

Archaeological fieldwalking survey on land at Eaton Leys Milton Keynes October and November 2015

Report No. 15/212

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No. molanor	11-232388										
Project title	An Archaeological Field Milton Keynes	dwalking Survey on land at Eaton Leys,										
Short description	MOLA Northampton w undertake a fieldwalking Keynes to characterise the north-west of the se Roman town of Ma 1006943). The fieldwal flint towards the north was 5. Roman pottery was and 5, a samian sherd a slight scatter of medi	as commissioned by CgMs Consulting to a survey on land at Eaton Leys, Milton the artefactual content of the topsoil. To urveyed fields is the southern part of the agiovinium (Scheduled Monument no. king survey noted an increase of worked with a small area of concentration in Field nearly exclusively recovered from Fields 4 was recovered from Field 10. There was eval/transitional late medieval pottery and except a higher concentration of post-d 7.										
Project type	Fieldwalking											
Site Status	- Coophysical company (Malfaud 2014 and 1971)											
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Walford 2014 and Walford 2015)											
Current land use	Arable fields											
Future work	Unknown											
Monument type	Magiovinium (Scheduled monument no 1006943)											
and period												
Significant finds	Pottery and flint											
PROJECT LOCATION	Milton Koungo/Dugkinghamahira											
County	Milton Keynes/Buckinghamshire											
Site address Post code	Land at Eaton Leys, Milton Keynes											
OS co-ordinates	SP 888 329											
Area (sq m/ha)	45ha											
Height aOD	70-80mOD											
PROJECT CREATORS	70 00111015											
Organisation	MOLA Northampton											
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting											
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton											
Director/Supervisor	Yvonne Wolframm-Mur	ray										
Project Managers	Adam Yates (MOLA)											
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Start date	October 2015											
End date	November 2015											
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An archaeological fieldwalking survey on land at Eaton Leys Milton Keynes October and November 2015

Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a fieldwalking survey on land at Eaton Leys, Milton Keynes to characterise the artefactual content of the topsoil. To the north-west of the surveyed fields is the southern part of the Roman town of Magiovinium (Scheduled Monument no. 1006943). The fieldwalking survey noted an increase of worked flint towards the north with a small area of concentration in Field 5. Roman pottery was nearly exclusively recovered from Fields 4 and 5, a samian sherd was recovered from Field 10. There was a slight scatter of medieval/transitional late medieval pottery and post-medieval pottery, except a higher concentration of post-medieval pottery in Field 7.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton carried out a fieldwalking survey in October and November 2015. The survey was commissioned by CgMs Consulting survey on land at Eaton Leys, Milton Keynes (NGR SU 888 329; Fig 1).

The Milton Keynes Council Senior Archaeologist (MKCSA) and the Buckinghamshire Archaeologist have advised that a programme of fieldwalking evaluation be undertaken to characterise the nature and extent of any archaeological remains present in the topsoil, within the Development Area. The evaluation was carried out according to the Method Statement produced by MOLA (MOLA 2014).

MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) registered organisation. This document was prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015).

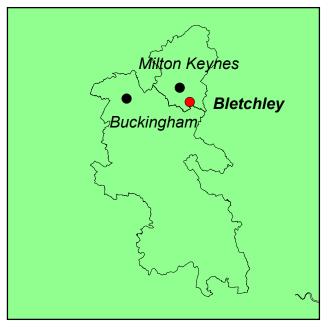
The event number is AYBCM:2015.8.

