

# Must Farm: palaeoecology of ancient rivers, remnant fenland plants & bugs

Martin Redding  
Whittleseyarian

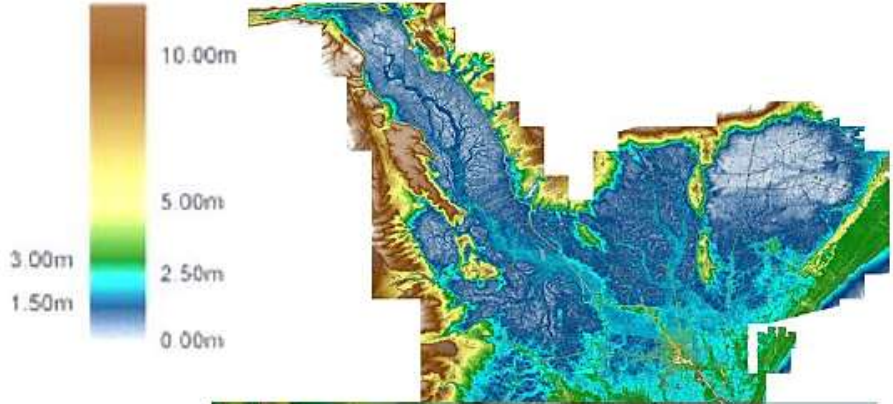
# Must Farm

<http://www.mustfarm.com/>



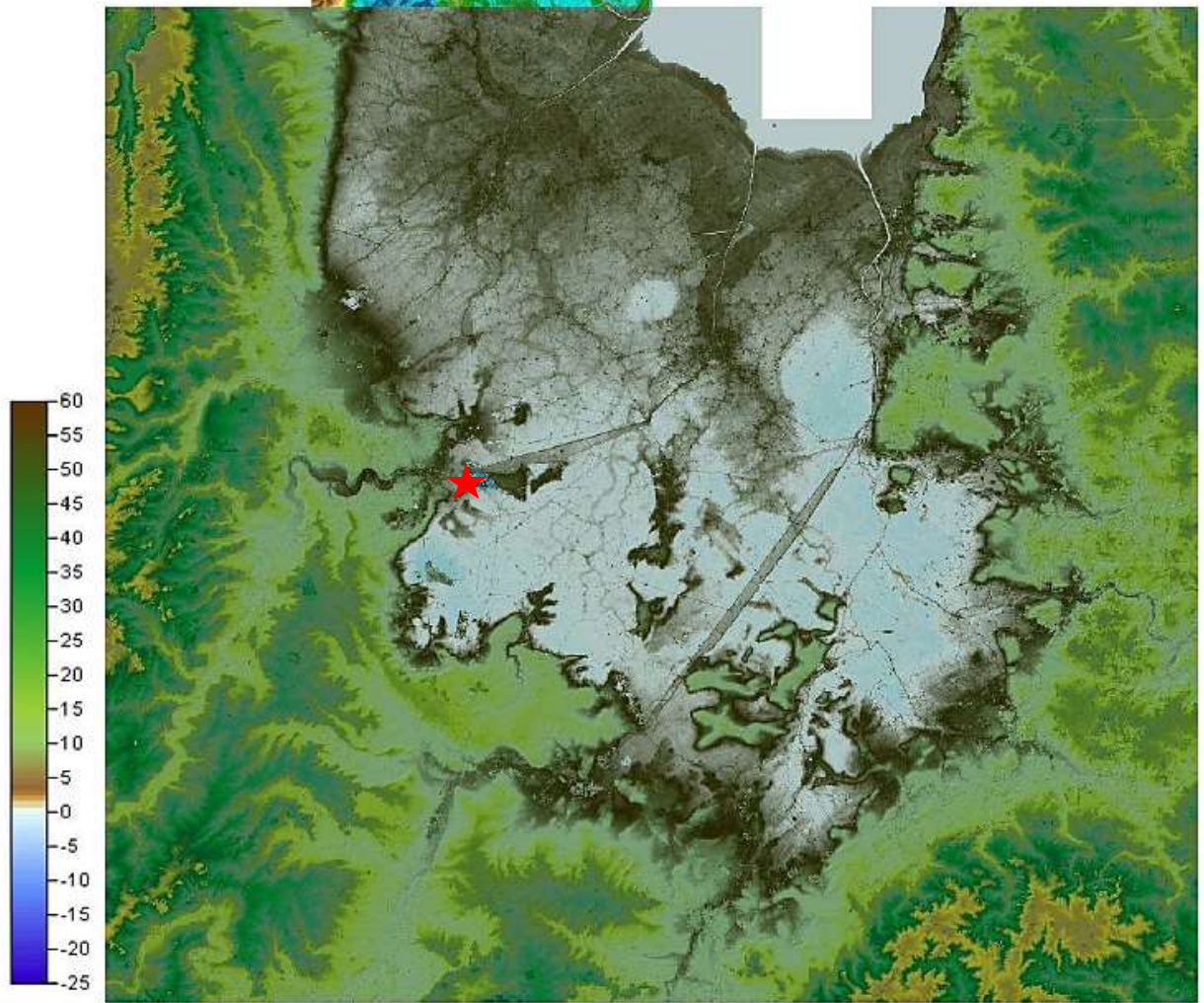
The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for 'Must Farm Archaeology Community'. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the Facebook logo, a 'Sign Up' button, and login fields for 'Email or Phone' and 'Password'. Below the navigation bar is a large photo of an archaeological excavation site, showing several earthenware pots and fragments of pottery on the ground. In the bottom left corner of the page, there is a profile picture of the community, which is a dark square with a stylized 'M' logo and the text 'Mustfarm'. To the right of the profile picture, the page name 'Must Farm Archaeology Community' is displayed. Below the page name are navigation tabs for 'Timeline', 'About', 'Photos', 'Likes', and 'Videos'. At the bottom of the page, there is a promotional banner that says 'Take a look at what Must Farm Archaeology is saying on Facebook.' with 'Log in or sign up for Facebook today.' and buttons for 'Log In' and 'Sign Up'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Create Page' button and a 'Recent' section showing the year '2015'.

