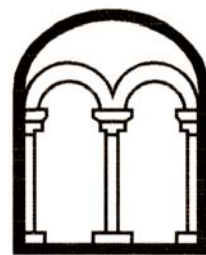


LAND OFF MOIRA ROAD
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
LEICESTERSHIRE

FIELDWALKING SURVEY

Albion
archaeology



**LAND OFF MOIRA ROAD
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
LEICESTERSHIRE**

FIELDWALKING SURVEY

Project: AZ2380
Document: 2014/56
Version 1.1

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Marcin Koziminski, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

NGR: SK 346 171
Accession number: X.A47.2014
Oasis ref: albionar1-175689

4th April 2014

Prepared for:
CgMs Consulting Ltd



Contents

List of Tables	3
List of Figures	3
Preface	4
Structure of this Report	4
Key Terms	4
Non-Technical Summary	5
1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Planning Background	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	7
1.3 Archaeological Background	7
1.4 Historical Maps	8
1.5 Project Objectives	8
2. METHOD STATEMENT	9
3. RESULTS	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Results of the Field Artefact Collection	10
3.3 Summary	12
4. BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
5. APPENDIX 1: ARTEFACTS LIST	14
6. APPENDIX 2: FINDSPOT COORDINATES	15



List of Tables

Table 1: Artefacts by findspot

Table 2: Findspot coordinates

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Selected images 1 and 2 showing ground conditions

Figure 3: Artefact plot showing distribution of all findspots

Figure 4: Artefact plot – prehistoric and medieval finds

Figure 5: Artefact plot – late medieval to modern finds

Figure 6: Artefact plot – slag and undated finds

The figures are bound at the rear of the document.



Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This document has been prepared by Marcin Koziminski, Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) Holy Duncan (Artefacts Manager) and Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) and approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 0300 300 6867
 Fax: 0300 300 8209
 E-mail: g.edmondson@albion-arch.com
 Website: www.albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	2nd April 2014	n/a
1.1	4th April 2014	<i>Revised following comments from Simon Mortimer</i>

Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the project, describing the site's location, its archaeological background and the aims of the archaeological work. Section 2 describes the fieldwalking methodology and Section 3 summarises the results of the work. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 (Section 5) contains details of the artefacts, whilst Appendix 2 (Section 6) contains findspot coordinates.

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
PPA	Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council
Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority – North-West Leicestershire District Council
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Richborough Estates Ltd, are seeking planning permission for residential development of a site, covering c. 16.2ha, located to the west of Ashby-de-la-Zouch town centre, Leicestershire.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, working on behalf of Richborough Estates Ltd, to undertake a programme of fieldwalking survey of c. 6ha of the proposed development area (PDA), which was suitable for the recovery of surface artefacts. This was agreed with the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (PPA), in order to support the planning application.

The PDA is situated on the western outskirts of the historic market town, to the north of Moira Road, centred on national grid reference SK (4)3450 (3)1692. The fieldwalking survey area comprised a large rectangular land parcel extending c. 300m by 240m, with a slight slope down to the NW from 132m to 123m OD towards the Shell Brook. At the time of the fieldwalking survey the ground conditions were consistent across the area. The soil had previously been ploughed, harrowed and the surface was weathered; the crop was just starting to sprout. This provided good visibility for artefact recovery. It was not possible to discern the traces of ridge and furrow earthworks in the SE part of the land parcel, which were visible on aerial photographs. Previous work undertaken at the site comprised a desk-based archaeological assessment and a geophysical survey. This concluded that the site had a low/negligible potential for significant remains of all periods.

The land parcel available for fieldwalking comprised approximately 40% of the PDA. Fieldwalking transects were aligned NW-SE along the line of ploughing, with the walkers covering a 2m-wide corridor. All pre-1900 material was bagged and surveyed using dGPS. The survey recovered a total of 43 items from 30 findspots, the majority of which were pottery, which ranged in date from the medieval to post-medieval periods; a small number of post-1900 items were also retrieved. Other finds included small quantities of slag/clinker, clay tobacco pipe, flint and post-medieval glass.

