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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION-PHASES 1 & 2  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT MANOR FARM  
LANGTOFT, LINCOLNSHIRE.

PART O.S.No.3400 AND LAND TO NORTH

MARCH 1994

See LOS. code for part.



Residential Development at Manor Farm, Langtoft, Lincolnshire.  
Part O.S. Field No. 3400 and land to the North.  
Archaeological Evaluation Phases 1 and 2.

TF 1237 1234

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Messrs. Scorer Clay Richardson, Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of Messrs. Reedman and Baxter, have commissioned Phases 1 and 2 of an archaeological evaluation in order to comply with the requirements of the South Kesteven Planning Department.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation has three phases; the 1st. Phase is a systematic artifact collection and analysis, and is followed by Phase 2 - a desk top evaluation. The total extent of Phase 3 - geophysical survey and trial excavations - will be determined by the findings of Phases 1 and 2 and consultation with the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.
- 1.3 The granting of outline planning permission for residential development will be dependent, in part, on the results of the archaeological evaluation.

2. Fieldwork methods and evaluation sources

- 2.1 Phases 1 and 2 of the archaeological evaluation have been carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist and the specification for the Archaeological Evaluation dated 28th. December, 1993.
- 2.2 A grid of 10 metre squares was set-out over the arable fields and coordinated to the topographical features shown on the 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map TF 1212-1312. Systematic artifact collection (fieldwalking) was carried out within each 10 metre square. The artifacts collected were evaluated and plotted to form distribution maps (Figs. 2 and 3) in order to identify any significant artifact clusters.
- 2.3 The fieldwalking survey was carried out between the 28th. February and 4th. March, 1994, when the thinly growing crop and well weathered soil, provided optimum conditions for artifact recovery.
- 2.4 The following sources were consulted in compiling the desk top appraisal.
  - i) The Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs.
  - ii) The National Library of Aerial Photographs, The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England, Swindon.
  - iii) Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Records, Lincoln.

2.5 Aerial photographs were plotted to a 1:2500 scale using the Mobius network.

### 3. Topography and geology

3.1 The land which is subject to the planning application is relatively flat and lies at approximately 6.00 metres above Ordnance datum.

3.2 The topsoil is a clayey, slightly silty loam overlying a gently undulating deposit of fen gravels which form locally the drift geology.

### 4. The desk top survey

4.1 The Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Records does not document any casual finds of archaeological artifacts from within the area of the planning application. However, approximately 80 metres east of the application area, the Lincolnshire S.M.R. records the location of a Roman coin hoard, and at 100 metres due north, in Langtoft Churchyard, a Roman 'urn'.

4.2 Most of the S.M.R. archaeological information within the application area is known from crop markings recorded on aerial photographs. The aerial photographs which have been examined display a complex pattern of crop markings. The archaeological features which are represented by clearly defined markings have been plotted on figure 1. Many of the markings which have not been plotted represent peri-glacial frost cracking and undoubtedly mask less clearly defined archaeological crop markings.

4.3 The archaeological crop markings have been plotted on figure 1. The crop markings have been numbered and described below :-

- 1) Double ditched trackway, ditches approx. 12 metres apart, aligned at right angles to the fen edge. Prehistoric or Roman.
- 2) Ring ditch c. 15 metres diameter. Possibly remains of Bronze age burial mound.
- 3) Broad linear ditch which cuts or is cut by (1) or (2). Prehistoric or later.
- 4) Linear ditch with a right angle turn at the west end and a junction with a ditch running to the N-W. Prehistoric?
- 5) Part of a double ditched trackway? Ditches approx. 6 m. apart. Prehistoric or Roman.



- 6) Circle of pits or interrupted ditches - very weak feature  
Possibly Neolithic or Bronze age.
- 7) Similar to (6)
- 8) Linear ditch.
- 9) Large pit or pond.
- 10) Linear ditch. May be a continuation of (4) and, with an approximately parallel weaker mark to the N-W, may form a double ditched trackway. Prehistoric or Roman.
- 11) Curved ditch which appears to link with (10).
- 12) Small rectangular enclosure?
- 13) Continuation of (1) with ditches at right angles to the north - west.
- 14) Linear ditch which appears to join (13), although may link to (8).

