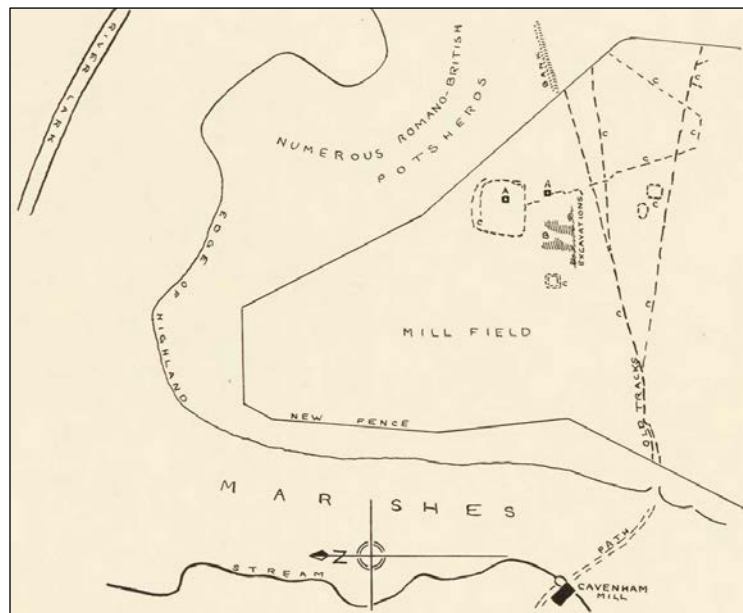


An assessment of the archaeological context of the early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at Lackford (LKD 001), Suffolk

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Summary

The history of the cremation cemetery begins in the 19th century, with the main excavation taking place in 1947-8. Various issues with the publication and the records are discussed including the difficulty of precisely locating the excavation area. Subsequent discoveries have been around and south of the 1947 excavation area.

The records of the nearby Roman and early Anglo-Saxon sites show that a Roman rural temple or shrine lies to the north-east of the cemetery. There is an apparent decrease in activity in the area between the two complexes, although the extent of both is not well defined. Recent finds suggest that there may be several early Anglo-Saxon domestic sites along the terrace of the river Lark to the north and east of the cemetery.

In the wider context of the Lark Valley and north-west Suffolk the cemetery is probably an early focus, perhaps related to the importance of the Icklingham small town as a religious and perhaps political centre in the late Roman period.

The potential for further work includes the use of geophysical survey to locate the non-cemetery features to properly locate the areas excavated in 1947. To determine the full extent of the cemetery would require a programme of trial excavations.

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1. The History of the Anglo-Saxon Cremation Cemetery

Discovery of the cemetery and excavation in 1947

Pottery urns were found intermittently on Mill Heath during the 19th century. The earliest acquisitions by Moyses Hall Museum in Bury St Edmunds were in 1874 (West 1998, 72); urns were also acquired by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and one urn by the British Museum (1911.0609.1). An account by H.R. Barker (1917) of Moyses Hall Museum describes how the discovery of one complete pot by a shepherd boy in 1914 was followed, when the findspot was investigated, by the discovery of six more pots close together, along with fragments of up to another eight. However the findspot location was not recorded except as on the Heath.

In 1945 the precise location of the cemetery was identified (by Teresa Home of Cavenham, subsequently Teresa Briscoe of Lakenheath) after the first modern ploughing on Mill Heath exposed numerous pots. Local concern and the threat of deeper ploughing led to an excavation beginning in January 1947 organised by Tom Lethbridge of Cambridge University. The excavation was published as a volume in the CAS quarto series (Lethbridge 1951) and this remains the principal source for the archaeology of the site. The report lacks many details about the site and is not particularly easy to use; for example some information about urn context relationships is in the list of captions for the figures.

The only primary documentary archive information located to date is the copy of a notebook by Lethbridge (Lethbridge n.d.), acquired from the John Gadd collection by Diana Briscoe, with permission for copies to be lodged with SCCAS and CUMAA. This begins as a diary account on 5 January 1947 – “20 cremations were excavated in the course of the day...” – with a list of participants, plans and details of the finds. The account becomes much more abbreviated over time but includes a series of sketch plans with measured distances that seem to show the various groups of urns (as identified by letter codes) interspersed with detailed sketches of the finds and notes about research into other sites in the vicinity and about the ideas that Lethbridge developed in the 1951 publication. The latest date apparently related to recovering urns (ref BEN1) is 8 May 1948, followed by a “Summary of Conclusions” and further notes on Lackford and on the late Roman hoards from Icklingham.

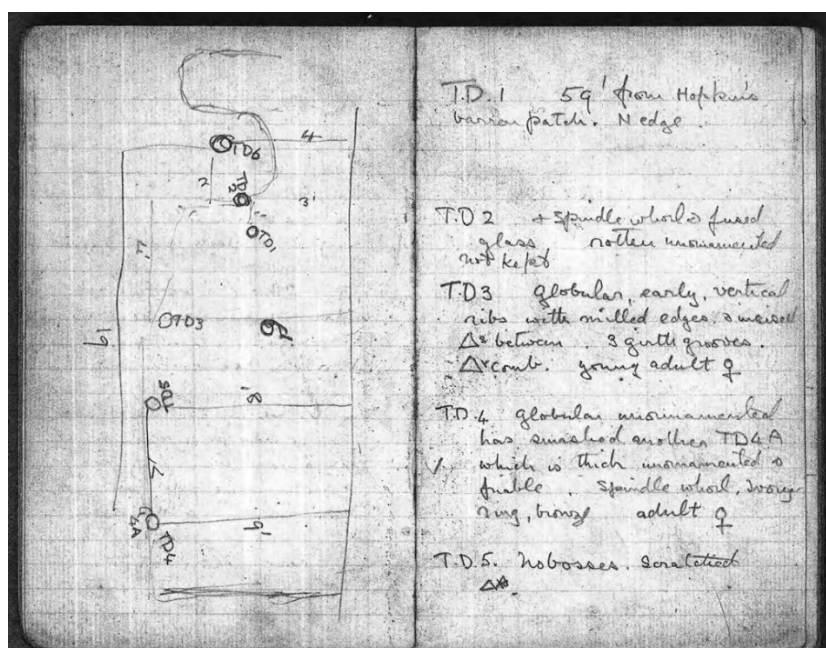


Fig 1 Lethbridge Notebook sample page

Original copies of the artwork for the 1951 CAS publication are held in Cambridge (at the University Library, accession number Add 9777/15) as is a Lethbridge notebook (Add 9258/8) but examination by a mapping specialist (E Chamberlin, Historic England) has shown that a definitive digital map of the 1947 excavation areas is not currently possible (see below for details of the approximation of the mapping as shown in Fig 4).

The report suggests that around 500 urns were uncovered of which about 161 are illustrated. All those that survived ("some were so soft that it was impossible to extricate them with any hope of future restoration") were deposited at the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (CUMAA). The 1951 report includes occasional identifications of the age (particularly children) and sex of the cremated bone, but it is not clear from the report whether the bone was retained and it is believed to have been discarded (Hills and Lucy 2013, 336). A few fragments of human bone are recorded at CUMAA in individual pots or attached to other objects (information about the museum collection has been extracted from the online catalogue at <http://collections.maa.cam.ac.uk>).