Very small quantities of prehistoric and medieval artefacts were recovered, including a single piece of unworked burnt flint and a struck flint. The four medieval pottery sherds, are derived from four different vessels, probably part of a manuring spread. Two were found in close proximity to the footpath defining the eastern boundary of the land parcel. The range and quantity of later artefacts was greater, with late medieval to post-medieval pottery being distributed across the eastern part of the survey area. There was a marked correlation between the clustering of artefacts and boundaries shown on the first edition OS map of 1883, which enclosed the former open fields.

Three areas containing concentrations of modern material were identified during the survey. One was adjacent to the demolished farm at the SW margin of the land parcel. The other two concentrations were smaller, located adjacent to existing or former boundaries and may define the location of field barns. The small amount of slag may be derived from ironworking from the nearby settlement of Moira.

The fieldwalking survey was undertaken in good conditions, indicating a high degree of confidence in the results. Only a small number of prehistoric and medieval artefacts were recovered, indicating low-intensity activity in these periods. No evidence was



found to indicate the presence of a burnt mound. The quantity and range of artefacts increased in the post-medieval period. The low-density and scattered distribution of the medieval artefacts would suggest material derived from manuring of the land. This appears to have continued into the post-medieval period when the distribution of material appears to correlate with former field boundaries.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Richborough Estates Ltd, are seeking planning permission for residential development of c. 16.2ha of land. The proposed development area (PDA) is located to the west of the historic market town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire. The Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (PPA), acting in conjunction with the local planning authority (LPA) (North-West Leicestershire District Council) has agreed that fieldwalking of the available area (a land parcel of c. 6ha) would be required to support the planning application.

The scope of works is detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation for Fieldwalking Survey (CgMs 2014b). Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the fieldwalking works in accordance with the approved CgMs Consulting Ltd scheme, which had been agreed with the PPA.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The historic market town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch is located in the NW part of Leicestershire, c. 30km to the NW of Leicester, with the PDA located immediately to the west of the built-up area of the town, north of Moira Road (red line on Figure 1). The land parcel which was subject to the fieldwalking survey is located towards the southern margin of the PDA (Figure 1 – blue shaded area). This roughly rectangular parcel of land extends up to c. 300m NW-SE by 240m, covering an area of c. 6ha, centred on OS grid ref SK (4)3450 (3)1692. The land parcel forming the survey area is bounded to the south by residential development; a footpath defines the eastern side, separating the land parcel from residential development to the SE and fields to the NE. The northern boundary is defined by a plantation of trees, with fields to the west.

The survey area occupies a roughly flat field, with a slight slope from 132m OD to 123m OD down to the NW towards the Shell Brook, which flows approximately 600m further to the west. At the time of the fieldwalking on 26th March 2014, the land had been ploughed, harrowed and allowed to weather, with the crop just beginning to sprout (Figure 2).

Sheet 141 of the British Geological Survey indicates a complex sequence of geological deposits extending across the land parcel, with no superficial geological deposits being recorded. A series of alternating bands of sandstone and mudstone/siltstone and shale of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation extend across the area aligned NW-SE, with a band of Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation to the west.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

A desk-based archaeological assessment (DBA) (CgMs 2014a) of the site has been prepared in support of the planning application. This considered the results of the geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2014) in the context of the HER data available for a study area c. 1 km from the site's boundary. In summary the DBA



concluded that on the basis of the results of the geophysical survey and the archaeological evidence from the search area, the site had a low/negligible potential for significant remains of all periods.

The PPA has drawn attention to another site to the south-east, also off Moira Road, where a burnt mound of Bronze Age date was identified during evaluation trenching; this had not been identified by geophysical survey.

1.4 Historical Maps

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883 indicates that the land parcel was originally composed of three smaller fields (Figure 3: dashed boundaries) with the western parcel having a roughly rectangular form, extending from the farm in the south to the northern boundary of the land parcel; whilst the eastern area was subdivided into roughly square fields of similar size. Isolated trees surviving within the land parcel appear to be remnants of these boundaries.