## 5. The fieldwalking survey

- 5.1 A total of 312 full and part 10 metre squares were systematically searched and artifacts collected. Post-medieval (mostly 19th. century) pottery and clay pipe fragments formed a conspicuous background density and certainly represents manuring over the period of relatively recent arable cultivation. All of the recovered artifacts were analysed and sorted into the following categories :- worked flint, burnt flint, 'pot boilers', Roman pottery, shell tempered pottery and medieval pottery. The densities of these significant artifacts have been plotted onto two maps, Figure 2-Flintwork and Burnt stone and Figure 3 - Distribution of Pottery.
- 5.2 It can be seen on figure 2 that the number of worked flints recovered was not very large, and the maximum number in a 10 metre square was three. Most of the worked flint is situated in the south field, with only a small number in the north field. It may be that the small quantity in the south field is due to the undulating subsoil, with the plough only raising worked flint from areas of higher subsoil. The burnt flint tends to follow a similar pattern to the worked flint in the south field. It is known that the north field was permanent pasture, possibly with ridge and furrow, until around 40 - 50 years ago, and the plough may not have reduced the land sufficiently to produce greater quantities of flintwork. Altogether both fields produced a total of 9 flint tools - 1 barbed and tanged arrowhead and 8 scrapers.
- 5.3 The density of 'pot boilers' shown on figure 2 tend to fit

into the general distribution of flintwork pattern in the south field. Greater densities of 'pot boilers' in the north field are somewhat of an anomaly and may relate more to medieval activity than prehistoric, especially when viewed in conjunction with the medieval pottery distribution (Fig.3).

- 5.4 The pottery distributions shown on figure 3 display a very thin spread of Roman, shell tempered and medieval pottery in the south field, probably indicating no settlement in the immediate area. Most of the Roman and shell tempered pottery recovered from the south field is very abraded. As with the 'pot boilers' the medieval pottery is very prominent in the north field with up to 12 unabraded shards in a 10 metre square. It can be seen that the medieval pottery tends to cluster in two distinct areas, perhaps representing settlement locations. Once again, as in the south field, the Roman pottery in the north field tends to be very abraded. The shell tempered pottery is less abraded in the north field and although not identifiable to any particular period other than iron age, Roman or medieval, on balance it is probably of medieval date, corresponding in distribution with that of the positively identified medieval pottery.

## 6. Discussion

- 6.1 The fieldwalking survey did not produce a sufficient density of worked flint to suggest the location of prehistoric occupation, although the undulating subsoil in the south field and the probable lack of deep ploughing in the north field may explain the paucity. However, strong evidence for traces of prehistoric occupation, particularly in the south field, is present in the multi-period cropmarks. Moreover, in areas where the sub soil is deep or where ploughing has not been deep, preservation may be very good.
- 6.2 The north field is situated very near to the core of the medieval settlement of Langtoft and it is not surprising that some form of medieval activity, as shown by the medieval pottery concentrations, may be present at this location.
- 6.3 Further archaeological work is required at the site of the outline planning application and will be determined by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.