As well as the early Anglo-Saxon cremations Lethbridge uncovered two small, square, probably Roman structures. There is some confusion as to what these were and what date; the conclusion in the report is that they were Roman burial vaults that had been robbed in the early Anglo-Saxon period. The notebook includes a description of the excavation of the northern one of the structures, initially described as a temple, in January 1947. Although it consisted of Roman building material and was set below ground the account states that it was of Saxon date because early Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were found throughout the 'square floor' that was made of mortar rubble, Roman tiles and flint nodules (this 'floor' was later interpreted as walling) although no general occupation material was found in the interior (Lethbridge notebook, 14). A few pages later (p 19) a sketch compares the structure with a tomb built like a house; no plan exists in the notebook, but this is shown in the report (Lethbridge 1951, 7, Plan IV, with an incorrect scale, see also Fig 3). The second structure, to the south, has a measured sketch plan labelled "Second Tomb" in the notebook (p 33 see Fig 2) but no description and no published plan.

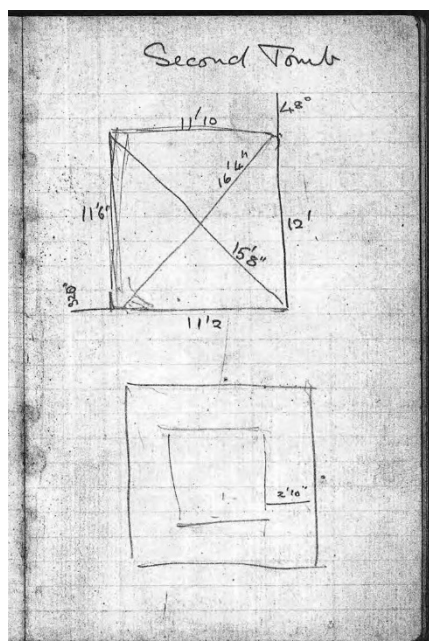


Fig.2 Lethbridge Notebook page 33 showing the southern Roman structure

Lethbridge describes other features as being visible as cropmarks, including a square enclosure around the northern Roman structure; the ditch is shown as having an excavated section in the publication (1951, 7, Plan IV) but is not described. A couple of linear features he maps to the south of the excavation as cropmarks are visible as a track and a boundary on the 1880's Ordnance Survey map and have not been included on Fig 4. Just to the north-west of the cremations he recorded a mound as possibly a barrow (notebook, 2, with sketch plan) which seems to correlate with a small squareish cropmark on the published location plan (1951, Plan I and see Fig 3).

The records in the HER suggest that there may have been more than the single excavation season in the 1940s. Notebooks in the Grace Briscoe collection (SCCAS archive of mid 20th-century field records, as summarised in SCC HER record LKD 001) suggest that pots were excavated in 1945 (perhaps by or

with Teresa Briscoe?) and these are probably the ones now in Mildenhall Museum, listed in West (1998, 72, 103.4 – 103.10). Lethbridge also recorded that Sam Marston of Icklingham had excavated an urn with a Roman tile as cover in 1945 (Lethbridge notebook, 3). The HER also states that Luton

Museum acquired four pots excavated in 1947 by an Owen Williamson (who is not mentioned in Lethbridge 1951).

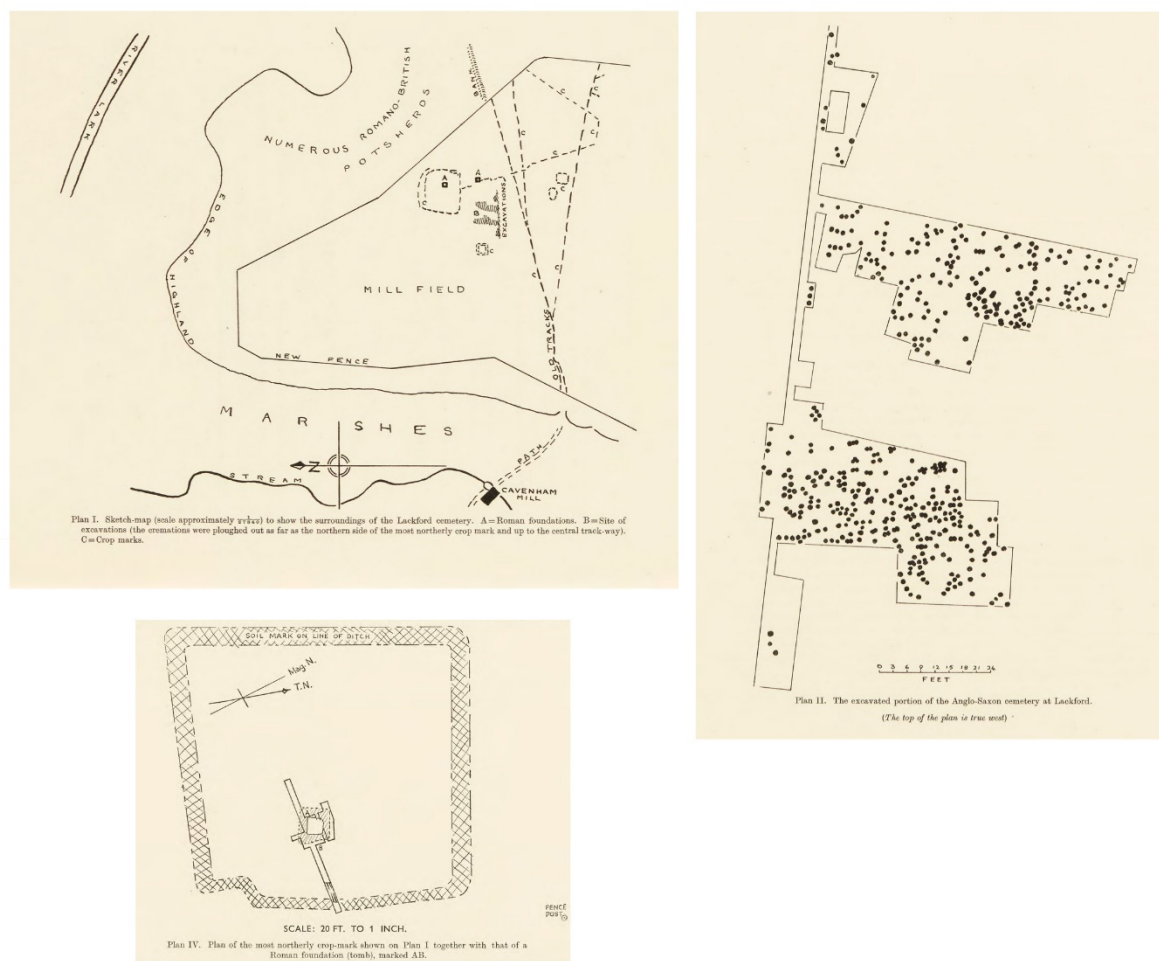


Fig 3. Plans I, II, IV reproduced from Lethbridge 1951.

Pots from Lackford were published by Myres in his *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon pottery* (Myres 1977). He lists 287 pots, the majority located in CUMAA, but others in various locations: five in the Institute of Archaeology (UCL), two in the Ashmolean, Oxford, two in Bury St Edmunds, one each in Southend and Wisbech and two in private collections (Myres 1977, 106-108). Myres based his published drawings on those of Lethbridge, not only those published in 1951 but also direct from Lethbridge who “kindly gave me drawings of much unpublished material from Lackford” (Myres 1977, xviii). Comparison of Lethbridge 1951 with Myres 1977 and other sources would be needed to establish a reliable catalogue.

