

Land North of Stansted, Phase 1 (Primary Substation Site)

Essex

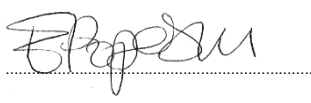
Post-Excavation Assessment Statement

August 2023

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Threadneedle Curtis Ltd**

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Land North of Stansted, Phase 1 (Primary Substation Site), Essex

Post-Excavation Assessment Statement

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SUMMARY

Between 26th to 30th June 2023, a team from Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation at Land North of Stansted following a phase of trial trenching at the site. The excavation revealed two Early Neolithic pits along with a series of Iron Age boundary ditches and several discrete features. This report briefly summarises the excavation results, with a full post-excavation assessment and updated project design forthcoming, following the completion of all phases of archaeological mitigation work at the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by the author, who was supported by James Henderson, Steven Graham and Tom Midgely. Survey and digitising were carried out by Katharine Waring. Thanks are extended to the various finds and environmental processors, the specialists, illustrator and editor for their contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by WSP on behalf of Threadneedle Curtis Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation at Land North of Stansted, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new substation and associated infrastructure. The wider project entails the redevelopment of a c. 61ha area to provide a logistics hub consisting of new build units, associated access and strategic landscaping. The first phase of the programme is focussed on a c. 5.3ha field in the north-west of the proposed development area (henceforth referred to as 'the site').

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission UTT/22/0434/OP. Following the results of an evaluation undertaken at the site by OA in May 2023 (Firth 2023) and discussions between Richard Havis of Place Services and WSP, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by WSP (WSP 2023) outlining the initial programme of archaeological mitigation work to be carried out. This document details how OA implemented the specified requirements and presents the results of the fieldwork undertaken between 26th to 30th June 2023.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located c. 3.6km north-east of Bishop's Stortford and immediately north-west of the Stansted Airport complex (TL 52770 22975; Fig. 1). It is bounded by Bury Lodge Lane and Round Coppice Road to the west and agricultural fields to the north and west. The site falls within the historic parish of Stansted Mountfichet and lay within the administration of Uttlesford District Council, in the county of Essex. The Stansted Brook – a tributary of the River Stort – runs east to west c. 1.6km to the north of the site.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consisted of a relatively flat, grassy field. The ground level is situated at 97.5m above Ordnance Datum (OD) in the western part of the site, 98.8m OD in the northern part of the site, 99.7m OD in the eastern part of the site and 100.4m OD in the southern part of the site.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as superficial glacial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation (also called Till or Boulder Clay), overlying bedrock deposits of London Clay (British Geological Survey 2023).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Stansted landscape has been the focus of a large number of archaeological investigations, mostly in response to the expansion of the airport. The data detailed on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) for the area has mostly been recorded as a direct result of works related to the expansion of the airport.

1.3.2 In 1985, the Stansted Project was formed – an ambitious landscape project led by Essex County Council (ECC) to respond to the expansion of the airport (Brooks and Havis 2004). This work largely overturned the idea that the heavy

boulder clay geology of the area was mostly unsettled until the medieval period. Between 1999-2004, Framework Archaeology (FA) undertook further archaeological works to mitigate the impact of further development in the area, related to the airports growing infrastructural needs (Cooke *et al.* 2008).

- 1.3.3 A brief summary of the findings of the ECC and FA investigations located near to the site are presented here, along with other data from the EHER (Fig. 2).

The Stansted Project (ECC investigations)

- 1.3.4 Six of the ECC led Stansted project sites were situated in close proximity to the proposed development area. These included the Social Club Site (SCS), Bury Lodge Site (BLS), Car Park 1 (CIS), Car Park (CPS), Duckend Farm (DFS) and Duckend Car Park (DCS).
- 1.3.5 The BLS site was situated approximately 670m south of the proposed development area. Excavations here revealed a series of small pits and postholes dating from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, as well as evidence for a Late Iron Age settlement, which continued into the Romano-British period.
- 1.3.6 The SCS site was located approximately 820m south of the proposed development area. Two post-built structures dating from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age were recorded in this area, along with a Middle Iron Age trackway and enclosures. Romano-British activity was represented by two cremation groups and further development to the Iron Age enclosures.
- 1.3.7 The CIS site was located roughly 870m south-west of the proposed development area. Excavations revealed two Late Bronze Age pits and Middle Iron Age settlement evidence, which included a palisade enclosure, a roundhouse, post-built structures and fire pits.
- 1.3.8 The CPS site was located approximately 940m south-west of the proposed development area, with Middle Iron Age features almost certainly related to the settlement evidence recorded at the CIS site identified.
- 1.3.9 Approximately 1km south of the proposed development area was the DCS site. At this site, Late Iron Age to Late Romano-British settlement evidence was identified, along with the remains of a medieval building and medieval ditches. Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British cremation cemeteries were also recorded.
- 1.3.10 The DFS site was located in the south-west corner of DCS site. Here, limited Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age activity in the form of pits were recorded. An Early Romano-British cremation cemetery was also identified, as well as elements of Late Romano-British settlement.

The Framework Archaeology investigations

- 1.3.11 The only FA investigations that were located close to the site were the Long-Term Car Park (LTCP) areas. This large area was located approximately 300m to the west of the site, continuing as far as 1km to the south-west. The LTCP area was investigated in several phases and revealed activity from the Neolithic

through to the post-medieval periods. FA investigations also included the M11 site, located approximately 1.6km to the south-west.

LTCP areas

- 1.3.12 Neolithic activity was limited to two pits, both of which contained pottery and struck flint.
- 1.3.13 Middle Bronze Age settlement activity was recorded across the LTCP areas. This included a roundhouse and a burnt mound, found close to a river channel. Late Bronze Age activity was also identified, including a small ring-ditch (possibly a funerary monument).
- 1.3.14 A single Early Iron Age ditch was identified. The bulk of the recorded Iron Age activity was of Middle Iron Age date and comprised settlement on the western side of the site (with several roundhouses recorded). Further to the east, a trackway also dating to this period was identified. Evidence suggested that the western Middle Iron Age settlement continued to be occupied into the Late Iron Age, with the settlement becoming enclosed and a mortuary enclosure established to its south. A further Late Iron Age settlement area was established in the east of the site.
- 1.3.15 The western Late Iron Age settlement was abandoned in the Romano-British period, though the enclosure remained open. The eastern settlement contracted and the fields in the east were enclosed. This area was subsequently the focus of Late Romano-British settlement, with two burials also dating to this period recorded.
- 1.3.16 Activity across the LTCP areas seems to have ceased until the later medieval period, with the remains of a hunting lodge dating to this period recorded. The lodge is probably related to the creation of Stansted Deer Park (see below).

