

**LAND TO THE EAST OF INNSWORTH LANE,  
GLOUCESTER**

**NGR: SO 8555 2065**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURFACE COLLECTION SURVEY**

Report No. 359  
July 2004

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## Summary

A programme of archaeological field walking was undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004 on land east of Innsworth Lane, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8555 2065). The project was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC). It is proposed to construct sports pitches and a changing room on the site.

A small percentage of artefactual material pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century was recovered. This included two sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery from the lane walking and two sherds of Roman pottery from the spoil tip. This seems to indicate stray finds as opposed to evidence of nearby settlement.

The vast majority of artefactual material recovered from the survey area was of 19<sup>th</sup> to late 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Consequently, the survey appears to indicate little pre-19<sup>th</sup> century activity within the vicinity of the study area.

No significant artefact concentrations were present, although slightly higher concentrations of artefacts in the western half of the survey area may suggest 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century activity to the west of the site. It is, however, very important to note the disruption to any distribution patterns caused by the topsoil strip. Only two artefacts pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from the spoil tip, implying that the topsoil strip had not distorted the dating conclusions, nonetheless, it will have severely distorted the distribution patterns.

It is likely, given the abraded nature of the artefacts and the lack of significant concentrations, that ploughing has played a part in the artefact distribution patterns.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of a programme of an archaeological surface collection survey on land east of Innsworth Lane, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8555 2065). It is proposed to construct sports pitches and a changing room (Planning Reference 01/00861/COU). The project was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) and undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004.
- 1.2 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with a Brief supplied by Phil Greatorex of Gloucester City Council and a project design produced by Foundations Archaeology (2004), submitted to and approved by Gloucester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1994, revised 2001).

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The study area is located on an area of undeveloped land lying between the A40 to the north and Horsbere Brook to the south. To the west of the study area lies a surge valve overflow unit and a road, while to the east are open fields. The site is situated in Innsworth parish on the northern edge of Gloucester and is essentially surrounded by 20<sup>th</sup> century modern built environment. The proposed development area had previously been topsoil stripped and is currently under scrub.
- 2.2 In 1990 a desk-based assessment was carried out by Gloucester City Council Archaeology Service on a proposed road corridor of the A417, between the M5 and the A40. The proposed development area is within this corridor. This work indicated areas of archaeological interest ranging in date from the Romano-British period through to the present day.
- 2.3 The archaeological focus of the project was therefore multi-period.

## **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aims of the surface collection survey were to systematically recover pottery, flints or other artefactual material of archaeological interest that is exposed on the existing ground surface. The general aims of the survey programme were to obtain information that would contribute to an evaluation of the archaeological significance of the proposed project and which would enable further evaluation and/or mitigation measures to be designed.
- 3.2 The specific aims and objectives of the project were:
  - (i) to determine (so far as possible) the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains in the survey area;

- (ii) to clarify the extent of any buried remains within the survey area;
- (iii) to identify, as far as possible, any part of the survey area which is not responsive to the chosen survey techniques and in which the application of other evaluation methods would be appropriate.

3.3 These aims were achieved through collection and recording of artefacts, soilmarks and spreads of stone material using a gridded recording methodology which complies with archaeological best-practice.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The surface collection survey was undertaken by four experienced staff walking lanes spaced at 10m intervals. The lanes were approximately aligned with Ordnance Survey grid north. Finds were collected and bagged at 10m intervals. Each lane was lettered (A to G) and each subsect within the lane given a numeric suffix (1, 2, 3 etc), see Figure 2.
- 4.2 The grid was laid out on both axes with canes at 10m intervals. With the exception of manifestly modern artefacts (plastic, tarmac etc), all artefacts observed were recovered at each interval. Black and white prints and colour slide photographs were also taken to record walking conditions.
- 4.3 The weather conditions were fair with some sun during the surface collection, although bright sunlight affected visibility to a certain degree. This did not, however, appear to be detrimental to the level of finds recovery.
- 4.4 Ground conditions were generally poor. The whole study area had been topsoil stripped and the topsoil used to form a spoil tip along the southern edge of the proposed development area. The spoil tip was scanned for artefacts, although large areas of it were under grass cover. The western end of the study area contained a concreted road. The area to the south of the spoil tip had also been reduced and was covered with 60-70% vegetation; this area was not walked. The remainder of the study area had 20% vegetation cover, although some areas, as marked on Figure 2, had 70%+ vegetation cover.
- 4.5 The finds are quantified by date, type and subsect in the archive. With the exception of evidently late 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century finds, all artefacts observed were recovered for each subsect. As insufficient quantities of archaeologically significant material were generally recovered to make statistical distribution analysis worthwhile, the distribution pattern of all artefact types were individually plotted by material (Figures 3-7).

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 The fieldwalking revealed low quantities of significant artefactual material. As a result, significance has been determined by comparing quantities of artefacts within each subsect across the fields walked.

- 5.2 Only six artefacts pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century were recovered during the course of the surface collection.
- 5.3 Roman artefacts were present in the form of two sherds of abraded, undiagnostic Roman pottery. These were recovered from the spoil tip collection therefore distribution patterns cannot be discussed.
- 5.4 Medieval pottery was recovered from the eastern end of the area, (see Figure 3). Both sherds dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century. The first sherd was brown glazed but undiagnostic; the second possibly derived from the Brill pottery kilns.
- 5.5 Only a single sherd of undiagnostic Post-Medieval pottery was recovered; it was found on the western edge of the study area, (see Figure 3).
- 5.6 A single fragment of late post-Medieval claypipe stem was recovered from the north-western part of the area (see Figure 4).
- 5.7 Pottery of 20<sup>th</sup> century dated was recovered from across the study area (see Figure 4: Modern Ceramics). This comprised china with white and occasionally light blue glaze. 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic drainpipe was also included in the modern ceramics category. A high recovery of this artefact category was noted across the study area, generally more concentrated towards the western end of the area, although there was a smaller concentration at the centre west end.
- 5.8 Modern ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from across the area; no concentrations were discernible. See Figure 5.
- 5.9 Modern industrial waste was found across the study area, although the concentration was a higher on the western side of the area. See Figure 5.
- 5.10 Glass recovered was modern in origin and restricted to five shards. Of these, four were situated at the western end of the area and the remaining one at the eastern extent of the area (see Figure 6). Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from the western end of the area (Figure 6) and a single fragment of oyster shell from the eastern extent (Figure 7).
- 5.11 A scan of the spoil tip revealed high concentrations of CBM (109 fragments), modern ceramics (61 sherds) and industrial waste (29 fragments), much in accordance with the overall patterns of the site. A further sherd of post-Medieval pottery was found, dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, two sherds of Roman pottery (as discussed above) five fragments of modern glass, four fragments of oyster shell, four fragments of animal bone and an undiagnostic iron object were also recovered. These figures portray slightly higher numbers of artefacts than recovered from the walking lanes.
- 5.12 In general, although no significant concentrations of any artefacts were present, there were slightly higher percentages of recovery from the western

half of the study area. This was more noticeable within the artefact categories of modern ceramics, claypipe, industrial waste, glass and animal bone. This pattern emerged despite the higher percentage of vegetation cover at the western end.