Finds subsequent to 1947

Immediately after the 1947 excavation at least part of the excavation area was planted with spruce trees (now mostly silver birch). However pottery sherds, including stamped pieces, have intermittently been reported in the cultivated field to the south of the trees since 1978. In 2011 one of two metal detector users with current permission to survey on this land reported Anglo-Saxon pottery; further sherds were recorded in 2013-2015 to give a total of 28 pieces, nearly half of them decorated (pottery sherds recorded on Portable Antiquities database). From 2015 individual findspot locations were plotted using GPS (see map) and these all fall within the same area as the excavations in 2015-2016 and the remainder of the ploughed game belt to the north. The finders suggest that no

material is found in the arable land to the south of the game belt because of the intensity of agricultural operations over many years.

Excavations of the surface finds and associated sub-surface deposits by SCCAS took place in 2015 and 2016 (see Minter et al 2018).

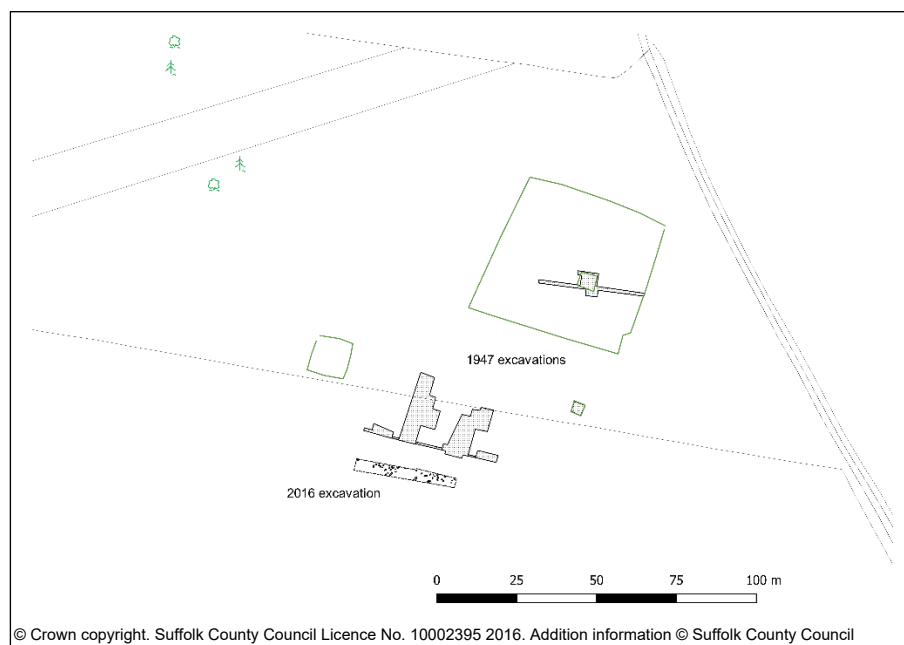


Fig 4 Plan of the Lethbridge excavations (shaded) with linear features in green; their position in relation to modern features and 2016 excavation is approximate

Land-use and potential damage to the cemetery

The descriptions by Lethbridge suggest that some of the pottery urns containing the cremations were buried more deeply than others – and even the 2016 excavation uncovered one example of one pot over another. However the majority were not particularly deep and were very vulnerable to surface erosion or disturbance.

Mill Heath was probably ploughed occasionally before the 20th century – Lethbridge suggests that this occurred in the Napoleonic period – but this would have been much shallower than modern practice and short events would not have left the area vulnerable to soil erosion.

An area to the south of the 1947 excavation had already been under the plough for many years, but during or immediately after WW2 the main area of the cemetery was taken into cultivation. It is clear that this was seen by interested local archaeologists (Teresa Briscoe and Sam Marston) as extremely damaging and led to their pressing for a professional excavation. The evidence for cultivation on the LKD 018 site within the same area to the north showed that the ground had been broken up using a gyrotiller, which caused deep curving disturbance into deposits (seen particularly clearly in a Roman clay floor).

By 1951 part of the cemetery, and probably including both of the small Roman structures, had been planted with trees, recorded at the time as spruce. The plantation remains with a mixture of trees; there is considerable potential for root damage and particular damage when trees fall. There are

also very extensive rabbit burrows (and possibly other mammals such as badger setts). The LKD 018 excavation also recorded extensive rabbit holes throughout the excavation and this is a likely long term destructive factor.

Current land use of the excavated arable area is for a game belt along the north side of the field; formerly maize this has been changed since 2017 to a less deeply rooted and invasive bird seed crop. The arable area immediately south of the 2016 excavation has been in intensive cultivation since at least 1945 and perhaps longer (it is uncertain exactly where the south edge of Mill Heath was when ploughed in the 1940's). Fields to the north and east of the plantation, heavily cultivated in the 20th century, have been taken out of cultivation (under agri-environment schemes) but have some areas of ground clearance for stone curlew nesting.

2. Mapping the site in its context

All the survey and excavation data prior to the discovery of the cremation pots in 2015-16 was recorded on non-digital maps and plans. The landscape of this area of former heathland, arable fields and meadows contains few fixed points, and so even the 1981-2 excavations on the Roman area at LKD 018 were located only in relation to the fence lying to the north – the same fence line, but replaced at least once in the interim, on which the Cavenham Crowns (see below, HER ref LKD 003) were discovered. However the 1980's work did have the advantage of internal consistency based on a 20m grid and it had been plotted onto a paper OS 1:2500 map.

The basis of the various plans published from the 1947 excavations and reproduced here as Fig 3 is not clear, but appears to be probably an east-west line from which exploratory areas extended to the north. Nothing in the Lethbridge notebook shows any obvious way of locating the individual urn plans to the landscape or indeed to each other – presumably there was a key plan with the urn letter codes on it that was used to construct the distributions of pots shown as plans II and III in the 1947 report. The key for locating the excavations as accurately as possible is the map published as Plan I, which was apparently hand drawn or sketched from an OS map base. Plan I lacks good points to fix onto the modern OS, especially to the north and east, and also has a misleading north arrow (perhaps magnetic rather than grid north). However several separate attempts at geo-referencing the Plan I image, using both MapInfo and QGIS mapping programs, consistently showed the 1947 excavation falling largely south of the present tree belt as shown in Figures 4 and 5. This means that it may have been within 10m of the 2016 trench.

