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Event 44181  
SOURCES 418687 418688  
36444 484601 Prehistoric  
36445 484602 Roman  
36446 484604 Roman  
36447 484616 Medieval  
36448 484617 Post Medieval  
36449 484618 Post Medieval  
36450 484620 Roman

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY**

**FEBRUARY 2003**

ACCESSION NUMBER 2003.49

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**(FIELDWALKING PHASE)**

**AT MANOR PIT, BASTON LINCOLNSHIRE**

**STAFF**

Project Manager     Anthony Maull Cert Arch  
Field work     Chris Jones  
Text     Tim Upson-Smith BA  
Artefacts     Andy Chapman BSc & Tora Hylton  
Figures     Mark Roughly MA

**QUALITY CONTROL**

	<i>Print name</i>	<i>Signed</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Checked by</i>	A. MAULL	A.S. Maull	17/02/03
<i>Verified by</i>	P. CHAPMAN	P Chapman	14/02/03
<i>Approved by</i>	S. PARRY	S Parry	17/02/03

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **(FIELDWALKING PHASE)**

#### **AT MANOR PIT, BASTON LINCOLNSHIRE**

ACCESSION NUMBER 2003.49

#### *Abstract*

*A fieldwalking surface collection survey was carried out in advance of a proposed quarry extension within three fields out of a potential four, on 56 hectares of land at Manor Pit, Baston, Lincolnshire. Generally, light scatters of artefacts were recovered from across the entire area including flint, pottery and tile spanning the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. However, two concentrations in particular were evident. The first comprised a dense concentration of Roman pottery in the north-east corner of Field 3, with associated Roman tile. The second, a broader scatter of Roman pottery from within the northern and eastern parts of Field 1. Their distribution coincides with a series of cropmarks, comprising possible Romano-British droveways, enclosures and field systems. Much of the medieval and post-medieval pottery would suggest manure scatters.*

## **1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Planning permission is being sought for aggregate (Sand and Gravel) extraction on 56ha of land at Manor Pit, near Baston in Lincolnshire. Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, on the behalf of their clients, to carry out the fieldwalking assessment of the site as part of the larger ongoing process of archaeological evaluation for the proposed development.

The work was carried out in accordance with the specific requirements laid out in the English Heritage document, *Guidance for Applicants* December 2001. In addition to being in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guideline for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1999 revision) and English Heritage's procedural document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2), 1991. The works also followed the guideline set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook.

## **2**

### **HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The evaluation site lies to the east of the village of Baston. The desk-based assessment (JSAC 2002), showed 15 Sites and Monument Records (SMR) within a c 500m diameter of the site (JSAC, table 1 and figure 5), with only one, SMR No 33397, a Neolithic stone axe falling within the immediate application boundary. Other sites of archaeological interest outside of the application area include two additional Neolithic stone axes and a series of prehistoric or Roman

cropmarks, subsequently plotted during geophysical surveys. Additional records include Roman pottery scatters, one associated with a Roman inhumation, a substantial medieval or post-medieval ditch and a series of undated and unrecorded rectangular and oval pits.

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The site is centred at NGR: TF 126 150 (Fig 1) around Brook Farm House and to the south of the River Glen and is generally situated on low lying ground at around 4 metres aOD with slight undulations in the topsoil indicative of gravel islands. The underlying geology comprised river terrace and lacustrine gravels (Soil Survey of England & Wales, sheet 3, 1983) with topsoil mainly comprising calcareous clayey soils.

### **4 OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

The objectives of the archaeological investigation were to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the present remains on the site and to locate any further archaeological remains through a programme of field walking and geophysical survey. This will be achieved by addressing the following specific objectives:

- ❖ Provide detailed information regarding the extent, distribution and character of archaeological artefacts across the site.
- ❖ Place the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context. Appropriate use of the extensive published works relating to the area will be utilised, together with use of national and regional resource assessments.
- ❖ To define any potential constraints for further archaeological fieldwork including areas of disturbance, service locations etc.
- ❖ The evaluation will inform research and conservation issues including the need for further fieldwork.