M11

- 1.3.17 Prehistoric activity at the M11 site included a small number of pits and tree throws dating to the Neolithic, as well as several pits and two watering holes of Bronze Age date. A small number of Early Iron Age pits were also recorded.
- 1.3.18 Settlement activity of Middle to Late Iron Age date included roundhouses and associated boundary ditches. Evidence suggests this settlement probably continued into the Early Romano-British period.

Other EHER entries

- 1.3.19 Apart from the Stansted Project and FA archaeological investigations, there are few other entries of relevance to draw upon from the EHER.
- 1.3.20 Roughly 2km to the south of the site was the route of Stanes Street (HER 1226), a Roman road believed to have its origins in the Iron Age. The road runs from Ermine Street at Braughing in Hertfordshire to Colchester in Essex.
- 1.3.21 Medieval quarrying and boundary ditches were identified during investigations at land south of the A120 at Takely, c. 2.3km south of site (HER 48791). The remains of Stansted Castle (HER 36531) – the seat of the

- Mountfitchets that was destroyed in AD 1215 – are located roughly 2km to the north-west of the site.
- 1.3.22 Thremhall Priory (HER 4599) is located c. 1.8km south of the site. This comprises a moated enclosure, almost rectangular, with a smaller moated area in the south-east corner and a large fishpond. The site is now occupied by a modern house. No remains of the Augustinian Priory now survive – though the bowl of a font is buried in a flower bed.
- 1.3.23 Trial trenching on land associated with Harlow College, Stansted Airport (HER 49006) recorded no archaeological features.
- 1.3.24 Stansted Airport – previously Stansted Airfield in World War Two (HER 16639) – lies immediately east and south-east of the site. In 1946, the airfield opened for civilian use and has since been developed into a major international airport.
- 1.3.25 Bury Lodge Hotel (HER 36478) is located c. 300m to the south of the site. The hotel is a 16th- or 17th-century timber-framed house, with an 18th-century red brick front and 19th-century extensions added onto the west of the structure.
- 1.3.26 The site lies within Stansted Deer Park (HER 46757). Documentary evidence for the park dates back as early as AD 1184, when Henry II fined Gilbert Mountfitchet for creating a hunting park from his wood at Stansted (Cooke *et al.* 2008, 232). The hunting lodge excavated as part of the FA investigations was located at the centre of this park.

2 STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

2.1 General

2.1.1 What follows is a summary of the findings from the mitigation works at the southern end of the proposed development area (Plate 1). Further mitigation areas will be undertaken following consultation with WSP and Place Services. A full post-excavation analysis (PXA) report will be produced upon completion of all phases of fieldwork.

2.1.2 Features and artefacts dating from the Early Neolithic and Iron Age were identified as well as several currently unphased features. An overview of the fieldwork results is presented by phase below (more refined phasing will be undertaken on completion of all fieldwork). A site plan is presented in Fig. 3.

- Phase 1: Early Neolithic (c. 4000-3500 BC)
- Phase 2: Iron Age (c. 800 BC - AD 43)
- Unphased features

2.1.3 The principal findings of the investigation included two Early Neolithic features – a pit and a tree throw – along with an east to west aligned Iron Age boundary ditch and several Iron Age pits and tree throws.

2.1.4 Several currently unphased pits and tree throws were also identified, the most significant of which was a tree throw that produced a small quantity of human skeletal remains.

2.2 Phase 1: Early Neolithic (c. 4000-3500 BC)

2.2.1 Two features were attributed to the Early Neolithic period: pits **150** and **188**. Pit **150** (Plate 2) was located approximately 24m from the northern limit of the excavation area and roughly 4m from the western limit of the excavation area. The pit was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.42m long, 0.34m wide and 0.07m deep. It had gently sloping sides with an imperceptible break to a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (151) of dark grey silty clay, which produced 15 sherds (61g) of Early Neolithic pottery.

2.2.2 Located c. 15m to the north of pit **150**, was pit **188**. This pit was sub-circular in plan and measured 2.06m wide, over 2m long and 0.66m deep. It had moderately sloping sides that broke gradually to a concave base. The pit was filled by two deposits: the lower fill (189) was a mid orangey brown silty clay and the upper fill (190) was a dark orangey brown silty clay, from which seven sherds (16g) of Early Neolithic pottery was recovered. This feature was cut by Iron Age ditch **162**.

2.3 Phase 2: Iron Age (c. 800 BC - AD 43)

2.3.1 A total of seven features were attributed to the Iron Age. Ditch **162** (interventions **162**, **170**, **183**, **185** and **198**), ditch **167** (interventions **167**, **193**, **204** and **212**), ditch **165** (interventions **165**, **191**, **206** and **210**), ditch **156** (interventions **156** and **158**), tree throws **143** and **145**, and pit **208**.

