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**Leicestershire County Council  
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COUNTY COUNCIL  
MUSEUMS, ARTS AND  
RECORDS SERVICE  
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DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS AND ARTS

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF  
THE LINE OF THE M1 MOTORWAY  
FROM JUNCTION 21 TO 21A**

by

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## **1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Motorways Widening Unit of the Department of Transport, through their consultants ASH Partnership, have commissioned the Archaeological Survey Team of Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service to survey the area around Junction 21 of the M1 Motorway and then fields on each side of the Motorway up to the projected Junction 21A at Kirby Muxloe. The brief was to discover any archaeological constraint to the widening of the M1 or to the re-design of the junction with the M69 Motorway. In order to make the archaeological results more interpretable wider areas were surveyed than strictly necessary for the brief. This was not charged to the clients but used the resources of the Team as part of the County research strategy.

The survey was undertaken in Spring 1992 by Richard Knox and Peter Liddle, with assistance from Jenny Kitchen, a student from the University of East Anglia.

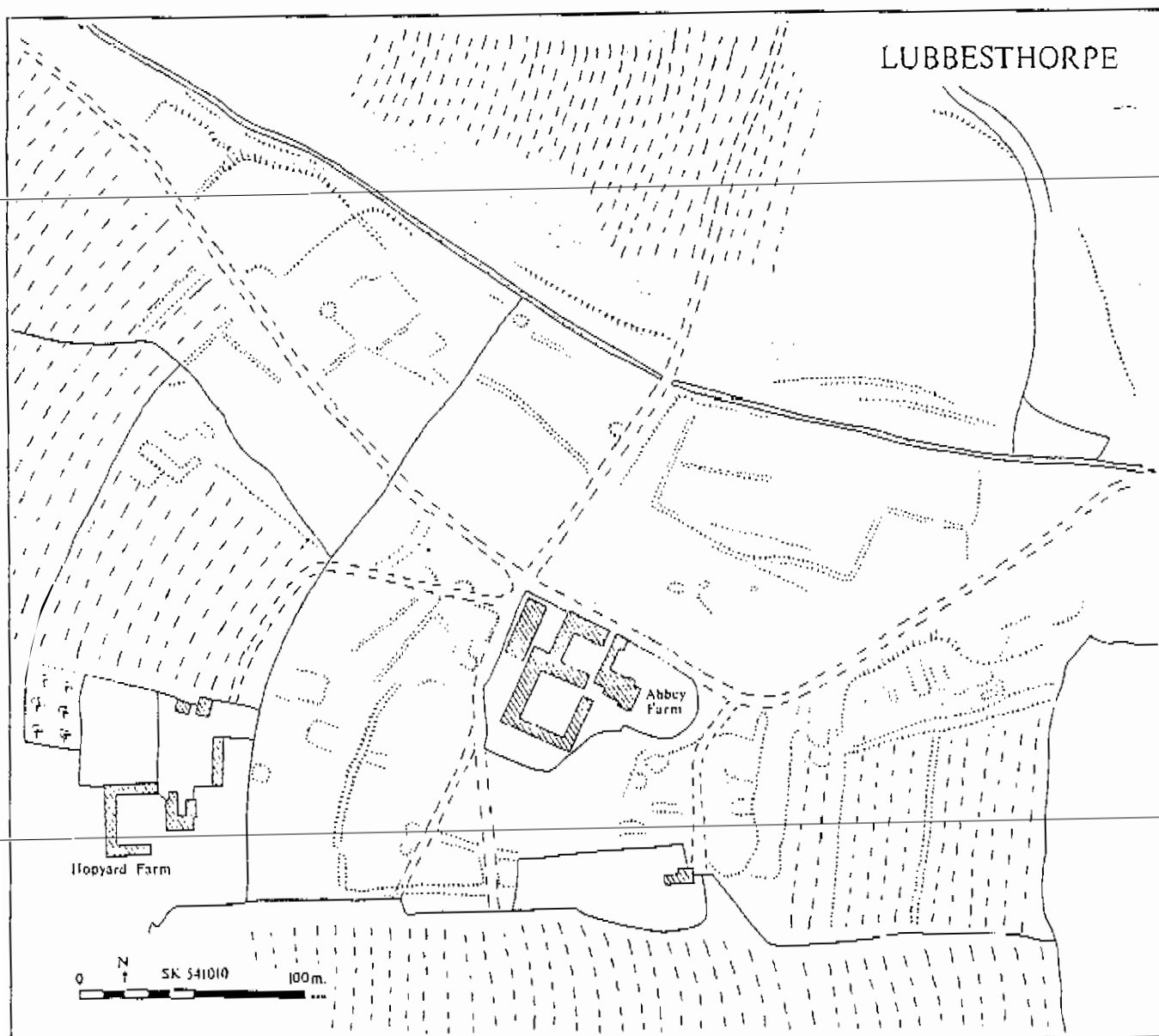
### **METHODOLOGY**

The aim of the report is to synthesise all the available archaeological information for the defined survey area, including survey results, aerial photographs and the contents of the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record.

No crop marks are known within the survey area, but all available aerial photographs have been scanned.

All ploughed fields have been fieldwalked using the Leicestershire Museums standard 'traverse and stint' method, which involves collecting archaeological material every 20m across the field giving a 10% sample. This should allow the identification of most archaeological sites as well as providing academically valuable "off-site" material. All material seen (including Post Medieval pottery) was collected. Detailed methods of working are set out in Liddle 1982.

The surviving earthworks of Lubbesthorpe DMV have been surveyed by Fred Hartley using a cross-head and earthworks north of the lane (which have been tipped on during Motorway construction) have been reconstructed from aerial photographs, particularly the RAF verticals of the 1940s.