The Geophysical reconnaissance survey of 2002 formed the first stage of the assessment (NA 2002). This report presents the results of the fieldwalking element of the programme.

### **5 FIELD WALKING METHODOLOGY**

The strategy of fieldwork and post-excavation was designed to fulfil the overall aims and objective's listed above. All works were conducted in accordance with the *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* and the *Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and*



*Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999).*

Fieldwalking was undertaken in all parts of the development site suitable for this type of survey, that is, not under crop or pasture. Field 2 was not walked as it was given over to permanent pasture. Of those which were walked the visibility varied from 5 (very good) to 1 (poor) (Fig 2). Three fields were walked out of a potential four. In addition two proposed conveyor/haulage route lines adjacent to the present quarry were surveyed, but were made up of tarmac, hard-standing and grass, so no artefacts were recovered. The transects were laid out individually from baselines set up along the most convenient edge of each field. The parallel transects, spaced 10m apart, were laid out at right angles to the baselines and orientated approximately with the length of each field. Each field survey was undertaken by walking systematically at normal pace along the parallel transects with individual finds collected and plotted in 10m stints within individual transects. The distribution of each category of finds have been mapped at a scale of 1:2500 and analysed to identify meaningful concentrations.

## **6 FIELDWALKING RESULTS**

Artefact scatters are shown in Figs 3-7 omitting the occasional finds of brick, tile, clay tobacco pipe and iron objects.

### **6.1 FIELD 1 NORTH MEADOW SOUTH (FIGS 1-7)**

This field was located within the northern part of the application area, bounded by the Baston Outgang Road to the south and a permanent pasture field (Field 2) to the east. The artefact distribution included a wide scatter of flint including two scrapers and a widely dispersed scatter of Roman pottery in the northern and eastern part of the field while medieval pottery mostly occurred in the western half of the field. A widely dispersed scatter of post-medieval pottery was present across the whole field. The Roman scatter corresponds to the cropmark plot that shows a possible droveway and other linear cropmarks. Similarly, the Roman finds correspond to a large rectangular shaped magnetic anomaly identified in the Geophysical survey (NA 2002). The medieval scatter probably relates to manuring from the nearby village. The same interpretation can also be given for the post-medieval pottery.

<i>Artefact Type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No. of Artefacts</i>
Flint	Flakes (struck)	12
Pottery	Roman	28
	Medieval	96
	Post-medieval	78

#### **T1 Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 1**

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WALKING AT MANOR PIT, BASTON

6.3

## FIELD 3 FRONT AND REAR FEN (FIGS 1 TO 7)

Field 3 is located to the south of the Baston Outgang Road and north of field 4. A dense concentration of Roman pottery and roof tile was located in a densely compacted area within the north-east of the field. The material corresponds to the known cropmarks of the area, which indicate a small square enclosure or building. The only other finds were a wide scatter of flint flakes and scatters of medieval and post-medieval pottery, both probably relating to manuring from the nearby village. No noticeable increase in finds were recovered in the southern part of the field equating to the three amorphous magnetic anomalies identified in the Geophysical survey (*ibid*).

Artefact Type	Date/Description	No. of Artefacts
Flint	Flakes(struck)	5
Tile	Roman	11
Pottery	Roman	250
Pottery	Medieval	3
	Post-medieval	38

T2

## Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 3

6.4

## FIELD 4 FRONT AND REAR FEN (FIGS 1-7)

Field 4 was located on the southern side of the proposed application site, bounded by the Baston Pit quarry workings to the south and Field 3 to the north. The collection survey produced a very low artefact distribution, with only 2 struck flints, 4 sherds of Roman pottery and 23 sherds of post-medieval pottery. The low distribution of finds reflecting the absence of cropmarks and the low level magnetic response (*ibid*).

