Rec 4 May 07.

Phase 12
Extracts
From Fieldwalking
Reports.

NYCC HER	
SNY	16226
ENY	5422
CNY	
Parish	2167
Rec'd	4/05/07

LANGWITH HALL EXTENSION, AREA 12, NOSTERFIELD QUARRY.

FIELDWALKING REPORT.
OSA REPORT No: OSA05EV10.

MARCH 2006.

OSA

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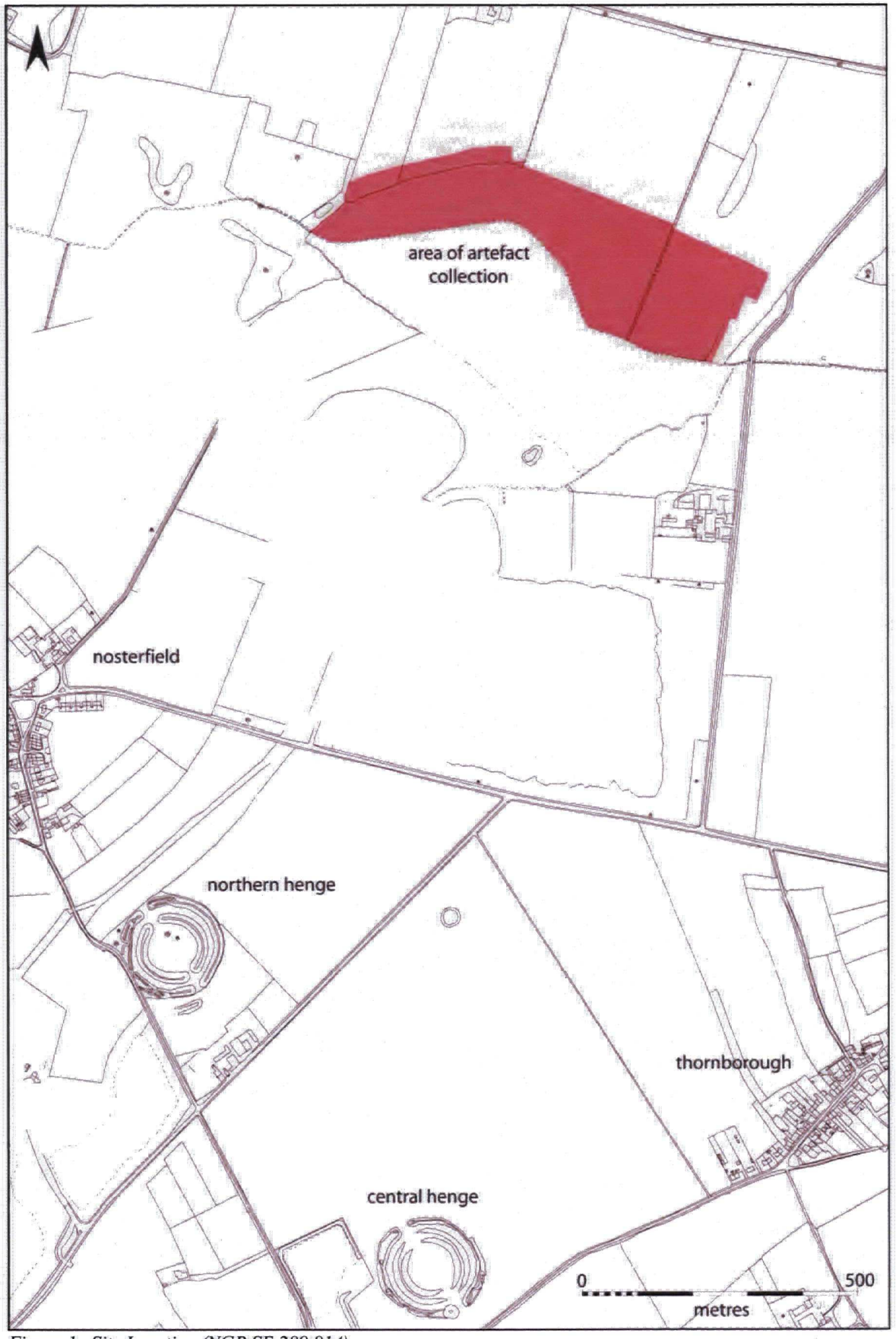

Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 289 814).