- 5.13 All the artefacts have been subjected to appropriate methods of post-excavation processing and have no special conservation requirements. A checked and integrated site archive has been prepared in accordance with MAP 2 and internal project management systems as required by Foundations Archaeology's ISO 9001:2000 quality assurance procedures. The artefacts and site archive is currently stored at the offices of Foundations Archaeology and will be deposited with the Gloucester City Museum.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 A small percentage of artefactual material pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century was recovered. This included two sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery from the lane walking and two sherds of Roman pottery from the spoil tip. These artefacts were probably stray finds as opposed to evidence of nearby settlement. The vast majority of artefactual material recovered from the survey area was of 19<sup>th</sup> to late 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Considering the potential for the recovery of artefacts from all periods, the survey appears to indicate little pre-19<sup>th</sup> century activity within the vicinity of the study area.
- 6.2 No significant artefact concentrations were present, although slightly higher concentrations of artefacts in the western half of the survey area may suggest 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century activity to the west of the site, possibly partly industrial in character. It is, however, very important to note the disruption to any distribution patterns caused by the topsoil strip. Only two artefacts pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from the spoil tip, implying that topsoil the strip had not distorted the dating conclusions, nonetheless, it will have severely distorted the distribution patterns.
- 6.3 It is likely, given the abraded nature of the artefacts and the lack of significant concentrations, that ploughing has played a part in the distribution patterns.
- 6.4 Considering the artefact assemblage there is little potential for the recovery of significant archaeological remains from within the study area. It must be reiterated, however, that the vegetation cover and the stripping of the topsoil prior to the survey will have distorted the overall picture.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Gloucester City Council Planning Services 2004 *Brief for a Controlled Archaeological Watching Brief: Land East of Innsworth Lane, Gloucester (Planning Reference 01/00861/COU)*

Foundations Archaeology 2004 *Land East of Innsworth Lane, Gloucester: Project Design for a Programme of Archaeological Fieldwalking and Recording*

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank the following:

Dan Slatcher of JSAC

Phil Greatorex of Gloucester City Council

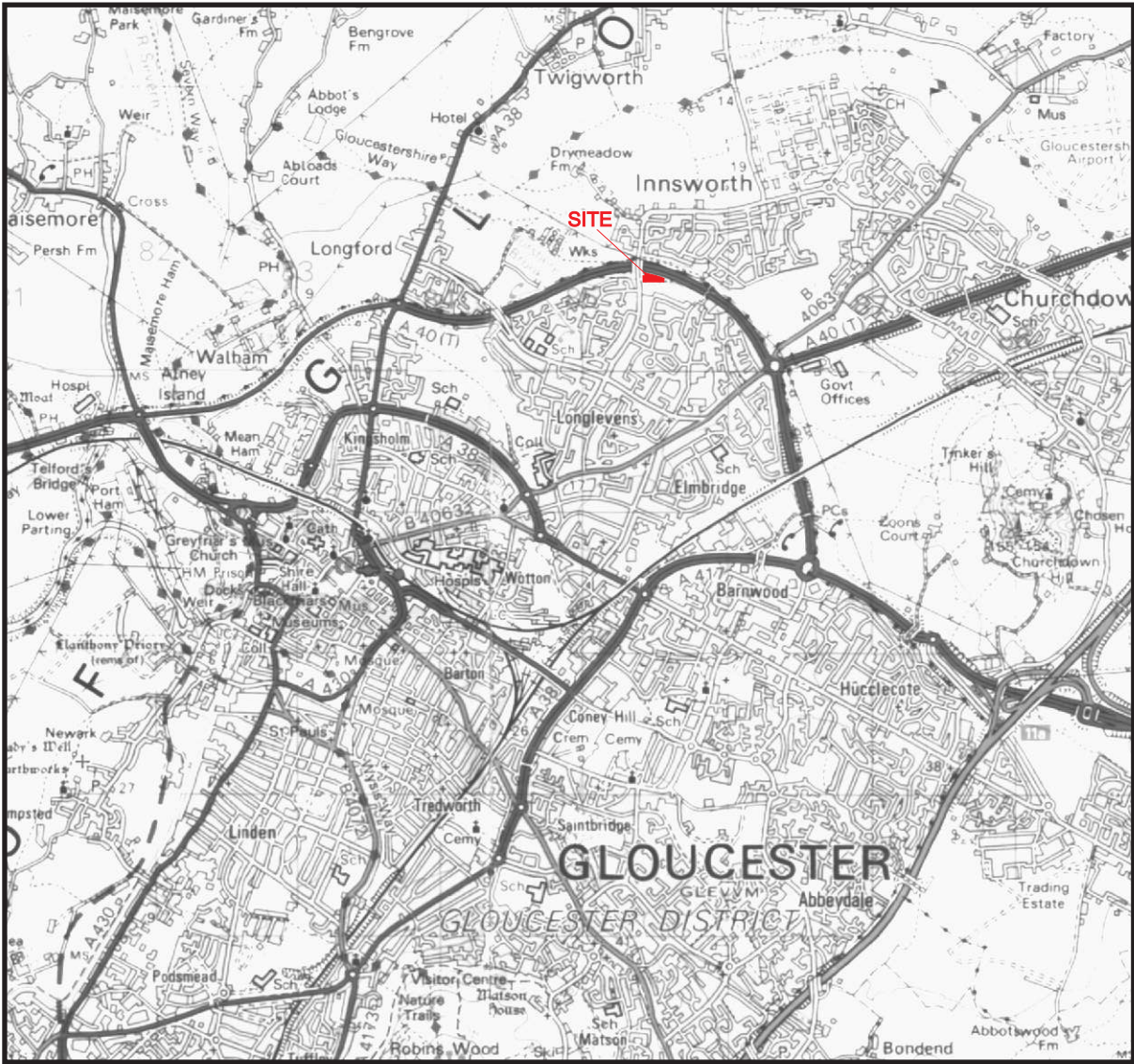


**APPENDIX 1**  
**Artefact Listings**



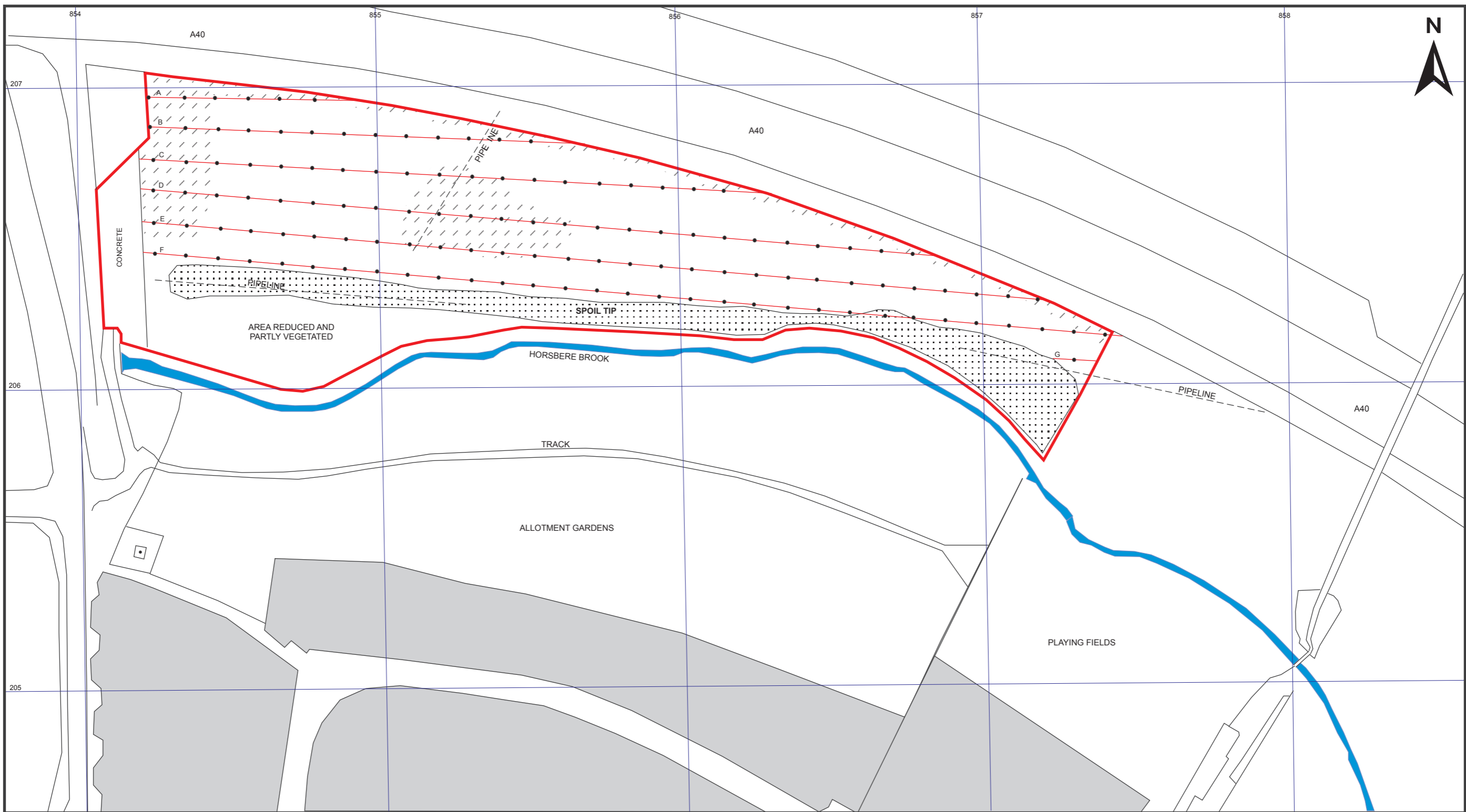


TRANSECT	IND. WASTE	MODERN CERAMICS	P/M POT	MED POT	CBM	GLASS	SHELL	CLAYPIPE	BONE	METAL	ROMAN POT
e 15					1/ 5g						
e 17		1/ 20g									
e 19		3/ 25g			2/ 30g						
e 20	1/ 10g				4/ 290g						
e 21		1/ 45g			1/ 5g						
e 22		6/ 90g									
e 23	1/ 60g				1/ 810g						
e 24		2/ 5g			1/ 60g	1/ 5g					
f 02		2/ 150g			3/ 40g						
f 03					1/ 220g						
f 09					1/ 15g						
f 10		2/ 170g									
f 11		3/ 805g			1/ 770g						
f 12		2/ 90g									
f 14					1/ 510g						
f 14					1/ 140g						
f 20	1/ 135g				1/ 40g						
f 21		2/ 145g					1/ 10g				
f 23		3/ 305g									
f 23					2/ 80g						
f 31					1/ 20g						
SPOIL TIP	29/ 280g	61/ 110g	1/ 5g		109/ 1470	5/15g	4/ 15g		4/ 20g	1/ 5g	2/5g