Artefact Type	Date/Description	No. of Artefacts
Flint	Flakes (struck)	2
Pottery	Roman Pottery	4
	Post-medieval (18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century)	23

T3

## Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 4



**7 FINDS**

**7.1 THE FLINTS**

A total of 19 pieces of flint were retrieved. The flint is typically opaque and granular, varying from brown, grey to off-white in colour, with only a couple of flakes in good quality vitreous flint. Many pieces are red-brown as a result of iron staining, and some have evidently been smoothed through rolling. The group contains 17 flakes, but a proportion of these are likely to be the products of accidental damage whilst in the plough soil. There are only two worked pieces, an end scraper (Field 1, transect 41A, stint 14) and a probable discoidal scraper (Field 1, transect 3, stint 16), both on flakes of grey, mottled granular flint. No date range can be proposed beyond broadly Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

**7.2 ROMAN POTTERY**

The material is dominated by abraded and mainly undiagnostic sherds of greyware and Shell-gritted ware, together with colour coated wares from the Nene Valley. With the exception of one sherd of hard fired grog-tempered ware which is of mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century date, the assemblage appears to date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. Diagnostic sherds indicate the presence of fine table wares in colour coated fabrics and Samian, and kitchen and storage wares in grey and shell-gritted fabrics.

**7.3 MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY**

These were recovered from across the entire study area and probably represents manuring activity related the nearby village. The medieval pottery dates to the 13-15<sup>th</sup> century and the post-medieval pottery was primarily dominated by factory manufactured wares which date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century. Fabric types included manganese mottled wares (1680-1740), Nottingham stoneware (18<sup>th</sup> century), glazed coarsewares, pancheon types (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>), and underglaze transfer print earthenware (19<sup>th</sup> century).

**8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION**

The distribution of flint flakes on the site is of unremarkable. The main area of Roman significance from the survey is the concentration of Roman tile and pottery in the north-east part of Field 4 which suggests a possible building in the area which would correspond approximately with the cropmarks which shows a building or small square enclosure. A further scatter of Roman pottery in Field 2 similarly corresponds to the cropmarks, which indicate a driveway and associated field



systems.

The medieval and post-medieval pottery scatters are consistent with background spreads and manuring in the post-medieval period.