1.5 Project Objectives

The previous work had not identified any evidence of human activity within the study area. The aim of the fieldwalking survey was to supplement the previous work, with particular emphasis on the prehistoric period, by:

- systematic collection of artefacts to establish if there is evidence for pre-1900 human activity in the survey area.



2. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the approved WSI (CgMs 2014b) and is summarised below.

The fieldwalking survey was undertaken on 26th March 2014 by a team from Albion Archaeology in accordance with the WSI. The southern rectangular field (Figure 1 – blue shaded area) was the only part of the PDA suitable for the survey. This area had been ploughed, harrowed and allowed to weather; at the time of the survey the crop was just starting to sprout, allowing good visibility of the soil surface (Figure 2). Adjacent land parcels were either set down to pasture or had significant crop growth.

For the survey, the land parcel was subdivided into 12 transects, laid out on a NW-SE alignment, spaced 20m apart. The field was scanned by eye for artefact recovery within a 2m-wide corridor, along the length of each transect. All pre-1900 artefacts were then bagged and left at the place they were found. A surveyor followed on behind, collecting the artefacts and assigning a number to the findspot, the position of which was recorded using dGPS equipment.

All definite modern artefacts (1900 or later) were excluded from collection, as it was likely that this material was associated with the disused farm, situated immediately to the south. However, the locations of concentrations of material were recorded. Subsequent analysis revealed a small number of modern finds had been recovered (Table 1).

Throughout the project the standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001)
• Archaeological Archives Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd ed. 2011)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2008)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2013) and <i>archaeological materials</i> (2013)



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Fieldwalking is a survey technique for the systematic recovery of artefacts from the surface of cultivated ground. The objective is to identify areas of archaeological significance, relying on the principle that cultivation above buried sites will tend to mix artefacts from the site into the ploughsoil. Significant clusters of material found on the surface are likely to be indicative of past human occupation or other activity, possibly indicating the presence of sub-surface archaeological deposits.

The results of the fieldwalking survey are summarised below.

3.1.1 Methodological constraints

Ground conditions were consistent across the collection area. The soil had previously been ploughed and harrowed, to give a level surface with a relatively fine texture of small-sized soil fragments. The soil was also weathered and the crop just beginning to come through in places. In general, the texture of the cultivated soil afforded a reasonable level of artefact exposure and visibility. During the period of collection, the weather was dry and slightly overcast, with only a short occurrence of light hail towards the early afternoon.

An uncultivated strip *c.* 3m wide extended around the perimeter of the land parcel, with another small uncultivated area in the centre of the field, around the pole of an overhead powerline.

3.2 Results of the Field Artefact Collection

Artefacts were cleaned, weighed and quantified by type and date (Appendix 5: Table 1). The resulting information was entered onto an Access© database, which was used for plotting the survey results as dot-density distributions (Figures 3–6).

The survey recovered a total of 43 artefacts from 30 findspots (Table 1), with four findspots being deleted, as the items were geological in origin. The majority of the artefacts were pottery, which ranged in date from the medieval to post-medieval periods; a small number of post-1900 items were also retrieved. Other artefacts included small quantities of slag/clinker, clay tobacco pipe, flint and post-medieval glass.

3.2.1 Flint

A single worked piece of flint debitage (Bag 31) and a piece of burnt flint (Bag 22) were recovered; Figure 4 – green triangles.

3.2.2 Pottery

Thirty-two sherds of pottery were recovered weighing 315g, ranging in date from the medieval to modern periods. A single undated sherd was too small to be positively identified or dated. Most sherds were under 10g in weight. The pottery is quantified in detail in Table 1.



3.2.2.1 Medieval pottery (Figure 4 - orange squares)

Four small sherds were recovered ranging in weight from 2–12g. Each sherd was from a different vessel. The material ranged in date from 12th–15th century.