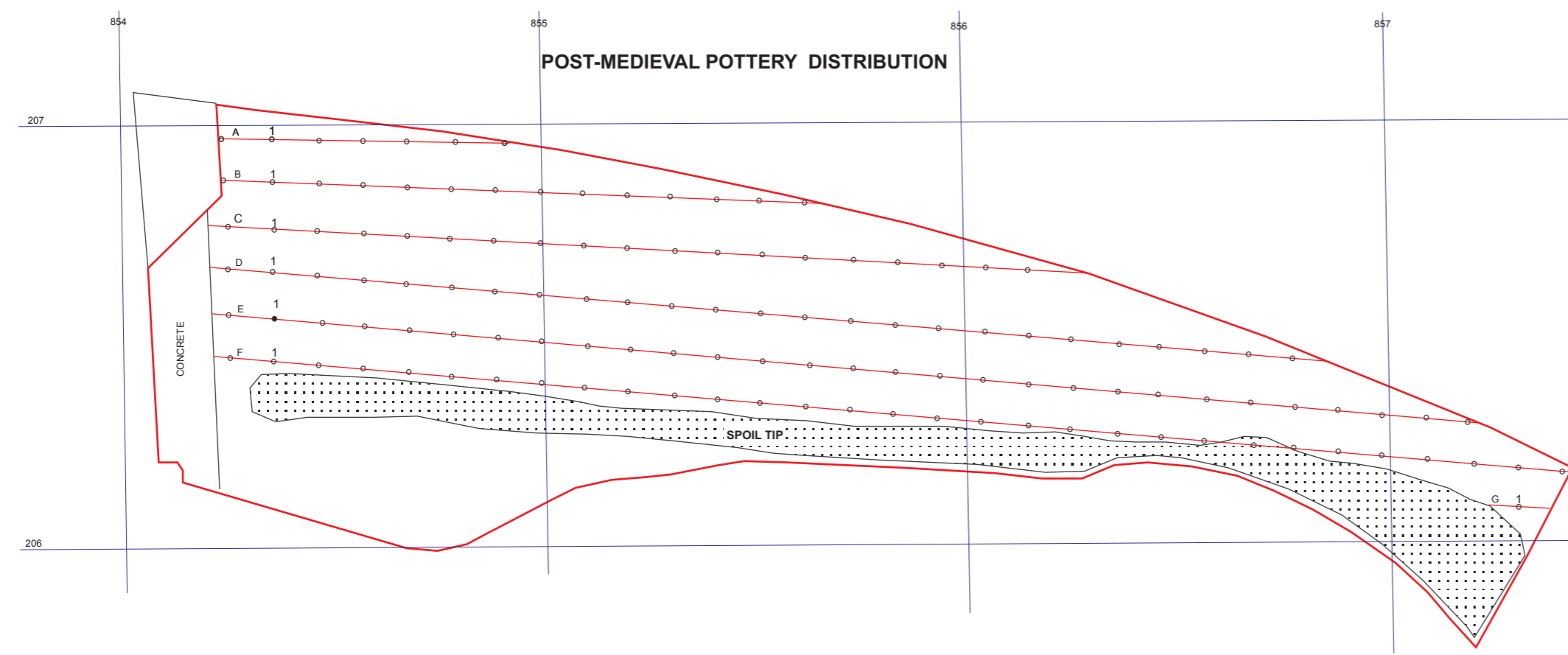
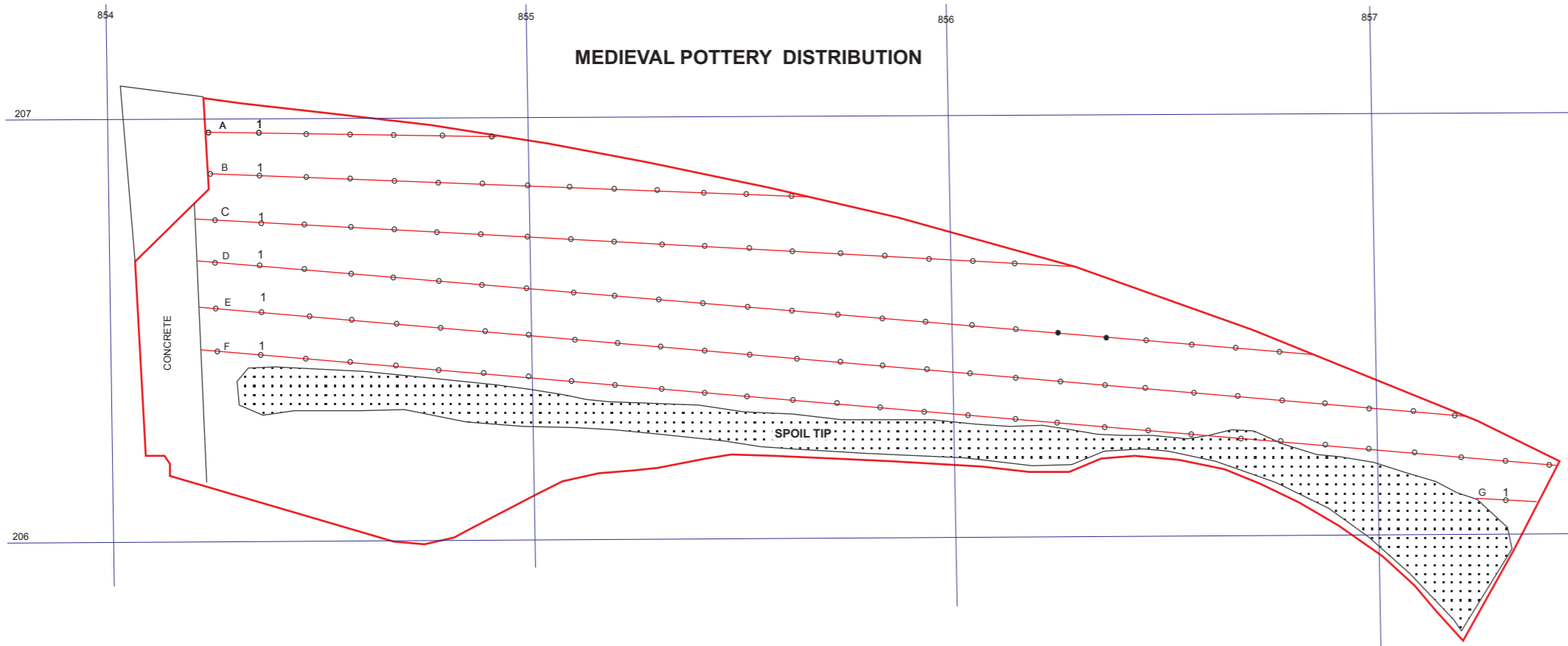
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**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



