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**PERSIMMON HOMES**

**METAL DETECTOR SURVEY REPORT**

**SHILLINGSTON DRIVE,  
SHREWSBURY,  
SHROPSHIRE**

**December 2014**

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**PREPARED BY:**

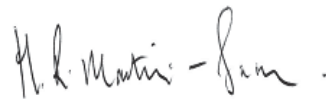
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## SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Persimmon Homes to undertake a metal-detector survey on land north of Shillingston Drive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (NGR SJ 51719 16248). This work will support an application for outline planning consent for a residential development on the site. The work is required as the site lies within close proximity to the site of the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. This has identified the site to be of high archaeological interest.

An archaeological assessment has previously been compiled (Dawson 2011) which revealed that there were no designated heritage assets within the site boundary (*ibid*, 15). However, it is possible that finds associated with the Battle of Shrewsbury could be found on the site (*ibid*). An 'old road' may be present within the site and two historic hedgerows are present within the site boundary (*ibid*)

The metal-detector survey consisted of a systematic survey of an area of 12.5 hectares using 100m tapes, a baseline and a hand-held GPS. The purpose of the metal-detector survey was to collect all metallic archaeological artefacts, with particular emphasis on artefacts that could provide evidence of the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403.

Medieval, post-medieval and modern artefacts were recovered from the survey. Medieval artefacts that were recovered included horseshoes, a potential shield boss component, farming implements and items of personal adornment. The farming implements, including a billhook, axehead and pitchfork head, may have been used as weapons and could have been used in a conflict. The recovery of the potential medieval shield boss / harness fitting may indicate that military activity took place on the site, although no definitive conclusion can be drawn from this that this was the site of the Battle of Shrewsbury. Post-medieval and modern artefacts recovered during the metal-detector survey include buckles, coins, tools, horseshoes and weights. No spatial distribution pattern was established for the post-medieval and modern artefacts.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks Persimmon Homes (North West) Ltd for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks Dr Andy Wigley, Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council, for his assistance throughout the project.

The metal detecting survey was undertaken by Colin Sharratt, Trevor Brown, Harry Mitchell, Goga Mitchell, Bob Steele, Bob Davis and George McKean of the Historical Search Society and supervised by Megan Stoakley.

The report was written by Megan Stoakley and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley. The project was managed by Nick Daffern, Senior Project Manager for WAA. The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post-excavation Manager for WAA and final QA done by Helen Martin-Bacon, Regional Director at WAA.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Circumstances of the Project**

- 1.1.1 In November 2014, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was invited by Persimmon Homes (North West) Ltd, to undertake a metal-detector survey on land to the north of Shillingston Drive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (NGR SJ 51719 16248) prior to a proposed residential development on the site. An archaeological assessment has previously been compiled (Dawson 2011) which revealed that there were no designated heritage assets within the site boundary (*ibid*, 15). It is possible, however, that finds associated with the Battle of Shrewsbury could be found on the site (*ibid*). An 'old road' may be present within the site and two historic hedgerows are present within the site boundary (*ibid*).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within close proximity to the site of the Battle of Shrewsbury (1403). As a result, Dr Andy Wigley (Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council) requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.3 The metal-detector survey was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (English Heritage 2013) (Connolly 2007) (Hunt 2003) and was consistent with the Written Scheme of Investigation provided to the LPA by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology.
- 1.1.4 This report outlines the results of the metal-detector survey undertaken on-site

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation**

2.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Persimmon Homes (North West) Ltd, for an archaeological metal-detector survey of the study area. Following approval of the WSI by Andy Wigley of Shropshire Council, WAA was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The WSI was adhered to in full.

### **2.2 The Metal-Detector Survey**

2.2.1 A grid system was implemented with survey plots spaced at 10m intervals over a 12.5 hectare area (Figure 2). The baseline was laid out along the western edge of the field with 100m tapes running east from the baseline. Canes were placed at 10m intervals along the baselines. The finds were located using a hand-held GPS. A team of metal-detectorists from the Historical Search Society undertook the metal-detector survey under the supervision of WAA.

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the metal-detector survey were:

- to recover / record all metal artefactual material, specifically targeting artefacts that relate to 15th century military activity
- to place this assemblage in its historical and archaeological context
- to disseminate the results of the survey through an appropriate level of reporting

2.2.3 A number of metal-detector types were used in this survey, including Garrett's Ace 150 and 250 models. Black Tx2002 metal-detector probes were also used as supplementary metal-detectors.

2.2.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer.

2.2.5 No environmental samples were taken during the metal-detector survey.

### **2.3 The Archive**

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited in Shropshire Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Team in Shrewsbury, Shropshire,

available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14, SDS-A, CP11078/14.

- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Cumbria County Council support the **Online Access** to the **Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project. The unique OASIS identification number for this project is **wardella2-197640**.

### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site is located in the northeastern outskirts of Shrewsbury and is situated within close proximity to a large housing estate (centred on NGR SJ 51719 16248). The site comprises a triangular parcel of pastureland situated to the north of the west-east aligned road Shillingston Drive.
- 3.1.2 The eastern extremity of the site of the Registered Battlefield of Shrewsbury (1403) is recorded c.260m west of the current site boundary (Dawson 2011, 6). It is likely that the site was previously used as a water meadow for oxen / cattle (*Pers. Comm.* Brown 2014). Two large ponds are located in the east and northwest parts of the site. An electricity pylon is located in the northeast part of the field. The northern part of the site lies at c.69m AOD, gently sloping to c.63m AOD towards the south.
- 3.1.3 The underlying geology of the area comprises sandstone with drift geology comprising boulder clay (reddish till) (BGS 2014).
- 3.1.4 The soils of the site comprise medium to heavy glacial till (clay / silt), defined as slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base-rich loamey and clayey soils (UKSO 2014).