5.0 Methodology.

Area 12 was irregularly shaped and covered 10 hectares of arable land and covered the southern end of four former fields (Fig.2). The methodology for the fieldwalking survey recommended total area coverage as well as one hundred percent finds retrieval. However, it was agreed that areas of low lying ground reflecting the location of former peat deposits was to be omitted from the systematic survey as it was acknowledged (based on the results of fieldwalking peat deposit elsewhere in the area) that any finds from those areas were highly unlikely to signify the presence of sub-surface features or other forms of occupation activity.

However, those areas were still scanned in order to assess the presence or absence of prehistoric finds that may have been deposited in areas of former wetland. If finds of any material other than modern land drain and modern material were identified during the scan the survey grid was earmarked for systematic fieldwalking. In order to differentiate between areas of desiccated peat deposits and natural topsoil deposits canes were set out along the boundary between the two. This boundary was also plotted using a total station and is reproduced in Figure.2.

A grid measuring comprising 50m x 50m squares was surveyed over the site area to ensure methodical and ordered fieldwalking. A baseline for the grid was set out on an east/west axis. The baseline was then subdivided into 50m intervals. Perpendicular gridlines, also subdivided at 50m intervals, were plotted from the baseline at the 50m intervals using tapes and ranging rods.

Measuring tapes were laid along the northern and southern axis of each grid square. The 0m mark was always at the northern corner of each grid square. Ranging rods were placed at 2m intervals, starting at 1m, along the tapes to create a line of sight for the fieldwalkers to walk towards. The location of the ranging rods was in direct relation to the number of fieldwalkers. Each fieldwalker walked along the transect towards the corresponding pole across the square and searched 1m on either side, thus ensuring one hundred percent coverage of each grid square. Every grid was walked in this manner. The exception to this was the low-lying areas where surface peat deposits were identified.

As artefacts were located they were placed in plastic bags which had been previously marked with the site code (OSA05 EV10), site name (LANGWITH HALL) and area number (12). Each bag was then secured to ground in the exact spot from where it was recovered using a nail. Once the entire area was fieldwalked the finds were allocated a find number, starting at 1, and the location of each find was 3D recorded using a total station. Several survey stations, which were tied into the National Ordnance Survey grid, were located in the application area in order to carry out this task.

Surface Artefact Collection Field Forms were completed daily by the fieldwalkers. The forms recorded the weather, lighting and soil conditions, presence/absence of crops, the slope and topography of the area, the type of finds located and fieldwalker details. Changes in the soil colour and/or composition and areas of concentrated finds were also recorded. In that respect

a concentration of brick and building material was identified in the central area of the survey area. The limits of this spread of material were plotted using a total station (Fig. 2) and a representative sample of the building material was collected for analysis.

Following collection the finds were cleaned and sorted by material type: ceramic, CBM, worked stone etc. A spreadsheet was created detailing the type find number, the northing, easting and height of the find location, and type etc. The finds were then boxed and sent to the respective specialists for identification and dating.

The location of each find was plotted in a CAD program with each artefact class allocated a unique identifying symbol. Further figures were created to demonstrate the locale of finds within individual classes, i.e. flint distribution.

All finds were cleaned, conserved, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in UKIC's "Conservation Guidelines No 2".

6.0 Results.

6.1 Introduction.

The fieldwalking survey commenced following seeding and compacting of the fields. At the beginning of the surface artefact collection survey the visibility of finds was good, the crop had not yet germinated and started to grow, however, towards the end of the survey ground visibility was moderate to good as the crop had begun to grow at a fast rate. A total of 4782 individual artefacts were recovered during the field walking survey. Of those 3501 (73% of total finds) finds were identified as modern field drain. The distribution of field drain across the site area showed a fairly even background scatter with three particular heavier concentrations (Fig.3). Two of those concentrations corresponded with low-lying areas of land on the fringes of a former peat mire in the central and eastern parts of the survey area. The third grouping of material corresponded with a concentration of other types of finds in the eastern part of the survey area (Fig.3). The fragments of field drain along with thirty-six pieces (1% of total finds) of natural stone will form no further part of the following discussion.

The remaining 1245 (26% of total finds) artefacts will form the focus of the discussion below. They comprised twenty-five fragments of animal bone (2%), 870 fragments of ceramic building material (69%), one fragment of clay tobacco pipe (<1%), five pieces of worked flint (<1%), eighty-one shards of glass (7%), one hone stone (<1%), forty miscellaneous objects (Including gun cartridges, plastic, chipboard, a bull ring etc) (3%), forty metal objects (3%) and 182 sherds of pottery (15%), (Fig.4).

Figure 3. Plot of modern field drain and natural stone.