## 1. Lubbesthorpe Village Earthworks

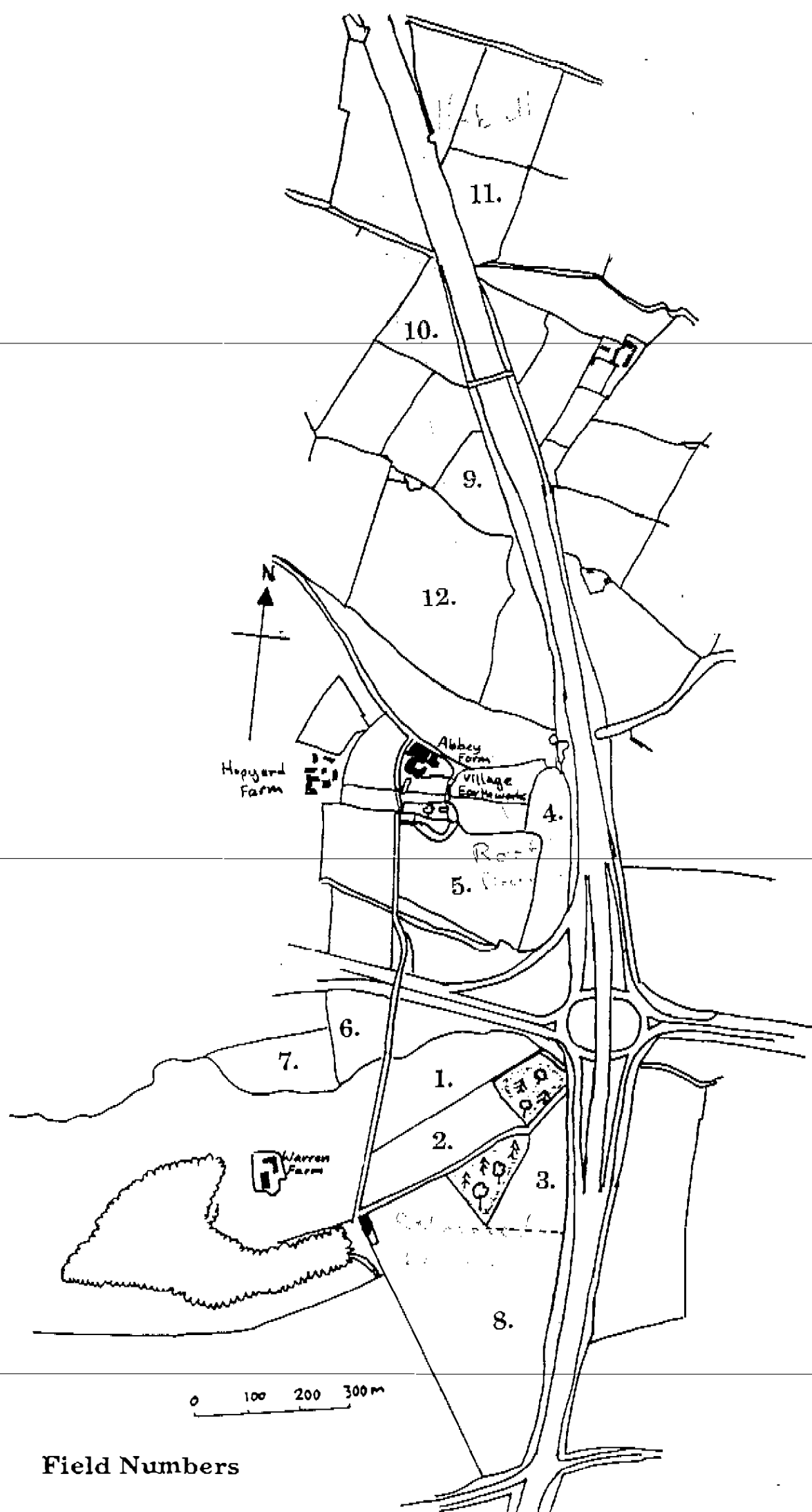


## **2. EARTHWORKS & BUILDINGS**

The major earthwork site within the survey area is that of Lubbesthorpe Deserted Medieval Village located around Abbey and Hopyard Farms. The surviving earthworks are of poor quality and much has been masked by tipping. Earthworks representing house platforms survive between the two farms and south of the road east of Abbey Farm. Small-scale rescue excavations in 1975 when a water-pipe was cut across the latter field show there is well preserved below-ground archaeology (fig.2), consisting of the stone foundations of Medieval buildings and also a small Roman occupation site.

Some of the earthworks are probably related to a mansion of the Hastings family (Earls of Huntingdon) which is known to have been built on the site in the sixteenth century. Abbey Farm seems to incorporate substantial remains of this mansion and has considerable interest (ex inf. D. Smith). Hopyard Farm has evidence of early seventeenth century fabric and may originally have been the 'home farm' of the Hastings mansion.

A certain amount of ridge and furrow, the result of early arable farming, survives as earthworks within the survey area. While some of this represents the Medieval Open Field systems of Lubbesthorpe village, some is of the 'narrow rig' type which appears to be Post-Medieval, possibly as late as early nineteenth century. This is probably the case with the ridge and furrow adjoining the motorway between Abbey Farm and the Motorway Service Area (much of which was probably added to the parish only when Leicester Forest was enclosed in the early 17th century).