#### 3.2 Historical Context

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background comprises excerpts taken from an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) that was compiled in June 2011 (Dawson 2011). The DBA comprised a site visit as well as historical and cartographic research and map regression analysis of the site and its environs (*ibid*). HER reference numbers are used where known. Other references used for the historical research in this summary have been sourced from WAA's grey literature library.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** the River Severn, situated c.1.75km to the south of the site, is likely to have been used as a route-way during prehistoric periods. Stone hand-axes have been recovered from the banks of the river (Ellis *et al* 1994). The only prehistoric artefact recorded within a 1km radius of the site comprises a stone hand-axe of Neolithic to early Iron Age date (HER 00081) (Dawson 2011, 7).
- 3.2.3 In the wider area, large numbers of ring ditches are present in the Upper Severn valley, indicating Bronze Age funerary activity (*ibid*). Clusters of Bronze Age burnt mounds are located c.9-10km to the northwest. This would indicate that the focus of

prehistoric settlement was not on the site itself or within its immediate environs (*ibid*).

- 3.2.4 During the Iron Age it is thought the settlement pattern began to resemble the modern pattern of dispersed farms (Ellis *et al*, 1994). Enclosures of Iron Age date are known within the wider area to the southeast and northwest of the site but the HER does not record any archaeological remains of Iron Age within a 1km radius of the site. Two Iron Age hillforts are situated to the east of the site at Edbury Hill and Haughton Hill (*ibid*).
- 3.2.5 **Romano-British:** the site is located within the hinterland of the Roman town *Viroconium*. The town was located at Wroxeter c.8.5km to the southeast of the site. While the town had a large number of satellite villas, evidence for Roman rural domestic settlement is sparse in the wider area (*ibid*). It is likely that the site was either within an area dominated by pastoralism or under woodland management, either of which would have served the needs of the Roman army (Esmonde Cleary 2011).
- 3.2.6 The HER does not record any Roman archaeological remains within a 1km radius of the site.
- 3.2.7 **Anglo-Saxon:** After the Roman army left *Viroconium* (Wroxeter), a settlement was established on the River Severn at Shrewsbury located c.4km to the southwest of the site. This settlement site, known as *Scrobbesbyrig* or *Scrobbesburh*, became established as a capital of the princes of Powys in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD (LH online 2014). However, it was conquered by Offa in the mid to late 8<sup>th</sup> century AD and it became a stronghold of the kingdom of Mercia (Burgess 1991). The city is first recorded in 901 AD and a mint was established in Shrewsbury by the 920s AD (LH online 2014).
- 3.2.8 There are no Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains recorded on the site.
- 3.2.9 **Medieval:** Shrewsbury is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1068, stating that in time of King Edward, there were 252 houses and as many burgesses (wealthy townsmen) in these houses, rendering £7.16s8d of rent per year (Williams & Martin 2003, 688). Altogether the city rendered £30 per year and the king had two parts and the sheriff had one part (*ibid*). Shrewsbury paid geld (English land-tax) for 100 hides (amount of land which would support a household) which was split between St

Alkmund, St Juliana, St Milburh, St Chad, St Mary, the Bishop of Chester, Edith and Ralph de Mortimer (*ibid*).

- 3.2.10 Roger de Montgomery founded Shrewsbury Castle in 1074 AD and Shrewsbury Abbey in 1083 AD (LH online 2014). The castle played a pivotal role during sieges and battles with Welsh tribes. Shrewsbury thrived in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, largely thanks to a flourishing leather industry and wool / flax trade (LH online 2014). Shrewsbury's position as a major crossing of the River Severn provided major advantages, as it served as a major military, commercial and domestic route-way.
- 3.2.11 The Battle of Shrewsbury took place on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1403 (HER 01615) and the site of the battlefield (NHL No. 100033) (EH online 2014) is located 260m to the west of the site. The battle occurred when a rebel army led by Henry Percy (or Harry Hotspur, of Northumberland) was intercepted by the royal army of Henry IV (Dawson 2011, 8). Chroniclers recorded that the battle was fought on four fields located in Harlescott called 'The Old Field', 'Bullfield', 'Husifeld' and 'Hateley Field' (*ibid*, 9). None of these fields are depicted on any maps of the area and thus the exact site of the battle is unknown.
- 3.2.12 However, charters of the extant Battlefield College (HER 454645) founded in 1406 state that the college was built on the battlefield (Priestley 1979). This location places part of the battlefield c.560m to the northwest of the site. However, the spatial extent of the battlefield is still unknown, as is the wider conflict activity associated with the battle such as mustering, forming, retreating or routs.
- 3.2.13 There is no recorded evidence for medieval settlement activity within the site boundary. Medieval ridge and furrow are located to the west (HER 04471), southeast (HER 21031) and east (HER 21030). Find-spots of a medieval coin and buckle (HERs 04648 and 03397) have been found to the north and northwest of the site.
- 3.2.14 **Post-medieval:** the town flourished during the late 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, despite the closure of Shrewsbury Abbey and the friaries in 1540 by Henry VIII (LH online 2014). The wool industry continued to thrive and the population of Shrewsbury had grown to 6,000 (*ibid*). By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Shrewsbury was an important market town; it had also become an important coaching town (*ibid*). Shrewsbury was the main town for coaches travelling between London and Holyhead and also for ships bound for Ireland (*ibid*).