9

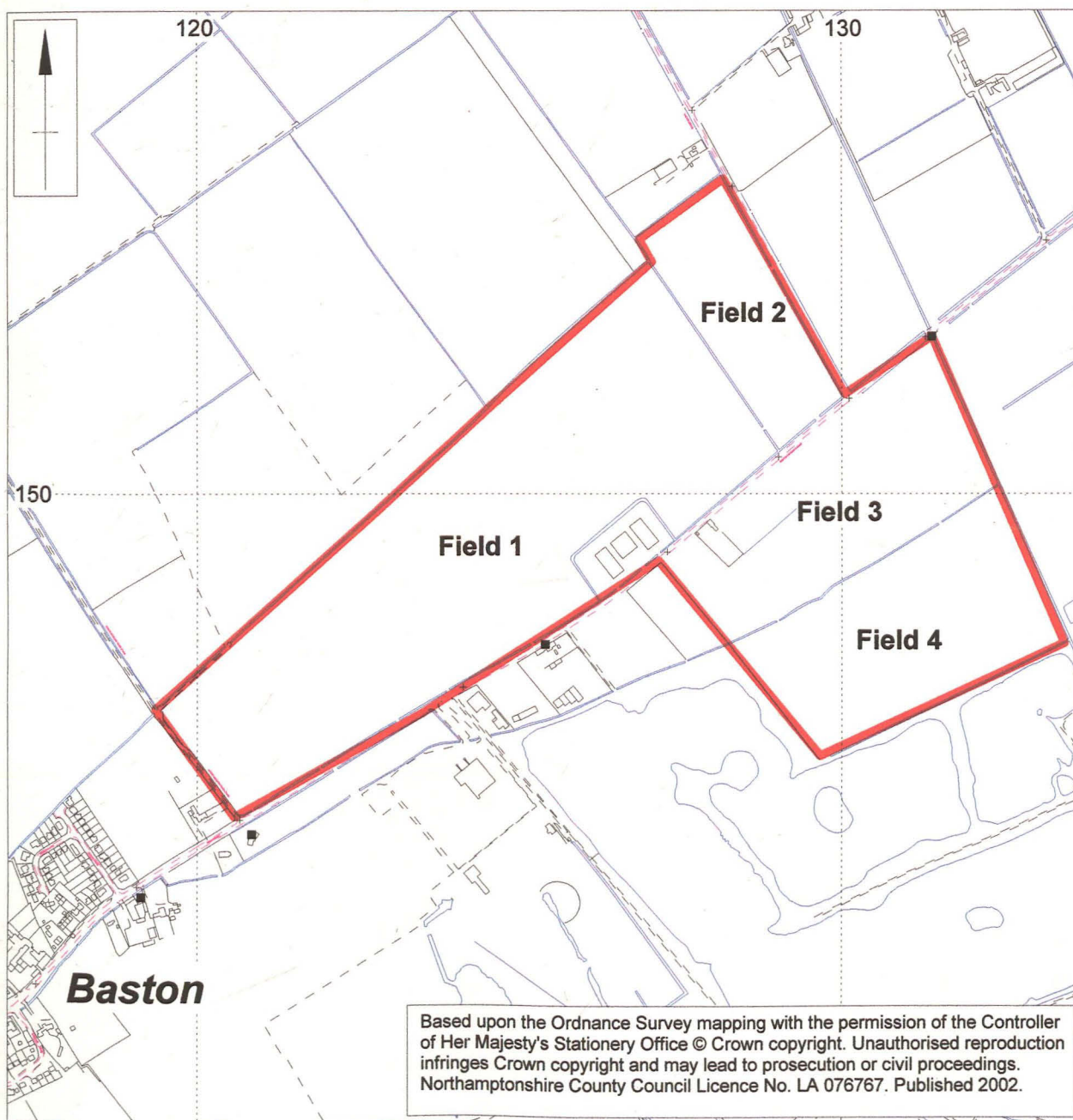
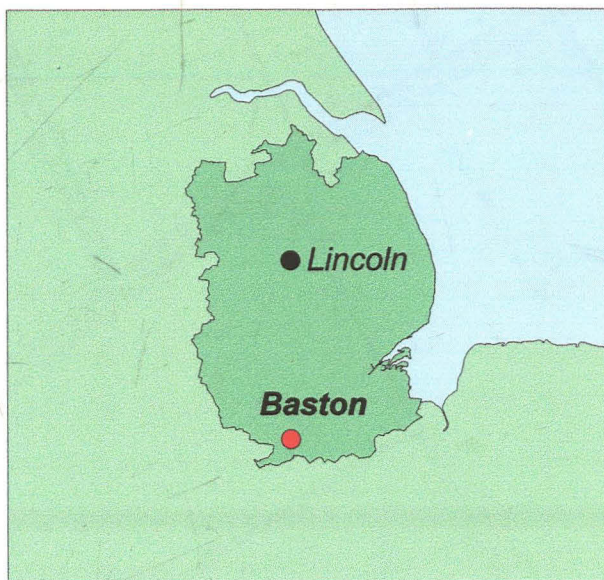
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Northamptonshire Archaeology

A service of the Northamptonshire County Council

17th February 2003



Scale 1:10,000

Fig. 1



Scale 1:5000

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Artefact Visibility

5 - (Very good)	(0)
4 - (Good)	(2)
3 - (Average)	(2)
2 - (Poor)	(1)
1 - (Very poor)	(0)
0 - (Un-walkable)	(3)



