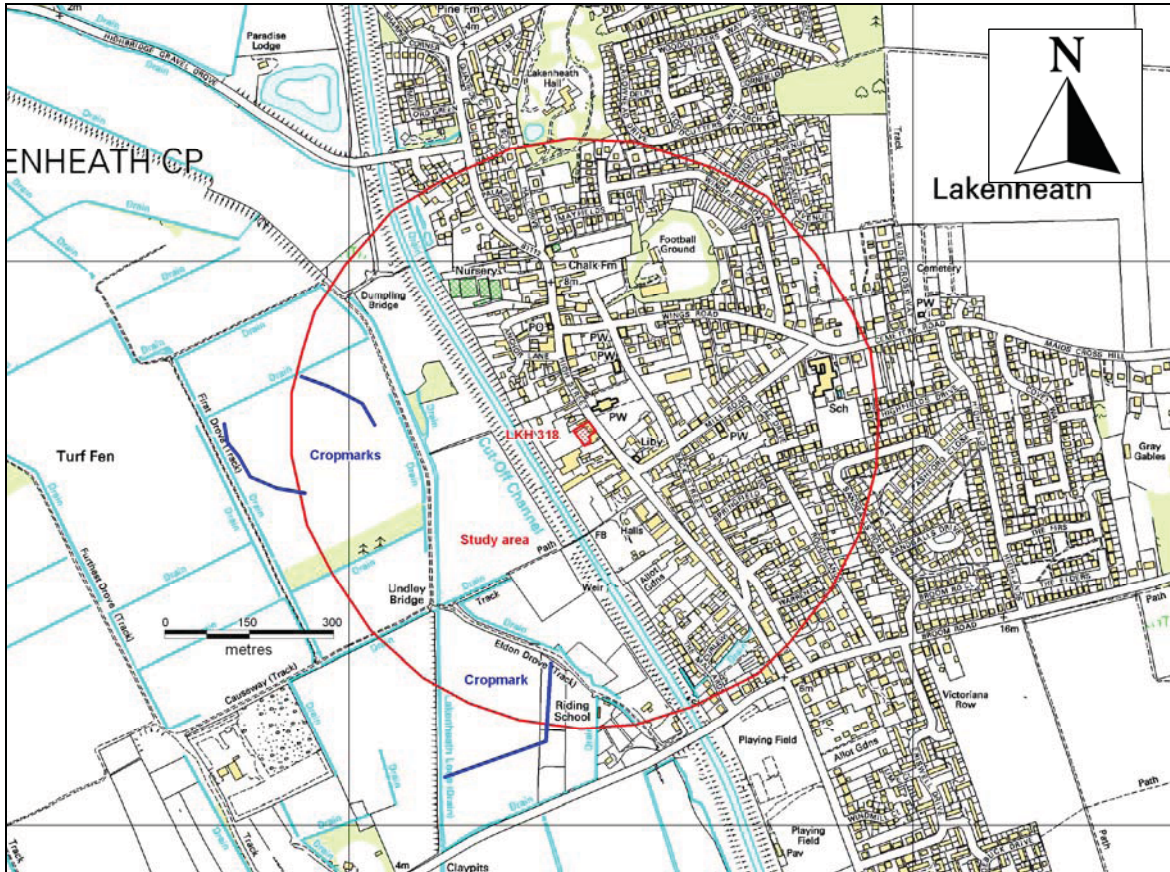
This latter cropmark is more clearly visible in one of two black and white photos, taken as part of the Fenland's aerial survey on 5th July 1983 (SCCAS Ref: NP 14 and NP 15, Figs. 9 and 10). These show the town and study area at an oblique angle from the west. NP 14 concentrates on the town, with the site in the foreground meaning that only part of the arable fields within the study area are visible. NP 15 has the study area and town in the background top left. Here the cropmark just visible in the 1991 coverage is clearer, being a right angled linear feature cutting across two field to the south-west of the site (Fig. 11). Again the majority of the photo shows cropmarks indicating the natural buried fenland topography.



Figure 9. Aerial photograph NP 14



Figure 10. Aerial photograph NP 15



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Figure 11. Cropmarks identified in aerial photos

2.6. Documentary study

Anthony Breen

Introduction

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St Edmunds. The property is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1882 (Figs. 12 and 14) and Second Edition of 1905 (Figs. 13 and 15) as the Bell Inn. The owners of this property are listed in the various commercial directories and included Mrs Rebecca Fincham in 1888 and William Fincham in the period 1844 – 1869. In 1869 the property is listed as the Bell Commercial Inn and was frequently used as a place for public auctions (see SROB catalogue 1442/2/14, 25,37,48,80,84). The owner William Fincham was described as both an innkeeper and farmer and there are a few property records in the form of deeds relating to other parts of his real estate (ref. 1442/2/14,74,75) but not to the site of the Bell Inn. Some of his property was held as copyhold of the manor of Lakenheath.

The site is in the centre of the village area of Lakenheath and directly opposite the churchyard of St Mary's. An adjoining site at 82 High Street, Lakenheath was the subject of a documentary report (Breen 2008). This report included a lengthy discussion of some of the difficulties relating to the documentary sources that can be used to research specific sites within the village area. It is not necessary to repeat here the full details. There are distinct differences between the two sites in terms of both their size and tenure.