- 3.2.15 The site is depicted on an estate map dated to 1777. The estate belonged to John Corbet and the site is recorded as rural enclosed land occupied by 'Ben Minton/Hinton' of 'Albright Lee' and 'John Bagley' of 'Bagley Bridge Farm' (Dawson 2011, 9). Three plots of land are recorded and are named 'Long Leasow', 'Hall's Meadow' and 'Hall's Coppy'. A description accompanying the estate map mentions an 'old road' in the 'Long Leasow' plot located in the northern part of the site. This would suggest that a road / track ran SSW to NNE through the site.
- 3.2.16 In 1801, the population of Shrewsbury had risen to 15,000 (LH online 2014). Outbreaks of cholera in 1832 and 1849 resulted in the implementation of numerous infrastructural works, including the construction of an extensive sewage system (*ibid*). Railways between Chester, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury were constructed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid*) (HER 05501).
- 3.2.17 Consultation of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1881) records the removal of two field boundaries from within the site. The areas of woodland within and adjacent to the site remained although 'Bagley's Coppice' has been renamed 'Lion's Coppice'. Several farmsteads were constructed in close proximity to the site during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (HERs 08725, 20708, 20710, 20709, 20711 & 26996). The site remains unchanged in the 1902 Ordnance Survey map.
- 3.2.18 Slum clearance was carried out in Shrewsbury in the 1930s. Industries such as malting, engineering and tourism flourished during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid*) (HER 06780).
- 3.2.19 The 1954 Ordnance Survey map depicts several changes to the site. 'Hall's Coppy' (recorded on the eastern half of the site on the 1777 estate map) had been felled and residential properties to the west of the site boundary had been built along Battlefield Road (Dawson 2011, 10). The residential development had caused the partial felling of Lion's Coppice to the west of the site.
- 3.2.20 The 1980 Ordnance Survey map records the construction of two pylons within the site boundary, which would have caused some localised disturbance. Further disturbance is likely to have been caused by the construction of the A49 link road depicted to the east of the site boundary (*ibid*).

### 3.3 Previous Work

- 3.3.1 The construction of the A49 link road to the east of the site in 1988-1990 prompted an extensive programme of archaeological works, including fieldwalking, geophysical

survey, an archaeological evaluation and subsequent archaeological excavation of four areas (Dawson 2011, 6). Significant archaeological remains were uncovered and included two prehistoric enclosures, a Romano-British roadside settlement plus Romano-British field system and enclosure (*ibid*).

- 3.3.2 A programme of archaeological works was conducted to the west of the site before and during the construction of the A5124 Shrewsbury battlefield bypass (*ibid*, 7). In 1994, an archaeological evaluation comprised fieldwalking and some trial trenching. The finds recovered included one lithic artefact, late post-medieval pottery and a single sherd of undated, unglazed pottery (*ibid*). A mound was uncovered during the archaeological evaluation, which was originally thought to be a Bronze Age barrow. Subsequent investigation of the mound revealed that it was a glacial feature (*ibid*).
- 3.3.3 As a result of these works, another programme of archaeological investigations was commissioned, including a metal-detector survey, an earthwork survey and a watching brief (*ibid*). The earthwork survey was carried out in 1998 and comprised the recording of ridge and furrow located c.250m to the west of the site (*ibid*). No archaeological features or finds were discovered during the watching brief. A number of undated coins and possible medieval arrowheads were recovered during the metal-detector survey roughly 200m to the west of the site (*ibid*).
- 3.3.4 An archaeological assessment was undertaken on the site in June 2011 (Dawson 2011). No other archaeological works have been undertaken on the site prior to the compilation of the archaeological assessment.

## **4 METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The metal-detector survey was undertaken on land north of Shillingston Drive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire over a total of five days from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Figure 1).

4.1.2 A grid system was implemented with survey plots spaced at 10m intervals over a 12.5 hectare area (Figure 2). The baseline was laid out along the western edge of the field with 100m tapes running east from the baseline. The finds were located using a hand-held GPS.

4.1.3 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (IfA 2013). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).

4.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley.

### **4.2 Results: Artefactual analysis**

4.2.1 A total of 114 artefacts, weighing 11,440g, were recovered from the metal-detector survey. The artefacts were cleaned, preliminarily identified and sorted into the following categories:

- *Agricultural*
- *Personal Adornment*
- *Domestic Fitting*
- *Industrial Fitting*
- *Monetary*
- *Weapon / Agricultural*
- *Tool*
- *Ornamental*
- *Unidentified*

4.2.2 After the preliminary analysis, the co-ordinates for each find were plotted onto the area grid to determine whether there was any spatial distribution (Figure 2).

4.2.3 The finds table is available in Appendix 1.

- 4.2.4 **Medieval.** A total of 25 artefacts, weighing 7677g, were recovered during the metal-detector survey. The vast majority of the medieval finds assemblage comprises iron artefacts (84%) with three bronze objects (12%) and one lead object (4%). The artefact groups for the medieval finds assemblage comprise Agricultural (60%), Weapon / Agricultural (16%), Tool (20%), Personal Adornment (4%) and Industrial Fitting (4%).
- 4.2.5 The depth range of these artefacts comprised roughly 20cm-35cm which may indicate that potential archaeological remains or features lie relatively undisturbed on the site. The artefacts were all in good condition, further indicating that the ground has not been disturbed.
- 4.2.6 *Agricultural.* The agricultural finds largely consisted of horseshoes, including Guildhall-type horseshoes dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Cuddeford 1994, 22). A partial scalloped horseshoe of possibly 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from the northern part of the field (Figure 2). A two-pronged pitchfork of likely medieval date was also recovered from the north of the field.
- 4.2.7 *Weapon / Agricultural.* Of interest was the recovery of several artefacts in the Weapon / Agricultural category. These artefacts comprise a small iron axehead, a large iron billhook and a bronze shield boss component / horse harness fitting (Plate 1). These artefacts may provide evidence of medieval weaponry used during a conflict. However, the iron artefacts would have been used primarily as farming implements. The small quantity of this category of find does not provide conclusive evidence that a battle took place on the site.



*Plate 1: Potential medieval shield boss*

4.2.8 *Tools, Personal Adornment & Industrial Fitting.* Several nails of likely medieval date were recovered from the survey. A weight of possibly medieval to post-medieval date was also recovered plus a small, bronze belt buckle was found in the southern half of the site (Figure 2). Preliminary identification has revealed that the buckle comprises a Type 1P belt buckle manufactured between 1485 and 1600 AD (Marshall 1986) (Plate 2).



