# ALLSHOT'S FARM RIVENHALL AIRFIELD ESSEX

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (AREAS A3 AND A4)



PROJECT 2604



## ALLSHOT'S FARM RIVENHALL AIRFIELD ESSEX

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### (AREAS A3 AND A4)

Signature:
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### ALLSHOT'S FARM, RIVENHALL AIRFIELD, ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

(AREAS A3 AND A4)

Client: The Guildhouse Consultancy

Site grid reference: TL 8197 2030

**Date of fieldwork:** 31/8/12 to 2/10/12

Site code: BDAF12

Oasis reference number: 150278 ECC FAU project number: 2604

#### **SUMMARY**

The archaeological evaluation of two parcels of agricultural land, totalling approximately 34.5ha, at Allshots Farm, Rivenhall, Essex, identified two sites of archaeological interest.

Both were situated within Area A4, with the earlier of the two located in trench 40 and consisting of an Early Iron Age gully that produced worked flint and pottery from a charcoal-rich fill. The gully is conjectured to have been part of a small enclosure lying close to an area of settlement, although the activity represented by this feature is likely to be relatively discrete and small-scale in nature as no further features of this date were noted in any of the surrounding trenches.

The second site comprised a medieval to modern settlement site located in trench 53. Early OS mapping indicates it to have been moated and to have contained one or more cottages in its latest stages. The archaeological remains revealed included one of the two cottages, a series of medieval gullies, un-datable and post-medieval post-holes, and a large feature which is likely to have been part of the south side of the moat. Occupation of the site may have been discontinuous as the pottery from it spanned the late 12th to 14th, and the 17th to mid-20th centuries. The 15th/16th-century gap in the sequence is suggested to represent a retreat from marginal land following on from the famines and plagues of the 14th century. Part of the moat may survive as a nearby earthwork and, based upon historic cartographic evidence the site appears to encompass an area approximately 50m by 100m in extent. It extends north to the edge of trench 44 and west to the end of trench 52, with the southern

and eastern boundaries formed by the line of a former trackway that in part is still preserved as a field boundary.

Most of the other trenches were either blank or were found to contain post-medieval / modern field ditches, the majority of which are recorded on early editions of the Ordnance Survey. The total amount of archaeological remains found by the work is small and it is suggested that this area was only lightly settled during the past, perhaps due to the heavy clay soils which would have proven difficult to cultivate.

The results of the trenching, in combination with other pieces of archaeological work which have taken place within the Bradwell | Rivenhall Airfield area, strongly suggest that the modern landscape of Bradwell is largely a 12th-century construct and is derived from a dispersed settlement pattern based upon Bradwell church and hall, isolated tenant farms and cottages, with utility and working areas, such as ponds, barns and quarries, connected by narrow roads and farm tracks, all within a network of small fields.

Overall, the A3/ A4 area would appear to be of relatively low archaeological potential as the extensive trenching has only identified two sites of interest. The Early Iron Age gully in trench 40 and any associated features in the immediate vicinity are likely to be of low significance only, while the medieval to modern settlement site seen in trench 53 is likely to be of low to moderate significance depending upon whether the site is indeed genuinely moated and therefore of potentially greater significance and higher status than the other medieval settlement remains that have been investigated in the Bradwell/ Rivenhall area to date. Any other sites which may be present lying between the trenches are thus likely to be small scale and 'localised'.

Any archaeological remains within the area proposed for mineral extraction would be subject to total destruction and further archaeological work is therefore likely to be required in order to mitigate the impact of quarrying and to ensure their preservation by record. However, targeted archaeological works during the phased and systematic extension of quarrying operations across the site would provide additional information regarding the nature, development, use and setting of the archaeological sites identified and collectively has the potential to improve understanding of the past development of the landscape of Rivenhall and Bradwell.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching of farmland at Allshots Farm, Rivenhall. The archaeological work was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit and was commissioned by the Guildhouse Consultancy (on behalf of Blackwater Aggregates Ltd.), following consultation with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM), who provide specialist archaeological advice within the planning system. The archaeological work consisted of the excavation and recording of 165 trenches (trenches 1 to 91, and 93 to 166) and was commissioned to inform a possible future planning application for mineral extraction.
- 1.2 Copies of this report will be sent to The Guildhouse Consultancy, ECC HEM and the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record. The site archive and finds will be deposited at Braintree Museum. A digital copy of the report will form part of the Oasis Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations at <a href="https://www.oasis.ac.uk">www.oasis.ac.uk</a>.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Site description

- 2.1.1 The evaluation site (Areas A3 and A4) consists of *c*. 34.5ha of arable land and is situated in the north-eastern part of the former WWII Rivenhall airfield, at the north-eastern limit of Rivenhall parish, 4km east of Braintree. It lies north-east of Silver End and is bounded by Cuthedge Lane to the north, a gravel quarry to the south and west, and farmland to the south. The area incorporates the eastern end of a concrete runway and perimeter taxi-way. The limits of the evaluation area agreed with ECC HEM are shown as a red outline on Fig. 1. Parts of the site are crossed by public rights of way, a below ground water main, and below and above ground electricity cables.
- 2.1.2 The site sits at *c*. 50m AOD on the boulder clay plateau, on the interfluve between the south-east flowing rivers Brain and Blackwater to the south-west and north-north-east respectively. The predominant aspect of the local terrain is that of a broad north-west to south-west spur of land, set within "a rolling landscape of rich agricultural land, predominantly under arable cultivation, but with some important areas of ancient woodland" (ECC HEM 2010).

2.1.3 The surface and near-surface geology of the locality consists of chalky till with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clay (The Lowestoft Formation) above a continuous or near continuous sheet of fluvial sand and gravel (Kesgrave Sands and Gravels) above a marine deposit of stiff, blue grey clay (London Clay) (British Geological Survey (BGS) Map Sheet 223 (scale 1:50,000). The local topsoil comprises greyish brown friable silt clay with occasional stones. It rests directly on top of Lowestoft Formation deposits and is between 0.25m to 0.35m thick.

#### 2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 A Cultural Heritage (Archaeology) Statement (Oxford Archaeological Associates 1997) has already been prepared for Rivenhall Airfield and is held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), together with records of all fieldwork to date within the airfield. In addition, much archaeological work has been undertaken in recent years immediately to the south and west of the evaluation site in connection with extraction at Bradwell Quarry Site R and the current A2 quarry extension. Only a brief summary of the most pertinent information is presented here.
- 2.2.2 Four sets of archaeological fieldwork have been carried out in advance of gravel extraction at Bradwell and Rivenhall Airfield (Fig. 2). These comprise fieldwalking and selective geophysical surveying of the entire airfield during 1991 and 1992 (Medlycott 1991; Johnson 1992), continuous monitoring and piecemeal excavation of Site R between 1991 and 2010 (Peachey 2003; Allen and Roy 2006; Germany 2006; Ennis 2008), trial-trenching of Areas A2 and A5 in 2006 and 2010 (Ennis 2006; Germany 2010), and archaeological excavation and monitoring of part of area A2 during 2011 and 2012 (Germany in prep.).
- 2.2.3 In addition to the above, an assessment of the natural sediments exposed in the existing quarry was undertaken by Dr Peter Allen (independent consultant), in order to determine the potential for Pleistocene faunal remains and Palaeolithic archaeology to be present (Allen 2011a). This concluded that the Kesgrave Gravels in this area have little potential to contain Pleistocene faunal remains/ Palaeolithic material but that a palaeosol (ancient soil) was present sealing the sands and gravels and which in turn was overlain by glacial till. The palaeosol was seen as representing a "B" horizon (subsoil) with the "A" horizon (topsoil) having been removed by subsequent glacial erosion. Although the "B" horizon had little potential, depressions containing areas of dark, brecciated organic material were seen as being of potential importance since a relative date of Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 18 could be attributed to them, placing them in the time zone when early man is known to have been

present in the East Anglian region (e.g. Pakefield, Suffolk – MIS 17, c. 700,000 BP and Happisburgh, Norfolk – MIS 22, c. 900,000 BP). Subsequent laboratory examination of samples indicates minimal organic presence and that the climatic conditions at the time of formation were likely to be hostile to human habitation (Allen 2011b & 2011c). Consequently it is considered highly unlikely that any remains of this date are present within the PDA (A3/ A4) area.

- 2.2.4 The 1991 92 fieldwalking exercise discovered fifteen concentrations of artefacts, four of which were situated within or immediately outside the south-eastern part of the A3 / A4 area (Fig. 2, concentrations 6, 8, 13, 14 and 15). Concentrations 6 and 8 overlapped and comprised pieces of prehistoric worked flint and Roman tile and pottery respectively, concentrations 13 and 14 were indicated by a scatter of post-medieval tile, and concentration 15 consisted of sherds of post-medieval pottery. The geophysical survey targeted the fieldwalking concentrations, but found no significant anomalies.
- 2.2.5 The continuous observation of topsoil stripping and piecemeal excavation of Site R between 1991 and 2010 recorded a small number of archaeological sites and intermittent features and finds (Fig. 2). The sites included a Middle Iron Age round-house in the western part and medieval enclosures to its east and north-east (Fig. 2, G and H). The western enclosure (H) contained a well, pits and post-holes and was possibly part of small farmstead, while the northern one (G) may have been used for crop processing. The western enclosure continued in a modified form into the late medieval period and was eventually incorporated into a network of post-medieval field boundaries. Evidence for the activities of other periods was minimal. Small amounts of Neolithic and later worked flint were present, although there were no concentrations, while Middle Bronze Age pits and finds were present on the northern and southern limits of the area and were possibly related to habitation and domestic activity. Other features comprised several Late Iron Age / Roman ditches and an Early Saxon cremation burial.
- 2.2.6 The A2 and A5 trial-trenching discovered three archaeological sites. One of them lay north of Sheepcotes Farm and contained a small number of Middle Iron Age pits which may have been related to the Middle Iron Age roundhouse found previously. Pits and enclosure ditches dating to the 11th to 13th / 14th-century (Fig. 2, I) were also present at the same location and are likely to have been associated with Sheepcotes Farm (Fig. 2, J), an adjacent long-lived settlement that is documented to have been founded during or before the 12th century. The second site was situated at

the southern end of Area A5 and consisted of a thin scatter of prehistoric pits, one of which held pieces of Neolithic worked flint. The third site sat north-east of that and probably indicated the site of a Late Iron Age to Roman farmstead. A dense concentration of 13th-century pits was found on the southern edge of the Roman site and is conjectured to have been part of another small farmstead and / or an area of medieval quarry (Fig. 2, N).