The manor of Lakenheath was part of the possessions of the former abbey of Ely from before the Norman Conquest of 1066 and later the manor passed into the possession of the cathedral of Ely and was administrated through the office of the dean and chapter. From the early sixteenth century the manor had been leased in its entirety. Though the manor was leased the relationship of the tenure of the copyhold properties remained unchanged, at the death of each tenant their properties were surrendered back to the manor before a new tenant was omitted. Each transfer of property is recorded in manor court books and earlier rolls and these records are held at Cambridge University Library. Unfortunately there are no copies of these documents available at the record office in Bury St Edmunds or in

the various extensive antiquarian notes of Mrs G. Crompton and Revd J. T. Munday relating to the history of the parish. Within Mrs Crompton's notes there is a typescript of the 'Survey of Lakenheath Manor: 1649' one of three separate copies of this document held at Bury (see E 3/10/12.4 & HA 509/1065/13) with a further copy in Munday's work (Lakenheath Records 5, 1970). In that year Parliament had confiscated the estates of the former cathedral chapters and other religious bodies and valued their property for sale to repay the costs of the civil war. The survey does not describe in detail the possessions of the manorial free and copyholders though in a memorandum it states that there were then 'four score and eight commonable tenants of the said town of Lakenheath' (ref. HD 1720/1).

In legal documents dated 1740 it notes that 'The Dean and Chapter making leases in which they "adhered to the ancient Descriptions in former leases without accommodating their Descriptions to the change that their lands have received by the improvements that have been on their estates"'. This practice was not uncommon though it does make it difficult to identify specific tenements from the historic documents of this period alone.

In relation to the site of the manor itself and the demesne lands that were under the direct control of the lords of the manor, in 1649 the survey states that 'the site of the said manor consisting of one great barn built with timber and covered with thatch, and standeth in a parcel of ground now arable land called the Hallyard adjoining unto the churchyard of the said parish on the south containing by estimation 1 acres 2 roods'. In 1736 the description of the same piece to the south of the church includes measurements for the barn at 170 foot in length and 36 foot in width. In a published source there is evidence to suggest that this barn had been rebuilt in 1379 as a result of a fire that had destroyed a significant number of the buildings in Lakenheath. The earlier catastrophe of the Black Death of 1349 that resulted in the deaths of up to a third of the manorial tenants of Lakenheath led to the transfer of lands between the tenements. Both of these fourteenth century events may be relevant to the archaeological interpretation of this site.

Maps

The tithe map for Lakenheath Ex Fen (ref. T96A/2) is dated 1853 (Fig. 16). This site is marked on the map with the apportionment number 35 and described in the tithe apportionment (ref. T96A/1) as a cottage and garden measured at 27 perches in the occupation of John Brown as tenant to William Fincham. Fincham owned just over 6 acres of land shown on this map and a further 22 acres shown on the separate tithe map for Lakenheath Fen (ref. T96B/2). None of his lands adjoined the site of the Bell Inn. The lands were mainly formed from allotments of former strips within the open fields and parts of the common lands and waste enclosed as a result of the Lakenheath Enclosure Act of 1833 and subsequent award of 1837 (ref. FL517/1/16). In 1837 allotments were given to manorial tenants in lieu of their former common rights. The description of the property in 1853 as a 'cottage' rather than the grander sounding 'Inn' can be found in the earlier poor rate assessment books (ref. FL 571/7/43-59) covering the years 1831-1835 in which William Fincham paid rates on 'Mr Howard's Cottage'. In the earlier books there are other entries for John Brown but none describe his property as an inn.

On an undated 'plan of the central area of the parish' (Fig. 17) the land to the rear of the inn is marked as the property of Jabez Peace and William Fincham's name is not marked against any of the properties (ref. FL 517/13/95). The plan was probably made in the 1860's though it's original purpose is now lost. The inn is not shown on most of the printed sale plans dating 1861 -1919 now in the parish collection (ref. FL 517/13/92), though the land to the rear of the premises and adjoining the 'New Lode' is shown on a plan of 1872. Unfortunately the sale particulars for this plan and others in this collection have not been retained. In a separate collection of sale plans (ref HD 1180/219-228) on a sale plan (Fig. 18) of the 'Lakenheath Estate' sold in 1861 the site of the inn is marked as the 'Bell Hotel' (ref. HD 1180/226). Once again the sale particulars are absent and all the other plans in the collection do not show the position of the building.

The boundaries of a number of the properties on the western side such as Churchgate Farm extended from the High Street to the river or New Lode. At least one study suggests that in the early medieval period all the properties extended from the High Street to the river. It is therefore a point of interest to determine at

what stage the lands to the rear of the Bell Inn were separated from the High Street property. The records that could be used to examine this point are likely to be found in the manorial court books and earlier rolls held at Cambridge.

Descriptions of Medieval Lakenheath

The antiquarian Rev J.T. Munday wrote a description, in 1973, of the housing in Lakenheath in his pamphlet 'How we lived in Lakenheath 600 years ago'. He states that 'the majority of dwellings lay on the west side of the street. Each stood at the head of a long, narrow close, which stretched down to the fen'. 'Along the west side of the street there were as many as forty dwellings with their outbuildings'. 'Some ... were occupied by freemen and their families some by villeins but by six hundred years ago, as far as their economic standing was concerned, there was not much difference between the two classes'. The properties of the villein tenants who were bound to perform various labours for the lords of the manor later became the copyhold tenements. Munday identified only three properties as more imposing than the rest. These included the farms Church Gate Farm and Chalk Farm whose tenants had the right to graze flocks of sheep.