*Plate 2: Tudor belt buckle (1485-1600 AD)*

- 4.2.9 There does not appear to be any specific pattern with the spatial distribution of the medieval artefacts.
- 4.2.10 **Post-medieval.** Finds of post-medieval date comprised the largest group of artefacts (65%); a total of 74 post-medieval finds, weighing 3756g, were recovered from the survey. Artefact category groups comprise Agricultural (20.2%), Fittings (6.7%), Ornamental (4%), Monetary (24.3%), Weapons (11%) and Personal Adornment (27%) (Table 1, Appendix 1).
- 4.2.11 **Monetary.** The earliest post-medieval find comprises a hammer-struck silver sixpence dating to the reign of Elizabeth I (Plate 3). The sixpence is a 3<sup>rd</sup> issue coin with an Eglantine mint-mark and dates to 1573-1577.



*Plate 3: Elizabeth I sixpence (1573-1577 AD)*

- 4.2.12 Other monetary artefacts of note comprise a William III sixpence (1694-1702), a fake or forged William III guinea (1774-1786) and two George III Soho mint pennies dated to 1797. A George III 1816 sixpence was recovered from the northern half of the field and two Queen Victoria coins dating to 1863 and 1884 were also recovered.
- 4.2.13 *Weapons.* Eight lead musket balls of 18<sup>th</sup> century date, weighing 175g, were recovered from the metal-detector survey. Three of the musket balls showed evidence of having been fired.
- 4.2.14 *Domestic Fittings.* Four items of domestic fittings, weighing 169g, were recovered during the metal-detector survey. Two of the artefacts comprise 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century ornate bronze key handles and two artefacts comprise small lead loomweights of likely 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 4.2.15 *Kitchen Implements.* A small pewter spoon, weighing 27g, was recovered from the central area of the site. The artefact is likely of 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 4.2.16 *Ornamental.* Three ornamental artefacts, weighing 38g, were recovered from the central area of the site. The artefacts comprise a circular lead gaming counter, an engraved silver handle (possibly from a letter-opener or brush) and a small key to a grandfather clock. The artefacts are likely of Victorian (late 19<sup>th</sup> century) date.

4.2.17 *Personal Adornment*. A total of 24 artefacts, weighing 234g, were recovered during the metal-detector survey (Table 1, Appendix 1).

4.2.18 Eight of these artefacts comprise shoe and belt buckles including a Type IIIC 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century buckle (Plate 4), a Type V mid - 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century decorated garter buckle (Plate 5) and two 18<sup>th</sup> century shoe buckles (Plate 6).



*Plate 4: 17<sup>th</sup> century D-shaped shoe buckle*



*Plate 5: Garter/shoe buckle (1660-1720 AD)*



Plate 6: 18<sup>th</sup> century (Georgian) bronze shoe buckle

- 4.2.19 Eleven of the artefacts in the Personal Adornment category comprise decorated and undecorated, pewter and bronze buttons of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. These buttons would have been used on coats, trousers, sleeves and jackets.
- 4.2.20 *Agricultural.* Fifteen lead and iron agricultural implements of post-medieval date, weighing 2989g, were recovered from the metal-detector survey. Nine of these artefacts comprise iron horseshoes of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date and five of the lead items comprise seed bag tags with the numbers 13, 38, 97 and 126 engraved on one surface (Table 1, Appendix 1). These artefacts are likely of Victorian date. A small iron lynch pin was recovered from the east of the site and a general date of post-medieval has been attributed to this artefact.
- 4.2.21 *Tools.* A single iron nail weighing 20g, was recovered from the southeast area of the site. A general date of post-medieval has been attributed to this artefact.
- 4.2.22 *Unidentified.* Three unidentified cast copper alloy artefacts, weighing 40g, were recovered from the metal-detector survey. .
- 4.2.23 **Modern.** A total of 22 modern artefacts, weighing 254g, were recovered from the metal-detector survey (Table 1, Appendix 1; Figure 2). The artefacts are in good

condition. The modern artefact category types comprise Industrial Fittings (32%), Monetary (32%), Miscellaneous (4.5%), Unidentified (4.5%) and Personal Adornment (27%).

4.2.24 *Monetary*. Seven modern coins, weighing 36g, were recovered during the survey. Three coins comprise George V pennies and halfpennies dating to 1916, 1921 and 1929. Two coins comprise George VI halfpennies dated to 1937 and 1940 (Seaby 1997, 343) and one coin comprises an Elizabeth II 1953 halfpenny. One coin could not be identified.

4.2.25 *Industrial Fittings*. Seven artefacts, weighing 163g, were recovered from the survey. Five artefacts comprise G, A & P typesetter letters for newspaper printing; two of the artefacts are plain block typesetter letters. One artefact comprises a miscellaneous lead fitting and one artefact comprises a lead weight.

4.2.26 *Personal Adornment*. Six artefacts of personal adornment, weighing 18g, were recovered from the survey. Four of these artefacts comprise buttons, including an Australian armed forces sleeve / cuff badge. Other artefacts include a modern silver ring with rune decorations on the exterior and a small bead.

#### 4.3 Discussion

4.3.1 In general, the finds were concentrated in the southern half of the site and the northwest section of the field (Figure 2). The eastern and western edges of the site could not be surveyed due to boggy ground conditions and overgrown hedgerows. A large National Grid electricity pylon was located in the northern half of the field, which caused interference with the transmitter frequencies of the metal-detectors. This may have caused some finds to go undetected and a gap in the spatial distribution of the finds is evident in the northern central part of the field (Figure 2).

4.3.2 *Distribution of the Medieval Artefacts*. The medieval artefacts are grouped into three clusters across the site, with clusters in the northern, central and southern areas of the site (Figure 2). Six medieval artefacts appear to be randomly distributed across the eastern half of the site (Figure 2). The greatest concentration of medieval artefacts appears to be the central cluster. It is worth noting that the artefacts fitting into the Agricultural / Weapon finds category were recovered from the north of the field.

