

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT AT LEISTON

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illustrations by Dave Brown and Charlotte Walton

Summary

Despite the swathe of Bronze Age burial mounds evident within Suffolk's coastal belt, there are relatively few securely dated settlement sites of the period in this area, although development-led archaeology (in particular) is beginning to redress this imbalance. Excavations at Red House Lane, Leiston, revealed two distinct settlement enclosures, both of which are dated to the Middle Bronze Age by their associated assemblages of Deverel–Rimbury tradition pottery and radiocarbon assay. This paper discusses the origins, function and longevity of the enclosures within their landscape setting, which significantly includes an earlier monument and contemporary field system found at an adjacent site, and how this new evidence contributes to the developing picture of Bronze Age settlement and land use in this part of the region.

INTRODUCTION

LOCATED WITHIN FORMER agricultural land on the south-eastern edge of Leiston, the site lies approximately 2.5km from the modern Suffolk coastline, within a wider landscape that is peppered with prehistoric remains. Between January and February 2018 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) excavated two areas (with a combined total of 0.44ha) ahead of residential development to the south of Red House Lane (TM 452 619; Fig. 117). This followed previous stages of geophysical survey and trench evaluation undertaken in 2015 by Stratascan and Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) across a larger 8.5ha tract of land; the latter of which revealed Middle to Late Bronze Age features and deposits, including an urned cremation and part of a substantial ditched settlement enclosure.¹ The OA East excavations (located at an elevation of *c.* 18m OD) targeted the settlement enclosure located on the western margins of the development (Area 1), and a second area of features identified to the north-east (Area 2). Important evidence of the prehistoric to Roman landscape was uncovered to the west in an adjacent excavation undertaken in 2016 by Archaeology South-East (ASE), with pertinent remains comprising a Middle to Late Bronze Age trackway, possible post-built structures and elements of a coaxial field system, alongside a small ring-ditch of probable Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (Fig. 117).²

In addition to providing an overview of the OA East excavation results, this article aims to examine this new evidence for Bronze Age settlement within the immediate landscape of Leiston, and how this adds to the wider understanding of the utilisation of Suffolk's coastal belt during this period. It should be noted that due to the acidic nature of the sandy soils, preservation of plant remains and animal bone was extremely poor, hindering any reconstruction of the contemporary environment and farming practices. An excavation report including a detailed stratigraphic narrative and full specialist contributions is freely available to download from the OA Library.³

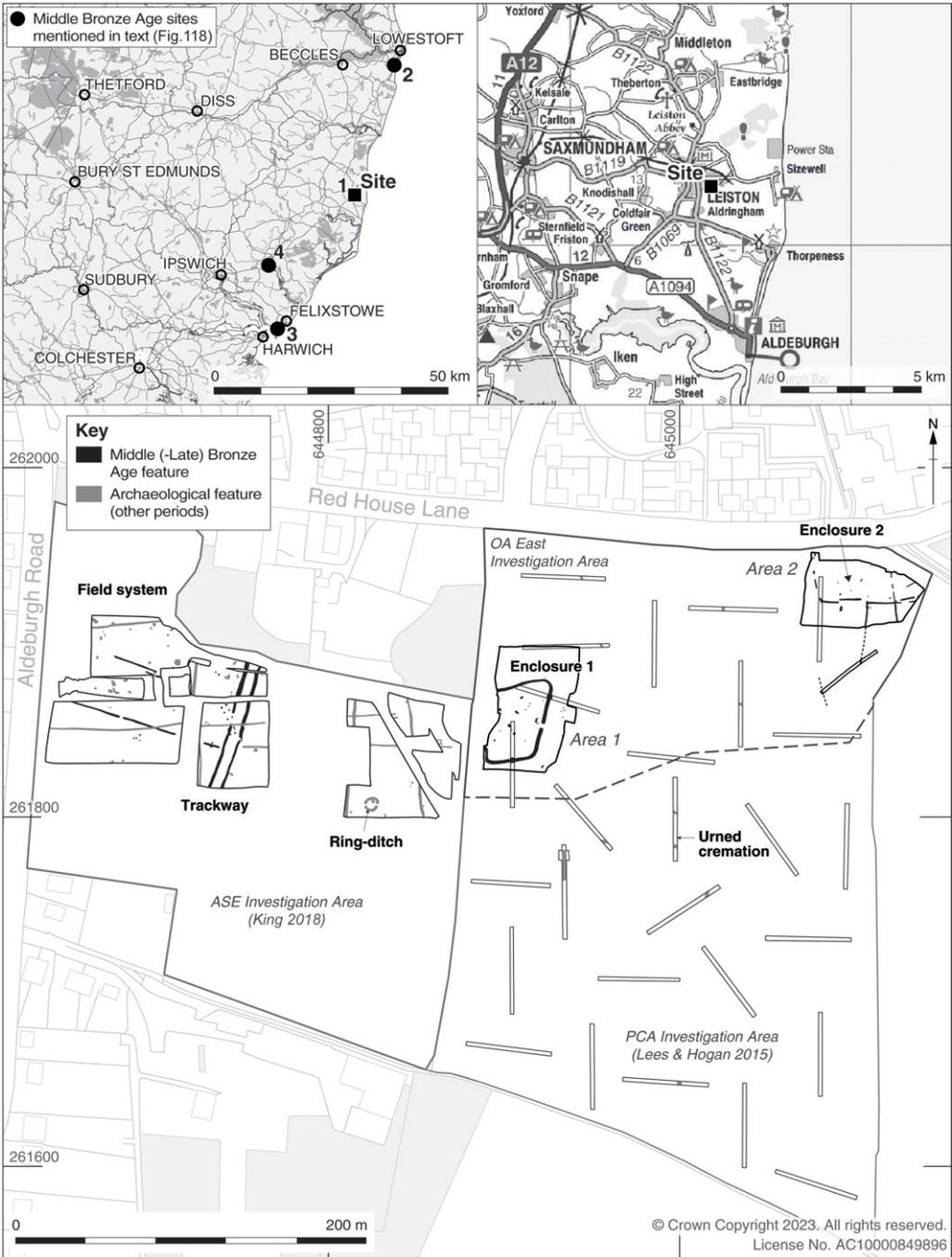


FIG. 117 – Site location map showing adjacent site and other Middle Bronze Age sites mentioned in text.