The distinguished medieval historian Dr Mark Bailey in a well-researched essay (Bailey 1995) highlights the sharp decline in the population as a result of the Black Death that reached Lakenheath in February 1349. 'An exact mortality rate among the manorial tenants is difficult to calculate but sixty-seven tenants deaths are recorded during the first half of 1349, which is suggestive of a death-rate of around one third'. 'Throughout 1349 some heirs of dead tenants attended the manorial court to accept their inheritance and formally occupy vacated holdings, but in a sizeable minority of cases heirs simply failed to appear and consequently land was left abandoned'. In the period after this catastrophe the manor was able to attract new tenants from elsewhere, but other tenants were induced to take over abandoned lands resulting in changes in the earlier property boundaries.

Dr Bailey continues: 'The problems posed by an unfavourable economic climate were exacerbated at Lakenheath by a disastrous fire which occurred between the autumn of 1377 and the spring of 1379. The blaze caused substantial damage to the housing stock of the village, destroying at least twenty-five messuages,

tenements and cottages, together with the manorial dovecote. The 1378-79 accounts also records the construction of new market stalls and a massive new grange for the demesne, perhaps other casualties of the fire'. This new grange was on the site to the south of the church, as the other houses are highly likely to have been partly timber built and thatched it is possible that the buildings on or near this site were destroyed in this fire.

Records of the Dean and Chapter of Ely Cathedral

The dean and chapters properties were entrusted to the church commissioners in 1870, though these records were later transferred to Cambridge University Library. Those records relating to the diocese of Ely that had been held by the Church Commissioners were indexed together with records held elsewhere by Dorothy M. Owen in 1971. Her catalogue, though it includes a chapter on the temporalities or estates of the diocese makes no reference to Lakenheath and omits any description of the dean and chapter records. According to a record card in the manorial index in the record office in Bury St Edmunds, the University, hold a collection of documents received from the Church Commissioners including Court rolls and books for the manor 1661-1952. They also hold a terrier, or description of the lands of the manor dated 1533. This describes only those lands in Lakenheath purchased by Symeon Styward from John Lacey, and this has been published (Munday, Lakenheath Notes, 1, 1969). Munday states 'this terrier is one of the very few documents dealing with lands owned by Lakenheath people, to have survived from before the suppression of the priory'. There is a further survey dated 1715 at Cambridge. This date coincides with the date of a further lease of the manor in that year. A further terrier relating to Lakenheath describes the arable lands in 1822 and omits details of the tenements. A copy of a further field survey dated 1793 is amongst Mrs Crompton's notes (ref. HD 1720/9).

The current catalogue of the dean & chapter records contains separate lists for the documents relating to the legal disputes and an extensive list of medieval court and account rolls for the manor of Lakenheath.

Conclusion

Cambridge University Library hold a very full and extensive collection of manorial court and account rolls for this manor dating from the beginning of the fourteenth century. These would be invaluable for a study of the economic and social history during the medieval period though it would be difficult to relate the references to the various landholdings to the modern landscape. The difficulties arise from the use of historic descriptions of the properties and not contemporary descriptions in both the leases and manorial records. However the name of the manorial tenant William Fincham is known and the date of his entry to the property could be found in the manorial court books of the period. The property description is likely to be archaic and repeated from early records. The entry will contain a reference to the previous transfer of the property and its earlier history could then be traced in the surviving records.

This is just one example of a property in the High Street being separated from the land that would have formed the original earlier medieval property. It would be worthwhile identifying each of these properties and studying their earlier history to determine whether the changes in the property boundaries were a result of the loss of such a large number of tenants in 1349.

The position of this site at the heart of the urban area strongly suggests that it had been in use from a very early date of at least pre-thirteenth century but only archaeological evidence collected from this site and others can determine the date of the establishment of the present village.

Evidence of the fire of circa 1379 may be found in relation to this site.



Figure 12. Study area on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1882