Figure 4. Plot of all finds other than field drain and natural stone.

6.2 Prehistoric.

The evidence for prehistoric occupation within the survey area is limited to four pieces of flint and one of chert (Appendix 1; Fig.5). The latter was a small single platform core. The small flint assemblage included three flakes, one of which was broken, and one flake which had been retouched to form an awl. There was also heavy abrupt retouch along one lateral edge indicating that the tool was multi-functional and had been utilised as a scraper too. This edge also showed evidence for heavy use. On the whole the assemblage is comprised of artefacts whose date range probably spans the Neolithic through to the early Bronze Age. All the flint pieces display small irregular fractures along their edges consistent with edge damage, suggesting that they may have been in the topsoil for a long period of time.

The worked stone had a dispersed distribution through out the survey area with no concentrations implying an absence of any sub surface features of a prehistoric date in the survey area.

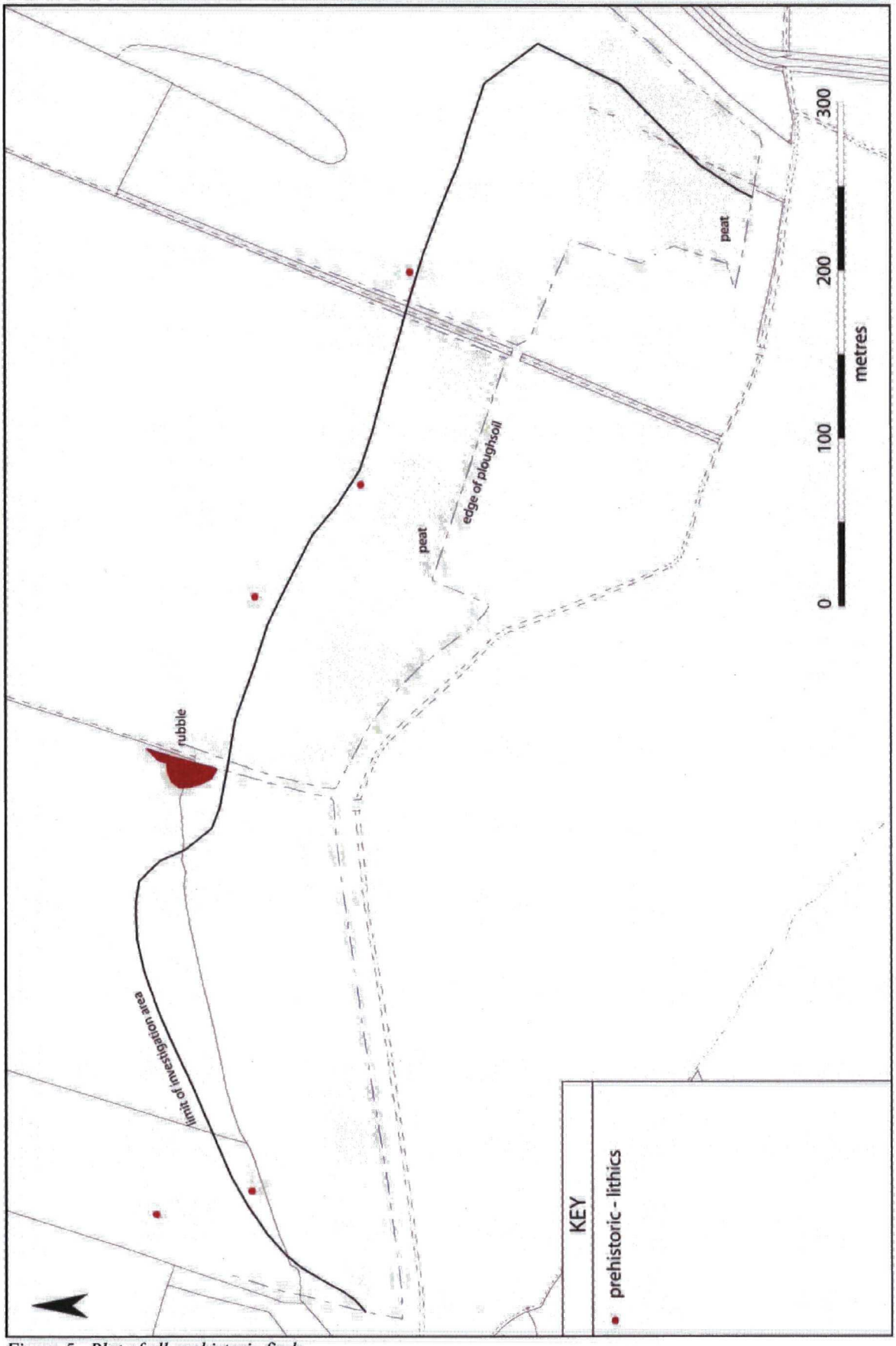

Figure 5. Plot of all prehistoric finds.