- 2.3.2 Ditch **162** (Plate 3) was located c. 15m south of the northern limit of the excavation area. It was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east and measured approximately 52m long, 1.05-2m wide and 0.5-0.64m deep. The ditch had moderately sloping sides that broke sharply to a concave base. It was filled by three deposits: the primary fill (163=171=186=195=199) was a dark reddish brown sandy clay, the secondary fill (172=200) comprised a mid reddish brown sandy clay and the tertiary fill (164=173=187=196=201) consisted of a dark reddish brown silty clay. A total of three sherds (32g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature – all from the tertiary fill. Ditch **162** cut Phase 1 pit **188** and unphased ditch **160**.
- 2.3.3 Approximately 4m south of ditch **162** and extending from the eastern limit of the excavation area was ditch **156** (Plate 4). Ditch **156** was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east and measured c. 5.5m long, 0.3-0.38m wide and up to 0.09m deep. The ditch had moderately sloping sides that broke gradually to a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (157=159) of mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent small stone inclusions. Although no dating evidence was recovered from this feature, it has been attributed to the Iron Age as it shared an alignment with ditch **162**.
- 2.3.4 Located c. 1.5m south of ditch **156** was ditch **167** (Plate 5). This feature was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east and measured approximately 53m long, 0.5-0.75m wide and 0.08-0.22m deep. It had steeply sloping sides that broke sharply to a concave base. The ditch was filled by a single deposit (168=194=205=213) of mid yellowish grey silty clay. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature; however, it has been attributed to the Iron Age because it shared an alignment with ditch **162**.
- 2.3.5 Roughly 1m south of **167** and running parallel to it was ditch **165**. (Plate 5). This feature was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east and measured c. 53m long, 0.44-0.8m wide and between 0.11-0.16m deep. The ditch had moderately sloping sides that broke to a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (166=192=207=211) of mid yellowish grey silty clay. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature; however, it has been attributed to the Iron Age as it also shared an alignment with ditch **162**.
- 2.3.6 Located approximately 4m from the northern limit of excavation area and 7m from the eastern limit of the excavation area was tree throw **143**. It was roughly oval in plan and measured 2.37m long, 1.05m wide and 0.46m deep. The tree throw had moderately sloping sides that broke sharply to an irregular base. It was filled by a single deposit (144) a mid greyish brown silty clay. Five sherds (68g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from this deposit.
- 2.3.7 Situated roughly 8m east of tree throw **143** was tree throw **145**. This feature was irregularly shaped in plan and measured 2.12m long, 1.2m wide and 0.64m deep. It had moderately sloping sides that broke gradually to a concave base. The tree throw was filled by two deposits: a primary fill (146) of mid yellowish brown silty clay which produced 13 sherds (159g) of Iron Age pottery and a secondary fill (147) of mid greyish brown silty clay from which three sherds (14g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered.

2.3.8 Pit **208** was located c. 14m south-east of tree throw **145**. The pit was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.9m and a depth of 0.5m. It had moderately sloping sides that broke sharply to a concave base. The pit was filled by a single deposit (209) of dark reddish brown sandy clay from which three sherds (43g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered.

2.4 Unphased features

2.4.1 The remaining features recorded across the site are currently unphased. They mostly comprised probable tree throws, with a single ditch and posthole also recorded.

2.4.2 Posthole **152** was located 5m north-east of Phase 1 pit **150**. This feature was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.48m long, 0.27m wide and 0.16m deep. It had steeply sloping sides that broke sharply to a concave base. The posthole was filled by a single deposit (153) of dark greyish silty clay that produced no finds.

2.4.3 Ditch **160** was mostly truncated away by Phase 2 ditch **162**. It was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.84m wide and 0.7m deep. It had steeply sloping sides that broke sharply to a concave base. The ditch was filled by two deposits that produced no finds: a primary fill (161) of dark reddish brown sandy clay and a secondary fill (169) of mid reddish brown sandy clay. As this feature was recut by Phase 2 ditch **162**, it is possible that it also dated to the Iron Age.

2.4.4 Tree throw **148** (Plates 6 and 7) was located c. 12m south-east of the terminus of Phase 2 ditch **156**. The tree throw was sub-oval in plan and measured 2.3m long, 1.5m wide and 0.24m deep. It had gently sloping sides that broke sharply into an irregular base. The tree throw was filled by a single deposit of pale greyish brown silty clay (149), from which fragments of a human radius, pelvis and a phalange were recovered (47g).

2.4.5 The remaining features recorded across the site comprised probable tree throws that produced no finds. Details of these features are presented in Table 1.

Context	Category	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Fine component	Shape in plan	Side	Break of slope	Base
154	cut	154	1.85	0.08	-	-	sub-circular	shallow	gentle	irregular
155	fill	154	1.85	0.08	dark yellowish grey	silty clay	-	-	-	-
174	cut	174	0.48	0.38	-	-	irregular	steep	sharp	concave
175	fill	174	-	0.25	mid greyish brown	clay	-	-	-	-
176	fill	174	-	0.16	dark grey	silty clay	-	-	-	-
177	cut	177	-	-	-	-	sub-circular	moderate	moderate	flat
178	fill	177	-	0.18	mid brownish grey	silty clay	-	-	-	-
179	cut	179	0.48	0.09	-	-	sub-circular	shallow	gradual	flat
180	fill	179	-	0.09	dark yellowish grey	silty clay	-	-	-	-
181	cut	181	0.54	0.2	-	-	irregular	steep	moderate	concave
182	fill	181	-	0.2	dark grey	silty clay	-	-	-	-
184	cut	184	1.1	0.38	-	-	sub-rectangular	moderate	sharp	concave
197	fill	184	-	0.38	mid reddish brown	sandy clay	-	-	-	-
202	cut	202	0.55	0.28	-	-	irregular	steep	sharp	flat
203	fill	202	-	0.28	dark grey	silty clay	-	-	-	-
214	cut	214	0.65	0.5	-	-	sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
215	fill	214	-	0.5	mid red brown	sandy clay	-	-	-	-

Table 1: Summary of unphased features not described in the text

3 FACTUAL DATA

3.1 Stratigraphy

3.1.1 The stratigraphic records created are detailed in Table 2:

Record type	Number
Context numbers	73
Sections	26
Soil samples	8
Digital photograph registers	2
Digital Photographs	86

Table 2: Quantification of records created

3.2 Artefactual and environmental evidence

3.2.1 All finds have been washed, quantified and bagged. A catalogue of all finds has been entered onto a *Microsoft Access* database. Total quantities for each material type are detailed in Table 3:

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Early Neolithic pottery	22	77
Iron Age pottery	27	316
Worked flint	25	-
Unworked burnt flint	2	7
Ceramic building material	1	306
Fired clay	2	8
Human skeletal remains	3	47
Animal bone	4	-

Table 3: Quantification of finds

3.2.2 Summary statements for each artefact type can be found in App. B.

3.2.3 Summary statements for osteological and environmental remains can be found in App. C.

4 RESEARCH ISSUES

4.1 Aims

4.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

4.2 Site specific research objectives

4.2.1 The below objectives are taken from the WSI. These will be revised and elaborated upon in the full forthcoming PXA report:

- How can we better understand depositional practices on Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age sites?
- How can we improve an understanding of the Early to Middle Iron Age transition?
- What can the relationship between settlements tell us about social change?
- Were prehistoric settlements permanently or periodically occupied?
- What were the functions of pits and pit alignments?
- Can the archaeology allow exploration of the relationship between prehistoric and Romano-British field systems?
- Is there evidence of early contact or Roman presence in Essex pre-conquest? Did the native elite remain in place post-conquest; did they adopt, adapt or resist? Can the impact of conquest be detected in settlement changes in this period?
- Can we improve the current understanding of Late Iron Age and Roman farmsteads?
- Can we improve the environmental sampling strategy for Late Iron Age and Roman farmsteads?