Fig 2



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Flint

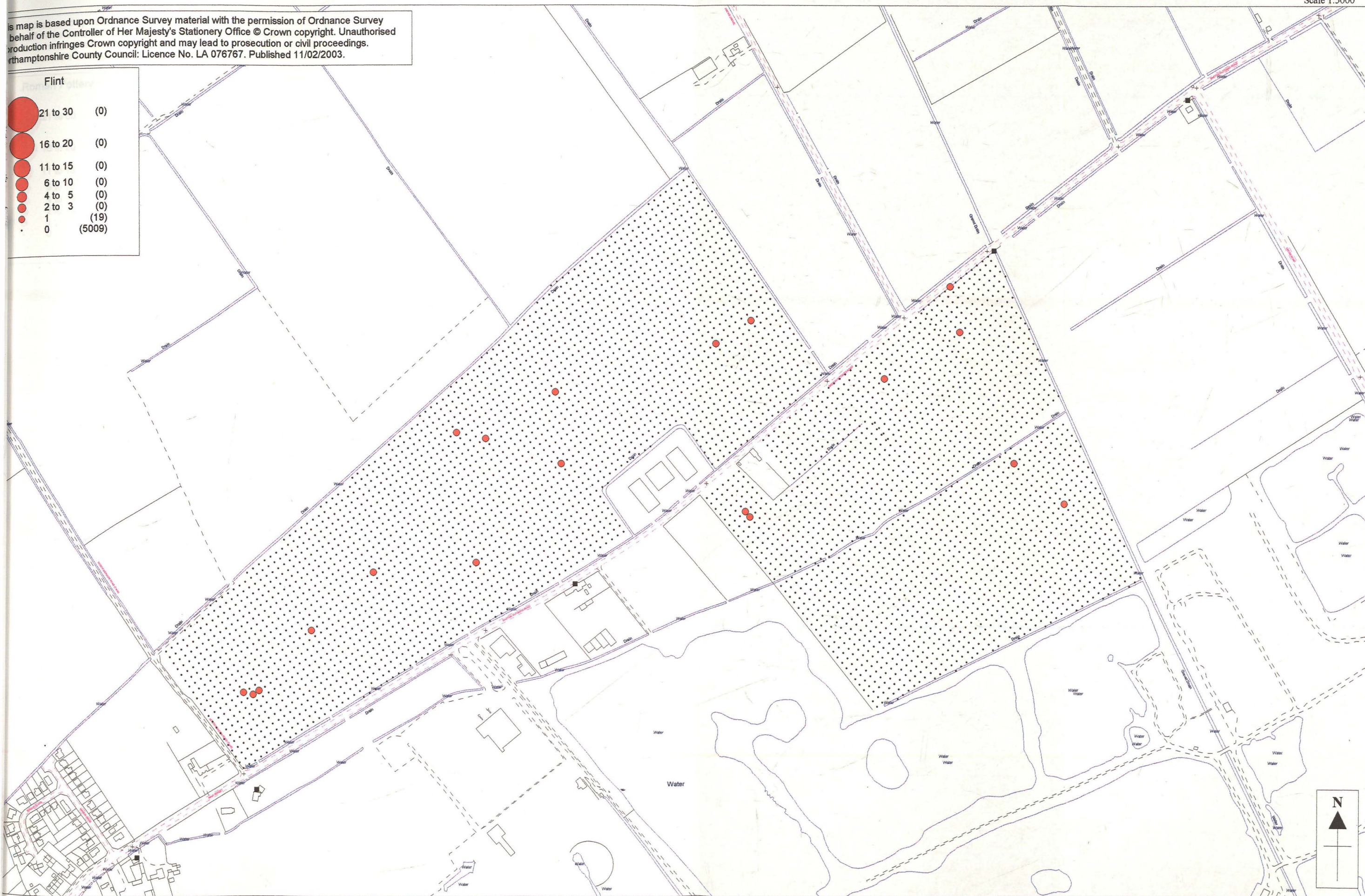
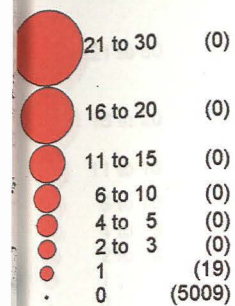


Fig 3



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Fig 4



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Roman Tile

21 to 30	(0)
16 to 20	(0)
11 to 15	(0)
6 to 10	(0)
4 to 5	(1)
2 to 3	(1)
1	(7)
0	(5018)

