

**AKE044 (Site 9a). Land north of St.
Mary's Church, Akenham, Suffolk.
Post Excavation Assessment Report**



View facing north-east along medieval boundary ditch [028]

**ARS Report 2019/151
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The excavation of Site 9a was undertaken by Rebecca Trow with Rupert Lotherington. The finds assessment was undertaken by Robin Holgate, Paul Blinkhorn and Gary Taylor and Any Fawcett. The osteological assessment was undertaken by Milena Grzybowska and the paleoenvironmental assessment by Luke Parker. The project was managed by Reuben Thorpe and the external review of the document was undertaken by Wardell Armstrong LLP.

Executive Summary

Project Name: Archaeological Excavation on land north of Akenham, Suffolk

Site Code: AKE044

Planning Authority: Suffolk County Council

Location: Akenham, Suffolk

Geology: Culver Chalk Formation – Chalk. Overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel (Lowestoft Formation).

NGR: TM 14700 49000

Date of Fieldwork: July - August 2017

Date of Report: 11 April 2019

In 2017 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong LLP (WAA) to undertake an archaeological excavation on land north of St. Mary's Church, Akenham, Suffolk, centred on TM 14700 49000, as part of the East Anglia One Offshore Windfarm Project (EAOne) and in accordance with the Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) agreed with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Historic England.

The archaeological evidence retrieved from Site 9a revealed evidence for multi-phase occupation, focused on the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition period, extending from the Early Bronze Age until the early 20th century. A single fragment of residual Mesolithic flint was also recovered from a medieval boundary ditch indicating that the land bordering Akenham was exploited by hunter-gatherer communities between the 10th and 4th millennium BC. Residual Late Neolithic flakes; miscellaneous retouched flakes and a discoidal core were recovered in association with Iron Age pottery fragments were identified in another medieval plough furrow. The central and eastern portion of the site were located on a sand and gravel plateau occupied by an Early Bronze Age enclosure as well as multiple Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age waste pits and furrows. The western portion of the site contained a heavily truncated medieval boundary ditch, an east-west aligned post-medieval field boundary and an early 20th century sand and gravel extraction pit.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 The East Anglia ONE project comprised a 1200MW offshore windfarm and associated marine and land-based infrastructure works carried out under a Development Consent Order (DCO) by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR). The onshore works consisted of a 37km cable route from Bawdsey, south east of Ipswich on the Suffolk coast, to a new substation at Bramford west of Ipswich (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The programme of works was undertaken in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (WSI) (WAA 2017) agreed with Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) acting as the archaeological planning advisory on behalf of Historic England.

1.2 Site Details

1.2.1 In July 2017 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Wardell Armstrong LLP (WAA) to undertake an archaeological excavation on land north of St. Mary's Church, Akenham (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The Site, (Site 9a) is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR: TM 14700 49000, c.0.3km to the north of Akenham village. The site has been issued site code AKE 044 and event code ESF 25167-17 by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS). Previously the site has been subject to Aerial Photographic Analysis (Sutcliffe 2012), Desk Based Assessment (RSK 2012), Metal Detector Survey (WAA 2018), Geophysical Survey (Strata Scan 2015) and trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology (2016a and 2016b). The evaluation trenching comprised the excavation of four trenches (T160-163) and identified two linear features containing worked flint, a large but shallow pit and several additional features described as natural hollows produced Late Bronze Age pottery (Wessex Archaeology 2016a. 23. 2016b. Figure 6).

1.2.3 Designated 9a for the purposes of archaeological recording, the site was subject to an archaeologically monitored topsoil strip, supervised by Wardell-Armstrong prior to a set piece open area excavation undertaken as part of a phased plan of archaeological works.

1.3 Scope of the Project

1.3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (SPR 2017 Table 1) proposed set piece open area excavation of the site (Figure 2), as the appropriate mechanism for mitigation (SPR 2017. 35). This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to fieldwork taking place and is in line with government advice as set out in Section 16 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

1.3.2 This report summarises all fieldwork and subsequent post-excavation works of Site 9a and provides a heritage significance assessment with reference to national and regional research objectives identified in *East Anglia Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for The East of England* (Medlycott, 2011).

1.3.3 This assessment report was compiled in accordance with a method statement provided by Wardell Armstrong (WAA 2018) and is consistent with the principles outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE), notably *Project Planning Note 3 Archaeological Excavations* (English Heritage, 2008). The main aims of the report are to:

- Summarise the results of the archaeological fieldwork.
- Quantify the site archive and review the post-excavation work that has been undertaken to date.
- Assess the potential of the site archive to answer research aims defined in the Brief and Specification.
- Assess the significance of the data in relation to the Regional Research Framework (Glazebrook, 1997; Brown & Glazebrook, 2000) and in relation to the recently published Revised Framework (Medlycott, 2011).
- Make recommendations for further analysis (if appropriate) and dissemination of the results of the fieldwork.

1.4 Site Character

1.4.1 The excavated area is linear in plan, aligned on a broadly east-west orientation and extends across an area of 0.62ha. The site is bordered on all sides by agricultural farmland, abuts the western limit of Site 9b to the east and the eastern limit of Site 8 to the west.

1.4.2 The site lies within a predominately arable landscape, within the agricultural hinterland of nearby historic village of Akenham c.0.3km to the south. The site extends across an undulating landscape, with the western third located on a sharp incline which slopes from east to west. The height at the bottom of the slope measured 33.8m above Ordinance Datum (aOD) whilst the maximum height was 43.75m aOD at the eastern edge of the site.

1.4.3 The underlying solid geology within the western half of the site comprises Culver Chalk Formation – Chalk. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 84 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The underlying solid geology within the eastern half of the site comprises Thames Group – Clay, Silt and Sand. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 36 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. The solid geology is overlaid by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation consisting of sand and gravel formed up to two million years ago in the quaternary period (BGS 2019).

1.5 Previous Work

1.5.1 Previous work on this site has included an aerial photographic interpretation and mapping exercise (Sutcliffe, 2012), metal detection survey (WAA, 2017b), geophysical survey and a scheme of trial trench evaluation undertaken between 2015-2016 (WAA 2016a & b). A limited number of findspots have been identified within the wider area surrounding Site 9a and recorded within the Historic Environment Record (HER). 115m to the south east of the site a Medieval finds scatter was noted (AKE051). A further 200m to the south west an additional Medieval finds scatter was also recorded (AKE022). Immediately north of the site a Bronze Age spearhead was recovered (AKE015).

1.5.2 The metal detector survey (WAA, 2017b. 12-13) recovered a total of 56 metal artefacts over an area later subdivided into Sites 9a, b and c. All the finds are of post-medieval to modern date and comprise a number of buttons, two agricultural or industrial fittings and a silver William III shilling. (WAA 2017b. 13, and Figures 9-11). There was no spatial pattern to the distribution of the finds.

1.5.3 The evaluation trenching phase of works, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, was evenly spaced out in a grid pattern as no archaeological features or anomalies were identified during the earlier geophysical survey project (Wessex Archaeology, 2016b, Figure 6). Trenches 160, 162 and 163 produced archaeological remains. Within Trench 160 a north-east to south-west orientated ditch measuring 1.10m in width and 0.33m in depth was noted. A second ditch observed in Trench 162, orientated east to west and measured 1.38m in width and 0.45m in depth. Interpreted as boundary ditches of uncertain date residual worked flint was retrieved from both ditches. Within Trench 163 a large but shallow pit measuring 0.88m in width and 0.18m in depth and several additional features described as natural hollows also produced Late Bronze Age pottery (Wessex Archaeology 2016a 23-24). The archaeology recorded in the evaluation and possible features noted within the geophysical survey indicate a prehistoric landscape of enclosures and settlement, with a possible medieval component.

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Previous Archaeological works informed the development of tiered levels of archaeological mitigation for development along the cable route. These were:

- Set Piece Excavation (SPE) areas where there are extensive and complex archaeological remains;
- Strip Map Excavation (SME) areas where significant but less complex archaeological remains are anticipated; and

- Watching Brief (WB) areas suitable for archaeological monitoring during groundworks.

2.1.2 The approach to archaeological mitigation was outlined in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (SPR 2017).

2.1.3 Site 9a was designated for Set Piece Excavation which has been defined as “a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater’ (CIFA 2014a).

2.1.4 The general aims of the archaeological excavation of Site 9a were to:

- Allow a full and appropriate investigation of any archaeology uncovered before it is destroyed;
- investigate and record all archaeological deposits and features to be disturbed by the current development;
- Establish the nature, date, character, extents and level of preservation of deposits and structures.
- Obtain, where possible, relative and absolute dating frameworks for any deposits and features encountered.
- to prepare a fully illustrated report on the results of the excavation that is compliant with all relevant regulations, policy, guidance and good practice;
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.
- To create an archive of all documents, material and digital records created as a result of the works, deposit it with an appropriate museum and provide information for accession to the SCC HER.

2.2 Professional Standards

2.2.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014b) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014a). The post excavation assessment was undertaken in accordance with Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) *Advice Note for Post-Excavation Assessment* (2015), and with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014c) Section 3.4 to 3.6.

2.2.2 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work. Health and Safety regulations were adhered to at all times.

2.3 Method Statement

2.3.1 The excavation comprised the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with development. This comprised the initial removal of the topsoil of Site 9a using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to the highest level of archaeological survival under the supervision of a member of Wardell Armstrong Staff.

2.3.2 During subsequent excavation by Archaeological Research Services Ltd all archaeological remains were cleaned and investigated by hand to retrieve artefacts and take environmental samples.

2.3.3 A detailed drawn, written and photographic record was compiled in accordance with the agreed recording system (SPR 2017).

2.3.4 All drawings were tied to Ordnance Survey (X,Y,Z values) either using a survey grade GPS or Total Station Theodolite.

2.3.5 All finds were retained and cleaned, air dried, marked (where necessary/appropriate), quantified, repackaged and dispatched to third party specialists for identification, cataloguing and spot dating (see Section 5 below).

2.3.6 Subject to agreement with SCCAS, please note that the following categories of material will be recommended for discard, however no material will be discarded prior to this agreement being in place:

- modern pottery;
- material assessed by third party specialists as having no potential for further study *and* having no grounds for retention;
- unstratified material that is of no intrinsic value or research potential.

3 Site Archive

3.1 Archive Location

3.1.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeology Services, with copies of the report sent to the Suffolk HER, available upon request. The archive is currently held at Archaeological Research Services Ltd in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear and can be accessed under the unique project identifier ESF25167a-17/ AKE 044.

3.1.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) supports the **Online Access** to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by ARS Ltd as part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: archaeo15-351047.

3.2 Quantification

3.2.1 The material archive was curated, and the archive consolidated subsequent to finds processing and investigation. All finds were cleaned, air dried, marked, bagged and packaged. The material archive was then quantified and assessed. The documentary archive has been fully checked, is internally consistent and has been security scanned and is stored digitally (Appendix IV).

Context Sheets	208
Sample Sheets	12
Hand drawn Plans and Sections	137
Register Sheets	7
Digital Photos	807
Monochrome Photos	277
Pottery (no/Wt in g)	930/5083.38g
CBM (no/Wt in g)	30/119g
Fired Clay (no/Wt in g)	10/43g
Lithics (no/Wt in g)	51/265g
Animal Bone (no/Wt in g)	9/55.6g
Environments Samples	12

Table 1. Quantification of the archive

3.2.2 A metadata statement identifying the content and file location of the digital archive is presented in Appendix IV.

3.2.3 In addition to the excavation archive, Site 9a also has an archive compiled by Wessex Archaeology for the trial trench excavation. The evaluation archive is currently curated by Wardell Armstrong at their offices in Carlisle and comprises the following:

Component	Quantity
Context Sheets (Trench 160 - 163)	25
Samples	1
Pottery (no./Wt. in g)	19/53g
CBM (no./Wt. in g)	3/118
Flint (no./Wt. in g)	1
Metal objects/slag (no.)	0
Cores	3
Digital photographs	Y
Digital trench plans	Y

Table 2. Quantification of the trial trench evaluation archive

4 Stratigraphic Data

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section should be read in conjunction with the figures presented in Appendix I. Descriptive information specific to each recorded unit of stratigraphy is contained in Appendix II.

4.1.2 Preliminary conclusions drawn from the excavation are presented below by Period and where appropriate, archaeological features have been grouped together when considered to be part of the same entity or have a direct association with each other. For convenience, a single context number has been attributed to these grouped features and in specific instances a designated land use indicator has been ascribed to aid description.

4.1.3 A total of four periods of activity have been identified through a combination of stratigraphic and artefactual analysis. These have been divided into phases where possible, however, due to lack of datable material some features are only dated broadly to period and some remain undated. A phased plan showing all excavated features is presented as Figure 11, the phases and periods in this report are summarised below:

- Period 1: Early Bronze Age
 - Period 1: Phase 1
 - Period 1: Phase 2
 - Period 1: Phase 3
- Period 2: Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age
- Period 3: Medieval
- Period 4: Post-Medieval
 - Period 4: Phase 1
 - Period 4: Phase 2

4.1.4 Site 9a comprised three ditches, eight furrows and 12 pits over 112 separate contexts. A single fragment of residual Mesolithic flint was also recovered from fill (**038**) of the medieval boundary ditch [**028**]. In association with comparable material recovered from neighbouring Site 8, this indicates that the land bordering Akenham was probably being exploited by hunter-gatherer communities between the 10th and 4th millennium BC. Residual Late Neolithic flakes, miscellaneous retouched flake and discoidal core were recovered in association with Iron Age pottery fragments of HMF ware were identified in a medieval plough furrow (**073**). The remaining archaeology revealed a continuation of activity of varying intensity from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age, migrating up slope, west to east during this period. Later post-medieval utilisation of the land is observed with the introduction and subsequent removal of a field boundary within the western half of the site.

4.2 Excavation Results

4.2.1 The topsoil on the site was characterised by a dark, grey brown silty clay and overlay an orange-red silty sand subsoil together measuring a maximum depth of 0.60m. Below the subsoil, a variable superficial geology comprising mid-greyish orange mottled sandy clay with chalk and gravel inclusions was observed across site to a maximum height of 43.75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

4.3 Period 1: Early Bronze Age (c. 2500 – c. 1500BC)

4.3.1 Summary

4.3.1.1 Period 1 activity was characterised by a multi-phase Early Bronze Age enclosure/boundary ditch, three associated waste pits and a votive pit containing a collared urn. Features have been assigned to Period 1 through artefactual association, stratigraphic relationships, similar morphological characteristics and feature type association.

4.3.2 Period 1. Phase 1: Enclosure/Boundary Ditch

Ditch [111]

Figure 2 and Figure 4

4.3.2.1 A north-east – south-west aligned ditch [111], with concave sides and a flat base, measuring 10.5m x 1.2m x 0.32m was identified within the central portion of the excavation area at the crest of the hill overlooking Site 8 to the west. The ditch was filled by a series of superimposed, yellow-brown naturally-deposited silts (82; 95; 96; 97) and produced no dating evidence. Ditch [111] formed a terminus in the central portion of the excavation area and was truncated by an east-west aligned post-medieval field boundary [034]. Traces of [111]'s terminus were visible beyond the southern limit of the post-medieval boundary ditch but only continued for a very short distance. Although no opposing terminus was revealed in association with ditch [111] the excavator noted that poor weather conditions and a variable geology may have obscured the archaeology as traces of an opposing ditch terminus were occasionally visible extending from the southern limit of excavation but could not be verified when investigated.