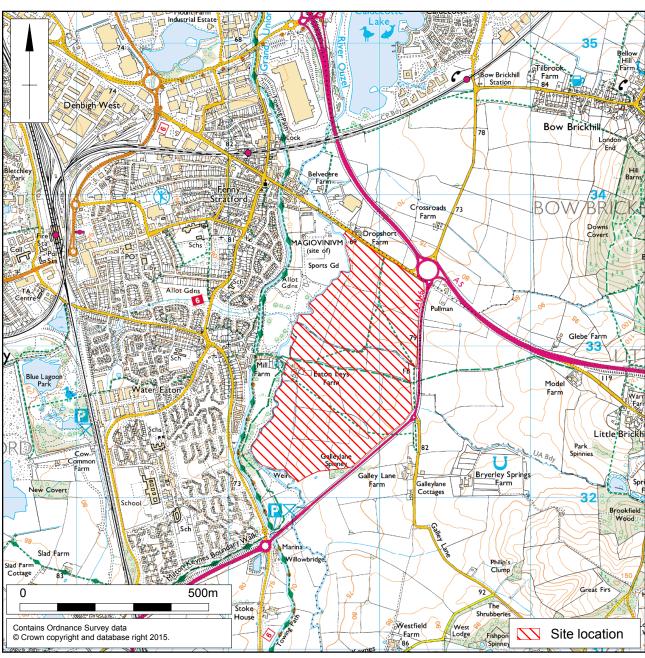
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The survey area comprises a compact block of land located immediately east of Bletchley (including land in the historic townships of Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford). The northern boundary of the area is defined by Watling Street, the eastern one by the A4146 Little Brickhill Bypass, and the southern and western ones by the River Ouzel. Eaton Leys Farm itself stands just inside the survey area, midway along its western edge (Fig 1).







Scale 1:25,000 Site location Fig 1

The survey area lies between the 70m and 80m contours on a gentle and irregular west-facing slope. Its geology consists of Oxford Clay, overlain in places by terrace gravels, alluvium and head (BGS 2014). The head deposits are likely incorporate material derived from the Lower Greensand ridge which rises above the survey area to the east. Within these boundaries a total of c 45ha has been identified for fieldwalking survey.

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

Historic Environment Record (HER) information was received through CgMs Consulting. The remains of the Roman town of *Magiovinium* (Scheduled monument no. 1006943) partially underlie the northern end of the survey area, straddling the line of Watling Street (Fig 1). Previous archaeological investigations on this site (Neal 1987, Bartlett 1999) have shown that it dates from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD and comprises a defended core with suburbs extending along the road to the south-east. Near the centre of the survey area are two sets of parallel linear features, in south-west to north-east direction to the south-west of the Roman town (MMK7684). A possible Roman fort, identified from cropmarks, also lies to the south-east of the scheduled area and may represent the original focus from which the settlement developed.

In the far south of the survey area, cropmarks indicate the presence of a small sub-rectangular enclosure (0187200000) which may be of Iron Age or Roman date (Phoenix Consulting 1999, fig 2). Just outside of the survey area is a cropmark of a possible ring ditch (0186400000). No other prehistoric or Roman sites are known from within the survey area, but a scatter of worked flints, pottery (MMK5492, MMK7869-71) and other chance finds have been recorded from locations all along the line of the Ouzel Valley to the west (Phoenix Consulting 1999). Notable amongst these finds are the concentration of Iron Age material from Saffron Gardens (MK HER MMK1166) and half-dozen Palaeolithic handaxes which have been recovered from various exposures of the river terrace gravels (Millard 1965). To the south of survey area possible Roman inhumations were found eroding from the river bank (0596700000).

Whilst no Saxon remains are known within the survey area, two sites of this date have been recorded to the west, on the opposite side of the River Ouzel. One site, at Saffron Gardens, comprised a cluster of apparently late Saxon pits and ditches investigated under salvage conditions (MK HER MMK1987). The other, further south at Stoke Road, produced evidence for 8th to 9th-century settlement (Hancock 2006). Medieval settlement seems to have followed a similar pattern, with the main settlement foci lying to the west of the river, around Water Eaton and the former site of Bletchley manor house (Phoenix Consulting 1999). Within the survey area the only known medieval remains are the ridge and furrow earthworks which lie in the field immediately east of Eaton Leys Farm. The original date of the farm itself is unknown, although it was clearly extant by 1813, when it was depicted on the Ordnance Survey surveyor's draft.

Magnetometer survey (Walford 2014) revealed a complex of ditched enclosures lying alongside the River Ouzel. These were suggested to date from the Roman period, due to their strongly rectilinear arrangement. The survey also detected some areas of former ridge and furrow cultivation, two possible palaeochannels, and some minor features of unknown archaeological relevance. A resistivity survey was carried out on selected areas (Walford 2015).