5 DISSEMINATION/PUBLICATION

5.1.1 A full PXA report will be produced and delivered once all fieldwork has been completed and the timescale agreed with the client and Place Services. This will include plans for publication.

6 TASK LIST FOR ANALYSIS

6.1.1 A task list for the analysis will be produced once all fieldwork has been completed as part of the full PXA report.

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APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

CONTEXT	CATEGORY	FEATURE TYPE	FUNCTION	BREADTH	DEPTH
143	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	2.37	0.46
144	FILL	NATURAL	TREE THROW	2.37	0.46
145	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	2.12	0.64
146	FILL	NATURAL	TREE THROW	2.12	0.3
147	FILL	PIT	SECONDARY		
148	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	1.71	0.24
149	FILL	NATURAL	SECONDARY FILL OF 148	1.71	0.24
150	CUT	POST HOLE	STRUCTURAL	0.34	0.07
151	FILL	POST HOLE	TERTIARY		0.07
152	CUT	POST HOLE	STRUCTURAL	0.27	0.16
153	FILL	POST HOLE	TERTIARY		0.16
154	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	1.85	0.08
155	FILL	NATURAL	TREE THROW	1.85	0.08
156	CUT	DITCH	UNKNOWN	0.3	0.09
157	FILL	DITCH	DELIBERATE DEPOSITION		0.09
158	CUT	DITCH	UNKNOWN	0.38	0.09
159	FILL	DITCH	DELIBERATE DEPOSITION		0.09
160	CUT	PIT	INDUSTRIAL	0.84	0.7
161	FILL	PIT	PRIMARY	0.84	0.7
162	CUT	DITCH	BOUNDARY	1.6	0.5
163	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY	1.6	0.5
164	FILL	DITCH	SECONDARY USE		0.3
165	CUT	DITCH	UNKNOWN	0.64	0.11
166	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY	0.64	0.11
167	CUT	DITCH	UNKNOWN	0.53	0.18
168	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY	0.53	0.18
169	FILL	PIT	SECONDARY USE		0.4
170	CUT	DITCH	BOUNDARY	2	0.5
171	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY USE		
172	FILL	DITCH	SECONDARY USE		
173	FILL	DITCH	BACKFILL		0.04
174	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	0.48	0.38
175	FILL	NATURAL	FILL OF TREE THROW		0.25
176	FILL	NATURAL	FILL OF TREE THROW		0.16
177	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW		
178	FILL	NATURAL	FILL OF TREE THROW		0.18
179	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	0.48	0.09
180	FILL	NATURAL	TREE THROW		0.09
181	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	0.54	0.2
182	FILL	NATURAL	FILL OF TREE THROW		0.2
183	CUT	DITCH	BOUNDARY	1.5	0.56
184	CUT	PIT	PROBABLY NATURAL	1.1	0.38
185	CUT	DITCH	BOUNDARY	2.02	0.64
186	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY	1.23	0.16
187	FILL	DITCH	SECONDARY FILL	1.92	0.62
188	CUT	PIT	UNKNOWN	2.06	0.66

CONTEXT	CATEGORY	FEATURE TYPE	FUNCTION	BREADTH	DEPTH
189	FILL	PIT	PRIMARY	2.06	0.24
190	FILL	PIT	SECONDARY FILL	1.72	0.54
191	CUT	DITCH	UNKNOWN	0.8	0.12
192	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY	0.8	0.12
193	CUT	DITCH	UNKNOWN	0.62	0.1
194	FILL	DITCH	UNKNOWN	0.62	0.1
195	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY USE		
196	FILL	DITCH	SECONDARY USE		
197	FILL	PIT	NATURAL IN FILL		0.38
198	FILL	DITCH	ENCLOSURE	1.8	0.6
199	FILL	DITCH	PRIMARY USE		
200	FILL	DITCH	SECONDARY		0.18
201	FILL	DITCH	SECONDARY		0.32
202	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	0.55	0.28
203	FILL	NATURAL	TREE THROW		0.28
204	CUT	DITCH	DRAINAGE?	0.5	0.22
205	FILL	DITCH	TERTIARY		0.22
206	CUT	DITCH	DRAINAGE?	0.44	0.16
207	FILL	DITCH	TERTIARY		0.16
208	CUT	PIT	UNKNOWN	0.9	0.5
209	FILL	PIT	UNKNOWN		
210	CUT	DITCH	DRAINAGE?	0.58	0.12
211	FILL	DITCH	TERTIARY		0.12
212	CUT	DITCH	DRAINAGE?	0.75	0.08
213	FILL	DITCH	TERTIARY		0.08
214	CUT	NATURAL	TREE THROW	0.65	0.5
215	FILL	NATURAL	TREE THROW		0.5

APPENDIX B ARTEFACT SUMMARIES

8 **CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL BY TED LEVERMORE**

- 8.1.1 A single fragment of Roman ceramic building material was recovered from ditch **170**. It is moderately abraded and retains a 25mm thickness. It is made in a compact, but powdery, orange clay with occasional sandy minerals. Its original form is unclear, but a roofing tile or flooring brick are possible.

9 **FIRED CLAY BY TED LEVERMORE**

- 9.1.1 Two fragments of amorphous fired clay were recovered from probable tree throw **143**. They are made in a lightweight, micaceous clay with common fine pores. Their colouration may suggest they originate from an object or structure – i.e., a reduced core with oxidised outers – but any identification is impossible. They are probably prehistoric in date.