4.3.2.2 No artefactual material was recovered from ditch [111], however the feature was tentatively interpreted as an Early Bronze Age enclosure/boundary ditch terminus due to its stratigraphic relationship with later associated features, namely a votive pit [109] containing an Early Bronze Age Collared Urn that truncated it.

4.3.2.3 Ditch [111] was bordered by three circular pits [089], [100] and [109]. Pits [089] and [109] were located immediately east of enclosure/boundary ditch [111] and were heavily truncated by post-medieval ditch [034]. Pit [100] was located approximately 0.50m west of enclosure/boundary ditch [111]. All three pits were filled by a yellow-brown

backfill deposit (**90**; **99**; **104**), measured an average 0.40m x 0.40m x 0.45m and produced no artefactual material. However, despite the absence of dating evidence all three pits were interpreted as Early Bronze Age waste pits due to their similar stratigraphic location and broad proximity to enclosure/boundary ditch [**111**].

4.3.3 Period 1. Phase 2: Enclosure/Boundary Ditch

Ditch [112]

Figures 2 and 6

4.3.3.1 Ditch [**111**], a linear with concave sides and flat base, was later re-established by north-east – south-west aligned ditch re-cut [**112**]. Ditch [**112**] broadly mirrored the location of ditch [**111**], measured 13.3m x 1.4m x 0.48m at its maximum visible extents and was similarly truncated by post-medieval field boundary [**034**] at its southern edge. Enclosure/boundary ditch re-cut [**112**] was similarly filled by naturally deposited silts (**91**; **92**; **93**; **110**) which were devoid of any artefactual material. The ditch was interpreted as a recut intended to re-establish Early Bronze Age enclosure terminus/boundary [**111**].

4.3.4 Period 1. Phase 3: Votive Pit

4.3.4.1 The upper disuse deposits in both ditches [**111**] and [**112**] were partially truncated by sub-circular pit [**109**]. Pit [**109**] measured 0.48m x 0.48m x 0.40m and was filled by backfill deposit (**104**) which comprised mixed redeposited natural sands and silts from earlier pre-existing ditch fills. Backfill deposit (**104**) sealed a single, complete, inverted, empty Early Bronze Age collared urn. Consequently, [**112**] was interpreted as a votive pit intended to receive the collared urn, without the intention of recovery or re-use. Given the pits location and physical relationship with ditches [**111/112**] it seems reasonable to assume that whilst the enclosure termini had fallen into disuse prior to the excavation of the pit the ditches may still have been visible in the landscape either as depressions or demarcated by a low lying bank.

4.4 Period 2: Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (c. 1000BC – c. 400BC)

4.4.1 Summary

4.4.1.1 Period 2 activity spanned the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age transition and comprised seven waste pits which were all situated on the plateau located at the eastern extent of the site. Period 2 represents the principal focus for past activity on Site 9a and highlighted the probable presence of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age farmstead settlement beyond the northern boundary of the excavation area.

4.4.2 Period 2: Pits

Pits [012], [015], [020], [023], [041], [055], [083] and [085]

Figure 2, Figure 9 and Figure 10

4.4.2.1 Eight Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age sub-circular waste pits [012; 015; 020; 023; 041; 055; 083; and 085] were revealed within the central and eastern portion of Site 9a. Pits [015], [041], [055], [083] and [085] were clustered at the eastern portion of the site and all displayed the same broadly circular shape in plan, measured an average 0.90m in width, 0.42m in depth and were all filled by a series of mixed, superimposed backfill deposits (014; 016; 042; 043; 084; 086). The pits produced a wealth of artefactual material including 68 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hand-made, flint-tempered ware and three flint flakes from pit [015]; 256 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age flint tempered ware and 10 flint flakes from pit [041] and 50 fragments of flint tempered or shell tempered Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery from pit [055]. Given the wealth of artefactual material recovered all three pits were interpreted as being used for waste disposal and point towards localised domestic occupation of the land bordering the site during the Late Bronze or Early Iron Age. Pits [083] and [085] produced no artefactual material but were similarly interpreted as Late Bronze Age waste pits due to their similarity in form and close geographical association with pits [015], [041] and [055].

4.4.2.2 The western-most pits comprised isolated sub-oval pit [012] and two large oval-shaped intercutting pits [020] and [023]. Pit [020] measured 0.72m x 0.74m x 0.80m and was filled by a pair of superimposed, mixed backfill deposits (021; 022) containing 15 fragments of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age flint tempered pottery. The deposits filling pit [020] were later cut by pit [023] which measured 2.4m x 0.9m x 0.62m and was similarly filled by a pair of mixed, superimposed backfill deposits (024; 025) devoid of pottery but containing five Bronze Age flint flakes. Consequently, both features [020] and [023] were interpreted as probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age waste pits. Oval pit [012] was located c.15m north-east of pits [020]/[023], measured 0.83m x 0.56m x 0.13m and was filled by a mixed backfill deposit (013) containing nine fragments of hand-made, flint-tempered Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery.

4.4.2.3 The presence of pits [015; 020; 023; 041; 055; 083 and 085] indicate that the plateau forming the central and eastern portion of the site was habitually re-used as an area for waste disposal during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. Similarly, the presence of both the waste pits and such large quantities of artefactual material further hints at the presence of a probable Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age settlement in close proximity to the boundary of Site 9a and may, given the quantity and uniformity of pottery types, suggest that small scale pottery production might have also been occurring within the vicinity.

4.5 Period 3: Early medieval to medieval (11th - 16th century AD)

4.5.1 Summary

4.5.1.1 Period 3 activity comprised a single medieval field boundary ditch and eight parallel north-east – south-west aligned furrows, identified at the south-western corner of the excavation, which was dated from between the 11th and 15th centuries by the recovery of three fragments of medieval pottery.

4.5.2 Boundary Ditch

Ditch [028]

Figure 2

4.5.2.1 A single north-east – south-west aligned ditch [028], with concave sides and an uneven base, measuring 16.9 x 1.8m x 0.37m was identified extending from the south-west corner of Site 9a. The ditch terminated at the foot of the slope descending from the plateau located within the central portion of the site and was filled by a series of accumulated, naturally deposited silts. Ditch fill (038) contained one fragment of 11th – 12th century Early Medieval Ware, and two fragments 14th – 15th century Late Medieval Ware. Accordingly, ditch [028] was interpreted as a medieval field boundary which might have been present within the landscape between the 11th and 15th centuries and points towards agricultural exploitation of the rural hinterland of Akenham during the medieval period.

4.5.3 Furrows

Furrows [008], [044], [050], [054], [061], [068], [071] and [074]

Figure 2 and Figure 8

4.5.3.1 The eastern portion of the site was also bisected by a series of eight parallel north-east – south-west aligned furrows [008], [044], [050], [054], [061], [068], [071] and [074], with vertical sides and flat bases filled with accumulated deposits (004; 007; 010; 045; 047; 049; 051; 053; 058; 060; 062; 064; 067; 070; 073). The furrows were spaced between 3.5-8m apart and measured an average 0.5m in width, 0.30m in depth and were filled by naturally deposited silts and clays. The easternmost furrows comprising features [008], [044], [050], [054], [068] all extended across the full width of the excavation area whilst the three westernmost furrows [061], [071] and [074] broadly terminated in the centre of the excavation area. Furrows [008] and [071] cumulatively produced 15 sherds of assorted Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and 10 flint flakes. Given the form, composition, spatial arrangement of these plough furrows, they have been interpreted as the remnants of the troughs of ridge and furrow single directional ploughing using a mouldboard plough. Alternatively, however, they could be the result of 'stetch' ploughing which can be found across much of East Anglia (see Section 8.3.3.1).

4.5.3.2 The prehistoric pottery fragments recovered from the plough furrows were all heavily abraded in stark contrast to the comparably dated pottery sherds recovered from the nearby pits. In addition, the furrows were all orientated towards a gentle southern incline presumably in order to assist land drainage. Consequently the pottery sherds

recovered from the furrows may have originated from land north of Site 9a and been washed downslope by either waterborne forces of progressive ploughing. This interpretation might highlight the location of the proposed Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age settlement within the farmland immediately north of Site 9a since disturbed by later activity of such as the medieval activity of these plough furrows.

4.6 Period 4: Post-medieval – Modern (18th – 20th century AD)

4.6.1 Summary

4.6.1.1 Period 4 extended from the post-medieval period until the early 20th century and was characterised by a field boundary ditch and a sand extraction quarry. The features were phased based on their stratigraphic relationships, a historic map regression exercise and associated artefactual material.

4.6.2 Period 4. Phase 1: Post-medieval field boundary ditch

Ditch [034]

Figure 2 and Figure 11

4.6.2.1 The central and western portion of Site 9a were bisected by the route of an east-west aligned boundary ditch [034]. The ditch extended from the western boundary of the site, ascended a steep slope to the level plateau within the centre of the excavation area and turned sharply towards the north at the prow of the hill prior to disappearing beyond the northern limits of excavation. The ditch measured 125m x 1.4m x 0.64m at its maximum visible extents, had concave sides, a rounded, uneven base and was filled by a series of superimposed, accumulated silt deposits (018; 019; 033; 080; 088; 102; 106) containing a fragment of 20th century pottery and a smithed post-medieval nail.

4.6.2.2 The eastern portion of ditch [034], characterised by the sharp northwards bend in the ditch's orientation, was extant in the landscape as a hedged boundary immediately prior to the soil strip occurring on-site and was also visible as a field boundary sub-dividing plots 46 and 136 on the second edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1881 (Figure 12). The western portion of ditch [034] was not visible on 19th century mapping but very clearly corresponded with the annotated bend. Consequently, ditch [034] was interpreted as a probable post-medieval field boundary which had originally sub-divided the field marked as plot 46 on the second edition Ordnance Survey but had been allowed to partially fall into disuse and was largely abandoned prior to the late 19th century. A short section of the post-medieval ditch did however survive, albeit in a much reduced form, within the central portion of the site until immediately prior to the excavation phase of works during summer 2017.

4.6.3 Period 4. Phase 2: 20th century Quarry

Quarry [075]

Figure 2, Figure 11

4.6.3.1 A large circular feature [075] measuring 10m x 8.4m x 1.05m was identified at the western edge of Site 9a. The feature truncated post-medieval ditch [034] and was filled by a naturally deposited, accumulated silty-loam (076) deposit likely formed by a combination of rain-wash and natural infill of the features sides. Reference to the third edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1905 clearly displays a small quarry pit which corresponded with the location of quarry pit [075]. The quarry is no longer visible on the fourth edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1947 and was therefore unlikely to have been present in the landscape immediately prior to the mid-20th century. Consequently, despite the absence of artefactual data retrieved from quarry pit [075], the stratigraphic and cartographic evidence suggest that the feature functioned as a short-lived sand and gravel extraction pit which was initially excavated during the late 19th or early 20th century, was rapidly abandoned and then allowed to naturally erode and disappear from the landscape prior to the mid-20th century.

5 The Assemblages

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 1031 artefacts, weighing 6379.76g, were recovered from Site 9a, forming part of the archaeological investigations along the East Anglia One cable route corridor, Ipswich, Suffolk. A broad quantification of the bulk finds is given in Table 3.

5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CifA 2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS 2014). The project has the unique identifier ESF25167/AKE044

5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential in line with the post-excavation assessment method statement and the *Advice Note for Post-Excavation Assessment* (WAA, 2018a; ALGAO, 2015) and against the potential to contribute to the relevant research frameworks (Brown & Glazebrook 2000).

5.1.4 A Quantification of bulk finds by material, quantity and weight is given in Table 3.

Material	Quantity	Wgt (g)
Bone	9	55.6
Ceramic	930	5883.38
Fired Clay	10	43
CBM	30	119
Flint	51	265.78
Iron	1	13

Table 3. Quantification of the material assemblage

5.2 Lithics

Robin Holgate

5.2.1 A total of 51 humanly-struck flints, weighing 265.78g, was recovered from **(004)**, **(014)**, **(025)**, **(038)**, **(042)**, **(043)**, **(051)**, **(056)** and **(073)** respectively (Table 4). The flints are in good condition and fabricated from locally-sourced deposits.

5.2.2 A total of 34 pieces of miscellaneous light blue-white fire-fractured flint and stone, weighing 299.33g, was recovered from **(014)**, **(022)**, **(038)**, **(042)**, **(043)**, **(056)** and **(073)**. A late prehistoric date is likely for these fragments.

5.2.3 One unretouched flake fabricated using a soft hammer, weighing 1.58g, was recovered from deposit **(038)**, might date to the Mesolithic period is identified as residual. The flakes, miscellaneous retouched flake and discoidal core fabricated using a hard hammer, weighing 42.58g, recovered from deposit **(073)** and are likely to be Late Neolithic in date. The thumbnail scraper, weighing 2.27g, recovered from deposit **(043)**, probably dates to the Beaker period. The hard hammer-struck unretouched flakes and a blade, weighing 105.59g, that were recovered from deposits **(004)**, **(014)**, **(025)**, **(042)**, **(051)** and **(056)** are likely to be of Late Neolithic or Bronze –Iron Age date.

5.2.4 The flint is of significance at a local level.

Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Period	Refined Date	Comments
(004)	Flint	5	30.93	Prehist		Flakes
(014)	Flint	3	14.77	Prehist		Flakes
(025)	Flint	5	10.22	Prehist		Flakes
(038)	Flint	1	1.58	Prehist	?Mesolithic	Flake
(042)	Flint	10	35.49	Prehist		Flakes
(043)	Flint	13	116.03	Prehist	Beaker	Flakes, miscellaneous retouched flakes and a thumbnail scraper
(051)	Flint	1	4.25	Prehist		Flake
(056)	Flint	4	9.93	Prehist		Flakes and a blade
(073)	Flint	9	42.58	Prehist	Late Neolithic	Flakes, miscellaneous retouched flake and discoidal core

Table 4. Flints by Material and Context

5.3 Prehistoric Pottery to Medieval Pottery

Andy Fawcett

5.3.1 Introduction

5.3.1.1 A total of 930 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 5083.38g was recovered from the excavation at Akenham. This report firstly sets out the methodology used to record the pottery assemblage, and then goes on to describe the condition of the assemblage, as well as aspects of its distribution across the site. This is then followed by a general description of the pottery assemblage, which principally concentrates on the main pit feature [041]. The report is completed by an overall conclusion, and any recommendations that might be required for further work on the assemblage. A full breakdown of the recorded pottery assemblage can be seen in Appendix III, alongside a list of fabric and abrasion codes.