3 OBJECTIVES

The survey will seek to characterise the artefactual content of the topsoil in order to identify areas of potential archaeological interest.

4 METHODOLOGY

All fields with suitable crop and ground conditions were fieldwalked, not the scheduled area. Each field was numbered 4, 5, 7, 10 and 13, for ease the same number sequence as the geophysical survey was kept (Figs 1 and 3-6). The survey area was subdivided by a 100m grid in line with the National Grid, each was given a unique number. The grid was located using a Leica VIVA Global Positioning System (GPS) using Smartnet real-time corrections. The grids were subdivided into 25 20m² stints, which were lettered from A to Z omitting O. This was walked as parallel north-south transects, 20m apart, with 20m stints from one edge of the field to the other. Finds were recorded according to Field number, Grid number and Stint letter.

Each survey area (field) was walked systematically at slow pace along the parallel transects and surface finds were collected from a corridor extending about 1m to each side of the transect line. The overall sample of the surface area is approximately 10%. Standard MOLA Northampton Fieldwalking Record Sheets were used to record the results, including ground surface visibility and weather conditions.

All artefacts predating the 20th-century were collected, including pottery and worked flint. Samples of brick, tile and slag were collected, with any concentrations of these materials noted. Modern materials, such as animal bone, glass, tractor parts, and any other hazardous material were not collected. Modern material collected was discarded upon identification.

The artefactual assemblage was catalogued and examined by relevant specialists, drawn from MOLA's in-house expertise and where necessary, external contractors.

5 FIELDWALKING SURVEY

5.1 Ground conditions

At the time of the survey in October and November 2015, Fields 4, 5, 7, 10, and 13 were in a suitable condition to be walked, either having been ploughed or under a relatively new crop. The weather was variable, overcast with occasional rain and sunny spells or bright. No walking in wet conditions was undertaken upon the farmers wishes. Visibility of the artefacts was fields was medium in Fields 7 and 13 due to the crop and good in Fields 4, 5 and 10 as they had been recently ploughed and weathered.



General view of Field 7, looking north-east

Fig 2

5.2 Survey results

During the fieldwalking a range of artefacts were recovered, these are summarised in Table 1 and are discussed in the following sections. The results are plotted on a series of distribution plans (Figs 3 –6).

Table 1: Quantification of all fieldwalking artefacts

	F	lint	Pottery										
Field	Worked flint	Burnt flint	Roman	Medieval	Post- medieval								
4	31	-	15	2	27								
5	32	2	34	6	20								
7	9	2	-	5	109								
10	7	2	1	10	51								
13	11	-	-	-	29								
Total	90	5	50	33	236								

5.3 The worked flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

In total 90 pieces of worked flint were collected as surface finds in all five fields surveyed (Fig 3). The flint comprised four cores, 72 flakes, 14 blades, and one end scraper. Table 2 provides an overview of the flint types recovered arranged by field.

Table 2: Quantification of worked flint by field

Field	Core	Flake	Fragment	Blade	Fragment	Scraper	Total
4	2	18	5	3	3	-	31
5	-	19	5	4	4	-	32
7	-	5	3	-	-	1	9
10	1	4	2	-	-	-	7
13	1	7	3	-	-	-	11
Total	4	53	18	7	7	1	90

The assemblage

The condition of the assemblage is poor with all flints showing post-depositional edge damage. This had a detrimental effect on the recognition of intentional retouch or utilisation on the flint. The majority of the post-depositional damage was caused by ploughing and abrasion of the flint in the soil. Patination was present in the assemblage, which ranged from a grey-blue discolouration to a white surface. Three pieces of burnt flint were noted, probably accidental in nature. There is also a core and one flake possibly heat treated, these were reddened.

The main raw material is a vitreous flint, light to dark coloured greys and browns, and seven were mid to dark grey and brown granular flint. Cortex present on the dorsal surface of the pieces ranges from a light to dark brown colour and generally had a smooth, rolled and weathered surface. The raw material was likely to have originated from local gravel deposits.

Four cores were recovered (Fig 3), one each from Fields 10 and 13, and two from Field 4. The cores include a flake and blade core with a single striking platform circularly worked. Two flake cores had multiple striking platforms, and a flake and blade core with an opposing striking platform.