10 **FLINT BY LAWRENCE BILLINGTON**

- 10.1.1 A small assemblage of 25 worked flints and two fragments of unworked burnt flint (7g) was recovered during the excavation (Table 4). The flint was thinly distributed, deriving from the fills of eight individual features (tree throws, pits and ditches). The worked flint is made up exclusively of unretouched removal and irregular waste; little of this material is chronologically diagnostic but the assemblage as a whole is clearly multi-period and includes blade-based material of Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic date and simple flakes more characteristic of later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age technologies. The small assemblages of flints from individual features tend to be disparate in terms of raw materials and technology and most pieces display moderate edge damage/wear, consistent with them largely representing residual pieces inadvertently incorporated into the fills of later features. The only exception to this is a small assemblage of three flints – a large blade and two flakes – from tree throw **143** which are in good condition and probably represent a coherent, single period Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic assemblage.

Context	Cut	Context type	Irreg. waste	Flake		Blade	Blade-like flake	Worked total	Unworked burnt flint
144	143	Tree throw		1	7		1	9	1 (7g)
146	145	Pit		1	2			3	1 (<1g)
147	145	Pit			3			3	
164	162	Ditch			2			2	
172	170	Ditch			1			1	
176	174	Tree throw			2	1		3	
187	185	Ditch			1		1	2	
190	188	Pit			2			2	
<i>Grand total</i>				2	20	1	2	25	2 (7g)

Table 4: summary quantification of the flint

11 NEOLITHIC POTTERY BY NICHOLAS GILMOUR

11.1.1 The excavation yielded 22 sherds (77g) of Neolithic pottery, with a low mean sherd weight (MSW) of 3.5g. The pottery was recovered from two different contexts (Table 5). The pottery dates to the Early Neolithic and is in a fabric typically associated with pottery of this date. There are few sherds with recognisable features and so some of the dating is uncertain. The pottery is in moderate to poor condition, most sherds are small and abraded.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature type	Spot date	No of sherds	Weight (g)
151	150		pit	ENEO	15	61
190	188		pit	ENEO	7	16
Total					22	77

Table 5: Quantification of Neolithic pottery

11.1.2 The small assemblage of Neolithic pottery from this site is in a fabric typical of Early Neolithic pottery assemblages from this region. The only diagnostic feature sherd is a single rim sherd (4g) from deposit 151. This is an out-turned form, typical of the Southern Decorated Bowl ceramic tradition. However, this attribution is not secure, given the small size of the sherd and the lack of any other diagnostic sherds. It is not uncommon to find small clusters of Early Neolithic pits containing assemblages of pottery (e.g. Garrow 2006). So, it is probable that the pottery here is contemporary with the pits from which it was recovered.

12 IRON AGE POTTERY BY CARLOTTA MARCHETTO

12.1.1 An assemblage totalling 27 sherds (316g) of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the excavation, displaying a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 11.7g. The pottery was recovered from a total of six contexts relating to two pits, two ditch interventions and a tree throw (Table 6). The assemblage is of Early and Middle Iron Age origin, c. 800-50 BC and the pottery is in a poor

condition. Small sherds (<4cm in size) dominate, and dating is therefore largely based on the character of the fabrics and their comparison with material from larger published assemblages from the region. The Early Iron Age pottery is mainly residual in Middle Iron Age contexts, and it consists of four body sherds (16g) in flint fabric. The bulk of the assemblage is of Middle Iron Age date (c. 350-50 BC), with a total of 23 sherds (300g). The assemblage is dominated by small body sherds, with only two rims and one base present (from two pits and a tree throw). The rim is decorated with fingertip impression on the top. The pottery from the excavation constitutes a small assemblage and contains very few diagnostic sherds, with some sherds with earlier origins being residual in later features. Owing to its small size, the assemblage has a limited potential beyond that of helping to phase features and date activity at the site. However, these groups can still contribute to a wider characterisation of Middle Iron Age pottery assemblages in Essex and provided comparative data on fabrics and ceramic technology.

Context	Cut	Feature	No sherds	Weight (g)	Date	Residual
144	143	tree throw	1	3	EIA	yes
144	143	tree throw	4	65	MIA	
146	145	pit	13	159	MIA	
147	145	pit	1	4	EIA	yes
147	145	pit	2	10	MIA	
164	162	ditch	2	22	MIA	
187	185	ditch	1	10	MIA	
209	208	pit	2	9	EIA	yes
209	208	pit	1	34	MIA	
<i>Total</i>			27	316		

Table 6: Quantification of Iron Age pottery

APPENDIX C OSTEOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARIES

13 HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS BY ZOE UI CHOILEÁIN

13.1.1 Fragments of radius and pelvis and a complete proximal phalanx were found in context 149 of tree throw 148. The bone was assessed with reference to Brickley and McKinley (2004) and Mays *et al.* (2004). The bone is highly fragmented. The condition of the cortical bone best represents a 2 on the 0-5 scale devised by McKinley (in Brickley and McKinley 2004, 15, fig. 6). The proximal epiphysis of the femur is fully fused indicating that the individual is probably over 18 years old. The bone is too fragmented to provide any further information and as it came from an undated tree throw, interpretation is greatly limited. It is recommended that if further investigations are to take place, carbon dating of the bone should be undertaken to allow for a better understanding of this deposit.

Context	Phase	Feature type	Element	Age	Condition
149	Unphased	Tree throw	Radius, pelvis, proximal hand Phanlax	Adult	3

Table 7: Summary of disarticulated human bone

14 ANIMAL BONE BY ZOE UI CHOILEÁIN

14.1.1 A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the excavation. A total four recordable fragments were recovered. Identifiable elements belong to cattle (*Bos taurus*) and horse (*Equus ferus caballus*). Bone was recovered from pits and ditches. The cattle bone came from an Iron Age pit and the horse metacarpal came from an unphased tree throw.

Context	Taxon	Element	Erosion	Count
144	Cattle	loose mand cheek tooth	3	2
144	Cattle	loose max cheek tooth	3	1
213	Horse	metacarpus	3	1
Total				4

Table 8: Summary of animal bone

14.1.2 The assemblage is too small to allow for conclusions regarding animal husbandry practices. There is no further information to be gleaned from these fragments. All bone should be retained for the archaeological record.