- 2.2.7 The archaeological monitoring and excavation of the eastern two thirds of Area A2 in 2011 and 2012 revealed a Roman waterhole or well, which was probably part of the previously identified Roman farmstead. It also revealed two medieval sites, both of which contained remains of enclosures, ponds and medieval buildings. The southernmost of these (Fig. 2, M) dated to the 12th to mid 13th century and was probably an agricultural working area, complete with large barn or byre, while its counterpart to the north (Fig. 2, L) was probably a messuage, dating to the early 13th to 15th century. Late 12th / early 13th-century enclosure ditches sat west of both sites (Fig. 2, K).
- 2.2.8 Six existing and former settlement sites, some of which are likely to have medieval origins, lie within or close to the A3 / A4 evaluation area. Those still in use consist of Herring's (Herons) Farm, Deek's Cottage and Heyward's (Haywards) Farm (Fig. 2: A, E and F respectively). The earliest historical reference to Herring's Farm dates to 1394, while reference to the Heyward family (William le Heyward) first occurs in 1430 (Reaney 1969, 283-4). Another complex, "Capon's Farm" lay to the north east of Herring's Farm and this is also referred to in a document of 1327 ("John Capon", Reaney 1969, 283-4). Cuthedge Lane accesses all of these settlements and is thus likely to have been in continuous use since at least the late medieval period. Deek's Cottage was founded in the late 19th century or earlier. Nearby sites with potential medieval origins comprise two cottages and gardens immediately south of Capon's Farm (Fig. 2, C), and cottages to the south-east and south of Herring's Farm and Capon's Farm respectively (Fig. 2, D). Ditches and a large moat-like ditch or pond bordered the northern side of site D. Digitisation and enlargement of the 1880 Ordnance Survey plan of settlement D reveals the settlement to have comprised two adjoining enclosures, each with one L-shaped building (Fig. 9). Access to the site was via local footpaths and a cobbled trackway which continued southwards and linked Cuthedge Lane to Woodhouse Farm. The settlement was levelled when the airfield was built in 1943. Capon's Farm, settlement site C and the eastern third of Herring's Farm no longer exist and were demolished during the latter half of the 20th century. A large stockpile of topsoil was heaped alongside Deek's Cottage during the war and was used as a shooting-in butt. The Chapman and André map of 1777 records

Herring's Farm, Capon's Farm and the cottages immediately south of Capon's (site C), but not settlements D, E and F, although this may simply be due to an error/omission by Chapman and André.

- 2.2.9 The construction of the airfield runways, taxiways and aircraft parking bays involved ground levelling and topsoil removal by box-scrapers pulled by tractors and bulldozers (Stait 1984) and is likely to have damaged or destroyed any archaeological remains that were present in the immediate area of the runways. Concrete hard standing for the dispersing and parking of aircraft formerly covered the areas to the south of Deek's Cottage and to the south of the eastern end of the east-west runway (Fig. 4). The site of the parking bays and the shooting-in butts was reinstated to farmland after the Second World War.
- 2.2.10 Bradwell has been a non-nucleated settlement, consisting of thinly scattered farms and cottages, for most of its history. Houses and other buildings line Church Road and Coggeshall Road / the A120 in the western part of the parish, although the majority of these were built during the 20th century. Bradwell is not mentioned by name in the Domesday Survey, the first documentary reference dating to 1238, and there is minimal evidence for Bradwell and its church having developed from a late Saxon predecessor. Holy Trinity Church and Bradwell Hall (the seat of the only manor in the parish) lie 1km from the nearest settlement and c. 1.3km north of the middle of Rivenhall Airfield. The church and the Hall form an isolated church / hall complex and were probably founded during the first half of the 12th century (Rodwell 1998, p. 59).

#### 3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features within the area of the site and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains found by the evaluation were to be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork.

#### 3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 The objectives of the trenching were to establish (for future reference) the credibility and archaeological potential of a number of previously identified archaeological sites and to identify any additional, as yet unknown areas of archaeological interest. Any

archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation would be assessed and placed in context against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

- 3.2.2 The known sites targeted for investigation were:
  - Fieldwalking sites 6, 8, 13, 14 and 15 (Fig. 2)
  - Settlement sites A, C and D (Figs. 2 and 3)
- 3.2.3 With regard to regional research framework objectives for the medieval period, Brown and Glazebrook (2000, 25 and 42) have identified the definition and origins of medieval settlement patterns, and the origins of post-medieval farms and their adoption of new practices as important subjects requiring additional archaeological research.

#### 4.0 METHOD

- 4.1 Machine stripping of the 165 trenches was carried out under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.9m wide toothless ditching bucket. A 166th trench (number 92; not shown on plans) was left unstripped as it ran beneath overhead electricity cables. The trenches measured 20m, 30m or 40m in length (Fig. 1) and were located by using a directional GPS with on-board map-based software. The error margin of the GPS varies, but is always less than 0.2m. The total area sampled by the trenches was 1.08 hectares or 3% of the A3 / A4 area.
- 4.2 The spacing of the trenches was designed to obtain even coverage, but through necessity had to be slightly modified in places in order to avoid public rights of way and over-head and underground electricity cables. Concrete covered taxi-ways and runways were not trial trenched because they were unlikely to be archaeologically productive.
- 4.3 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' standards and by-laws and the ALGAO standards for field archaeology in the east of England (IfA 1997 and 2009; Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all archaeological deposits and features.

#### 5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

- 5.1 Forty-one of the trenches revealed archaeological remains, another sixteen contained patches of modern disturbed ground, and a further thirteen extended across the path of the water main, the course of which was evident from an estimated *c*. 6 to 10m wide band of disturbed and truncated ground, running from trench 6 in the north-west to trench 162 in the south-east (trenches 6, 24, 37, 50, 51, 62, 76, 85, 100, 114, 118, 130, 140, 151 and 162). Two thirds of the trenches were blank. Detailed information for all the trenches is available in the archive.
- 5.2 The main findings were a post-medieval / modern property boundary gully relating to settlement site C in trench 23, a prehistoric gully in trench 40, a post-medieval / modern cobbled trackway in trenches 14, 30, and 52, medieval, post-medieval and modern settlement remains relating to settlement site D in trench 53, and post-medieval / modern field ditches in trenches 13, 24, 36, 47, 50, 53, 56, 58, 67, 69, 77, 87, 88, 97, 112, 124, 130, 133, 134, 141, 143, 146, 149, 150, 151, 155, 158 and 163. The areas of modern disturbed ground were probably related to the construction of the airfield and to its subsequent re-instatement to farmland. No significant archaeological remains were present beneath fieldwalking sites 14 and 15. The main findings of the archaeological work are summarised below. More detailed descriptions of individual deposits and features can be found in Appendix 1.

#### 5.3 Settlement site C (trench 23)

5.3.1 Gully 15 had steep-sides and a flat base and represented the rear boundary of roadside property C (Figs 3 and 5). Items from its single fill comprised a degraded battery, pieces of coal and charcoal, sherds of modern pottery, and chunks of postmedieval / modern brick and tile.

#### 5.4 Prehistoric gully 17 / 60 (trench 40)

5.4.1 Prehistoric gully 17 / 60 in trench 40 had two fills per section, a shallow concave profile and a rounded west terminal (Plate 1) (Figs 5 and 8, section 1). Its latest fill contained abundant small pieces of charcoal and was uniformly black and distinctive. It held twenty-six sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, and small amounts of burnt flint and later prehistoric / Iron Age worked flint. A few tiny fragments of burnt bone were also present. The latest deposits produced all of the finds.

#### 5.5 Post-medieval / modern trackway (trenches 14, 30 and 52)

5.5.1 Sections of the trackway (21) which formerly ran from Cuthedge Lane to Woodhouse Farm were revealed by trenches 14, 30 and 52 (Figs 3 and 9). The trackway consisted of two or more layers of angular (upper layer) and rounded (lower layer) compacted cobbles. In trenches 14 and 30 it was fragmented and covered by thin patches of tarmac, while in trench 52 it was well-preserved and covered by a thin layer of dark soil (22) (Plate 2).

#### 5.6 Settlement site D (trench 53)

- 5.6.1 The remains of settlement site D comprised two 13th/14th-century gullies (31 and 25/28/34), a 14th/15th-century or later pit (36), three undatable post-holes (23, 39 and 52), the foundation walls of a post-medieval building (42 and 51), a post-medieval / modern ditch (56), and a sequence of layers, one of which (41) may have been deposited during the medieval period (20, 41, 44, 46, 48, 49 and 50) (Fig. 6). Except for the pit, all of the features were roughly aligned south-west north-east / south-east north-west. Ceramic drain pipes and Second World War underground telephone or electricity cables cut some of the archaeological deposits and features.
- 5.6.2 Medieval gullies 31 and 25 / 28 / 34 formed a T-junction and extended across the northern end of the trench (Plates 3 and 4). They contained consistent fill sequences across sections and had steep-sided profiles (Fig. 8, sections 2 to 4). The fills of the features held small amounts of 13th/14th-century pottery, baked clay, animal bone and oyster shell. The gullies shared fills and were probably in use at the same time. Pit 36 cut one of the gullies and had a shallow, slightly irregular profile. It contained a small amount of medieval coarseware and is likely to have been in use during the 14th/15th-century or later. A thin layer of brownish grey silt clay (41) containing a small quantity of late 13th/14th-century pottery lay south of the gullies and was perhaps deposited during that period (Fig. 8, section 7).
- 5.6.3 Post-medieval activity was indicated by the foundation walls of a building (42 and 51), some of the layers (44, 46 and 50), and one of the post-holes (23). Features of this date also probably included ditch (56), which was partially covered by modern deposits. The foundation walls ran parallel with each other and were spaced c. 4.6m apart. They sat on undisturbed natural and were constructed from occasional gravel stones and pieces of post-medieval brick and tile in a matrix of lime-based mortar (Plates 5 and 6). A robber trench (47) cut wall 42, and a thin layer of greyish brown silt clay containing no finds (50) covered wall 51 (Fig. 8, sections 6 and 7). Post-hole 23 near the northern end of the trench had steep sides and a sub-rectangular plan.

Frequent large pieces of post-medieval bricks occurred within its single fill and had either been used as post-packing or as backfill after post removal (Plate 7). Postholes 39 and 52 sat between the post-medieval building and the medieval gullies. Post-hole 39 contained no finds, and post-hole 52 was left un-investigated. Both had sub-square or sub-rectangular plans, and post-hole 52 held a small post-pipe (54) in an off-centre position. Layer 44 covered post-hole 52 and part of layer 41 and contained pieces of post-medieval brick and tile, and residual sherds of medieval pottery. Layer 43/46 to its south contained pieces of post-medieval brick and tile and residual medieval pottery as well, and both it and layer 44 were post-dated by wall 42 and demolition / robber cut 47. Ditch 56 lay south of the building and was only partially visible in plan as modern layers (20 and 48) covered its edges (Plate 8). Excavation of a small, centrally located box-section showed it to be more than 0.42m deep and more than 2m wide (Fig. 8, section 5). The latest part of its fill sequence consisted of three concave deposits (57, 58 and 59), which probably represented the deliberate backfilling of the feature prior to construction of the airfield. Fills 57 and 58 contained post-medieval and modern bottle glass and building materials, and infrequent sherds of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery. Fill 57 included a ceramic drain pipe, which was on the same alignment as nearby foundation walls 42 and 51.