<https://twitter.com/MustFarm>



# Fens Topographic Model 2013

M. Redding



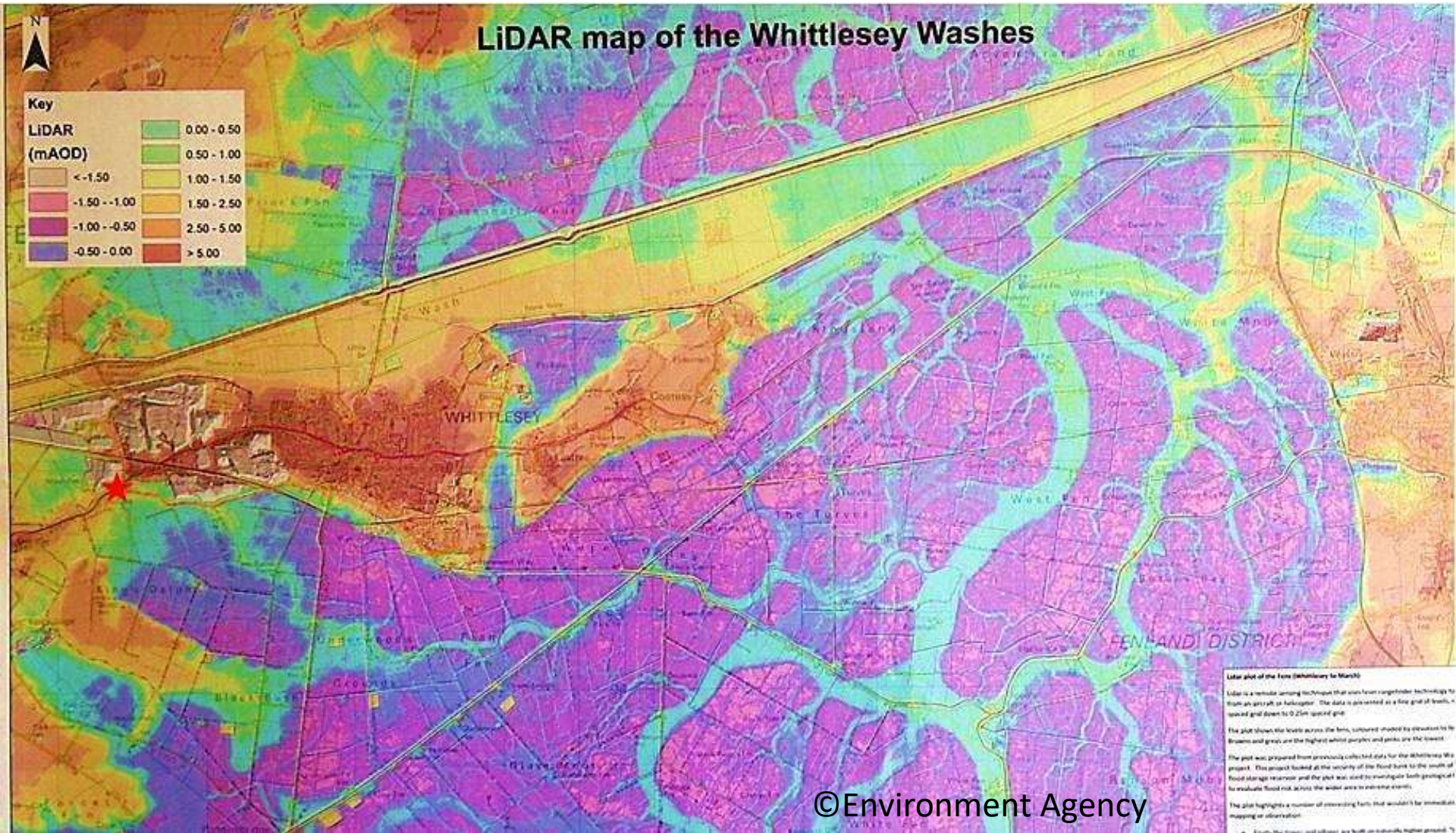
# LiDAR map of the Whittlesey Washes



**Key**

**LiDAR (mAOD)**

0.00 - 0.50
0.50 - 1.00
1.00 - 1.50
1.50 - 2.50
2.50 - 5.00
> 5.00
< -1.50
-1.50 - -1.00
-1.00 - -0.50
-0.50 - 0.00



**LiDAR plot of the Fens (Whittlesey to March)**

LiDAR is a remote sensing technique that uses laser rangefinder technology to map an aircraft or helicopter. The data is presented as a fine grid of points, spaced and down to 0.25m spaced grid.

The plot shows the levels across the fens, coloured coded by elevation to be Browns and greys are the highest whilst purples and pinks are the lowest.

The plot was prepared from previously collected data for the Whittlesey WMA project. This project looked at the security of the flood bank to the south of flood storage reservoir and the plot was used to investigate both geologists to evaluate flood risk across the wider area to extreme events.

The plot highlights a number of interesting facts that wouldn't be immediate mapping or observation.

• Both the brown and yellow are both an extremely higher ground.