15 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES BY SAM CORKE

15.1.1 A total of eight samples were processed using standard OA methodology and briefly assessed for their potential. Preservation was generally poor, and potential for further work is limited. Preservation of plant remains was through

carbonisation and the material is in a poor to moderate condition. Rootlets were present throughout the flots, which may have caused movement between contexts. Charred remains are present in three samples and include hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) fragments in Sample 11, fill 151 of Phase 1 posthole **150**, indeterminate weed species from Samples 12, fill 176 of unphased feature **174** and Sample 14, fill 190 of Phase 1 pit **188**. A further two samples – Sample 10, fill 195 of Phase 2 ditch **163**, and Sample 13, fill 187 of Phase 2 ditch **163** – contain molluscs; though at very low densities and with a standard collection species (*Truncatallina cylindrica*, *Vallonia costata*, *Cochlicopa sp.* *Discus rotundatus* etc.). Sample 11, fill 151 of Phase 1 pit **150**, contains occasional fragments of pottery in addition to the charred remains mentioned above.

Sample number	Context number	Cut number	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Weed seeds	Tree/shrub macrofossils	Snail shells	Charcoal volume(ml)	Pottery	Small mammal bones	Hammerscale flake
10	195	183	Ditch	13	40	0	0	##/##	0	0	0	0
11	151	150	Posthole	8	15	0	##	0	0	##	0	0
12	176	174	Tree throw	20	30	#	0	0	2ml	0	0	0
13	187	185	Ditch	12	5	0	0	##/##	1ml	0	0	+
14	190	188	Pit	12	5	#	0	0	1ml	0	0	+
15	209	208	Pit	16	5	0	0	0	1ml	0	0	0
16	211	210	Ditch	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	213	212	Ditch	12	10	0	0	0	1ml	0	#	0

Table 9: Environmental samples

APPENDIX D OASIS REPORT FORM

Project details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-518230		
Project Name	Land North of Stansted, Phase 1 (Primary Substation Site), Essex		
Start of Fieldwork	26/06/2023	End of Fieldwork	30/06/2023
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	Yes

Project reference codes

Site Code	SMNS23	Planning App. Number	UTT/22/0434/OP
HER Number	SMNS23	Related Numbers	XEXSTA23EX
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)		
Development Type	Other		

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-area excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation | <input type="checkbox"/> Test-pit Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pit	Early Neolithic (- 4000 to - 3000)	Flint	Early Prehistoric (- 500 000 to - 4000)
Ditch	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)	Pottery	Early Neolithic (- 4000 to - 3000)
Post hole	Uncertain	Pottery	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)
Ditch	Uncertain	CBM	Roman (43 to 410)
Tree throw	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)	Animal bone	Uncertain
Tree throw	Uncertain	Human remains	Uncertain

Project location

County	Essex	Address (including Postcode) Bury Lodge Lane Stansted Essex CM24 8QE
District	Uttlesford	
Parish	Stansted Mountfitchet	
HER office	Essex	
Size of Study Area	5.3ha	
National Grid Ref	552770 222975	

Project originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology
Project Brief Originator	Richard Havis (EPS)
Project Design Originator	Ray Kennedy (WSP)
Project Manager	Louise Moan (OA)
Project Supervisor	Dan Firth (OA)

Project archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Saffron Walden Museum	SMNS23
Digital Archive	ADS	SMNS23
Paper Archive	Saffron Walden Museum	SMNS23

Physical contents	Present?	Digital files associated with finds	Paperwork associated with finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

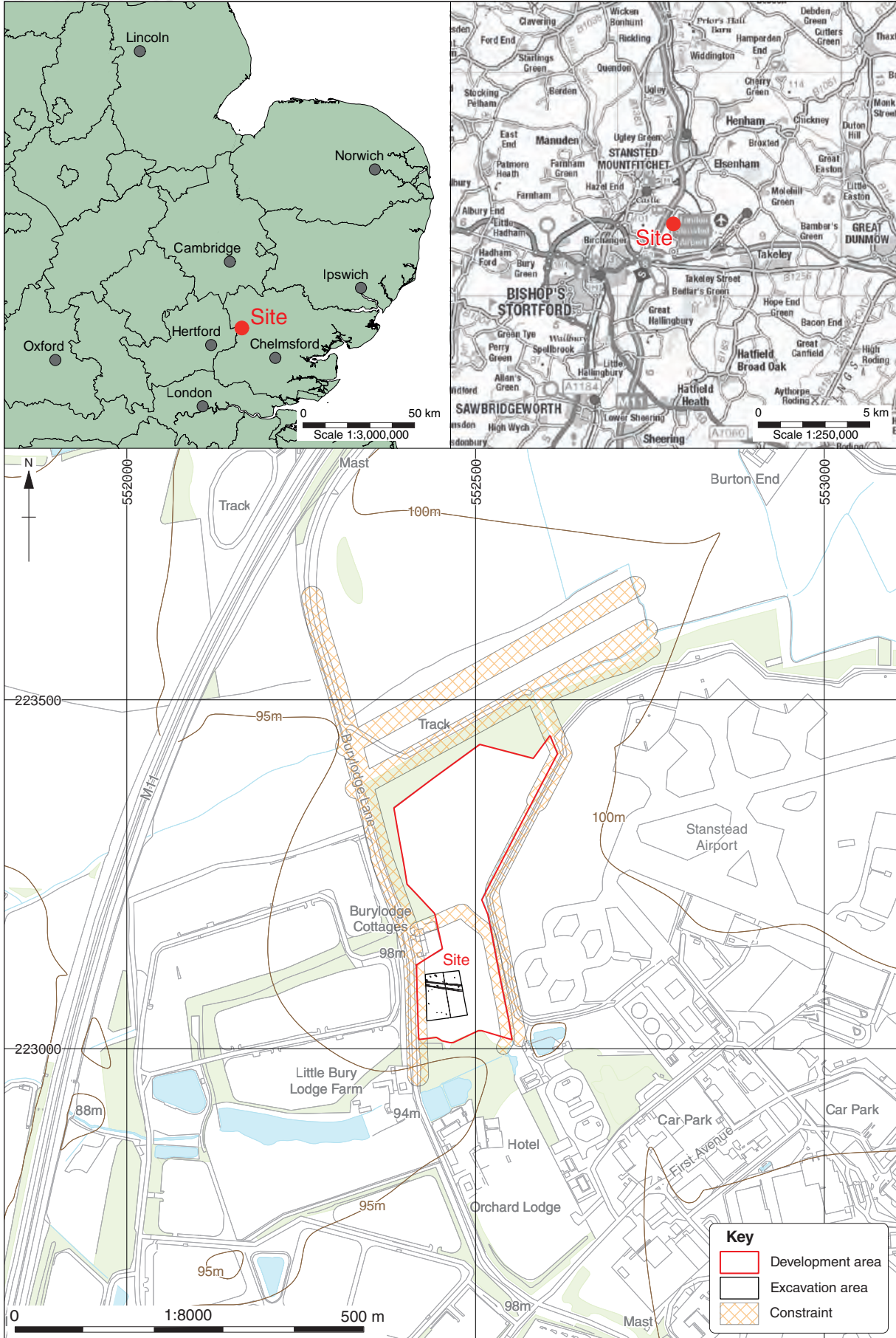
Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Sections