THE BRONZE AGE TOPOGRAPHY OF LEISTON

Leiston lies upon a slightly elevated (*c.*10–20m OD) seaward promontory flanked to the north and south by lower lying marshland. The precise limit of the Bronze Age coastline is uncertain, but previous transgressions and/or sea level rises over this period would have periodically accentuated the site's coastal setting at a narrowing of this promontory. Known Early Bronze Age remains in the parish almost exclusively consist of funerary monuments: it is significant that the nine known barrows on this promontory listed on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) all lie close to the 10m contour (Fig. 118). These monuments probably delineate the 'dry land' limit overlooking the brackish coastal marshes and tidal reaches of the local river systems that were subject to periodic flooding/marine transgressions. A bronze axe or hammer is the only previously unearthed non-funerary find listed in the SHER for the parish. Prior to the ASE excavations to the west of the site, the evidence for Middle Bronze Age activity in the parish was similarly dominated by finds associated with funerary practice. In addition to the cinerary urn recovered by the PCA evaluation to the south of the site (Fig. 117), a further three examples of urns have previously been discovered in Leiston. The distribution of these chance discoveries (Fig. 118) no doubt reflects the recent urban expansion of the town and strongly suggests that the cremation burial tradition was not as topographically confined as the practice of barrow building. The identification of the enclosures, alongside the adjacent trackway, field system and related features within the various excavations to the south of Red House Lane, clearly help to create a more nuanced picture of Bronze Age settlement and land use — beyond the more ceremonial context — within the immediate landscape of Leiston.

TRACES OF EARLIER ACTIVITY

Within the lithic assemblage from the site there is a notable component of Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flintwork that was recovered from a number of features, including both Enclosures 1 and 2 and several pits (see below). Furthermore, five sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery — including one from a Beaker vessel and part of a strap handle (a rare example) from a collared urn — were also found within the backfills of the two enclosure ditches. These items were often recovered alongside Middle Bronze Age pottery and flints and, although residual, their presence clearly hints at some earlier prehistoric activity in the vicinity. When considered alongside the pits associated with both Early and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and flintwork, and the small ring-ditch, in the area of ASE's excavations directly to the west (Fig. 117), these traces suggest fairly extensive (if intermittent) use of the landscape prior to the Middle Bronze Age occupation of the site.⁴

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT REMAINS (*c.*1600–1200BC)

Evidence of early land use was found in the north-eastern part of the site in Area 2, represented by a pair of diverging ditch alignments (Ditches 1 and 2) on a broadly north-south axis, which were cut by one of the enclosures (Enclosure 2) described below. The ditches, the southward continuation of one of which was also revealed in an evaluation trench with a further possibly associated ditch identified to the south-west, measured a maximum of 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep. Although undated (apart from a small amount of later prehistoric flint), it is probable that the ditches formed part of a wider system of land division predating the enclosure and possibly broadly contemporary with the field system uncovered by ASE to the west, albeit on a slightly different orientation (Figs 117 and 120).