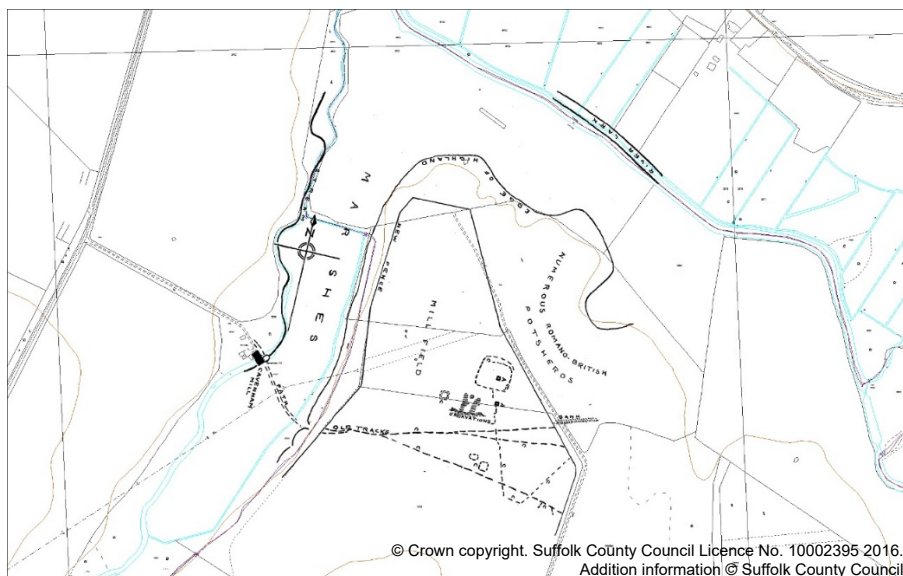


Fig 5 Plan I from Lethbridge 1951 approximately georeferenced onto the modern Ordnance Survey

The key features from plan I, with additional detail from plans II and IV, were traced and drawn onto vector layers. During this process it was noted that the scale stated on plan IV was incorrect as published, perhaps reduced by 50%. Given the uncertainties around the initial georeferencing and the variations in the information on the Lethbridge plans (eg compare the enclosure outlines shown in Plans I and IV in Fig 3) it is important to emphasise that this is a working hypothesis until further evidence is found. A key element that might improve locating this data would be to identify the remains of one or both of the Roman square structures, or the enclosure that surrounds the northern structure, for example in a geophysics survey.

3. The immediate context: adjacent Roman, early Anglo-Saxon and cropmark discoveries

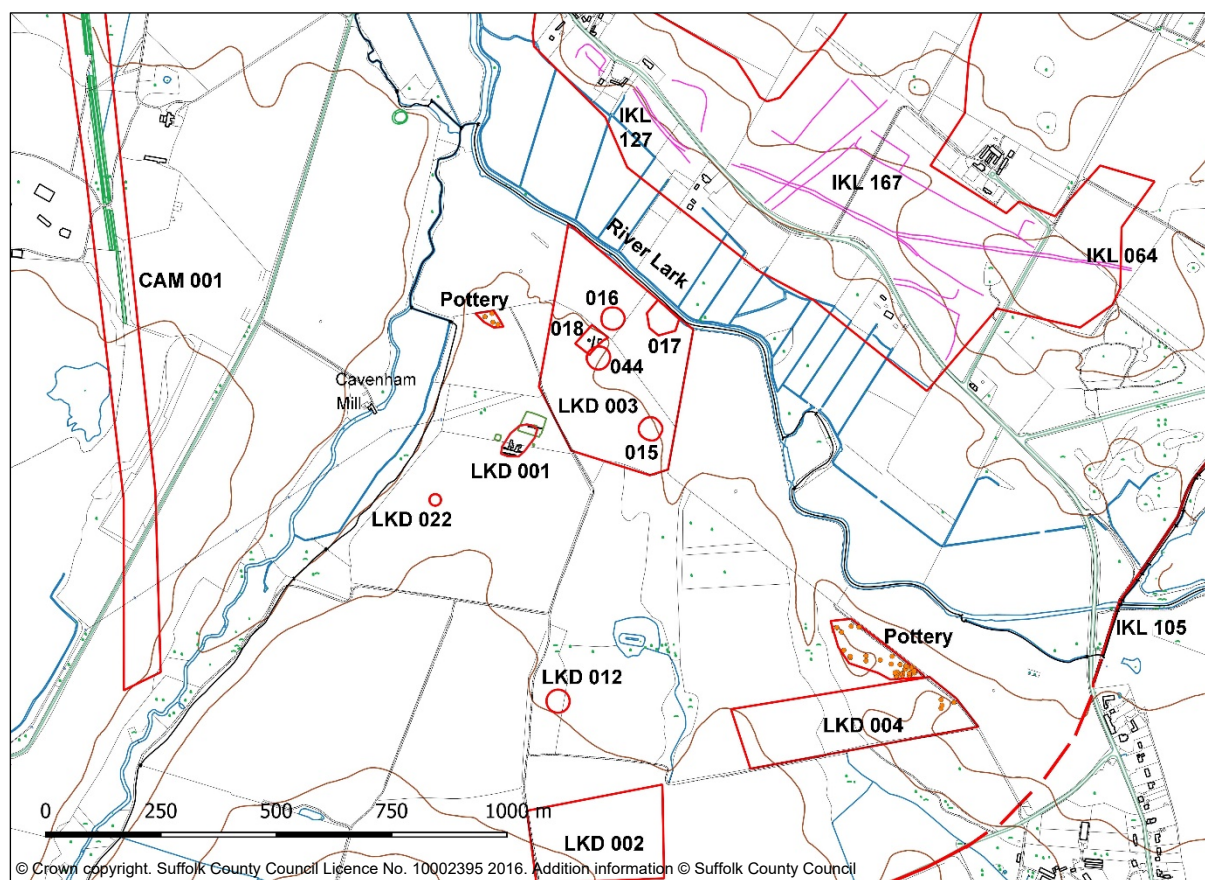


Fig 6 Map showing HER sites in the vicinity (see also Appendix for listing of HER sites in Lackford)

The closest HER record contemporary with LKD 001 is LKD 012, referring to a few pottery sherds and a 40 to 50 foot (12-15m) ring of white stones. This odd record (unfortunately any further details of the find were lost in a burglary at SCCAS in 1981 when the Lackford parish file was stolen) refers to a find apparently from the open ground on the west side of Roundfolly Plantation, just over 500m south of the cemetery. It seems more likely to relate to a few further finds of early Anglo-Saxon date recently found within a substantial Roman artefact scatter about 300m further south (LKD 002).

Also to the south of the cemetery, about 175m away, is the undated cropmark of a small enclosure (LKD 022), about 13m in diameter with an entrance to the east.

However recent surface collections have been made from those fields along the south side of the valley that are accessible because, although out of full cultivation, they are either regularly surface turned for stone curlew habitats, or because thin vegetation allows sand blows to expose fresh areas (unpublished HER data collected by M Frost c 2015-2018). A small group of early Anglo-Saxon undecorated pottery sherds have been found on the north edge of the field north of the cemetery. This seems unlikely to relate to the cemetery some 200m to the south and much more likely to represent settlement evidence, particularly in this location on the valley side close to the junction of the River Lark and the Cavenham Mill tributary.

Further Anglo-Saxon pottery has been also been found to the east along the Lark in the area of, and just north of, HER site LKD 004. Here a substantial group of sherds, including probable 5th century and a small proportion of decorated pieces, covers a larger area and overlaps with prehistoric, Roman and occasional later finds.