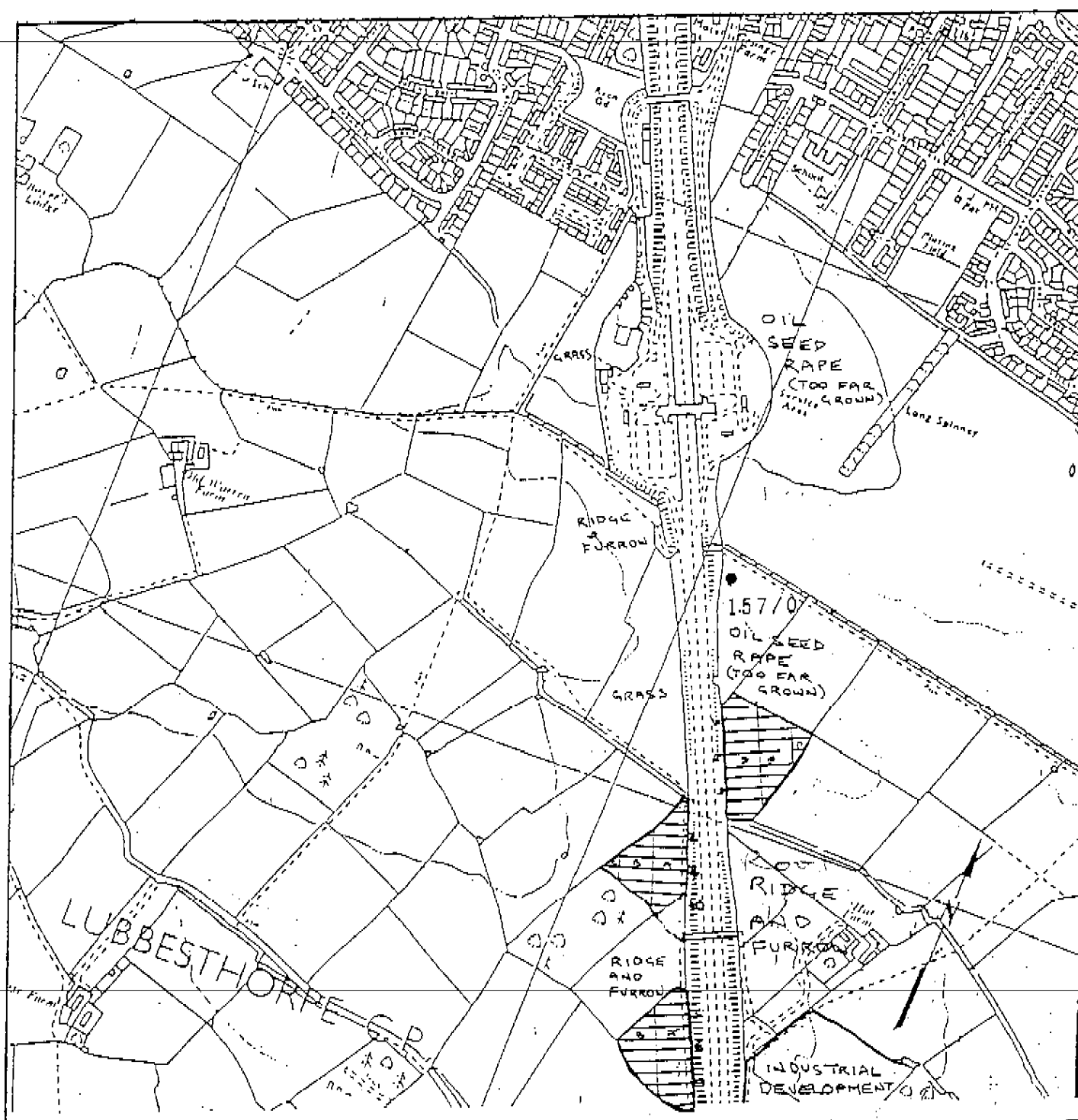


3. Field Numbers

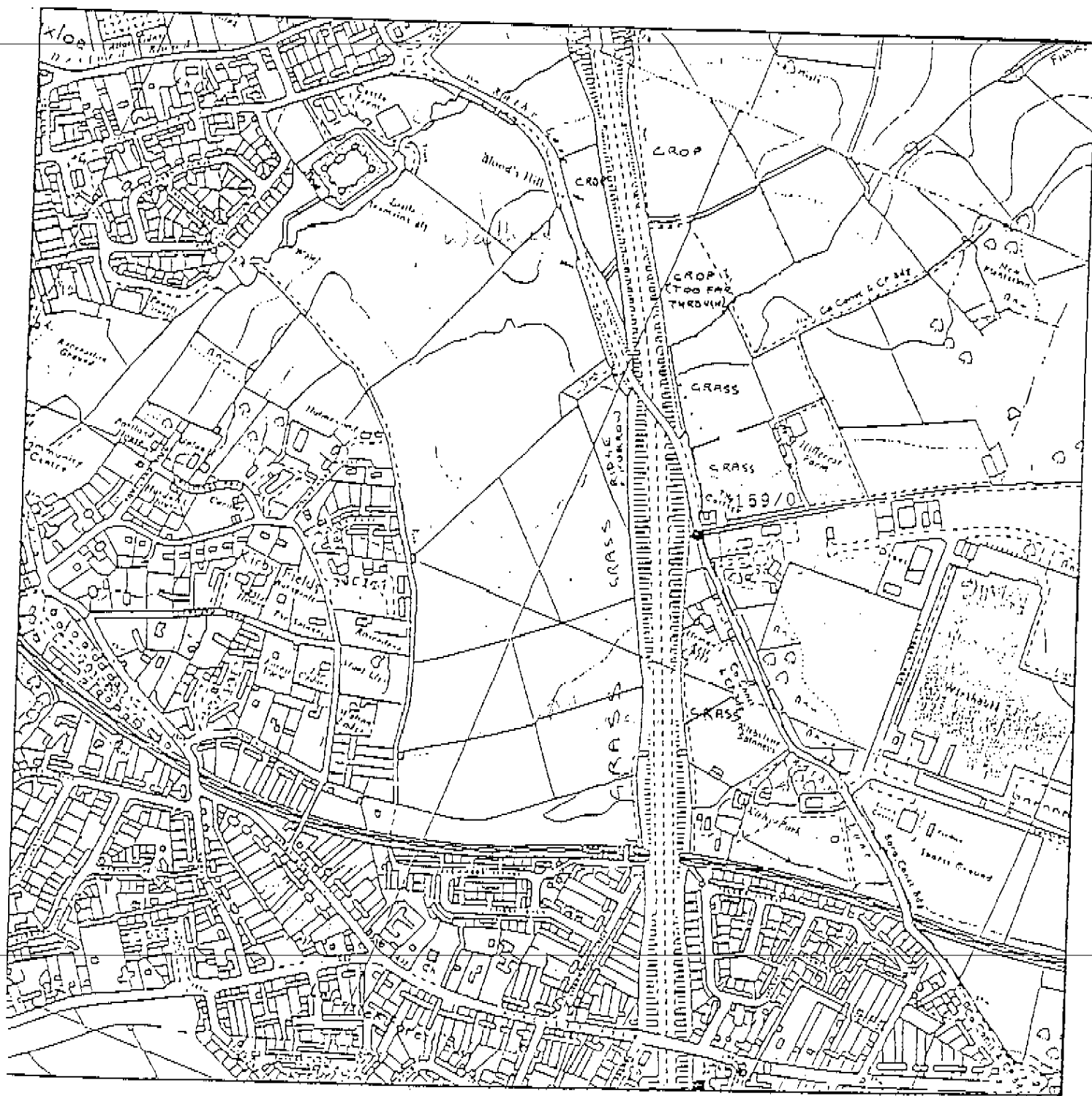




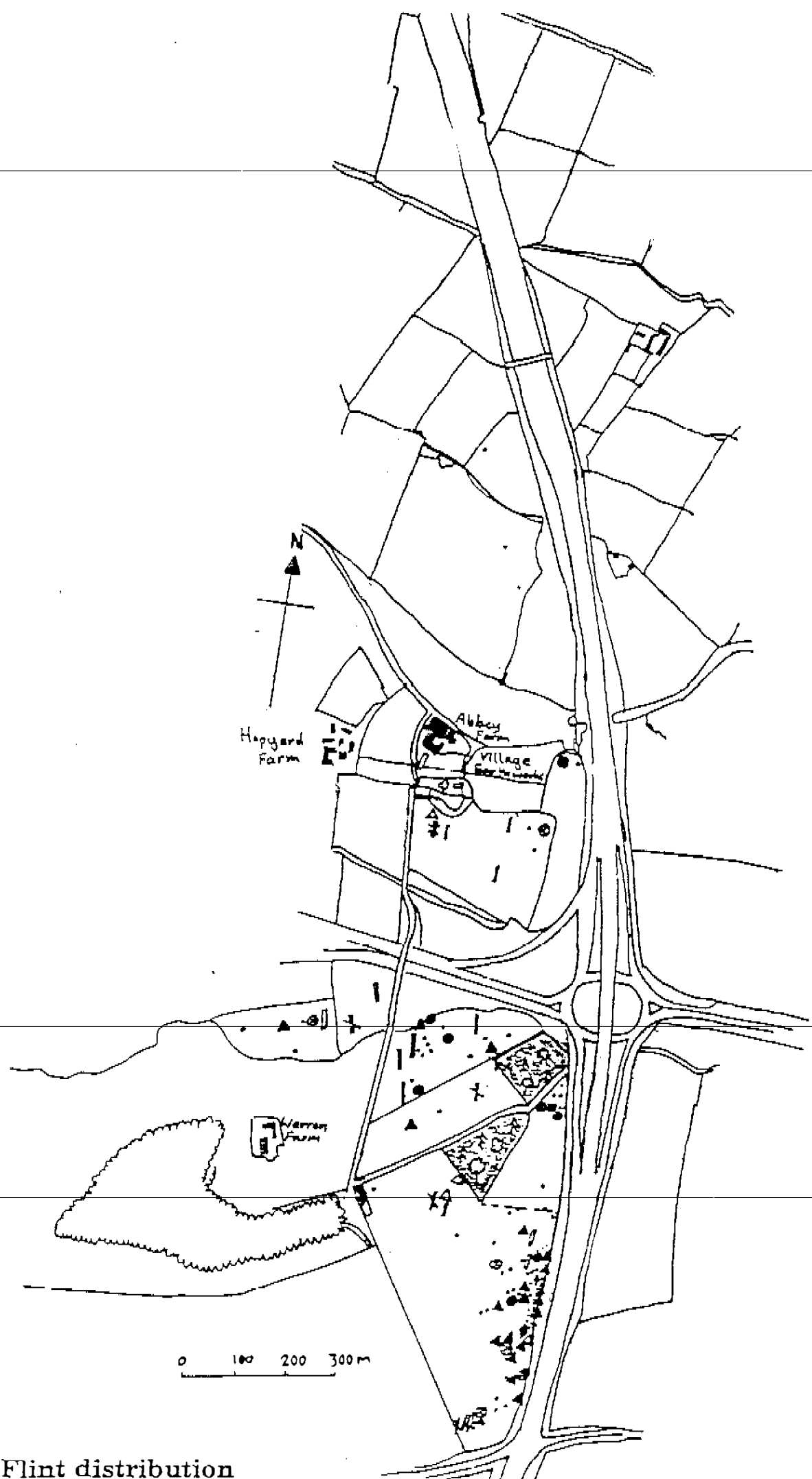