5.3.2 Methodology

5.3.2.1 The pottery has been recorded by sherd count and weight. The assemblage has been scanned at x20 vision and the principle fabrics identified. The codes allocated to the prehistoric and medieval fabrics have been assigned using simple letter combinations based upon the codes developed by Suffolk/Norfolk County Council Archaeological Services, which have been subsequently used within East Anglia as a whole. Prehistoric form types have been allocated plain form descriptions, such as jar or bowl and so on.

5.3.3 Condition and distribution

5.3.3.1 The pottery was recovered from thirteen different context types and the distribution of pottery between these can be seen in Table 5.

Context type	No	%	Wgt/g	%
Pit	868	94	4356	86
Furrow	20	2	42	1
Ditch	41	4	669.38	13
Unstratified	1	Pres	5	Pres
Totals	930	100	5083.38	100

Table 5. Pottery by provenance

5.3.3.2 The table shows that the overwhelming majority of the assemblage (by sherd count and weight) was retrieved from pit fills, with the remainder (in very small quantities) recovered from the fills of furrows, a ditch and as unstratified.

5.3.3.3 The pottery from outside of the pit features may be described as suffering from variable abrasion, which is contrast to the assemblages retrieved from most of the pit fills which display only slight wear.

5.3.3.4 As a whole the average sherd weight stands at a poor 4.94g, this figure rises only slightly when applied to the fills of pits (5.01g). The larger part of the ceramic assemblage was recorded in the two fills of Pit [041] (042 and 043), these contexts account for 86% of the pottery retrieved from the site. Despite the fact that these assemblages are large and exhibit little abrasion, their sherd size is variable, and the combined weight figures for these two contexts still only produces an average of 5.03g.

5.3.4 The Assemblage

Early Bronze Age

5.3.4.1 A total of 38 'sherds of early prehistoric pottery, weighing 669.38g, was recovered from context (104). The pottery is in poor, friable condition.

5.3.4.2 The 'sherds are grog tempered and oxidised with cord-impressed decoration. They represent about three-quarters of the rim, collar, body and all the base of a Collared Urn which stood c.165mm high with an outer rim diameter of c.120mm.

Late Bronze to early Iron Age

5.3.4.3 Although pit [041] contains the larger part of the prehistoric assemblage, pottery dated to this period was also recovered from a further five pit fills (011, 014, 021, 022 and 056). With the exception of pit fill (014) (68 fragments @398g), the remaining contexts contain only a small number of sherds. The pottery from within these fills is entirely made up of body sherds in flint tempered fabrics, which are oxidised and reduced or a combination of both, producing a patchy appearance. These fabrics are coarse, containing mostly abundant ill-sorted flint, although in some cases the flint is sparse; also recorded within the fabrics of some of these sherds, is the presence of sparse organics.

5.3.4.4 The pottery from pit [041] is divided between two fills, [042] (256 sherds @1250g) and [043] (504 sherds @ 2577g).

5.3.4.5 The first of these is entirely made up of sherds in fabric HMF. These are variable in colour, being reduced and oxidised, as well as brown and patchily oxidised/reduced. The majority of these sherds contain coarse abundant ill-sorted flint, although some also hold only sparse flint, and as was noted in pit fill [014], some also contain an organic element. A small number of sherds that contain sparse flint have brown surfaces and a thick black core. These are possibly a transitional fabric that straddles the middle to late Bronze Age. A single sherd displayed possible finger-nail decoration.

5.3.4.6 The form assemblage within this fill consists of at least nine different jars, as well as three base fragments. These jar rims, which are mostly fairly small (two have a reasonable

profile), are all in a similar style, being upright, pointed or flattened (it is possible that some of these are likely to be in-turned, however they are too small to be certain of this). The second context within this feature contains a similar mixture of HMF fabrics as the previous context, although there are also a small number of finer fabrics present too. A total of at least fifteen forms were noted based upon the remains of rims, as well as one base fragment. Nine of the rims are in a similar style to those recorded in the previous fill, in either a pointed or flattened style, some of which look in-turned or have an internal bevel. Three have pointed but everted rims, and one of these exhibits serration on the edge of the bead; a further four have flat and serrated rims. Of particular interest, are at least three fragments of a fineware beaker, the sherds of which are quite thin walled. The beaker has an everted rim with fine rilling on its outer surface. A further three coarse body sherds also appear to be decorated with some form of vertical line arrangement.

Iron Age

5.3.4.7 A small quantity of Iron Age sand based fabrics was noted within the assemblage (HMS and HMSO), however apart from a small number of these within pit fills [021] and [056], alongside sherds of fabric HMF (which indicates that these contexts are likely of an early Iron date), the remainder were noted in furrow contexts. These fills (004, 007, 010 and 073) contain a total of twenty sherds (42g) which are abraded and very fragmentary. The furrows are likely to be of a post-Roman date, therefore these sherds are more than likely of a residual nature.

Medieval

5.3.4.8 Two contexts contained sherds dated to the medieval period, ditch fill (038) as well as an unstratified context (004).

5.3.4.9 The first of these contained three body sherds (11g), all of which displayed only slight abrasion. These are made up of a thin walled early medieval sandy ware (EMW), dated from the 11th to 12th century, as well as a late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware (LMT). This latter sherd is oxidised and the vague remains of a green glaze can be seen on its outer surface. The fabric contains abundant ill-sorted quartz, and is dated from the 15th to 16th century.

5.3.4.10 The unstratified context contained a single small body sherd of EMW (5g). It is reduced with a fumed outer surface and thin walled. The fabric contains ill-sorted abundant quartz, and is dated from the 11th to 12th century.

5.3.5 Conclusion

5.3.5.1 The main period of activity on the site spans the late Bronze and early Iron Age. Although there are several features dated to this period, the assemblage is dominated by the two large groups within pit [041]. While a small number of features contain solely Iron Age pottery (furrows), these sherds are considered to be residual. Thereafter, apart from the unstratified context (which contains a single 11th-12th century sherd), only a single ditch fill is dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period, and this contained only three sherds.

5.3.5.2 The assemblage recovered from Site 9a follows a similar pattern to that of 9b (Fawcett 2019), where ceramics dated to the late Bronze/early Iron Age were dominant, and Iron Age use of the site was fairly minimal. The only difference between this assemblage and that retrieved from Site 9b, is the complete absence of Roman pottery. As was noted within the Site 9b report (Fawcett 2019), although not in such an extensive manner, the pottery (particularly within the form assemblage, by the presence of a range of jars and a beaker) from this current site, provides further evidence at Akenham, for settled rural land use during the late Bronze/early Iron Age. The HER record lists several find spots dated to this period, for example at sites like AKE 06, in which both metalwork and pottery have been recovered.

5.3.6 Recommendations for further work

5.3.6.1 The following assemblages would benefit from a further detailed analysis. This would require the groups to be examined by a prehistoric pottery specialist, in order to produce formal detailed fabric and form descriptions, enhance the site dating, as well as comment on the status, economy and nature of activity undertaken within the excavated area.

5.3.6.2 Although pit fill (014) contains 68 body sherds, this assemblage contains a variety of fabrics and would benefit from a more detailed analysis, in particular to compare against the larger assemblages from pit [041].

5.3.6.3 The two assemblages from pit [041], although variable in terms of sherd size, are of good quality, containing a possible 20 plus form types. Apart from the benefits of an overall further examination (listed above), the link between these two contexts needs to be explored too, in terms of joining sherds, which would also help to identify the total number of forms within the feature as a whole. The beaker recovered from pit (109) is considered to be of local or regional significance.

5.4 Post-medieval Pottery

Paul Blinkhorn

5.4.1 A single sherd of modern pottery, weighing 1g, was recovered from deposit (**080**) of ditch slot [**079**], within group [**034**].

5.4.2 No further analysis is required.

5.5 CBM and fired clay

Andy Fawcett

5.5.1 Introduction

5.5.1.1 A total of 41 fragments of CBM with a weight of 168g, as well as 10 pieces of fired clay (43g) were recovered from the archaeological excavation at Akenham. This report firstly sets out the methodology used to record the materials and then goes on to describe the individual assemblages. This is then followed by a general conclusion, and any recommendations that might be required for further work on the materials.

5.5.2 Methodology

5.5.2.1 The CBM and fired clay has been rapidly examined at x20 vision and allocated fabric codes. These codes are formed by simple letter combinations based upon those utilised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (Unpub). The materials have been recorded by fragment number and weight, as well as other aspects, such as dimensional measurements, impressions/marks, the level of abrasion, alongside any signs of being heat affected.

5.5.2.2 The full recorded assemblages can be seen in Appendix III, alongside a list of fabric and abrasion codes.

5.5.3 CBM

5.5.3.1 This small CBM assemblage was recovered from three ditch fills (**033**, **040** and **088**) and is entirely dated to the post-medieval period.

5.5.3.2 The condition of the group (in terms of wear) may be described as poor, with all of the pieces suffering from significant abrasion. Furthermore, the assemblage is highly fragmentary, for example a total of 30 pieces were noted within ditch fill (**088**) (119g) and the average weight figure for this group stands at just 3.94g. The average fragment weight for Ditch fill (**040**) is even lower at 2.90g.

5.5.3.3 All of the fragments are fully oxidised, and are predominantly in medium sandy fabrics which also contain ferrous inclusions.

5.5.3.4 Of the 41 fragments only seven definite roof tile fragments were identified, which have a depth range of between 12 and 13mm. A single partial peg hole was noted on one of these pieces, however none of the examples display traces of mortar, or were heat affected in any way.

5.5.3.5 Analysis of the unidentifiable fragment group, suggests (based on their fabric style), that the majority of these represent the remains of roof tile too.

5.5.3.6 The CBM assemblage is in a very poor state of preservation, being small and abraded. None of the pieces examined in this group, can be dated with any precision other than being placed within the post-medieval period as a whole based upon stratigraphy and artefactual association. The overall poor condition of this assemblage, suggests that it has 'travelled' considerably, and is highly likely to be present on the site as a result of post-medieval manuring.

5.5.4 Fired clay

5.5.4.1 The small collection of fired clay was recovered from two pit fills (**042** and **056**), both of which are likely to be dated to around the early Iron Age based upon the associated pottery assemblage and quality of abrasion. Pit fill (**042**) contained three small and abraded pieces (32g) all of which are oxidised. Two fabric types were noted, medium sandy (Ms) as well as one fragment that contained sparse grog (Msg). A single fragment within this group displayed the partial remains of a flat/irregular surface.

5.5.4.2 The second pit fill (**056**) held seven fragments (11g), which too are abraded, but also in a far more fragmentary state than those within the previous fill. The pieces are all oxidised and in a medium sandy fabric (Ms).

5.5.4.3 Although both groups of fired clay are associated with prehistoric pit fills, little more can be said about these small and abraded fragments. None of the pieces exhibit rod impressions, or are heat affected, and only one displays the partial remains of a surface. It is likely that these fragments represent the limited remains of some form of walling that was either structural or free standing.

5.5.5 Recommendations for further work

5.5.5.1 The CBM and fired clay assemblages have been fully recorded and described, therefore no more work on these materials will be required.

5.6 The Metalwork

Gary Taylor

5.6.1 A single metal find of a nail with a rectangular-sectioned shaft weighing 13g was recovered from deposit **(033)** of ditch slot **[032]** within group **[034]**.

5.7 Faunal Assemblage

Milena Grzybowska

5.7.1 Introduction

5.7.1.1 The assessment follows *Guidelines for best practice* (Baker and Worley 2013, English Heritage). The informative potential of the assemblage was ascertained from the number of ageable, sexable and measurable specimens as well as those showing evidence of butchery, burning breakage and gnawing.

5.7.2 Methodology

5.7.2.1 All fragments were scanned. Specimens were identified to species or a broader taxonomic group where possible. Ribs and vertebrae (excluding the axis and atlas) and undiagnostic bone fragments were assigned to a size-class: 'large mammal' (cattle-size), 'medium mammal' (sheep-size) and 'small mammal' (cat-size).

5.7.2.2 The state of surface preservation was scored using a five-stage system (poor, bad, moderate, good, and excellent). The presence or absence of butchery marks, breakages of fresh bone, root etching, gnawing and burning was noted.

5.7.3 Assemblage

5.7.3.1 The material consisted of nine refitted hand-collected fragments weighing 55.6 g. The specimens derived from a primary fill **(030/038)** of medieval ditch **[028]**, as well as from an unstratified context **(027)**.

5.7.3.2 Bone surface preservation is predominantly good and excellent (Table 4). Bone fragments represent cervid, sheep/goat, medium mammal and mammal. A single specimen has the potential to provide a limited data on the age of sheep goat present within the assemblage, whereas further specimen displays a butchery mark. None of the remaining bone fragments were identified as ageable or measurable nor provided any further information on taphonomy or pathological conditions. Overall, the limited informative potential of the assemblage argues for no further work.

context	weight	no. of specimens	preservation	ageable mandible	ageable teeth	ageable bone	measurable	element	taxa	butchery	gnawing	root etching
027	15	1	excellent	-	-	-	-	axis	cervid	1	-	-
030	29.2	1	moderate	-	-	-	-	humerus	medium mammal	-	1	1
030	6.9	1	good	-	-	-	-	vertebra	medium mammal	-	-	-
038	1.1	5	good	-	-	-	-	long bone	mammal	-	-	-
038	3.4	1	good	-	1	-	-	lower M1/2	sheep/goat	-	-	-

Table 6. Assessment of animal bone by specimen

5.7.4 Recommendations

5.7.4.1 The animal bone assemblage has been fully identified and recorded, therefore no further work on these materials will be required.

6 Environmental Assessment

Luke Parker

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Palaeoenvironmental assessment has been undertaken on samples taken from the fills of archaeological features located in Site 9a of the EAOne infrastructure project. These were taken in order to assess the range of palaeoenvironmental remains present, their condition of preservation, and their potential to assist with archaeological interpretations. 12 samples were taken from archaeological contexts, of which 10 yielded palaeoenvironmental remains.

6.1.2 40L of fill from each archaeological feature was sampled where possible, unless the feature contained less than 40L whereupon the entirety of the excavated fill was sampled.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 Bulk fill samples were processed via water floatation through graduated sieves with the smallest being 300 µm. Heavy residues were dried and scanned by eye for non-floating palaeoenvironmental material or archaeological finds. Flots were air dried and scanned using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). Flots were then scanned and separated out into charcoal and plant macrofossils.

6.2.2 Charcoal with a size of >2mm was fractured to obtain clean sections on the tangential, transverse, and radial planes. These could then be identified using a high-

power Leica GXML3030 binocular microscope (up to x600). A maximum of ten identifications were undertaken per sample. Species identification was undertaken using plates and guides from Scoch *et al.* (2004). A record was kept of the ring curvature of the wood and details of the ligneous structure (see APPENDIX III: Specialist Report Tables).

6.2.3 The presence of uncharred organic material was noted, and the quantity estimated as a proportion of the processed flots. However, as the site was entirely free-draining, non-charred organic material was discounted as being modern contamination.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Palaeoenvironmental remains were recovered from sampled archaeological contexts, the results of which are shown in APPENDIX III: Specialist Report Tables, Table 8

6.3.2 Modern uncharred contamination was negligible throughout sampled archaeological contexts. The only sample with non-negligible uncharred organic material was the secondary fill (014) of waste pit [015] which yielded a flots composed of around 15% rootlets.