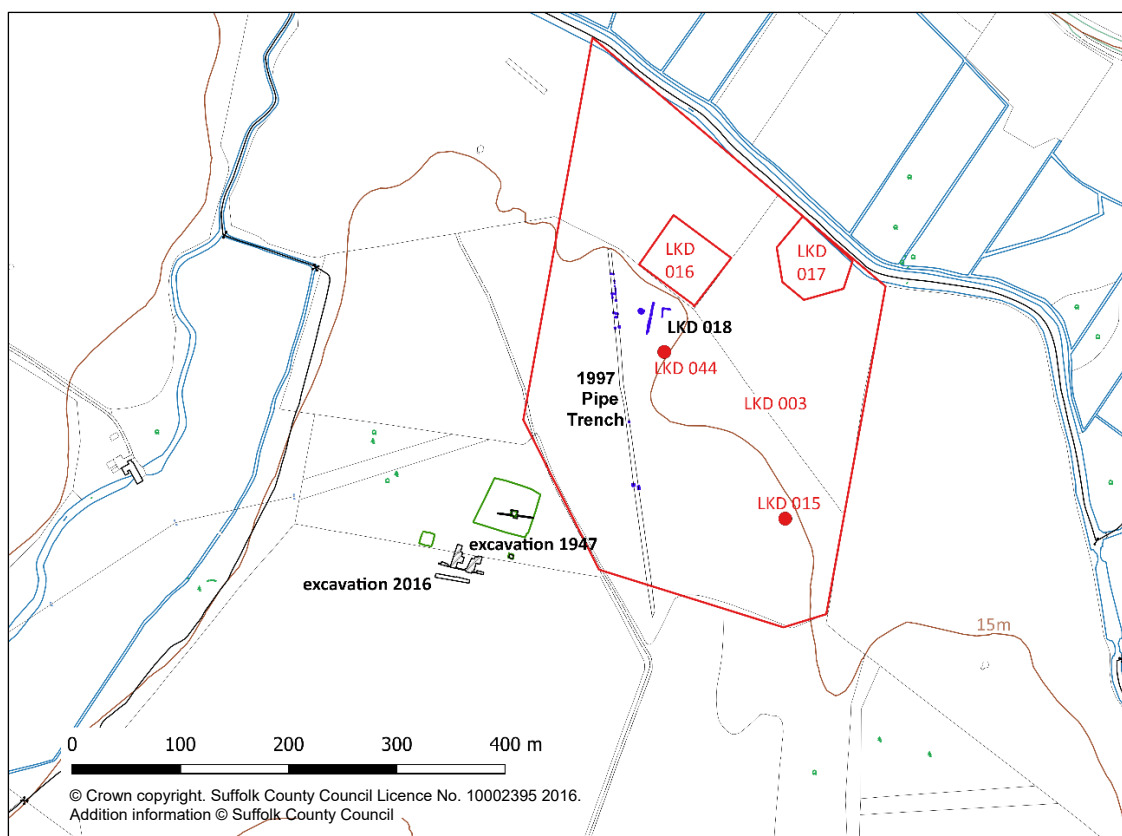


Fig 7 Detail map of HER record LKD 003 and Lackford cemetery excavations

The main concentration of Roman activity in the vicinity of the cemetery is the area encompassed by LKD 003 in the HER; various separate areas and features are defined within this site (Fig 7). LKD 003 includes the field immediately to the north-east of the cemetery area, plus the meadow fields to the north along the south side of the Lark. It was identified as an area of Roman activity by Lethbridge (1951, plan I: see Fig 3), who also related the area to the discovery of the Roman religious hoard, known as the 'Cavenham Crowns' but fairly certainly found on the north side of Mill Heath in 1921. Both fieldwalking (of the then arable field) in c 1978 and metal detecting finds in the 1970's – 1980's showed that the main concentration of activity was around site LKD 018 and extending north into meadow at LKD 016. A subsidiary scatter, perhaps related to a crossing of the River Lark, was identified in the meadow at LKD 017. Close to or within the LKD 018 focus is a late 3rd century coin hoard find (LKD 044). A mid 4th century coin hoard in a cloth bag (LKD 015) was found 200m to the south-west in the south part of the LKD 003 area.

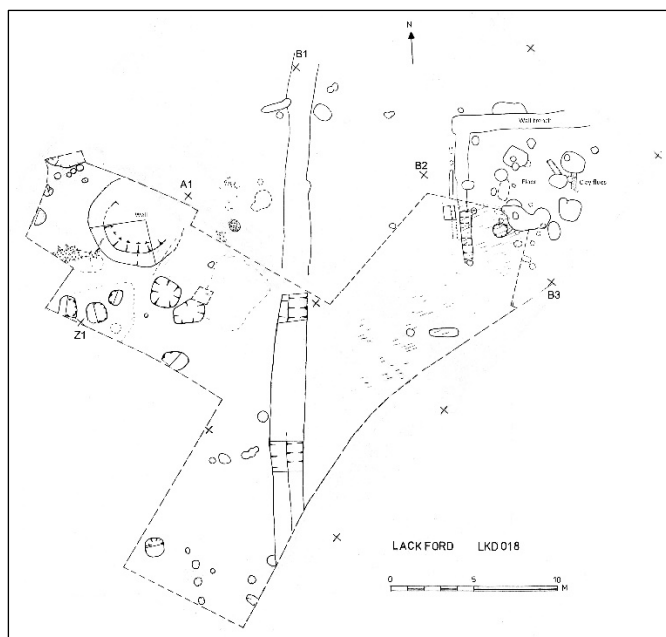


Fig 8 Plan of LK018 excavations

Excavation of small areas of LK018 in 1981 and 1982 (Fig 8) took place after destructive metal detecting activity was reported and also aimed to identify the extent of agricultural damage to deposits. A clay floor enclosed by a timber slot indicated a structure at least 9m square, associated with two burnt clay flues and a deposit of painted wall plaster, with a possible palisaded enclosure around it. Just to the west a group of pits included a well. These features seem to have been in use in the 1st and 2nd centuries and could, in association with the finds, reasonably be identified as a small rural temple. In the later Roman period probably votive activity continued, with pits cut into the area of the structure and traces of an occupation layer containing 3rd and 4th century finds. The evidence for votive activity includes copper alloy sheet 'leaf' fragments and Ad Locutio and horse and rider brooches (a group very similar to the Hockwold crowns temple site in Norfolk, Gurney 1986, 49-92) from the excavation along with a figurine fragment of Mercury, miniature axe and seal box from the detected assemblage. There were also placed deposits of pig bones and possibly chicken inside the structure. The level of activity seems to drop in the second half of the 4th century with below average coin loss after 360, although a few coins up to 402 were present. This is in marked contrast to the evidence for Icklingham, but not surprising given the pagan associations of the excavated area and the strong evidence for a Christian centre at Icklingham.

In 1997 an agricultural water pipe trench was examined and features recorded (Fig 7). Most of the pits and ditches seen were near to LK018, as the trench passed about 15m west of the excavation area. A couple of isolated undated features, including a possible sunken featured building, were seen further south, 180m north-east of the 2016 LK001 excavation and probably about 115m east of the northern 'Roman tomb' excavated by Lethbridge.

4. The broader context: late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon activity in the Lark Valley

The late Roman period in this part of the Lark valley was dominated by the substantial settlement or small town at Icklingham. Much of the evidence for the very late activity, including a probable Christian church, cemeteries and various early 5th century hoards, was summarised in West with Plouviez 1976 and the significance of this late centre has also been re-iterated by Stanely West in 2014. He emphasises the wealth of the material recorded from Icklingham and nearby, particularly in the late Roman period and suggests that the religious history includes a pagan temple (evidenced by the hoard of bronzes looted in c 1981 as well as features in the area excavated in 1974) that was systematically ‘cleansed’ and replaced by a Christian church in the mid-4th century, this church also acting as a ‘minster’ for the surrounding area. The presence of late Roman crossbow brooches and official belt fittings, and the sheer volume of Valentinian and later coinage, suggests that the power focus here included the political or military as well as the religious.