Survey

Further comments

Accession number to be acquired from Saffron Walden Museum. Will be deposited with evaluation phase.



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Figure 1: Site location map showing development area (red)

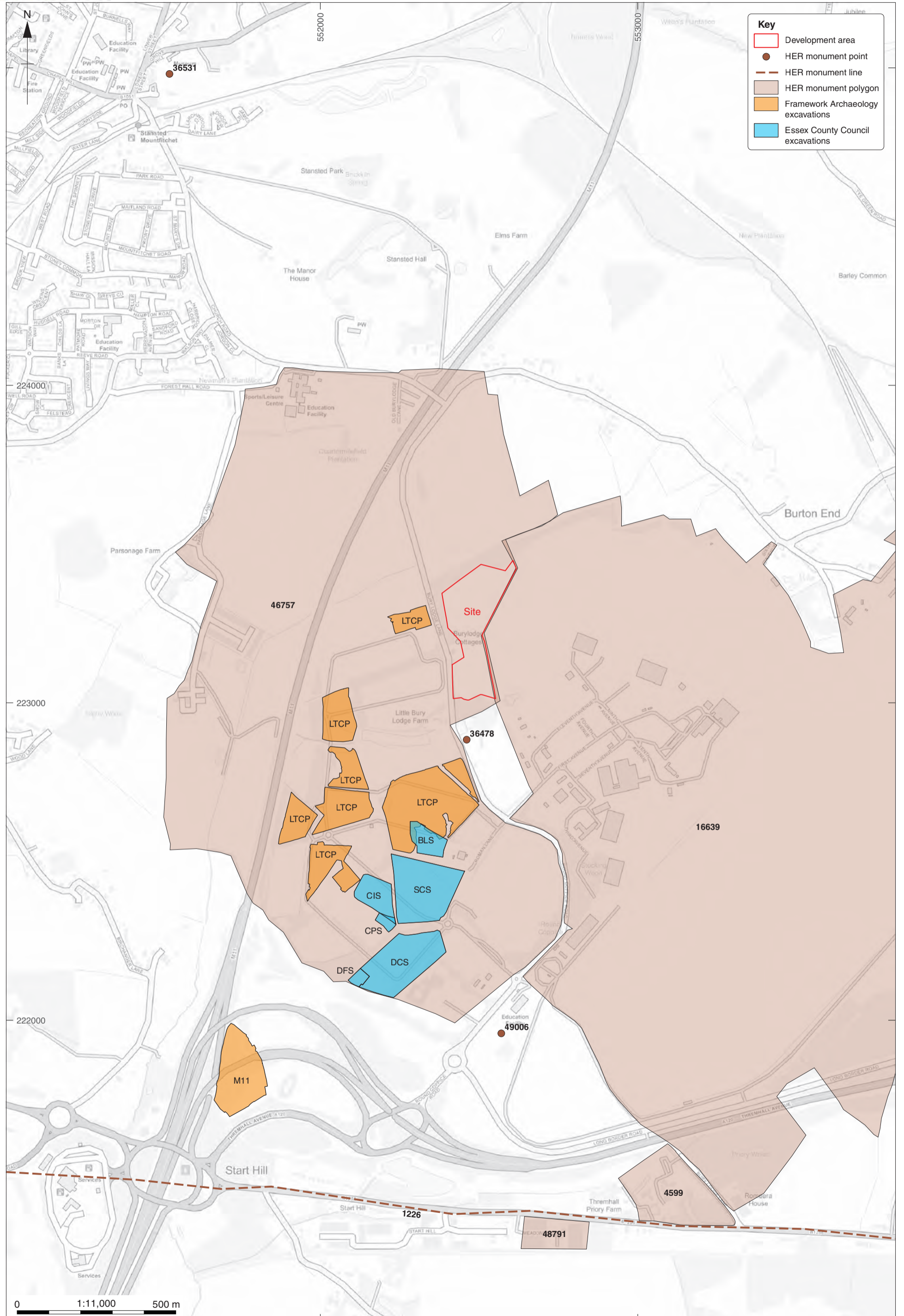


Figure 2: Map showing HER data referred to in the text

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Figure 3: Site plan, all features and deposits