6.3.3 Palaeobotanical macrofossils were entirely absent in sampled archaeological features. The recovered palaeoenvironmental assemblages were composed entirely of charred wood remains. These charred wood remains had been preserved in a relatively varied condition. Of the 10 charcoal assemblages, six of them (022, 025, 043, 104, 106, and 112) had experienced significant degrees of fragmentation which precluded species identification. The remaining four (014, 042, 056, and 086) yielded relatively well-preserved charcoal which had observably experienced little erosion or significant fragmentation and thus enabled confident identification.

6.3.4 The secondary fill of (014) of prehistoric waste pit [015] and the uppermost fill (022) of prehistoric pit [020] both contained charcoal assemblages of which sampled fragments were all oak (*Quercus sp.*). The fragments from the secondary fill of (014) of prehistoric waste pit [015] were rather small; likely due to the natural tendency for oak charcoal to radially fragment. It was possible to determine a lack of ring curvature for the ten oak fragments identified within the uppermost fill (022) of prehistoric pit [020] due to the fragments' larger size. Ring widths were small for sampled fragments from both contexts. This exclusivity of oak likely reflects primarily the preferential selection of oak for its excellent burning characteristics, but also the likely presence of oak as a local tree.

6.3.5 The fill (056) of prehistoric waste pit [055] and the fill (086) of posthole [085] both contained more varied charcoal assemblages. The fill (056) of prehistoric waste pit [055] contained a charcoal assemblage with a primary component of field maple (*Acer campestre*) charcoal, a secondary component of pomaceous fruit (Maloideae) charcoal, and a very minor component of oak charcoal. The field maple and pomaceous fruit charcoal displayed a degree of ring curvature, likely indicative of branch wood. The field

maple charcoal fragments all had narrow ring-widths. The fill (086) of posthole [085] contained a varied charcoal assemblage of four wood species (Field maple, Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), pomaceous fruit, and oak). All wood displayed limited ring curvature, apart from a single fragment of field maple which had intermediate ring curvature. It is likely that the charcoal within these two contexts is more indicative of nearby tree composition rather than the result of selective fuel regimes.

6.3.6 The lack of palaeobotanical remains limits the insight which can be gathered as to past diet and economy. However, the contexts which contain the relatively well-preserved charred wood assemblages can help to inform on past fuel regimes and on nearby tree composition. The secondary fill of (014) of prehistoric waste pit [015] and the uppermost fill (022) of prehistoric pit [020] both contained charcoal assemblages which do indeed suggest that selective fuel regimes were present.

7 Human Remains

7.1 No remains were encountered.

8 Discussion

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Set Piece Excavation (SPE) of Site 9a was undertaken to characterise and assess the buried archaeological resource and ascertain its importance in the contexts of extant local, regional and national research frameworks and objectives. The total archaeological evidence recovered from Site 9a comprised of 24 features, comprising four ditches, 11 pits, eight furrows and one quarry pit. The majority of the archaeological evidence was predominately dated to a period of multi-phase Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity associated with domestic and localised agricultural land-use. Medieval and post-medieval activity in the form of two boundary ditches was noted to bisect the excavation area, whilst a sand and gravel extraction pit located at the western margin of the site pointed towards 20th century mineral and aggregate extraction.

8.2 Phasing

8.2.1 Based on the stratigraphic and material data it was possible to assign the features to four periods;

- Period 1: Early Bronze Age
 - Period 1: Phase 1
 - Period 1: Phase 2
 - Period 1: Phase 3
- Period 2: Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age
- Period 3: Medieval

- Period 4: Post-Medieval
 - Period 4: Phase 1
 - Period 4: Phase 2

8.2.2 A single fragment of residual Mesolithic flint was also recovered from fill (**038**) of the medieval boundary ditch [**028**]. In association with comparable material recovered from neighbouring Site 8, this indicates that the land bordering Akenham was probably being exploited by hunter-gatherer communities between the 10th and 4th millennium BC. Residual Late Neolithic flakes, miscellaneous retouched flake and discoidal core were recovered in association with Iron Age pottery fragments of HMF ware were identified in a medieval plough furrow (**073**).

8.3 Interpretation

8.3.1 Period 1 (Early Bronze Age)

8.3.1.1 The Early Bronze Age phase of activity was focused on the central portion of the site and although highly concentrated spanned three separate phases. The initial phase comprised the establishment of an enclosure/boundary ditch [**111**] which gradually filled with accumulated silts prior to being re-established by re-cut [**112**]. Given the relative depth of the accumulated silts within ditch [**111**] it's not unreasonable to assume that the enclosure/boundary might have been briefly abandoned or that the local Early Bronze Age community did not have the necessary resources to properly maintain the ditch. However, the presence of re-cut [**111**] and the later re-establishment of the earlier ditch system does still testify to the relative longevity of the enclosure/boundary's use and its role within the landscape.

8.3.1.2 Enclosure/boundary ditch [**111**] and enclosure ditch [**112**] both terminate in broadly the same location and might reasonably be assumed to form the northern arm of a possible entrance. Although traces of a corresponding ditch terminus were noted by the excavator immediately to the south, investigation within this area failed to reveal definitive evidence for an associated ditch system. However, it is not unreasonable to assume that an opposing enclosure ditch terminus could nevertheless remain preserved *in-situ* beyond the fields south of the central portion of Site 9a.

8.3.1.3 Although the relatively small dimensions of the Period 1 ditches, their degree of truncation and an absence of artefactual data hinders interpretation, their form is indicative of a probable field boundary or domestic enclosure entrance highlighting the presence of an Early Bronze Age community occupying and exploiting the landscape north of Akenham between the third and second millennium BC. The geographical location of the enclosure at the crest of a sharp incline and adjacent to a level plateau is also noteworthy and hints at deliberate selection of this type of land-form potentially for its limited defensive capabilities and as a possible statement of territoriality. This is

interesting given the limited amount of Early Bronze Age finds and features identified within proximity to Site 9a as the majority of identified activity appears to date from the Middle Bronze to Late Iron Age.

8.3.1.4 The final phase of Early Bronze Age activity occurs following the apparent abandonment of the earlier enclosure/boundary and the insertion of a votive pit [109] containing an Early Bronze Age collared urn through the accumulated deposits filling ditches [111] and [112]. The excavation of the votive pit through the earlier enclosure/boundary ditch fills may have been co-incidental but, given the precise location of [109], the pits spatial position seems to have been intentional. The implication suggests that the enclosure/boundary ditches, though much reduced in scale, were nevertheless still visible within the landscape prior to the excavation of pit [109] during the Early Bronze Age. Additionally, the selected location of the votive pit, excavated through the final phase dis-use deposits of an earlier enclosure/boundary, when coupled with the apparent deliberate inversion and careful positioning of the collared urn within pit [109] could imply a ritualised act of deposition. As noted, no human skeletal material was recovered from the pit or from within the urn therefore a mortuary association seems unlikely. However, the pits stratigraphic and spatial location in association with ditch [111/112] might suggest residual communal significance of the enclosure/boundary to the local population and the collared urns insertion through the disuse deposits could represent a ritualised act intended to formally demarcate a cessation in use or highlight a stage of abandonment.

8.3.2 Period 2 (Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age)

8.3.2.1 The Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age period formed the focus for past human activity on the site and was centred on the plateau which extended across the central and eastern portion of the excavation area. When considered in isolation the waste pits characterised by [012; 015; 020; 023; 041; 055; 083 and 085] point towards habitual reuse of this part of the landscape for waste disposal associated with nearby Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age domestic occupation. It should be noted that elsewhere that there is a significant Bronze Age presence in the landscape of the plateau above the valley of the River Fynn and to the east of the River Gipping, as demonstrated by settlement and burial activity from sites 11b, 14 and 15 (Colman 2018; Gonzalez 2019; Thomas 2018). Findspots such as a fragment of a bronze sword blade, as well as fragments of a possible shield mounting or cauldron (AKE 001) were identified c. 500m from Site 9b as well as a bronze spearhead tip (AKE 015) c. 520m south-west of the site both indicate contemporary activity in the locality. The overarchingly uniform type of flint-tempered pottery recovered from the pits when coupled with the large concentrations of retrieved ceramic material points towards small scale, localised Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery production potentially intended for trade or immediate domestic use. It should be noted that the Period 2 artefactual evidence revealed on Site 9a also displays a broadly comparable date to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age settlement and mortuary enclosure on Site 9b

50m to the east. However, should we consider the waste pits revealed on Site 9a in tandem with the proposed mortuary enclosure and settlement on Site 9b it is apparent that very different phases of land-use are occurring across a relatively small area during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age transition period. For example, it seems unlikely that an area demarcated for waste disposal, presumably situated close to a settlement, would be simultaneously used as an agricultural plot or that land ascribed a funerary role and sited within a prominent hilltop location would be simultaneously exploited for farming purposes. It seems more likely that the archaeological evidence revealed on Sites 9a and 9b point towards a periodic change in land-use potentially motivated by socio-economic instability or population pressures.

8.3.3 Period 3 (Medieval)

8.3.3.1 The medieval activity was characterised by the identification of field boundary ditch [028] extending from the south-western corner of the excavation area as well as the plough furrows [008], [044], [050], [054], [061], [068], [071] and [074] identified in the east of the site. The ditch was filled by naturally deposited silts and displayed no evidence for either deliberate backfill events formally putting the land boundary out of use or redeposited upcast caused by the erosion of nearby bank material suggesting the boundary was demarcated solely by a ditch which was allowed to gradually fall into disuse. The recovery of 11th-12th century Early Medieval Ware and 15th – 16th century Post-medieval Transition Ware suggest that the ditch remained present within the landscape from the 11th century until the late medieval period. Similarly, the recovery of sheep or goat bones from ditch [028] coupled with evidence for butchery suggests that [028] may have functioned as a pastoral field boundary and likely formed part of a wider network of land divisions. Evidence of troughs of ridge and furrow ploughing identified on Site 9a using a mouldboard plough would broadly confirm this interpretation within the broader scope associated with the diversity of pastoral and arable medieval farming practices situated in the area. Furthermore, these furrows may be evidence of 'stetch' ploughing, as opposed to ridge and furrow, which was used extensively over East Anglia and produced low ridges that therefore tend not to survive as earthworks (Martin and Satchell 2008). There is also the possibility that the furrows are modern features with intrusive pottery dragged in from an earlier feature.

8.3.3.2 It is interesting to note that ditch [028] displays a broadly coaxial relationship with a north-west – south-east orientated trackway visible on the second edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 12). The apparent spatial relationship displayed by ditch [028] could suggest that the 19th century trackway present on the second edition Ordnance Survey map might represent the relict remnants of an earlier medieval land division which still remains preserved within the modern landscape to this day.

8.3.4 Period 4 (Post-medieval - Modern)

8.3.4.1 The post-medieval phase of activity was characterised by the presence of field boundary ditch [034] which from the western site boundary, upslope to the central portion of the excavation area prior to turning sharply northwards. This latter eastern portion, defined by the abrupt shift in orientation, was visible on the second edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1881, and remained present within the landscape immediately prior to the present phase of archaeological fieldwork. Reference to the depositional sequence and on-site observation suggested that this eastern portion of [028] had been allowed to silt-up and had later been exploited by trees and hedges to form a highly visible land boundary. The western portion of the ditch was not visible on the second edition Ordnance survey but clearly once formed part of the same boundary with the annotated eastern segment but had been allowed to fall into disuse and was abandoned prior to the later 19th century. Consequently, ditch [028] was interpreted as a probable post-medieval field boundary intended to both demarcate a plot and, given the ditches orientation, was intended to assist with land drainage. The absence of any palaeobotanical or osteological material hinders interpretation of the fields specific land-use however, the boundaries presence suggests that the land north of Akenham continued to be exploited for agricultural purposes from the medieval period until the present day.

8.3.4.2 Period 4 also includes evidence for late 19th or early 20th century sand and gravel extraction, characterised by quarry pit [075], at the western margin of the site. Feature [075] broadly corresponded with the location of a quarry pit annotated on the third edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1881 (Figure 12). The quarry was not visible on the fourth edition Ordnance survey and suggested that quarry was no longer visible in the landscape prior to the mid-20th century. Quarry pit [075] formed part of a network of low intensity quarrying operations visible within the landscape bordering Akenham during the late 19th and early 20th century. Reference to the mapping data reveals similar abandoned quarry pits within the fields south-west of Akenham Hall and south-east of Bower Farm and serves to highlight the wide-spread nature of late 19th century sand or gravel extraction operations in the region at this time.

8.4 Efficacy of the Evaluation Result

8.4.1 Site 9a was designated as an area of archaeological potential in the cultural heritage desk-based assessment (RSK Environment 2012, Figure 25.6.2). Whilst it is reasonable to not necessarily anticipate that the geophysical survey would have identified the Late Bronze Age pits clustered at the eastern portion of the site the survey also failed to reveal any of the ditches or furrows which extended across the excavation. In contrast the results of the evaluation trenching were proved overwhelmingly correct as Trenches 160, 162 and 163 correctly identified the potential for prehistoric and Late Bronze Age activity on the site whilst accurately locating medieval ditch [028]. Trench 163 did however fail to

reveal any of the eight furrows which bisected its location and should reasonably be anticipated to have been identified. Similarly, the evaluation trenching project also failed to reveal the post-medieval and 19th century field boundary ditch [034] which extended the length of the western portion of the site and would have bisected Trenches 160 – 162.

8.5 Conclusion and statement of significance

8.5.1 The archaeological evidence identified during the excavation of Site 9a has demonstrated human presence in the landscape, in many phases, spanning the Mesolithic to the present day. Residual Mesolithic flint, recovered from medieval ditch [028], although of limited evidential significance still highlights the presence of hunter-gatherer communities within the landscape during the Mesolithic and provides some information gain in relation to the technologies being used in the region at this time. Similarly residual Late Neolithic flint was recovered from medieval plough furrow (073) indicating human activity within the area. This interpretation is further supported by the presence of residual Mesolithic flintwork on neighbouring Sites 8 and Site 9b.

8.5.2 The probable Early Bronze Age enclosure/boundary although limited to only three features derives archaeological significance from the close stratigraphic relationships displayed by the ditches and the votive pit coupled with the apparent use, abandonment and re-use of the features within both a normative and ritual context. Evidential significance might also be derived from the recovery of a near complete collared urn form pit [109] which given the relative paucity of comparably dated archaeological material nationally affords an opportunity to assess both collared urn pottery typologies and their relative distribution.

8.5.3 The Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age period is characterised by multiple sequences of land-use associated with domestic waste disposal and arable farming centred on the plateau located towards the eastern portion of the site. The significance of the archaeological evidence is accentuated by comparative reference to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age material recovered from Site 9b to the east which suggests that the hill-top plateau north of Akenham was the focus for Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity related to the occupation of an enclosed farmstead settlement, cereal cultivation and a cremation cemetery. Whilst it's possible that the furrows, waste pits, cremation cemetery and enclosed settlement which straddle sites 9a and 9b were contemporary it seems more likely that sites were consistently occupied and exploited during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition period but were used for a wide variety of purposes. The combined archaeological evidence from both sites 9a and 9b would serve to underscore both the transitional nature of land-use during Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition and the consistent attractiveness of hill-top locations for both domestic and mortuary purposes during this period.