5.6.4 Modern layers (20 and 48) extended across the southern and central parts of the trench and were probably deposited when the settlement was demolished and levelled in World War Two. Layer 20 increased in thickness towards ditch 56 and overlapped the southern edge of it. It held occasional medieval, post-medieval and modern pot sherds and pieces of modern building materials. Layer 48 consisted of redeposited brownish orange natural silt clay and formed the latest deposit of ditch 56, where it was numbered as deposit 59.

#### 5.7 Post-medieval / modern field ditches

5.7.1 Post-medieval / modern field ditches recorded by the first edition of the Ordnance Survey extended across trenches 13, 24, 36, 47, 50, 53, 56, 58, 67, 69, 77, 87, 88, 97, 112, 124, 130, 133, 134, 141, 143, 146, 149, 150, 151, 155, 158 and 163 (Fig. 3). Two of these were investigated by hand excavation: ditch 3 in trench 141 (Fig. 7), and previously described ditch 56 in trench 53 (Fig. 6). The remainder were noted and planned, but not investigated. Ditch 3 was 2.6m wide and more than 0.98m deep. It held two fills, a ceramic drain pipe and a small amount of post-medieval brick and tile and prehistoric and modern pottery.

5.7.2 Ditches not recorded on the first or subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey were encountered in trenches 74, 81 and 89 (Figs 5 and 7). Ditch 9 in trench 74 was less than half the size of the other two and ran parallel with nearby Cuthedge Lane. It held a single fill and a few sherds of medieval coarseware. Ditch 6 in trench 89 held two fills, a few sherds of medieval pottery, and pieces of post-medieval / modern brick and tile (Plate 9). Ditch 11 in trench 81 contained a varied selection of post-medieval / modern artefacts. Ceramic drain pipes lay in ditches 6 and 11, but not in ditch 9.

#### 5.8 Modern deposits and features

5.8.1 Modern features and areas of disturbed ground were identified in trenches 14, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 58, 67, 68, 72, 97, 98, 117, 149, 160, 164 and 165 and were probably related to the construction of the airfield in 1943 and to its subsequent re-instatement to farmland during the post-war period (Fig. 4). Some of the features comprised airfield drains, but most consisted of areas of disturbed ground relating to the construction and / or destruction of the aircraft dispersal bays that had been formerly present to the south of Deek's Cottage and to the south of the east end of the east-west runway.

#### 6.0 FINDS REPORTS

#### **6.1** Worked and burnt flint, by Hazel Martingell

- 6.1.1 A total of thirty worked and burnt flints were recovered from the trial-trenching. Of these, sixteen were knapped and the other fourteen were fire-cracked and burnt natural pieces (Appendix 2).
- 6.1.2 The worked items are made from black flint, which was probably sourced from locally occurring deposits of gravel, and comprise thirteen flakes, one blade and two blocks, some of which have surfaces of white cortex. Seven of the flakes come from trench 40 and have traces of patination. A flake from ditch 9 in trench 74 is made from Bullhead flint with inclusions.
- 6.1.3 There are two retouched pieces, and a burnt scraper fragment and a flake from a core with apparent retouch along the wide platform edge. The flakes from gully 17 / 60 are preliminary removals from roughing out an artefact. These and the retouched flake from ditch 9 all have oblique-angled platforms, dating them to the later prehistoric / Iron Age period. A retouched flake similar to that from ditch 9 was found during the archaeological monitoring of Area R.

#### **6.2 Prehistoric pottery**, by Nick Lavender

- 6.2.1 The prehistoric pottery comprised twenty-six sherds (165g) from latest fills 19 and 62 of gully 17/60 in trench 40 and was recorded by using a specially designed system for the recording of prehistoric pottery in Essex, details of which can be found in Brown 1988 and in the site archive.
- 6.2.2 All of the pot sherds have similar sand-tempered fabrics and are a little abraded. Most are sharp along their broken edges, but most of the fine sherds are quite small, contributing to the low average weight of 6.3g.
- 6.2.3 There are few featured sherds. A fine rim from the upper fill (19) of the terminal segment probably belongs to the same vessel as the fine sherds from fill 62, about a metre to the east. Also from 62 is a large, sharply carinated shoulder sherd from a coarse, thick walled Form F tripartite jar. The other coarse sherds from this context come from a thinner walled jar.
- 6.2.4 The sandy fabrics and the shoulder sherd from the Form F jar indicate a date in the Early Iron Age, placing the assemblage within Cunliffe's (1968) Darmsden-Linton tradition.

#### **6.3** Medieval and later pottery, by Helen Walker

- 6.3.1 A small amount of medieval and later pottery, 142 sherds, weighing 1245g, was excavated from sixteen contexts and has been catalogued following Cunningham's typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985).
- 6.3.2 Trench 53 most of the pottery was recovered from this trench where the former moated site was located. Gully sections 25 and 28 at the north of this trench produced examples of early medieval ware and medieval coarseware. Featured sherds comprise two B4-type cooking-pot rims and a thick-walled fragment from a large storage jar showing a vertical thumbed applied strip and zigzag combed decoration. All these sherds are datable to c. 1200. However, equivalent gully section 34 produced a sherd of Hedingham coarseware that appears to be wheel-thrown. Wheel-throwing did not become commonplace until the second half of the 13th to 14th centuries so it is possible that this gully was in-filled later than the others. The gullies were cut by pit 36, which contained single sherds of medieval coarseware and Hedingham coarseware, perhaps deriving from the gullies, and a sherd of sandy orange ware, which is unglazed and has a reduced external surface. This could be late medieval, perhaps dating to the 14th to 15th centuries.

- 6.3.3 Diagnostic pottery from layer 41, to the south of the gullies comprises a Hedingham coarseware cooking-pot rim which is mid-way between rim types H2 and H3 and may date to the later 13th to 14th century. This layer also produced a sherd of medieval coarseware from a flat base, rather that the more usual sagging or convex base of the medieval period and again could indicate a 14th century date. This layer was overlain by layer 44, which actually produced earlier pottery comprising B2 and B4 cooking-pot rims and a sherd with combed decoration datable to c. 1200. Therefore the pottery from layer 44 is likely to be residual, perhaps deriving from gullies 25 and 28 to the north.
- 6.3.4 Medieval pottery was also excavated from another layer, layer 43/46. Here pottery includes examples of Hedingham fineware, as the name suggests this has a fine fabric without the added sand tempering of the coarsewares. These sherds, almost certainly from jugs, are decorated with the remains of red slip-coating and splashes of greenish glaze indicating a date from the mid 12th to early 13th centuries. Also present in layer 43/46 are abraded body sherds of medieval coarseware and Hedingham coarseware, while appearing for the first time in the sequence, is a thick-walled base sherd in shell-and-sand-tempered ware. All this pottery could be contemporary with that from gullies 25 and 28, but the latest pottery comprises a single sherd of Nottingham/Derby stoneware dating between the 18th and 20th centuries. This is either intrusive or the deposit is post-medieval to modern.
- 6.3.5 The remaining features that contained pottery, *i.e.* ditch 56 (?the former moat ditch) and layers 20 and 49 all produced modern pottery, *i.e.* pottery dating from the 19th century to WWII (when the buildings were demolished). Most of these contexts also contained one or two sherds of medieval pottery similar to that from the earlier features and all contained varying amounts of post-medieval pottery spanning the late 16th to early 19th centuries. Post-medieval red earthenware occurs in nearly all features, most is glazed, but there is one example from the lower fill of ditch 56 (fill 57) from an unglazed flanged-rim dish datable to the late 16th to 17th centuries. There are also examples of black-glazed earthenware, which was most popular during the 17th century. There is a single sherd of Westerwald stoneware, imported from Germany from the mid 17th to 18th centuries and a sherd from a Staffordshire-type slipware press-moulded dish, most likely dating to the earlier 18th century.
- 6.3.6 It is possible that the lower fill of ditch 56 (fill 57) was actually deposited in the late 18th century rather than the 19th to mid 20th centuries. It contained fragments of

plates with moulded decoration, one in creamware and one in Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, both dating to the mid to late 18th century, along with sherds of bone china and fine red earthenware which could be late 18th century, but were also produced in the modern period. The upper fill of this ditch (58) is most definitely modern, with finds including a sherd of modern white earthenware showing a green transfer print, not produced until the 1830s. The modern pottery comprises mainly various types of china, plain and decorated and is not of intrinsic interest.

- 6.3.7 Pottery from other trenches small amounts of medieval pottery, similar to that from trench 53 were found in field boundary ditches which occurred in a number of trenches. Ditch 6 (in trench 89) and ditch 9 (in trench 74) produced a few sherds of medieval coarseware and Hedingham coarseware. That from ditch 9 is undiagnostic, but the sherd in ditch 6 has a flat base and could be as late as 14th century. Ditch 3 (trench 141) however, produced joining sherds from a vessel in a very thick-walled grog-tempered fabric, perhaps from some kind of industrial vessel, although there are no residues or evidence of fire-blackening. It was not possible to assign a date to this vessel, which was found in association with modern pottery and an abraded sherd of sandy orange ware which could be medieval or later. The fragment does show some similarities with medieval ceramic chimney pots however, so is likely to be medieval in date. Ditch 11 produced modern pottery.
- 6.3.8 Discussion the pottery evidence, although meagre, provides evidence that the moated site was occupied from the late 12th to 14th centuries. As for function, cooking-pots are ubiquitous, but large storage jars (a fragment of which was found in gully 28) are thought to have been used for the transport and storage of grain, while the unidentified vessel in ditch 3 hints at some kind of specialised function. The site also appears to have been re-inhabited from the 17th century until demolition during WWII.

#### 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The evaluation identified few archaeological remains overall, suggesting that Area A3 and A4 are of relatively low archaeological potential and perhaps reflecting the heavy clay soils of the area, which may not have been particularly attractive to earlier communities. With the exception of two discrete areas of settlement activity, identified features primarily comprised post-medieval field boundaries.