4.3.3 As mentioned in Section 4.2.5, the depth range of the medieval artefacts was between roughly 20cm-35cm which may indicate that potential archaeological

remains or features lie relatively undisturbed on the site. The artefacts were all in good condition, further indicating that the ground has not been disturbed.

- 4.3.4 It could be argued that the lack of medieval artefacts does not discount this being the site of the battle as it was common post-battle practice to scavenge possessions and weapons from the fallen and dispose of the dead (Sutherland & Holst 2005, 26), therefore leaving very little evidence behind.
- 4.3.5 The primary use of the artefacts in the *Weaponry / Agricultural* category would have been for farming, but it is possible that they were used as weapons. The recovery of the shield boss component / horse harness fitting is interesting, as this may provide evidence of military activity, although no definitive conclusion can be drawn from this.
- 4.3.6 The medieval artefacts recovered from the survey indicate that medieval domestic and agricultural activity had taken place on the site and in its environs. While it is possible that the field may have formed part of the battlefield site (the nature of warfare being such that the boundaries of a conflict are often vague (EH 2012, 5), there is not enough artefactual evidence recovered during this survey to confirm that this was the site (or part of the site) of the 1403 Battle of Shrewsbury.
- 4.3.7 *Distribution of the Post-medieval Artefacts.* There is no pattern in the spatial distribution of the post-medieval artefacts. Similarly to the medieval artefacts, the recovery of post-medieval objects provides evidence of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic and agricultural activity on the site and in its environs.
- 4.3.8 *Distribution of the Modern Artefacts.* There does not appear to be a pattern with the spatial distribution of the modern artefacts. The artefacts are largely concentrated in the southern half of the site with scatters of finds distributed in the northwest half of the site. No further conclusions can be drawn from this distribution.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Conclusions**

- 5.1.1 The metal-detector survey consisted of a systematic survey of an area of 12.5 hectares using 100m tapes, a baseline and a hand-held GPS. The purpose of the metal-detector survey was to collect all archaeological artefacts, with particular emphasis on artefacts that could provide evidence of the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403.
- 5.1.2 Medieval, post-medieval and modern artefacts were recovered from the survey. Medieval artefacts that were recovered included horseshoes, a potential shield boss component, farming implements and items of personal adornment. The farming implements, including a billhook, axehead and pitchfork head, may have been used as weapons and could have been used in battle. The recovery of the potential medieval shield boss / harness fitting may indicate that military activity took place on the site, although no definitive conclusion can be drawn from this. Not enough artefactual evidence has been recovered to confirm that this was the site (or part of the site) of the 1403 Battle of Shrewsbury.
- 5.1.3 Post-medieval and modern artefacts recovered during the metal-detector survey include buckles, coins, tools, horseshoes and weights. No spatial distribution pattern was established for the post-medieval and modern. The medieval assemblage is of moderate to high potential.

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## APPENDIX 1: FINDS

NGR Co-ordinates	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Type of object	Date	Notes
SJ 51883 16131	Bronze	1	5	Personal Adornment	Med	1485-1600 AD, Type 1P belt buckle
SJ 51744 16206	Iron	1	681	Agricultural	Med - PM	Horseshoe or ox plate
SJ 51798 16416	Iron	1	713	Agricultural	Med - PM	Horseshoe or ox plate
SJ 51721 16282	Lead	1	405	Industrial fitting	Med - PM	Weight
SJ 51708 16166	Bronze	1	17	Weapon / Agri	Med?	Shield boss, or possible horse harness fitting?
SJ 51708 16173	Bronze	1	6	Weapon/ Agri	Med?	Horse harness fitting?
SJ 51752 16215	Iron	1	32	Tool	Med?	Square cross-sectioned nail
SJ 51769 16255	Iron	1	247	Tool	Med?	2-pronged pitchfork
SJ 51743 16230	Iron	1	363	Agricultural	Med?	Horseshoe
SJ 51917 16185	Iron	1	151	Agricultural	Med?	Partial scalloped horseshoe
SJ 51794 16087	Iron	1	400	Agricultural	Med?	Horseshoe
SJ 51818 16170	Iron	1	27	Tool	Med?	Nail
SJ 51841 16281	Iron	1	569	Agricultural	Med?	Horseshoe
SJ 51732 16334	Iron	1	242	Agricultural	Med?	Horseshoe
SJ 51880 16239	Iron	1	809	Weapon / Agri	Med?	Axe head - 13th / 14th C; either weapon or farm implement
SJ 51713 16316	Iron	1	138	Agricultural	Med?	Horseshoe
SJ 51788 16391	Iron	1	787	Weapon / Agri	Med?	Billhook - agricultural implement or weapon?
SJ 51760 16342	Iron	1	329	Agricultural	Med?	Horseshoe
SJ 51926 16096	Iron	1	443	Agricultural	Med?	Horseshoe