6.3 Medieval.

A total of twenty-three artefacts of a medieval date were recovered from the survey area (Fig. 6). They included twenty-two fragments of ceramic building material and one metal object (Appendix 1). The ceramic building material assemblage comprised fragments of tile and the metal object was a fiddle key. It should be noted that the tile was of a type that had a long currency of use (mid 12th century AD to 17th century AD) which, extended into the early post-medieval period and it is possible that some if not all of the material could date to that period. Nevertheless, apart from one small group of artefacts in the central area of the site, which also corresponded with a concentration of land drain and post-medieval finds, all the artefacts had a random distribution throughout the survey area and were probably introduced during manuring.

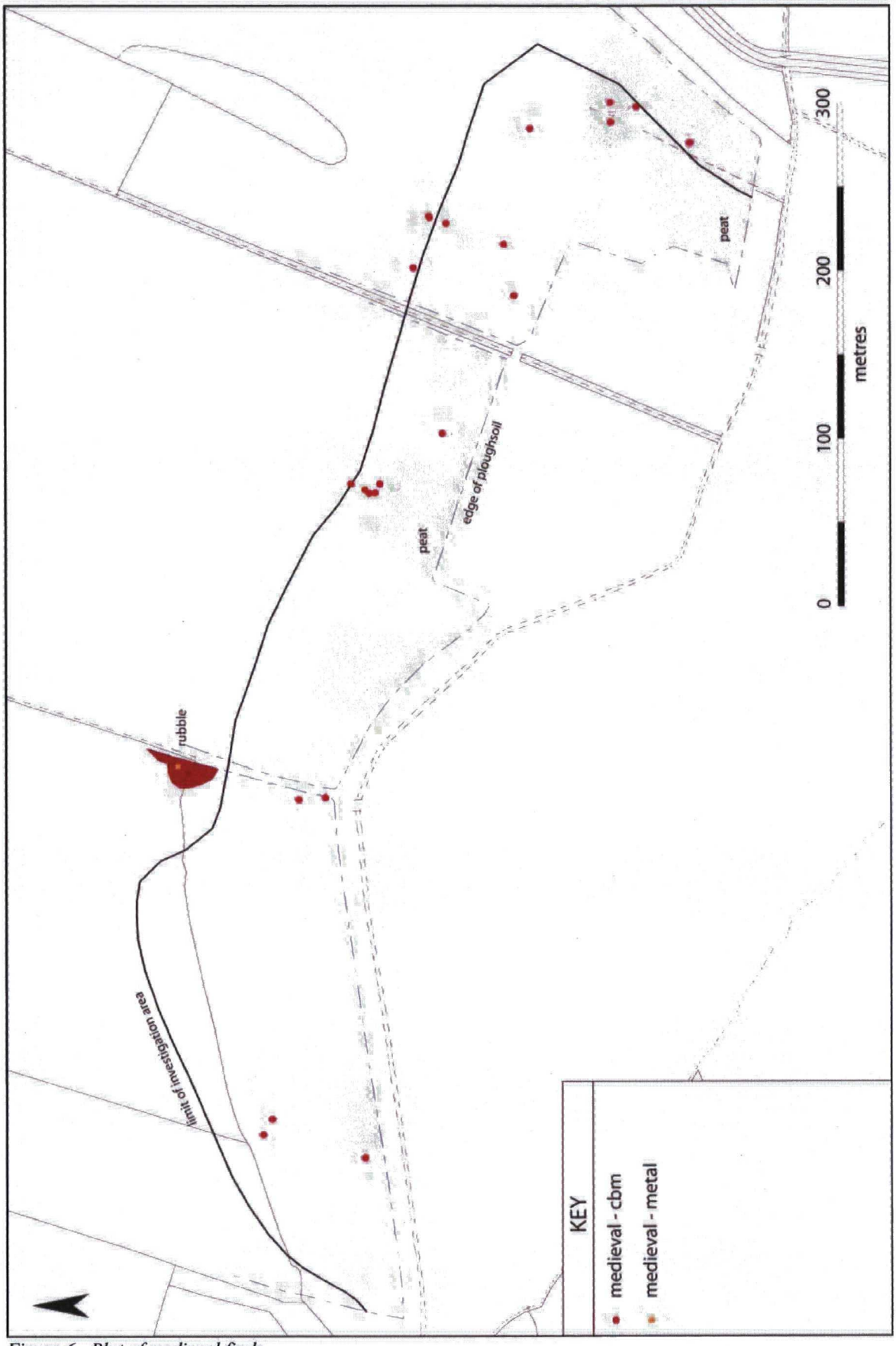

Figure 6. Plot of medieval finds.