- 7.2 Gully 17 / 60 in trench 40 is possibly part of an Early Iron Age enclosure and was probably situated near an area of settlement since it contains pottery, bone, worked and burnt flint in a charcoal-rich fill, none of which have are likely to have travelled far from their point of use. The area of activity or habitation denoted by this feature would appear to be relatively discrete as no other features of this date were found in any of the surrounding trenches, while a small number of prehistoric pits that were found c. 120 and 200m to the west during the archaeological monitoring of Site R are unlikely to be directly related to it since they were probably in use during earlier periods.
- 7.3 In trench 53, wall foundations 42 and 51 (Fig. 6) are part of the external walls of the main body of an L-shaped building located within the eastern enclosure of settlement site D, the suggested extents of which are shown in Figure 9. They indicate the building to have been 4.6m wide and to have been supported by footings of gravel stones and pieces of brick and tile within a matrix of lime-based mortar. The building is recorded as c. 9m long on the first edition OS map. The foundations are fairly insubstantial and are possibly supports for brick plinths for a timber-framed superstructure. The pieces of brick and tile in the footings date the construction of the building to the post-medieval period, while the OS map indicates that it was standing by 1880. The northern block of the structure is suggested to be a later addition as it is demarcated from the rest of the building by a dividing line on the early OS map.
- 7.3 The information on the early OS map possibly implies that settlement site D was two settlements rather than one as it records it as two adjoining enclosures, each with their own building, perhaps representing neighbouring farm worker's gardens and cottages (Fig. 9). If the settlement comprised a single property spread across two enclosures, then one of the buildings is probably a house and the other a workshop or barn. The building within the western enclosure is conjectured to be a house as it has a footpath which presumably led to a front door. A small yard to the rear of it was perhaps a site for a coal store and / or a backyard toilet. Post-holes 23, 39 and 52 imply a changing settlement plan and the existence of other structures, such as fence lines or buildings. Modern layers 20 and 48 cover a large part of trench 52 and the southern two thirds of trench 53 and are likely to have been deposited when the settlement was levelled in 1943.
- 7.4 The medieval and later pottery assemblage from trench 53 may imply that the occupation of site D was discontinuous and took place during the late 12th to 14th and the 17th to mid-20th centuries. The 15th/16th-century break perhaps represents

a retreat from marginal land during the late 14th-century as it follows on from a period of falling population and repeated famines and plagues. The reoccupation and the rerecognition of the site as a place to live some 250 years later are suggested to be due to the continuing survival of the moat, and the local population count eventually returning to its pre 15th-century level.

- 7.5 Moated settlements were a common feature of the Essex landscape during the medieval period and the ?moat surrounding settlement site D may have been part of its initial foundation. Ditch 56 is possibly part of the moat, although this has not been fully established as it was partly covered by later layers and was only minimally investigated. If the moat is a medieval construction then the medieval occupants of settlement site D were possibly relatively prosperous as moats are not generally associated with low-status sites.
- 7.6 Settlement site C is represented by gully 15 in trench 23, and is probably the rear boundary of the property's garden. It contains modern artefacts and was probably filled in when settlement site C was demolished during the Second World War.
- 7.7 The pre-1880 field ditches in trenches 81 and 89 contain ceramic drain pipes and were probably deliberately backfilled during the earlier part of the 19th century, while the other post-medieval ditches were probably backfilled during and after the war. The pipes enabled the ditches to carry on serving as drains after backfilling.
- 7.8 Most of the archaeological sites that have been found in Bradwell and on Rivenhall Airfield are of medieval date and it is consequently suggested that the present day landscape of Bradwell and Rivenhall Airfield is largely a 12th century construct. Evidence for Saxon occupation in the area is very small in comparison and currently comprises the Early Saxon cremation burial in settlement site H in Site R (Fig. 2).
- 7.9 The information of Table 1 below suggests a 'sudden' occurrence of settlements and utility / service areas in the Rivenhall area of Bradwell during the 12th century (sites G, H, I, J and M), with a probable reduction in the number of sites during the 13th / 14th-century (sites G, H, I, K, L, M and N). The drop in settlement levels during the 14th century is probably largely due to famines and plagues. Site D is thought to have been re-established after a period of disuse.
- 7.10 The sudden 'occurrence' of sites G, H, I, J and M (Fig. 2) is probably connected with the likely foundation of Bradwell church and hall during the 12th century. It is probable

that parts of these larger landholdings were subdivided either for rental to tenants farmers or by partible inheritance and that some of these are represented by the messuages, farms and services areas of sites G, H, I, J and M.

7.11 The field pattern as recorded by the early editions of the Ordnance Survey mostly comprises small, slightly irregular-shaped fields, the majority of which lie roughly aligned with Cuthedge Lane. Many of these are probably former 'tenement fields'; small blocks of land which abutted and encompassed the houses and yards of rented farms and cottages (Martin and Satchell 2008, p. 45-8). Important areas of ancient woodland still survive in the wider area (ECC HEM 2010) and some of the fields in areas A3 and A4 possibly represent areas of cleared woodland, and therefore assarting. Some of the field names to the north and north-west of Woodhouse Farm (Fig. 2 - settlement site O) imply other former areas of woodland or wood pasture (Guildhouse Consultancy 2000).

	Name (if known)							-													
	,			12t	h	13t	h	14t	h	15t	h	16t	h	17t	h	18t	h	19th		20th	
Α	Herring's	Farm	Mentioned in document of 1394						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
В	Capon's	Farm	Capon family mentioned in document of 1327					?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
С		Cottages	Recorded on first edition OS (1861-76)																<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
D		Cottages	Pottery-dating evidence from trench 53		✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	?	?	?	?	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	
Е	Deek's	Cottage	Recorded on first edition OS (1861-76)																<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
F	Hayward's	Farm	Hayward family mentioned in document of 1430							?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	✓
G		Service	Pottery-dating evidence	✓	✓	✓	✓														
Н		Messuage	Pottery-dating evidence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
Ι		?Service	Pottery-dating evidence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
J	Sheepcote's	Farm	First documented in 12th century	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
K		Service	Pottery-dating evidence		✓	✓															
L		Messuage	Pottery-dating evidence			✓	✓	✓	✓												
М		Service	Pottery-dating evidence	✓	✓	✓															
Ν		?Messuage	Pottery-dating evidence			✓	✓														
0	Woodhouse	Farm	Moated site. First documented in late 15th century								✓	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>

<sup>✓ =</sup> known use. ? = conjectured use

Table 1. Bradwell: medieval / post-medieval settlement sites and their periods of use

#### 8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

- 8.1 The trial trenching of Areas A3 and A4 has revealed two sites or locations with clear archaeological potential that would be affected by the proposed mineral extraction works, another site that now lies outside the extraction area and a fourth location of questionable significance. This is in addition to the post-medieval field ditch system which extends across more-or-less the whole of the evaluated area and could be regarded as a single site in its own right.
- 8.2 The first, Gully 17 / 60 in trench 40, probably represents the general location of a small or thinly dispersed Early Iron Age settlement site, further remains of which may lie between trenches 27, 28, 29, 39, 40 and 41.
- 8.3 The second, settlement site D, covers an area of c. 50m x c. 100m (c. 5000m²). It is potentially moated, contains the remains of at least one building and has the potential to provide further information about the origins and development of the landscape of Bradwell. Modern layers cover the southern edge of the site and have probably protected it from post-war ploughing. Excavation of the moat may enable the hypothesis that most moated sites were constructed during the medieval period to be tested.
- 8.4 The early editions of the Ordnance Survey suggest that buildings and ponds and at least one enclosure that formed part of settlement site A (Herring's Farm) were situated in the uninvestigated c. 40m wide gap between trenches 13, 19 and 20. However, while located within the application boundary these remains are situated outside the area proposed for mineral extraction and will therefore not be impacted upon.
- 8.5 The rear boundary of settlement site C extends into trench 23. Other remains relating to this settlement may exist in that area, although the early OS maps suggest that most of them are situated north of the A4 boundary. The water main easement crosses settlement site C and has probably destroyed part of the site and its level of significance is therefore uncertain. Consequently, any impact in this area may be to be negligible to low.
- 8.6 Further information about the origin and earlier form of the field pattern along the south side of Cuthedge Lane may be derived from the post-medieval, pre-1880

ditches that are now known to survive within the general area of trenches 73, 74, 75 and 81.

- 8.7 Patches of modern disturbed ground caused by the construction of aircraft parking bays in 1943 and their subsequent grubbing out after the war are present immediately south of Deek's Cottage and the east-west runway. However, the damage caused by these is probably inconsequential as neither of the two areas has produced any significant archaeological remains.
- 8.8 Overall, the results of the evaluation suggest that Areas A3 and A4 are of relatively low archaeological potential, with the exception of two discrete areas of settlement activity of primarily local significance. Any archaeological remains within the area proposed for mineral extraction would be subject to total destruction and further archaeological work is therefore likely to be required in order to mitigate the impact of quarrying and to ensure their preservation by record. However, targeted archaeological works during the phased and systematic extension of quarrying operations across the site would further our understanding of the nature, development, setting and use of the archaeological sites identified and collectively have the potential to improve understanding of the past development of the landscape of Rivenhall and Bradwell.

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#### **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA**

No.	Trench	Category	Description	Date
1	150	Ditch	Unexcavated ditch 2m+ wide. Filled by 2	Post-med / modern
2	150	Fill	Unexcavated fill of ditch 1. Contains modern glass, concrete and tile	Post-med / modern
3	141	Ditch segment	Ditch with moderate-sloping sides. Base not exposed. 1m long, 2.6m wide, 0.98m deep. Filled by 4 and 5	Post-med / modern
4	141	Fill	Dark greyish brown soft / plastic silt clay with occasional stones and flecks and small pieces of chalk. Primary fill of ditch 3. Below 5. Contains ceramic drain pipe	Post-med / modern
5	141	Fill	Greyish brown friable silt clay with occasional patches of brownish orange redeposited natural. Latest fill of ditch 3. Above 4.	Post-med / modern
6	89	Ditch segment	Ditch with moderate-sloping sides and a slightly concave base. 0.9m long, 2.68m wide and 0.88m deep. Filled by 7 and 8	Post-med / modern
7	89	Fill	Pale greyish brown plastic silt clay with infrequent stones and occasional pieces of chalk. Primary fill of ditch 6. Below 8	Post-med / modern
8	89	Fill	Yellowish brown friable silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of chalk and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Latest fill of ditch 6. Above 7. Contains ceramic drain pipe.	Post-med / modern
9	74	Ditch segment	Ditch with moderate-sloping sides and a flat base. 0.9m long, 1.15m wide, 0.3m deep. Filled by 10	Medieval+
10	74	Fill	Brownish grey friable to firm silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Single fill of ditch 9	Medieval+
11	81	Ditch segment	Ditch with gradual to steep-sloping sides and a concave base. 0.9m long, 2.42m wide, 0.72m deep. Filled by 12, 13 and 14	Post-med / modern
12	81	Fill	Brownish grey soft silt clay with occasional stones and pieces of chalk. Primary fill of ditch 11. Below 13	Post-med / modern
13	81	Fill	Orange brown firm silt clay with occasional stones and pieces of chalk and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Secondary fill of ditch 11. Above 12. Below 14. Contains ceramic drain pipe	Post-med / modern
14	81	Fill	Brownish orange / grey firm silt clay with occasional stones and pieces of chalk and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Latest fill of ditch 11. Above 13	Post-med / modern
15	23	Gully segment	Gully with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base. 1.10m long, 0.6m wide, 0.26m deep. Filled by 16	Modern
16	23	Fill	Dark brownish grey firm / plastic silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks and small pieces of coal, chalk and charcoal. Single fill of ditch 15	Modern