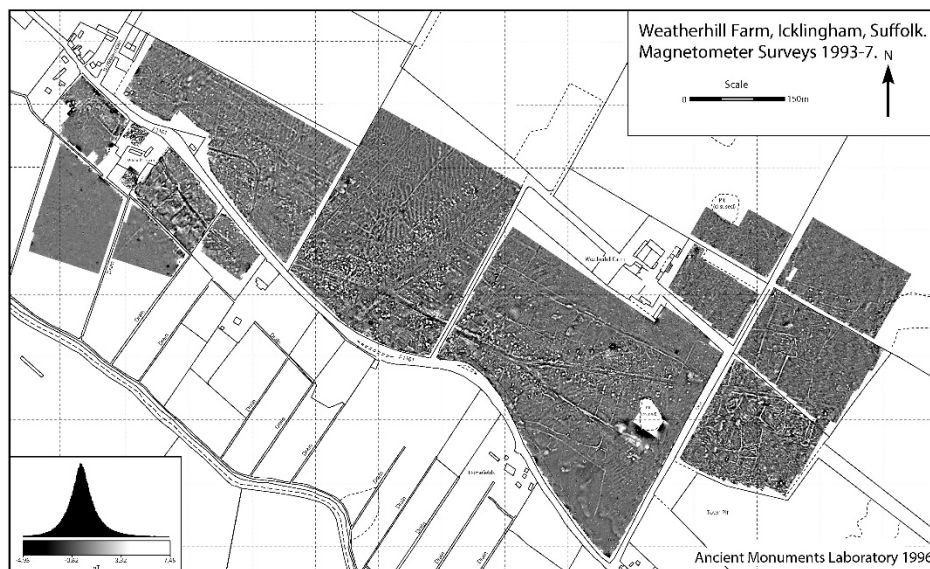


Fig 9 AML Magnetometry surveys at Icklingham 1993-7

The layout of the Roman settlement at Icklingham (IKL 167, Fig 6) was not apparent from excavations in the 1970's apart from showing that it extended for up to 1400m (including evidence for probably extra-mural cemeteries) along the north side of the Lark in fields to the east of the medieval village. By 1976 a potential east-west road (IKL 064) had been identified within the core of the settlement as a cropmark, and this was confirmed by excavation. Geophysical survey by English Heritage between 1993 and 1997 has added considerable detail to this picture (Fig 9 and see features in pink mapped on Fig 6). The east-west road was visible, leaving the survey area at the east end to join a route already known towards the settlement at Pakenham (Ixworth) but with a branch to the south that seems to correlate with a phase of rectilinear land division in this east half of the main settlement. The line of this road was also confirmed in excavations by Cambridge University between 1997 and 2002 at the west end of the settlement at Mitchells Farm (IKL 127) where it seems to align with the valley and probably joins the line of the modern road towards Mildenhall and the Fen edge. Amongst the other features visible in this survey is a north-south orientation in the central field, perhaps another road or routeway, with associated roadside activity extending to the north. This line would, if projected to the south, cross the modern route of the river at the west

end of site LKD 017 and might continue close to both the Roman temple at LKD 018 and the Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery. It is possible that this represents an alternative route of the Icknield Way, currently shown as crossing the Lark to the east of the Roman town. (Fig 6)

Many other Roman sites are recorded along the Lark Valley. To the west of Icklingham village there are finds scatters recorded at roughly 500m intervals along the north side of the valley, of particular importance on Icklingham Plains because of the relatively low level of arable disturbance in the 20th century; these include at least one substantial building although none have produced sufficient evidence to class them as villas. Within Mildenhall parish the frequency of Roman finds increases along the Fen margin, with the most significant late Roman material being the silver Treasure hoard and adjacent villa building at West Row. To the east of Icklingham Roman activity is common in parishes both north and south of the Lark, and along tributaries of the Lark. For instance a Roman site in West Stow that has produced a hoard of religious items, including a piece of a chain headdress directly comparable to the Lackford 'Cavenham Crowns', lies on one of these tributaries.

There has been no assessment of which individual sites include evidence of activity in the later Roman period except for a brief survey of the Mildenhall evidence. The coin evidence for the region reflects the pattern of loss at Icklingham (Plouviez in Blagg, Plouviez and Tester, 2004, 84) and is similar to the British norm established by Reece (1991), although Icklingham has an even stronger profile after 360. This is in marked contrast to the central and eastern parts of Suffolk where this period shows a pattern of coin loss well below the norm and other evidence also suggests a decline in activity in the second half of the 4th century in east Suffolk. The excavations at the West Stow Anglo-Saxon settlement (WSW 002) show that the presence of late 4th century material may not represent a 'Roman' settlement: although there is good evidence for 1st century settlement and for 1st to 2nd century pottery production there are no later Roman features, however the early Anglo-Saxon features produced a range of late Roman pottery, coins, building material and other objects, some clearly re-used but others perhaps not (West 1985).

West Stow is the type site for the early Anglo-Saxon period in the area having been extensively excavated between 1965 and 1972; the publication (West 1985, 155-161) also draws on the evidence at the time to show the pattern of Anglo-Saxon settlement in the region, largely determined by evidence for inhumation cemeteries.

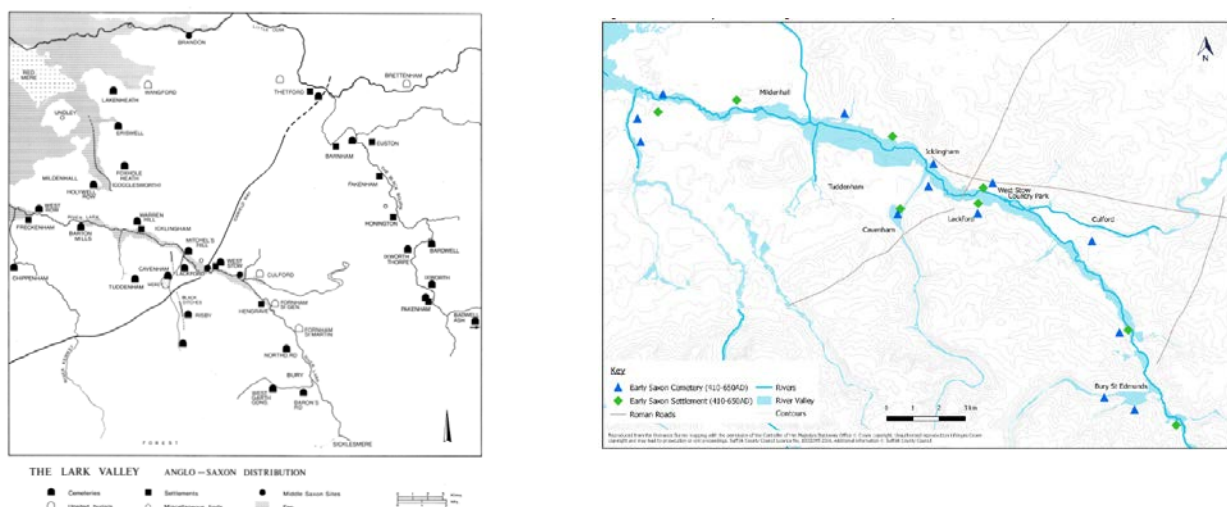


Fig 10 Maps of Anglo-Saxon activity in the Lark valley from West 1985 and Suffolk Co Co 2018

Comparing this to a recent map of the early Anglo-Saxon in the Lark valley shows fairly little change: a few more areas of settlement have been defined, for example in the eastern part of Lackford parish. The recent fieldwalking results from Lackford suggest that evidence for settlement may be almost as frequent as in the Roman period, but of course harder to identify. There continues to be a very low level of early Anglo-Saxon finds from the Roman town area at Icklingham, just a single sherd from the central area excavations and a few more sherds in residual in later contexts in the excavations at Mitchells Farm (IKL 127), near to the inhumation cemetery at Mitchells Hill.

