

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

---

**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/006**

### **Botany Farm, Farnham, Suffolk**

**J.Rolfe**

**© December 2009**

**[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)**



## **HER information**

**Planning application no:** N/A

**Grid Reference:** TM 379 583

**Curatorial Officer:** Judith Plouviez SCCAS/CT

**Project Officer:** James Rolfe

**Funding Body:** RSPB

**Oasis reference:** Suffolkc1-70597





# Contents

	Page
<b>Summary</b>	
1. Introduction	1
Project background	1
Site description	2
Topography and geology of the PDA	2
Scope of this report	4
Aims	4
Methods	4
Legislative frameworks	5
2. Results	7
Suffolk HER search	7
All known archaeological sites within the PDA	7
All known archaeological sites within 1km of the PDA	7
Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)	11
Historic map and documentary study summary	13
3. Assessment of impacts and effects	23
The Archaeology potential of the PDA	23
Regional research framework	24
Potential of preserved archaeological remains within the PDA	24
Assessment of the impact of the development on the archaeological resource	25
4. Mitigation measures	27
5. Conclusions / Recommendations	29

	Page
6. List of contributors and Acknowledgements	30
7. Bibliography	30
Disclaimer	30

## List of Figures

	Page
1. Location of the development	1
2. Topography of the PDA	3
3. Geology of the PDA	3
4. HER entries within 1km of the PDA	10
5. Hodskinson's map of 1783	14
6. Extract from the 1803 map of Farnham by Isaac Johnson, showing the PDA	15
7. Extract from the 1841 tithe Map of Farnham, showing the PDA	16
8. Old field boundaries and names (based on the tithe map of 1841)	17
9. Ordnance Survey map of 1886	18
10. Ordnance Survey map of 1904	19
11. Aerial Photograph from 1947	20
12. Current Aerial Photograph (© 2009 Google)	21
13. Mid resolution Lidar image of the PDA	22

## List of Appendices

1. Brief and Specification	31
2. Documentary Study	35

## List of abbreviations used in the text

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

## Periods

Prehistoric	500,000BC - 42AD
Palaeolithic	500,000BC – 10,001BC
Mesolithic	10,000BC – 4,001BC
Neolithic	4,00BC – 2,351BC
Bronze Age	2,350BC – 701BC
Iron Age	800BC – 42AD
Roman	43AD – 409AD
Anglo-Saxon	410AD – 1065AD
Medieval	1066AD – 1539AD
Post-medieval	1539AD – 1900AD
Modern	1900AD -

## Summary

This archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) has been undertaken as a result of a proposal by the Environment Agency (EA) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to create 48ha of wetland habitat at Botany Farm, Farnham. This DBA includes an examination of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), a search of the aerial photographs held by SCCAS and a historic map and documentary search.

The results of this DBA suggest that there is a moderate to high potential for there to be archaeological material from most periods throughout the Proposed Development Area (PDA). There is a greater potential in the western part of the PDA for encountering Roman material associated with the known occupation site within and adjacent to the PDA. The documentary study has highlighted the potential for there to be an Anglo-Saxon and medieval watermill within the PDA close to Langham Bridge. The topographic and hydrological properties of the PDA indicate that there is a high potential for encountering waterlogged or palaeo-environmental material.

The land-use of the PDA until the end of World War II was reclaimed marshland, maintained as pasture. In the post-war period until the 1990's the PDA was in use for arable production. Post 1990 the PDA was returned to pasture. Therefore any archaeological remains present under the cultivation layer are likely to be preserved.

Any proposed excavation activity, for example the ditch digging, re-profiling or the scraping of the ground to create open water ponds, could have a negative effect on the archaeological resource. In the worse case this could lead to the total destruction of any waterlogged material encountered and at best partial destruction of the deposits before they are recognised and appropriately dealt with. If the excavation was limited to just cleaning out the already existing drainage ditches this would have a less damaging effect on the archaeological resource, although it has the potential to have some impact during the cleaning process or through compaction due to heavy machine work.

It is thought that there are no known grounds at present, to consider refusal of permission in order to achieve preservation *in situ* of any important archaeological deposits. Mitigation would therefore require that an adequate record is made of any archaeological features or finds which would otherwise be destroyed by the development.

During the process of producing detailed ground works proposals the EA/RSPB should liaise closely with the county archaeological advisor over draft plans, so the resulting planned works (ground works and any planting) act sympathetically and enhance the existing historic features and landscape. The management plan for the site will need to ensure that any maintenance or future improvements will not impact upon the integrity of the archaeological resource.

When areas for ground disturbance/ditching or cleaning are finalised these should be assessed in the field for potential peat deposits. These can then be evaluated prior to any large works starting and can be targeted for close monitoring and any potentially important deposits can be avoided if they are likely to be compromised.

The detailed ground work proposals should state how the works will affect the water levels overall and whether there are any plans to install sluices, pumps etc to artificially control the water levels.

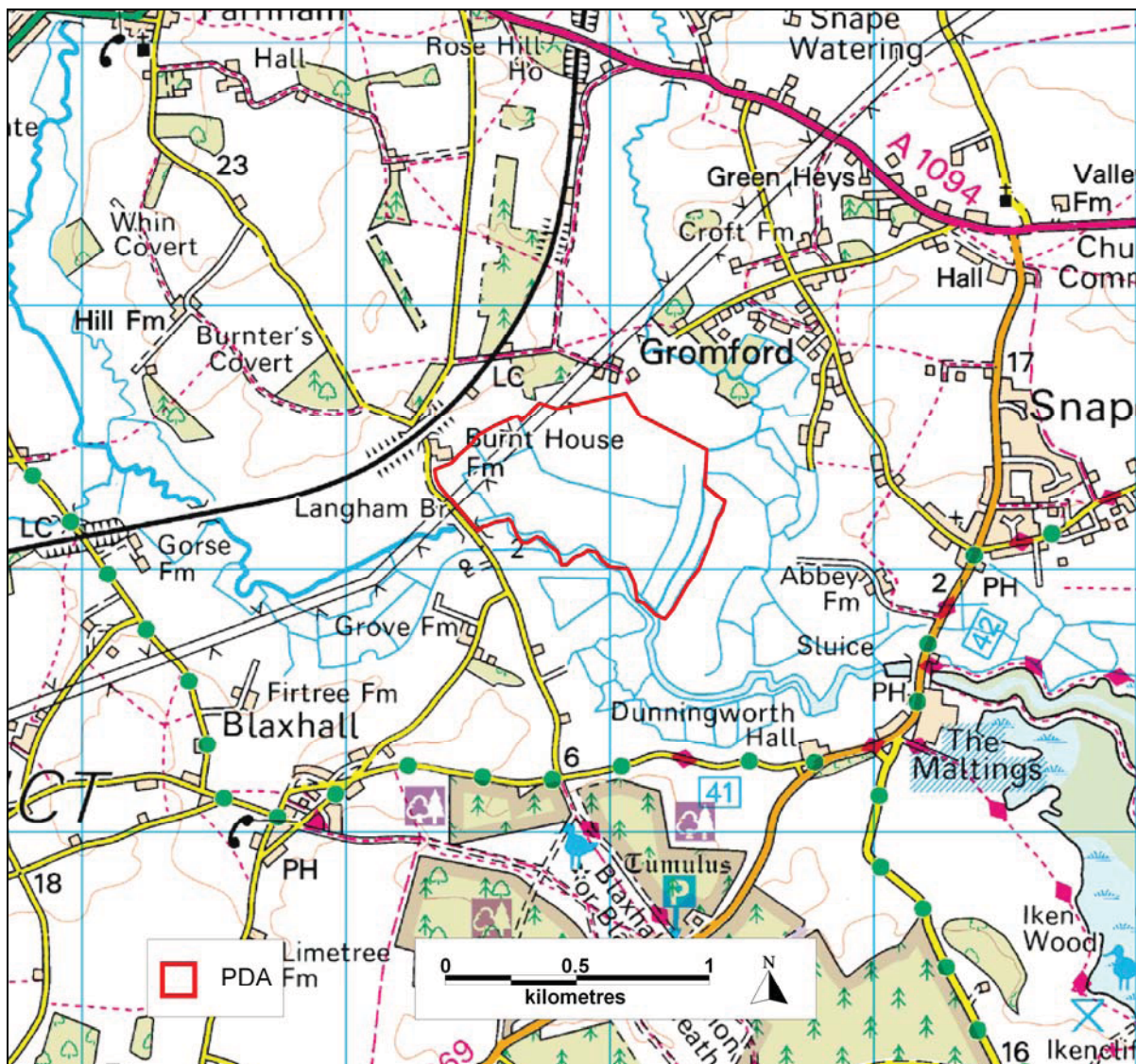
If any areas are to be cultivated in any way e.g. sowing for pasture, the opportunity should be given for field walking (and cultivation should be no deeper than existing cultivation levels).

# 1. Introduction

## Project Background

This archaeological DBA has been prepared by James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service / Field Team for the RSPB.

This DBA is the first stage of a programme of archaeological works to access the archaeological potential of the PDA. The proposed development is for the creation of a freshwater reed bed habitat for wildlife.



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 1. Location of the development

## **Site description**

The subject of this DBA covers an area of approximately 52ha centred at TM379583, in the parish of Farnham (Fig 1).

A site visit was made on 29/10/2009 by Jude Plouviez. This was to determine the presence of any earthworks, or other factors likely to impact on the overall assessment of the archaeological potential of the PDA. A note of the topography and current land-use was made.