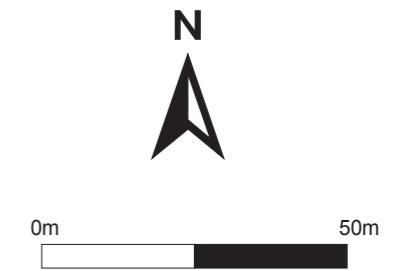
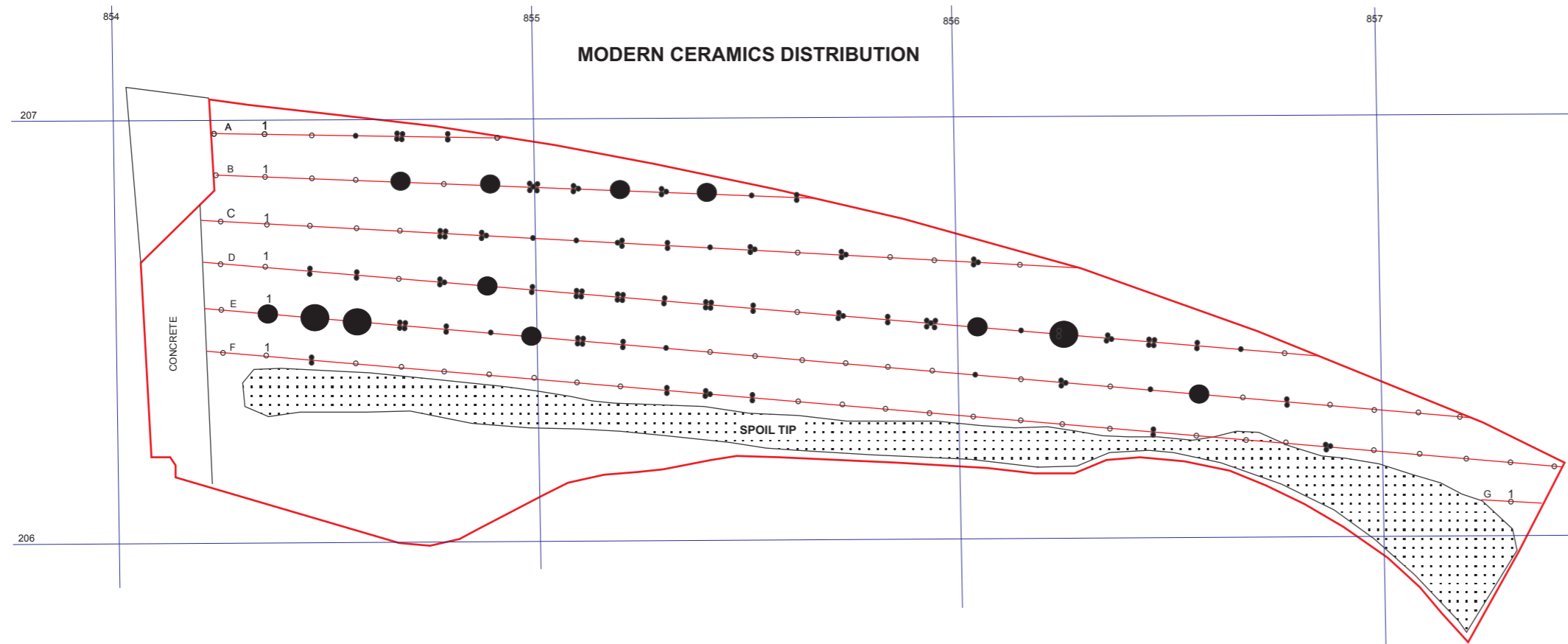
KEY	
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	TRANSECT
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<span style="background-color: grey; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	BUILT ENVIRONMENT