3.2.2.2 Late Medieval / post-medieval pottery (Figure 5 - grey squares)

Nine sherds of Midland purple were recovered dating to the 14th–16th centuries. These sherds ranged in weight from 5–48g, with most below 20g.

3.2.2.3 Post-medieval pottery (Figure 4 – green circles)

Eleven small sherds had a combined weight of 105g, with the majority weighing under 10g. Two sherds were recovered from one findspot (Bag 32).

3.2.2.4 Modern (Figure 5 – black circles)

Severn sherds of pottery were, on examination, identified as modern. These were recovered from two findspots.

3.2.2.5 Undated

A single small sherd of undiagnostic pottery in a hard-fired fabric, with a reduced core weighing 6g was recovered (Figure 6 – black circle).

3.2.3 Other artefacts

3.2.3.1 Post-medieval

A small assemblage of artefacts was recorded:

- three small stem fragments of clay tobacco pipe (Figure 5 – black triangles), which ranged in weight from 2–4g.
- a single abraded fragment of the base of a wine bottle (Figure 5 – red circle with black border).
- a single fragment of ferrous slag incorporating blast furnace coke, indicating a post-1750 date (Figure 6 – red circle with black border).

3.2.3.2 Undated

Three small pieces of undiagnostic ferrous slag (Figure 6 – red circles) weighing 25–38g were recovered. A single small piece of clinker weighing 3g was also recovered (Figure 6 - black circle with red border).

3.2.4 Artefact distribution

The distribution for each class of artefact was plotted by chronological period. These distribution plots were then examined to identify any concentrations that could be indicative of areas of past human occupation or activity. Generally the quantity of artefacts were too small, particularly in the earlier period, to indicate any pattern of activity. The distribution plots are more suggestive of stray finds and / or manuring.

Very small quantities of prehistoric and medieval artefacts were recovered, including a single piece of unworked burnt flint and a struck flint. The four medieval pottery sherds are derived from four different vessels; they probably



derive from a manuring spread. Two were found in close proximity to the footpath defining the eastern boundary of the land parcel.

The range and quantity of later finds was greater, with late medieval to post-medieval pottery being distributed across the eastern part of the survey area. There was a marked correlation between the clustering of artefacts and boundaries shown on the first edition OS map of 1883, which enclosed the former open fields.

Three areas containing concentrations of modern material were identified during the survey (Figure 5 – hatched areas) but material was not collected. One was adjacent to the demolished farm at the southern margin of the land parcel. The other two concentrations were smaller, located adjacent to existing or former boundaries, and may define the location of former field barns. The small amount of slag may be derived from ironworking at the nearby settlement of Moira.

3.3 Summary

The fieldwalking survey was undertaken in good conditions, indicating a high degree of confidence in the results. Only a small number of prehistoric and medieval finds were recovered, indicating low-intensity activity in these periods. No evidence was found to indicate the presence of a burnt mound. The low density scatter of medieval finds would suggest material derived from manuring of the land.

The quantity and range of finds increased in the post-medieval period. It is likely that this material was also derived from manuring. However, concentrations of artefacts were located in the vicinity of boundaries, suggesting activity or possible manure heaps were focused in these areas.

The traces of former buildings, possibly field barns, were indicated by concentrations of modern debris.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2001 *Procedures Manual* (Revised edition)

ArchaeoPhysica 2014. *Geophysical Survey: Moira Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire*. Unpublished report.

CgMs Ltd 2014a. *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Land off Moira Road/Burton Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire*. Unpublished report ref. no. AT/SM/16632/01.

CgMs 2014b. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Fieldwalking Survey. Land off Moira Road/Burton Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire*. Unpublished report ref. no. SM/16632/02.