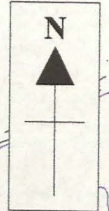


Fig 5



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Medieval Pottery

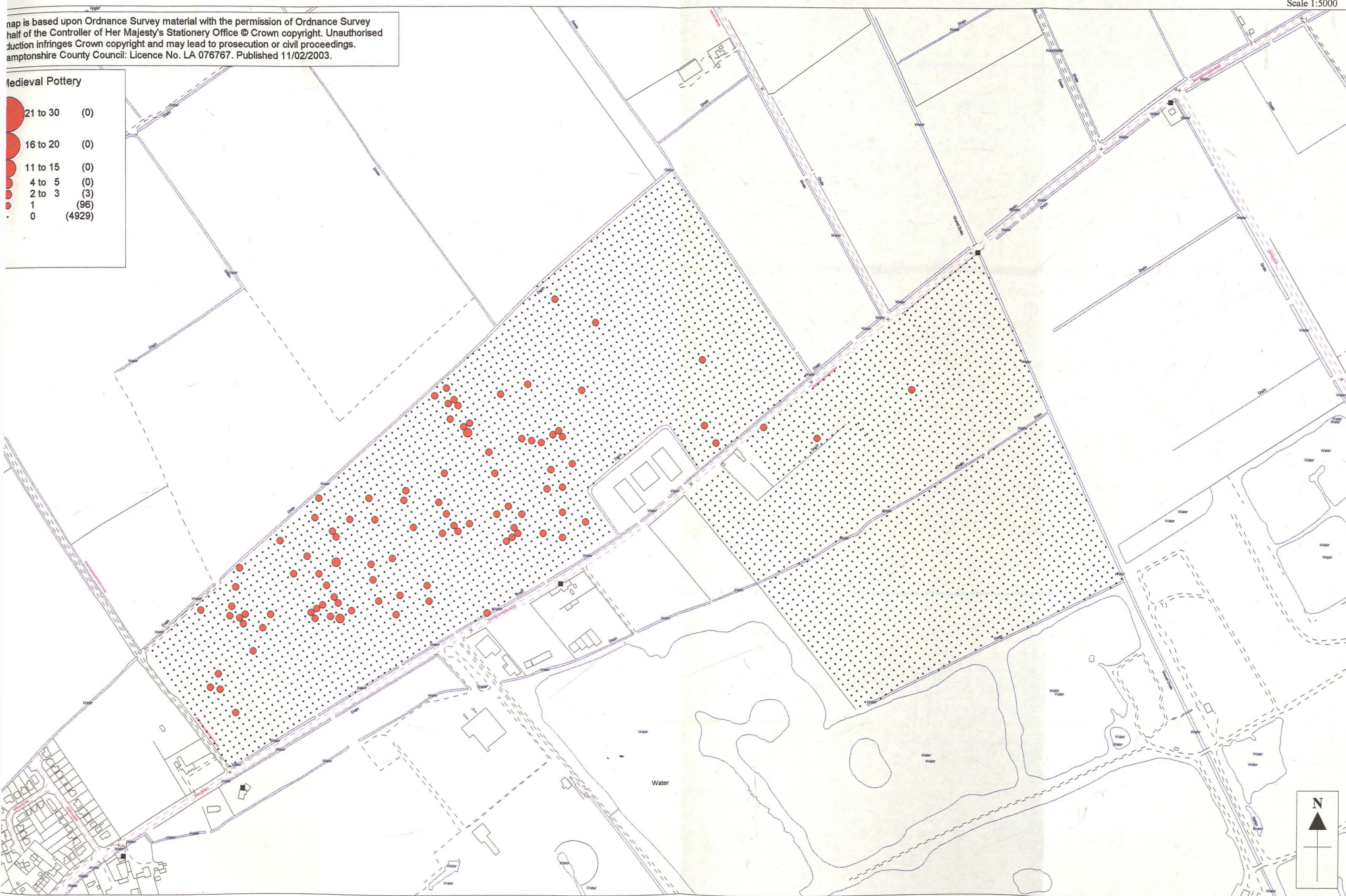
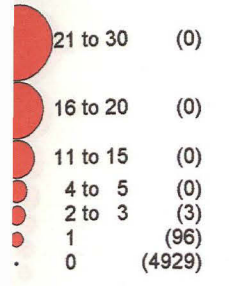