The pattern of early Anglo-Saxon settlement is often described in terms of the natural landscape, with a preference for river valley locations and lighter soils. However, whatever the processes of change in the 5th century, the Roman landscape had a significant effect, not least in providing the network of roads which still survive. Although the Roman road line east towards Ixworth does not survive, and so at present cannot be shown to be used post-Roman, the course of this road within the Lark valley was certainly functioning at Mitchells Farm in the medieval period, moving north later to the present road line. Some version of the Icknield Way route also continues in use. This intersects with both the undated Black Ditches (CAM 001) to the south of the Lackford cemetery, and with the Cambridgeshire dykes further west, where Devils Dyke is certainly a post-Roman construction.

Lackford is the only largely or wholly cremation burial cemetery identified as yet in north-west Suffolk. These large cremation cemeteries appear to serve a larger landscape area than the partially contemporary inhumation cemeteries that more or less correlate with individual settlements. A key period of interest is their origins in the 5th century, potentially before the majority of the inhumation cemeteries are in use in the later 5th; the dating at Spong Hill now suggests an origin within the first quarter of the 5th century. Although Lackford lacks good evidence for such a very early origin, it must be a strong possibility in the context of the late Roman power centre at Icklingham and the potentially early 5th century material at West Stow.

5. Looking towards the future: research potential for site definition

Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries can only be defined by the extent of the individual burials: it is very rare for the area to be defined by other features and no examples of any form of enclosure is known for the large cremation cemeteries comparable to Lackford. The most complete excavation, extending beyond the limits of the cremation burials, is Spong Hill where the cremations extend over the boundaries of a Roman enclosure, the ditches of which were not completely infilled until the late 4th or early 5th century, perhaps as preparation for the change to funerary use (Fig 11).

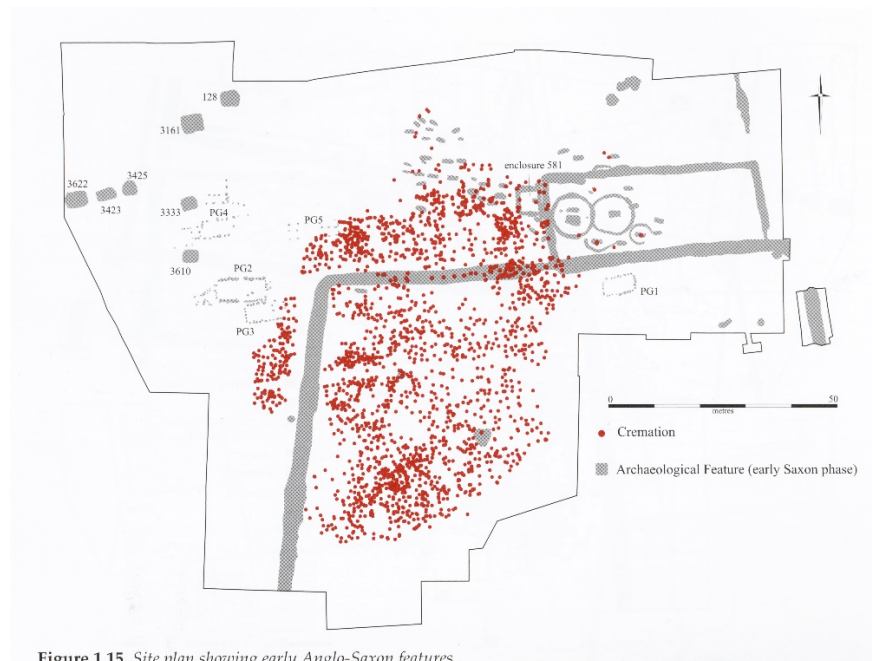


Figure 1.15. Site plan showing early Anglo-Saxon features.

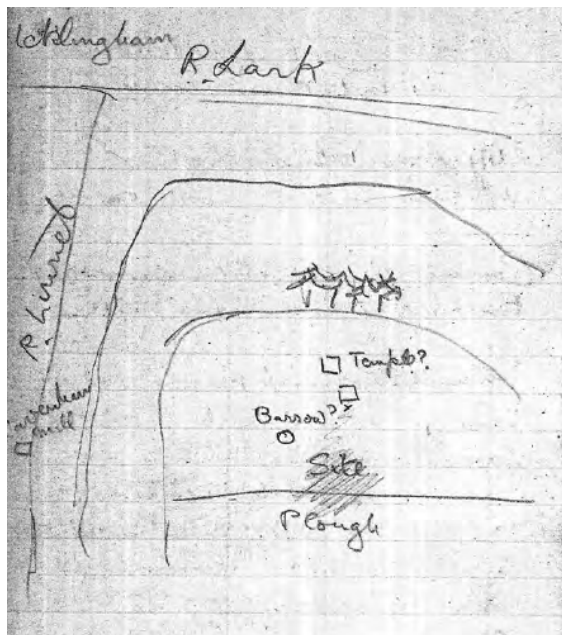
Fig 11 Overall plan of the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Spong Hill (Hills and Lucy 2013, 24)

Spong provides the best evidence for extent: excluding the areas of inhumation burials which include occasional cremations the area is roughly 74m by 82m, a total area of just over 6,000sq m. Cleatham in Lincolnshire provides another near complete plan (Leahy 2007, 26), with burials in an area about 54m by 88m, a total area of 4752 sq m.

The overall area covered by the Lethbridge excavations (1951, Plan II in Fig 3, see also Fig 4) is 44m east-west and 22m north-south, a maximum area of 968 sq m – this assumes the presence of burials throughout the unexcavated parts between and around the trenches. If the position of the Lethbridge trench is approximately correct the 2016 evidence increases the north-south measurement to 35m, and the total area to 1505 sq m. If Lackford corresponds in area to Spong Hill and Cleatham it is likely to be three or four times the extent defined by excavation.

The similarity between the extent of the 2016 surface finds and the Lethbridge trench suggests that this may be close to the original east-west cemetery extent. The urns found at the south edge of the 2016 area (also the edge of the game crop belt) suggest that burials extended into the arable field to the south for an unknown distance. Lethbridge stated that at least 30 urns had been ploughed out to the south of the excavations before they began excavating, and that many others had undoubtedly been destroyed by former ploughing (1951, 1). He also estimated that the 500 excavated urns represented “much less than half the total number of burials on the site”.

It is not clear in the Lethbridge report how far he thought the burials might extend. He states that there were burials within and outside the traces of banks and ditches that might represent Romano-British fields (1951, 8) – none of the ditches shown on the site plan are within the excavated area of urns. At the start of the notebook he describes the cremations as extending to the south side of the



Roman rectangular structure, described here as a possible temple; his sketch plan shows this as the northern of the two Roman structures.