NGR Co-ordinates	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Type of object	Date	Notes
SJ 51707 16238	Iron	1	184	Agricultural	Med?	13th to 16th C? Horseshoe
SJ 51719 16247	Iron	1	206	Agricultural	Med?	13th to 15th C Guildhall horseshoe
SJ 51777 16050	Iron	1	503	Agricultural	Med?	Guidhall horseshoe - 13th to 15th C
SJ 51715 16086	Iron	1	368	Agricultural	Med?	Guidhall horseshoe - 13th to 15th C
SJ 51768 16240	Iron	1	22	Tool	Med?	Nail - square cross-sectioned shank
SJ 51792 16203	Iron	1	30	Tool	Med?	Nail
SJ 51922 16104	Bronze	1	3	Personal Adornment	Mod	Australian Military Forces'; cap / sleeve button
SJ 51751 16295	Bronze	1	4	Monetary	Mod	George VI; 1937; halfpenny
SJ 51863 16111	Bronze	1	5	Monetary	Mod	1953 half penny; 1st issue; Elizabeth II
SJ 51718 16310	Bronze	1	4	Monetary	Mod	Unidentified coin
SJ 51774 16188	Bronze	1	1	Personal Adornment	Mod	Tiny bronze shirt button
SJ 51921 16130	Bronze	1	8	Monetary	Mod	George V 1916 oen penny - R Britannia
SJ 51720 16086	Bronze	1	1	Personal Adornment	Mod	Button
SJ 51877 16128	Bronze	1	5	Monetary	Mod	George VI halfpenny, 1940, R. Ship; Seaby p343
SJ 51948 16119	Bronze	1	2	Unidentified	Mod	Unidentified fragment
SJ 51813 16147	Bronze	1	8	Monetary	Mod	George V 1929 one penny
SJ 51762 16237	Bronze	1	4	Personal Adornment	Mod	Button
SJ 51785 16197	Lead	1	45	Industrial fitting	Mod	Early modern G typesetter for newspaper printing
SJ 51758 16177	Lead	1	17	Industrial fitting	Mod	Early modern A typesetter for newspaper printing
SJ 51750	Lead	1	15	Industrial	Mod	Weight - for fishing?

NGR Co-ordinates	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Type of object	Date	Notes
16202				fitting		
SJ 51903 16171	Lead	1	32	Industrial fitting	Mod	Early modern P typesetter for newspaper printing
SJ 51770 16238	Lead	1	31	Industrial fitting	Mod	Lead fitting
SJ 51844 16187	Lead	1	11	Industrial fitting	Mod	Plain stamp typesetter for newspaper printing
SJ 51715 16263	Lead	1	12	Industrial fitting	Mod	Plain stamp for newspaper typesetters
SJ 51698 16165	Silver	1	5	Personal Adornment	Mod	Decorative ornate silver ring - crude designs; 20th-21st C; foreign - Asian / Indian; rune decoration on exterior; no hall-marks
SJ 51783 16159	Silver	1	2	Monetary	Mod	George V; sixpence; 1921
SJ 51746 16342	Steel	1	35	Miscellaneous	Mod	Fragment of steel - miscellaneous
SJ 51790 16423	Tin & CuA	1	4	Personal Adornment	Mod	Bead?
SJ 51883 16142	Bronze	1	3	Personal Adornment	PM	Button
SJ 51738 16060	Bronze	1	10	Industrial fitting	PM	Fitting - 'F' engraved on one surface
SJ 51784 16157	Bronze	1	2	Personal Adornment	PM	Button
SJ 51766 16134	Bronze	1	5	Monetary	PM	Coin?
SJ 51779 16334	Bronze	1	25	Personal Adornment	PM	18th C shoe buckle - decorated
SJ 51801 16224	Bronze	1	7	Unidentified	PM	Unidentified circular object
SJ 51668 16079	Bronze	1	6	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51945 16106	Bronze	1	7	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51854 16071	Bronze	1	2	Personal Adornment	PM	Plain button - very abraded
SJ 51708 16264	Bronze	1	5	Personal Adornment	PM	Coat button - undecorated
SJ 51871	Bronze	1	3	Unidentified	PM	Unidentified fragment of copper alloy sheet

NGR Co-ordinates	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Type of object	Date	Notes
16105						
SJ 51733 16342	Bronze	1	6	Monetary	PM	George III guinea; 4th head; 1774-1786; FAKE; either a poorly made contemporary forgery or a gaming / gambling token
SJ 51924 16111	Bronze	1	23	Monetary	PM	George III penny; second issue; SOHO mint; 1797; 'Cartwheel coinage' Seaby p275
SJ 51906 16111	Bronze	1	3	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51865 16280	Bronze	1	21	Personal Adornment	PM	18th C shoe buckle - undecorated
SJ 51689 16134	Bronze	1	7	Domestic fitting	PM	Elaborate key fob
SJ 51901 16159	Bronze	1	5	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51913 16235	Bronze	2	3	Personal Adornment	PM	17th Century D-shaped buckle
SJ 51706 16166	Bronze	1	6	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51739 16088	Bronze	1	6	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51714 16215	Bronze	1	3	Personal Adornment	PM	Buckle
SJ 51792 16209	Bronze	1	4	Personal Adornment	PM	Undecorated button
SJ 51709 16208	Bronze	1	3	Personal Adornment	PM	Undecorated button
SJ 51901 16149	Bronze	1	5	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51938 16107	Bronze	1	6	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51870 16105	Bronze	1	7	Personal Adornment	PM	Type IIIC 1600-1700 AD D-shaped buckle
SJ 51756 16285	Bronze	1	4	Personal Adornment	PM	Undecorated button with gilt enamel on underside; shank is complete
SJ 51801 16156	Bronze	1	4	Monetary	PM	Queen Victoria halfpenny 1884
SJ 51847 16088	Bronze	1	10	Monetary	PM	George III Soho Mint, 3rd issue, 1797 penny
SJ 51773	Copper	1	10	Monetary	PM	Queen Victoria; 1863; Bunhead; penny; R Britannia