No.	Trench	Category	Description	Date
17	40	Gully segment	Gully with moderate to steep-sloping sides and a concave base. 1.02m long, 0.58m wide, 0.16m deep. Filled by 18 and 19	Early Iron Age
18	40	Fill	Yellowish brown soft silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal. Primary fill of gully 17. Below 19	Early Iron Age
19	40	Fill	Dark brownish grey firm silt clay with occasional stones and abundant flecks and small pieces of charcoal. Latest fill of gully 17. Above 18	Early Iron Age
20	53	Layer	Yellowish brown friable to firm silt clay with occasional stones and pieces of chalk and infrequent flecks of charcoal. 0.11m to 0.34m thick	Modern
21	21 52 Cobbled track surface constructed from two or more layers of angular (upper layer) and rounded (lower layer) cobbles, each c. 0.05m wide. Not excavated. Below layer 22		Modern	
22	52	Layer	Dark yellowish brown firm silt clay with occasional stones and pieces of chalk. 0.1m thick. Contains modern artefacts (not retained). Above 21	Modern
23	53	Post-hole	Square / rectangular post-hole with rounded corners, steep sides and uneven base. 0.37m long, 0.29m+ wide, 0.18m deep. Filled by 24	Post-med.
24	53	Fill	Brownish grey firm silt clay with infrequent stones and flecks of charcoal and occasional flecks of chalk. Single fill of post-hole 23. Contains abundant large fragments of post-medieval bricks.	Post-med.
25	53	Gully segment	Gully with steeply-sloping sides and a slightly concave base. 0.95m long, 0.74m wide, 0.35m deep. Filled by 26 and 27	Medieval
26	53	Fill	Brownish orange / grey sticky / plastic silt clay with occasional stones, pieces of chalk and flecks of charcoal. Primary fill of gully 25. Below 27	Medieval
27	53	Fill	Brownish grey plastic silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal and infrequent flecks of chalk. Latest fill of gully 25. Above 26	Medieval
28	53	Gully segment	Gully with steep to near-vertical sides and a slightly concave base. 0.98m long, 0.6m wide, 0.37m deep. Filled by 29 and 30	Medieval
29	53	Fill	Brownish orange / grey plastic silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Primary fill of gully 28. Below 29	Medieval
30	53	Fill	Brownish grey plastic silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Latest fill of gully 28. Above 29	Medieval
31	53	Gully segment	Gully with steeply-sloping sides and a slightly concave base. 0.86m long, 0.7m wide and 0.35m deep. Filled by 32 and 33	Medieval

No.	Trench	Category	Description	Date
32	53	Fill	Brownish orange / grey firm silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Primary fill of gully 31. Below 33	Medieval
33	53	Fill	Brownish grey plastic silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal and infrequent pieces of chalk. Latest fill of gully 31. Above 32	Medieval
34	53	Gully segment	Gully with steeply-sloping sides. Base only slightly exposed. 0.92m long, 0.3m wide and 0.4m deep. Filled by 35	Medieval
35	53	Fill	Brownish grey / orange plastic / sticky silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Single fill of gully 34. Cut by 36	Medieval
36	53	Pit	Oval pit with moderate-sloping sides and a slightly uneven / concave base. 1m long, 0.86m wide, 0.14m deep. Filled by 37 and 38. Cuts 35	Medieval+
37	53	Fill	Brownish orange plastic / firm silt clay with infrequent stones and flecks of chalk. Primary fill of pit 36. Below 38	Medieval+
38	53	Fill	Slightly dark brownish grey plastic / sticky silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Latest fill of pit 36. Above 37	Medieval+
39	53	Post-hole	Square post-hole with rounded corners, steeply sloping sides and a flat base. 0.32m long, 0.3m wide, 0.08m deep. Filled by 40	Undated
40	53	Fill	Brownish grey plastic / friable silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of charcoal. Single fill of post-hole 39	Undated
41	53	Layer	Brownish grey friable silt clay with occasional stones. 0.12m thick. Below 44	Medieval+
42	53	Wall foundation	Wall foundation consisting of a linear bed of occasional stones and fragments of post-medieval brick and tile in a matrix of lime-based mortar.  0.98m+ long, 0.34m wide, 0.10m high. Below 47	Post-med.
43	53	Layer	Same as 46 - duplicate number	
44	53	Layer	Brownish grey friable silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of charcoal. 0.15m thick. Above 41. Cut by 47	
45	53	Fill	Dark brownish grey firm silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal. Single fill of demolition cut 47	
46	53	Layer	Brownish grey firm / plastic silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of chalk and charcoal. 0.17m thick. Cut by 47	
47	53	Robber cut	Linear demolition cut with moderate to steep-sloping sides and convex base. 1.9m+ long, 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. Cuts 42, 44 and 46	Post-med. / modern

	Trench	Category	Description	Date
48	53	Layer	Orange brown plastic silt clay with infrequent stones. 0.08m thick. Above 49	Modern
49	53	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal. Distinctively dark and 'ashy'. 0.18m thick. Above 50. Below 48	Modern
50	53	Layer	Greyish brown plastic / firm silt clay with infrequent stones and flecks of chalk. 0.08m thick. Above 51. Below 49	Post-med.+
51	53	Wall foundation	Wall foundation consisting of a linear bed of occasional stones and fragments of post-medieval brick and tile in a matrix of lime-based mortar.  0.44m+ long, 0.34m wide and 0.08m high. Below 50	Post-med.
52	53	Post-hole	Sub-rectangular post-hole. 0.38m+ long and 0.37m wide. Filled by 53. Not excavated	Undated
53	53	Fill	Pale brownish yellow firm silt clay with occasional stones and flecks and pieces of chalk. Single fill of post-holes 52. Not excavated. Contains post-pipe 54	Undated
54	53	Post-pipe	Small circular post-pipe in off-centre position within fill 53 in post-hole 52. 0.1m wide. Not excavated	Undated
55	53	Fill	Dark brownish grey friable silt clay with no inclusions. Single fill of post-pipe 54. Not excavated	Undated
56	53	Ditch segment	Ditch, base and sides of which were not exposed. 0.95m long, 2m+ wide, 0.42m+ deep. Filled by 57, 58 and 59	Post-med / modern
57	53	Fill	Brownish grey plastic silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Earliest uncovered fill in ditch 56. Below 58	Post-med / modern
58	53	Fill	Dark brownish grey friable silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal and infrequent pieces of coal. Penultimate fill of ditch 56. Above 57. Below 59	Post-med / modern
59	53	Fill	Brownish orange plastic silt clay with occasional stones and infrequent flecks of chalk and charcoal. Latest fill of ditch 56	Post-med / modern
60	40	Gully segment	Gully with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. 0.75m long, 0.5m wide, 0.18m deep. Filled by 61 and 62	Early Iron Age
61	40	Fill	Yellowish brown friable / soft silt clay with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal. Primary fill of gully 60. Below 62	Early Iron Age
62	40	Fill	Dark brownish grey friable silt clay with occasional stones and abundant flecks and small pieces of charcoal. Latest fill of gully 60. Above 61	Early Iron Age

#### **APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA**

#### All finds

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
5	3	2	12	Iron plate	-
		1	4	Coin (sixpence). Date illegible	Modern
		1	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-med/mod.
		5	48	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		5	117	Pottery	Medieval
		3	8	Pottery	Medieval
		3		1 ottery	Wedleval
8	6	5	55	Iron nails	
		29	825	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		1	13	Pottery	Medieval
10	9	4	33	Pottery	Medieval
		1		Worked flint	Prehistoric
14	11	1	19	Iron nail	-
		1	1	Copper-alloy button	Post-med/mod.
		2	8	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-med/mod.
		2	40	Slag	-
		1	4	Animal bone	-
		11	372	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		2	2	Pottery	Modern
16	15	1	57	Burnt stone	_
10	10	i i	24	Animal bone	_
		4	156	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		1	7	Pottery	Post-med/mod.
		1	1		Modern
		ı	'	Pottery	wodern
19	17	17	126	Pottery	Early Iron Age
		1	3	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-med/mod.
		7		Worked flint	Prehistoric
		8		Burnt flint	Prehistoric
20	Layer	1	1	Cockle shell	-
		7	71	Iron nails	-
		6	13	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-med/mod.
		1	1	Window glass	-
		15	374	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		2	8	Pottery	Medieval
		5	16	Pottery	Post-medieval
		10	48	Pottery	Modern
24	23	6	5160	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
					22230,001
27	25	3	31	Oyster shell	<del>-</del>
		5	50	Pottery	Medieval
		1		Burnt flint	Prehistoric
30	28	2	13	Oyster shell	-
		6	77	Pottery	Medieval
				,	
35	34	1	12	Pottery	Medieval
38	36	1	2	Oyster shell	-
		3	15	Pottery	Medieval
41	Layer	1	7	Oyster shell	_
''	Layor	8	88	Pottery	Medieval
				•	ivicaleval
43	Layer	3	25	Oyster shell	-

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		1	13	Iron nail	-
		3	31	Mortar	-
		8	466	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		8	45	Pottery	Medieval
		1	4	Pottery	Post-med/mod.
		1		Burnt and worked flint	Prehistoric
		1		Burnt flint	Prehistoric
44	Lover	4	14	Iron nail	
44	Layer	1 10	426	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		4	426	1	Medieval
		4	41	Pottery	iviedievai
49	Layer	21	1415	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		3	10	Pottery	Medieval
		3	52	Pottery	Post-medieval
		5	17	Pottery	Modern
57	56	1	5	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-med/mod.
37	30	2	17	Bottle glass	Post-med/mod.
		2	7	Pottery	Medieval
		6	62	Pottery	Post-medieval
		2	5	Pottery	Modern
			3	1 onery	Wodem
58	56	1	3	Copper-alloy button	Post-med/mod.
		1	9	Coin (penny). Date illegible	Modern
		5	11	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-med/mod.
		51	515	Brick and tile	Post-med/mod.
		5	14	Pottery	Post-medieval
		44	480	Pottery	Modern
62	60	9	49	Pottery	Early Iron Age
02		6		Worked flint (one burnt)	Early Iron Age
		4		Burnt flint	Prehistoric

#### Worked and burnt flint

Context	Feature	Trench	Worked flint
10	9	74	1 flaked and retouched flake fragment (secondary)
19	17 / 60	40	7 flakes (2 tertiary, 5 secondary) 1 burnt flake fragment 1 burnt scraper fragment 8 burnt stone
27	25	53	1 fire-cracked natural piece
43	Layer 46	53	1 fire-cracked flaked block 1 fire-cracked natural piece
62	17 / 60	40	large block with two flake removals (abandoned core)     blade (secondary)     flakes (secondary)     fire-cracked flake     fire-cracked natural pieces