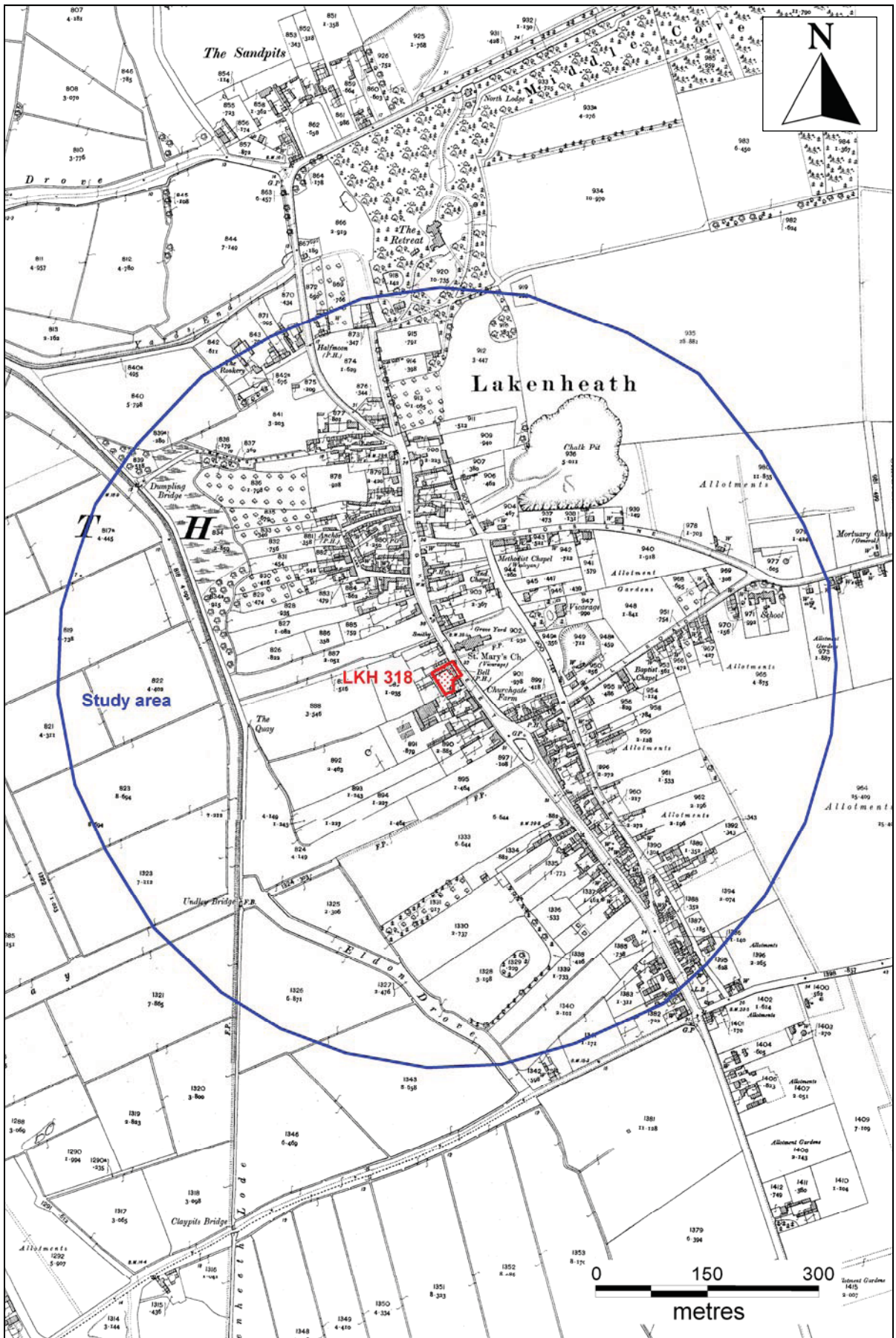


Figure 13. Study area on Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1905

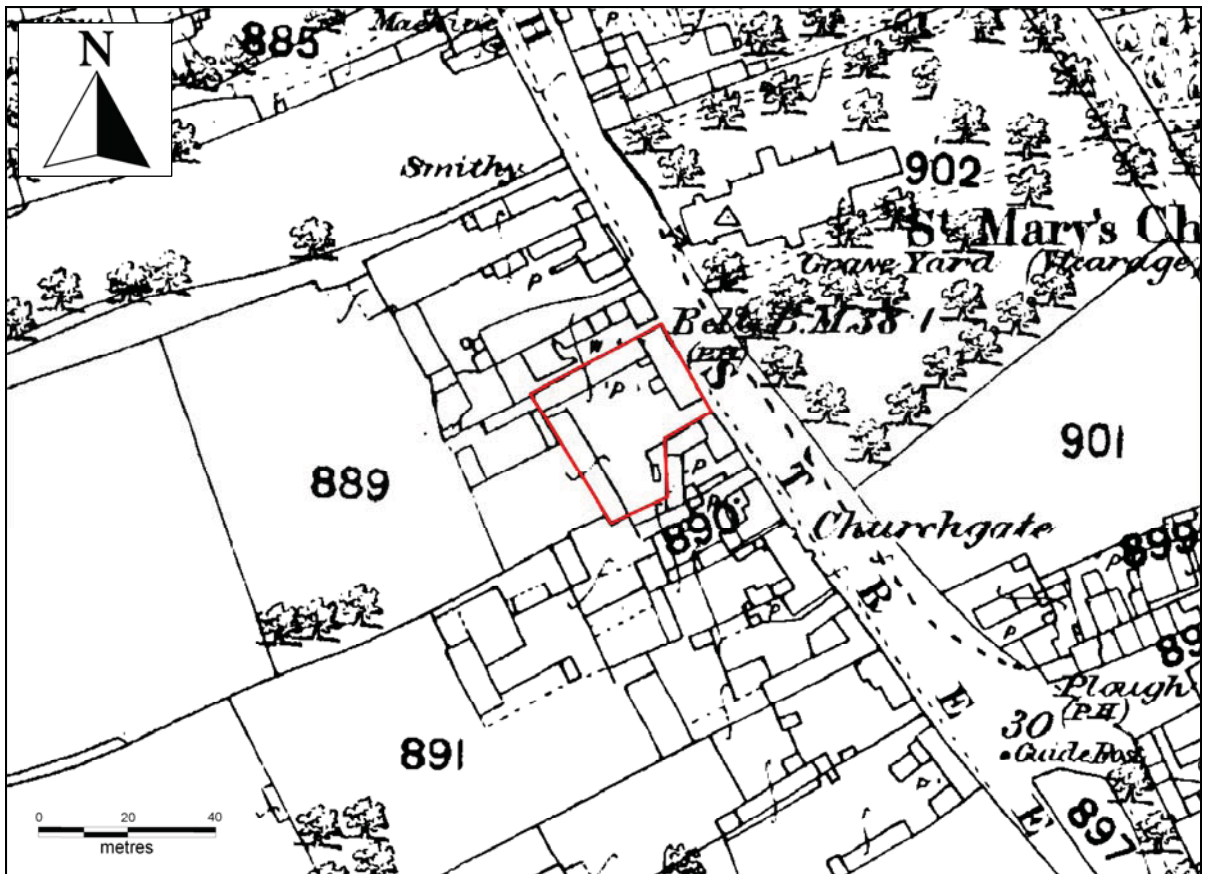


Figure 14. Site on First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1882