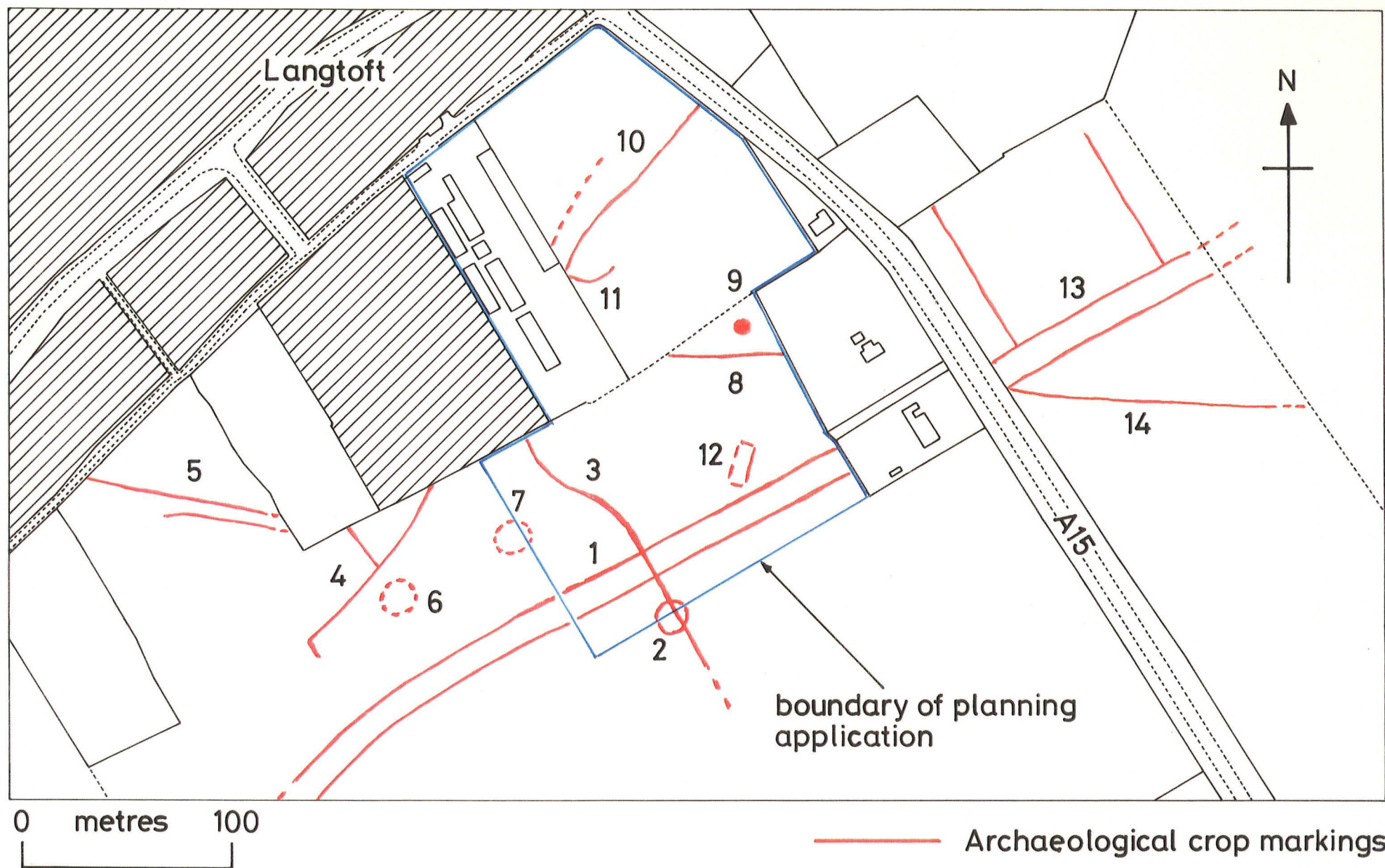
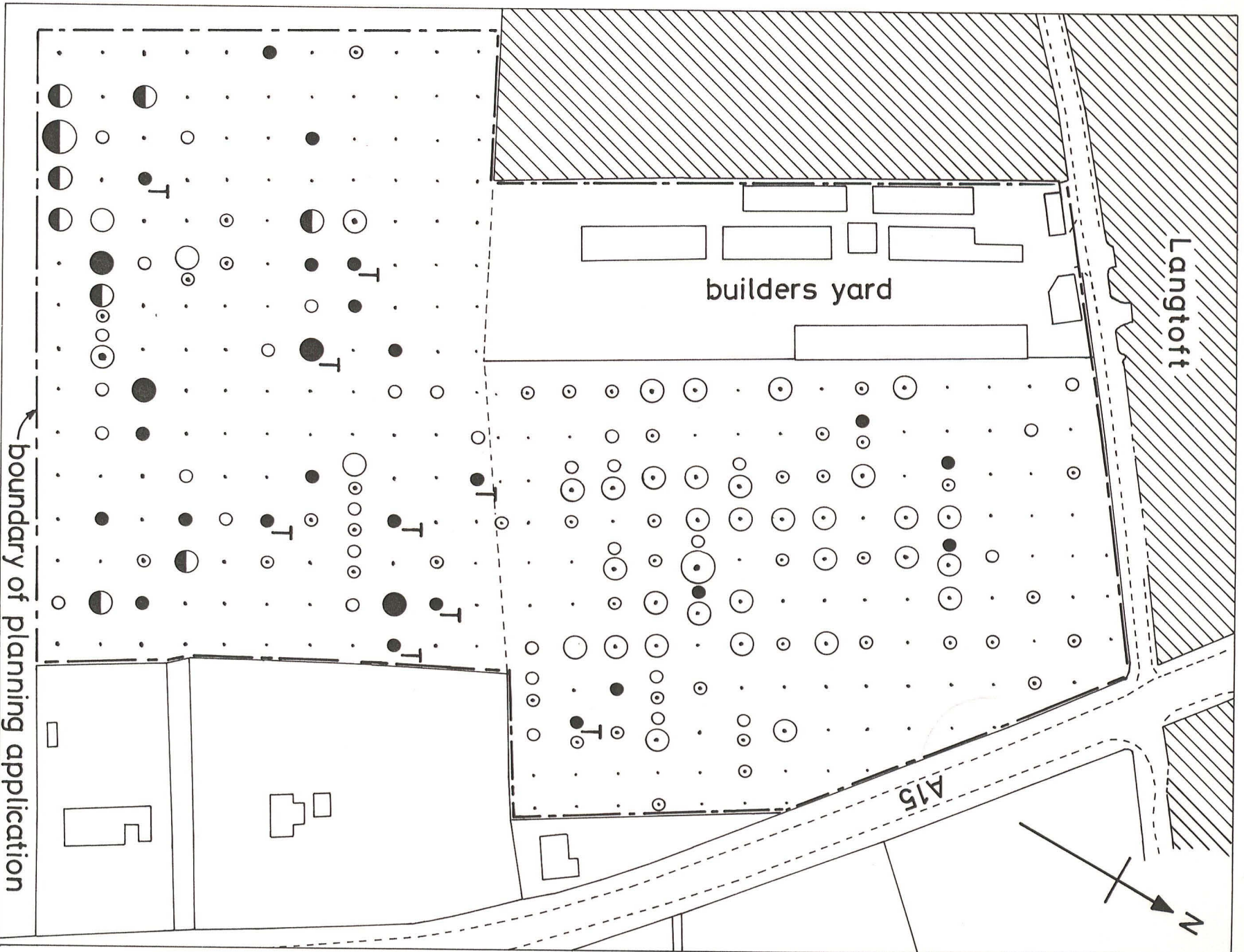
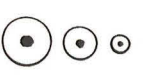