Plate 1: View of the site looking south-west



Plate 2: Phase 1 pit **150**, looking north



Plate 3: Unphased ditch **160** and Phase 2 ditch **162**, looking west



Plate 4: Phase 2 ditch **156**, looking north-west

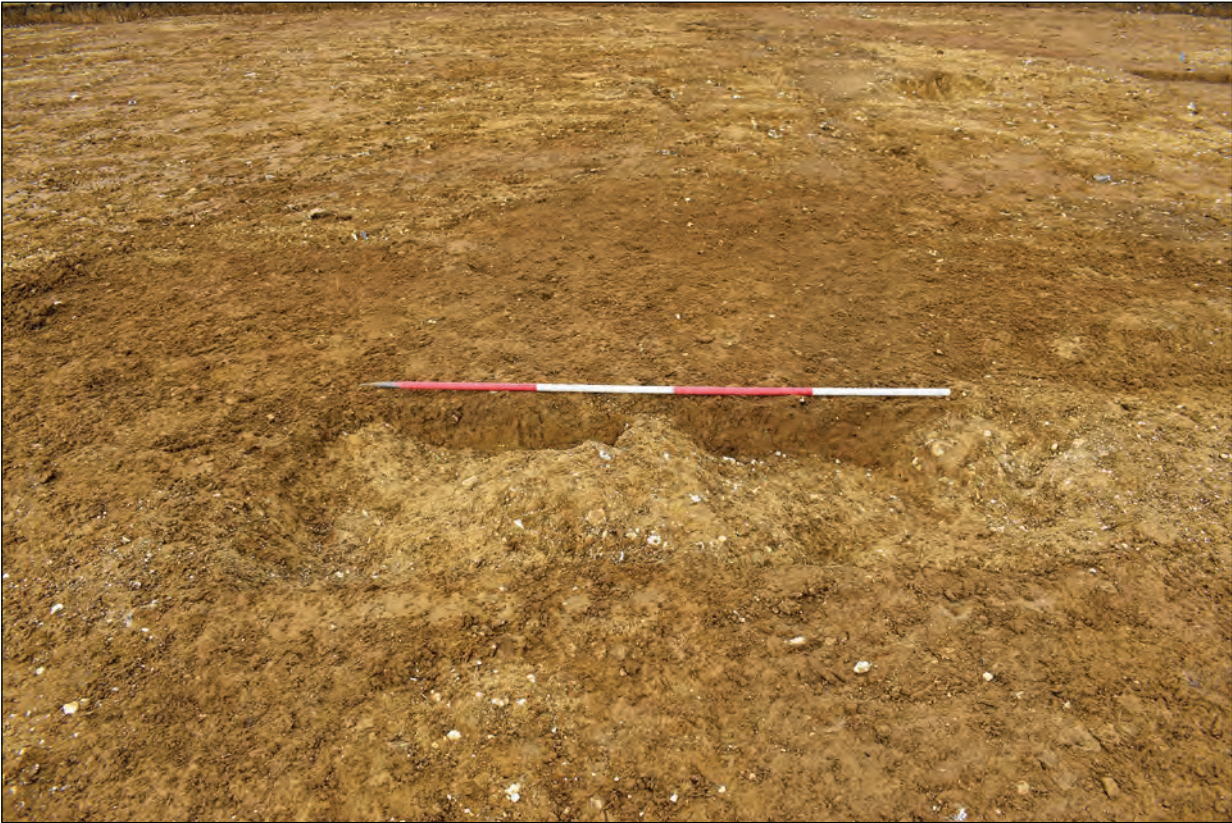


Plate 5: Phase 2 ditches **167** (intervention 210) and **165** (intervention **212**), looking north-west



Plate 6: Unphased tree throw **148**, half sectioned. looking south-east

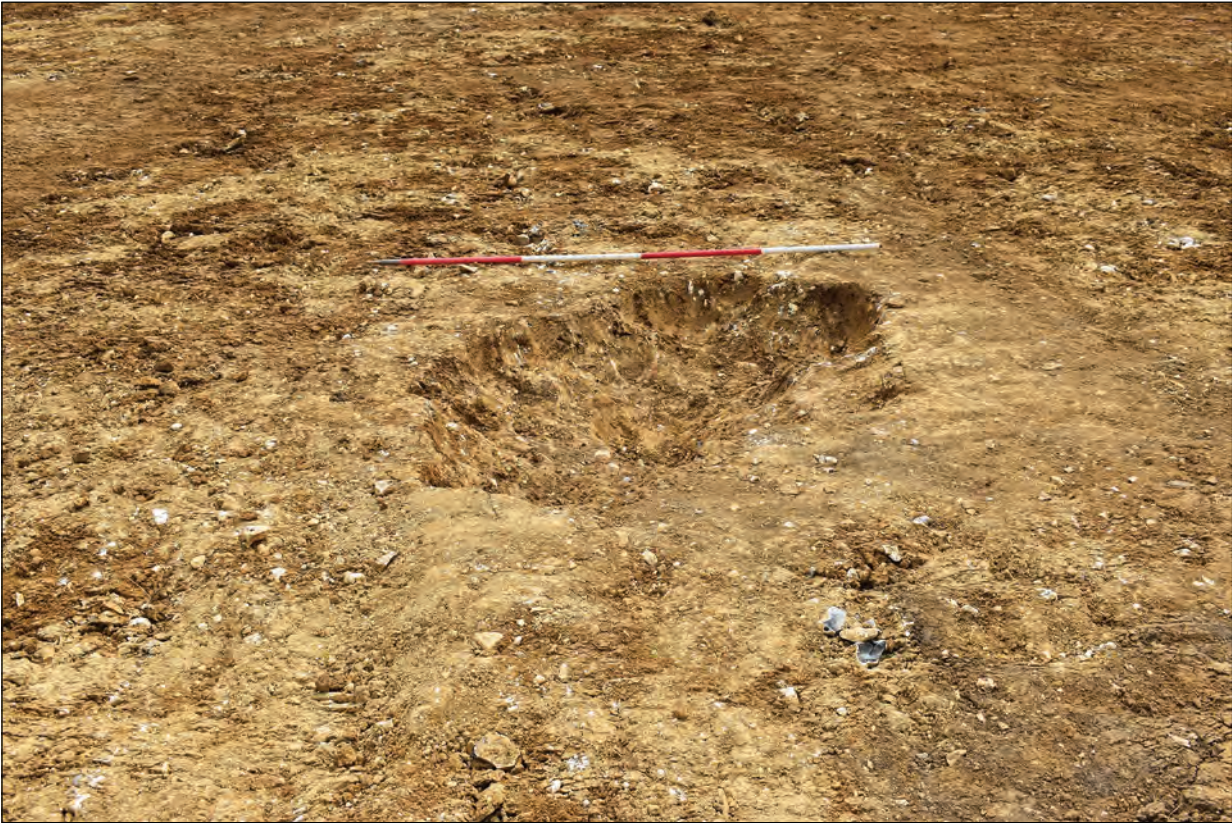


Plate 7: Unphased tree throw **148**, fully excavated, looking south-east

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