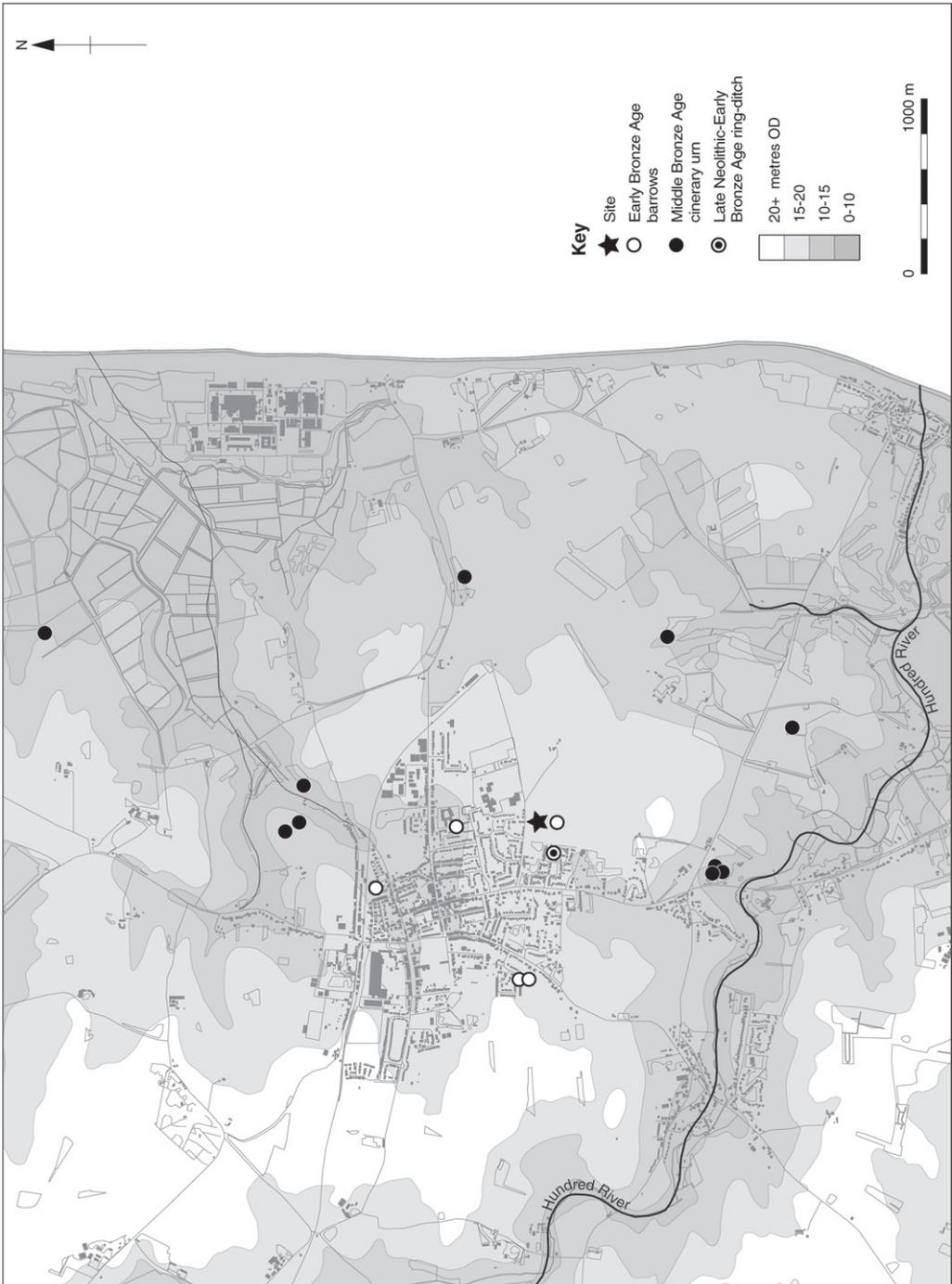


FIG. 118 – Overview of Bronze Age monuments in and around Leiston.

Enclosure 1

The eastern part of this sub-rectangular enclosure (Fig. 119) was fully uncovered by Area 1: its western part was not present within the bounds of the neighbouring ASE excavations and must therefore lie beneath the retained modern field boundary between these two investigation areas. Enclosure 1 comprised an area measuring 42m by at least 30m surrounded by a fairly substantial ditch (see below). Its continuous circuit was broken only by a narrow 2.5m-wide entrance on its eastern side, suggesting it enclosed a domestic space with associated dwellings, the foundations of which have not survived. Although there was no direct evidence for an associated internal bank, an arc of four post-holes (between 0.25–0.5m in diameter and *c.*0.1m deep) just within the entranceway may possibly represent the vestiges of a retaining wall around a bank, or perhaps formed part of a gateway structure.

In terms of dimensions, the enclosure ditch varied in width between 1.15m and 2.05m, while it ranged in depth from as little as 0.49m along the northern arm, to 0.63m along the southern arm, deepening to a maximum of 0.9m either side of the entranceway. The apparently aggrandised nature of the entrance suggests that this enclosed space held some importance within the wider settlement. The excavated sections revealed a profile that varied from a rounded or flat-based V- to a U-shaped cut, with each containing multiple silty sand or sandy silt deposits with varying gravel content. Primary silts — probably resulting from the initial weathering of the ditch — were overlain by darker (presumably secondary ‘tipped’) fills that were capped by paler tertiary material.

A number of finds were recovered from the ditch that included Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds (76g), worked flint (97 items) and burnt stone (6.5kg retained). It may be significant that, although low in density, the main distribution of finds was concentrated within the secondary and tertiary fills, with just seven flints recovered from the primary silts, three of which were scrapers. As might be expected, the greatest concentrations of pottery (60 per cent) and flintwork (56 per cent) were recovered from the ditch termini that defined the entranceway. This bias in the distribution of deposited material may further suggest the presence of an internal bank along the enclosure ditch, which would have obstructed the deposition of settlement refuse. This may also have contributed to the notable lack of charred organic remains within the extensive bulk soil samples taken from the ditch fills.

Clustered in the southern part of the enclosure was a group of five subcircular pits which were notable due to their dark ash-like fills containing burnt flint and charcoal; the most westerly pit produced 9.5kg of burnt flint alone. The pits varied between very shallow features measuring just a few centimetres deep and a maximum of 0.35m wide, to larger pits extending to a maximum of 2m in diameter and 0.2m deep. A single diagnostic pottery sherd belonging to the Deverel–Rimbury tradition recovered from one of the pits is the only datable find from this group. A sample of charcoal identified as short-lived hazel (*Corylus avellana*) from one of the pits returned a radiocarbon date of 1410–1230 cal. BC (3023 ± 25 BP at 95.4 per cent confidence; SUERC-80775); consistent with the Middle Bronze Age date range for the pottery recovered from the enclosure ditch. Hazel may have been a source of fuel as this tree species was commonly coppiced for firewood. The burnt flint pieces appeared to have been subjected to a high intensity heat source which suggests craft processes, possibly in addition to domestic cooking, may have taken place within the enclosure. However, none of the pit cuts displayed any evidence for *in situ* burning, which may indicate that the burnt material was left to cool before being placed within the pits.

A further two similar-sized pits located to the north of this group, along with a row of three post-holes (between 0.2–0.3m in diameter and *c.*0.1m deep), did not contain any burnt material within their sterile silt fills. Outside of the enclosure, a group of similar post-holes lay a few metres to the north-east of the entranceway. Although probably representing the