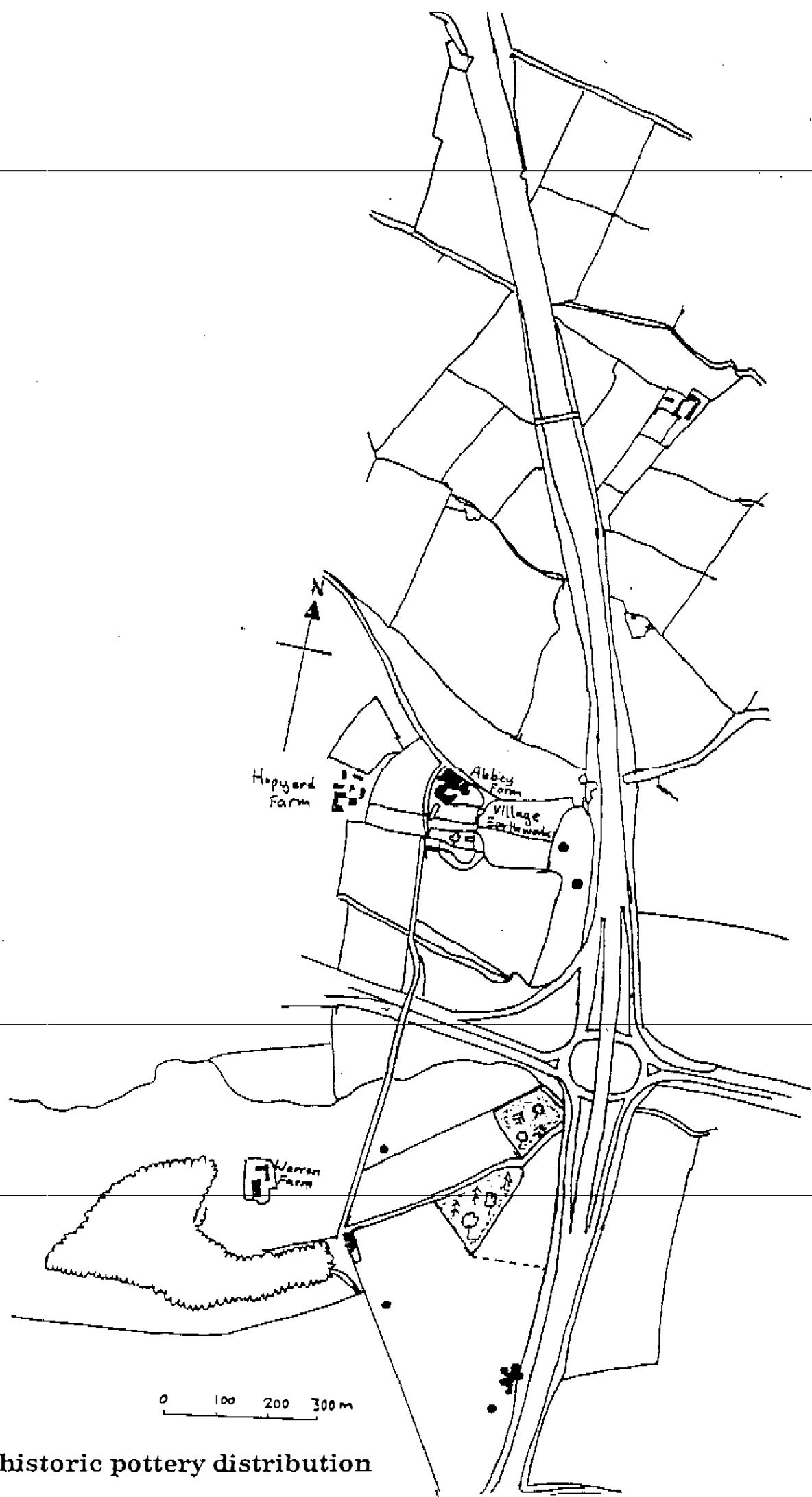
- ~~5. Grids walked, land-use and fields still to be examined~~