6.4 Post-Medieval.

A total of 935 artefacts of a post-medieval date were recovered from the fieldwalking survey area (Fig.7). They included 846 fragments of ceramic building material, one fragment of clay pipe, nine shards of glass and seventy-nine sherds of pottery (Appendix 1). The ceramic building material assemblage was mainly comprised of fragments of brick with a very small component of flat tile and pantile. The glass mainly included shards from jars and bottles. The pottery assemblage comprised several different fabric types, which included Black Glazed Earthernware, Black Glazed Wares, Creamware, Glazed Red Earthernware, Sunderland Coarsewares, Transfer Printed Wares and Modern White Ware. By far the most common fabric types were Transfer Printed Wares and Black Glazed Wares. The sherds came from a variety of vessels including jars, bowls, cups, plates and bowels.

The ceramic building material was dispersed over the whole survey area with a greater concentration in the eastern part (Fig.7). Here there was a particular concentration to the east of the most westerly fields corresponding with the area of building material plotted by total station. While it is possible that the concentration represents the location of a possible structure other factors should also be considered. The concentration of material was situated within a low lying topographical area and could therefore represent the backfilling of a natural hollow, possibly associated with a former trackway, which may have lead to the bridge over Ings Goyt to the south. There was also a large concentration of land drain in the same area, indicating that it was waterlogged until quite recently. The remainder of the material is likely to have been introduced to the survey area during manuring.

The glass shards showed a dispersed distribution in the western part of the survey area with one outlier to the east (Fig.7). A small concentration was located in the same area as the concentration of ceramic building material outlined above and like that material may be associated with a structure or was introduced as dumped material. The rest was probably introduced during manuring.

The pottery sherds showed a dispersed distribution over the survey area (Fig.7) and was probably introduced during manuring.