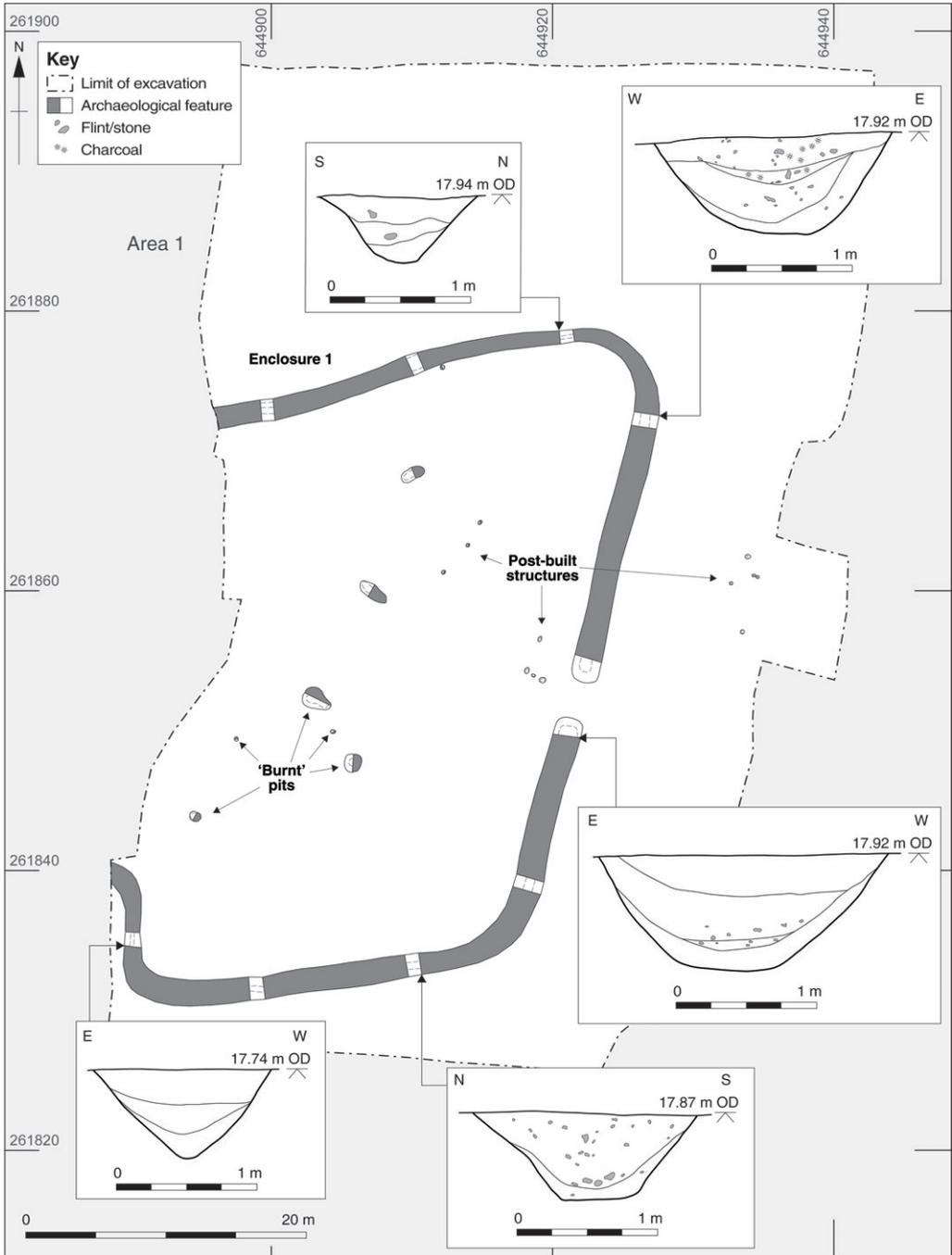


FIG. 119 – Detail of Middle Bronze Age Enclosure 1 (Area 1).

remains of a structure, no clear plan could be discerned and no finds were recovered to aid in interpretation.

Enclosure 2

Superimposed over Ditches 1 and 2 in Area 2 was the south-western part of a large subrectangular enclosure which encompassed an area of at least 60m by 25m (Fig. 120). The intermittent circuit of Enclosure 2 was delineated by a series of at least eight shallow ditch segments (some offset/staggered) measuring between 0.35–1m wide and 0.1–0.35m deep. Most of the ditch segments contained single mid-greyish-brown sandy silt fills with varying flint gravel content, which together produced a few pottery sherds and flintwork of Middle Bronze Age date. Significantly, a single ditch segment (cuts 150/152) on the southern side of the enclosure was found to contain stratified (tipped) deposits that yielded a group of 71 sherds (1641g) from the fragmentary base of a Deverel–Rimbury tradition vessel. This was recovered alongside a quantity of burnt flint, a large proportion of the overall worked flint assemblage (forty-three items) and the only fired clay from the site (eighteen fragments, 129g); some of which refitted to form a curved piece of unknown function. Further dating was achieved from a sample of hawthorn-type (*Maloideae*) charcoal recovered from the associated fill which returned a radiocarbon date of *c.*1390–1200 cal. BC (3023 ± 25 BP at 95.4 per cent confidence; SUERC-80775).

A small number of subcircular pits (between 0.5–1.1m in diameter and 0.1–0.3m deep) were scattered within and outside of Enclosure 2, with no discernible grouping. Only single backfill deposits were encountered in each of these pits, although two examples contained burnt remains similar to the ‘burnt pits’ within Enclosure 1.

WORKED AND BURNT FLINT

by Lawrence Billington

A total of 189 worked flints and 134 fragments (6929g) of unworked burnt flint was recovered (Table 1), alongside a large assemblage of burnt flint and stone (9480g) retrieved from an environmental sample from one of the pits in Enclosure 1. Over half of the worked flint assemblage (100 pieces) and over 90 per cent of the unworked burnt flint (6559g) from the site was recovered from the ditches defining Enclosure 1, predominantly from two of the excavated segments. Most of the remaining portion came from a ditch section of Enclosure 2 that also produced the fragmentary Deverel–Rimbury tradition vessel base and pieces of fired clay (see above).