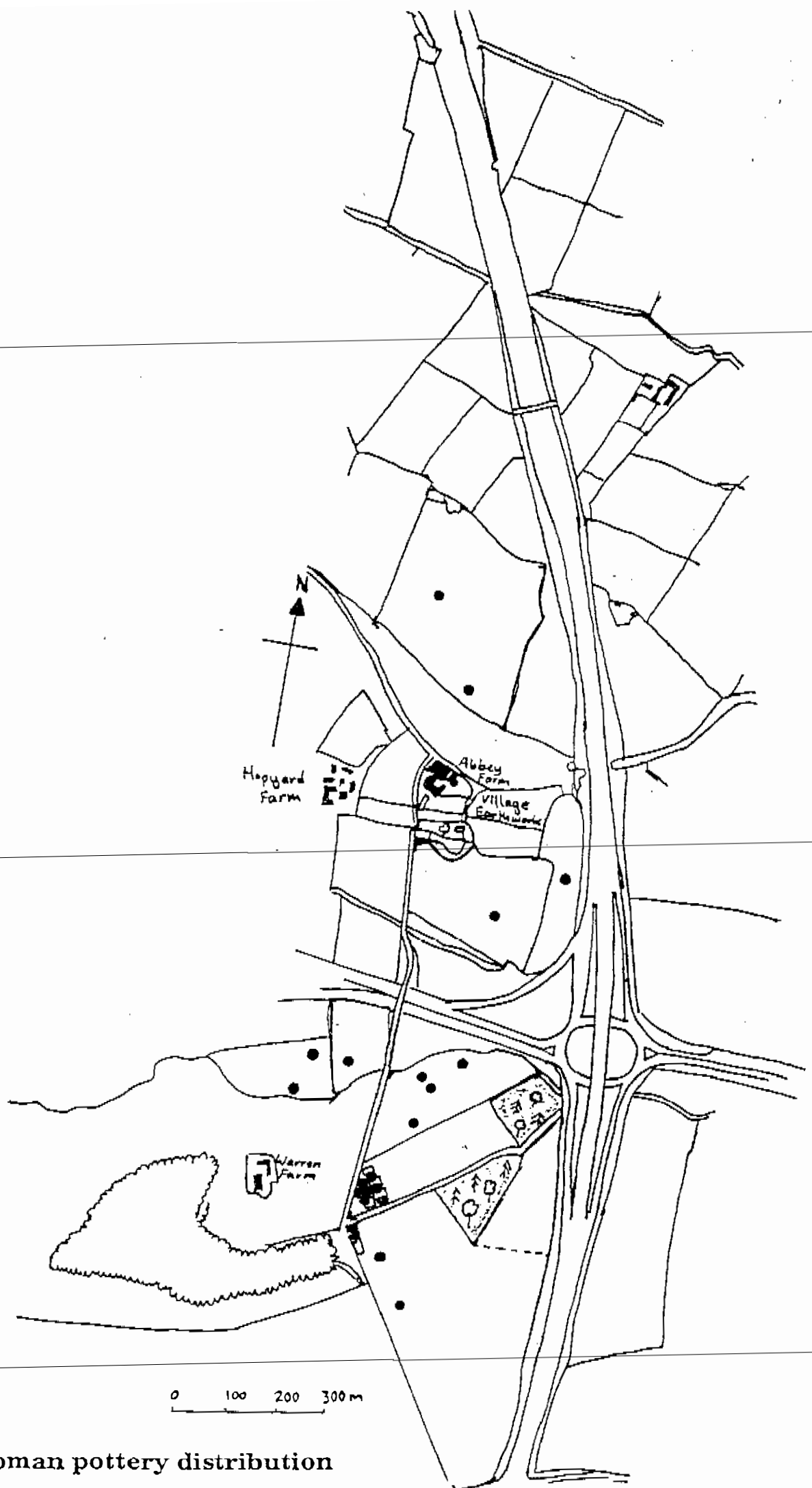
6. Grids walked, land-use and fields still to be examined