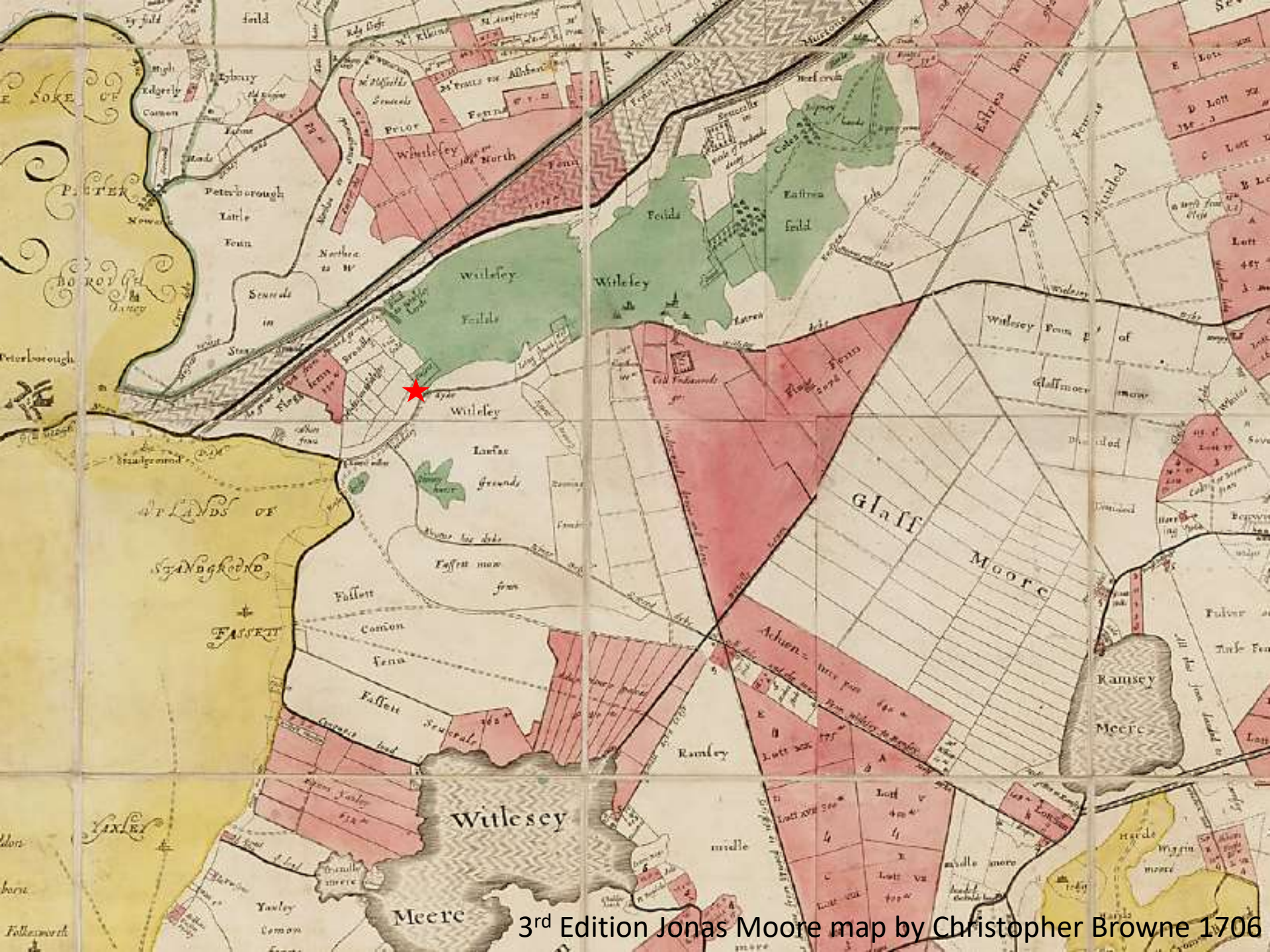
©Environment Agency



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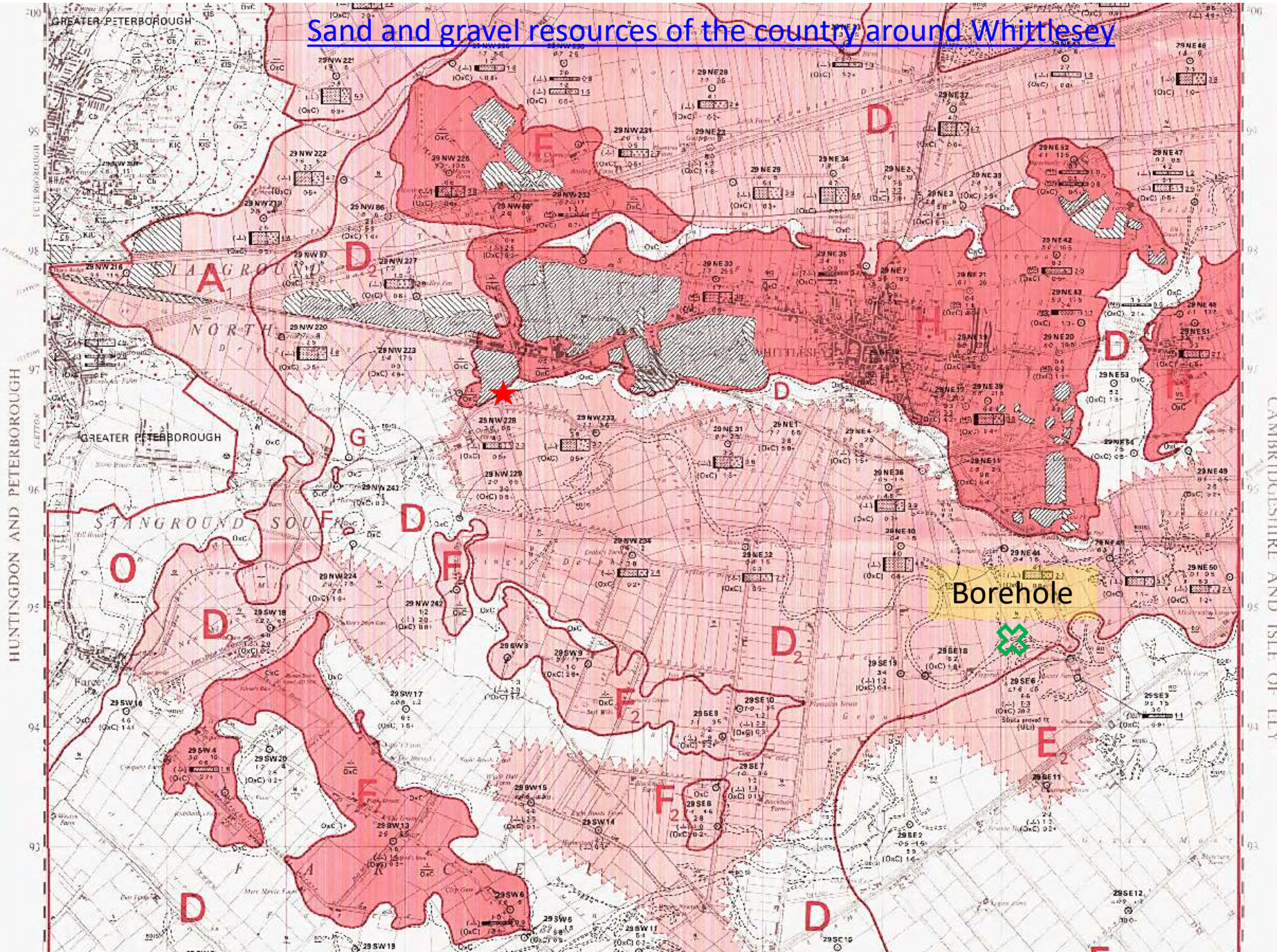


© CAU



3rd Edition Jonas Moore map by Christopher Browne 1706

# Sand and gravel resources of the country around Whittlesey



Borehole

HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND ISLE OF ELY





# Geology of Britain viewer



[More BGS map viewers](#)

- Surface Geology
- 3D Models
- Borehole Scans
- Earthquake Timeline

## Borehole Scans

Click on a borehole to view scan.

### Borehole depth

- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 30m
- 30m+
- Unknown
- Confidential or Restricted

[More on boreholes](#)