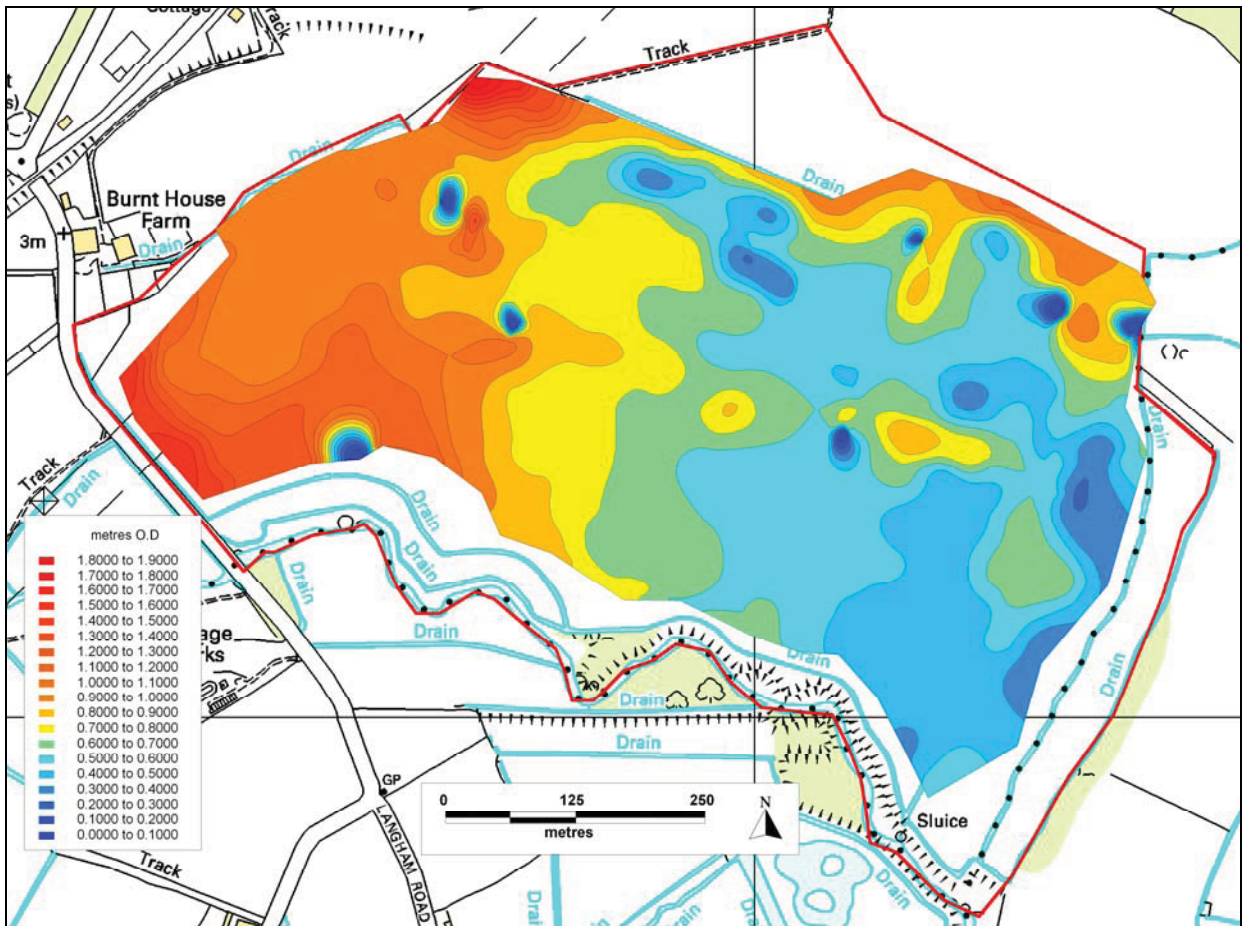
## **Topography and geology of the PDA**

The PDA is located between *circa* 0.4– 1.4m above sea level. The topography roughly slopes down from the north and west to the south-east corner (Fig. 2).

The majority of the PDA is peat and river alluvium (1025). A small area at the northern edge of the PDA is deep sand (551g) (Ordnance Survey 1983) (Fig. 3).

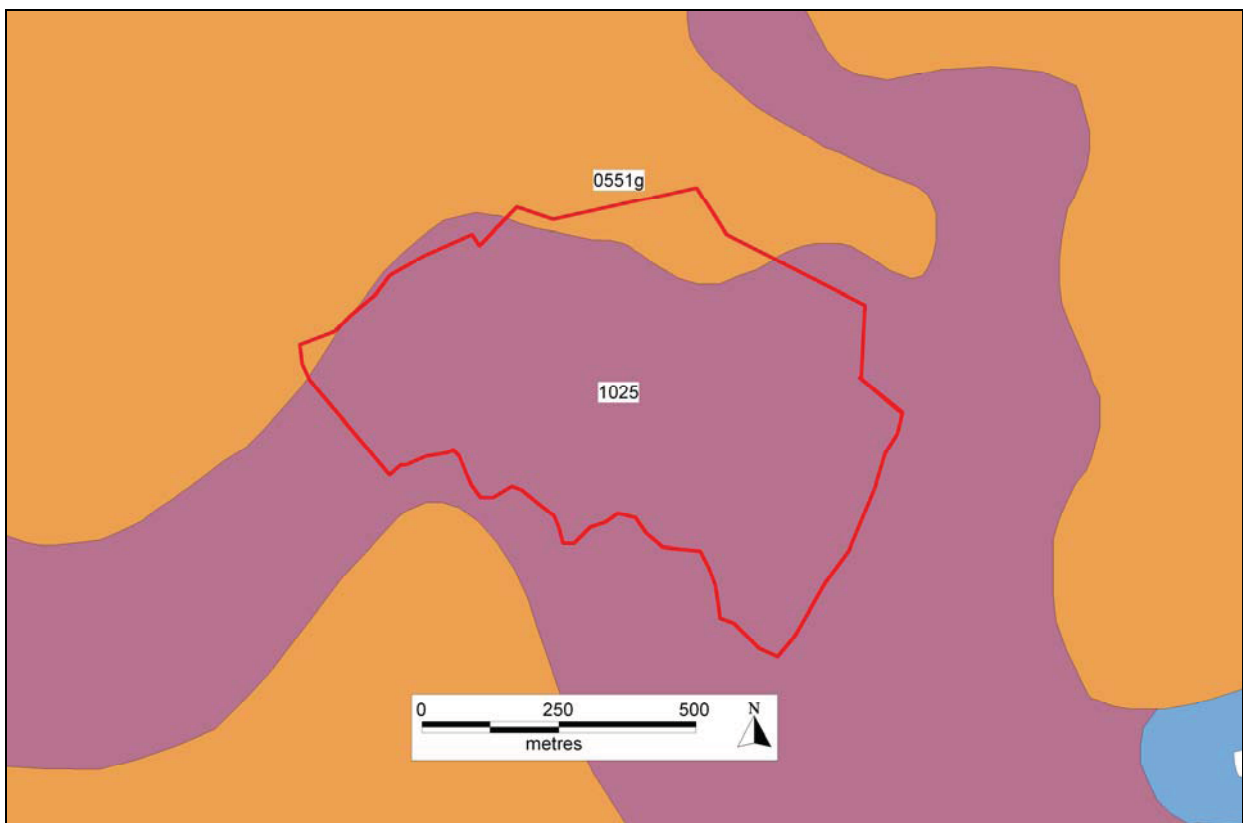
The combination of light soil and south-facing slope in the northern most part of the PDA is a type of location often selected for early settlement.





©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 2. Topography of the PDA



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 3. Geology of the PDA Scope of this report

## Scope of This report

In order to set the PDA in its archaeological context a HER search area of 1km from the edge of the PDA was selected for examination (Fig. 4).

In accordance with PPG16, the Government's guidance on archaeology and planning, ([www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance9](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance9)) and a brief and specification provided by SCCAS/CT (Appendix 1), this assessment examines the available archaeological sources. These include the Suffolk HER, all readily available cartographic and documentary sources.

## 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.

## 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 a minimum of 250m from the edge of the PDA. A synthesis of these results are described and mapped in the main body of the report, Section 2.
- A search for all listed buildings within 250m of the edge of the PDA. A summary is presented in the main report, Section 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.
- Aerial photographs that are held by Suffolk County Council HER were examined. The results are summarised in the main report, Section 2.

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

## **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 250m 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 no conservation areas within 250m of the PDA. There are no Listed Buildings within 250m of the PDA.

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 250m of the PDA.



## 2. Results

### Suffolk HER 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.

Below are summarised all the HER entries within the 1km of the PDA. The brief and specification (Appendix 1) required a minimum search area of 250m, but an extended search area of 1km was used to help to set the PDA in its archaeological landscape.

### All known archaeological sites within the PDA

Partially within the western boundary of the PDA is **FNM 003**, a large concentration of Roman artifacts including tiles, coins, various types of brooches, a pin and an intaglio, found by metal detectorists. This artefact scatter could possibly represent the site of a tile kiln or a building that may relate to the close by bath house **FNM 001**.

**TUN 026** is the former route of a railway line that ran from Snape junction to the north-west to the Maltings and dock to the south-east. The railway ran through the northern part of the PDA.

### All known archaeological sites within 1km of the PDA

There are twenty-two HER entries recorded within 1km of the PDA (Fig. 4) and one site outside the search area which is important enough to still be mentioned.

### **Neolithic (3500-2100BC)**

At **TUN 002** 500m to the south of the PDA a number of worked flints including two scrapers were found.

### **Bronze Age (2150-800BC)**

There are three HER entries of Bronze Age date at **BLX 003** 700m to the south of the PDA, where a number of collared urn sherds and fragments of human bone were found in a sewer trench. **BLX 008** is a bronze leaf-shaped spearhead found during river dredging 700m to the west of the PDA. At **FNM 001** during the excavation of a Roman pit, a possible Bronze Age blue faience bead was found.

### **Roman (1-410AD)**

Five HER entries represent the Roman period. **BLX 001** (SAM) is a round barrow 950m to the south of the PDA in which were found possible Roman urns that contained ashes, 2 coins and a piece of a sword, according to a mid 19th century source. **BLX 002** is a pottery kiln that was found by workmen digging a trench. The workmen stated that when found the dome of the kiln was still intact and greyware pottery was recovered from it and also from a pit close by. This is located 500m to the south of the PDA. **FNM 001** is where a Roman bath house was discovered and excavated in 1971 and close by large quantities of Roman tile and large amounts of metal working slag were found. **MSF12618** is a bronze coin of Constantius, found 150m to the south of the PDA. **MSF12619** is a Colchester derivative hinged type brooch, found 450m to the south of the PDA.

### **Anglo-Saxon (410-1066AD)**

There are two HER entries of Anglo-Saxon date. At **SNP 009**, 450m to the east of the PDA, is a single sherd of Ipswich ware that was found during field walking. Although it is just outside of the 1km search area the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at **SNP 007** should be mentioned as it is a nationally significant monument. There were originally approximately seven mounds, one of which contained a boat burial, one of only two of this date found in Britain, the other being the Sutton Hoo burial. **SNP 007** is a mixed burial rite cemetery with cremations and inhumations as well as the boat burial which may be the resting place of an early East Anglian King possibly the predecessor of the man buried in the Sutton Hoo ship. No settlement has yet been

found in the area of the cemetery, but there may be one nearby yet to be discovered.

### **Medieval (1066-1500AD)**

Five HER entries represent the medieval period. **FNM 001** is the findspot of an annular brooch that was found metal detecting. **SNP 009** is the site of the Priory of St Mary 450m to the east of the PDA. It was a small Benedictine priory founded 1155 by William Martell, his wife and son, as a dependant of St John's Colchester. It was intended for 12 monks but it is doubtful whether this number was ever reached. **SNP 026** is 'Conyngyre Hill' 450m to the east of the PDA. It is listed in the priory dissolution survey and may refer to a possible rabbit warren at this site. **TUN 002** is the site of the former Church of St Mary's Dunningworth that was built sometime before 1254 and fell out of use in the late 16th century. It is located 650m to the south-east of the PDA. **SNP 034**, 800m to the north of the PDA is where coarseware sherds and four glazed sherds of late medieval transitional type pottery were found.