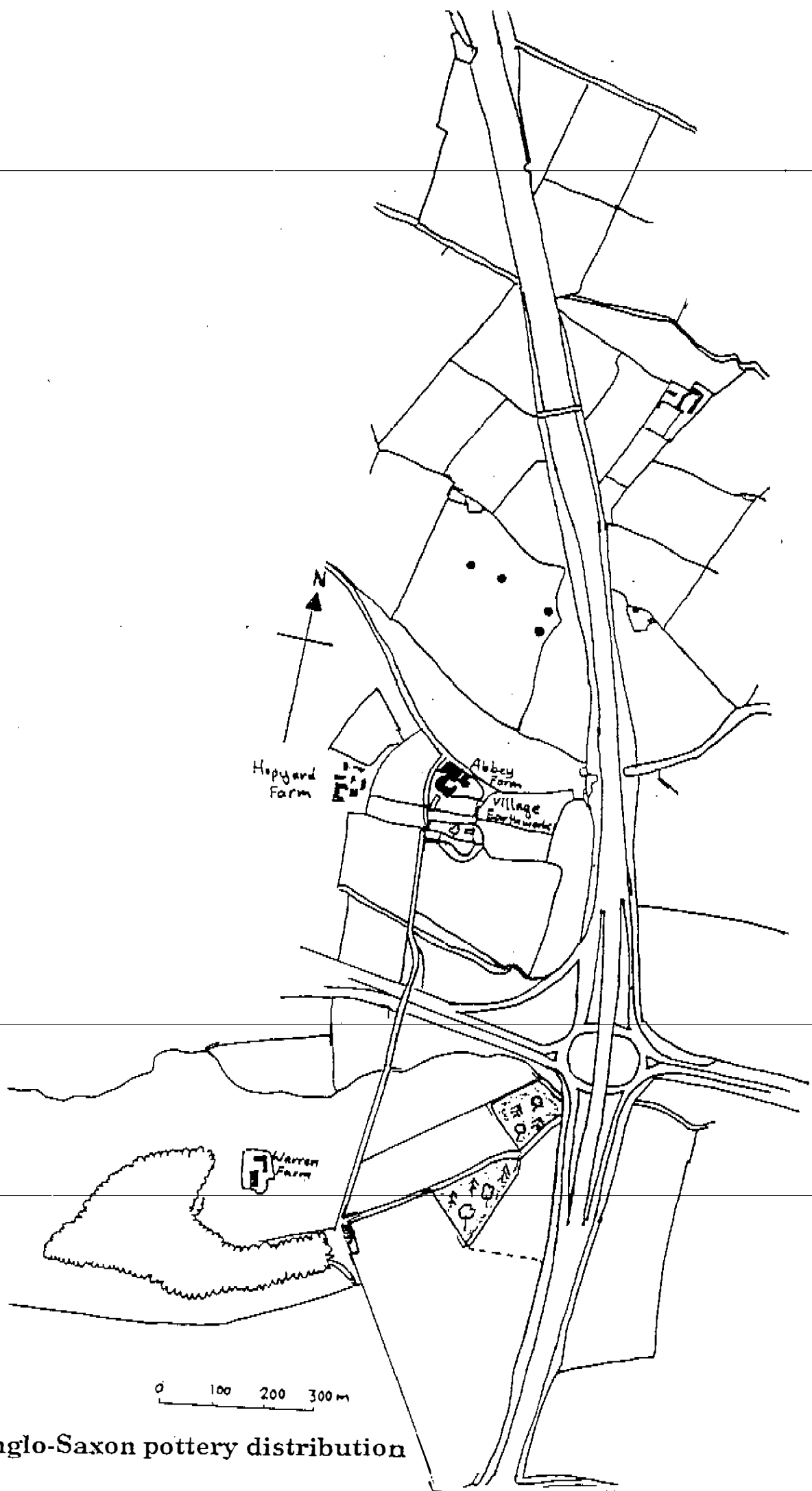
7. Flint distribution



3. Prehistoric pottery distribution

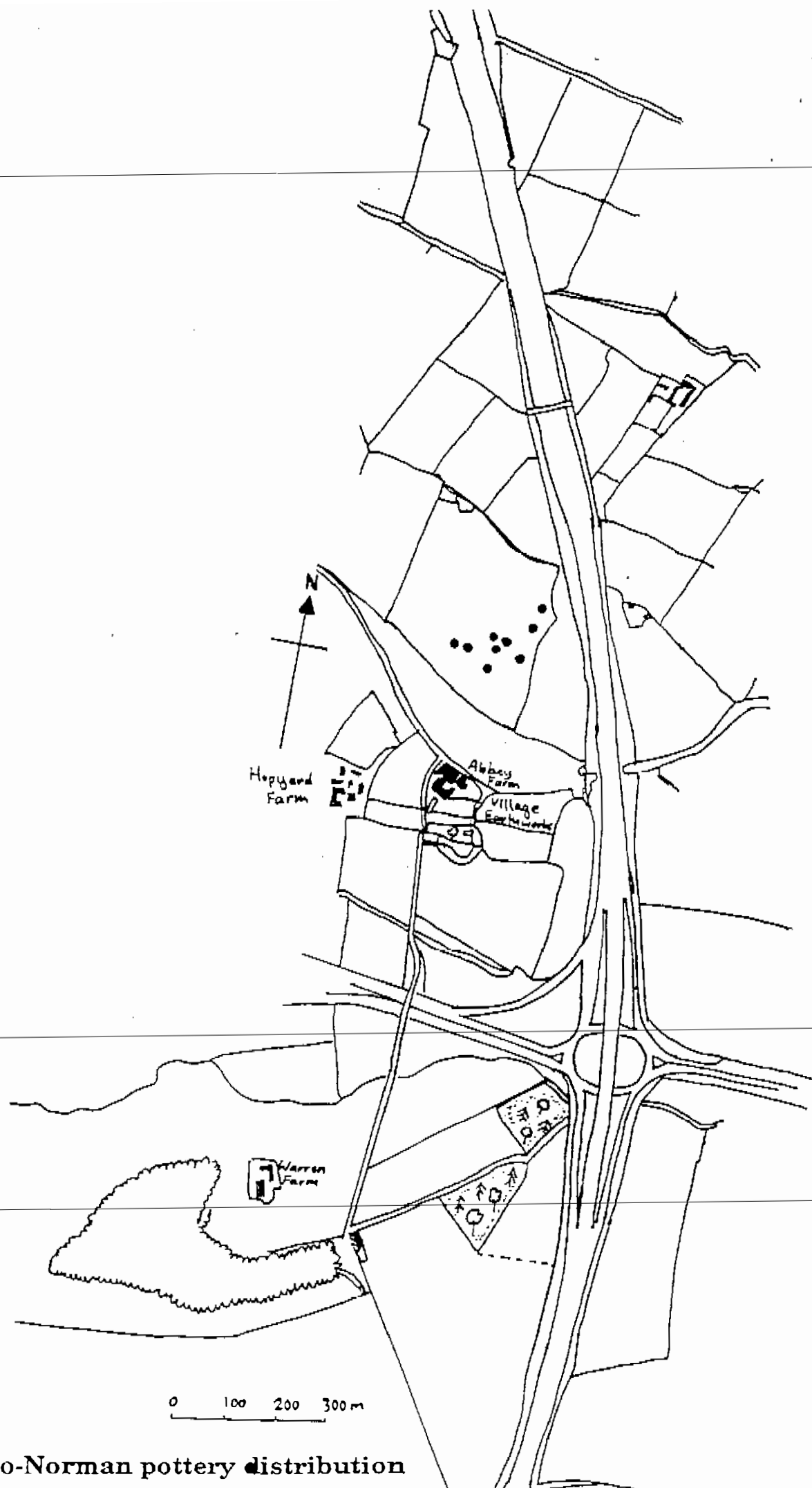


9. Roman pottery distribution



10. Anglo-Saxon pottery distribution





11. Saxo-Norman pottery distribution

### **3. FIELDWALKING RESULTS**

Twelve fields have been walked (marked and numbered on fig.3) and there are six more which would have been examined if crops had not been too high. Results will be discussed on a period by period basis. The grids walked, land use and fields still to walk are marked on figs.4-6.

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#### **Prehistoric (before 43AD) (fig.7)**

Early Prehistoric sites are largely indicated by scatters of flint artefacts and flint debitage (the debris of flint working). There is only one clear occupation site. This is on the eastern fringe of Field 8 where there is a dense concentration of cores, flakes, scrapers and retouched pieces. A second possible site is in Field 1 where there are three scrapers and several blade-like flakes. Although several other fields have a few flints, none seem likely to be significant.

In later Prehistory pottery becomes more common and is the clearest indicator of occupation sites (fig.8). Again, the eastern margin of Field 8 produces clear evidence of activity. The pottery is not closely datable but is probably of the Iron Age. A single sherd of pottery in Field 1 of possible Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date would be worth following up in the event of the area being disturbed.

Two other sherds of possibly Iron Age date come from Field 4 and these would merit further work in the event of the area being disturbed.