#### Medieval and post-medieval pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
5	3	1	6	Sandy orange ware: unfeatured and abraded	13th to 14th C
	ditch	0	0	M. I. 12 (I. 11)	or later
		3	8	Modern white earthenware: blue-and-white	Early 19th to 20th centuries
		4	111	Unidentified coarseware fabric with sparse grog	?medieval
				temper: joining sherds from base and sides of very	
				thick-walled vessel, perhaps some kind of industrial	
0	C	4	40	vessel but there are no residues or fire-blackening	14th C
8	6 ditch	1	13	Medieval coarseware: flat base; abraded	14th C
10	9 ditch	2	5	Hedingham coarseware: joining sherds from ?neck of vessel	Late 12th to 14th C
		2	28	Medieval coarseware: misc. sherds, abraded	Late 12th to 14th C
14	11 ditch	2	3	Modern white earthenware: plain sherd and sherd with willow pattern transfer-print	Early 19th to 20th centuries
16	15	1	7	Post-medieval red earthenware: internally glazed	17th to 19th C
	gully			base, abraded	
		1	1	Modern white earthenware: undecorated	Early 19th to
20	layer	2	8	Sandy orange ware: unfeatured abraded sherds	20th centuries 13th to 16th C
20	layel	3	19	Post-medieval red earthenware: misc. internally	17th to 19th C
				glazed wares	
		2	7	Black-glazed ware: thick-walled sherds not from mugs or tygs	17th C or later
		2	14	Modern stoneware: includes rim of blacking bottle	19th to early 20th C
		2	20	Flowerpot fabric: rim and base fragments	18th to 20th C
		2	4	Creamware: including sherd from ?lid of teapot with	Mid 18th to
				moulded decoration	early 19th C
		4	10	Modern white earthenware: including fragment from plate with blue shell-edging and blue transfer-printed sherd	Early 19th to 20th centuries
27	25	2	15	Early medieval ware: unfeatured sherds	11th to 13th C
	gully	3	35	Medieval coarseware: oxidised sherds, includes B4 cooking-pot rim showing zone of fire-blackening around outside edge of rim	Earlier 13th century
30	28 gully	3	68	Early medieval ware: fragment from large storage jar showing vertical thumbed applied strip and zigzag combed decoration, B4 cooking-pot rim and body sherd	c.1200
		3	11	Medieval coarseware: abraded body sherds, one fire-blackened externally	Later 12th to 13th centuries
35	34	1	12	Hedingham coarseware: body sherd, very abraded	2nd half of
	gully			but appears to be wheel-thrown	13th to 14th C
38	36	1	7	Hedingham coarseware: body sherd	13th to 14th C
	pit	1		Medieval coarseware	Late 12th to 14th C
		1	6	Sandy orange ware: unglazed, reduced external surface, could be late medieval	13th to 15th C
41	layer	2	10	Medieval coarseware: includes a flat base sherd	?14th C
		6	78	Hedingham coarseware: includes an H2/H3 cooking-pot rim and sagging base sherd	?later 13th to 14th C
43	layer	1	19	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware: thick-walled base sherd	11th to 13th C
		3	15	Medieval coarseware: abraded body sherds	Later 12th to 14th C
		2	5	Hedingham coarseware: abraded body sherds	Mid 12th to 14th C
		2	6	Hedingham fineware: reduced grey showing traces of red slip-coating and greenish glaze, ?from early style jugs	?mid 12th to early 13th C
		1	4	Nottingham/Derby stoneware: body sherd	18th to 20th C
•			•		

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
44	layer	3	28	Medieval coarseware: includes a B4 rim and body	c.1200
				sherd showing combed decoration	1000
40	1	1	13	Hedingham coarseware: B2 cooking-pot rim	c.1200
49	layer	2	6	Medieval coarseware: body sherds	Later 12th to
		1	4	Hedingham coarseware	14th C Mid 12th to
		'	4	Hedingham coarseware	14th C
		1	27	Post-medieval red earthenware: sherd from	17th to 19th C
		•		hollowware with all over glaze	
		1	16	Black-glazed ware: base with all over black glaze,	17th C or later
				from mug or jar	
		1	9	Staffordshire-type slipware: sherd from press-	Most likely
				moulded dish showing combed slip decoration	early 18th C
		5	17	Modern pottery comprising yellow ware sherd with	19th to 20th C
				blue-banded decoration; modern white earthenware	
				including sherd with brown slip-band decoration and glazed fine red earthenware sherd	
57	56	2	7	Medieval coarseware: abraded body sherds	Late 12th to
07	ditch	_		Modioval ocalogward. abraded body diferate	14th C
		2	5	Unidentified oxidised earthenware fabric; joining	Undatable, but
				sherds, abraded external surface has laminated	most likely
				away	post-med
		1	43	Post-medieval red earthenware: flanged rim dish	Later 16th to
			4	fragment, unglazed	17th C
		1	4	White salt-glazed stoneware: fragment of plate rim showing seed moulded decoration	Mid to late 18th C
		1	9	Creamware: fragment of plate showing moulded	Mid to late
				decoration around rim	18th C
		3	6	Modern pottery comprising sherd of bone china with	Later 18th to
				blue transfer-print: glazed fine red earthenware with	20th centuries
				moulded decoration and one sherd plain modern	
	50		0	white earthenware	NA: 1.470. 1
58	56 ditch	1	2	Westerwald stoneware	Mid 17th to 18th C
	alteri	4	12	Creamware: recessed base from cylindrical vessel	Mid 18th to
		7	12	Creamware. recessed base nom cylindrical vesser	early 19th C
		1	9	Modern stoneware	19th to 20th C
		3	213	Modern red earthenware: thick-walled sherds with	19th to 20th C
				all over glaze probably from bread crock	
		5	30	Modern flowerpot	19th to 20th C
		2	20	Slipped kitchen earthenware	19th to 20th C
		1	2	Pearlware: rim of hemispherical bowl or saucer with	Late 18th C to
		4	A	hand-painted decoration	early 19th C
		1	4	Yellow ware with blue-banded decoration  Porcelain with moulded decoration	19th to 20th C
		1 31	1 158	Modern white earthenware including plate	19th to 20th C 1830s to 20th
		51	100	fragments with blue or green shell-edging; the base	C 10305 to 2011
				of a cylindrical relish dish and transfer-printed	-
				sherds – one showing a green transfer print	
		1	43	Glazed basalt ware moulded handle perhaps from a	1830s to 20th
				teapot	С
		142	1245		

# **APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE**

# Contained within one Lever Arch File:

- 1 Copy of the client report
- 1 Written Scheme of Investigation
- 1 Prehistoric pottery report
- 1 Prehistoric pottery recording sheet
- 1 Worked and burnt flint report
- 1 Worked flint drawing
- 2 Context register sheets
- 3 Section register sheets
- 2 Plan register sheets
- 1 Environmental sample register sheet
- 1 Bulk sample record sheet
- 1 Photo register
- 42 Digital photographs
- 62 Context recording sheets
- 1 Matrix for trench 53
- 1 Computer disk

# Not contained within Lever Arch File:

- 1 Box of finds
- 9 Sheets of trench plans
- 3 Sheets of section drawings

### **APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY**

Site name/Address: Allshots Farm, Bradwell, Essex					
Parish: Bradwell	District: Braintree				
<b>NGR:</b> TL 8197 2030	Site Code: BDAF12				
Type of Work: Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching	Site DirectorlGroup: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit				
Date of Work: 31/8/12 to 2/10/12	Size of Area Investigated: 165 trenches, totalling 1.08ha				
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree	Client: The Guildhouse Consultancy				
Further Seasons Anticipated?:	Related HER Nos.:				

Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (summary)

Periods represented: Prehistoric, medieval post-medieval and modern

### SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Archaeological evaluation at Allshots Farm, Rivenhall has revealed two sites of archaeological remains to the south-east of Herons Farm.

The earlier of the two sites is represented by an Early Iron Age gully that contained pieces of Early Iron Age worked flint, pottery and abundant fragments of charcoal, and is conjectured to have been part of an enclosure lying close to an area of settlement.

The other area comprised a medieval to modern settlement site, located in trench 53. Early OS mapping indicates it to have been moated and to have contained one or more cottages in its latest stages. The archaeological remains revealed included one of the two cottages, a series of medieval gullies, un-datable and post-medieval post-holes, and a large archaeological feature which is likely to have been part of the south side of the moat. Occupation of the site may have been discontinuous as the pottery from it spanned the late 12th to 14th, and the 17th to mid-20th centuries. The 15th/16th-century gap in the sequence is suggested to represent a retreat from marginal land following on from the famines and plagues of the 14th century. Part of the moat may survive as a nearby earthwork.

The results of the trenching, in combination with other pieces of archaeological work which have taken place within the Bradwell / Rivenhall Airfield area, strongly suggest that the modern

landscape of Bradwell is largely a 12th-century construct and is derived from a dispersed settlement pattern based upon Bradwell church and hall, isolated tenant farms and cottages, with utility and working areas, such as ponds, barns and quarries, connected by narrow roads and farm tracks, all within a network of small fields.

Most of the other trenches were either blank or were found to contain post-medieval / modern field ditches, the majority of which were recorded by the early editions of the Ordnance Survey. The total amount of archaeological remains found by the work is small for 165 trenches and is suggested to be due to Bradwell having been only lightly settled during the past, perhaps due to the area's heavy clay soils, which may have proven difficult to cultivate.

Previous Summaries/Reports:-	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: March 2014