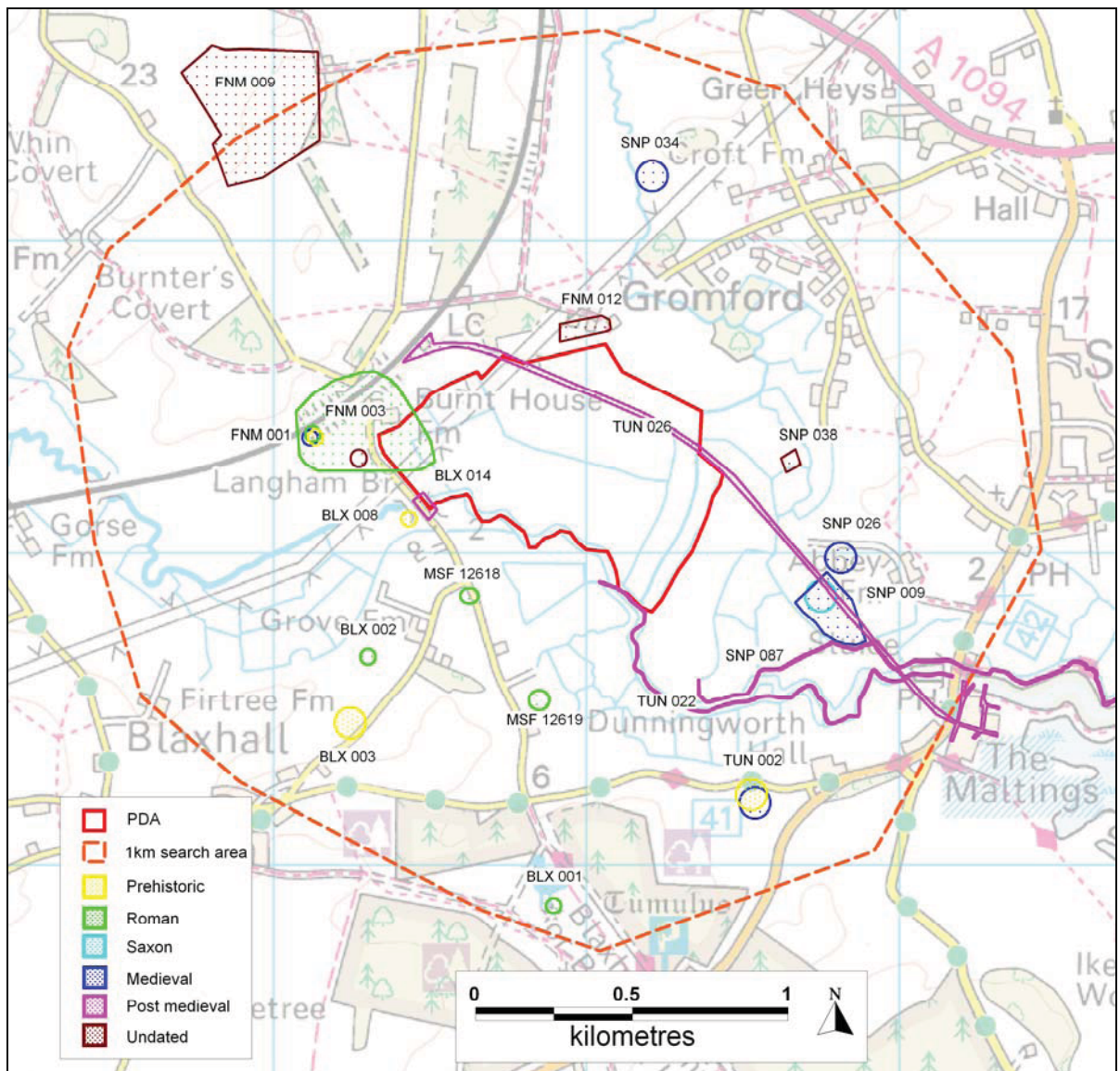
### **Post Medieval (1500-1900AD)**

There are three post-medieval entries recorded in the HER. **BLX 014**, is Langham Bridge that is adjacent to the south-western side of the PDA. It is first shown on Bowen's map of 1575, but there is an earlier document, a deed for land at Farnham dated 19th of December 1294 that mentions a bridge at 'Languade'. **TUN 022** is a flood defence bank on the south side of the River Alde opposite the south-western side of the PDA that runs for approximately 3.7km. **SNP 087**, is a sea bank on the northern side of the River Alde 300m to the south-east of the PDA.

### **Undated**

There are four undated entries recorded in the HER. **FNM 003** is a cropmark of a sub-rectangular enclosure running north-south, adjacent to the south-western corner of the PDA. **FNM 012** is 400m to the west of the PDA and is a cropmark showing as a driveway that runs east-west with associated small fields to the north. **FNM 013** is the cropmarks of a field system that is on a different alignment to the modern fields and is located 900m to the north-east of the PDA. **SNP 038** is the cropmark of part of a rectangular enclosure in a low lying field by the River Fromus.





©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 4. HER entries within 1km of the PDA



## **Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)**

### **Conservation Areas**

There are no conservation areas within the 250m search area.

### **Listed Buildings**

A search was carried out on the Suffolk HER and on the listed building web site <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>. There are no Listed Buildings within the 250m search area.

### **Historic Landscape Characterisation (after Williamson, 2007)**

These areas are not easy to describe or define. They generally occur in narrow valleys, some way inland from the coast, on peaty soils. They lack the highly serpentine channels associated with the reclamation of former salt marsh, but – while they usually include a high proportion of straight dykes – they also contain numerous less regular boundaries, including examples representing relict stream courses. These patterns are associated with areas of meadow and pasture, generally enclosed before c.1600 and subject to a long history of small-scale, piecemeal alteration. This historic landscape is of moderate importance and comparable to other Suffolk valley floor landscapes.



## Historic map and documentary study summary

The earliest available map showing the PDA is Hodskinson's map of 1783 (Fig. 5), but the map shows no detail in this area. The next available map was surveyed in 1804 by Isaac Johnson (Fig. 6), it shows slightly more detail than Hodskinson's map and also names the various owners of the land. The 1841 tithe map of Farnham (Fig. 7) shows the actual field boundaries and its associated apportionment names the fields (Fig. 8). The only differences between the 1841 tithe map (Fig. 7) and the 1886 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 9) is the 'Great Eastern Railway (Snape Branch) that cuts across existing field boundaries. There is also no change in the field pattern in the next Ordnance Survey map of 1904 (Fig. 10). The next piece of evidence is the 1947 aerial photograph (Fig. 11) that shows that the field pattern is the same as it was in 1904. The modern aerial photograph (Fig. 12) shows that there has been further consolidation into larger fields with the loss of drainage ditches. The lidar image (Fig. 13) shows the remaining main drainage ditches.

The PDA was known as Langwade Fen and the adjoining small hamlet as Langham. Langwade as a place-name suggests a long ford or crossing. The ford would have predated the construction of Langham Bridge formerly Langwade Bridge, though there is documentary evidence to show that a bridge has existed from at least the thirteenth century onwards. There was also a mill. This mill is mentioned in the two Leiston Abbey charters both dated to pre 1212 and it is tempting to associate this mill with an earlier mill mentioned in the Domesday Survey c. 1086. As Domesday compares each landholding to the pre-conquest landholding the site mill may date from the Late Anglo-Saxon period. The mill was gone or was 'waste' by the late fifteenth century, however the reference to 'Mill Marsh' and especially 'Millholm' in the manorial extent shows that the site was still known at end of the sixteenth century. The field name element 'holm' is from two different Scandinavian words one meaning a meadow, the other an island.

Another interesting part of the manorial extents are the references to the Old and New rivers. This may possibly relate to the Alde though the possibility that they are references to the palaeochannel identified through the use of aerial photography in the earlier report (Rolfe 2007) should not be ignored.



Figure 5. Hodkinson's map of 1783

(no scale)



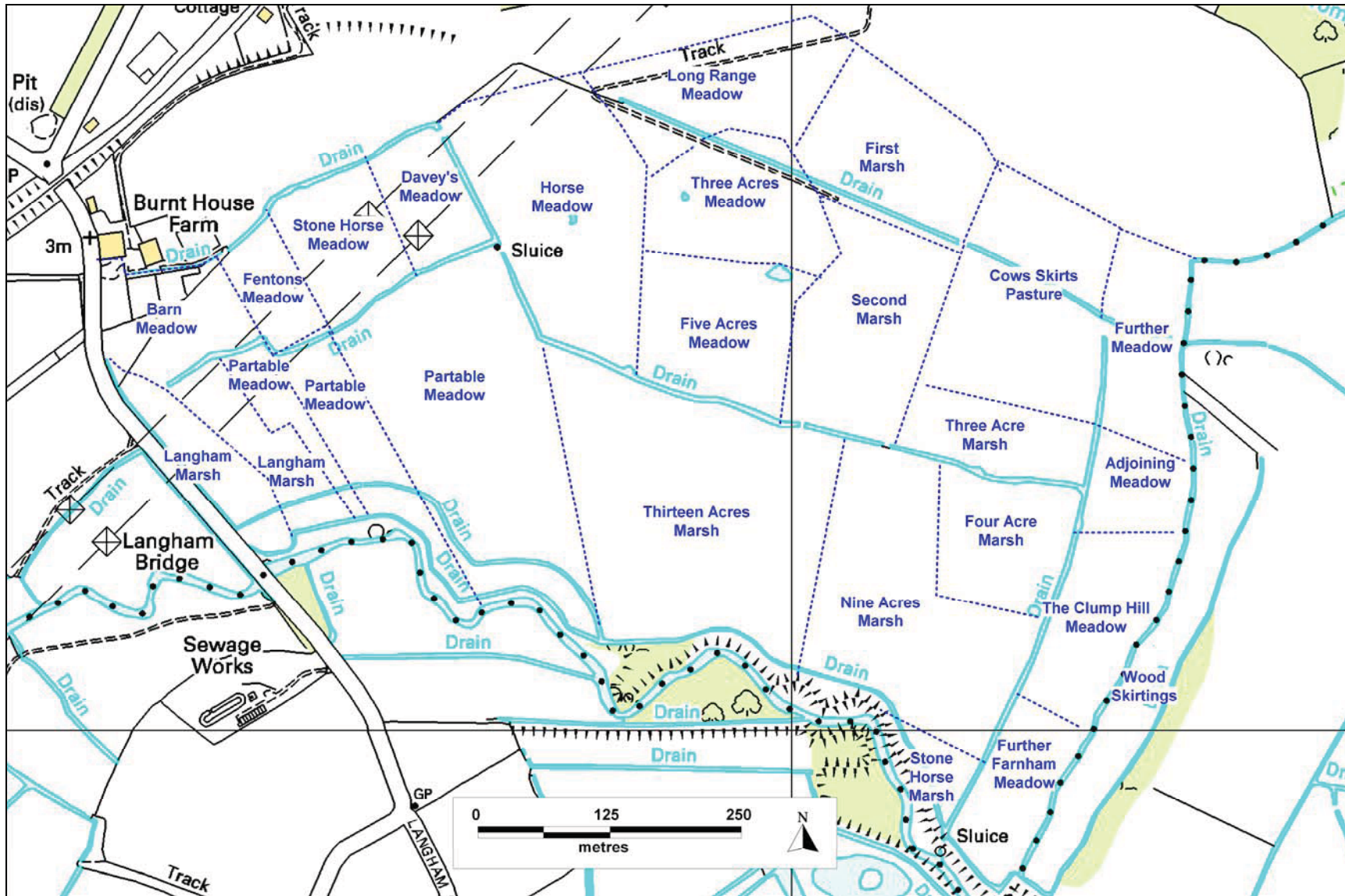


Figure 6. Extract from the 1803 map of Farnham by Isaac Johnson, showing the PDA (no scale)