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#### **Roman (43AD-410AD) (fig.9)**

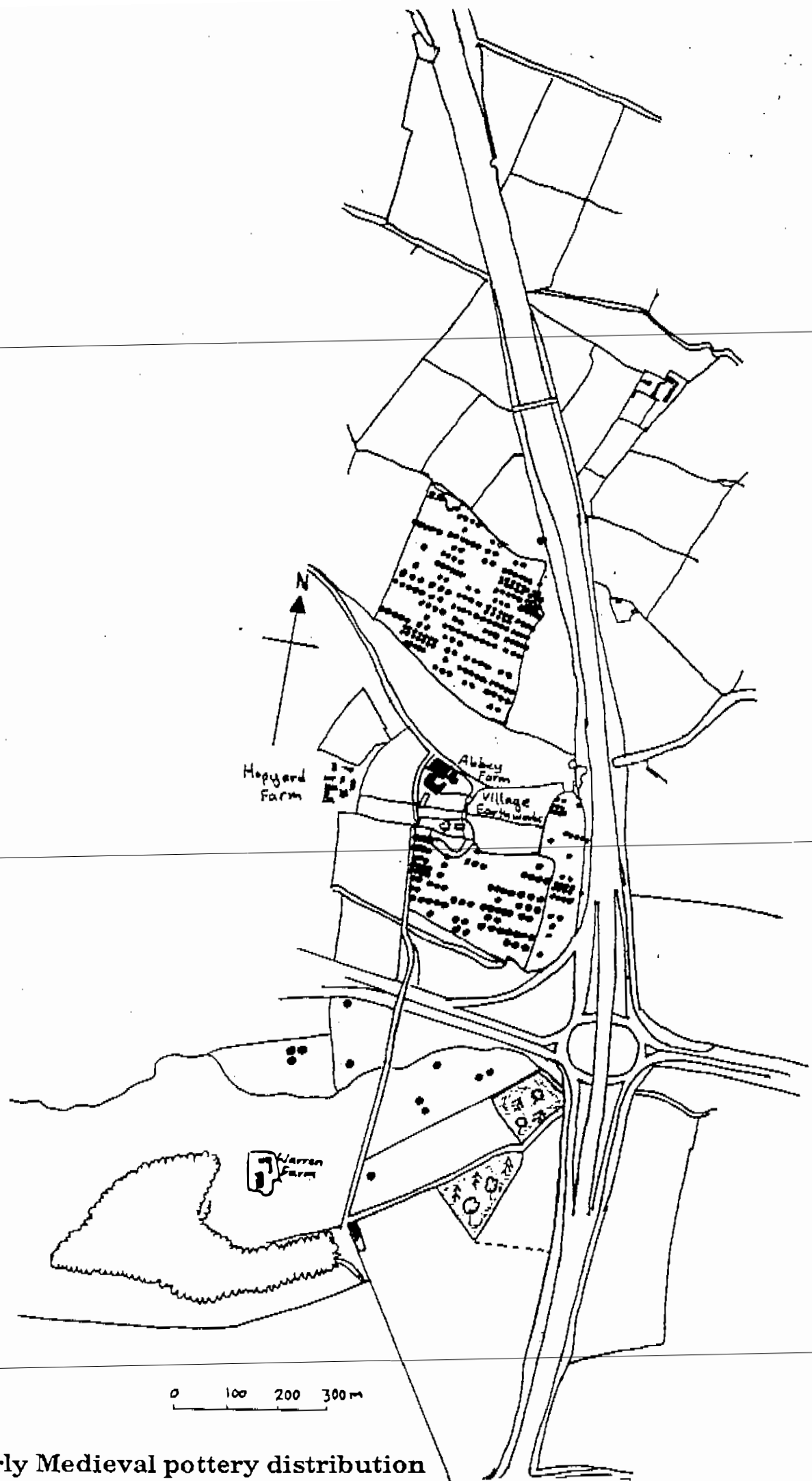
Roman pottery was found in eight of the twelve fields examined. Most probably represents material spread with organic debris on to the surface of arable fields. Only one site, at the west end of Field 2, represents more than this. There is a concentration of pottery, overwhelmingly grey ware, associated with fragments of kiln bar. There seems little doubt that this is a Roman kiln site of 2nd century date. In most cases kilns are associated with small occupation sites and this may be the case here.

#### **Anglo-Saxon (410AD-1066AD) (figs.10 & 11)**

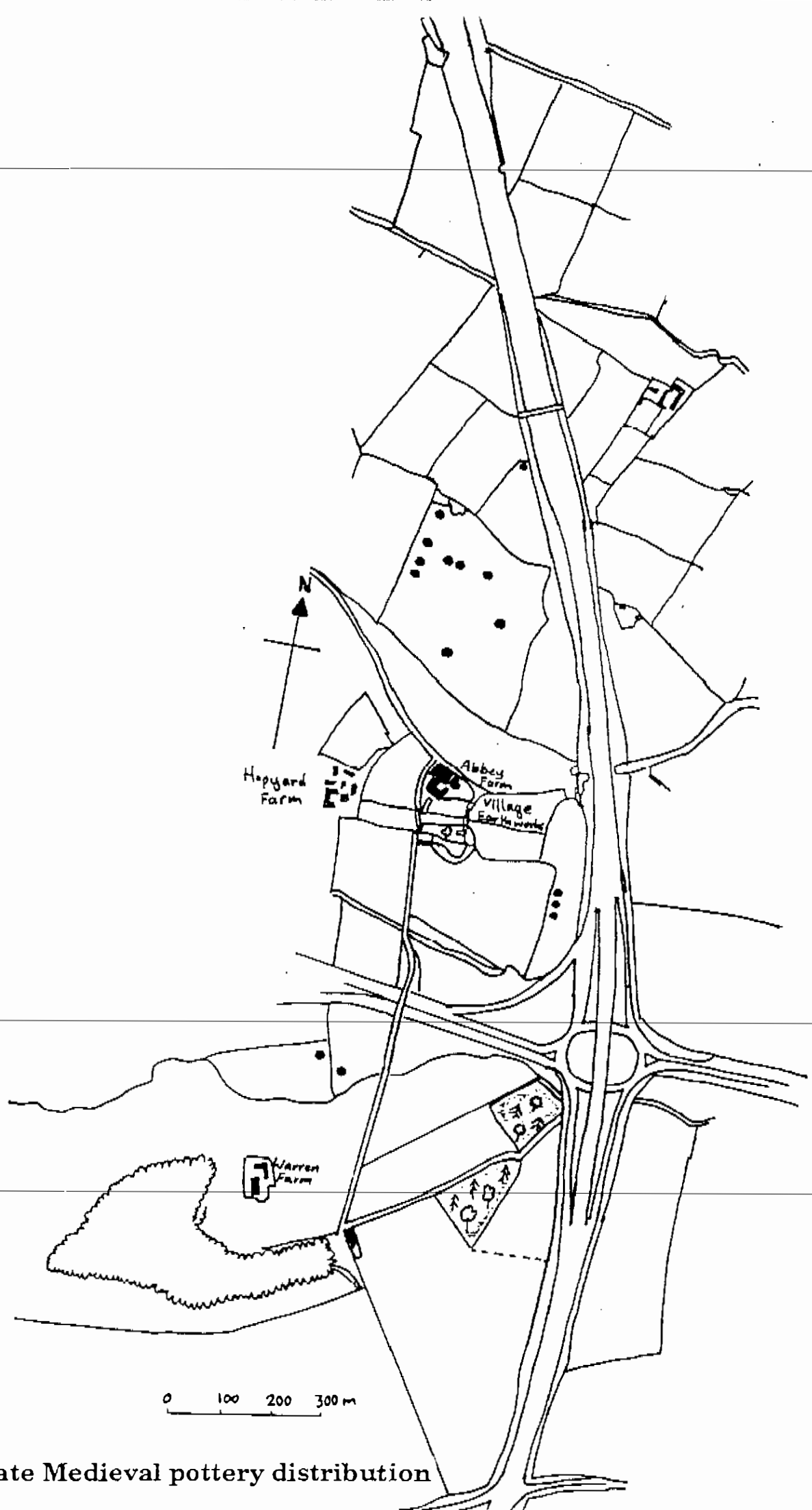
Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery does not survive well and any sherds found probably represent activity. Four sherds were located in Field 12 and almost certainly represent occupation.