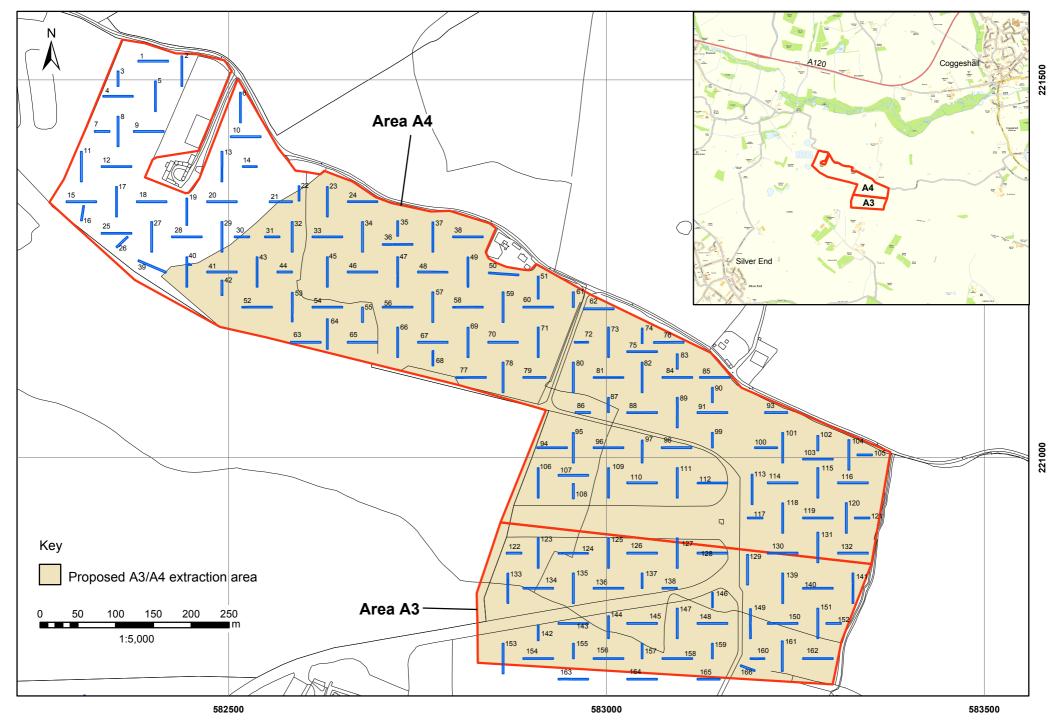


Fig.1. Site location

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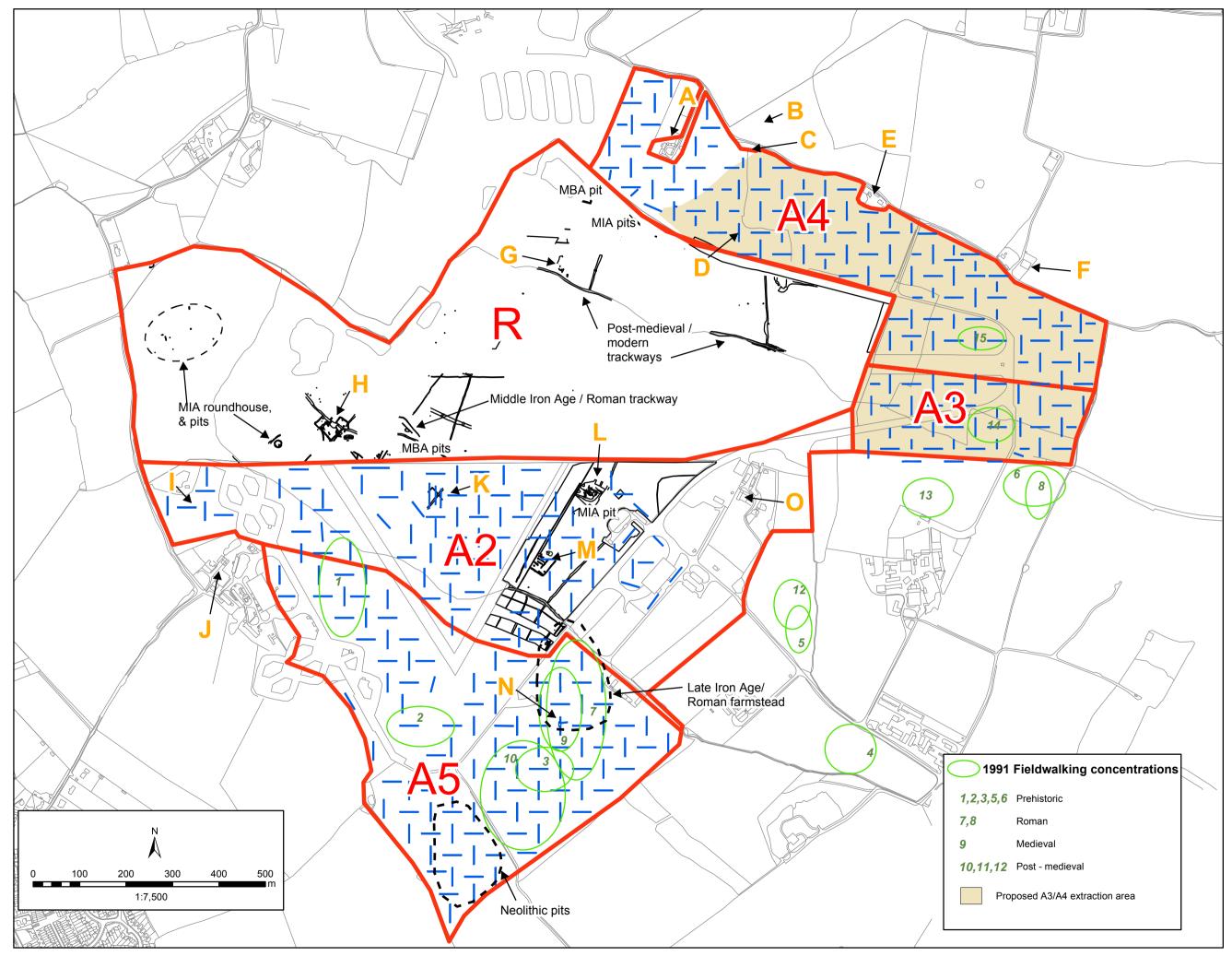


Fig.2. Previous archaeological work and findings

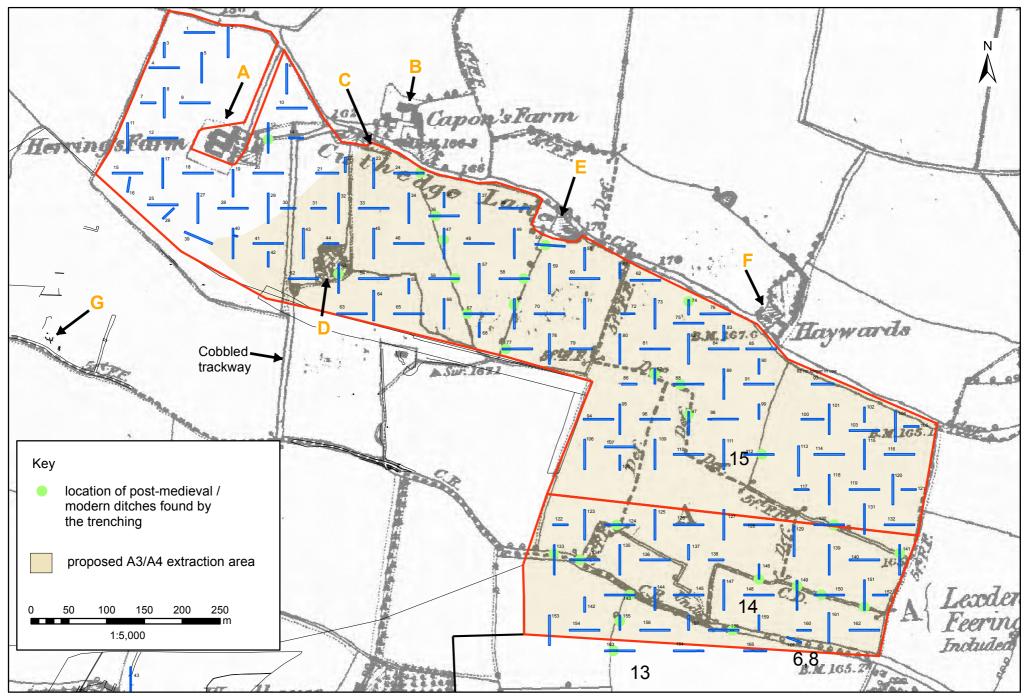


Fig.3. Areas A3 and A4 site imposed on first edition Ordnance Survey (1861-76)

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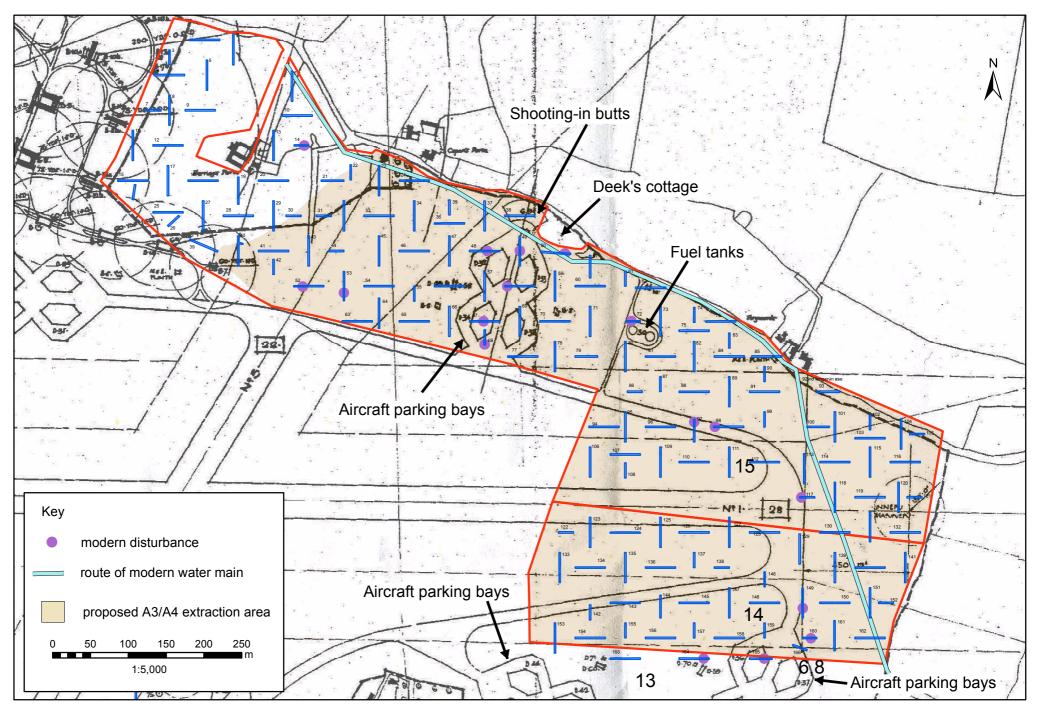
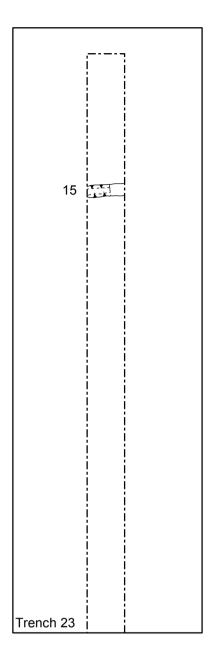
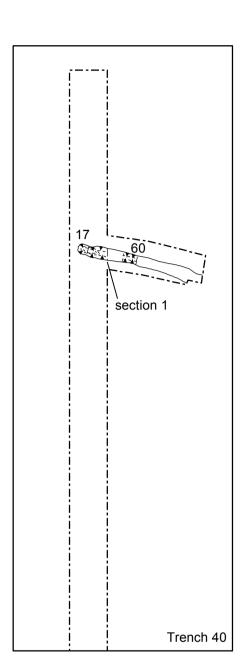


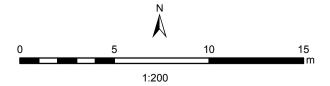
Fig.4. Areas A3 and A4 site imposed on map of east end of airfield (Air Ministry drawing 4648/45)