The majority of flints recovered consist of waste flakes and blades (Fig 3). Generally the assemblage is dominated by flakes, the occasional flake has unprepared or cortical striking platforms that are relatively long, broad and flat. There are also a couple of squat flakes present in the assemblage.

A single retouched tool form was recovered from Field 7 (Fig 3). The end scraper was fabricated on a flake and displayed abrupt to semi-abrupt retouch on the end.

Characteristics and dating

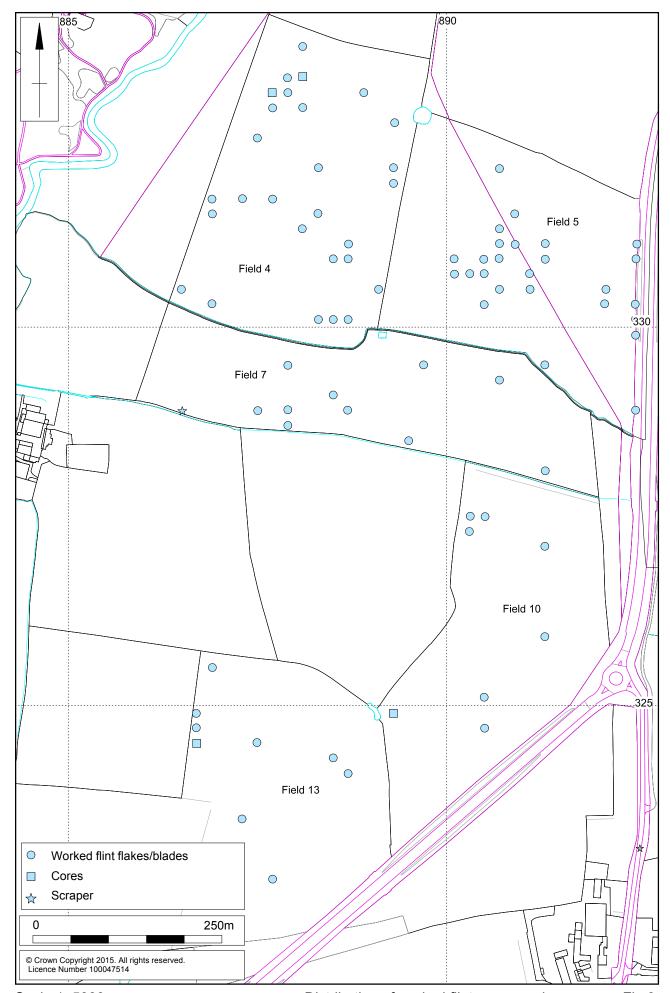
Technological characteristics of the assemblage indicate a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. The single flake and blade core and a soft hammer struck blade may be of an early Neolithic date, indicating a small early component within the assemblage. The high percentage of flakes to blades along with the cortical striking platforms and squat dimensions is more typical of a later Neolithic date. The flake cores with multiple striking platforms, and the end scraper are more typical of the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

Distribution

The worked flint generally forms a non-specific scatter across the surveyed areas. However, there is one cluster in the centre of Field 5.

5.4 Burnt flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Six pieces of burnt flint were recovered as surface finds from Fields 5, 7 and 10. The flint showed heavy thermal fracturing, crazing, spalling and patination as a result of its exposure to heat.



Scale 1: 5000

Distribution of worked flint, cores and scraper

5.5 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn and Tora Hylton

In total 319 sherds of pottery were picked up during the fieldwalking survey. The pottery collected spans the Roman through to the modern period. The different fabrics which were noted are summarised below. The medieval and post-medieval pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Milton Keynes type-series (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992, Zeepvat *et al* 1994). A breakdown of sherd and weight is in Appendix I.