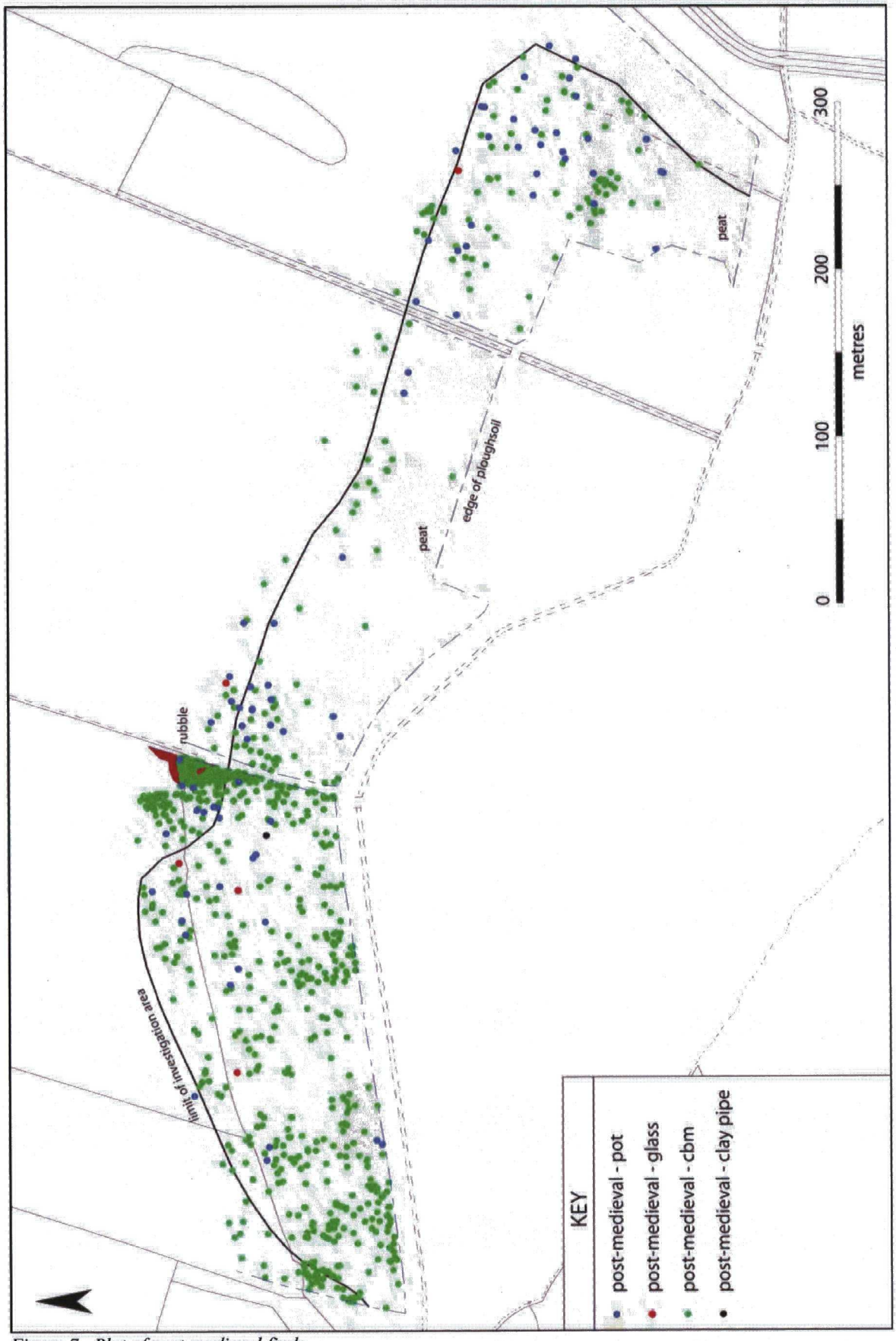

Figure 7. Plot of post-medieval finds.

6.5 Modern.

A total of 229 finds of a modern date were recovered from the survey area (Fig. 8). They included one fragment of ceramic building material, seventy-two shards of glass, eighteen metal objects, thirty-eight miscellaneous objects and 100 sherds of pottery. The ceramic building material comprised a fragment of brick. The majority of the fragments of glass were from bottles and windows, however other material such as a car stop light and a lemon squeezer were also present. The metal objects included pieces of agricultural machinery, barbed wire, tools and a drain. The miscellaneous objects included a fragment of asbestos, a harness fitting two fragments of chipboard, a fragment of concrete, a copper bull ring nine pieces of plastic and twenty-three gun cartridges. Finally the pottery sherds included, for example, 19th century buff ware, modern white ware and local late post-medieval wares from a variety of forms including plates, cups and bowls (Appendix 1).

The modern finds showed two particular concentrations in the western and the eastern parts of the survey area, with a smaller random scatter in the central area (Fig. 8). The finds in the eastern area showed a random distribution too. The finds in the western area were on the whole randomly distributed with a greater concentration in the same area as the land drain and post medieval ceramic building material outlined above (Fig.8). The distribution indicate that most of the modern finds were probably introduced during manuring, however those in the eastern part of the westerly side of the survey area might represent the location of a structure or were either introduced during dumping and backfilling of a natural hollow.