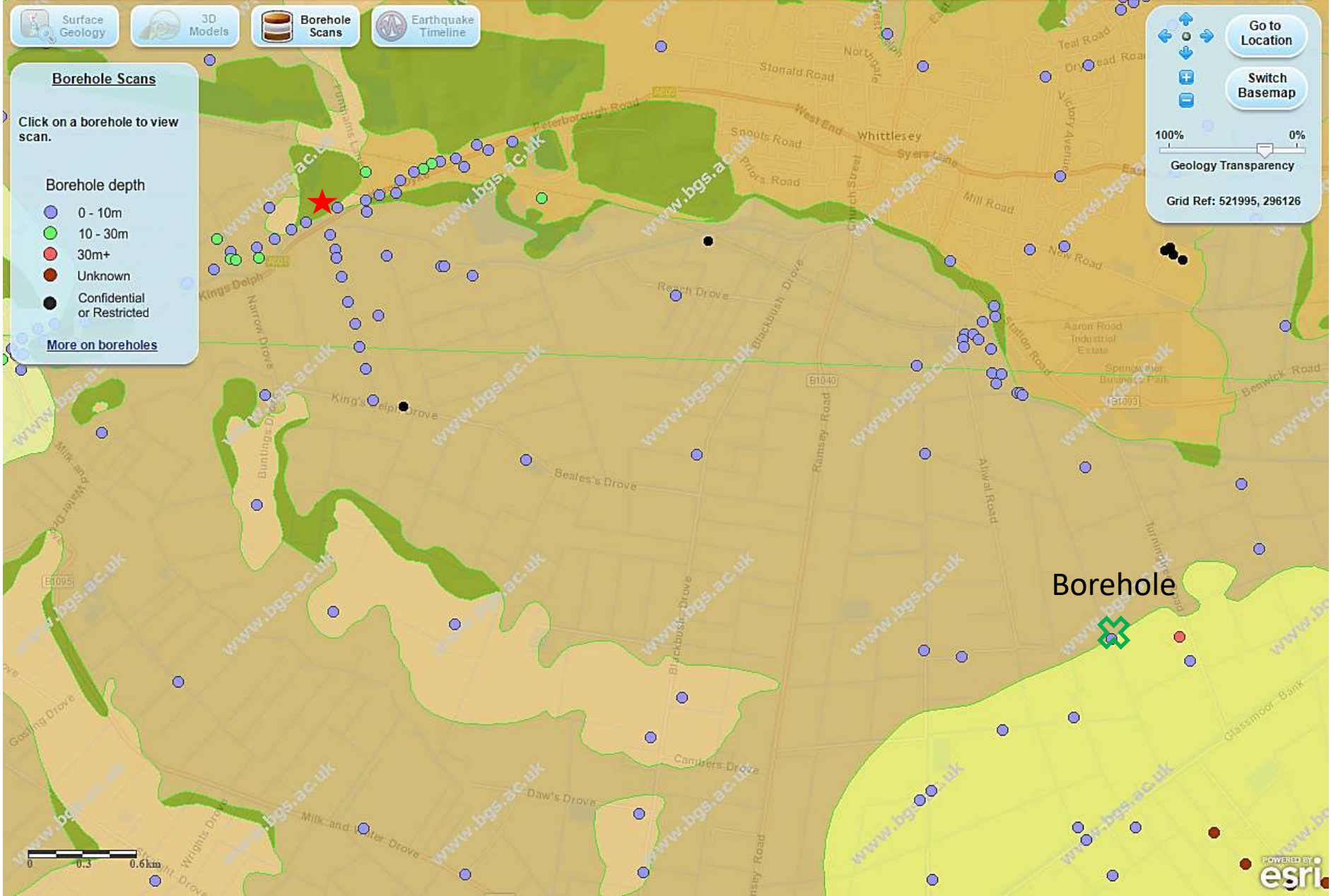
Go to Location

Switch Basemap

100% 0%

Geology Transparency

Grid Ref: 521995, 296126



Borehole



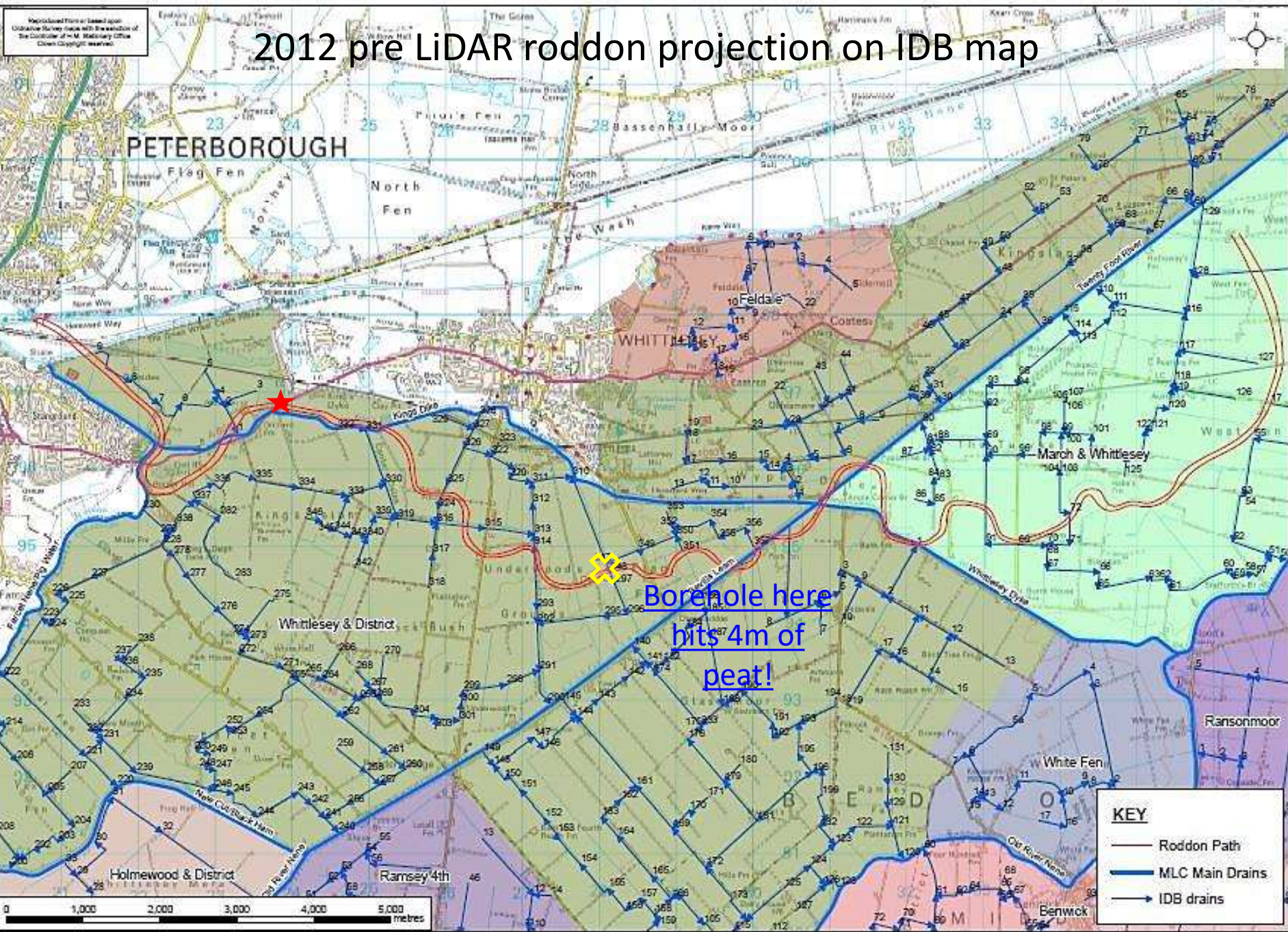


Borehole



# 2012 pre LiDAR roddon projection on IDB map

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Borehole here  
hits 4m of  
peat!

**KEY**

- Roddon Path
- MLC Main Drains
- IDB drains





**BOREHOLE RECORD**

TL 29 SE/29  
2820. 9455

BOREHOLE No.

17/2/S

Site Investigation

CLIENT  
British Gas Corporation

SITE  
H.G. Burton Ltd.

Sheet 1 of 1  
Job Ref. S1 1452

Daily Loggers	Water Level	Samples in situ tests and coring runs		N Value or Core Recov.	Depth	Description of Strata	Reduced Level	Legend
		From	To					
	2.12.75							
		0.75	1.20	U	0.60	Firm grey TOPSOIL.		
		1.25		D	1.00	Soft dark brown PEAT.		
		1.75	2.20	C	4	Soft to firm blue/grey silty CLAY with a trace of peat.		
		1.75		D				
		2.60		D				
		2.80	3.35	C				
		2.90		D	6			
		4.00	4.45	U				
		4.50		D	4.25			
		5.20		D		Soft to firm dark brown PEAT.		
		5.30		W				
		6.30		D				
		6.80	7.25	U				
		7.30		D	8.20	Stiff pale grey laminated silty CLAY.		
		8.30		D				
		9.00		D				
		9.40	9.85	U				
		9.90		D	9.90			

— c.0.00m ODN

Barroway  
Drove  
Bed.  
Saltmarsh

Stable  
freshwater  
Condition.  
Fen/swamp

Tidal influence  
Brackish perhaps



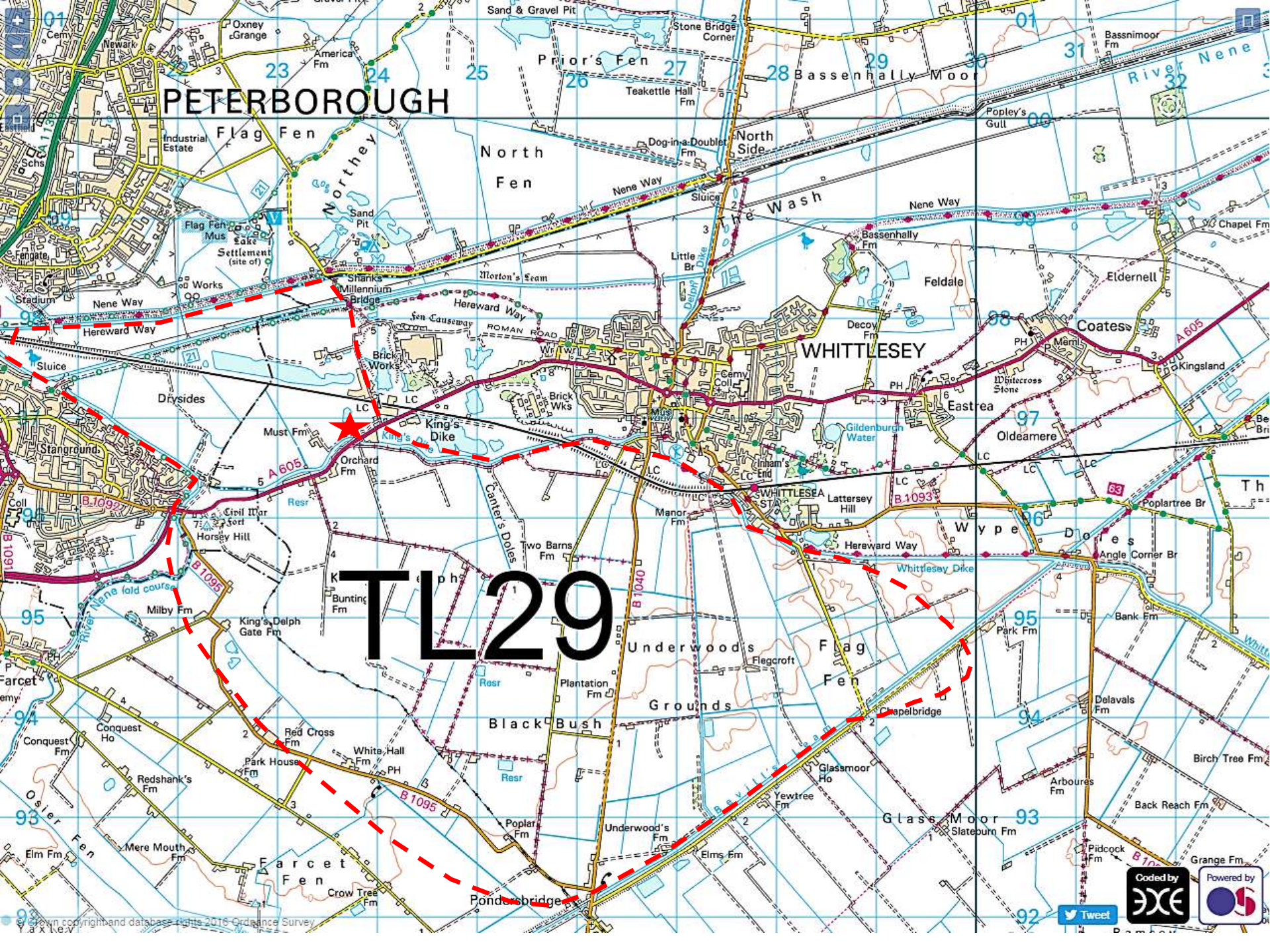
Core Diameter  
Cable penetration - 150mm