There is considerable variability in the colour, texture and cortical surfaces of the worked flint assemblage, but much of the flint is of good to moderate knapping quality, usually fine-grained, but with frequent thermal flaws. Although a substantial proportion of the worked flint (two-thirds to three-quarters) is suggested to be broadly contemporary with the Middle Bronze Age use of the enclosures, there is clearly a residual element to the assemblage. This is seen most clearly in the presence of several blade-based pieces of Mesolithic or (more likely) Early Neolithic date, and in the character of some of the retouched tools from Enclosure 1 in particular, including a broken bifacially flaked implement (probably an unfinished laurel-leaf point of Early Neolithic date), while several of the five scrapers recovered are finely made pieces which seem likely to date to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

The putative Middle Bronze Age flintwork is typical of assemblages of later prehistoric date from the region, and from southern Britain more generally, dominated by crudely produced

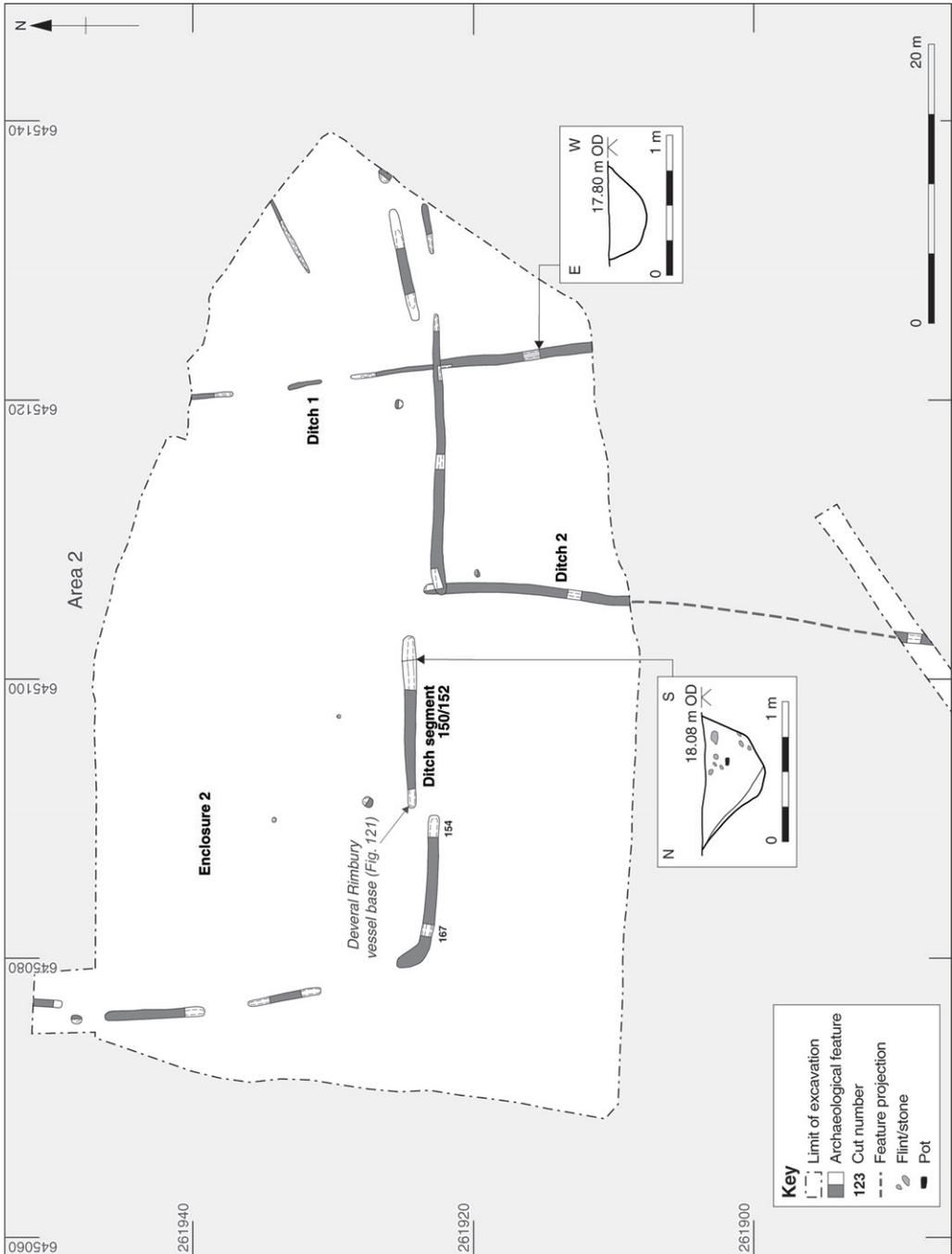


FIG. 120 – Detail of Middle Bronze Age Enclosure 2 (Area 2).

	Ditch 1	Ditch 2	Enclosure 1	Enclosure 2	Other Features	Subsoil	Totals
Irregular Waste			6	6	2		14
Primary Flake			2	2			4
Secondary Flake	1	1	62	25	4	5	98
Tertiary Flake		3	15	12	3	2	35
Secondary Blade-like flake			2	13			15
Tertiary Blade-like flake			2				2
Secondary Blade			1				1
Tertiary Blade			1			2	3
Core			3	2			5
Scraper			5	2		1	8
Notched piece				2			2
Bifacially worked piece	1						1
Laurel leaf blank?			1				1
Total worked	2	4	100	64	9	10	189
Unworked burnt count		1	121	1	11		134
Unworked burnt weight (g)		16	6559	215	139		6929

TABLE 1 – Quantification of the flint by feature group.

flake-based material with a range of informal retouched tools.⁵ It is probable that much of this material derived from surface scatters/deposits on the site, although in the case of the larger assemblages from individual features, especially those from Enclosure 1, it seems possible that they have entered the features as part of deliberate finds-rich dumps — perhaps relating to material generated by settlement/domestic type activity.