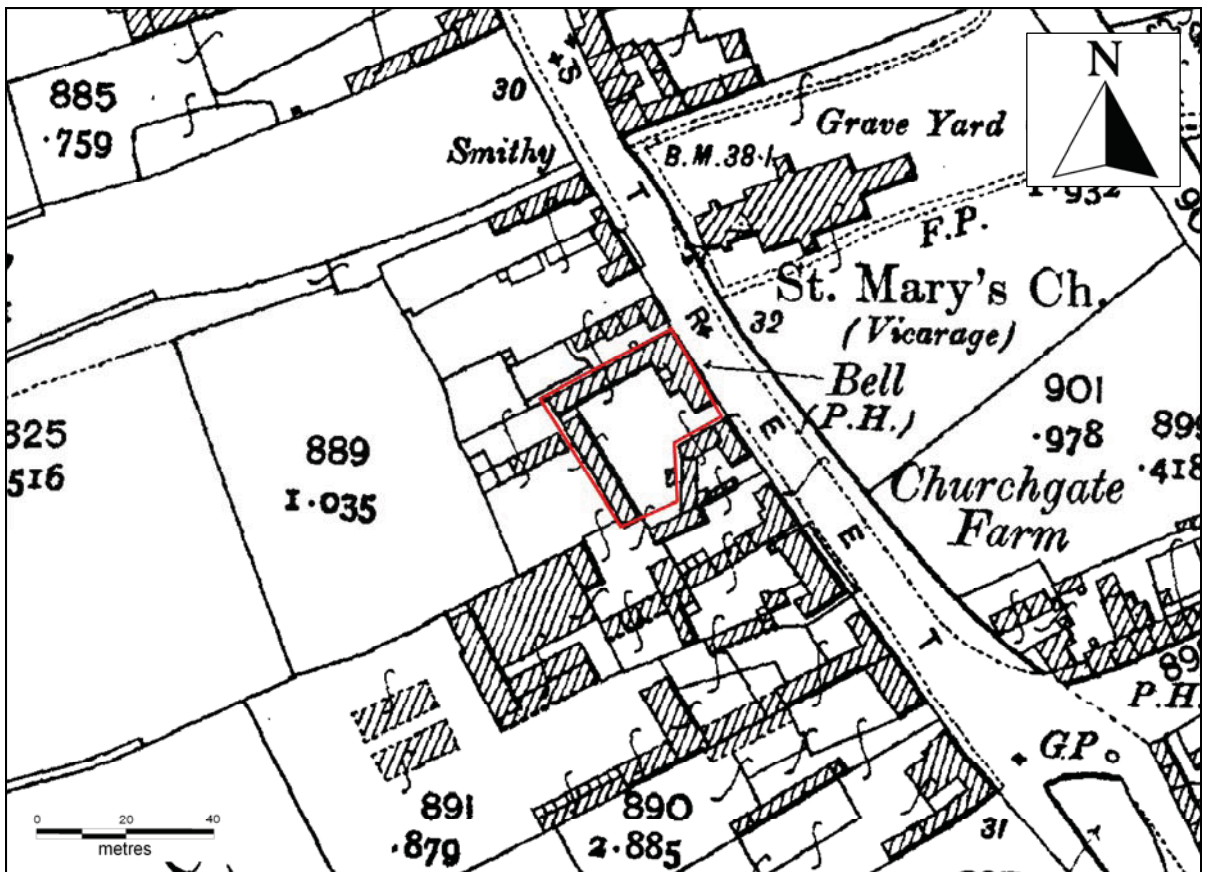


Figure 15. Site on Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1905

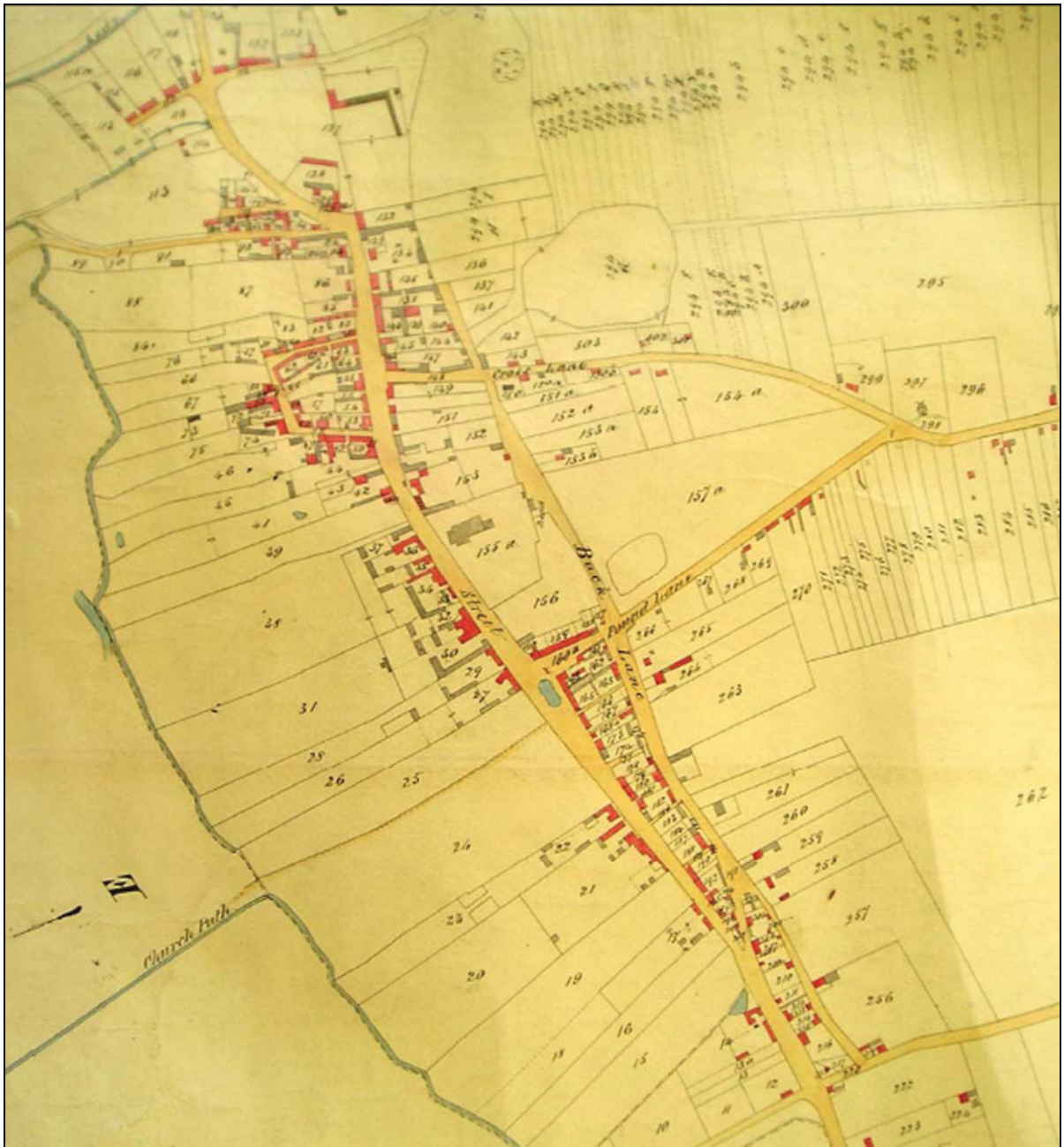


Figure 16. Lakenheath Ex Fen Tithe map, 1853

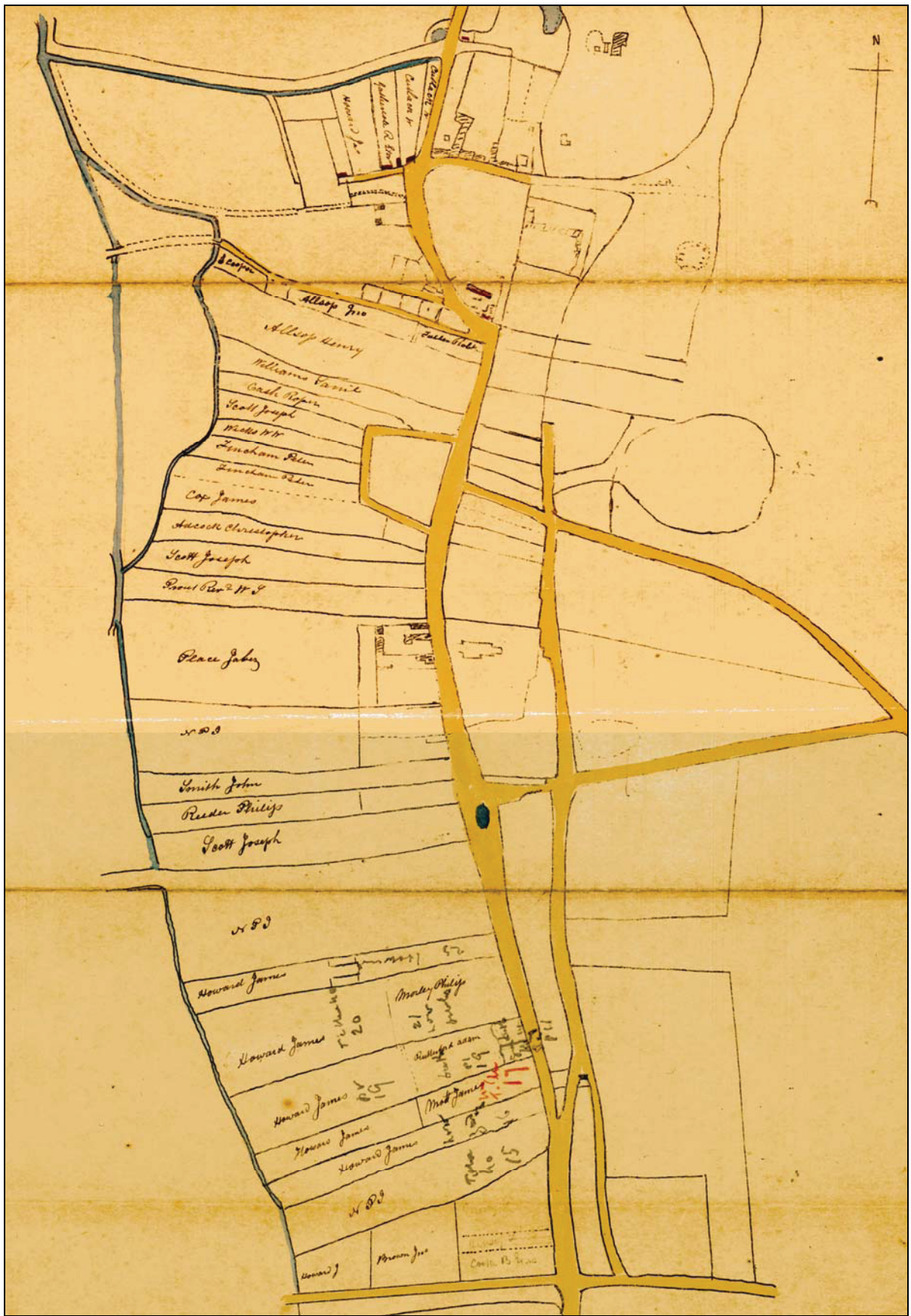


Figure 17. Parish plan, c.1860's



Figure 18. Lakenheath Estate sale plan, 1861

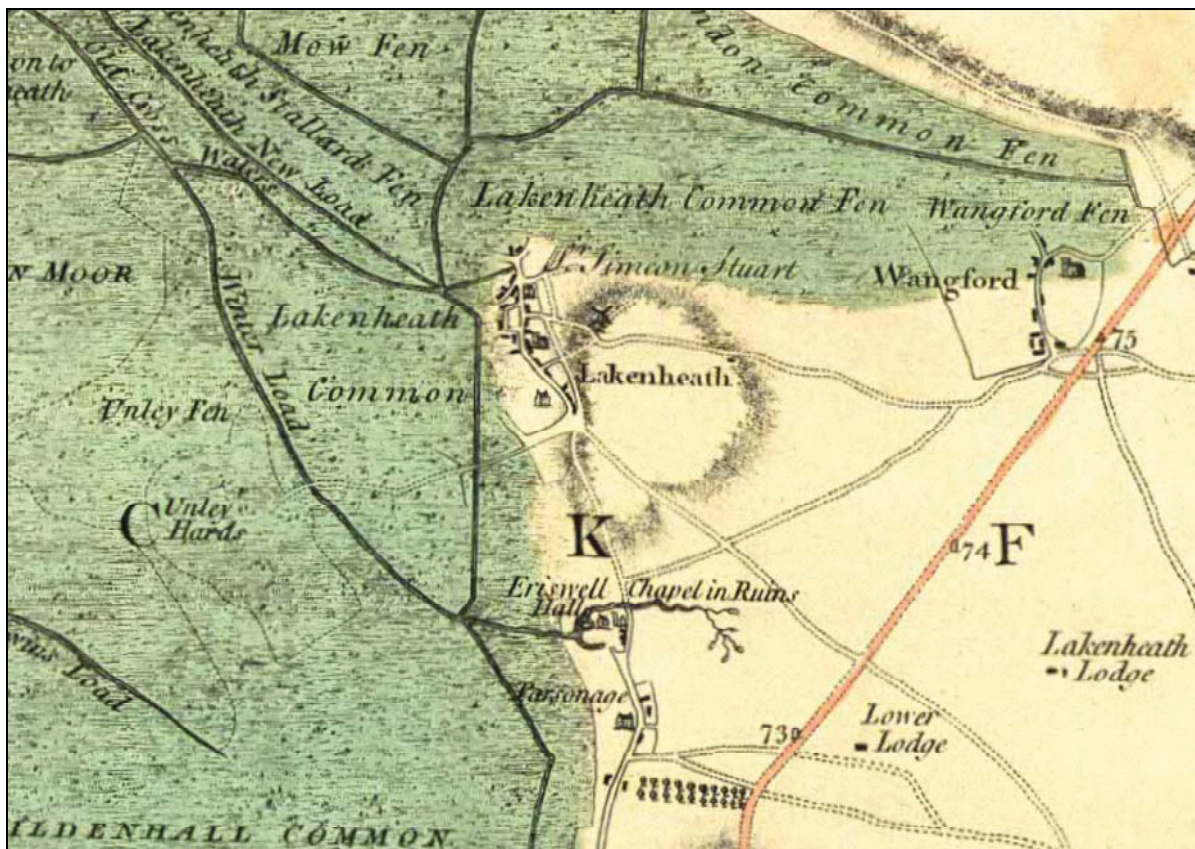


Figure 19. Lakenheath on Hodkinson's map of Suffolk, 1783

3. Assessment of impacts and effects

3.1. The archaeological potential of the Proposed Development Area

There is high potential for multi-period archaeological deposits to exist upon the site due to its fen-edge location in the centre of Lakenheath. Firstly the site lies within the dense band of prehistoric and Roman activity that exists along the edge of the fens. Although previous archaeological fieldwork in the study area