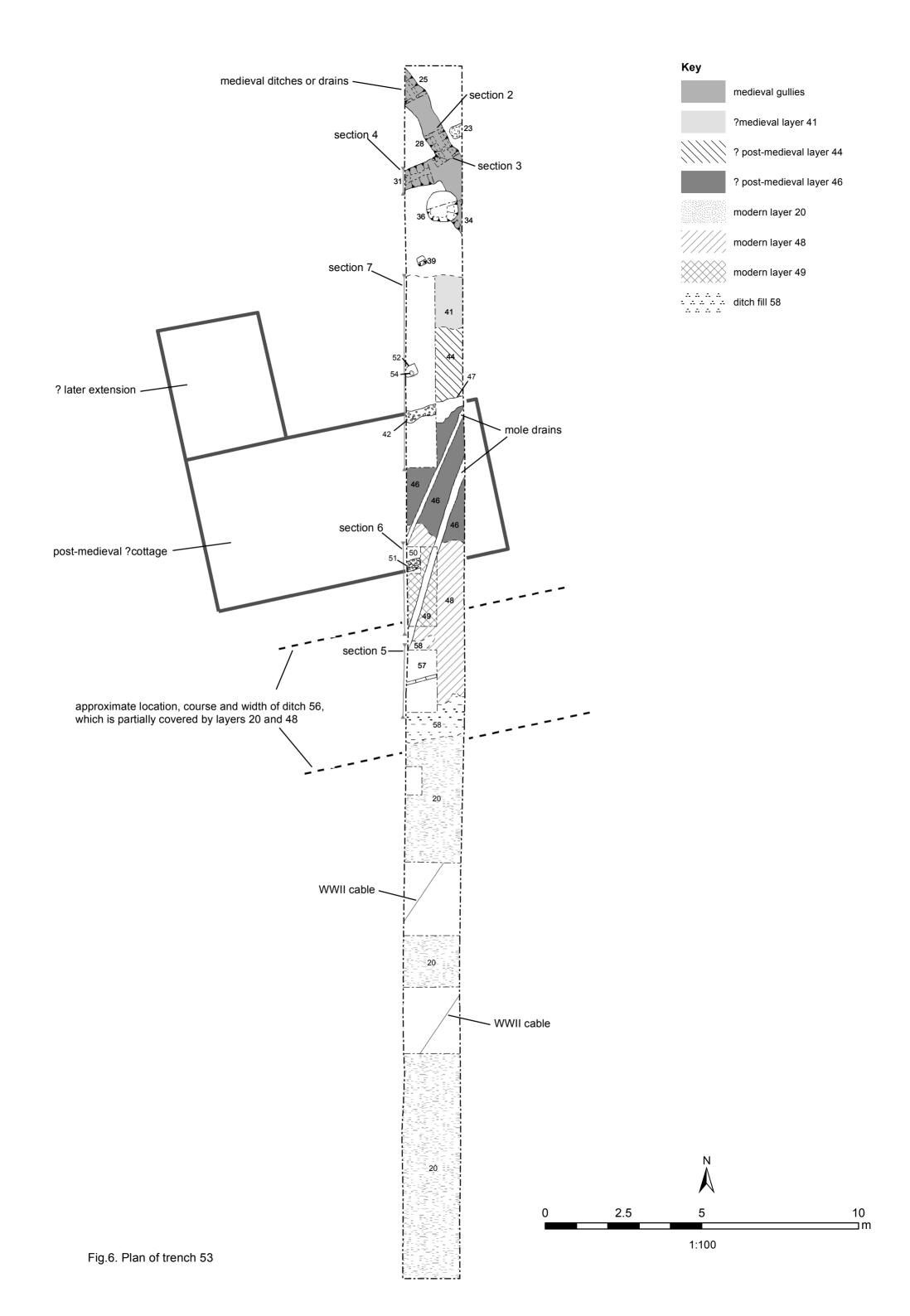




Trench 81







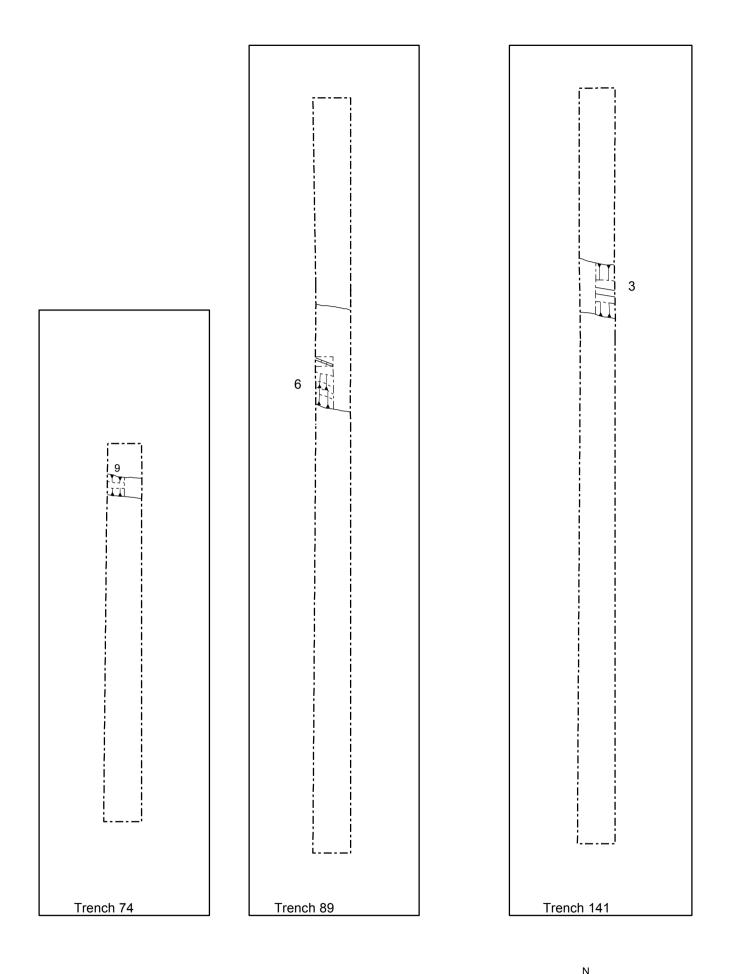
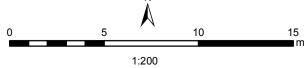


Fig.7. Plan of trenches 74, 89 & 141



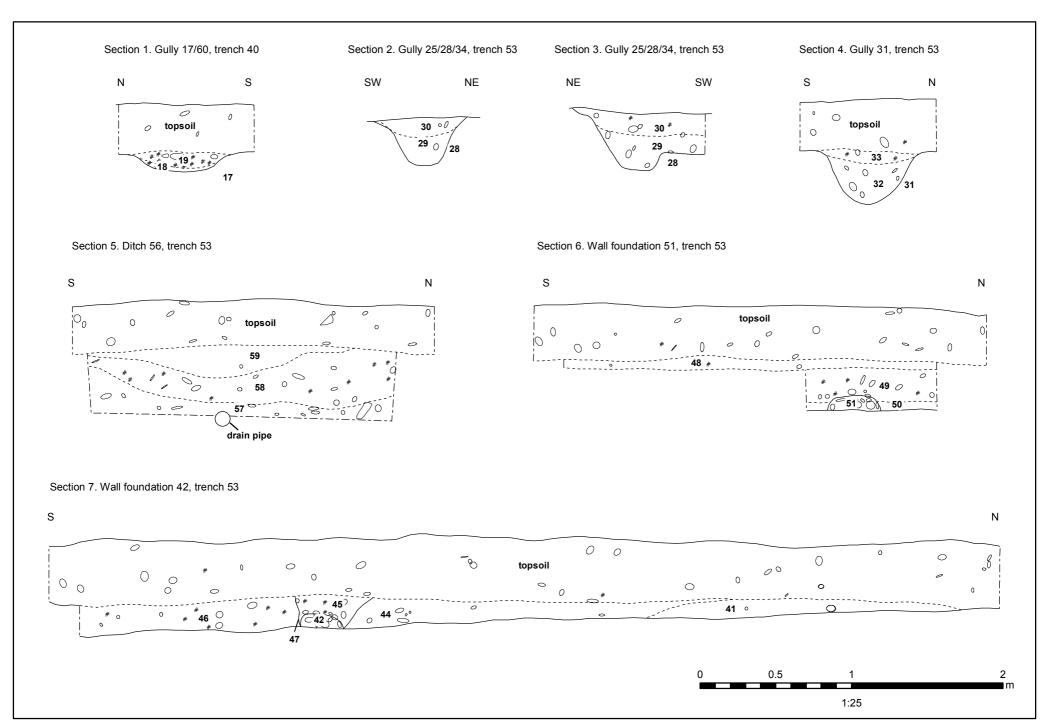


Fig.8. Sections 1 - 7

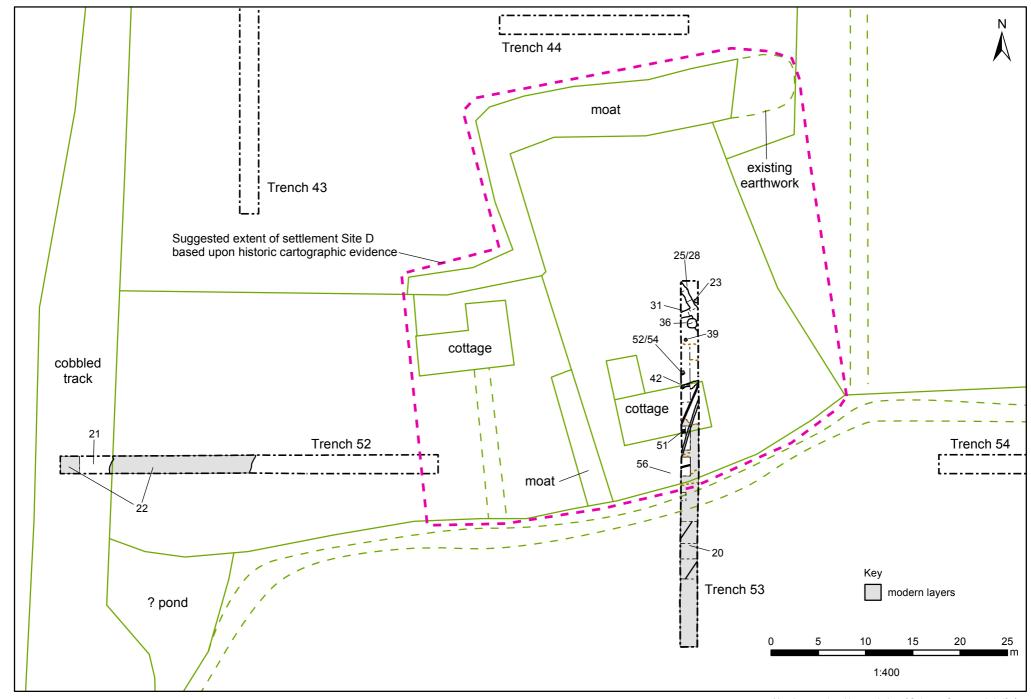


Fig.9. Trench 53 and settlement D as recorded on second edition Ordnance Survey (1893-96)



Plate 1. Prehistoric gully 17/60, trench 40



Plate 2. Cobbled track surface 21, trench 52



Plate 3. Trench 53, looking south-west



Plate 4. Pit 36 and medieval gullies 31 and 25/28/34, trench 53



Plate 5. Wall foundation 42, trench 53



Plate 6. Wall foundation 51, trench 53



Plate 7. Post-hole 23, trench 53



Plate 8. Ditch 56, trench 53



Plate 9. Ditch 6, trench 89