Table 3: Pottery fabric types recovered during fieldwalking

Period	Fabric								
Romano-British, 1st	Grog tempered wares								
2nd century	Greyware/MK Fabric 3								
	Lower Nene valley CC/MK Fabric 6								
	Oxford Ware CC /MK Fabric 24								
	Oxidised sandy ware								
	Samian/MK Fabric 20								
	Shell-gritted ware/MK Fabric 1								
	Soft-pink-grog/MK Fabric 2								
Medieval wares	MC1: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400								
	MS2: Medieval Sandy Ware, 12th – 14th centuries								
	MS6: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 – 1600								
	MS9: Brill/Boarstall Ware, 1200-?1600								
Transitional late	TLMS18: Late Medieval Oxidized ware, ?AD1450-?1500								
medieval wares	PM14: Midland Purple Ware, AD1450-1600								
	PM15: Cistercian Ware, AD1470-1550								
Post-medieval wares	PM2: Staffordshire Slip-Trailed ware, late 17th – 18th centuries								
	PM5: Trailed Slipware, 17th centuries								
	PM8: Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th centuries								
	PM13: Midland Blackware, late 16th – 17th centuries								
	PM16: Black-glazed Coarsewares, 17th centuries								
	PM22: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware, 1730 – 1800								
	PM25: White Earthenware, late 18th – 20th centuries								
	PM28: English Stoneware, late 17th century+								
	PM32: Westerwald Stoneware, 17th century+								
	PM56: Manganese Glazed Ware, late 17th – 18th centuries								

Romano-British

A total of 50 individual sherds with a combined weight of 0.305kg were recovered from Fields 4, 5 8 and 10 (Fig 4). The majority of sherds (98.3% by weight) were recovered from Fields 4 and 5, suggesting that this is the focus of activity. Much of the assemblage comprises undiagnostic bodysherds, therefore the fabric type has been used as an indicator of date. Although the pottery displays signs of abrasion and wear, the overall condition of the pottery is relatively good and this is reflected in a mean sherd weight of 6.3g. It was, however, noted that there is a striking difference in the mean sherd weight of the sherds for Fields 4 and 5, which is 13.5 and 3.2 respectively. The analysis included sherd count and weight by fabric type and where possible the fabric types have been classified according to the Milton Keynes Ceramic Type Series (Marney 1989). There were no distinct concentrations of pottery, the assemblage is thought likely to represent manuring rather than below ground archaeological features.

Table 4: Roman pottery quantification by fabric type and weight (g)

Fabric/MK Fabric number		ld 4 /Wg		ld 5 /Wg	Field 10 No/Wg		
Grog tempered wares	8	170	4	18	-	-	
Greyware/MK Fabric 3	1	4	4	14	-	-	
Lower Nene valley CC/MK Fabric 6	1	1	1	1	-	-	
Oxford Ware CC /MK Fabric 24	-	-	1	3	-	-	
Oxidised sandy ware	3	9	13	24	-	_	
Samian/MK Fabric 20	1	3	5	17	1	1	
Shell-gritted ware/MK Fabric 1	1	6	3	17	-	-	
Soft-pink-grog/MK Fabric 2			3	17	-	-	
Total	15	193	34	111	1	1	

The fabric types recovered suggest a late 1st to 4th century AD date. There are no diagnostic sherds representing the late Iron Age, however, the presence of locally produced coarsewares in grog-tempered, shell-gritted and greyware fabrics may suggest a late 1st and 2nd century AD date for some of the material. The presence of undiagnostic sherds of soft-pink-grog, Nene Valley Colour Coat and Oxfordshire Colour Coat wares extends the date range to the 4th century. Imported wares are represented by six small sherds of Samian which date to the 1st/2nd century AD.