Figure 7. Extract from the 1841 tithe Map of Farnham, showing the PDA (no scale)





©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure 8. Old field boundaries and names (based on the tithe map of 1839)

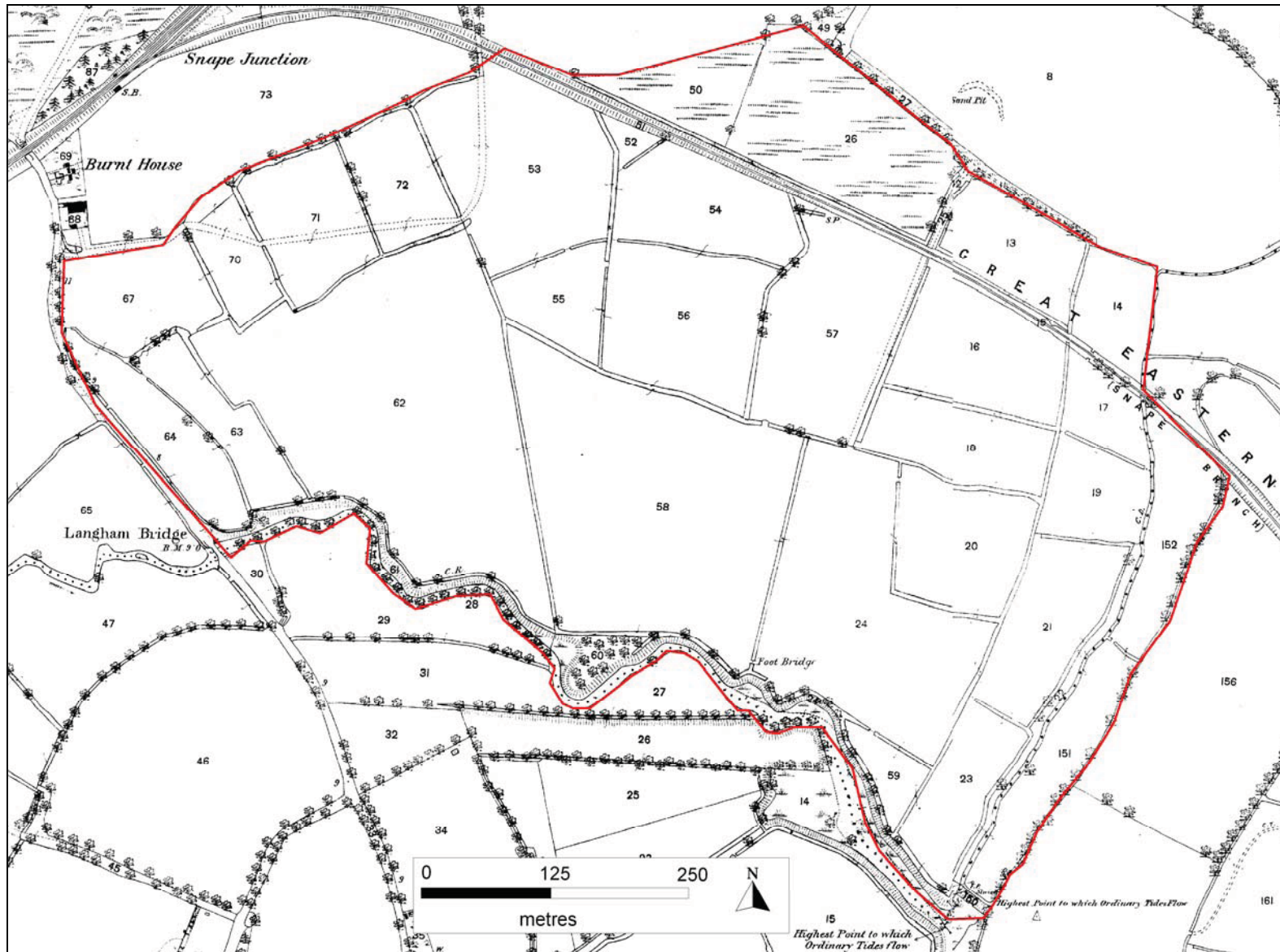


Figure 9. Ordnance Survey map of 1886



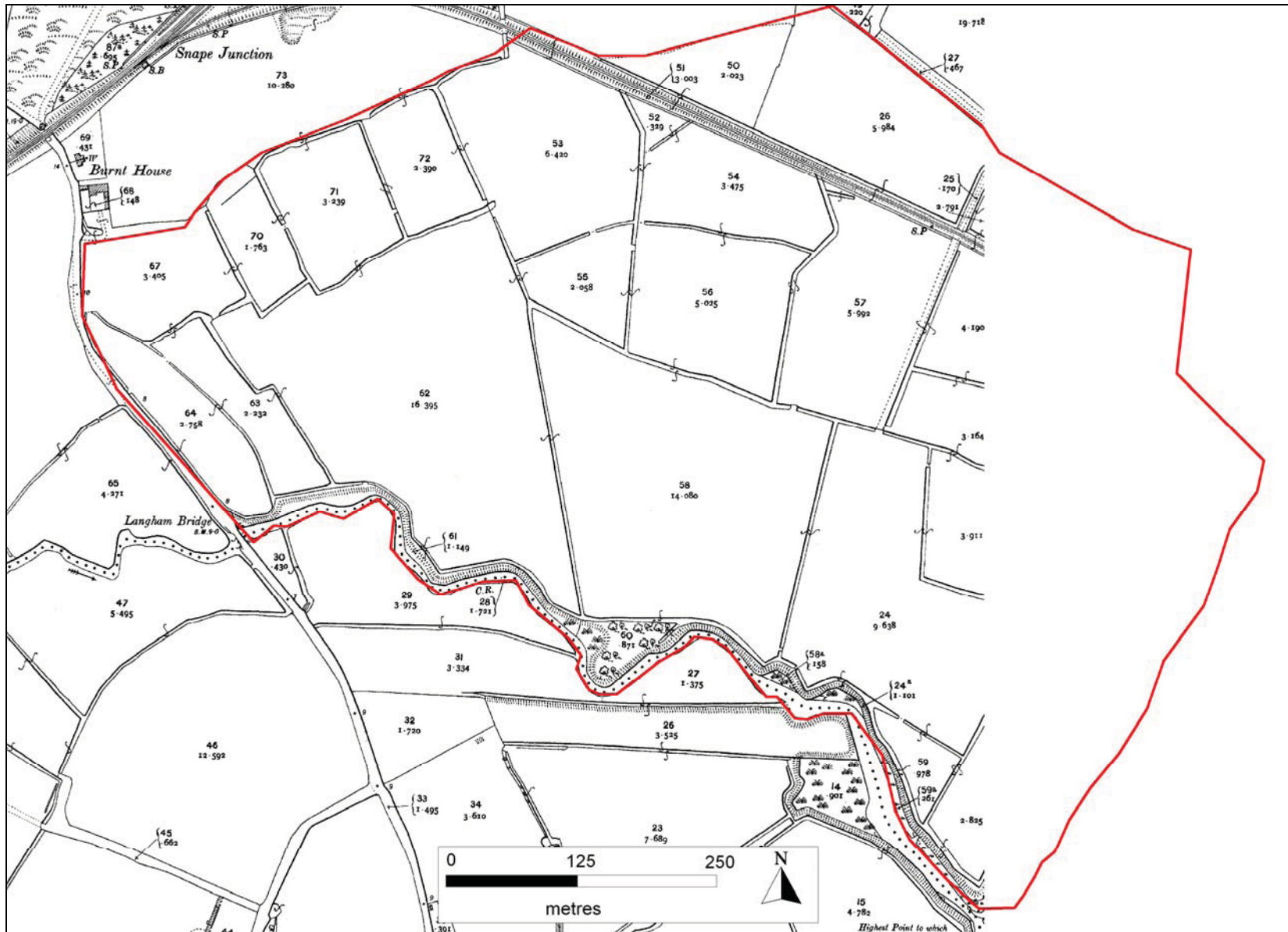


Figure 10. Ordnance Survey map of 1904

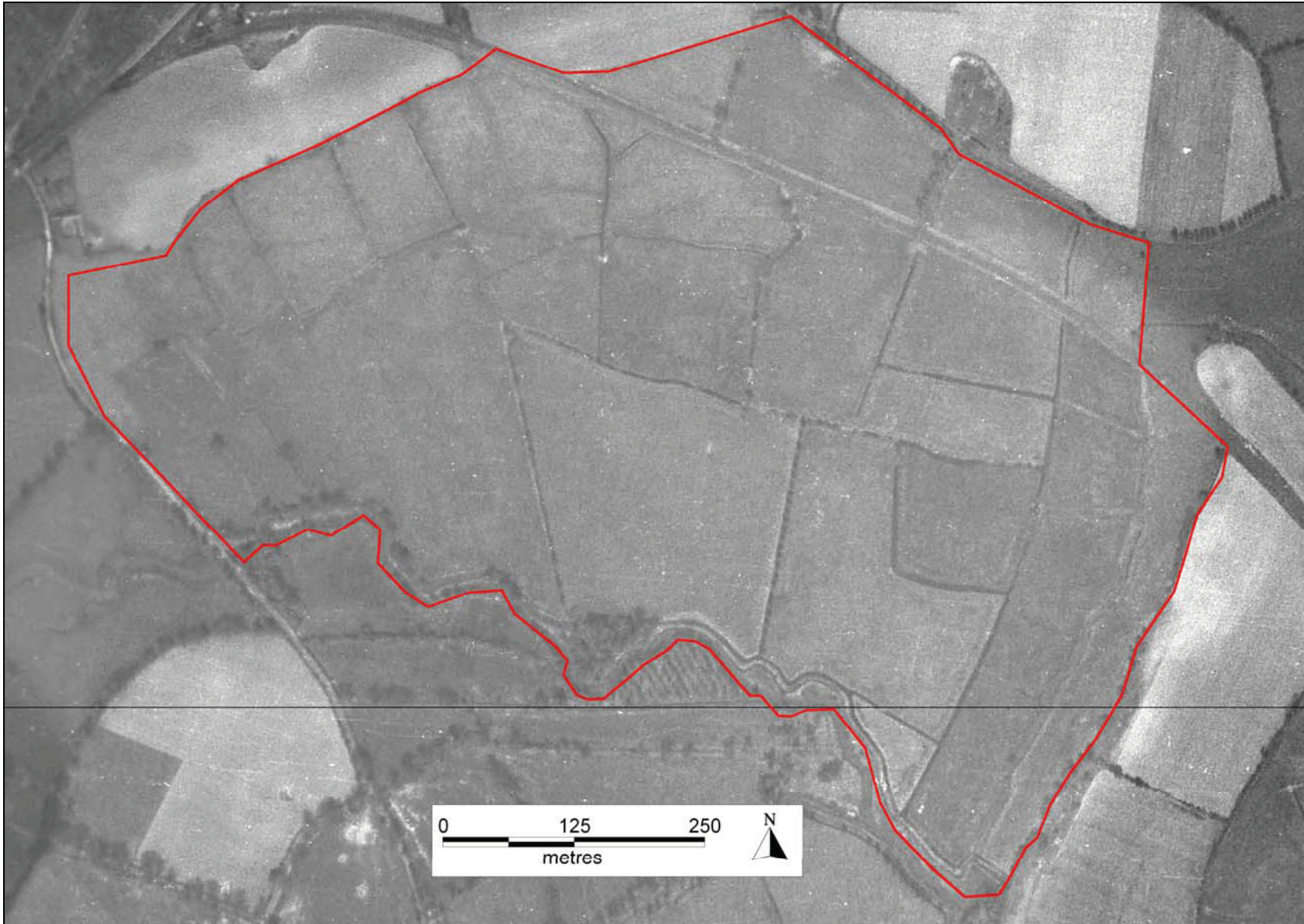


Figure 11. Aerial Photograph from 1947





Figure 12. Current Aerial Photograph (© 2009 Google)



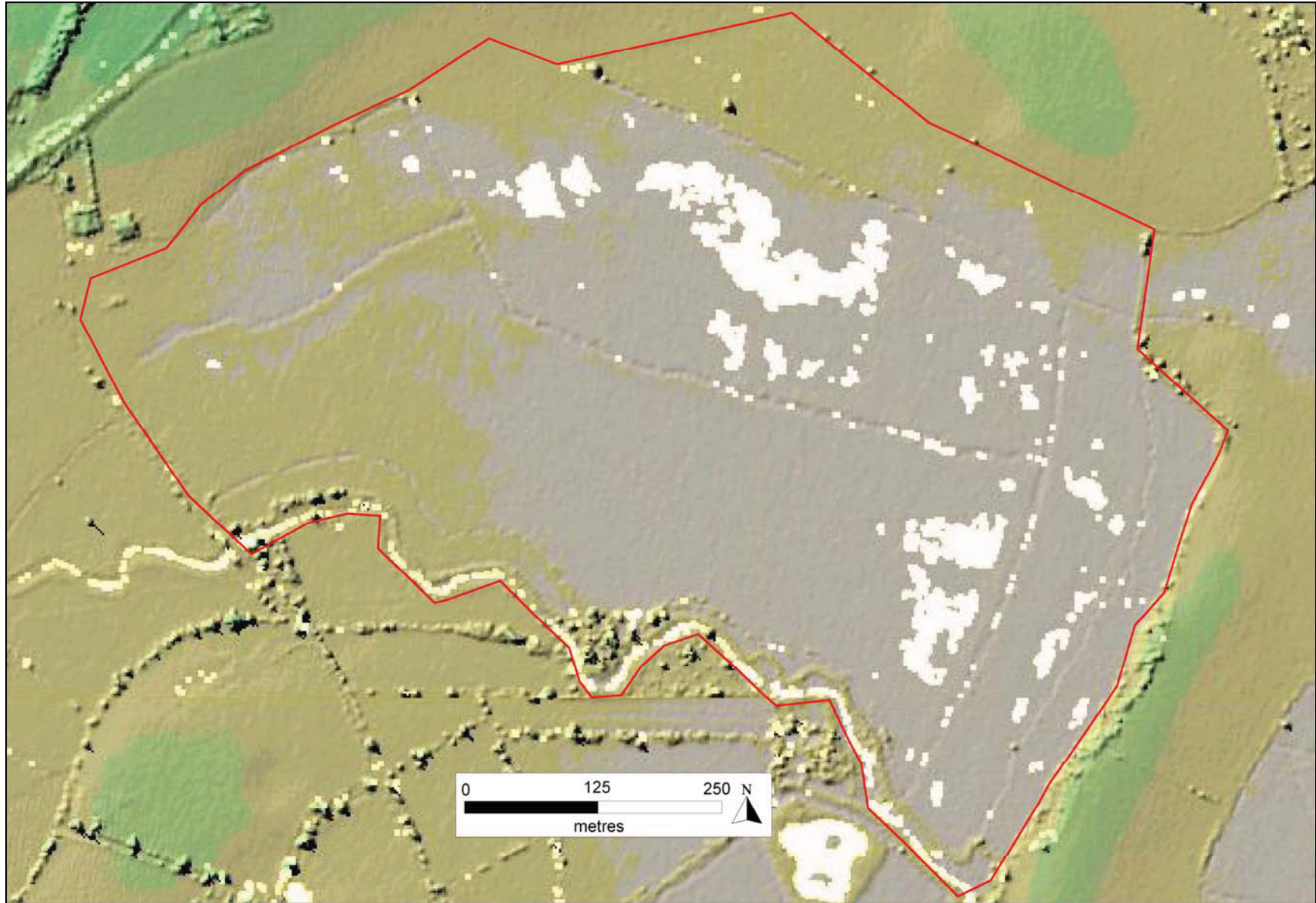


Figure 13. Mid resolution Lidar image of the PDA

### 3. Assessment of impacts and effects

#### The archaeological potential of the PDA

The location of the PDA is between the River Alde and the River Fromus on the floodplain overlooked by higher ground. Throughout time this topographic location would have provided a good environment with diverse resources for local peoples to exploit. At other locations within Suffolk with similar topography, there is rich and varied archaeological evidence from the earliest prehistory to the present day. There is therefore, no reason why evidence of human activity within the PDA from any period could not be encountered here. The location of the PDA at the tidal extreme of the River Alde has a high archaeological potential in respect to it being an important transport route for people and goods from prehistoric times onwards.

Examining the distribution of reported archaeological material; it can be seen that there are a greater number of sites on the higher ground surrounding the PDA than on the valley floor. At similar locations within Suffolk where more work has been carried out, these valley floor environments are seen to be areas of high archaeological potential e.g. Beccles.

There is a moderate potential for the discovery of prehistoric material within the PDA as it would have been an area of varied and plentiful resources. There is evidence for prehistoric activity from the Neolithic and the Bronze Age within the 1km search area. Although the majority of the evidence is on the higher ground surrounding the PDA there is a moderate potential for the discovery of further material within the PDA. The topography of Climp Hill to the north, with its south-facing slope extending into the north edge of the PDA, would be a typical prehistoric settlement location.

There is a high potential for encountering Roman material within the western corner of the PDA, close to **FNM 001** (the bath house) and within **FNM 003** (an artefact scatter that could possibly represent the site of a tile kiln or a building/s that may relate to the nearby bath house). The location of the already known sites of this date, beside or close to the river shows that the river was an important feature in the landscape, whether for transportation or exploitation (water or food), this suggests

that there is moderate potential for further archaeological material from this date to be found.

The documentary study has suggested that there was a Late Anglo-Saxon mill close to 'Langwade Bridge' and this could potentially be within the PDA. It is therefore thought that there is a moderate potential of encountering Anglo-Saxon material within the PDA.

In the medieval period the documentary sources indicate that there was a mill close to 'Langwade Bridge' and also a hamlet called 'Langwade'. Either the mill and/or the hamlet could potentially be within the PDA. There is a high potential for encountering medieval material within the western part of the PDA and a moderate potential for encountering medieval material throughout the rest of the PDA.