FIG.1 CROP MARKINGS



T = Flint Tools



Nos. of artifacts  
1  
2-3  
4-6

FIG.2 FLINTWORK AND BURNT STONES



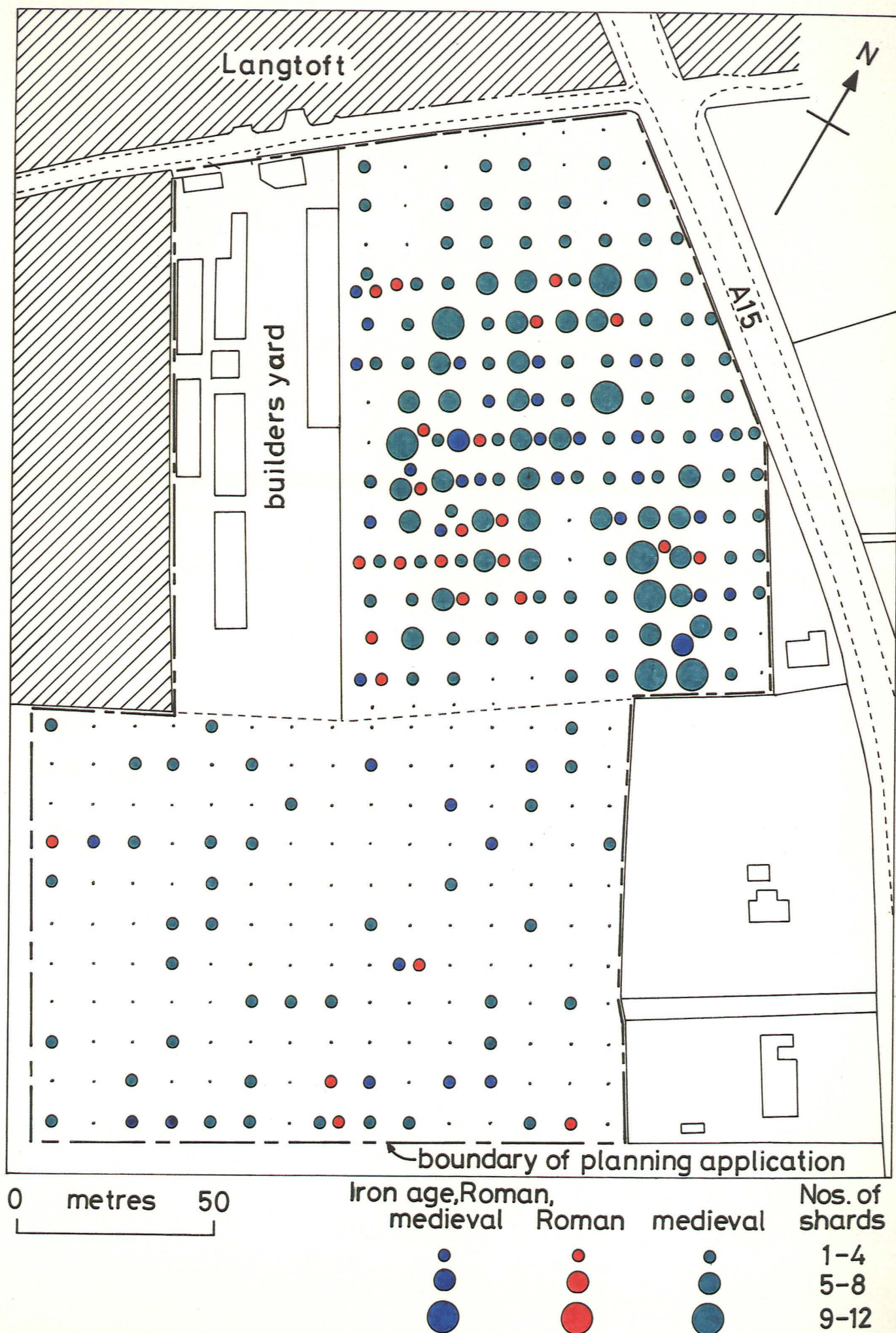


FIG.3 DISTRIBUTION OF POTTERY