**FIGURE 2: Surface Collection Area**

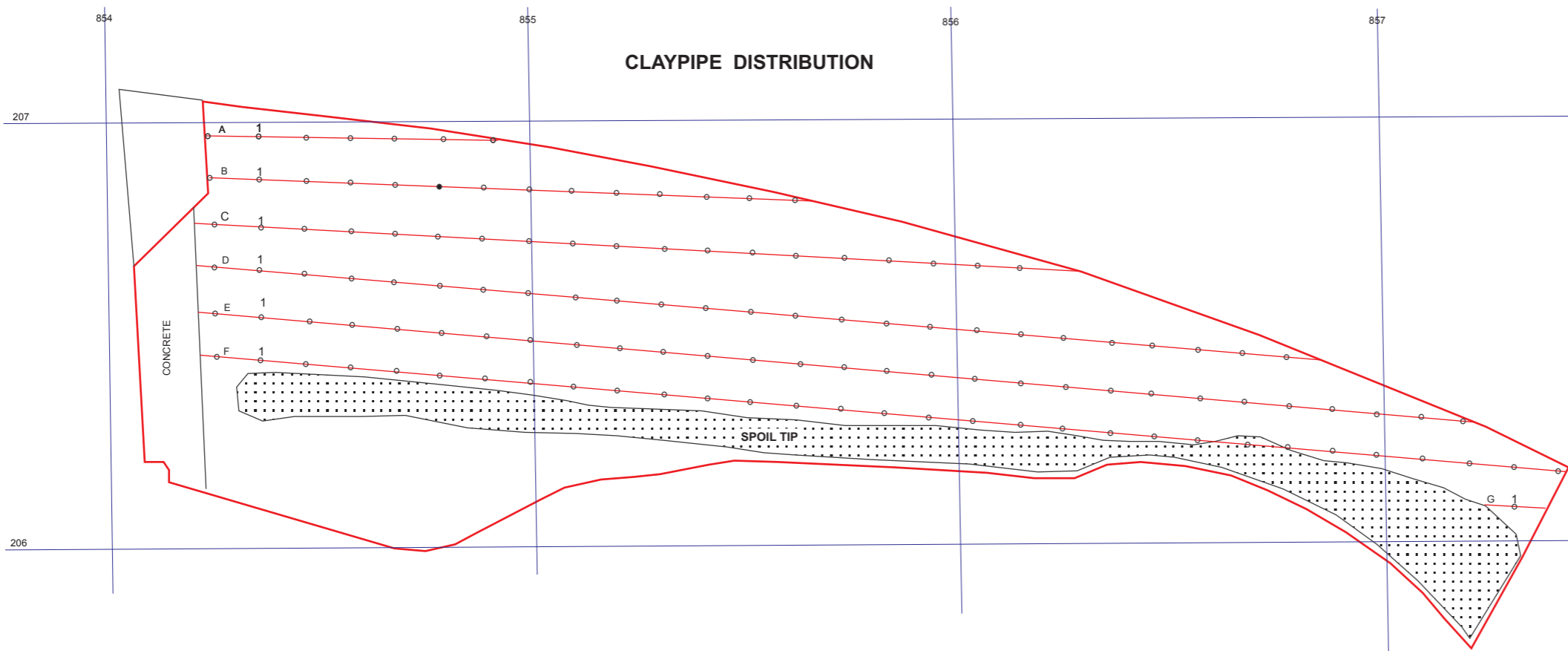


KEY	
—	TRANSECT
•	1 ARTEFACT
●	6-10 ARTEFACTS
●	11+ ARTEFACTS

**FIGURE 3: Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Distribution Patterns**

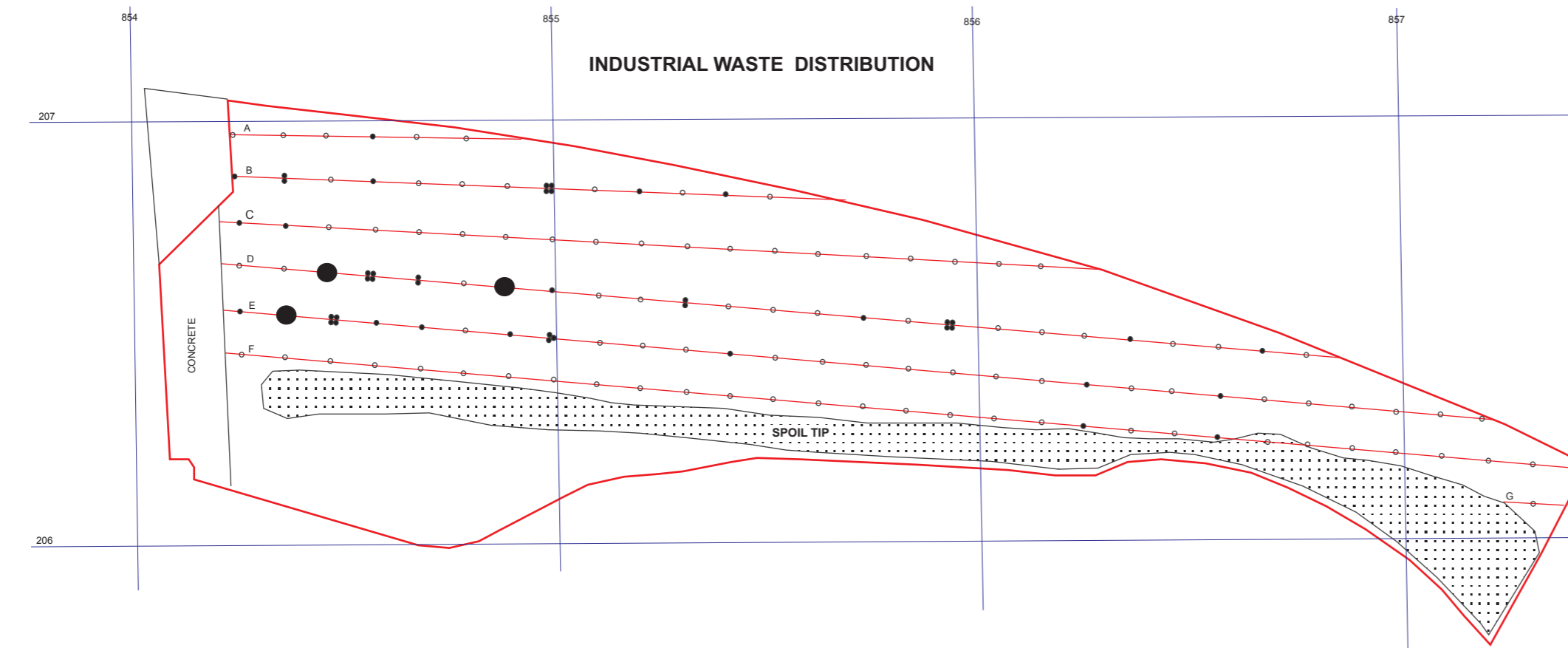
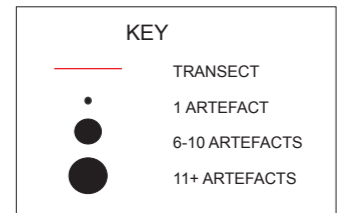
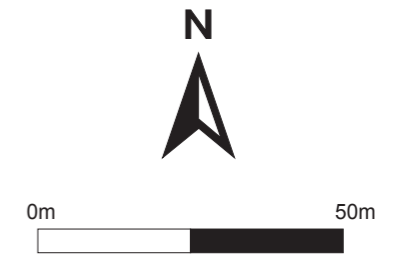
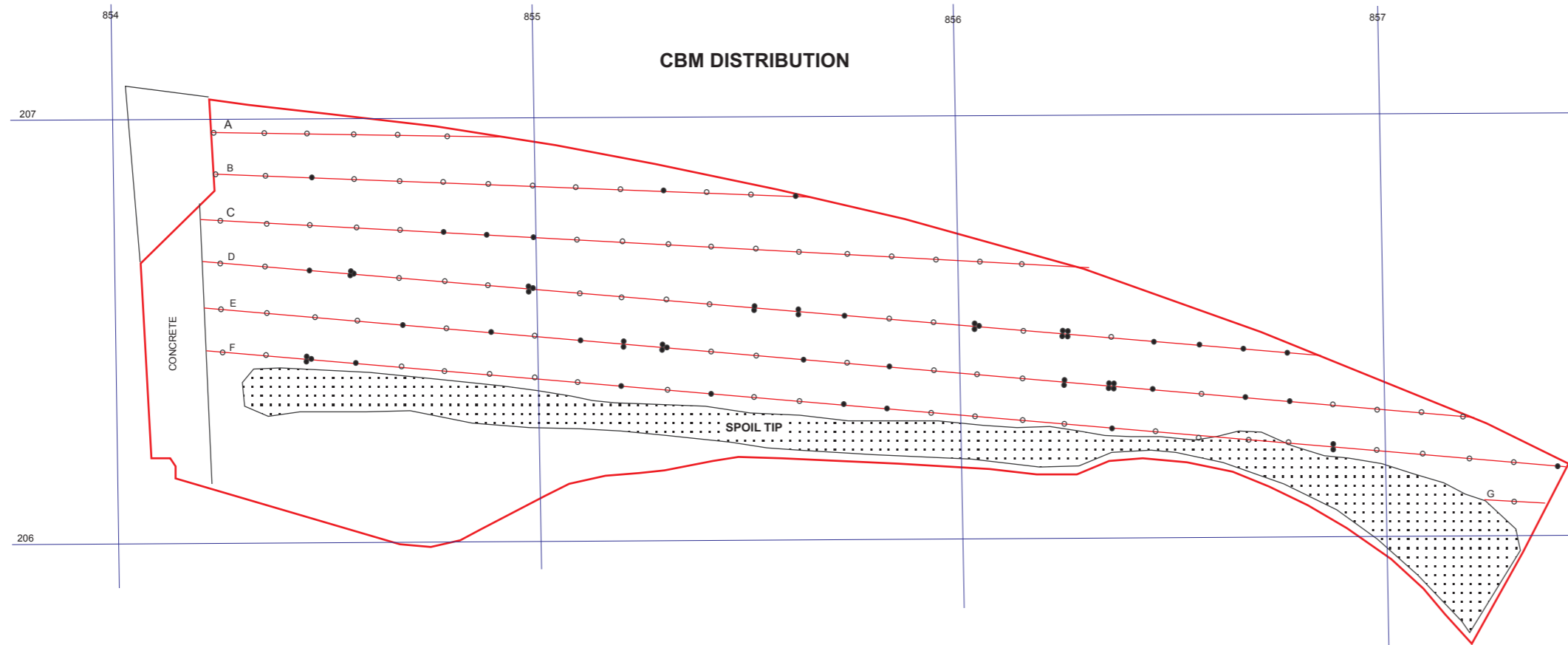