During most of the post-medieval period the whole of the PDA was pasture, suggesting that there is limited potential for archaeological material from this period to be encountered, except for the course of the railway line which is not regarded as of high significance.

## **Regional research framework**

The potential archaeological information resulting from this project may offer the potential to address research priorities (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) relating to changes in hydrology, channel morphology and sedimentation, particularly the date at which large scale alleviation began. These issues are related to changes in base-levels and climate, but also to land use within the catchment.

## **Potential of preserved archaeological remains within the PDA**

As discussed above, the PDA has a moderate to high potential for archaeological remains from most periods. The historic land use of the PDA is one of marshland that was reclaimed in the medieval period. The land-use of the PDA until the end of World War II was reclaimed marshland, maintained as pasture. In the post-war period until the 1990's the PDA was in use for arable production. Post 1990 the PDA

was returned to pasture. Therefore any archaeological remains present under the cultivation layer are likely to be preserved.

The physical position of the PDA on the floodplain is an ideal location for the preservation of waterlogged and palaeo-environmental material. This evidence could be from almost any period of time, from the Mesolithic through to the medieval period. At other locations within Suffolk with similar topographic positions e.g. Beccles, well preserved prehistoric material has been found. Within the PDA there is a high potential for the discovery of waterlogged material associated with the Roman occupation and the possible Anglo-Saxon and medieval watermills. Any waterlogged remains associated with either of these sites would be of a high archaeological value and should be considered on a similar level to a SAM.

### **Assessment of the impact of the development on the archaeological resource**

Historically, the majority of the PDA represents medieval reclaimed and maintained grassland, except for a brief period between the 2nd World War and the 1990s when it was under arable cultivation. The flooding of the grassland could change the historic character of the landscape.

Any proposed excavation activity, for example the ditch digging, re-profiling or the scraping of the ground to create open water ponds, could have a negative effect on the archaeological resource. In the worse case this could lead to the total destruction of any waterlogged material encountered and at best partial destruction of the deposits before they are recognised and appropriately dealt with. If the excavation was limited to just cleaning out the already existing drainage ditches this would have a less damaging affect on the archaeological resource, although it has the potential to have some impact during the cleaning process or through compaction due to heavy machine work.

There is a high potential for encountering waterlogged remains as suggested above from the Roman occupation or Anglo-Saxon and/or medieval watermills. Also as yet unknown material from the prehistoric to the early medieval period could be

encountered, as has been seen at other similar geographical locations such as Beccles. It is potentially these deposits that are under the greatest threat.



## 4. Mitigation measures

It is thought that there are no known grounds at present, to consider refusal of permission in order to achieve preservation *in situ* of any important archaeological deposits. Mitigation would therefore require that an adequate record is made of any archaeological features or finds which would otherwise be destroyed by the development.