has been limited to small evaluations and monitorings there are known features and finds scatters of prehistoric and Roman date (LKH 026, 076, 181 and 202) in the immediate vicinity.

The site also lies in the centre of the area of archaeological importance for Lakenheath. This designation encompasses the area of the medieval town and any location within it accordingly has a high potential for Anglo-Saxon or medieval archaeological remains relating to the settlements early history. The site lies in close proximity to the parish church and the documentary research suggests that it will have been in use since at least the thirteenth century.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds material has been found at several locations (LKH 58, LKH 86, LKH 130, LKH 181, LKH 236 and LKH 315) in the study area, demonstrating that early evidence of the settlement does exist in the vicinity. Two of these are of particular relevance, being archaeological fieldwork investigations in advance of development at similar sites on the western side of the High Street. Evidence of medieval boundaries were recorded at LKH 236 while at LKH 315, the adjacent plot to the south of the site, evidence of a medieval farm, with possible Middle Saxon origins was recorded. It is highly likely that such deposits extend into the current site.

Specific episodes in Lakenheath's medieval history such as the Black Death in 1349 and a large fire in 1377-1379, highlighted in the documentary research, may have had a considerable effect upon the development of both the town and the site itself. There is potential for the site to contain archaeological deposits relating to such events which could aid understanding of Lakenheath's history.