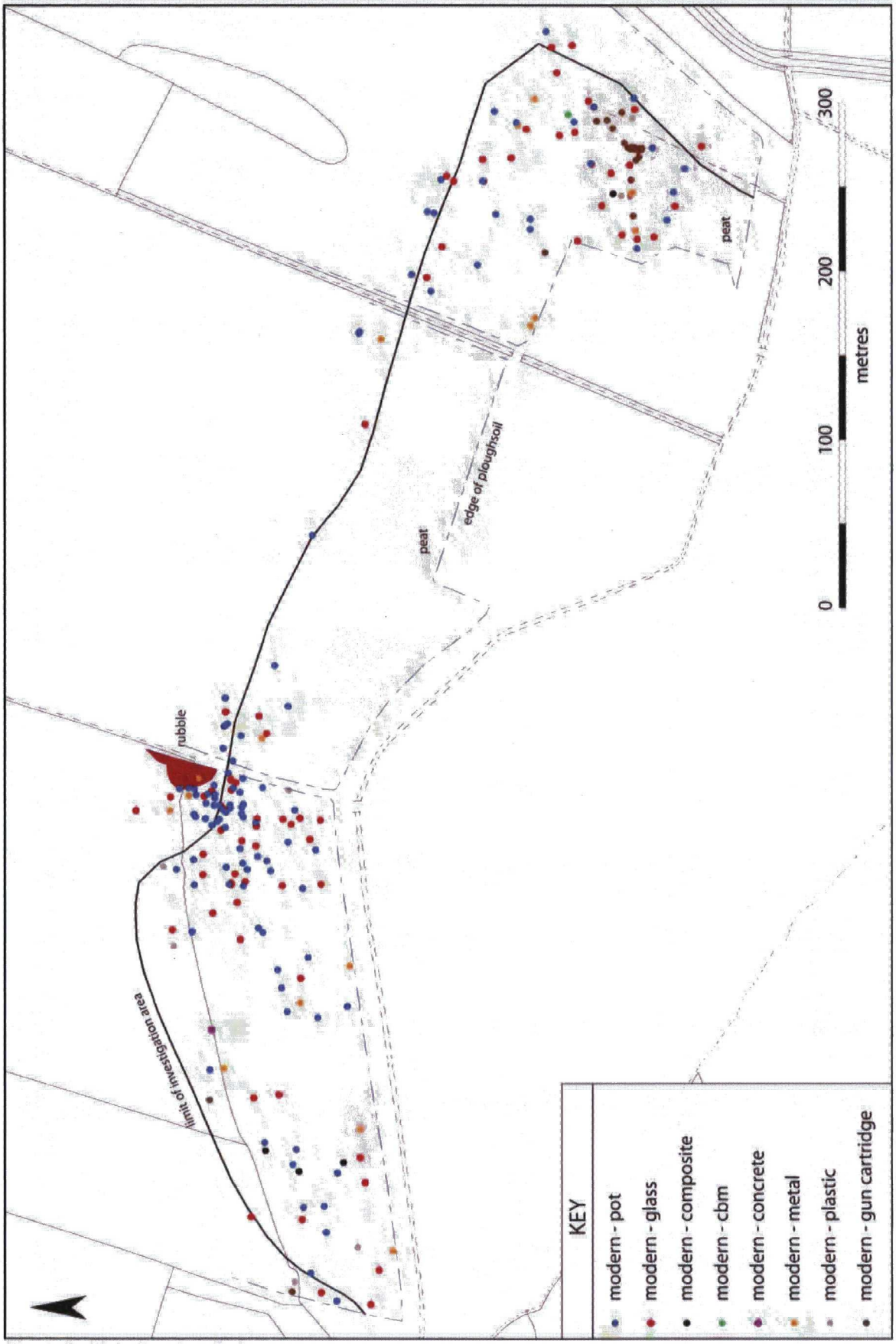

Figure 8. Plot of modern finds.

6.6 Undated Finds.

Fifty-three undated finds were recovered from the survey area (Fig. 9). They included twenty-five animal bones, one fragment of ceramic building material, twenty-one metal objects (Including agricultural equipment and nails), three pottery sherds, two miscellaneous items and one hone stone.

The undated finds had a random distribution throughout the survey area (Fig. 9).