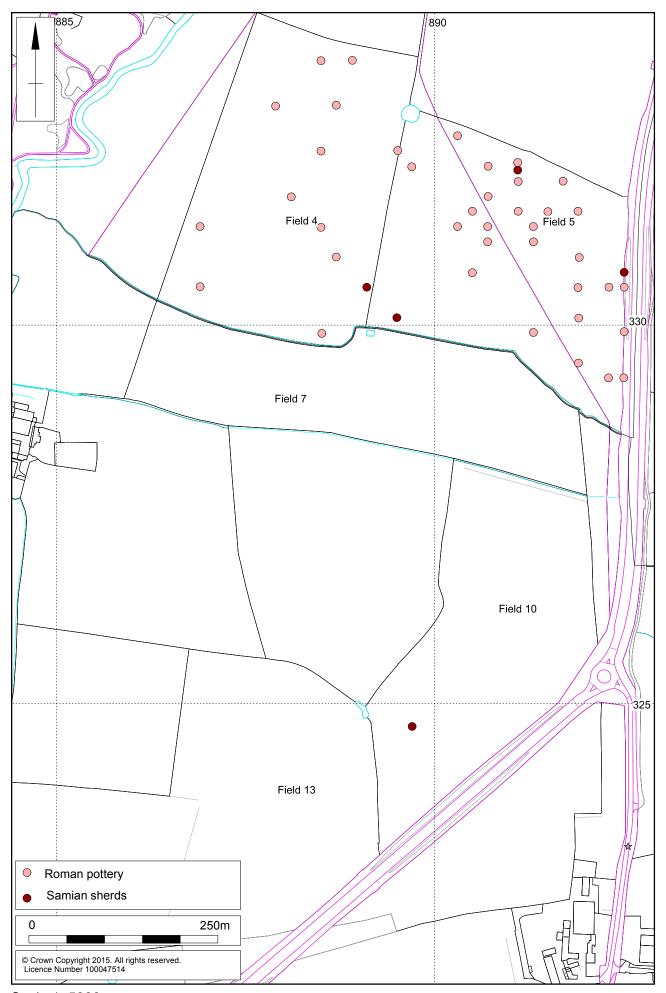
Although there are few diagnostic sherds, those represented include large storage jars in shell-gritted ware, presumably originating from the kilns at Harrold, Bedfordshire (Brown 1994) and a Samian bodysherd with a groove on the external wall which represents a Type 33 conical cup (Webster 1996, fig 30), which dates to the mid-late 2nd century.

Medieval and transitional late medieval pottery

A total of 30 sherds of medieval and transitional late medieval pottery were recovered from Fields 4, 5, 7 and 10 (Fig 5). The density was slightly higher on the eastern side of the survey area. The pottery was less dense towards the western side of the survey area and only transitional late medieval pottery was found in Fields 4 and 13. There were no distinct concentrations of pottery, the assemblage is thought likely to represent manuring rather than below ground archaeological features.

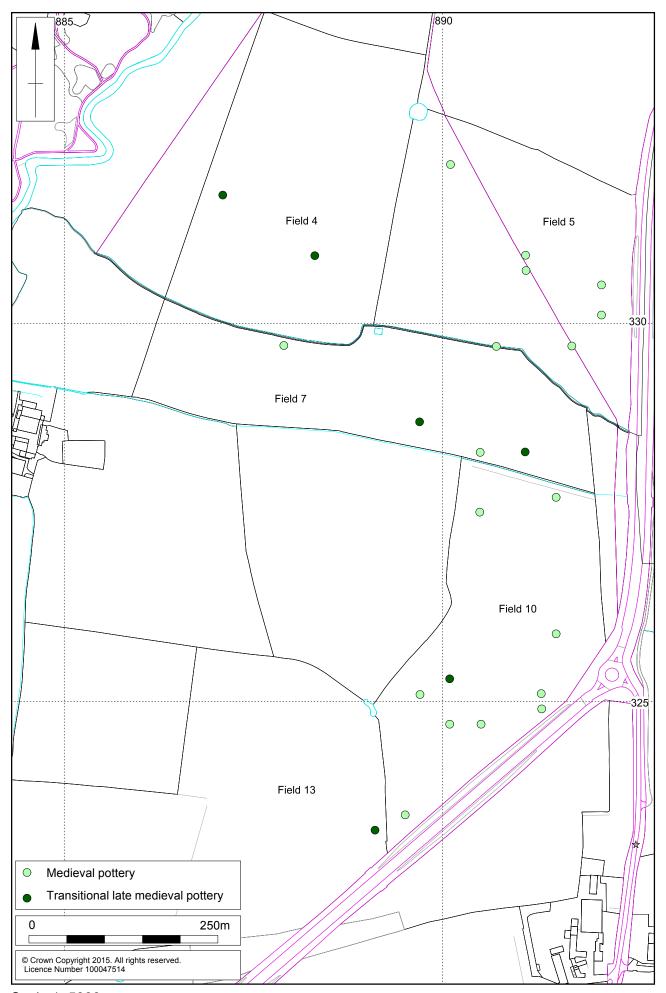
Post-medieval /modern

The post medieval/modern pottery assemblage accounted 236 sherds (Fig 6, modern pottery was not plotted). The highest concentration of post-medieval pottery was noted in Field 7. It was absent in the northern part of Field 4 and the western part of Field 13.