POTTERY

by Nick Gilmour

The assemblage (117 sherds, 2033g) of prehistoric pottery is in moderate to poor condition, with most sherds being small and abraded, as reflected by the low mean sherd weight (17.3g). The earliest elements comprise five sherds (63g) assigned an Early Bronze Age date due to their soft grog-tempered fabrics (GS1 and GS2; Table 2). The uncommon Early Bronze Age strap handle sherd (40g) from amongst the key pottery group from Enclosure 2 adds to a small number of handled cups from southern England, which are believed to represent continental influence, or possibly even imports.⁶

Middle Bronze Age fabrics form the majority of this assemblage (92 sherds weighing 1868g), with diagnostic feature sherds comprising a small group of simple plain rims and a large base belonging to urns of the Deverel–Rimbury tradition in a typical range of fabrics for the region (Table 2). Some elements of this assemblage may have parallels with the Ardleigh group, including the fingernail impressions and finger-impressed rim.⁷ However, these decorative elements are common to all Deverel–Rimbury style pottery and they do not occur commonly enough to define any of the current assemblage as being part of the Ardleigh group.⁸

Fabric	Fabric group	No. sherds	Weight (g)	% fabric (by weight.)	MNV
F1	common small to medium flint (>2mm)	2	18	0.9	-
FG1	common medium flint and sparse fine to medium grog	1	3	0.1	1
FS1	moderate course flint and sparse sand	9	54	2.7	1
FS2	common fine to medium flint and moderate sand	3	11	0.5	-
FS3	abundant fine flint and moderate sand	3	22	1.1	1
GF1	moderate course grog (<6mm) and sparse course flint	4	34	1.7	-
GF2	moderate course grog (<6mm) and sparse medium to fine flint	60	1568	77.1	2
GS1	abundant course grog and moderate sand	12	163	8.0	1
GS2	common fine grog and moderate sand	4	14	0.7	-
GS3	common medium grog and moderate sand	5	43	2.1	-
SF1	common sand and sparse fine flint	5	13	0.6	-
SFG1	common sand, sparse medium flint and sparse medium grog	4	43	2.1	1
SG1	common sand and sparse fine grog	4	35	1.7	-
SG2	common sand and moderate medium grog	1	12	0.6	-
TOTAL		117	2033	100	-

MNV calculated as the total number of different rims and bases (f

TABLE 2 – Quantification of prehistoric pottery by fabric.

Furthermore, there is no evidence for the application of bands, particularly horseshoe-shaped bands. It should be noted, however, that cinerary vessels displaying applied horseshoe bands have previously been recovered from Leiston (Fig. 118).⁹ Furthermore, the small decorated cinerary urn recovered from the evaluation immediately to the south of the site by PCA was suggested to be of this pottery type.¹⁰ The unusual interior and exterior decoration observed on a basal Deverel–Rimbury sherd from the key pottery group found in Enclosure 2 (Fig. 121) is not without parallel: a vessel from Shoebury has a row of fingertip impressions underneath the base, and one from White Colne has comb-point impressions beneath the base.¹¹

Three sherds (22g; Fabric FS3) from Enclosure 2 are the only examples that could be attributed to the Late Bronze Age, with one displaying fingernail impressions along the top of the rim.

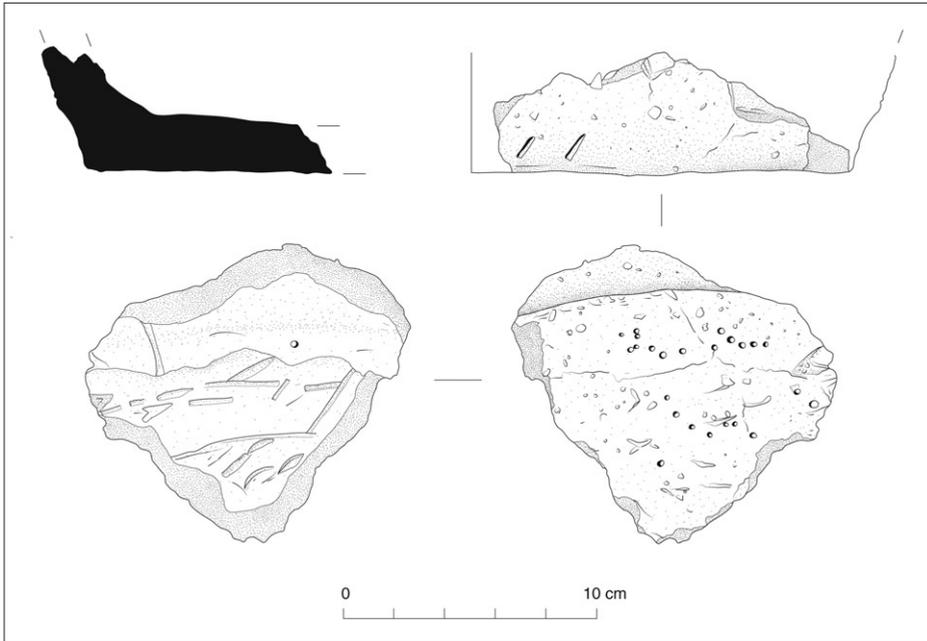


FIG. 121 – Decorated base of Deverel-Rimbury tradition vessel from Enclosure 2.

DISCUSSION

Early land division

Ditches 1 and 2 uncovered in Area 2 may be ascribed a Middle Bronze Age origin based on their associated flintwork. As has been discussed by Yates and Brudenell, the record of prehistoric land division in Suffolk for this period is very fragmentary.¹² Yates further states that such remains are likely to be confined to the lighter soils of the region (glacial sands and gravels), with early farmers preferring sites close to an established routeway and with access to fresh water and the sea. Further examples of (definitive) Middle Bronze Age land division upon the lighter soils of Suffolk's coastal belt are certainly hard to recognise in the archaeological record, and where they do occur are typically described as 'Middle-Late' Bronze Age as a result of the paucity of associated finds that appear to be characteristic of this class of feature. Further examples of field system remnants include two adjacent sites excavated within Ipswich; at Ipswich Academy and Alnesbourn Crescent, Ravenswood.¹³ When considering the lack of current evidence for field systems of proven Middle Bronze Age origin, the remnant field divisions uncovered on the current site and the neighbouring ASE excavations make an important addition to understanding the origins of land management on the East Anglian coast.