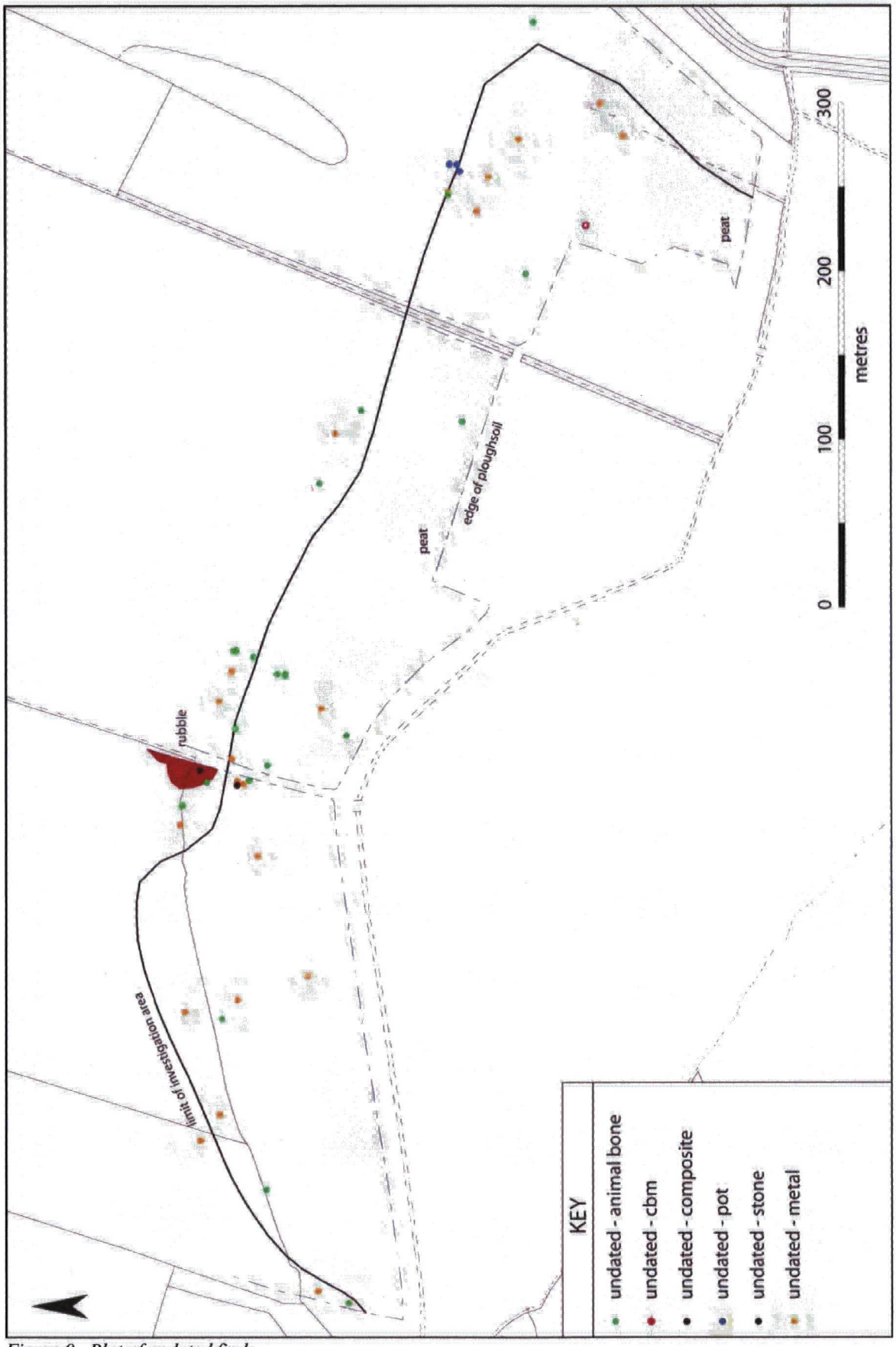

Figure 9. Plot of undated finds.

7.0 Discussion.

7.1 Prehistoric.

The prehistoric assemblage from the fieldwalking survey area probably dates to the Neolithic/Bronze Age. Five pieces of flint, however, are not indicative of a settlement. This suggests that sub surface features relating to the prehistoric period are not present within the survey area, although this cannot be categorically confirmed. The worked stone may have been lost during transit or discarded.

7.2 Medieval.

The small number and random distribution of the medieval finds suggests the absence of subsurface features dating to this period and it is likely that the pottery was deposited on site during night soiling or recent dumping activity. It is also possible that the finds date to the early post-medieval period and would therefore be associated with activity relating to the provenance of those finds.

7.3 Post-Medieval.

The majority of the post-medieval finds were distributed in the eastern part of the survey area with one particular concentration located in the eastern part. While it has been acknowledged that this concentration may be associated with the location of a possible structure it has also been suggested that they could just as likely be associated with dumping and levelling of a low lying natural hollow. This suggestion is given further credence in that a concentration of land drain and modern finds were also identified in the same area. Other than the concentration outlined above the rest of the material is highly likely to have been introduced through night soiling.

7.4 Modern.

The modern finds showed a random distribution within the survey area apart from a concentration in the same area as the post-medieval finds discussed above. In that respect the material was highly likely to have been introduced through night soiling activity and dumping.

8.0 Conclusions.

The fieldwalking survey has produced finds from four separate periods. The spatial distribution of the finds dated to the prehistoric and medieval periods indicates the absence of sub surface features relating to occupation within the survey area for those times. The majority of the finds are of recent date. A major concentration of post-medieval ceramic building material in the western area of the survey indicates the presence of sub surface features relating to the location of a structure. However, it is suggested that this group of finds probably represents dumping activity in a low-lying hollow that may have been waterlogged, according to the large quantity of land drain recovered from the same area. The overwhelming quantity of post-medieval and modern finds in relation to those from earlier periods indicated that the survey area was not brought into cultivation until quite recently. This theory is given extra weight by the presence of desiccated peat deposits over a large area of the site suggesting that much of the survey area comprised a former wetland landscape until fairly recently.