8.5.4 Local significance should also be ascribed to the successive phases of agricultural land division characterised by the medieval, post-medieval and 19th century ditches bisecting the central and western portions of the site. The relative antiquity of the Period 3 and 4 field boundary ditches provides an insight into the establishment and evolution of the modern agricultural landscape bordering Akenham and does in part testify as to the apparent longevity of the field systems laid out across rural Suffolk during these periods.

8.5.5 A limited number of findspots have been identified within the wider area surrounding Site 9a and recorded within the Historic Environment Record (HER). 115m to the south east of the site a Medieval finds scatter was noted (AKE051). A further 200m to the south west an additional Medieval finds scatter was also recorded (AKE022). Immediately north of the site a Bronze Age spearhead was recovered (AKE015).

9 Statement of Potential

9.1 An assessment of the archaeological evidence gathered from Site 9a is provided within the following section and will determine the importance of the site at a local, regional and national level. The dataset collected and analysed in consultation with research questions posed within the research framework for the East of England and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Medlycott, 2011; SPR 2017) will allow the placing of the site within its wider landscape setting and may facilitate further discussions and recommendations relating to Site 9a. The excavation has achieved its primary aim of mitigating the effect of development on the existing archaeology through preservation by record. Further analysis and reporting will enable the dissemination of the results to a wider audience through a combination of grey literature reporting via the ADS and be included in a publication on a route wide consideration of the later prehistoric landscape.

9.2 Further work to refine and synthesise, in closer detail, the structural phasing framework to inform integrated analysis of the assemblages of pottery and Bronze Age flintwork will refine and clarify both artefactual typologies and the changing patterns of land use over time.

9.3 The Mesolithic flint, although derived from a medieval contexts, is of local importance and further analysis and detailed cataloguing and description is recommended. Though the residuality of the artefact hinders definitive interpretation its location allows us to broadly determine possible focal points for hunter-gather communities, when considered in relation to other find spots in the region and the location of preferred flint mines or nodes in order to ascribe distribution patterns to flint sourced from particular locations.

9.4 Study of ditches [111/112] on Site 9a also provides a limited opportunity to explore Early Bronze Age land-use patterns within the local area and could point towards the location of a larger enclosure, either domestic or agricultural, preserved *in-situ* beyond the northern and southern margins of the site. Cooper notes that the development

between the Early Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age of settlement mobility is not well understood and the evidence for field systems does not necessarily equate to settlement activity (Cooper 2019, 11). More importantly, however the evidential value derived from votive pit [109] may allow us to explore the proposed ritualization of enclosure abandonment, during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age period through the study of comparable sites both regionally and nationally. Whilst the recovery of a near complete Collared Urn would be well suited for reconstruction and comparative typological analysis which could feed into a regional corpus of data in order to determine patterns of distribution and use in a variety of settings in particular to feed into a wider assessment of depositional practice during this period (Cooper 2019).

9.5 The wealth of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery provides an opportunity to expand our knowledge in relation to the identification of locally or regionally produced wares as well as offer information gain in relation to distribution patterns and could further the seriation of form and fabric types on a local level (Medlycott, 2011, 20; Brudenell 2019). Given the implication that such a large volume of pottery might have been produced within the immediate vicinity of the site thin-section analysis might also be a useful tool for ascribing both pottery provenance, distribution and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery production technologies.

9.6 The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age evidence retrieved from Sites 9a and 9b might also feed into our knowledge of settlement form elements but also affords an opportunity to explore the manner in which mortuary, domestic and agricultural land-use might inter-relate during this period (Medlycott, 2011, 20; Brudenell 2019).

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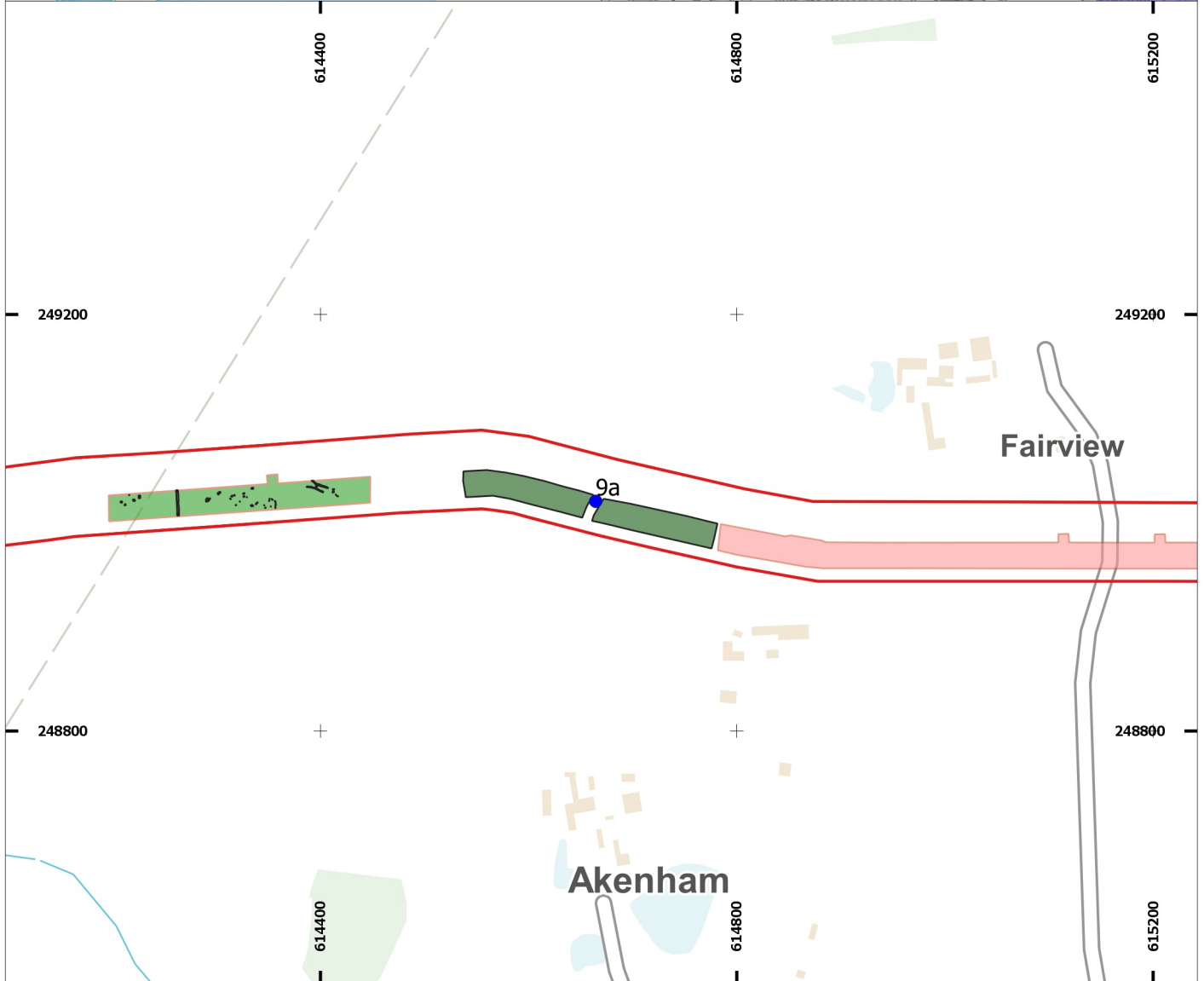
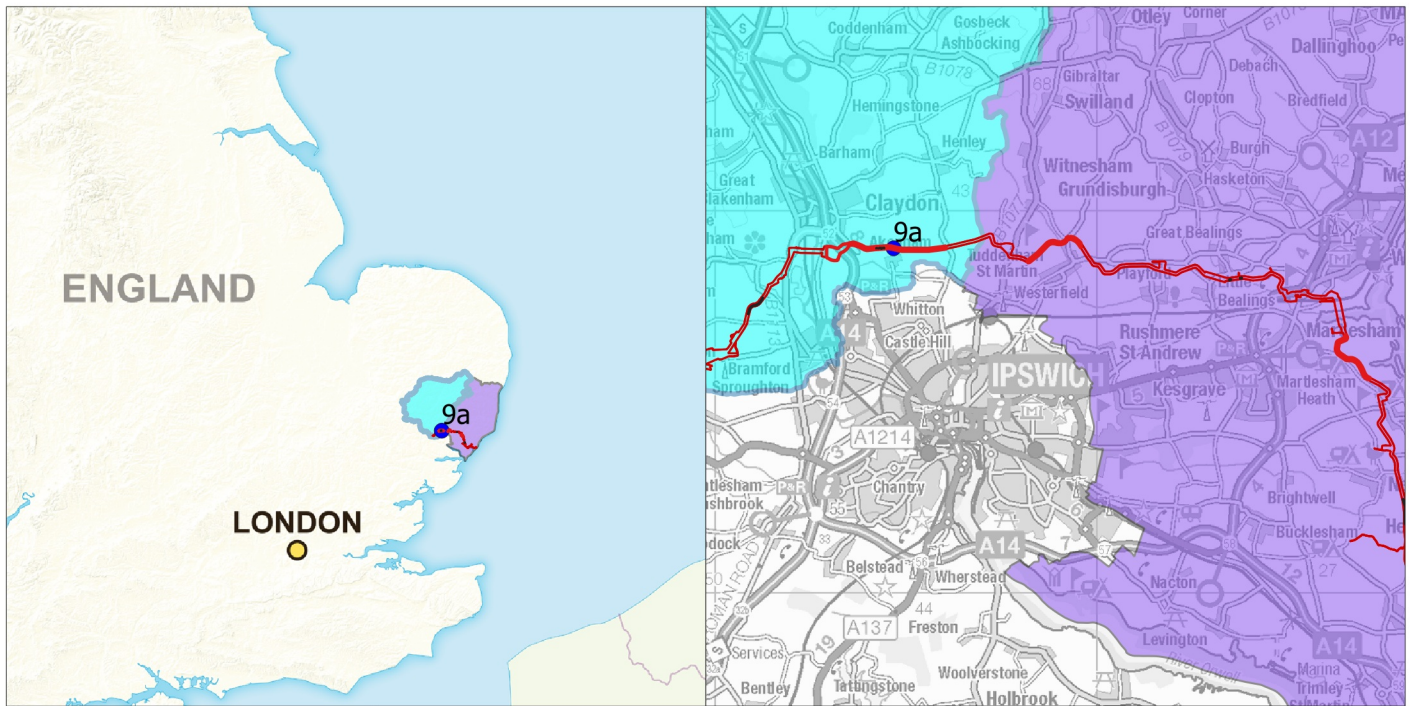
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APPENDIX I: Figures



Site name: Site 9a, East Anglia One
 Date: 23/05/2019
 Drawn by: ARJ
 Scale: Varies

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 Contains Ordnance Survey data.
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**Figure 1:
 Site location**






Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB
 Tel: 01629 814540
 www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

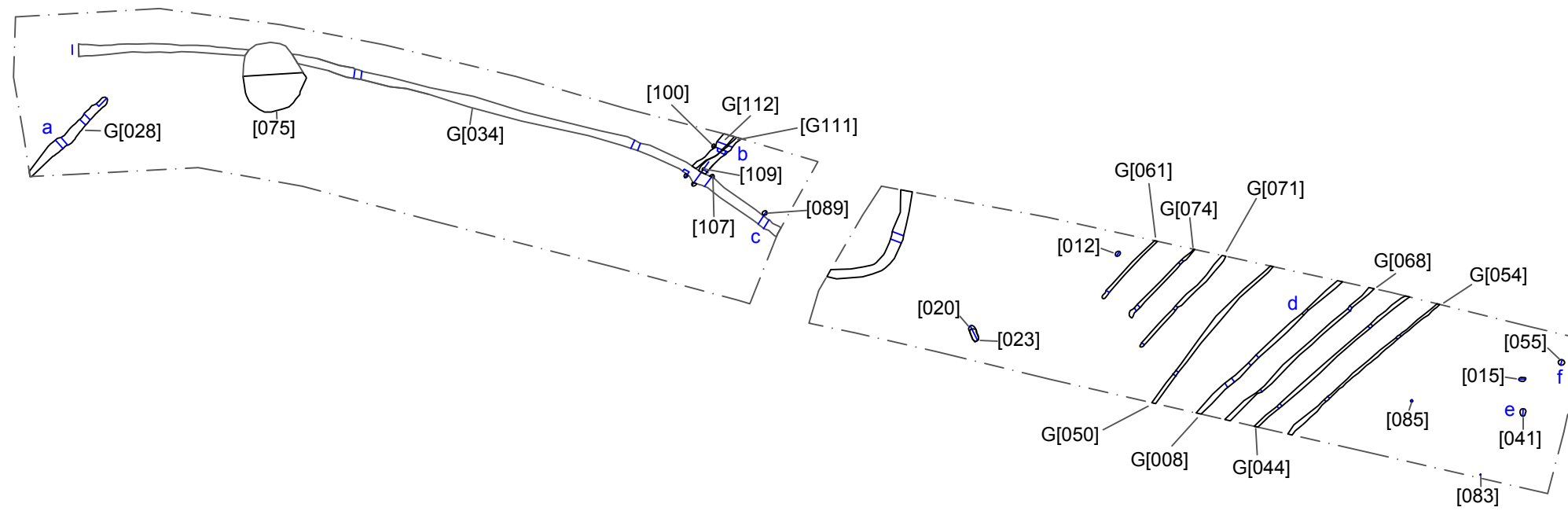
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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Figure 2: Plan of site 9a

Drawn: MN
Scale: 1250@A3

Key:

-  Limit of Excavation
-  Intervention limits
-  a - f Location of sections presented in figures 4 and 5



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Figure 3. South west facing section through ditch [037] (Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations).



Figure 4. North east facing section through ditches [094], [096] and pit [100] (Scale 1 x 2m in 0.5m graduations).



Figure 5. South east facing section through ditch [087] (Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations).



Figure 6. South east facing section through posthole [089] (Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations).