Saxo-Norman pottery (dating from 9th-12th century) is also not common. Only nine sherds were recovered and these form a scatter in Field 12 suggesting that the early/middle Saxon settlement continued to the end of the period.

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2. Early Medieval pottery distribution



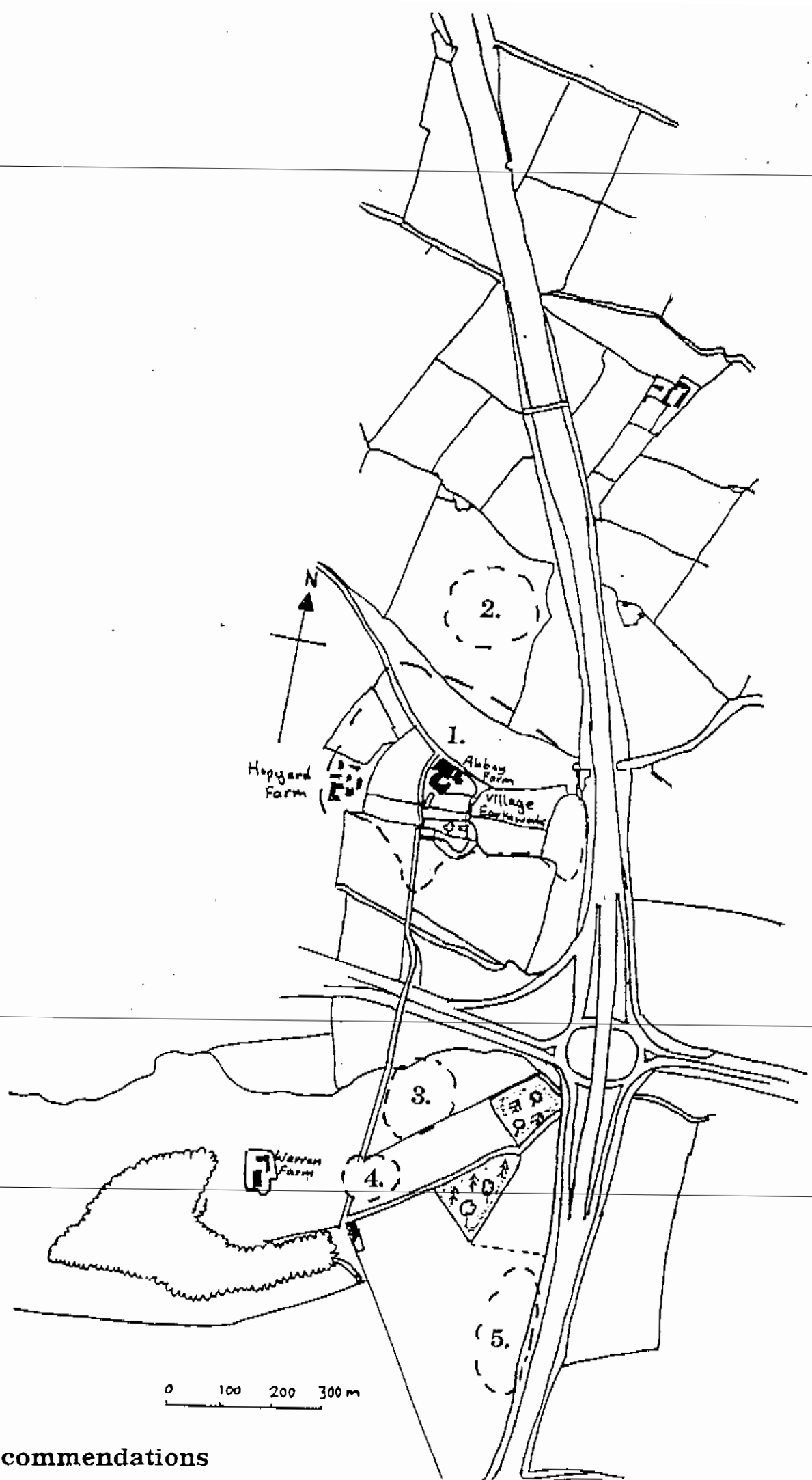
13. Late Medieval pottery distribution

### **Medieval (1066AD-1550AD)**

The major early Medieval site is the Lubbesthorpe village site represented mainly by earthworks but the area surrounding the site has significant scatters of Early Medieval pottery (fig.12). In Field 12 it would appear that occupation continued on the Saxon site and the scatter adjoining the track which runs south from Abbey Farm may also represent occupation.

There is significantly less Late Medieval material (fig.13). None appears to represent occupation and the general paucity of material probably reflects the early enclosure of Lubbesthorpe's Open Fields. It is striking that there is no Late Medieval pottery from any of the fields in Enderby parish.

A significant Late Medieval or Post-Medieval site is a brick kiln in Field 4. This is represented by a concentration of brick fragments, some mis-shapen and over-fired (some to the point of vitrification). It is very similar to the site at Newtown Linford which produced the bricks for Bradgate in the 1490s, but could be of any date between c.1480 and 1650. It seems most likely that it produced bricks for the building of the Hastings mansion house in the 16th century.



#### 14. Recommendations

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

##### Summary

Five areas have been identified as areas of significant archaeological interest where further work would be necessary in the event of proposals which would lead to disturbance. These are listed below and marked on the accompanying plan (fig.14).

1. Lubbesthorpe Deserted Village, Roman site and brick kiln.
2. Field 12. Anglo-Saxon and Medieval occupation site  
north of Lubbesthorpe.
3. Field 1. Prehistoric flint and pottery.
4. Field 2. Roman pottery kiln.
5. Field 8. Prehistoric flint scatter and Iron Age pottery scatter  
north of the remains of Top Coppice.