The most conservative estimate is that the evidence for cremations extended a further 25m north from the trench outline to the south edge of the ditched enclosure, giving a total area of about 2500 sq m; given that there were decorated early Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds inside the northern Roman 'tomb' structure perhaps the extent should be some 45m north of the trench outline, giving a potential extent of 43m by 80m, nearly 3,500 sq m.

Fig 12 Lethbridge notebook, page 1, sketch plan.

There is a clear separation between the cemetery and the main Roman scatter (ie the area of LKD 018) described by Lethbridge as some 200 yards away, which correlates with the absence of early Anglo-Saxon pottery in the former arable fields north of the tree belt and included in site LKD 003, (apart from the separate recent finds of undecorated sherds at the north-west corner of the area).

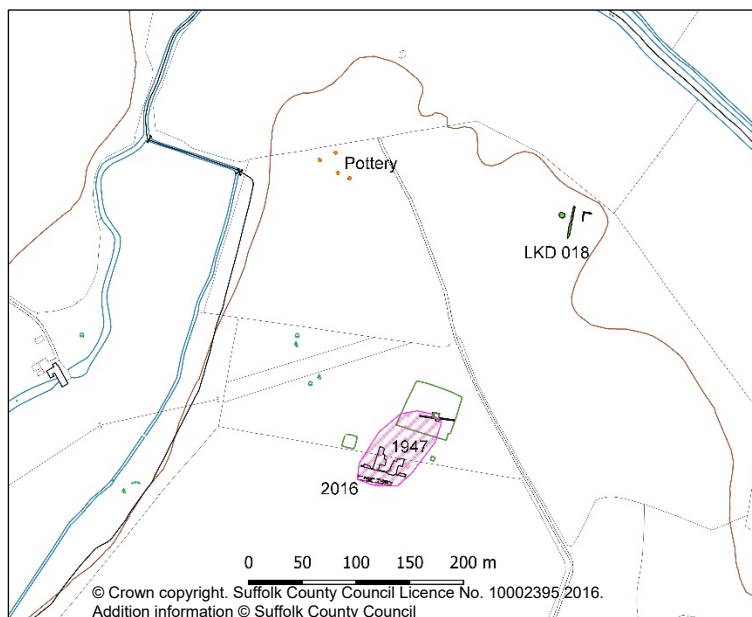


Fig 13 LKD 001 Map showing the potential extent of the known cemetery evidence in pink

At present no remote sensing technique can reliably identify early Anglo-Saxon cremations. A magnetometry survey might however at least identify the disturbances caused by recent

interventions and so demonstrate whether the Lethbridge trenches were indeed largely south of the modern tree belt; it might also pick up the Roman 'tomb' structures and enclosure if any work within the wooded belt was feasible.

A series of test excavation trenches, working outwards from the known site area would provide a more reliable method of site definition, but it would require adequate funds to cover the cost of excavation of urns – their current condition is too poor for exposure and re-burial to be justifiable.

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Appendix: Suffolk HER records, Roman and Anglo-Saxon, for the adjacent area of Lackford parish

HER Reference and Summary Descriptions

LKD 001 Early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery excavated by T Lethbridge in 1947 and by SCCAS in 2015 and 2016

LKD 002 Roman features and finds within a rectilinear cropmark system. Fieldwalked in 1981, metal detected finds 1st -4th century; also some later Anglo-Saxon finds

LKD 003 Area of Roman pottery identified by T Lethbridge in 1947, expanded to encompass scattered finds from a wider area. The main field was fieldwalked in 1978. The north edge of Mill Heath (somewhere on the fence line) is also the findspot of the Cavenham Crowns, investigated by Nina Layard in 1921.

LKD 004 Scatter of Roman pottery with tile and metal finds, initially identified in 1930's. Tile fragment found 1980. Pottery and metalwork found 2013 onwards. Also Mesolithic

LKD 012 Circle of white stones, 40-50 feet in diameter, found with sherds of early Anglo-Saxon handmade pottery including decorated.

LKD 015 256 bronze coins (nummi) associated with fragments of woollen cloth, probably a bag containing the hoard. Deposited mid-4th century.

LKD 016 Late Iron Age and Roman metal finds. Duck shaped bronze brooch with enamelling. Figurine head, silver, non-classical horned ?female. Other finds not seen, said to include further brooches, a denarius of Mark Anthony. Also about twenty sestertii ranging from Nerva to Antoninus Pius - sold. The finder thought this might be a hoard - either from here or LKD 018. This concentration is a continuation of LKD 018, separated by the modern field boundary.

LKD 017 Surface finds: pottery included Samian, stamp VITAL., Oxford and Nene Valley colour coated. Coins included one Carausius reverse: CONCORDIA, hands clasped, mint MG. A gold ring with blue intaglio of a ?horse was found. Also an iron knife?, 15cm long, 5cm wide, straight sided with two rivets (? date) (S1). Within general area LKD 003. Said to have been 'thousands' of coins and other Roman finds found metal detecting here

LKD 018 A concentration of finds including coins, brooches, seal box, a miniature socketed axe, and a figurine of Mercury found metal detecting. A small spread of chalk and mortar with pieces of floor tile and a fragment of burnt limestone was visible on the surface. In c.1978: Tetricus coin hoard (see LKD 044) and other metalwork including a number of votive axes, plus two rolled inscribed lead curse plaques (finds not seen). An area of circa 600 sq m was excavated in 1981 and 1982 to clarify the nature of the site and the extent of agricultural and treasure hunter damage. A possible building comprised a clay floor area with two burnt clay flues and a spread of chalk and chalky clay roughly bounded by a small ditch or slot, square or rectangular in plan. A larger ditch ran parallel to one side of the building area and contained West Stow type ware. A group of pits, one containing a late C3 coin, cut the building area. Further pits and a large feature, possibly a well (incompletely excavated) were found W of the building area, and a spread of dark soil with clay. Near the building area one long narrow pit contained large pieces of painted wall plaster (S3). Finds from the excavated area, including the topsoil include: 91 identified coins, date range AD 70-370 (low Valentinian proportion); brooches: headstud, knee, gilded and tinned crossbow fragment, enamelled horse and rider (two), disc (probably figured 'Ad locutio' types), Colchester, enamelled

lozenge; bronze and bone pins, bronze needle, bronze ligula, decorative enamelled mount, decorated sheet fragments from bronze 'leaf' (cf Cavenham Crowns), bronze foot. Pottery includes West Stow stamped ware, Samian, various colour coated including Nene Valley, shell gritted, amphora sherds. A number of pieces of a colour coated bowl with a moulded and barbotine figured scene. Earlier finds from the area (recorded at that time as LKD 003) included one sherd of the same figured pot and an almost complete disc brooch with applied relief decoration of a military scene ('Ad locutio' type). The presence of certain items - figurine fragments, bronze 'leaf', miniature axe and certain of the brooch types - suggests a religious context. The description of the findspot for the 'Cavenham Crowns' (LKD 003) would also suit this location. 1993: metal detecting in area of LKD 018, in the dip, lead weight, brooch, metal vessel handle and 50 + coins.

LKD 022 Cropmark of a sub-circular enclosure with a maximum diameter of 13m and an entrance on the east.

LKD 044 Scattered coin hoard described as radiates of the Tetrici (AD 270-273) found in c.1978 but reported in 1998, said to derive from close to LKD 018. Within LKD 003 area.