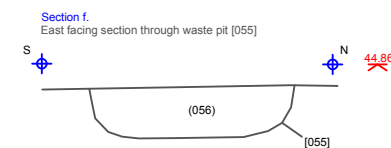
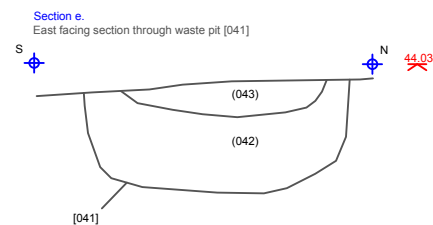
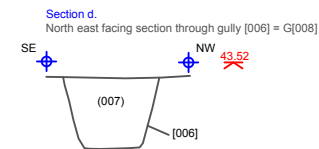
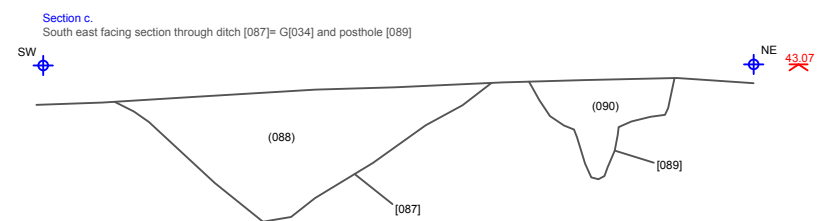
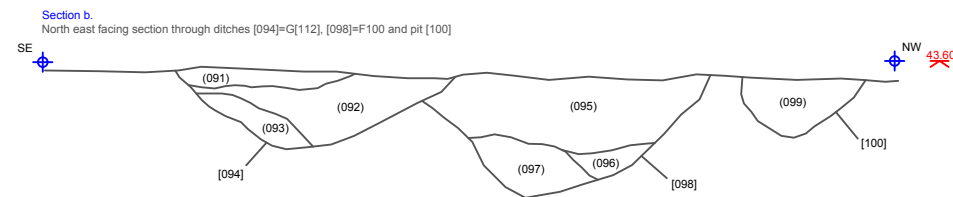
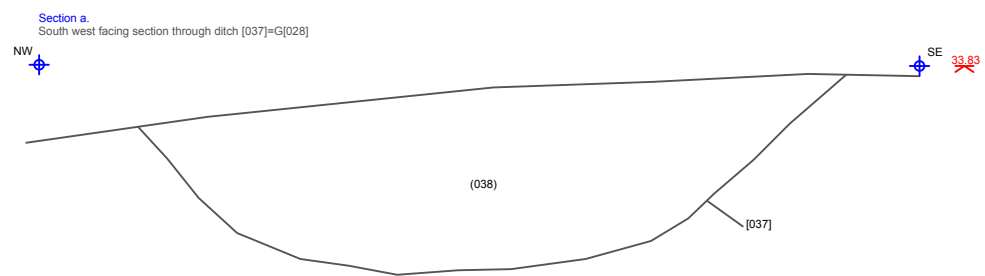


Figure 7. Sections through features [037], [094], [098], [100], [087], [089], [006], [041] and [055]

Drawn: MN
Scale: 1:30@A3

Key:

62.70 All heights expressed in mOD

Section a-f Sections located on Figure 2



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Figure 8. North east facing section through furrow [006] (Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations).



Figure 9. East facing section through pit [041] (Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations).









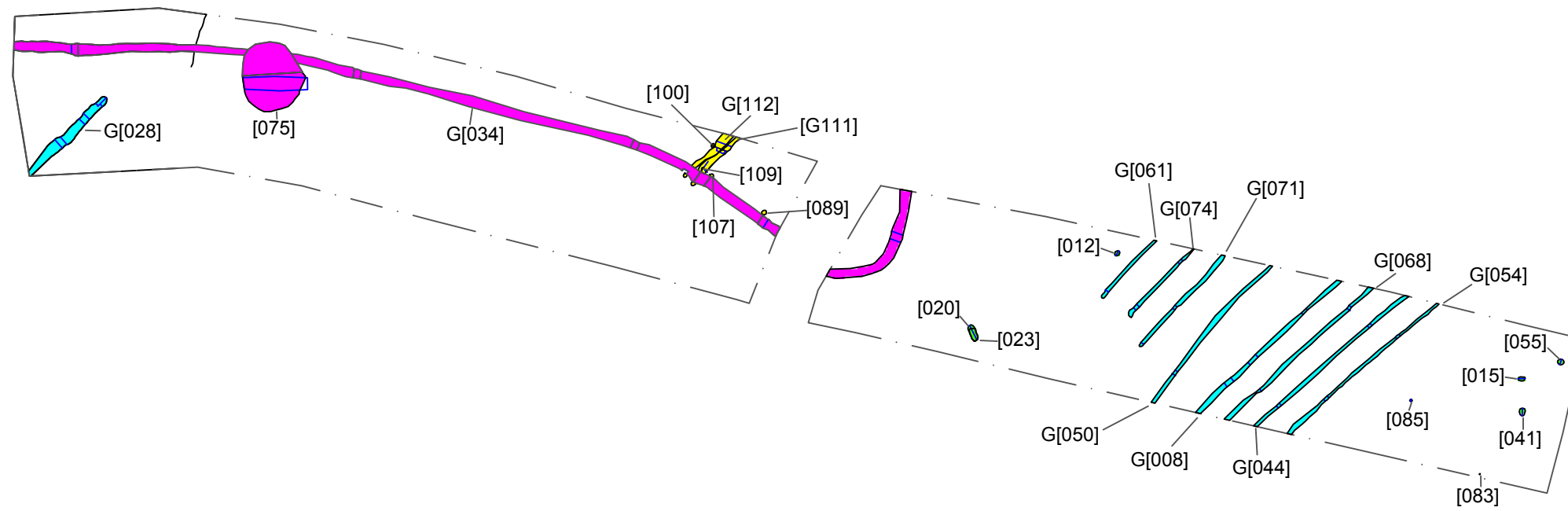
Figure 10. East facing section through boundary ditch [055] (Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations).

Figure 11: Phased plan of site 9a.

Drawn: MN
Scale: 1:250 @A4

Key:

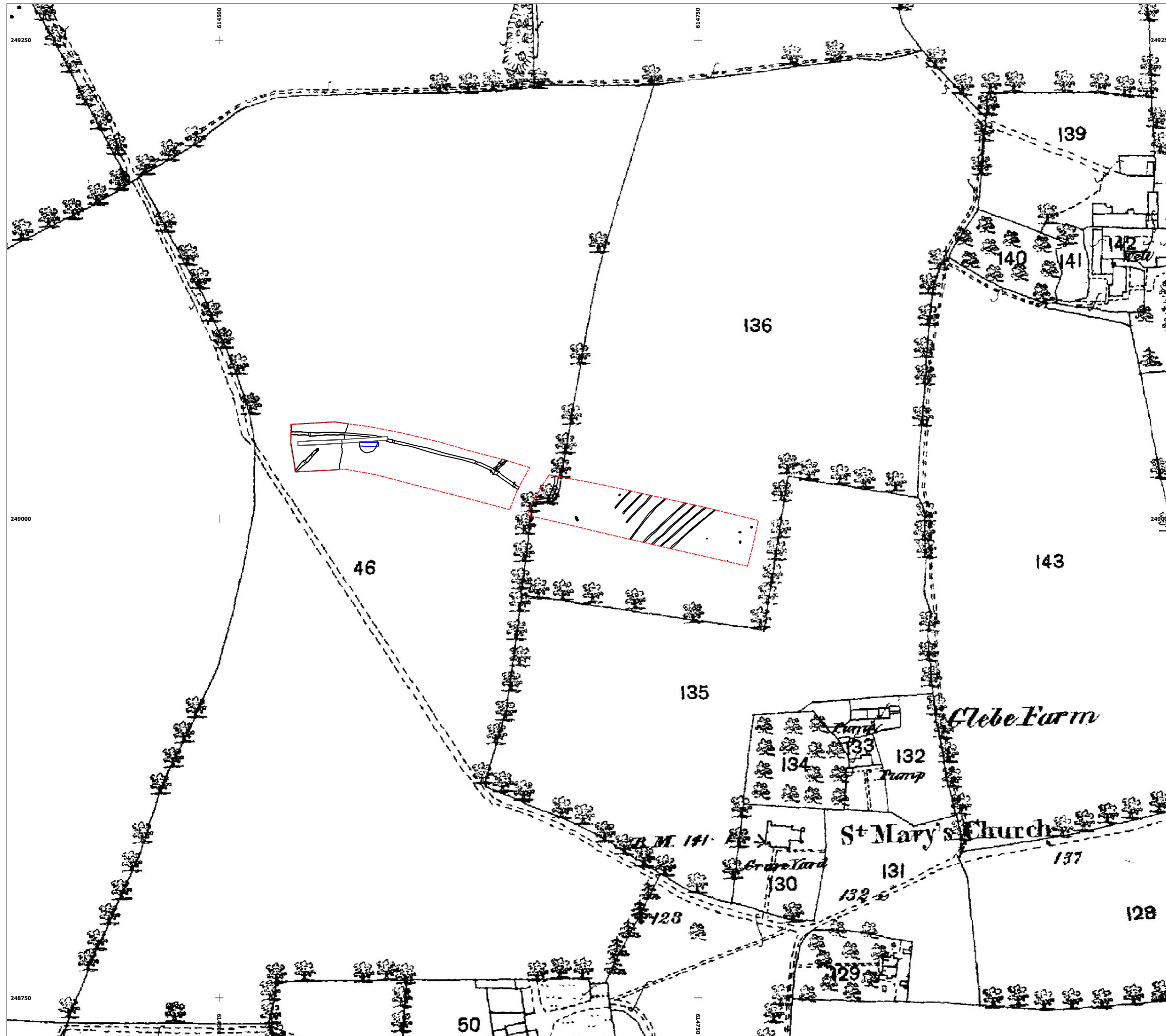
-  Limit of Excavation
-  Intervention limits
-  Early Bronze Age
-  Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age
-  Medieval
-  Post Medieval to Modern



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Figure 12: Plan of Site 9a overlaid on 1881 OS map



Limit of Excavation



Site name: EA1 Site 9a
 Date: July 2019
 Drawn by: MB
 Scale: 1:2000 @ A3

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The Eco Centre
 Windmill Way
 Hebburn
 Tyne and Wear
 NE31 1SR



This drawing: © ARS Ltd

Landmark Historical Map. Suffolk. 1881-1882.
 Originally plotted at 1:2,500

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APPENDIX II: Context Summary Table

Context Number	Group No.	Description	Period	Finds	Environmental Samples	C14 Date
001	N/A	Dark Grey-brown topsoil				
002	N/A	Mid Grey-brown silty subsoil				
003	n/a	Yellow-brown sandy-clay natural				
004	8	Yellow-brown sandy-clay - tightly compacted, moderately sorted fill of furrow 5	LBA/EIA	Five flint flakes, 2 body sherds HMS ware, 1 body sherd HMSO ware, and 1 body sherd SOB GT ware		
005	8	NE-SW aligned linear cut feature with vertical sides and flat base - filled by deposit 4	LBA/EIA			
006	8	NE-SW aligned linear cut feature with vertical sides and flat base - filled by deposit 7	LBA/EIA			
007	8	Grey-brown silty-clay - moderately sorted and tightly compacted fill of furrow 6	LBA/EIA	2 body sherds of HMSO ware		
008	8	Three NE-SW orientated furrows producing probable IA pottery [5.6,9].	LBA/EIA			
009	8	NE-SW aligned linear cut feature with vertical sides and flat base - filled by deposit 10	LBA/EIA			
010	8	Yellow-brown sandy-clay - tightly compacted, moderately sorted fill of furrow 10	LBA/EIA	9 body sherds of HMF ware		
011		Poorly sorted sandy clay, mid brown colour with a firm compaction and with small sub angular stones.	LBA/EIA	9 body sherds of HMF ware		
012		Sub-oval pit with concave sides and rounded, uneven base.	LBA/EIA			
013		Moderately sorted light yellow-brown silty-clay fill of waste pit 12	LBA/EIA			
014		Poorly sorted, grey-brown sandy-clay secondary fill of pit 15	LBA/EIA	3 flint flakes, 68 body sherds of HMF ware	1	
015		Cut of domestic waste pit containing dump deposits 14 and 16	LBA/EIA			
016		Poorly sorted, yellow-brown, sandy-clay fill of pit 15	LBA/EIA			
017	34	N-S aligned 19th century boundary ditch filled by accumulation deposits 18 and 19	Post-medieval			

018	34	Mid grey-brown, silty-sand secondary and uppermost fill of ditch 17	Post-medieval			
019	34	Dark Grey-brown silty-sand, primary fill of boundary ditch/boundary ditch 17	Post-medieval			
020		Sub-circular pit containing accumulation deposit 22 and dump deposit 21 (storage pit later re-used as a waste pit?)	LBA/EIA			
021		Mid grey-brown sandy-silt fill of pit 20	LBA/EIA	10 body sherds of HMF ware, 1 body sherd of HMSO ware		
022		Light grey-brown sandy-silt containing moderate small sub-angular and angular stones. Final, uppermost fill of pit 20	LBA/EIA	4 body sherds of HMF ware	3	
023		Sub-oval waste pit, cuts pit fills 21 and 22 of earlier pit 20	LBA/EIA			
024		Mid-grey-brown, sandy-silt dump deposit containing frequent large and small sub-oval and sub-angular stony inc. Fill of pit 23.	LBA/EIA			
025		Light grey-brown clay-silt accumulation suggestive of consolidation or weathering of the pit sides following construction. Primary fill of pit 23	LBA/EIA	5 flint flakes	11	
026		Yellow-grey silty colluvium				
027		Context number applied to unstratified finds - mostly recovered from residual subsoil or topsoil deposits		1 body sherd of EMW		
028	28	NE-SW aligned boundary ditch with concave sides and a rounded uneven base	Medieval			
029	28	Cut of boundary ditch filled by accumulation deposit 30	Medieval			
030	28	Light grey-brown sandy-silt accumulated disuse deposit in ditch 29	Medieval			
031	28	brown-yellow silty-sand				
032	34	N-S aligned 19th century boundary ditch filled by accumulation disuse deposit 33	Post-medieval			
033	34	Mid yellow-brown sandy-silt. Well sorted disuse deposit in ditch 32	Post-medieval	1 nail with rectangular sectioned shaft.		
034	34	E-W aligned boundary ditch of post-medieval or 19th century date, eastern extent turns sharply on an N-S orientation.	Post-medieval			
035	28	Cut of NE-SW aligned boundary ditch terminus. Filled by disuse deposit 36.	Medieval			
036	28	Dark Grey-brown silty-sand, primary fill of boundary ditch/boundary ditch 35.	Medieval			
037	28	NE-SW aligned boundary ditch with terminus at northern extent. Filled by disuse deposit 38	Medieval			

AKE044, Site 9a. Land north of St. Mary's Church, Akenham, Suffolk. Post Excavation Assessment Report.