NGR Co-ordinates	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Type of object	Date	Notes
16375	Alloy					
SJ 51787 16221	Copper Alloy	1	5	Monetary	PM	Unidentified coin
SJ 51898 16177	Copper Alloy	1	30	Unidentified	PM	Unidentified copper alloy folded sheet fragment
SJ 51849 16138	Iron	1	6	Personal Adornment	PM	Buckle
SJ 51831 16066	Iron	1	20	Tool	PM	Nail
SJ 51684 16145	Iron	1	59	Agricultural	PM	Part of horseshoe
SJ 51696 16166	Iron	1	300	Agricultural	PM	Horseshoe
SJ 51697 16117	Iron	1	87	Agricultural	PM	Partial horseshoe
SJ 51819 16178	Iron	1	251	Agricultural	PM	Horseshoe
SJ 51884 16108	Iron	1	22	Agricultural	PM	Lynch pin
SJ 51753 16185	Iron	1	211	Agricultural	PM	Horseshoe
SJ 51943 16186	Iron	1	624	Agricultural	PM	Horseshoe
SJ 51707 16129	Iron	1	554	Agricultural	PM	Horseshoe
SJ 51948 16125	Iron	1	658	Agricultural	PM	Horseshoe
SJ 51803 16042	Iron	1	197	Agricultural	PM	Small horseshoe
SJ 51732 16189	Iron	1	102	Domestic fitting	PM	Door key - 17th C?
SJ 51739 16231	Iron	1	57	Personal Adornment	PM	Buckle
SJ 51739 16174	Lead	1	22	Weapon	PM	18th C musket ball - squashed
SJ 51743 16237	Lead	1	13	Weapon	PM	Squashed musket ball
SJ 51795 16184	Lead	1	6	Agricultural	PM	Seed tag - with the number 13 engraved on one surface

NGR Co-ordinates	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Type of object	Date	Notes
SJ 51787 16139	Lead	1	2	Agricultural	PM	Seed tag - with the number 97 engraved on one surface
SJ 51940 16174	Lead	1	26	Ornamental	PM	Gaming counter?
SJ 51777 16249	Lead	1	16	Domestic fitting	PM	Spherical loomweight
SJ 51759 16123	Lead	1	11	Weapon	PM	Fired musket ball
SJ 51817 16186	Lead	1	8	Agricultural	PM	Seed tag - with the number 126 engraved on one surface
SJ 51848 16157	Lead	1	17	Weapon	PM	Musket ball - unfired
SJ 51898 16092	Lead	1	30	Weapon	PM	Musket ball - unfired
SJ 51862 16069	Lead	1	5	Agricultural	PM	Seed tag - with the number 38 engraved on one surface
SJ 51859 16322	Lead	1	30	Weapon	PM	Musket ball - unfired
SJ 51832 16186	Lead	1	5	Agricultural	PM	Seed tag - plain
SJ 51742 16331	Lead	1	27	Weapon	PM	Musket ball - unfired
SJ 51731 16376	Lead	1	25	Weapon	PM	Musket ball - unfired
SJ 51776 16346	Lead	1	44	Domestic fitting	PM	Spherical loomweight
SJ 51744 16394	Pewter	1	6	Personal Adornment	PM	Type V - 1660-1720 shoe or garter buckle
SJ 51748 16182	Pewter	1	6	Personal Adornment	PM	Button
SJ 51809 16155	Pewter	1	27	Kitchen implement	PM	18th C; pewter spoon
SJ 51755 16205	Pewter	1	3	Personal Adornment	PM	Plain (18th C?) pewter button
SJ 51872 16115	Pewter	1	5	Personal Adornment	PM	Decorated button - shank is broken
SJ 51956 16086	Pewter	1	9	Personal Adornment	PM	Undecorated button
SJ 51795	Silver	1	5	Ornamental	PM	Decorated handle of letter opener

NGR Co-ordinates	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Type of object	Date	Notes
16171						
SJ 51828 16140	Silver	1	2	Monetary	PM	William III sixpence 1694-1702
SJ 51798 16159	Silver	1	2	Monetary	PM	3rd issue sixpence; Elizabeth I; 1573-1577; Eglantine mint mark
SJ 51944 16170	Silver?	1	3	Monetary	PM	George III; 1816
SJ 51742 16206	Tin & CuA	1	7	Ornamental	PM	Small decorative key to grandfather clock / jewellery box
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>11446</b>			

## APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

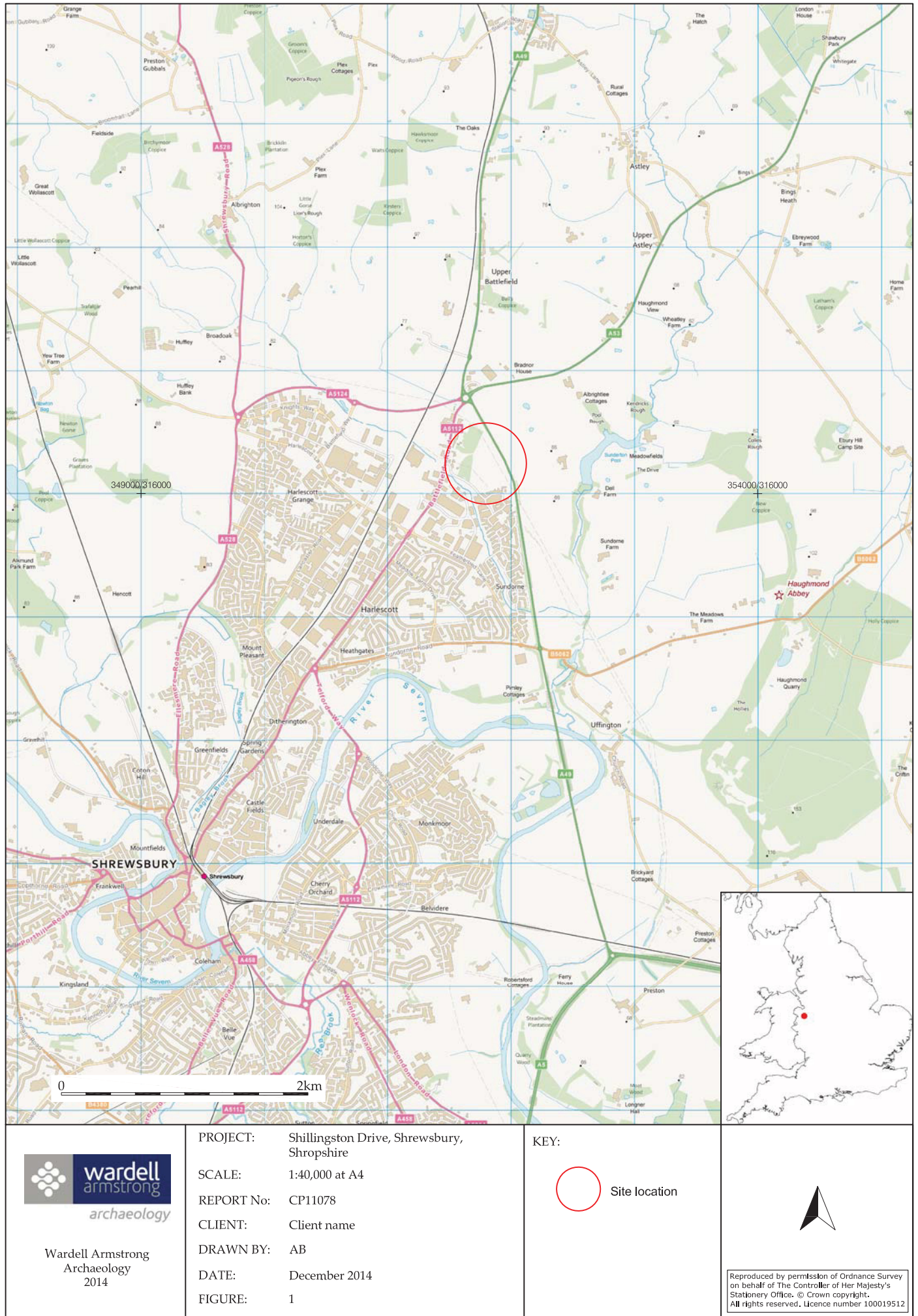


Figure 1: Site location.

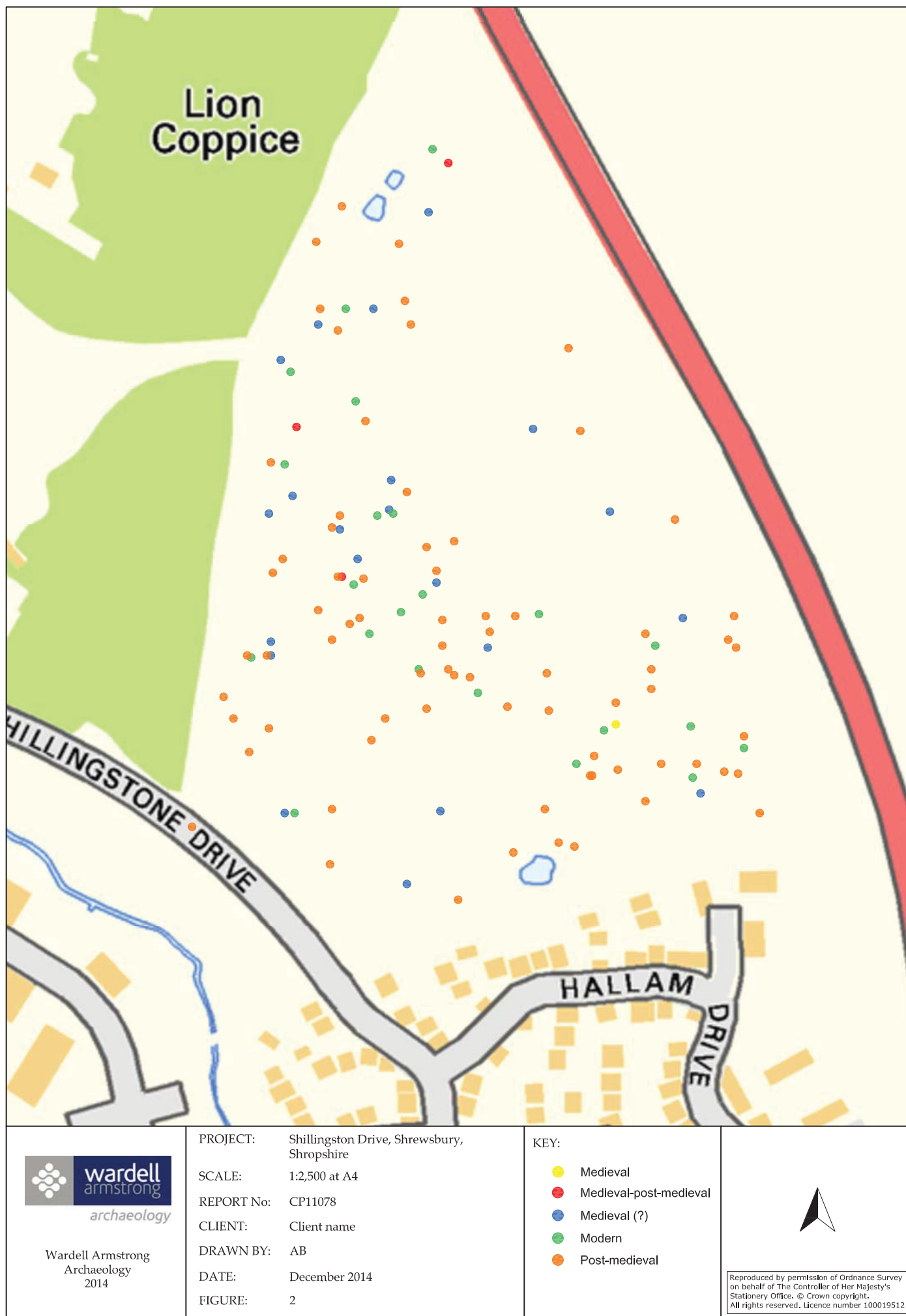


Figure 2: Location of finds recovered during metal detecting survey.

STOKE-ON-TRENT  
Sir Henry Doulton House  
Forge Lane  
Etruria  
Stoke-on-Trent  
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Tel: +44 (0)845 111 7777

CARDIFF  
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LONDON  
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