Remarks:  
Slow water seepage encountered at 7.10m.

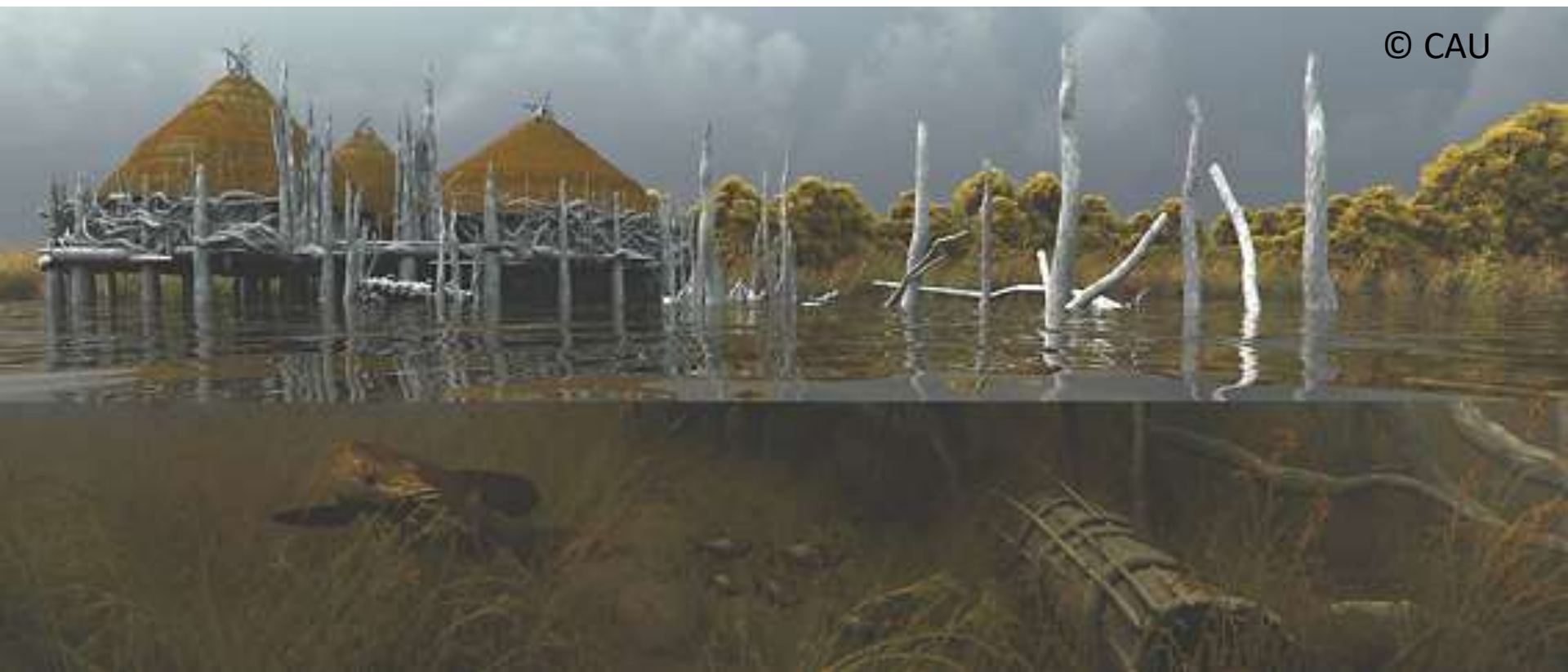
# PETERBOROUGH

# WHITTLESEY

# TL29



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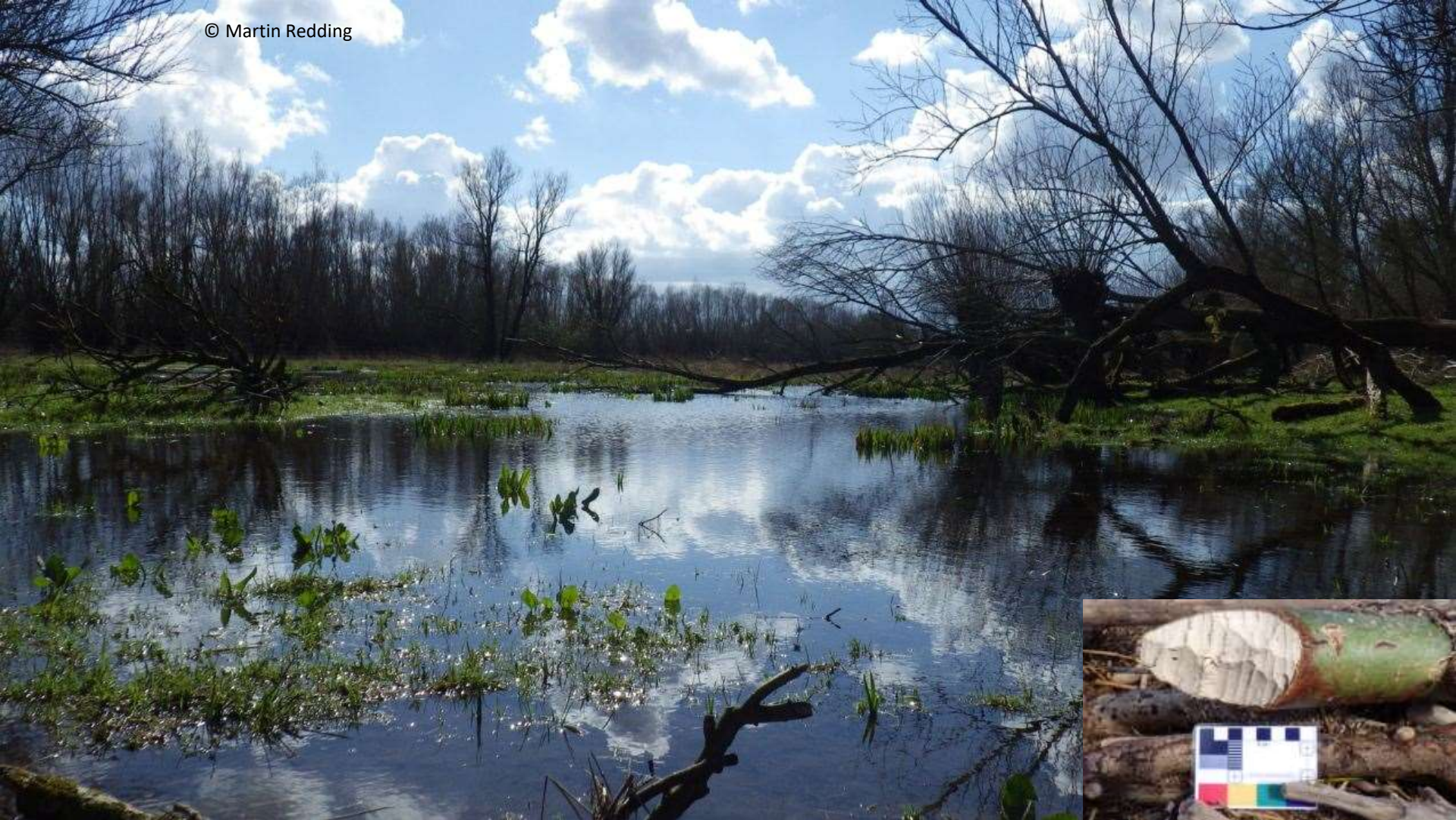


