

99. Stow Maries, Morris Farm (TQ 822 975)

L. Barker, E.H.

Survey and analysis of earthworks associated with a medieval salt-working complex situated on the former Stow Marsh was undertaken with the primary aim of enhancing knowledge of these increasingly rare sites. The Morris Farm complex is thought to have been operational over a period of roughly 300 years, ending in 1638 with the drainage and reclamation of Stow Marsh. Earthworks covering an area of 9.85ha indicate that a process known as 'solar evaporation' occurred at the site. A series of shallow, uncovered ponds known as 'pans' would have been filled with seawater and left to concentrate into 'brine', through evaporation. The brine was then transferred to a processing area, often termed the 'salt-cote'. Three such areas were identified during the survey, each one surviving as a large earthen platform. Waste products removed from the brine during processing, called 'bitters' were tipped at the edge of each platform to form the distinctive mounds seen at the site.

Report: E.H. Report AI/22/2003

100. Stratford, 211-215 Romford Road (TQ 4003 8489)

K. Pitt, M.o.L.A.S)

Undated brickearth extraction quarry pits were the earliest archaeological features found during evaluation of the site. Cutting these was a 17th- or 18th-century field boundary system consisting of small ditches. A later field boundary ditch was also found. These features were limited to the southern part of the site.

Archive: M.L.

101. Takeley, land to the south of the A120 (Barkers Tanks Site) (TL 5580 2120)

B. Wilkins, H.A.T. (now A.S.)

Archaeological excavation on land to the south of the A120 at Takeley, in advance of a large residential development, revealed three distinct phases of activity represented by a large number of parallel ditches and numerous discrete pits. These phases were marked by shallow parallel linear ditches and sparse pits, cooking pits and hearths dated to the middle Iron Age to early Roman period. The earliest phase of ditches was aligned east/west. Later ditches altered this basic pattern of parallel ditches, forming extensions and other modifications. A system of north/south-aligned ditches was revealed on the northern edge of the site, cutting one of the east/west-orientated ditches and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. In the south-east of the site, the early ditches were cut by further north/south-aligned ditches. The character and topographical arrangement of the ditches suggests that they were associated with land drainage. Comparable late Iron Age to Roman parallel linear ditch systems in the area have been found at Thorley (Taylor 1975, 52; Last and McDonald forthcoming) and during the Stansted

Airport excavations at Warish Hall and Frogs Hall East (Framework 2003). This suggests that this form of land management was widespread on the heavy clay upland.

Previous summaries: Bennett 2004, 249

Archive: S.W.M.

Report: H.A.T. Report 1301

102. Takeley, South Gate Area 1A, Bassingbourn Roundabout, Stansted Airport (TL 547 220 centre)

G. Mabbott, F.A.

The archaeological evaluation of a block of land at the south-eastern corner of Stansted Airport was undertaken as part of a planning application for development. The evaluation area consisted of a 3.7 ha irregular plot of land, immediately to the west of Mid Term Car Park, which was subject to an archaeological excavation in 2000 (Framework 2001). The excavation revealed significant archaeology from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods.

The majority of evaluation trenches contained at least one feature of archaeological significance. Although the amount of datable material recovered from these features has been very small, it does suggest some degree of activity throughout the site from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Late Prehistoric/Roman and medieval periods. This pattern of dating matches closely that found within the Mid Term Car Park site, although the small amount of recovered finds did not suggest any evidence for significant settlement.

Archive: S.W.M.

Report: FA. Report 91002.01

J. Chapman, F.A.

Following evaluation, an archaeological excavation was undertaken. The excavation revealed the significant archaeological remains suggested by the earlier evaluation. These added to and continued the trend established from the Mid Stay Car Park excavations. Significant evidence of Neolithic archaeological activity was established as well as continued land division and enclosures dating from the Iron Age, Roman and Saxo-Norman periods.

Archive: S.W.M.

Report: FA. Report 91001.04 (short publication planned for County journal and monograph of F.A. sites at Stansted Airport)

103. Tendring, Hill Farm (TM 1358 2366)

R. Clarke, E.C.C. (F.A.U.)

Excavation was carried out of an area of approximately 7ha. The site, which is to be part of a reservoir extension, is adjacent to an excavation undertaken in the late 1990s where prehistoric features and the remains of extensive Late Iron Age and Roman field systems were identified. Very different evidence of past land use was found during the present excavation, including a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, post-hole structures and a Saxon well.