038	28	Dark brown-grey silty-sand disuse deposit in ditch 37	Medieval	1 residual possibly Mesolithic flint flake, 1 body sherd of EMW, and 2 body sherds of LMT ware (one with glaze)	4	
039	34	Cut of E-W orientated post-med or 19th century boundary ditch. Filled by dis-use/accumulation deposit 40.	Post-medieval			
040	28	Mid brown-grey silty sand disuse deposit in boundary ditch cut 39	Post-medieval			
041		Sub-oval hearth clearance or domestic waste pit filled by dump deposits 42 and 43	LBA/EIA			
042		Orange-brown, sandy-clay dump deposit in Pit 41	LBA/EIA	10 flint flakes, 256 sherds of HMF, including 9 fragments of jar, 3 basal sherds and remainder body sherds, 504 sherds of HMF including 15 jar fragments as well as beaker, body and basal sherd, 2 fragments of Ms F/C daub, 1 fragment of Msg F/C daub.	12	
043		Poorly sorted, orange-grey, sandy-clay waste dump in hearth clearance pit/waste pit 41	LBA/EIA	12 Beaker period flint flakes, miscellaneous retouched flakes and a thumbnail scraper	2	
044	54	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 45	LBA/EIA			
045	54	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 44.	LBA/EIA			
046	68	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 47	LBA/EIA			
047	68	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 46.	LBA/EIA			
048	44	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 49	LBA/EIA			
049	44	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 49.	LBA/EIA			
050	50	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 51	LBA/EIA			
051	50	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 50.	LBA/EIA	1 flint flake		

052	54	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 53	LBA/EIA			
053	54	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 53.	LBA/EIA			
054	54	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Includes cut 52 and 44.	LBA/EIA			
055		Sub-circular domestic waste pit filled by dump deposit 56.	LBA/EIA			
056		Poorly sorted grey-brown dump deposit containing IA pottery, burnt stone and charcoal	LBA/EIA	3 flint flakes and flint blade, 14 body sherds of HMF ware, 2 body sherds of HMS ware, 7 fragments of Ms F/C daub.	5	
057	71	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 58.	LBA/EIA			
058	71	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 57.	LBA/EIA			
059	74	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 60..	LBA/EIA			
060	74	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 59.	LBA/EIA			
061	61	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 62	LBA/EIA			
062	61	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 59.	LBA/EIA			
063	68	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 64.	LBA/EIA			
064	68	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 63.	LBA/EIA			
065	void	void				
066	44	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 67.	LBA/EIA			
067	44	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 66.	LBA/EIA			
068	68	NE-SW Aligned furrow with vertical sides and a flat base. Includes cut 46 and 63	LBA/EIA			
069	71	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and flat-bottomed base. Filled by deposit 70	LBA/EIA			
070	71	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 69.	LBA/EIA			
071	71	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and flat-bottomed base. Includes 57 and 69.	LBA/EIA			
072	74	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and flat-bottomed base. Filled by 73.	LBA/EIA			

073	74	Grey-brown silty disuse deposit in furrow 72.	LBA/EIA	8 flint flakes, 1 miscellaneous retouched flake, and thumbnail scraper, 5 body sherds of HMF ware	10	
074	74	NE-SW aligned furrow with vertical sides and flat-bottomed base. Includes 59 and 72.	LBA/EIA			
075		Sub-oval quarry pit with concave sides and a rounded base. Filled by acc. 76.	20 th century			
076	N/A	Grey-yellow sandy-silt deposit containing occasional small sub-rounded stony inclusions. Fill of quarry pit 75	20 th century			
077	void	void				
078	void	void				
079	34	N-S aligned boundary ditch with concave sides and a rounded base. Cuts ditch 034. Filled by 80	Post-medieval			
080	34	Well sorted yellow-grey sandy-silt fill of ditch 79	Post-medieval	1 sherd MOD pottery		
081	111	N-S aligned ditch filled by accumulation deposit 82.	Early Bronze Age			
082	111	Well sorted, mid grey-orange silty sand filled of prehistoric ditch 81	Early Bronze Age			
083	N/A	Sub-circular posthole with near vertical sides and a tapered base	LBA/EIA			
084	N/A	Dark grey-brown sandy-clay fill of posthole 83.	LBA/EIA			
085	N/A	Circular posthole with near vertical concave sides and rounded base.	LBA/EIA			
086	N/A	Dark grey-brown sandy-clay backfill in posthole 84.	LBA/EIA		9	
087	34	W-E aligned post-med/C19th boundary ditch filled by 88	Post-medieval			
088	34	Well sorted, grey-brown silty-sand fill of ditch 87	Post-medieval			
089		Sub-circular posthole filled by 90	Early Bronze Age			

090		Well sorted grey-brown silty-sand	Early Bronze Age			
091	112	Poorly sorted, yellow -grey silty-clay backfill in ditch 94.	Early Bronze Age			
092	112	Poorly sorted yellow-brown silty-clay backfill in ditch 94	Early Bronze Age			
093	112	Well sorted grey-brown sandy-silt in ditch 94	Early Bronze Age			
094	112	NE-SW aligned probable Chalc./BA enclosure/boundary ditch. Filled by 91 - 93.	Early Bronze Age			
095	111	Poorly sorted red-brown silty-clay backfill in ditch 98.	Early Bronze Age			
096	111	Well sorted yellow-brown accumulation deposit in ditch 98	Early Bronze Age			
097	111	Dark grey-brown silty-sand accumulation in ditch 98	Early Bronze Age			
098	111	N-S aligned enclosure/boundary ditch cut by G112 and G034	Early Bronze Age			
099	N/A	Poorly sorted yellow-brown redeposited natural backfill in pit 100	Early Bronze Age			
100	N/A	Sub-circular probable waste pit filled by backfill deposit 99	Early Bronze Age			
101	34	ENE-WSW aligned post-med/C19th ditch boundary ditch	Post-medieval			

102	34	Well sorted grey-brown silty-sand accumulation in boundary ditch 101	Post-medieval		6	
103	112	NNE-SSW aligned ditch terminus cut by G112 and G034	Early Bronze Age			
104		Poorly sorted yellow-brown sandy-silt backfill in pit 109	Early Bronze Age	39 body sherds of Collared Urn.	7	
105	34	ENE-WSW aligned post-med/C19th ditch boundary ditch filled by 106	Post-medieval		8	
106	34	Well sorted grey-brown silty-sand accumulation in boundary ditch 101	Post-medieval			
107		Sub-oval pit containing accumulation 108	Early Bronze Age			
108		Moderately sorted yellow-brown silty-sand accumulation in pit 107	Early Bronze Age			
109		Sub-circular pit filled by deliberately deposited beaker and backfill deposit 104. Cuts ditch 103 (G112)	Early Bronze Age			
110	112	well sorted orange-brown sandy-silt in ditch 103	Early Bronze Age			
111	112	NNE-SSW aligned enclosure/boundary ditch cut by G112 and G034	Early Bronze Age			
112	112	NE-SW aligned possible enclosure/boundary ditch cuts G111 and cut by post-med ditch G034.	Early Bronze Age			

Table 7. Context summary table

APPENDIX III: Specialist Report Tables

Sample No.	1	3	11	12	2	5	9	7	23	12
Context No.	14	22	25	42	43	56	86	104	106	112
Description	Secondary fill of prehistoric waste pit [015]	Uppermost fill of prehistoric pit [020]	Primary fill of pit [023]	Primary fill of prehistoric waste pit [042]	Secondary fill of prehistoric waste pit [042]	Fill of prehistoric waste pit [055]	Fill of posthole [085]	Pit backfill	Fill of 19th century boundary ditch [105]	Enclosure/boundary ditch 2 fill
Flot Weight	8.77g	0.5g	0.47g	9.95g	0.81g	13.20g	1.46g	1.47g	1.24g	0.35g
Charcoal										
Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)						6	1			
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)							2			
Pomaceous fruit (<i>Maloideae</i>)						3	1			
Oak (<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	5			10		1	2			
Charcoal/uncharred material notes	15% rootlets	Small fragments	Small fragments		Small fragments			Small fragments	Small fragments	Single fragment

Table 8. Recovered palaeoenvironmental remains from Site 9a.

AKE044, Site 9a. Land north of St. Mary's Church, Akenham, Suffolk. Post Excavation Assessment Report.

Context	Cut	Type	Fabric	Form	No	Wgt/g	Abrasion	Comments	Date	Fill date
4	5	Furrow	HMS (2), HMSO (1), SOB GT (1)	Body	4	8	Abr	Fragmentary. ?Residual	IA & LIA/c AD70	IA & LIA/c AD70
7	6	Furrow	HMSO	Body	2	3	Abr	Fragmentary. ?Residual	E-M/LIA	E-M/LIA
10	9	Furrow	HMF	Body	9	10	Abr	Fragmentary. Some with sparse flint. ?Residual	LBA-EIA/?MIA	LBA-EIA/?MIA
11	?12	Pit	HMF	Body	9	21	Sli	Part fragmentary. Reduced. One with sparse organics	?LBA?-EIA	?LBA?-EIA
14	15	Pit	HMF	Body	68	398	Sli	Some good sized sherds, no rims. Oxidised as well as patchily oxidised/reduced. Contain abundant, coarse ill-sorted flint. Good fabric group	LBA-EIA	LBA-EIA
21	20	Pit	HMF (8), HMF (2), HMSO (1)	Body	11	52	Abr/sli	Reduced and oxidised. Eight with coarse flint, two with sparse flint and more sand. Some of the HMF contain sparse organics too	?LBA?-EIA/?MIA	?LBA?-EIA/?MIA
22	20	Pit	HMF	Body	4	8	Sli	Fragmentary, fabric as above with sparse flint and more sand	?LBA?-EIA/?MIA	?LBA?-EIA/?MIA

27	None	Unstratified	EMW	Body	1	5	Sli	Reduced, HM with quartz and fumed surface	11th-12th	11th-12th
38	37	Ditch	EMW (1), LMT (2)	Body	3	11	Sli	One LMT sherd has traces of glaze	11th-12th & 15th-16th	11th-12th & 15th-16th
42	41	Pit	HMF	Jar x 9?+, body, base x 3	256	1250	Sli	Mixture of reduced and oxidised fabrics and many patchily coloured. Most contain abundant, coarse ill-sorted flint, although within some the flint is sparse; occasional sparse organics present too. One fabric (three sherds) is brown with black core, flint is rare to sparse, looks to have more in common with MBA fabrics but looks transitional too. One sherd with possible finger nail decor. At least nine jars are present all have upright rims that are pointed or flattened only two have a reasonable profile. Good group needs more work	LBA-?EIA?	LBA-?EIA?

43	41	Pit	HMF	Jar x 15?+, beaker, body and base x1	504	2577	Sli	Fabrics as above. Nine jars like previous with bead/slightly flat rims some look in-turned or with internal bevel. Three have pointed everted rims. One with everted/flat rim that is serrated on bead. Four have flat/serrated rims. One fineware beaker present with thin everted rim and fine rilling on its outer wall. Three body sherds have some form of vertical line decor. Good group needs more work	LBA-EIA	LBA-EIA
56	55	Pit	HMF (14), HMS (2)	Body	16	50	Abr/sli	Variably coloured and abraded, fragmentary. Presence of abraded HMS sherds suggests post LBA date	?LBA?/EIA?+	?LBA?/EIA?+
73	72	Furrow	HMF	Body	5	21	Abr/sli	Reduced	LBA-EIA	LBA-EIA
104	109	Pit	Ceramic	Body	39	669.38	Abr/sli	Collared Urn fragments	EBA	EBA

Table 9. Site 9a pottery assemblage

Ceramics code list

Prehistoric

- HMF Hand-made flint tempered ware
HMS Hand-made sand tempered ware

HMSO Hand-made with sand and organics

LIA/Roman

SOB GT Southern British grog tempered ware

Medieval/post-medieval

EMW Early medieval ware

LMT Late medieval/early post-medieval transitional ware

Abrasion

Very = very abraded, Abr = abraded, Abr/sli = variably abraded, Sli = slightly abraded, Gd = good

Context	Cut	Type	F/C Daub	Fabric	Type	No	Wgt/g	Abrasion	Surfaces	Impressions	Marks	Comments	Pot date
42	41	Pit	F/C	Ms (2), Msg	Frag	3	32	Abr	1 x flat irregular			Oxidised	?LBA?-EIA
56	55	Pit	F/C	Ms	Frag	7	11	Abr				Oxidised	?LBA?-EIA?+

Table 10. Site 9a fired clay and CBM assemblage

Codes list

CBM and fired clay

Ms	Medium sandy
Msfe	Medium sandy with ferrous inclusions
Msg	Medium sandy with grog

Abrasion

Very = very abraded, Abr = abraded, Abr/sli = variably abraded, Sli = slightly abraded, Gd = good condition

APPENDIX IV: Metadata Quantification

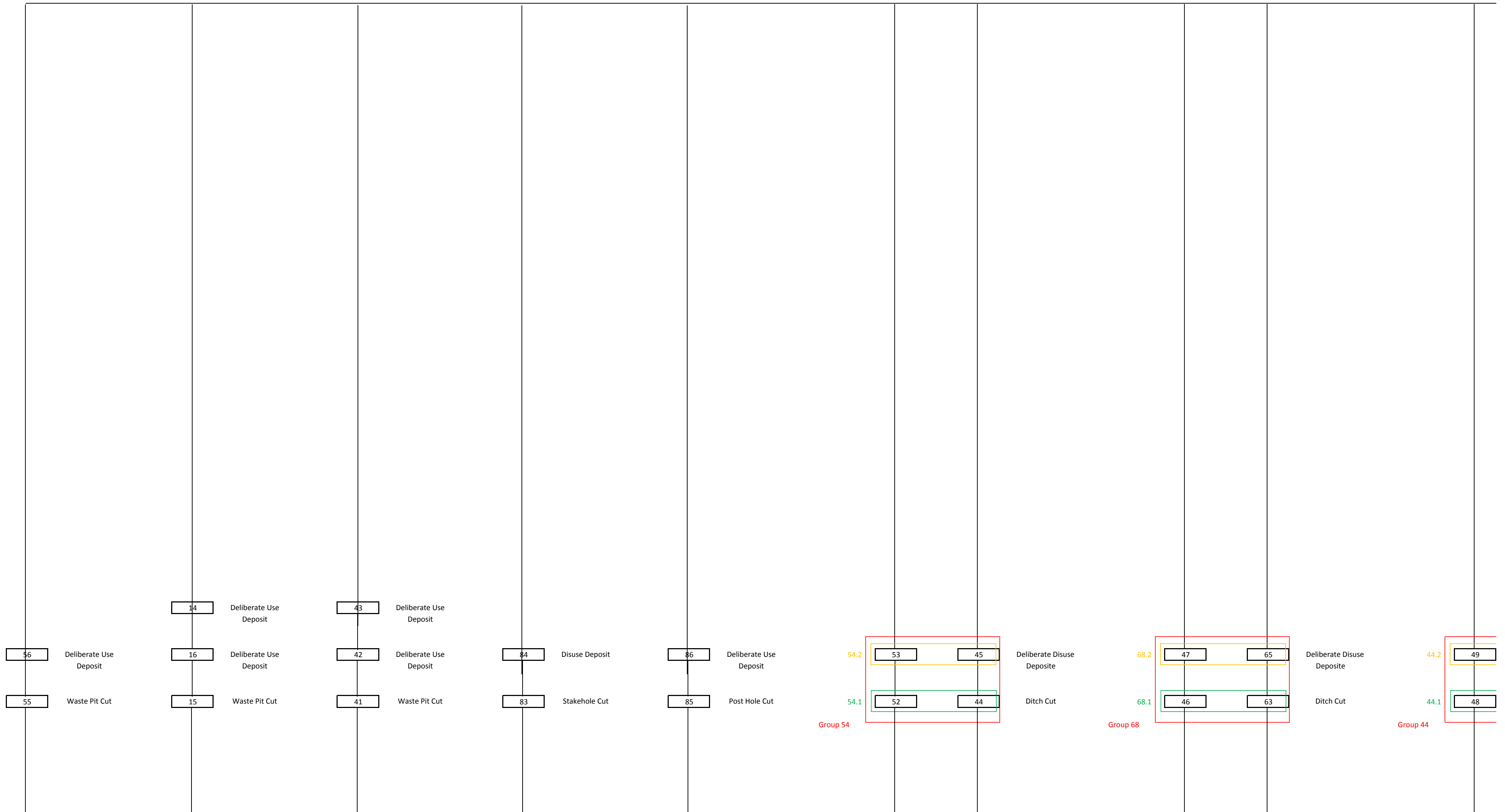
AKE044, Site 9a. Land north of St. Mary's Church, Akenham, Suffolk. Post Excavation Assessment Report.