5. APPENDIX 1: ARTEFACTS LIST

Bag No.	Type	Number	Weight	Comments
1	Late/post-medieval pot	1	18	Midland purple C14-16
3	Medieval pot	1	12	strap handle fine buff fabric (similar to Stamford ware)
4	Clinker	1	3	
5	Slag	1	38	Ferrous
6	Late/post-medieval pot	1	5	Midland purple C14-16
6	Medieval pot	1	6	Potters Marston C12-14
7	Slag	1	38	Ferrous slag, undiagnostic
8	Clay pipe	1	2	stem
8	Late/post-medieval pot	1	11	Midland purple C14-16
9	Slag	1	29	Ferrous smelting slag - blast furnace coke 1750s +
10	Late/post-medieval pot	1	11	Midland purple C14-16
12	Undiagnostic pot	1	6	Hard fired; buff surface and reduced core
13	Late/post-medieval pot	1	9	Midland purple C14-16
14	Medieval pot	1	5	Developed Stamford ware C13
15	Medieval pot	1	2	Glazed white ware; poss. Nuneaton; C12-15
16	Post-medieval pot	1	2	Mottle/Speckle-glazed Ware (Staffs Manganese ware) C17-18
18	Post-medieval pot	1	21	Midland yellow handle C16-17
19	Late/post-medieval pot	1	17	Midland purple C14-16
19	Slag	1	25	ferrous slag undiagnostic
20	Post-medieval pot	1	9	N Midlands earthenware C17-20
21	Late/post-medieval pot	1	19	?Midland purple base angle C14-16
22	Clay pipe	1	4	Stem
22	Burnt flint	1	13	burnt unworked flint - discarded after recording
23	Late/post-medieval pot	1	11	Midland purple C14-16
24	Post-medieval pot	1	3	Midland yellow rim C16-17
25	Modern pot	1	4	Mocha ware C19
26	Post-medieval pot	1	26	N Midlands earthenware C17-20
27	Clay pipe	1	2	Stem
27	Modern pot	6	32	English porcelain C18-19 (7g); Transfer-printed ware C19 (4g); Brown salt-glazed stoneware (9g); mocha ware (12g)
27	Post-medieval glass	1	72	Abraded wine bottle base
28	Post-medieval pot	1	8	Brown salt-glazed stoneware C17-18
29	Late/post-medieval pot	1	48	?Midland purple C14-16
31	Post-medieval pot	1	5	Mottle/Speckle-glazed Ware (Staffs Manganese ware) C17-18
31	Flint debitage	1	19	Primary flake, hard hammer struck - could be plough struck, post-depositional damage
32	Post-medieval pot	2	11	Mottle/Speckle-glazed Ware (Staffs Manganese ware) C17-18
33	Post-medieval pot	1	14	N Midlands earthenware C17-20
34	Post-medieval pot	1	6	Black ware C17

Table 1: Artefacts by findspot

On examination the contents of Bags 2, 11, 17 and 30 were found to be non-artefactual



6. APPENDIX 2: FINDSPOT COORDINATES

Bag	Easting	Northing	Height
1	43449002	31706676	128.0754
3	43450349	31705734	128.8040
4	43451644	31704699	129.3292
5	43453239	31700224	129.4523
6	43454282	31702517	130.2870
7	43455254	31701659	130.5675
8	43449969	31700287	127.4614
9	43461152	31694181	131.8107
10	43465921	31692850	132.5487
12	43462933	31687495	129.9073
13	43461747	31688453	130.0252
14	43461432	31688725	130.0279
15	43459398	31690513	130.0321
16	43457897	31691526	129.8635
18	43449948	31697745	127.1482
19	43447830	31693109	125.9442
20	43442203	31698064	123.7267
21	43442777	31697173	123.9922
22	43437385	31692696	123.1707
23	43444958	31693192	124.8919
24	43446847	31691787	125.6070
25	43448394	31690685	126.2731
26	43443468	31689570	124.2877
27	43450020	31689335	126.8773
28	43450750	31688390	127.0348
29	43458455	31685761	128.7772
31	43449568	31677680	125.2401
32	43450835	31681325	125.8255
33	43440689	31685149	122.9022
34	43441980	31683185	122.9149