During the process of producing detailed ground works proposals the EA/RSPB should liaise closely with the county archaeological advisor over draft plans, so the resulting planned works (ground works and any planting) are sympathetic with and enhance the existing historic features and landscape. The management plan for the site will need to ensure that any maintenance or future improvements will not impact upon the integrity of the archaeological resource.

When areas for ground disturbance/ditching or cleaning are finalised these should be assessed in the field for potential peat deposits. These can then be evaluated prior to any large works starting and can be targeted for close monitoring and any potentially important deposits can be avoided if they are likely to be compromised.

The detailed ground work proposals should state how the works will affect the water levels overall and whether there are any plans to install sluices, pumps etc to artificially control the water levels.

If any areas are to be cultivated in any way e.g. sowing for pasture, the opportunity should be given for field walking survey (and cultivation should be no deeper than existing cultivation levels).



## 5. Conclusions / Recommendations

Through an examination of the Suffolk HER, a map and documentary search and an examination of aerial photographs, this DBA has set the PDA within its immediate archaeological landscape.

The potential for archaeological deposits to be present within the PDA is generally thought to be high in the western part of the PDA and moderate in the rest of the PDA. There is a high potential for encountering some waterlogged or palaeo-environmental material of most periods within the PDA.

The land-use of the PDA until the end of World War II was reclaimed marshland, maintained as pasture. In the post-war period until the 1990's the PDA was in use for arable production. Post 1990 the PDA was returned to pasture. Therefore any archaeological remains present under the cultivation layer are likely to be preserved.

It is thought that there are no grounds to consider refusal of permission in order to achieve preservation *in situ* of any important archaeological deposits. Mitigation would therefore require that an adequate record is made of any archaeological features or finds which would otherwise be destroyed by the development.

During the process of producing detailed ground works proposals the EA/RSPB should liaise closely with the county archaeological advisor over draft plans, so the resulting planned works (ground works and any planting) act sympathetically and enhance the existing historic features and landscape. The management plan for the site will need to ensure that any maintenance or future improvements will not impact upon the integrity of the archaeological resource.

When areas for ground disturbance/ditching or cleaning are finalised these should be assessed in the field for potential peat deposits. These can then be evaluated prior to any large works starting and can be targeted for close monitoring and any potentially important deposits can be avoided if they are likely to be compromised.

The detailed ground work proposals should state how the works will affect the water levels overall and whether there are any plans to install sluices, pumps etc to artificially control the water levels.

## 6. List of contributors and Acknowledgements

This project was funded and commissioned by the RSPB. The desk based assessment was carried out by James Rolfe, of SCCAS/FT, the documentary study by Anthony M. Breen, a freelance historical documentary researcher. The project was managed by Joanna Caruth, Senior Project Officer, of SCCAS/FT.

## 7. Bibliography

- Ordnance Survey, 1983     *'Soils of England and Wales': Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000* Harpenden 1983.
- Brown, N., and Glazebrook, J., 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Easter Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.*
- Rolfe, J., 2007             *Land at Abbey Farm, Snape.* SCCAS Report No.2007/012.
- Williamson, T., 2007     'Coastal Marsh Historic Landscape Characterisation' Appendix 3, in Good, C. and Plouviez, J., *The Arcaeology of the Suffolk Coast* (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).

### 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.





# Appendix 1

## Brief and Specification

### *Botany Farm, Farnham*

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The RSPB has acquired land at Botany Farm, Snape (parish of Farnham) in order to create wet (mainly reedbed) habitat for birds (to replace future losses nearer the coast).
- 1.2 This specification is in response to a pre-planning application enquiry. Current plans for the excavation of open areas have been criticised as unsympathetic to the historic landscape, and based on insufficient evidence of former landscape features.
- 1.3 The land acquired is 52ha centred TM379583 in the valley of the Alde on the north side of the river. The entire area is below 5m OD, with a rise to the west. To the north-east and south-east there are areas of higher ground between here and the Fromus valley at Abbey Farm, Snape. The soils are alluvium and peats over sands.
- 1.4 An area of Roman activity has been approximately defined to the west (FNM 003) which includes a bathhouse structure and evidence of industrial activity. The only other site recorded on the HER within the land parcel is the route of a railway (TUN 026). However low-lying areas such as this have extremely high potential for previously undiscovered and well preserved remains, particularly of organic structures such as trackways and organic artefacts. The landscape on 1880's OS includes small, sometimes irregular, meadows which are now merged into much larger wet grassland blocks.
- 1.5 A detailed desk-based assessment of the known and potential archaeology and landscape history for the area is required to inform the design of the new wetland areas.

#### 2. Objectives

- 2.1 To collate and assess the existing information regarding archaeological and historical remains within and adjacent to the site. It is important that a sufficient area around the target area is studied in order to give adequate context; in this instance an area with boundaries 250m beyond the parcel boundaries will be appropriate. This includes part of an adjacent area previously studied for RSPB at Abbey Farm
- 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 evidence for previous natural and man-made features that could be restored or used within the scheme design.

### **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, old watercourses and any earlier buildings. Copies must 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 to identify and plot former watercourses and boundaries.
- 3.5 Investigate the availability of Lidar for further topographic detail of watercourses and boundaries.

### **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.
- 4.3 Synthesise the evidence and place it in its local and/or regional context.
- 4.4 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).
- 4.5 A comprehensive list of all sources consulted (with specific references) should be included.

- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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).
- 4.8 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.

Specification by: Judith Plouviez, Archaeological Officer

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR  
Tel: 01284 352448  
Email: jude.plouviez@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 17 November 2009

Reference: SCCAS\_ArchSpecDBA BotanyFarm\_JP\_Nov2009.doc

**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**

#### **Introduction**

The research for this report has been carried out at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich. The Suffolk Archaeological Unit have supplied copies of the current and first two editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps of this area with the study area defined on each map. The area is to the north of the River Alde and includes all the meadow system from the road between Burnt House Farm and Langham Bridge in the west to the parish boundary with Snape in the east. The northern boundary rests on various field boundaries to the south of Botany Farm. The site is dissected in part by the now dismantled railway line the 'Great Eastern Railway (Snape Branch)'. This study area overlaps the area of an earlier study of the meadows in Snape (SCCAS report Rolfe 2007) and it is important to emphasize that these two areas are entirely separate and not part of the same drainage system.

#### **Snape**

The parish boundary between Snape and Farnham runs along the line of a ditch that contained flowing water with a sluice on the embankment of the River Alde close to the southern end at the ditch. On the first two editions of the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps sheet number LIX.12 the sluice's drain into the River Alde is marked as a gap in the riverside mudflats. The direction of water flow into the ditch is shown on the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey maps sheet number LX.9, in the ditch to the north of the field numbered 158 on the maps. The ditch flows east-west and at its western end it turns southwards towards the River Alde. There is a second ditch to the east that runs almost parallel to that forming the parish boundary. In the previous report (Rolfe op. cit.), the field between the two ditches is named as Wood Skirtings on a map circa 1794 (see page 29) with the field to the north corresponding to 158 on the Ordnance Survey maps named as 'Climp Hill Meadow'. The Skirtings are identified in the report as a palaeochannel. This is based on the interpretation of aerial photographs. This suggests that almost the entire Abbey Farm meadow system is a result of the construction of the riverside embankment and the drainage of the meadows was

achieved through the cutting the ditches, the straightening of former channels and channelling the water to and through a system of sluices. The sluices were a viable means of land drainage in the area of Abbey Farm, Snape because the River Alde was subject to the surge of the tide up to a point at the boundary of Snape and Farnham. This 'Highest point to which Ordinary Tides Flow' is marked on the Ordnance Survey maps.

The history of the meadowlands in Snape has been discussed in the previous report and this material has not been revisited here.

## **Langham**

In the medieval period, Farnham unlike Snape, was part of the properties of Butley Priory founded in the late twelfth century. The founder of the priory was Rannulf de Glanville who also founded Leiston Abbey (Copinger 1909). There are two separate charters for the grant of a 'mill with appurtenant rights' to Leiston Abbey both dated to before 1212. The grant from Rannulf de Onehouse describes this mill as 'my mill of Lag Wade with all the river and my pond and with Smithespol and with an alder grove adjoining the same river and the lands towards the east and west adjoining the aforesaid river' (Mortimer 1979). Rannulf had married a daughter of Norman de Peasenhall and the mill had been part of the marriage settlement. The second charter of Norman de Peasenhall describes the mill in very similar terms except that it is called Langwade. Both charters reserve a sum of two marks from this grant.

In a copy of 'Extracts from ancient survey book or extent of the manor of Benhall & Farnham' (ref. HA 408/8/74) there is a further reference to the 'the several waters from Dernefordbrigge as far as Langwadebrigge of that water mill that of late stood built there now nothing all wasted'. The original document is simply described as an 'ancient survey book' without a date however in another part of the text it does mentioned the lands of Richard Colvyll a native tenant.

The mill may possibly that referred to in the Domesday survey, c. 1086, in the entry under the lands of Roger Bigot (Rumble 1986 7.133)

In Farnham Leofric also held before 1066; 20 acres ... Meadow, 4 acres; 1 mill Value 5s William Malet and Robert Malet also held this. Now Norman holds it from Roger'.

The other entry for Farnham under the lands of Robert Malet makes no mention of any other mill (see Rumble 6:50).

The copy of the extracts is amongst a bundle of papers labelled to 'the right of free warren claimed by Sir H. Parker' (ref. HA 408/8/74). Free warren is the right to hunt game. Amongst these papers there is a map of Farnham dated 1803 that labels Langham Bridge as 'Langwade or Langham'. This map is described in further detail later in this report. The evidence of the two charters show that there was a mill next to or close to this bridge and that the lands associated with the mill adjoined the river to both to the east and west. The bundle includes copies of other documents dating from 1292 onwards relating to the manor of Benhall and Farnham. The lands of this manor were in Benhall, Farnham and Stratford.

The bundle includes 'extracts from the court rolls of Benhall as to the rights of the Lord of the manor of Benhall over the adjoining manor of Farnham'. At a court held in 1461 there are references to and the killing of hares and rabbits within the warren or 'Conyger'. At the same court Martinmeadow in Farnham is mentioned and names of other meadows appear in the later courts such as Hawkesmeadow in 1463.

Hawkesmeadow was associated with a tenement called Hawkers and other lands include 'Woodlandhill'. In 1468 there is a reference to three acres of meadow and five acres of marsh in Farnham'. In 1473 there is a reference to Stratford Meadow described as a marsh and part of the demesne that is the land under the direct control of the lord of the manor. At a court held in the Feast of the 'Conversion of St Paul 14 Edw 4' that is 25 January 1474 the lady of the manor 'with other persons' were amerced that is fined 'for not clearing the ditches towards the meadows in Farnham, which cause the neighbouring meadows were underwater'. At another court in the same year there is a reference to another meadow called 'Farnham Fen'. At the court held in May 1474, the lady of the manor granted to Richard Colvyll of Farnham 'her warren of hares, conies, partridges & pheasants in Benhale & Farnham and the fishery in the river of the same Lady from Swyftelyngbrigge to Langwadebrigge' for the term of twenty years at an annual rent of 12s. In 1528 a William Colvyll was granted 'a piece of marsh called

Hawkers Fen in Farnham'. A pencilled note on the 1803 map suggests that much of the meadow was to the west of Langham Bridge.