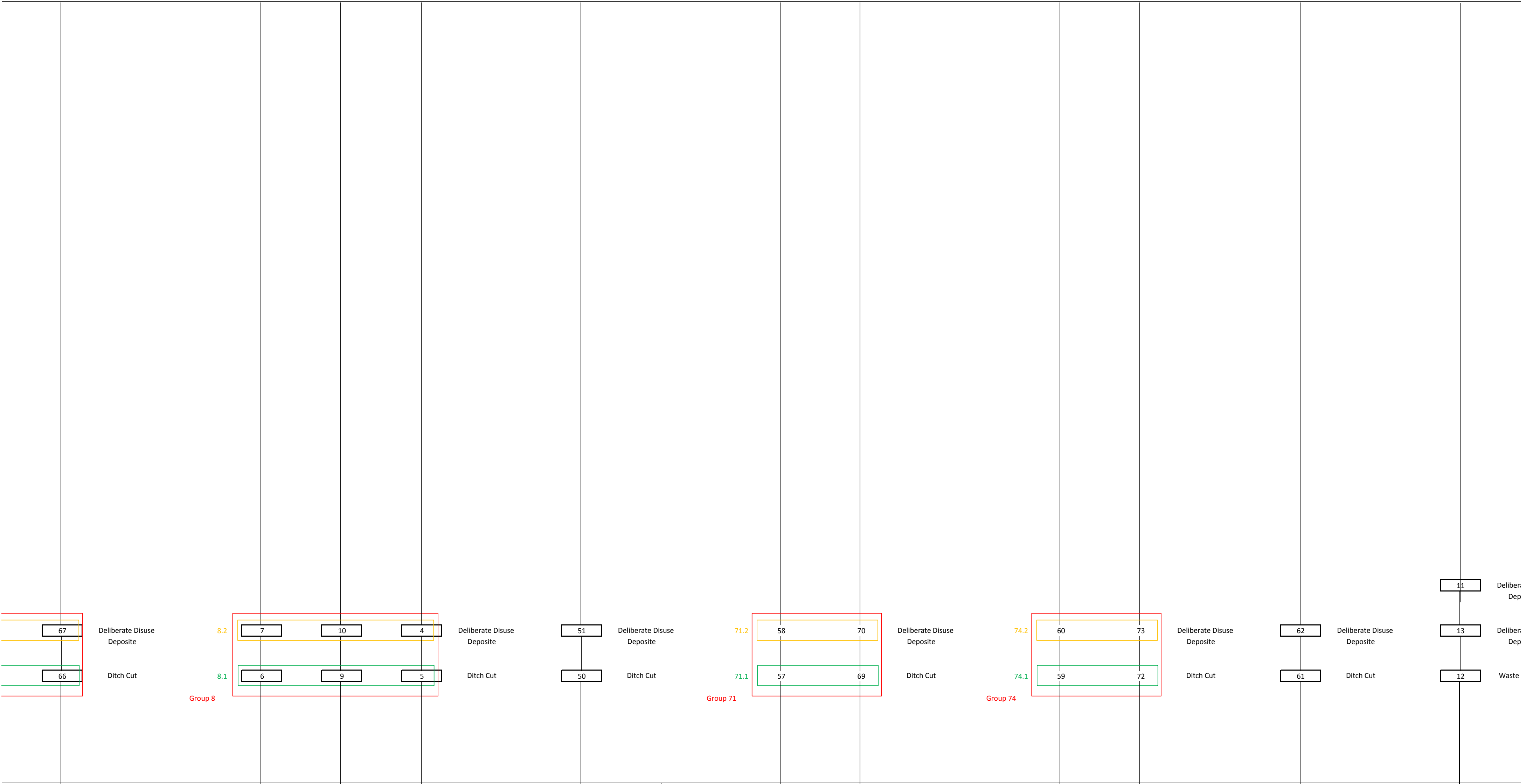
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Context database	1 excel file	W:\Contract Projects New\East_Anglia_One\Post-Excavation\EA1_PX\AKE044_Site9a\AKE044_Site9a_Excavation_Database_ContextTable\File_Name.xlsx
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Drawings Register	70 records, 1 PDF	W:\Contract Projects New\East_Anglia_One\Post-Excavation\EA1_PX\AKE044_Site9a\AKE044_Site9a_Excavation_SiteRecords\AKE044_Site9b_Excavation_SiteRecords_DrawingRegisters\File_Name.PDF
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Table 11. Metadata Quantification

APPENDIX V: Harris Matrix





67

Deliberate Disuse Deposit

66

Ditch Cut

8.2

7

10

4

Deliberate Disuse Deposit

8.1

6

9

5

Ditch Cut

Group 8

51

Deliberate Disuse Deposit

50

Ditch Cut

Group 71

71.2

58

70

Deliberate Disuse Deposit

71.1

57

69

Ditch Cut

Group 74

74.2

60

73

Deliberate Disuse Deposit

74.1

59

72

Ditch Cut

62

Deliberate Disuse Deposit

61

Ditch Cut

11

Deliber. Dep

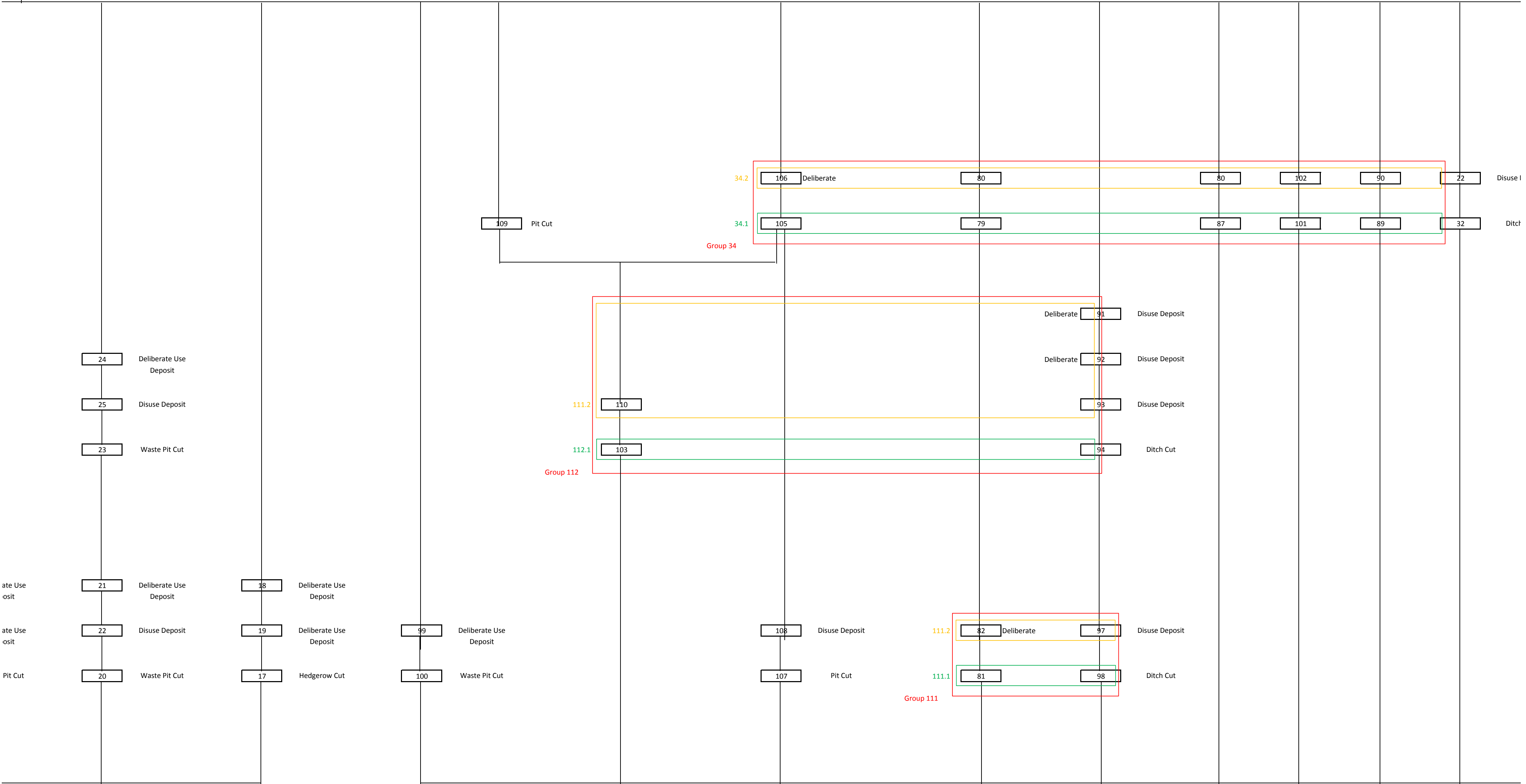
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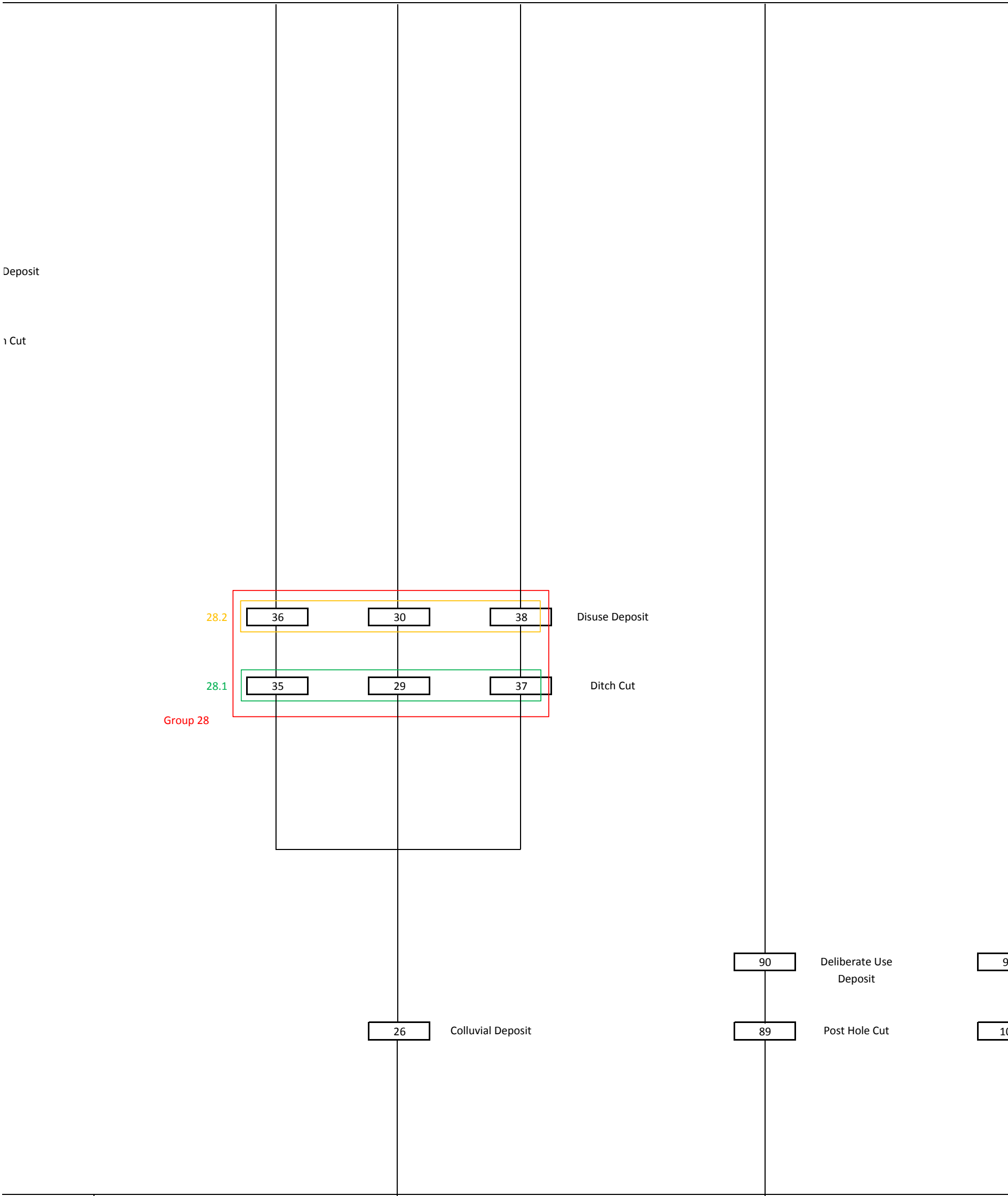
Deliber. Dep

12

Waste

3





Deposit

1 Cut

28.2

28.1

Group 28

Disuse Deposit

Ditch Cut

90
Deliberate Use
Deposit

99
Disuse Deposit

26
Colluvial Deposit

89
Post Hole Cut

100
Pit Cut

31

APPENDIX VI: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-351047

Project details

Project name	East Anglia One: Site 9a, An Archaeological Excavation on north of Akenham, Suffolk
Short description of the project	The East Anglia ONE project comprised a 1200mw offshore windfarm and associated marine and land-based infrastructure works carried out under a Developer Consent Order (DCO) by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR). The onshore works consisted of a 37km cable route from Bawdsey, south east of Ipswich on the Suffolk coast, to a proposed new substation at Bramford sited north west of Ipswich
Project dates	Start: 01-07-2017 End: 25-08-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	AKE 044 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	FIELD BOUNDARIES Late Neolithic
Monument type	COLLARED URN Early Bronze Age
Monument type	WASTE PITS Iron Age
Monument type	AGRICULTURE Iron Age
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Early Bronze Age
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Iron Age
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK IPSWICH IPSWICH Land north of Akenham, Suffolk
Study area	6187.5 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 49000 49000 52.082618685872 1.634724584401 52 04 57 N 001 38 05 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wardell Armstrong Ltd
----------------------	-----------------------

Project brief originator Wardell Armstrong Ltd

Project design originator Wardell Armstrong Ltd

Project director/manager Reuben Thorpe

Project supervisor Rupert Lotherington

Type of sponsor/funding body developer

Entered by Michael Nicholson (Michael@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

Entered on 12 May 2019

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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