Table 2: Findspot coordinates

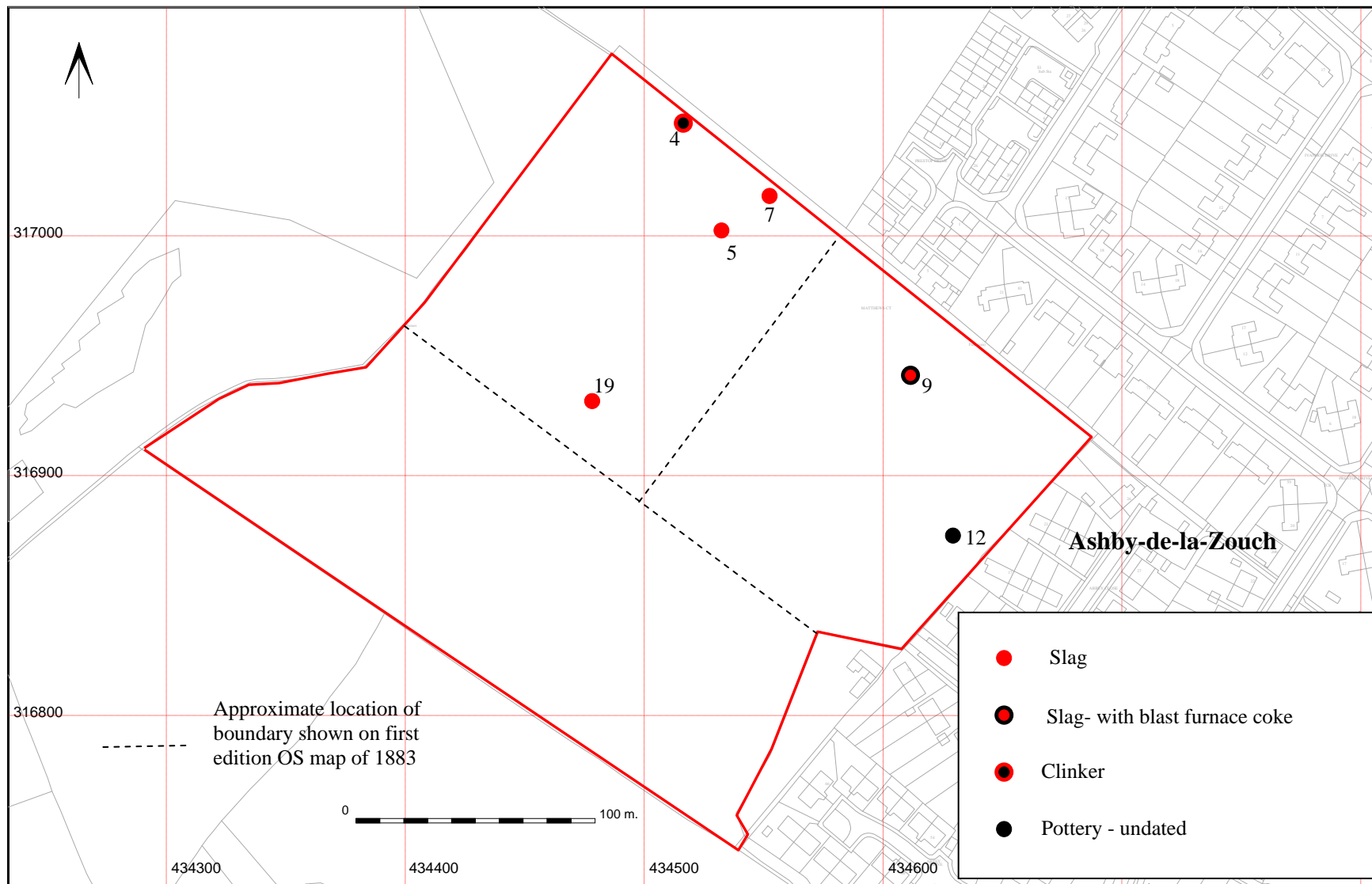


Figure 6: Artefact plot – slag and undated finds