At some point the early field boundaries identified at Leiston were superseded by the establishment of Enclosure 2. It is interesting to note that several examples of definitively Middle Bronze Age rectilinear enclosures in the wider East Anglian region (for example, at Clay Farm, Cambridgeshire; Tower's Fen, Thorney; Ormesby St Michael, Norfolk; and Brigg's Farm, Peterborough) were seemingly also created slightly later than the recognised field systems.¹⁴

The enclosures within the contemporary landscape

When taken together, the two enclosures uncovered on the current site along with the neighbouring remains to the west excavated by ASE probably represent concurrent elements of a farmstead. Despite extensive sampling, charred plant remains were confined to single barley grains found in just five samples and a small fragment of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*). Similarly, none of the subsamples contained sufficient pollen for interpretation, with only single occurrences of (possibly more robust) pollen types such as dandelion-type (*Taraxacum*-type) and grasses (Poaceae) as well as tree pollen of alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*), lime (*Tilia*) and ash (*Fraxinus*). Consequently, and given the paucity of faunal remains, it has not been possible to discern any on-site activity associated with livestock management (breeding or butchery practices), or crop regimes (what foodstuffs were being grown or processed) being employed.

However, the few surviving pits containing burnt (possibly hearth) waste within Enclosure 1, the dump of mixed refuse from Enclosure 2 and high proportion of broadly contemporary flintwork from feature fills generally are strong indicators of sustained settlement activity at this site. In essence, both these enclosures probably represent differing forms of domestic space within a wider farmstead. Whereas it is impossible to definitively state that these enclosures were contemporary, the similar radiocarbon dates gained from the two groups of associated remains appears to support this scenario. Their varied morphology indicates that different activities may have been taking place within each enclosure which required different scales of protection or delineation. Traces of post-built structures identified both to the east

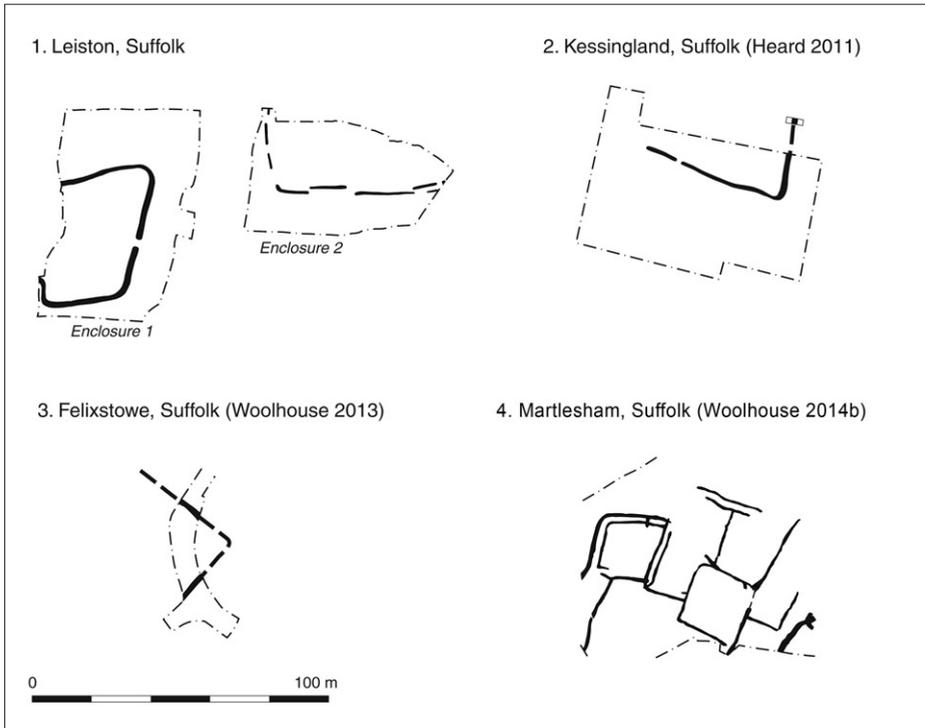


FIG. 122 – Examples of Middle Bronze Age enclosures in the Suffolk coastal belt.

of (and outside) Enclosure 1 and on the ASE excavations to the west suggest that not all activities being undertaken within the settlement required enclosure.

Within the local landscape, the presence of the track/droeway uncovered by the ASE excavations on a broadly similar north–north-east to south–south-west alignment across a narrowing of the Leiston coastal promontory may be a significant factor in the location of this farmstead. This routeway would presumably have controlled the movement of livestock from grazing pastures and enclosures on the higher ground to the Hundred river to the south and/or to the lower lying watery marshland to the north (Fig. 118). The identification of a small Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring-ditch (presumably a ploughed-out barrow) in the ASE excavation to the west and the cinerary urn in the PCA trench to the south of the enclosures suggests that settlement and funerary monuments were intermingled in this landscape.