Fig 6



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Scale 1:5000

Post-Medieval Pottery

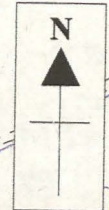
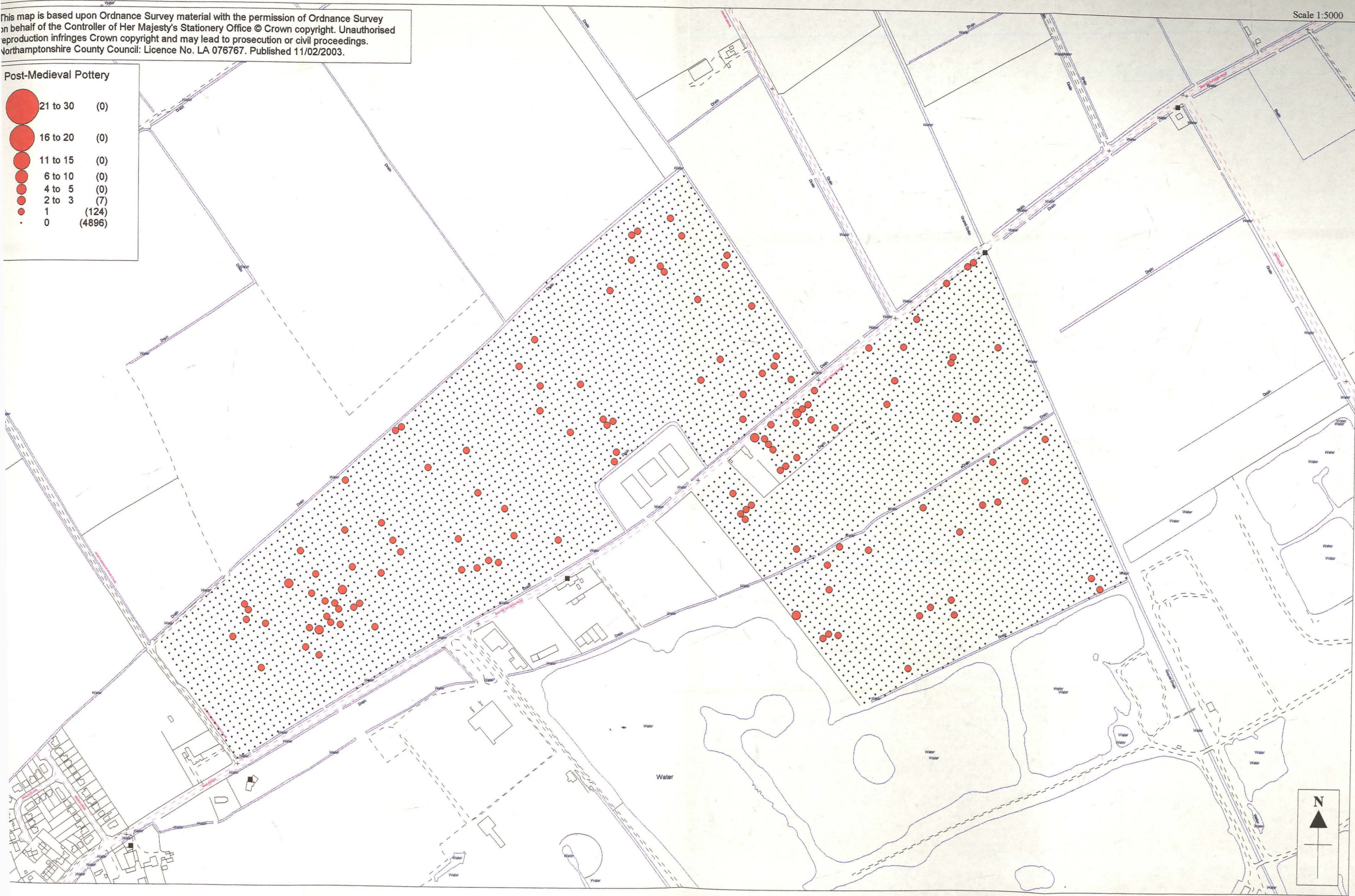
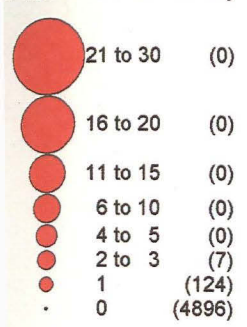


Fig 7