KEY	
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●	6-10 ARTEFACTS
●	11+ ARTEFACTS

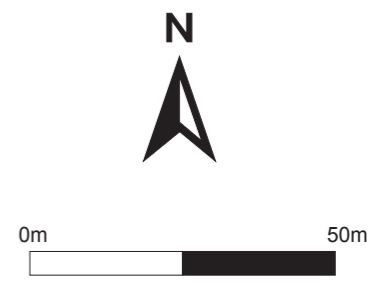
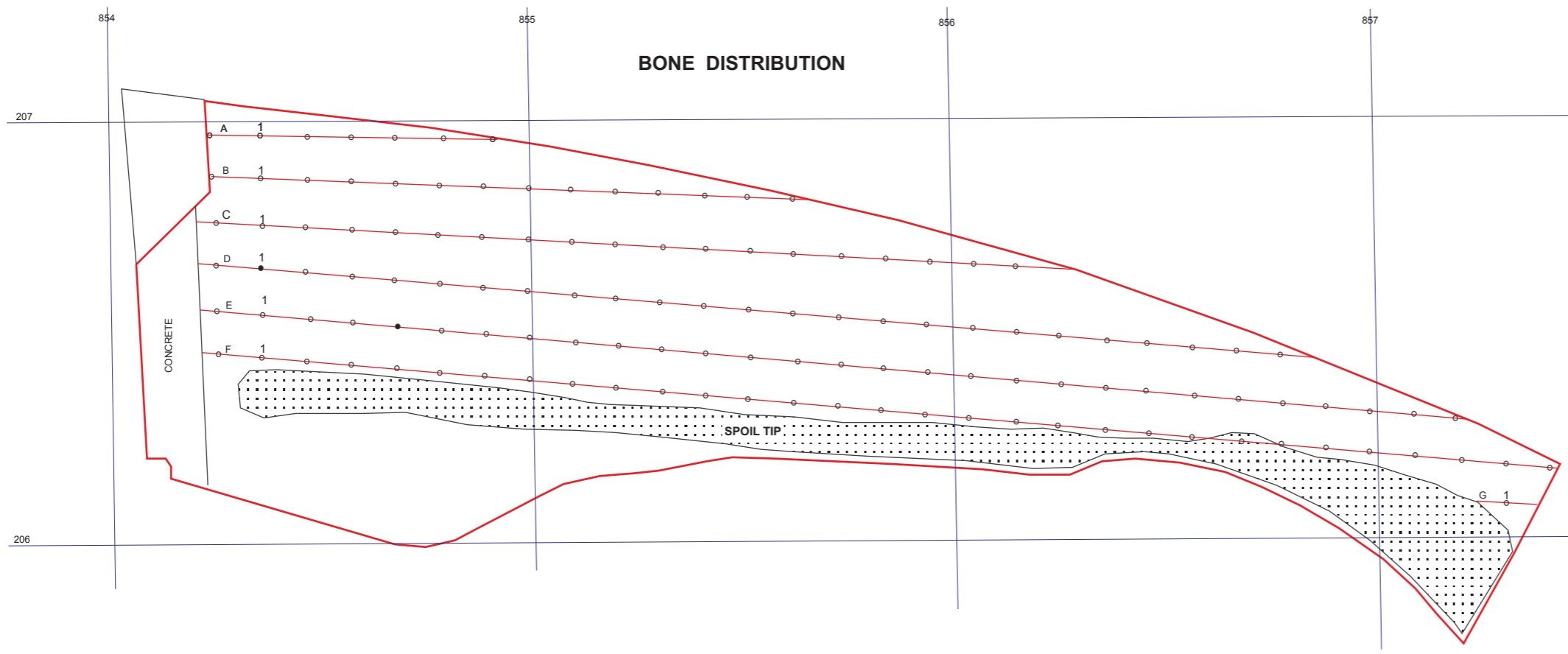
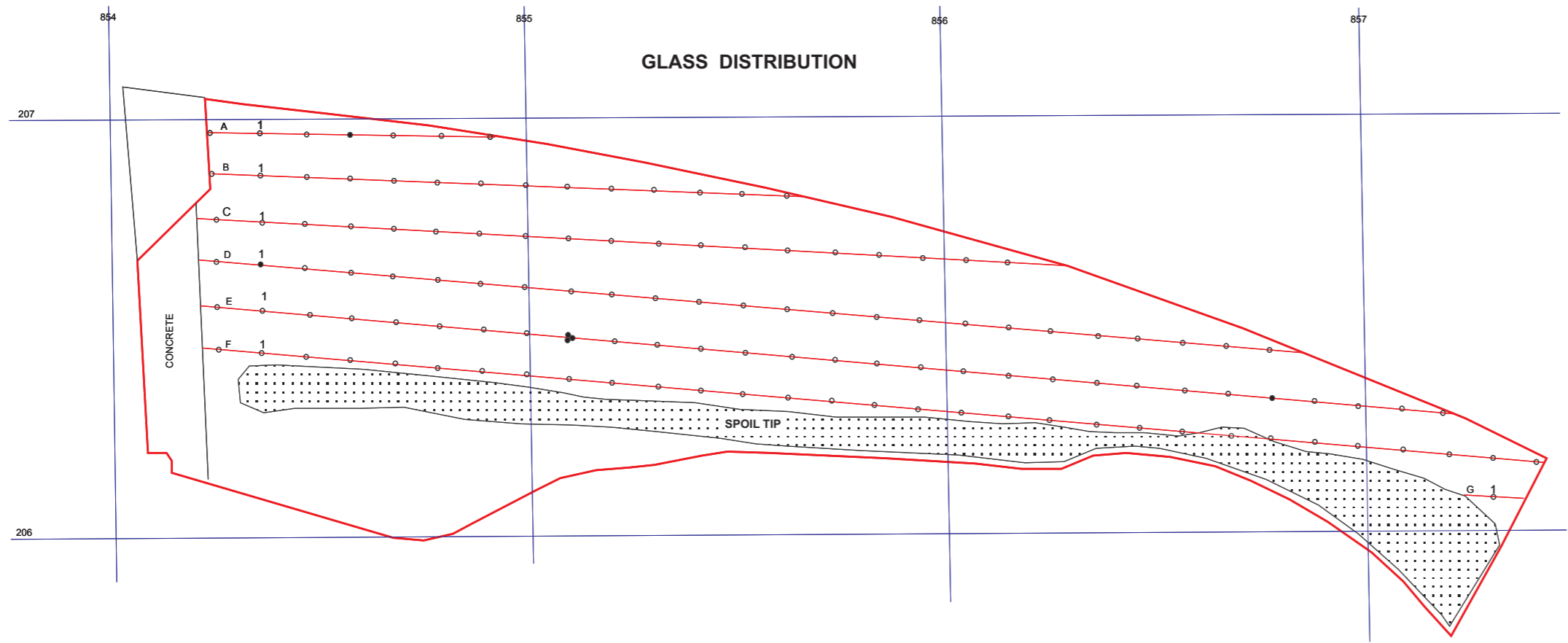