The site also lies in the heart of the post-medieval town and indeed is partially occupied by structures relating to this phase of the settlements history. The site's layout appears little changed from that of the mid 19th century and so there is limited potential for further archaeological post-medieval deposits other than evidence of former courtyard surfaces or foundations of the demolished western building.

The site is likely to have only low potential for environmental deposits. While trenching at both LKH 236 and LKH 315 identified a build up of fen peat deposits these were limited to the low lying areas immediately adjacent to the Cut-off Channel. The current site lies towards the top of the slope that rises from the fen-edge and trenching at a similar point in LKH 315 showed a lack of environmental remains, with the natural sand subsoil lying immediately below medieval and post-medieval occupation layers.

3.2. Potential of preserved archaeological remains within the PDA

There is high potential for any archaeological deposits within the site to be in a state of good preservation. Trenching immediately to the south in LKH 315 showed the natural sand subsoil slope lying at a depth of 0.6m-0.9m, with archaeological deposits being sealed below thick layers of silt/sands and modern topsoil. A similar profile is likely within the current site, with deposits of medieval or earlier date likely to be preserved at depth.

Any damage to the earlier archaeological resource of the site is likely to have occurred in the post-medieval period, with the construction of the existing range of buildings and central courtyard. However buildings of this date may not have had substantial foundations and the site as whole may have seen artificial raising of ground levels to create a level platform towards the top of the natural slope.

The site appears to have seen little major change since the mid 19th century and is unlikely to have seen significant modern activity which would have disturbed

evidence of earlier occupation and there is potential for good preservation of archaeological deposits.

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

The archaeological resource will only be directly impacted upon by development works which involve substantial disturbance below ground-level. In this case this will consist of works such as the excavation of footing and service trenches for the new building on the western side of the site which is replacing a now demolished structure. Redevelopment and conversion of the existing building ranges to north and east will have no effect on archaeological deposits unless there are any such works as underpinning, laying of new services or reducing of internal floor levels. Minor changes to ground levels in the courtyard and associated resurfacing works are unlikely to affect archaeological deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period as these are likely to be sealed at a depth of at least 0.5m.

Although evidence of earlier activity upon the site is likely to be sealed at depth below later post-medieval material any works as described above still have high potential to cause a major negative impact upon any archaeological deposits. This impact is likely to be the total and permanent destruction of said deposits.

The development will have negligible impact upon the setting of any of the Listed Buildings within the study area. Of the seven buildings only one, the Church of St Mary, has a direct line of sight to the site. However with the former Cromwell Inn which occupies the road frontage being retained, albeit converted into residential accommodation, there will be little or no change to the appearance of the site when viewed from the High Street. The new development, to the rear of the site, will not be visible from the road and will have no impact upon the setting of the church.

4. Mitigation measures

It is thought that there are generally no grounds to consider preservation *in situ* of any important archaeological deposits within the PDA. However the development may have a negative impact upon any archaeological deposits that exist and will require mitigation through a program of archaeological works. This program, to be specified by SCCAS/CT, will be aimed at fully recording said deposits and, based upon the results of this assessment, is likely to initially involve an archaeological evaluation of the site.

National guidance recommends that potential archaeological sites are evaluated (fieldwalking and/or geophysical survey and/or trenching) prior to the determination of any application (PPG16 paragraphs 8, 27 and 28). 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.

In this case a single evaluation trench should be placed across the footprint of the proposed new building on the western side of the site. This will quantify the quality and importance of the archaeological resource and enable a decision to be made as to the need for further work such as archaeological excavation or monitoring of development works.

The proposed works to the courtyard area, consisting of new parking spaces and access road, is likely to only cause surface disturbance to modern deposits and so it is not thought necessary to evaluate directly. The single adjacent evaluation trench should be adequate to confirm that the archaeological horizon lies at a sufficient depth below the courtyard to avoid disturbance.

5. Conclusions / Recommendations

This Desk Based Assessment has set the Proposed Development Area within the known archaeological landscape through an examination of the Historic Environment Record, aerial photographs and a documentary search.

The PDA lies upon the fen-edge, in an area of known prehistoric and Roman activity. It also lies in the centre of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Lakenheath, an area of archaeological importance. The archaeological potential of the PDA therefore is high, with archaeological remains being highly vulnerable to development. A program of archaeological mitigation works will be required as part of any planning consent, the first stage of which, it is recommended, will be an evaluation by trial trenching.

Consultation with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/Curatorial Team is advised 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.

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.

6. List of contributors and acknowledgements

This report was commissioned and funded by Baker Nisbet Ltd.

The desk based assessment was carried out by John Craven, of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (SCCAS/FT) and the documentary study by Anthony M. Breen, a freelance local history researcher.

The project was managed by Joanna Caruth, Senior Project Officer, of SCCAS/FT and advice was given by Dr Jess Tipper, SCCAS Conservation Team.

7. Bibliography

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Maps

Parish Collection

FL 517/13/95 Plan of Central area of parish showing names of occupiers late nineteenth century.

FL 517/13/92 Sale Plans of estates in Lakenheath 1861-1919.

FL 517/1/16 Enclosure award and plan 1837.

Sale Particulars

HD 1180/226 Plan of an Estate in Lakenheath 1861.

HD 1180/221 Sale Particulars an Estate in Lakenheath 1837.

Tithe Map

T 96A/1 & 2, Tithe Apportionment and Map Lakenheath 1853.

Antiquarian Papers

Mrs Crompton

HD 1720/1 Photocopies of documents and transcripts relating to Lakenheath warren (1264 – c, 1782) including survey 1649 and Chancery case papers 1740-1746.

HD 1720/2 Photocopies of documents and transcripts (1749 – 1782).

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