There is no evidence for any attempt at reinstatement or maintenance of either enclosure as the ditches became infilled through natural processes or disposal of refuse, suggesting that the farmstead may have been relatively short-lived. The paucity of Late Bronze Age material culture may be taken to indicate the general abandonment of the site at some point during the latter part of the Middle Bronze Age. It is perhaps significant that neither of the Leiston enclosures were overlain by later field systems and it is probable that this area reverted to pastoral use, with any associated settlement shifting elsewhere — although definitive evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement in Leiston remains elusive. At the adjacent ASE excavations, an extensive Roman rectilinear field system was identified that was laid out on a different axis to that of the Bronze Age.¹⁵

Bronze Age enclosures within Suffolk's coastal belt

A wider view of the East Suffolk coastline highlights its highly indented nature, with the Leiston promontory being one of a number of low lying coastal 'headlands' including Dunwich, Southwold, Kessingland and Lowestoft to the north, and Aldeburgh, Alderton and Felixtowe to the south. These are separated by coastal marshland surrounding the outflows of the major river systems of the region, including (from north to south) the Waveney, Blyth, Yox/Minsmere, Hundred, Alde, Deben, and Orwell rivers. The coastal environment would have provided a natural highway for waterborne transport, with access to the lower lying watercourses of the river systems.

A limited search of the archaeological record along the Suffolk coastal belt further highlights the paucity of analogous rectilinear enclosure remains of proven Middle Bronze Age date. To the north of the site, on the Kessingland promontory, excavations at the primary school site revealed perhaps the closest parallel (Fig. 122.2).¹⁶ The fills of a similar subrectangular enclosure produced sherds of Deverel–Rimbury tradition pottery (4103g; average sherd weight 20g), which included some large sherds considered to be broken *in situ*, radiocarbon dated to 1420–1260 cal. BC. Furthermore, assemblages of flint and burnt flint were recovered along with loom weight clay fragments that suggested the enclosure was being utilised for domestic occupation rather than for livestock. On the Felixstowe coastal promontory to the south, a further similar enclosure excavated at Felixstowe Academy, High Street, Walton, produced only sparse finds (Fig. 122.3).¹⁷ Intriguingly, a deliberately inverted Ardleigh tradition bucket urn was found placed at the base of the ditch cut, dating from c.1600–1300 BC; perhaps reminiscent of the fragmentary vessel base recovered from Leiston Enclosure 2. It has been suggested that the presence of fragmentary, but near complete, vessels may be characteristic of 'special' or 'formal' deposition, placed at important focal points within settlement areas.¹⁸ In addition, a short distance inland from the Felixstowe site, excavations at Martlesham also revealed a set of several subsquare 'infield' enclosures and

trackways (Fig. 122.4).¹⁹ Finds on this site were similarly scarce with ditch fills only yielding ‘crumbs’ of pottery of Middle–Late Bronze Age date. It was thought that the most complete enclosure (c.20m²) may have been utilised for specific (and possibly short-lived/seasonal) animal husbandry practices such as milking, shearing and slaughter.

Interpreting the origins, function and longevity of these coastal enclosures is clearly hampered by the poor survival and low levels of associated material culture. In the wider East Anglian region, where faunal remains have survived in their ditch fills, this has invariably led to the interpretation of these spaces as stock enclosures,²⁰ while the presence of a wider range of (albeit scant) artefactual evidence has also suggested a level of domestic occupation within them.²¹ When all of the above is considered, both the relatively large amount of flintwork and burnt flint associated with Enclosure 1, and the more mixed assemblage of artefacts from Enclosure 2, are more suggestive of the clearance of middens and refuse from domestic dwellings within these spaces.

CONCLUSIONS

Comprising a significant part of the ‘preferred zone’ for the early occupation of East Anglia, the Suffolk coastal belt has hitherto provided only scant evidence for settlement activity securely dated to the Middle Bronze Age.²² The enclosures uncovered at Leiston are comparable with those previously excavated at Kessingland and Felixstowe, suggesting that at least a proportion of the farmsteads situated on these coastal promontories during this period enclosed their domestic foci. Whether their variation in morphology (demonstrated side by side at Leiston) reflects the degree of protection required from roaming livestock, the exclusivity of internal activities, the status of the inhabitants, or a combination of these factors remains an open question for future research. It is also a possibility that the function of the more monumental scale enclosures, such as Enclosure 1, evolved with different uses over the broad span of the Middle Bronze Age. The increasing number of enclosures that are coming to light as a result of both commercial archaeology and research projects will help to further clarify their form and function which in turn will contribute to the broader understanding of Bronze Age land use and the interrelationships between settlements and funerary monuments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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NOTES

- 1 Richardson 2015; Lees and Hogan 2015.
- 2 King 2018 and 2023.
- 3 Clarke 2019, <https://library.oxfordarchaeology.com/4673/>.
- 4 King 2018 and 2023.
- 5 E.g. Ford *et al.* 1984; Herne 1991; McLaren 2010.
- 6 E.g. Needham 2006, 64–5.
- 7 Erith and Longworth 1960.
- 8 E.g. from Grimes Graves, Longworth *et al.* 1988.
- 9 Smedley and Owles 1962, 194, fig. 25, o, p and plate XXIX.
- 10 Lees and Hogan 2015, 25.
- 11 Brown 1995, 127.
- 12 Yates 2007, 80–1; Brudenell 2012, 76.
- 13 Ipswich Academy: Stump 2014; Alnesbourn Crescent, Ravenswood: Woolhouse 2014a.
- 14 Clay Farm: Phillips and Mortimer 2013 and Phillips and Mortimer forthcoming; Tower's Fen: Mudd and Pears 2008, 78; Ormesby St Michael: Gilmour *et al.* 2014, 153; Brigg's Farm: Pickstone and Mortimer 2011, 8.
- 15 King 2018 and 2023.
- 16 Heard 2011.
- 17 Woolhouse 2013.
- 18 Brudenell 2012, 338–46.
- 19 Woolhouse 2014b.
- 20 E.g. Brown and Score 1999; Phillips and Mortimer 2013; Phillips and Mortimer forthcoming; Pickstone and Mortimer 2011.
- 21 E.g. Rees 2017; Mudd and Pears 2008; Hutton 2008.
- 22 Yates 2007, 81.

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