© Marcus Abbott

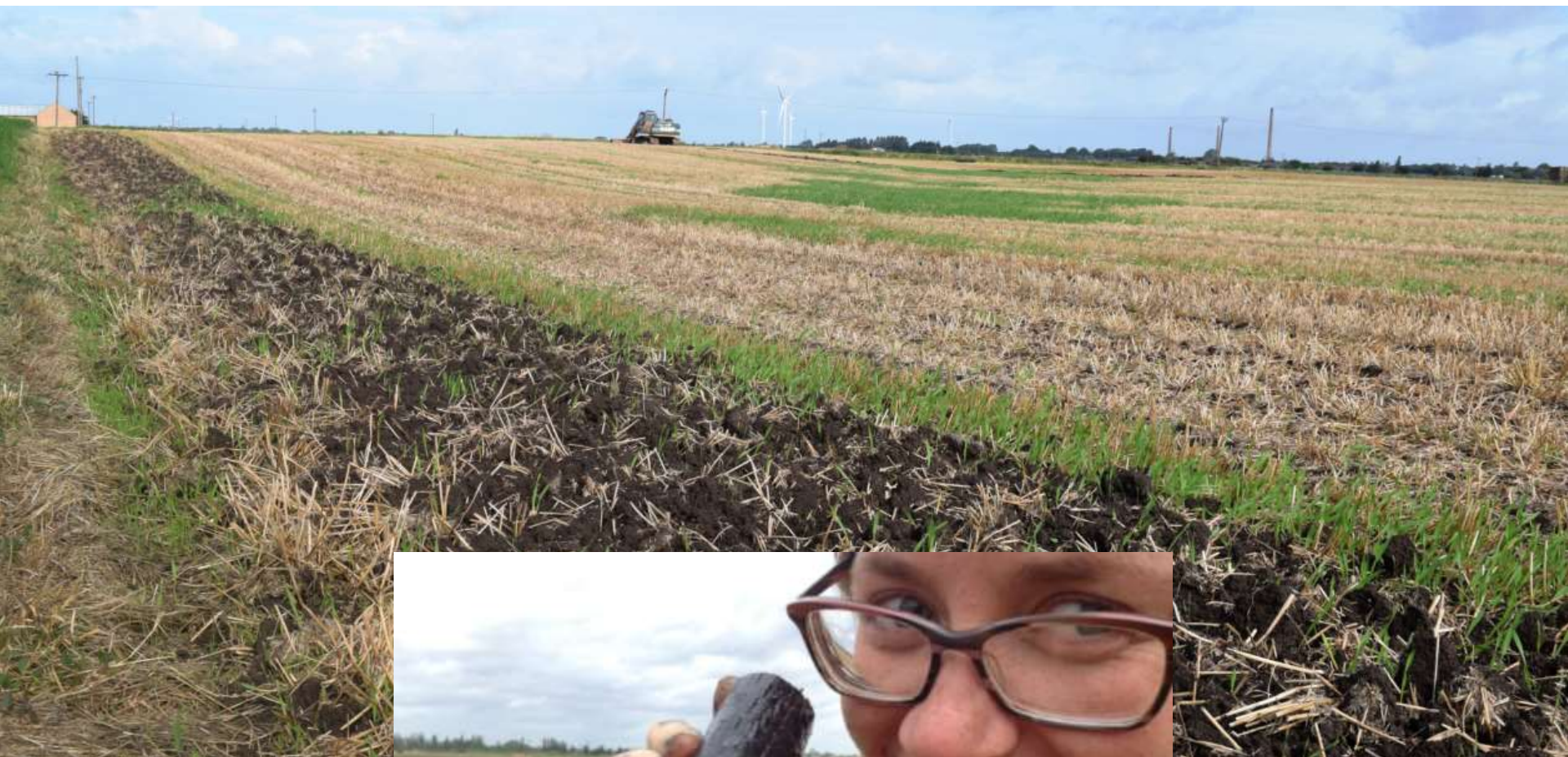


Biesbosch, Holland. Old undrained fen, farmland turned back into fen set within a freshwater delta. Beavers introduced post war to manage woodland, rivers & fen.

© Martin Redding









What Must Farm channel c.1,500BC might have looked like...