**FIGURE 4: Modern Ceramics and Claypipe Distribution Patterns**





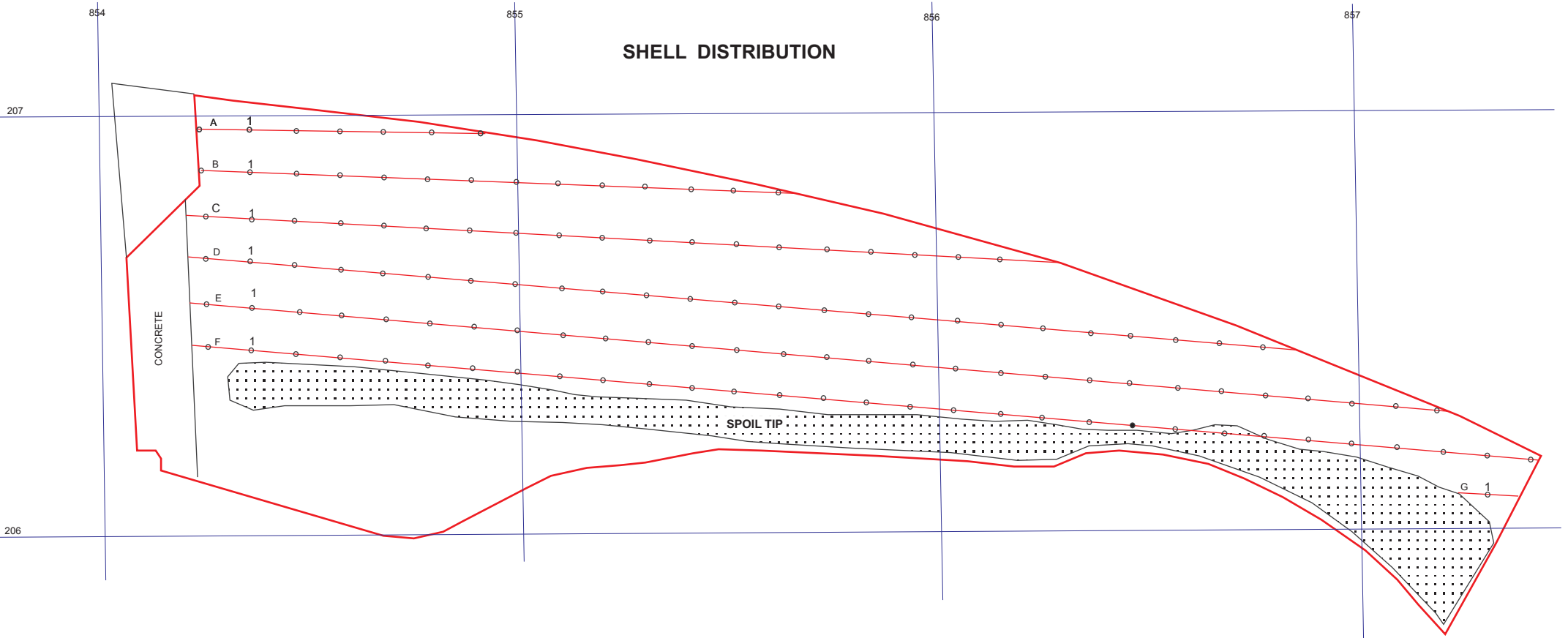
**FIGURE 5: CBM and Industrial Waste Distribution Patterns**



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—	TRANSECT
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●	6-10 ARTEFACTS
●	11+ ARTEFACTS

**FIGURE 6: Glass and Bone Distribution Patterns**

# SHELL DISTRIBUTION



KEY	
—	TRANSECT
•	1 ARTEFACT
●	6-10 ARTEFACTS
●	11+ ARTEFACTS

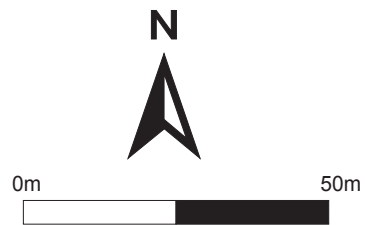


FIGURE 7: Shell Distribution Patterns