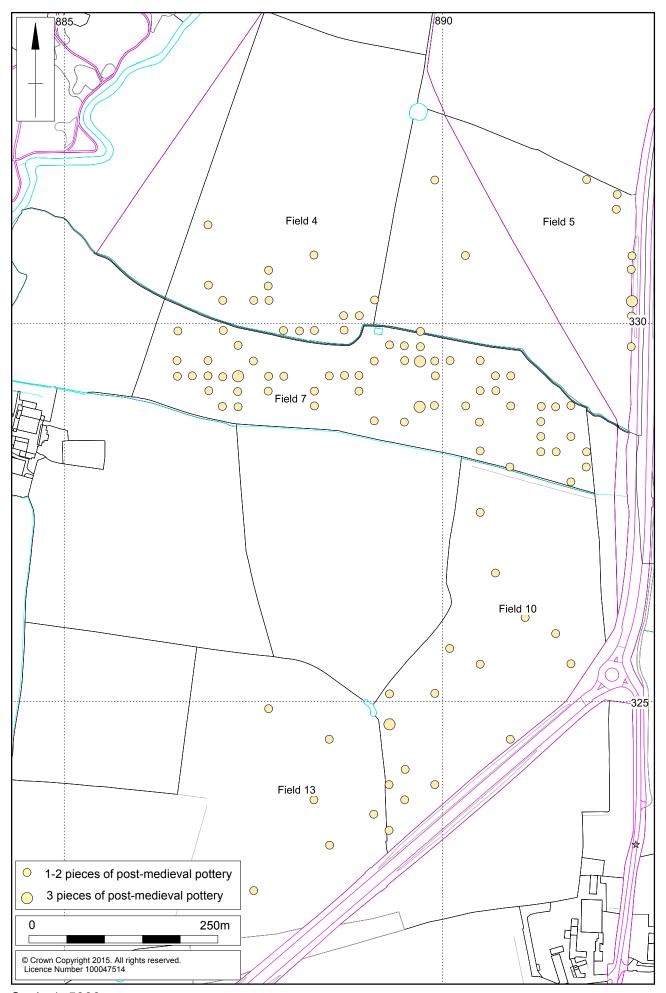
Scale 1: 5000

Distribution of Roman pottery and samian sherds Fig 4



Scale 1: 5000

Distribution of medieval and transitional late medieval pottery



Scale 1: 5000

Distribution of post-medieval pottery

5.6 Ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

Material collected from the five fields, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 13, is small and much abraded with the sherds typically 40x40mm in size except for those in Field 5, which are up to 80x80mm. The vast majority are roof tile, with a small quantity of brick fragments and some land drain (Table 5).

Table 5: Ceramic building material quantification by field and type

	Field 4	Field 5	Field 7	Field 10	Field 13	Totals
Roman	1	-	-	-	-	1
Roof tile	227	317	42	111	57	753
Floor tile	2	2	1	-	-	5
Brick	39	23	32	34	18	146
Field drain	3	6	3	21	56	89
Concrete	1	-	1	-	2	4

Roman

There is one possible Roman shellyware body tile sherd, 20mm thick, from Field 5.

Medieval/post-medieval/modern roof tile

These are flat pegtiles, 13-15mm thick. The pegholes are 15mm in diameter; with fourteen from Field 5, three in Field 10, two pegholes 30mm apart on one sherd from Field 4, and one square peghole from Field 7. Two curved sherds 20mm thick in Field 5 are probably from ridge tiles and there are two pantile sherds from Field 10. The overall fabric is a sandy pink-orange-brown. Some of the tiles are black with a red surface, occasionally black, and an occasional modern buff tile with a purple surface.