The original extracts are in a document held at the British Library (ref. Add 23967) and this document was published in Copinger's 'Manors of Suffolk' under his description of the manor of Benhall. The manor of Benhall was sold to Admiral Sir Hyde Parker in December 1801. Copinger also records a reference to Langwade Bridge in a claim 'by the Lord of Benhall Manor in the river running from Sweffling Bridge to Langwade Bridge and of sporting over the lands in Farnham' from the manorial rolls for 34 Edw III (1360-61) and 14 and 18 Edw IV (1474-75 and 1478-1479).

There is an earlier reference to Langwade Bridge in a deed in the Iveagh Collection dated 19 December 1294 in which the piece of land is described as between the 'way leading from Benhall to the bridge of Languade' and abutting the 'way leading from Languade to the bridge of Thelford' (ref. HD 1538/219).

There was also a hamlet of Langwade mentioned in another deed dated 2 March 1442 in which William Goode, John Skeyton and Robert Goodung all of Tunstall granted to William Ferthyng rector of Dennington and Reginald Ferthyng rector of Blaxhall and others 'all lands and tenement in Blaxhale, Tunstall, Donyngworth and Langwade except two pieces of meadow, one called Semannys Medwe lying in Langwade Hamlet' (ref. HD 1538/136/1).

Langwade was not only the area around the bridge and adjoining meadows but the entire meadow system from the road to the parish boundary with Snape. The name 'Langwade Fenns' appears in late sixteenth century manorial extents of the Manor of Farnham. These documents are described later in this report.

## **Sale Plans and Maps**

Botany Farm consisting of 116.704 acres was offered for sale in 1965 (ref. SC 156/1). There is no sale plan in the particulars though the lands are described in some detail. 'The land is an easy working light soil and includes several good marshes along the river Alde from which presumably it would be possible to irrigate'. The schedule uses the same Ordnance Survey parcel numbers that had been in use from the first edition of

the 1:2500 maps. The plots 16, 18, 20, 24, 57, 58, 59 and 60 are all described as marshes. The railway line described as 'disused' was then part of the farm. The title was 'as to the major portion of the property with the Will dated 17th day of August 1882 of the Reverend Edmund Hollond who died on the 19th day of March 1884' and 'as to a small part (being a part of the disused railway' with a conveyance on sale dated the 1st day of December 1859'. Reverend Edmund Hollond was the lord of the manor of Benhall (Copinger op. cit.).

In 1949 the meadows at the western and eastern ends of this site were sold as part of the sale of the Ullswater Estate. Lord Lowther, Viscount Ullswater, a former speaker of the House of Commons, had lived at Campsea Ashe, and his extensive estates included lands in Blaxhall, Tunstall and adjoining parishes (ref. SC 088/2). The meadows in Farnham were sold in two separate lots. The area at the western end of this site and to both sides of Langham Bridge was coloured in yellow on the sale plan and sold as lot 44 and at the eastern end a separate area coloured in green was sold as lot 46. Lot 44 was described as 'Burnt House Farm, Farnham' then tenanted to 'Mr R.H. Sherwood' whose land was 'mostly good quality marsh with about 29 acres of light loam arable upland'. The schedule uses the same parcel numbers as on the Ordnance Survey maps with all the areas of this site, with the exception of 61 described as 'River Wall', being marsh. Lot 46 was described as 'Freehold Marshland 12 acres 2 roods 32 poles', 'let to Mr P.E. Runnacles'. In the conditions of sale title commenced 'with the assent dated 17th April 1917 by the Executors and Trustees ... of late Hon William Lowther' together with abstracts from an earlier sale dated 15th October 1883.

There is a copy of the sale particulars for Farnham Hall Farm in the Farrar Collection (ref. HD78:2671). The particulars are not dated and include a sale plan based on the contemporary Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The boundaries of the farm are coloured in yellow and the '484 acres 1 Rood or thereabouts' are listed in the schedule divided under the headings of 'arable', 'heath lands', 'buildings, roads, driftways, river wall &c', 'pasture and marshes' and 'details of woods'. Of the fields within the this study area only the Ordnance survey parcel numbers 13, 16, 18 and 20 are listed under 'pasture and marshes' the other numbers do not appear in the schedule.

There is a second copy of this plan (ref. SC 363/1) showing that it was prepared as part of the sale of an 'Attractive Sporting and Agricultural Estate' consisting of 841 acres sold

on 1st August 1911. The other farms were Common Farm, Snape, Sternfield Hall Farm and Watering Farm, also in Snape. The Farnham Hall Farm was then tenanted to Mr R Hayward. The sale included 'also the advowson and sole right of presentation to the Living of Farnham' suggesting that the farm had earlier been the site of the manor of Farnham. All the land is described as freehold. The vendor of this estate was William Evelyn Long whose family lived at Hurst Hall in Saxmundham.

The 'Snape Bridge Branch Line' was first proposed as part of the 'East Suffolk Railway Halesworth to Woodbridge' in 1853 (ref. B150/2/5.76a & b) and a plan of the route deposited with the clerk of peace of the County's quarter sessions, the then administrative body for the county. The branch line is shown within its two lines of deviation and the fields are numbered and described in a separate schedule. Some cottages at the junction of the branch line with the mainline were demolished to make way for the line. The schedule described the fields; apart from that numbered 12, as 'grass'. The field 12 was described as 'arable'. The section of the line numbered 12-16 was the property of John George Sheppard and in the occupation of his tenant James Hillen. Sheppard also owned '19 Drifts and Whins'. The fields numbered 17-18 and 20-22 were the property of William Long and in the occupation of his tenant Thomas Barber.

There is a copy of the 1841 Tithe Map for Farnham in the Isaac Johnson Collection (ref. HD 11:475/1243) together with a full copy of the apportionment. The marshland was then divided between three proprietors William Long the owner of Farnham Hall held the areas to marsh towards the eastern end of this study area, though not the meadow shown in blue and marked as lot 46 on the sale plan of the Ullswater Estates. Long also 'Langham Marsh' number 190 situated close to, but not adjoining, Langham Bridge. Farnham Hall and the associated lands and meadows were then in the occupation of Thomas Barber as tenant to William Long and included the arable field 154 'Clump Hill'. The executors of John Wilson Sheppard owned most of the remaining marshlands as part of a landholding of 466 acres 3 roods. His property included the site of present 'Burnt House Farm' 197 on the map. Dudley Smith owned two parts of the meadow known as 'Partable Meadow' numbered 177 and 193a on the map the remaining part of this meadow 189a was the property of Dudley Smith. Such a division of a meadow was elsewhere known as a dole. Ann Pope whose main property was in Blaxhall owned a small part of the river wall plots number 165a-165c. The map is interesting in that the



ownership of the river wall was subdivided between the owners of the adjoining meadows.

There is one other map in the Isaac Johnson Collection relating to this area (ref. HD 11:475/58). It is an undated sketch map of an unnamed farm. The owner was probably John Sheppard. It is close in date to the tithe map, though some of the field names are not the same as those that appear in the tithe apportionment. In the apportionment the meadow 187 is named as 'Davey's Meadow', but on this sketch map it is called Wall Meadow, in the apportionment 179 is Horse Meadow but on this map 'Cow Meadow' and there are other minor differences between the two documents.

There is a schedule of the lands in 'instructions for Farnham Hall Lease' dated 1809. The lease of the tenancy to John Heffer has not survived. Amongst the conditions of the lease the tenant could 'not break up any meadow or pasture land without leave under a penalty'. The meadows included 'Climp Hill Skirt' 2a 2r 4p, First, Middle and Further Skyers Meadows measured at 3 a 3 r 31p, 2a 0r 28p and 3 a 2r 18p, Sluice Marsh measured at 9 a 0r 12p Great Marsh measured at 13 a 3 r 32 p Cow Marsh 6 a 0r 12p, Horse Marsh 7a 17p and Langham Bridge 2a 0r 30p. Not all of these marshes were within this study area. Great Marsh may be the same as First Marsh 171 on the tithe map and Second Marsh 172 on the same map. The total landholding was 442 acres 2 roods 23 perches (ref. HA18/EA/4). This document is amongst the Long Family's Estate papers.

Within the bundle of documents relating to Sir Hyde Parker's claim to free warren (ref. HA408/B/74), there is a map of Farnham dated 1803 the work of the Woodbridge surveyor Isaac Johnson. The map is on four sheets of paper formerly glued together but now separate. The map is entitled 'A View of the Parish of Farnham in Plomesgate Hundred, Suffolk, exhibiting its boundaries, divisions of property, the lands called Farnham Hall Walks, Roads, Rivers, &c' and the whole was 'Laid down and planned (Chiefly from Actual Survey)'. The plan shows the position of 'Burnthouse Cottages' and a barn in a separate enclosure to the south of the cottage. Burnthouse Cottage was part of a farm tenanted to 'Denny' whose meadowlands adjoining the river included the Partable Meadows numbered 177 and 193a on the tithe map. Denny was a tenant to 'Sheppard Esq'. Two small pieces, either side of 'Langwade or Langham Bridge', were then tenanted to 'S Barthorp'. He was tenant to 'Charles Long Esq'. Charles Long held

another piece of meadow in hand and the Mr Smyth whose name marked on this map appears to have been another landowner rather than a tenant. The field names of the various walks are given in this map together with their then state of cultivation, turnips, carrots, peas, wheat etc. Walks were formerly areas of grazing and according to the earlier manorial surveys these had been heath land. The position of 'Climp Hill' part of Charles Long's property is important. This field's boundaries appear to have been changed before the time of the tithe map of 1841. Apart from the addition of the name 'Langwade' written in ink above 'Langham Bridge' there is an inscription written in pencil over the meadows to the west of Langham Bridge and as far as Beversham Bridge and beyond 'These are the lands formerly Colvyll' 'on Grant of which all Trees & Beasts of Warren were reserved'.

There are no other large-scale maps of this area at Ipswich.

## **Manorial Extents**

According to Copinger the manor of Farnham was granted to Butley Priory in 1171. It remained as part of the priory's possessions until the dissolution, though possibly leased to Sir John Glemham from 1513. The Glemham family were later granted the title to the lordship until it and other manors were sold to Sir Dudley North in the seventeenth century. At the death of another Dudley North in 1764, the manor passed to his sister Mary, the wife of Charles Long of Hurst Hall, Saxmundham (Copinger op. cit.).