# Longstock eel traps, River Test, Hampshire

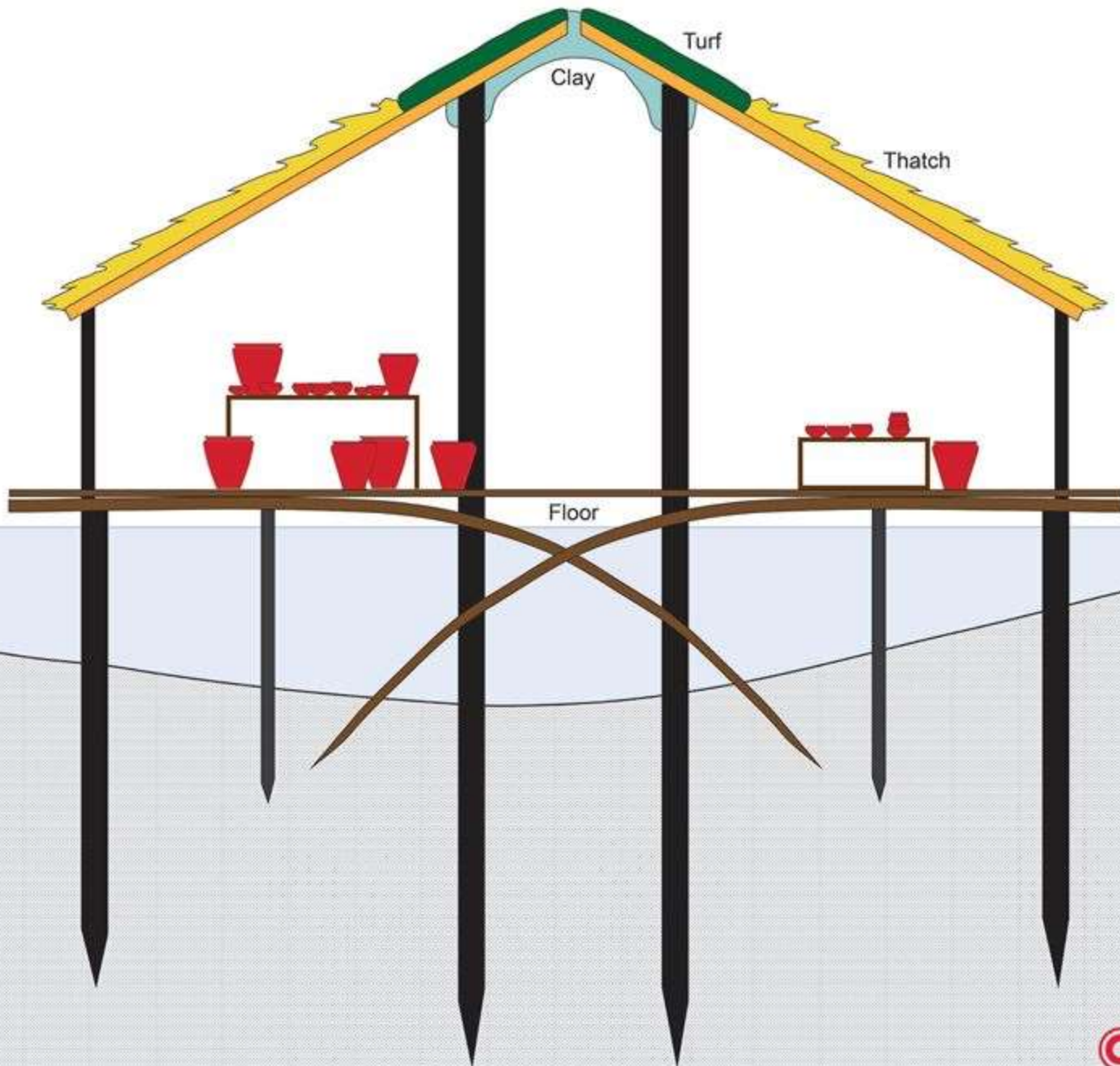


Changeable hydrodynamics: earlier Must Farm oak post alignment/causeway interrupting flow immediately up and downstream. Later settlement & palisade stifling flow up and downstream. Likely cause – additional sediment loading U/S & scour D/S? Differential habitat & ecosystem?



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Vaico River 20 miles west of Saigon, Vietnam. During scorched earth operation Jan 4 1966









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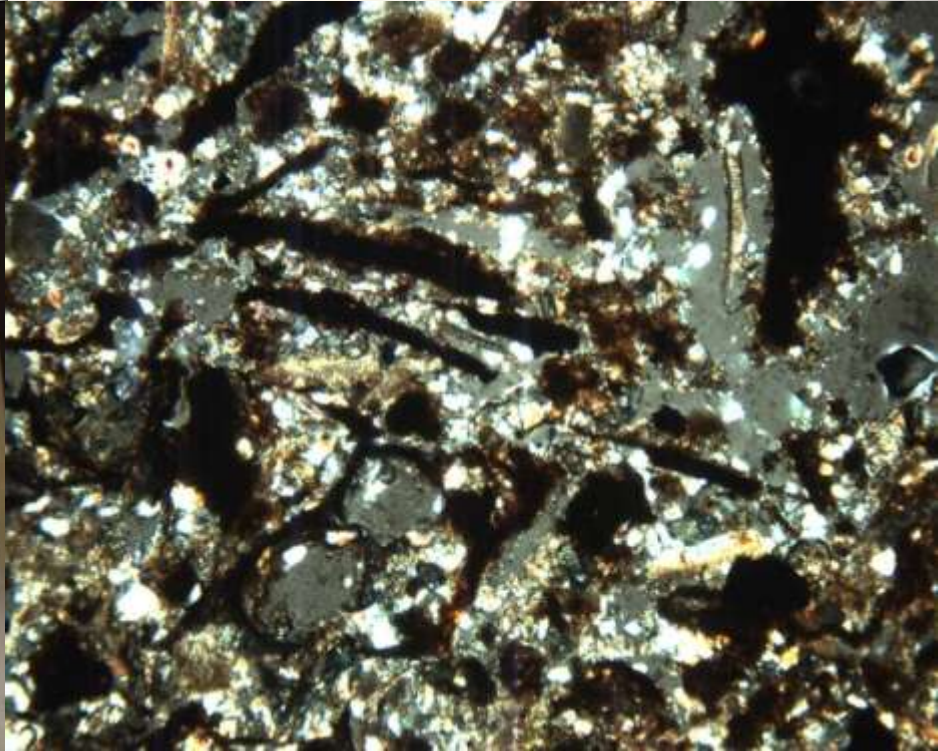


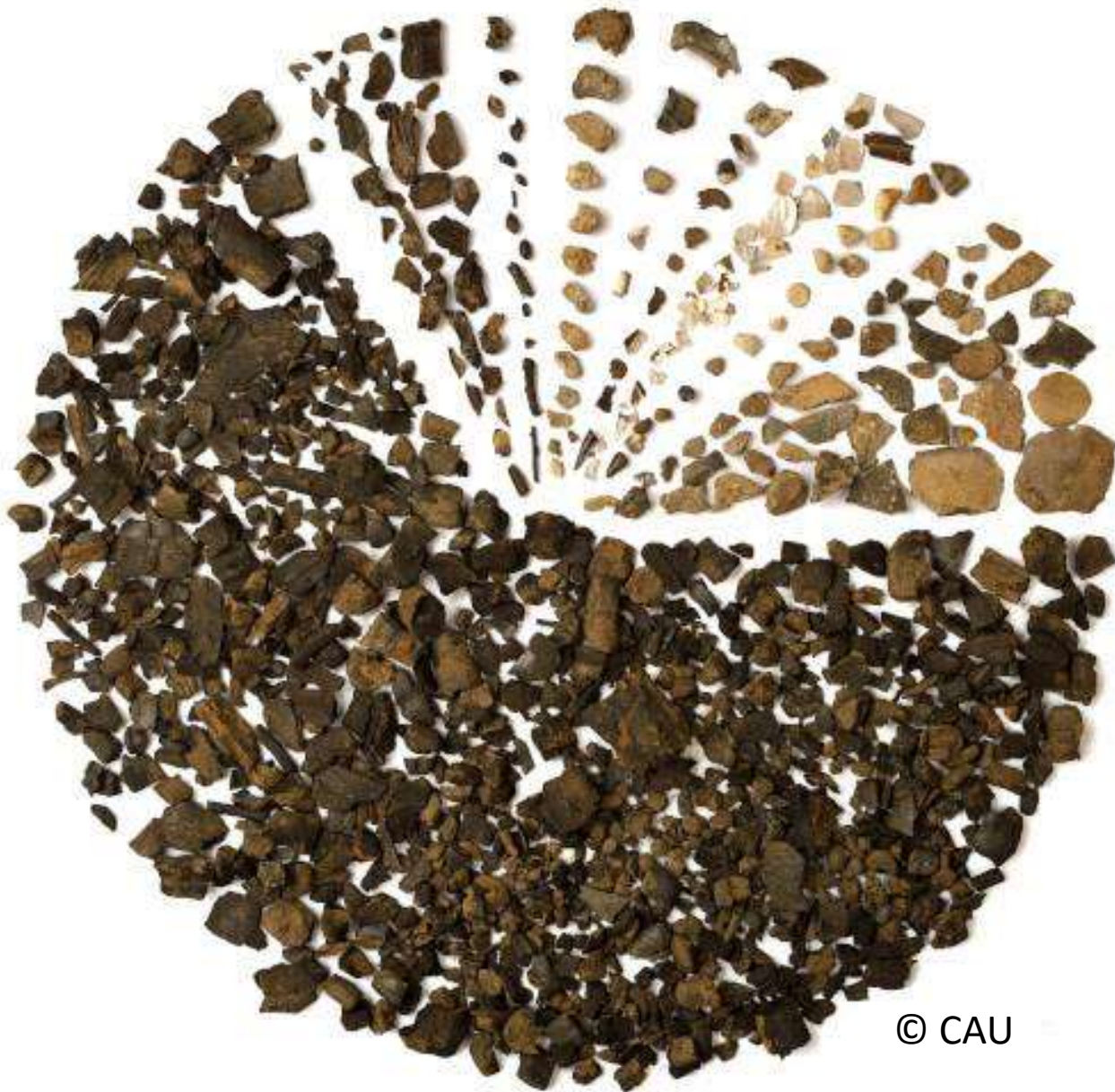
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## Boat Houses on Norfolk Broads



