

**HSAN            Hungerford Suburban Area – North**

**Historic Character**

This is a zone of recent industrial estates and housing developments that have expanded northwards from the historic core of Hungerford. Prior to development the zone was covered by water meadows created in the 18<sup>th</sup> century from common grazing meadow. Some truncated pieces of scrubbed-over water meadow survive within the zone, but most of the zone has now been developed. Most development has taken place since the 1990s and consists of industrial estates with a small area of housing at the eastern edge by the A4.

**Historic Environment**

Much of the zone was subject to archaeological evaluation and detailed investigation prior to development. This work included environmental sampling, which showed this to have been a largely uncultivated and unsettled boggy area throughout much of its history. The zone is likely to have been too low lying for settlement and was probably a meadow and wetland area until its recent development. Some Mesolithic material was recovered from the excavations although little came from *in situ* contexts. However some small pits were suggested as hearth pits. Excavations and sampling detected a probable Sunken Floored Building, suggesting early Saxon settlement in the area. The main focus of activity was dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century and was interpreted as a phase of land improvement to create hay meadows. The remaining records form a diverse group consisting of a Romano-British metalwork find, a medieval chapel site, and a WWII pillbox. There is no visible remains of the pillbox which was demolished at an unknown date, and the site has since been redeveloped.

**Historic Environment Potential**

The archaeological potential of this zone is likely to be low as little material was located during excavation prior to development. This work also showed that the zone was probably always boggy and therefore unsuitable for permanent occupation. The existence of Mesolithic material outside the developed areas remains a possibility.

**Historic Environment Action Plan**

Research Potential

- Does a more substantial early medieval settlement exist in this area, as indicated by the single SFB identified in the excavations?