There are three extents for the manor of Farnham. An extent is a description of the lands of a manor including the demesne lands held directly under the lordship and then the lands of the tenants. These extents are early seventeenth century and described the lands then held by the Glemham family under the various manors of Glemham Parva, Over Pistries or Petistre-cum-Armiger's in Stratford St Andrew's, Stratford, the Manor of Griston also in Stratford St Andrew's and Farnham. These extents offer a very different description of the geography of Farnham especially in relation to the areas of walks. The walks were then part of Farnham Heath. Each of the three extents is not specifically dated and each has been completed in a slightly different format.

The description of Farnham in the extent (ref. HA49/F1/6) begins in folio 42r with the free tenants and continues to folio 58r with a list of the customs of the manor. In the page margins the fields names mentioned in the text have been added as glosses in a later hand. The text is written in Latin and the meadows or marshes are described as either *pratium* Latin for a meadow or *palleda* a Medieval Latin word for a marsh. If it is possible to identify the positions of the various pieces in relation to later maps it would be worth re-examining this extent to determine the consistency of the usage or each description as this may suggest a process of drainage.

John Hawsyn gentleman held 'one piece of meadow near Langwade Bridge parcel of Manmeadow formerly John Howell clerk and late Dorothee Harman lying between the little piece of meadow there of the Manor of Benhall on the east and the small piece of meadow there of the manor of Benhall on the west and abuts on the Mill Marsh Waye towards the north and on the river towards the south' this piece measured just one acre. He also held 'certain lands late Whites near Langwade Bridge' (folio 42r). Robert Johnson another free tenant held 'a piece of meadow lying in Farnham aforesaid between the meadow formerly Bartholomew Dey on the west and meadow formerly John Stonhaws on the east and abuts on Clamp Hill' this was measured at only half an acre (folio 43v). Stonhaws possibly gave his name to 'Stonehorse Meadow' 185 on the tithe map. The Lord of the manor of Blaxall (Blaxhall) held various pieces of meadow including 'two pieces in the vill of Farnham on the east part of the causeway leading towards Langwade Bridge and abuts on the river at the bridge there towards the south' this was measured at 2 acres (folio 44r). John Barker alias Chapman held 'one piece of meadow in Farnham formerly William Aylmer lying between the New River on the north and Old River on the south and abuts in the meadow of the said John in the fee of Farnham formerly John Tottinge towards the west and contains half an acre' (folio 45r). The description of the native or copyhold tenants' property begins on folio 47r with that of Francis Colby who held a parcel of a 'tenement Juridons late Walter Fawlkens lying in Farnham Heath ... and abuts on the way leading from Langwade Bridge towards the Wadde towards the east and on the way leading from Snape to Langwade Bridge towards the west'. This piece was measured at four and a half acres and he had entered this property in 1575/76. He also held other parts of the heath. Thomas Parker held meadows to the north Climplill that adjoined on 'the meadows of the demesne and the priory of Snape' as according to the manorial court records of 1493 showing that the Abbey Farm meadows predate the dissolution of the abbey. Thomas Osborne held 'one

enclosed meadow near Langwade Bridge late in the tenure of Robert Smart lying between one piece of meadow of the said Thomas Osborne on the east and the common way at Langwade Bridge on the west' this piece was measured at two and a half acres (folio 48r).

Under a separate heading of 'tenants by indenture' that is those who leased lands from the manor (folio 52r), Francis Colbye had leased a parcel of 'Langwade Fen lying between Tunman Dole in part and the demesne land of this manor in the occupation of John Woode in part of the east and other piece of the demesne marsh or Fenn on the west'. This piece is labelled in the marginal gloss a 'Langwade Fen' and was measured at 10 acres 2 roods and 35 perches. He also 'another piece parcel of the marsh, called Langwade Fenn lying between the other parcel on part of the east and the meadows late of John Kinge on the west and abuts on the river to the south and on other parcels of the fen towards the north'. This piece was measured at 14 acres 3 roods and 35 perches. He also held 'one parcel of the demesne fen in two parts ditched and demised together lying between the aforesaid way leading Climp Hill in part of the east and the other parcel farmed to Thomas Woode on the west and abuts on the last piece there towards the south and on Climp Hill in part and the lands in the farm of Thomas Wood in part towards the north'. His lease of these parcels was dated 10 February 1594.

John Watkinson then held 'one piece of marsh lying between the land late John Jefferson and William Woodcock towards the east and Langwade Fen towards the west and abuts on Climp Hill towards the north', this was just one acre (folio 53v).

Thomas Wood's lands are described on folio 55v as he held a tenement called Fawnes that included various part of Farnham Heath. He also held 'one piece of meadow pasture and alder carr parcel of Langwade Fen lying between the another piece of the said marsh or fen in the farm of Francis Colby on the east and the land of John Kinge on the west and abuts on the land parcel of the tenement Fawnes towards the north and on land of the said marsh or fen in the farm of the said Francis towards the south and contains 22 acres 3 roods'. He also held 'Millholme' described as 'one meadow in Farnham called the Millholme of the demesne of Farnham lying between the Old River running from Farnham to Blaxall on the south and the New River on the North and abuts on meadow late William Cawson now Alexander Smyth towards the west and on the meadow of the tenement Fawnes towards the west and contains 4 acres and a half and

half a rood' and 'one piece of marsh formerly John Langwade and since Fawnes lying as the last piece of marsh and abuts on Millholme towards the east and on the marsh of John Barker alias Chapman towards the west and contains 2 acres 1 rood and 4 perches (folio 56r). Thomas Wood's lease was dated 7 February 1592.

John Wood held the site of the manor of Farnham and surrounding lands including 'one piece of Langwade Fens now four pieces divided by enclosing ditches lying between Tunmandole in the parts of the east and the New way there leading from Climphill towards the west and abuts on Climphill towards the north and on other parcels of Langwade towards the south and contains 12 acres 3 roods and 34 perches'. His lease was dated 8 March 1592.

Each of the leases was for a period of 21 years.

The entire manor was said to contain 120 acres 3 roods 20 perches of freehold land, 55 acres and 8 perches of copyhold and the demesne lands totalled 749 acres 3 roods 29 perches, much of the demesne had been leased. The lands were not entirely within Farnham but included parcels in Benhall, Tunstall, Rendlesham, Campsey Ash, Wantisden, Chillesford and Saxmundham (folio 57v).

Another extent (ref. HA 49/F1/7) is written in English and describes only the lands of John Wood, William Ashely, Thomas Wood, Henry Dowdey, and Francis Colby it is not dated. In this extent Francis Colby's lands included as 'Farneham Heth One greate heath with a shepherde lodge on it' measured at 216 acres. He also held two closes of land had then been recently taken in from the heath measuring 30 acres and 17 acres. The next piece was 'One peece of hetheground called Clympehill adioyning to Langwad Fenns on the south' measured at 14 acres. Other meadows are mentioned but it is not certain that these parcels were within the study area. Thomas Wood held 'one peece of medow ground lying in Langwade Medow betwene the lands of Thomas Spalding on the west and Samuel Smyth east' measured at 3 acres. He also held '4 acres and 1 rood more in Langwad Medow lyenge betwene the lands of Samuel Smyth west and Thomas Spalding east'. Another part of his land holding was 'one peece of fen called Wydales lyeing south on the Ould Ryver north on the New Ryver west on Thomas Chapman alias Barker east in Samuel Smyth lands containing' 4 acres. This extent appears to be of a slightly later date than the other.

## **Conclusion**

There is some scope for further research. Part of the meadowlands were held as copyhold either of the manor of Farnham or Benhall and possibly Blaxhall and it is possible to trace the ownership of these plots through the surviving manorial records and to linking the historic description to the mapped landscape.

One area was still at the time of the tithe map of 1841 in 'partable' ownership with the rights to the meadow shared rather than defined through ditches. Early this system would have been described as a dole as in 'Tunman Dole' mentioned in the manorial extent. The word 'dol' with the plural 'dolau' or in the dialect plural form 'dole' all continue in use in modern Welsh.

The area was known as Langwade Fen and the adjoining small hamlet as Langham. Langwade as a place-name suggests a long ford or crossing. The ford would have predated the construction of Langham Bridge formerly Langwade Bridge, though there is documentary evidence to show that a bridge has existed from at least the thirteenth century onwards. There was also a mill. This mill is mentioned in the two Leiston Abbey charters both dated to pre 1212 and it is tempting to associate this mill with an earlier mill mentioned in the Domesday Survey c. 1086. As Domesday compares each landholding to the pre-conquest landholding the site mill may date from the Late Anglo-Saxon period. The mill was gone or was 'waste' by the late fifteenth century, however the reference to 'Mill Marsh' and especially 'Millholm' in the manorial extent shows that the site was still known at end of the sixteenth century. The field name element 'holm' is from two different Scandinavian words one meaning a meadow, the other an island.

Another interesting part of the manorial extents are the references to the Old and New rivers. This may possibly relate to the Alde though the possibility that they are references to the palaeo-channel identified through the use of aerial photography in the earlier report should not be ignored.

**Anthony M Breen December 2009**



## References

Suffolk Record Office Ipswich

Sale Particulars and Maps

SC 156/1 Sale Particulars Botany farm 1965

SC 088/2 Sales Particulars with Plan Ullswater Estates 1949

SC 363/1 Sale Particulars Farnham Hall Farm 1911

HD78:2671 Farrar Collection Farnham 1911

B150/2/5.76 a & b East Suffolk Railway Halesworth to Woodbridge Plan & Schedule  
1853

HD 11:475 Isaac Johnson Collection Farnham Tithe Map and Apportionment 1841

HD 11:475/1243 Isaac Johnson Collection Undated Map of farm in Farnham

HA 408/8/74 'A View of the Parish of Farnham ... 1803' surveyor Isaac Johnson

Estate Papers

HA 18/EA/4 Proposal for a lease of Farnham Hall 1809

HA 408/8/74 Legal Papers re The right of free warren claimed by Sir H. Parker post  
1801

Iveagh Collection

HD 1538/219 Deed land in Farnham 19 December 1294

HD 1538/136/1 Deed lands in Blaxhall, Tunstall, Donningworth and Langham 2 March  
1442

Manorial Extents

HA49/F1/6 Manors held by the Glemham family Latin Late Sixteenth Century

HA49/F1/7 Manors held by the Glemham family English early Seventeenth Century

Published Works

W.A. Copinger 'The Manors of Suffolk Notes on Their History and Devolution  
Plomesgate Hundred' Vol. V Manchester 1909

Richard Mortimer 'Leiston Abbey Cartulary and Butley Priory Charters' Suffolk Records  
Society, 1979

Alex Rumble 'Domesday Book, Suffolk (Part One)' Phillimore, Chichester 1986

Suffolk Archaeological Unit

Report

James Rolfe 'Land at Abbey Farm, Snape SNP 095' SCCAS Report 2007