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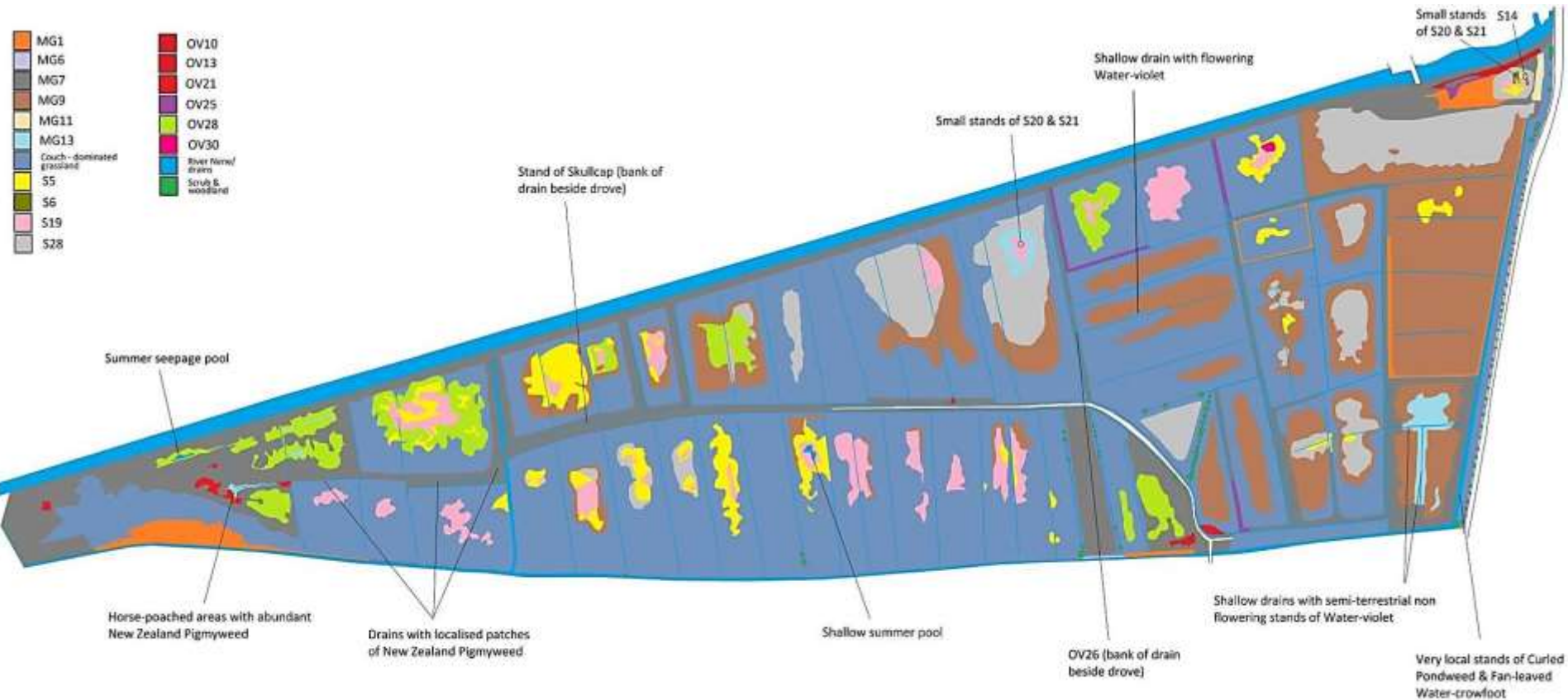
Swamp



Mire



Map 2 Provisional NVC plant community map for the High Wash (2016)



© Owen Mountfield



© Martin Redding





© Martin Redding

# Morton's Leam diverse macrophytes at Whittlesey Wash

© Martin Redding



© Martin Redding

# Relict roddon closing channel crossing Whittlesey Wash

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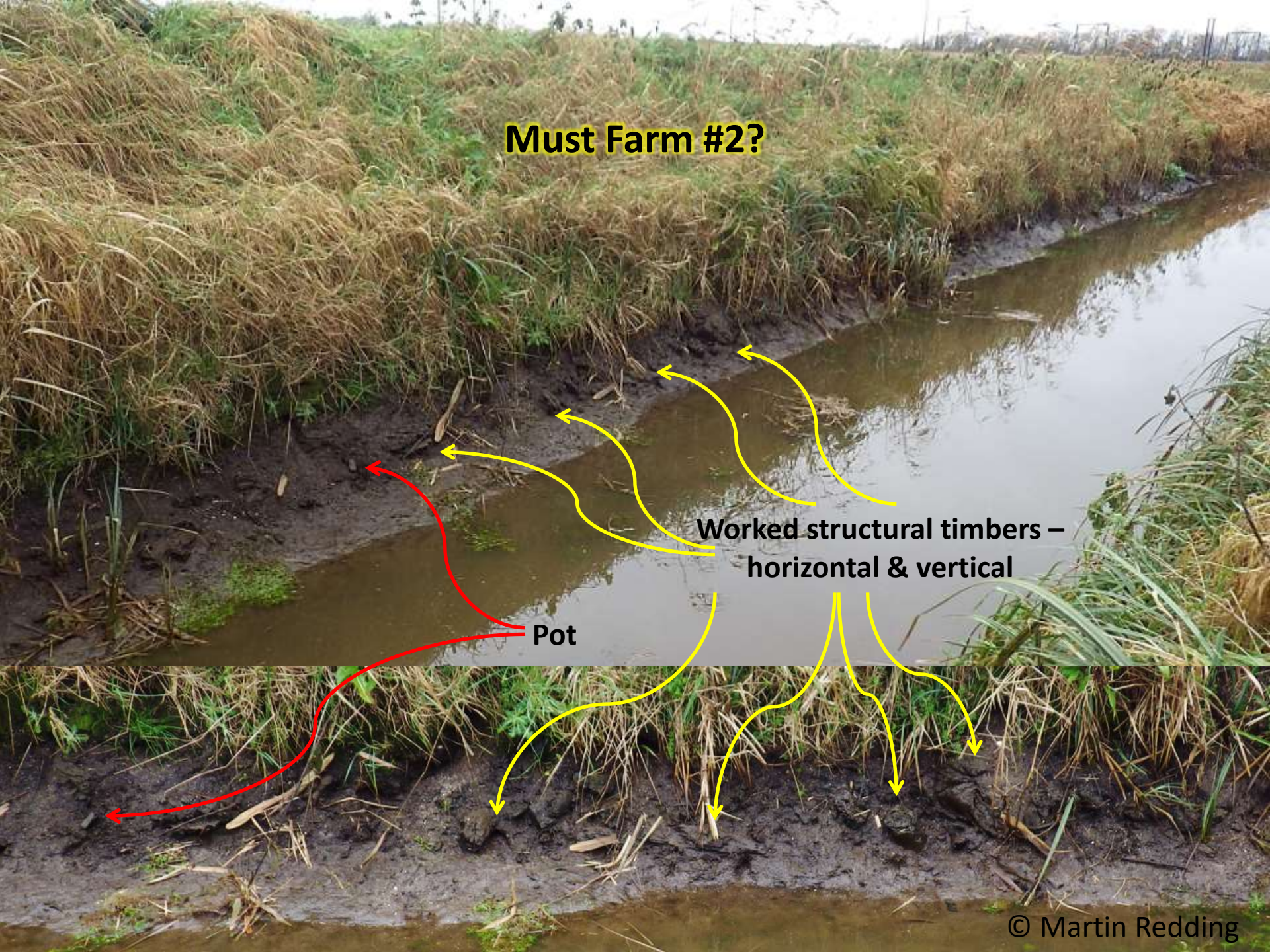
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# Must Farm #2?

Worked structural timbers –  
horizontal & vertical

Pot





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# THANK YOU!

**Acknowledgements:** Jonathan Graham, Ecologist, Owen Mountford, Ecologist, Richard Chadd, Senior Ecologist at the Environment Agency, Spalding, & Nina Kirkby, Senior Ecologist, at the Environment Agency, Brampton, Dr Rachel Ballantyne, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge & Cambridge Archaeological Unit.