Post-medieval/modern floor tile

The four tiles from Fields 4 and 5 are 20mm thick and made with fine sandy orangebrown clay with dirt ingrained blackish smooth top surfaces. The tile sherd from Field 7 is modern, machine-made with the keying lines on the base.

Post-medieval/modern brick

Some of the bricks are handmade with silty orange clay with buff blobs and streaks and grey cores and often roughly mixed. Others have been overfired to dark red sandy clay, a few bricks are red-brown with a lot of grey core. One brick is white. A few are modern machine-made bricks.

Field drains

The small size of the sherds made distinguishing between some of the field drains and roof tiles sherds difficult, particularly in Field 13. Where diagnostic features are present, the land drains are of the early 19th-century one-piece horseshoe on a sole type; one from Field 5 is the later circular type with the corrugated outer surface.

Comment

There is one possible Roman body tile sherd from Field 5. The remaining material comprises roof tile of medieval to post-medieval date, some post-medieval and modern brick, Victorian land drains and four small pieces of cement.

6 DISCUSSION

The fieldwalking survey recovered artefacts from the Neolithic through to the post-medieval/modern period. Generally present in low volumes the material suggests background activity until the Romano-British period, medieval agricultural use and an increased deposition in the post-medieval period.

There was a general trend of a higher concentration of prehistoric and Roman finds towards the northern part of the survey area. The medieval pottery was more

concentrated towards the eastern part of the survey area and post-medieval pottery was more concentrated in Field 7.

Prehistoric

The fieldwalking survey recorded a non-specific scatter of flint, there was a slightly higher quantity in Fields 4 and 5. There may be a small concentration in the centre of the Field 5. The flint dates from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age with a small early Neolithic component.

Roman

In the northern part of the development area is the southern part of the Roman town of *Magiovinium*. The geophysical survey showed remains of the Roman settlement in the northern part of the development area. The scheduled monument was not walked, but from the two fields immediately south Roman pottery was recovered. This formed a general scatter, but only one samian pottery sherd was found in Field 10. One possible Roman tile fragment was recovered.

Previous fieldwalking (Phoenix Consulting 1998) conducted on the Scheduled Monument showed Roman pottery and tile to be substantially restricted to the monument boundaries. There was relatively low scatter outside the monument boundaries and very little Roman brick and tile.

It was noted that the sherds recovered from Field 4 were larger than from Field 5. The distribution plots of medieval and post-medieval pottery indicated that Field 4 was possibly later cultivated than Field 5, thus the pottery from Field 4 were less affected by ploughing.

Medieval

The survey revealed a low volume general scatter of medieval pottery, mostly concentrated on the western part of the development area. Only transitional late mediaeval pottery was recovered in Fields 4 and 13.

Post-medieval

There was a medium density scattery of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material covering the survey area, with a higher concentration around Field 7. The 1770 Jeffery's map shows a track running from the mill across the northern edge of Field 7 (Fig 7).



Jeffrey's 1770 map Fig 7

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MOLA

1 December 2015







		MC1		MS6		MS9		PM14		TLMS18		PM8		PM13		PM2		PM56		PM16		PM28		PM22		PM25	
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Key

wares

Green: Medieval and transitional late medieval

Yellow: Post medieval

Medieval wares MC1: Shelly	Coarseware,	Post-medieval wares	PM2:	Staffordshire Slip-Trailed ware
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MS2: Medieval Sandy Ware PM5: Trailed Slipware

MS6: Potterspury Ware PM8: Red Earthenware

MS9: Brill/Boarstall Ware PM13:Midland Blackware

Transitional late medieval TLMS18: Late Medieval Oxidized ware

PM14: Midland Purple Ware

PM15: Cistercian Ware PM25: White Earthenware

PM28: English Stoneware
PM32: Westerwald Stoneware

PM56: Manganese Glazed Ware

PM16: Black-glazed Coarsewares

PM22: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware

		MS 2		MS 9		PM 14		TLMS 18		PM 15		PM 8		PM 13		PM 5		PM 32		PM 2		PM		PM 16		PM 28		PM 22		PM 25	
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