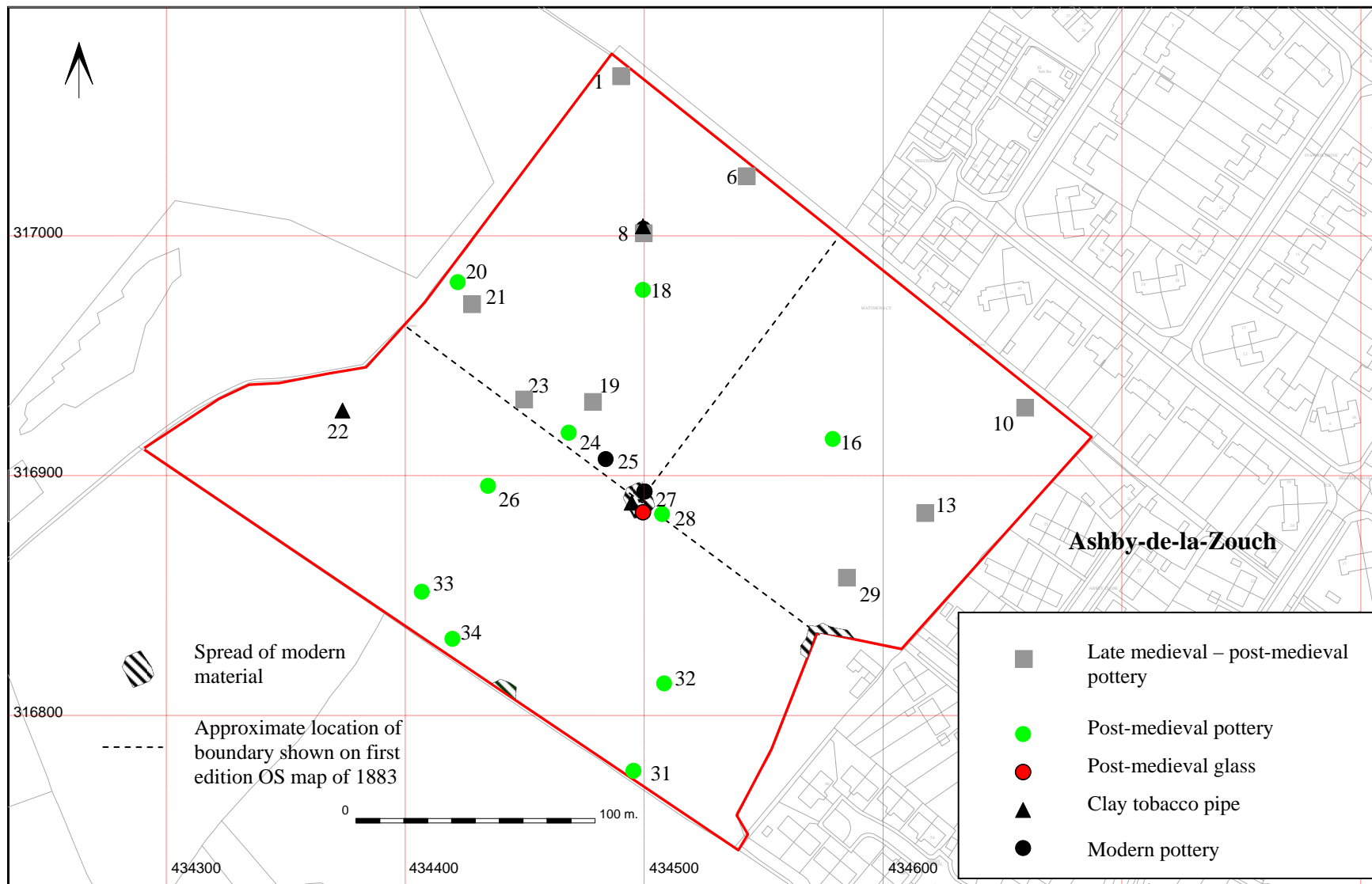


Figure 5: Artefact plot – late medieval to modern finds

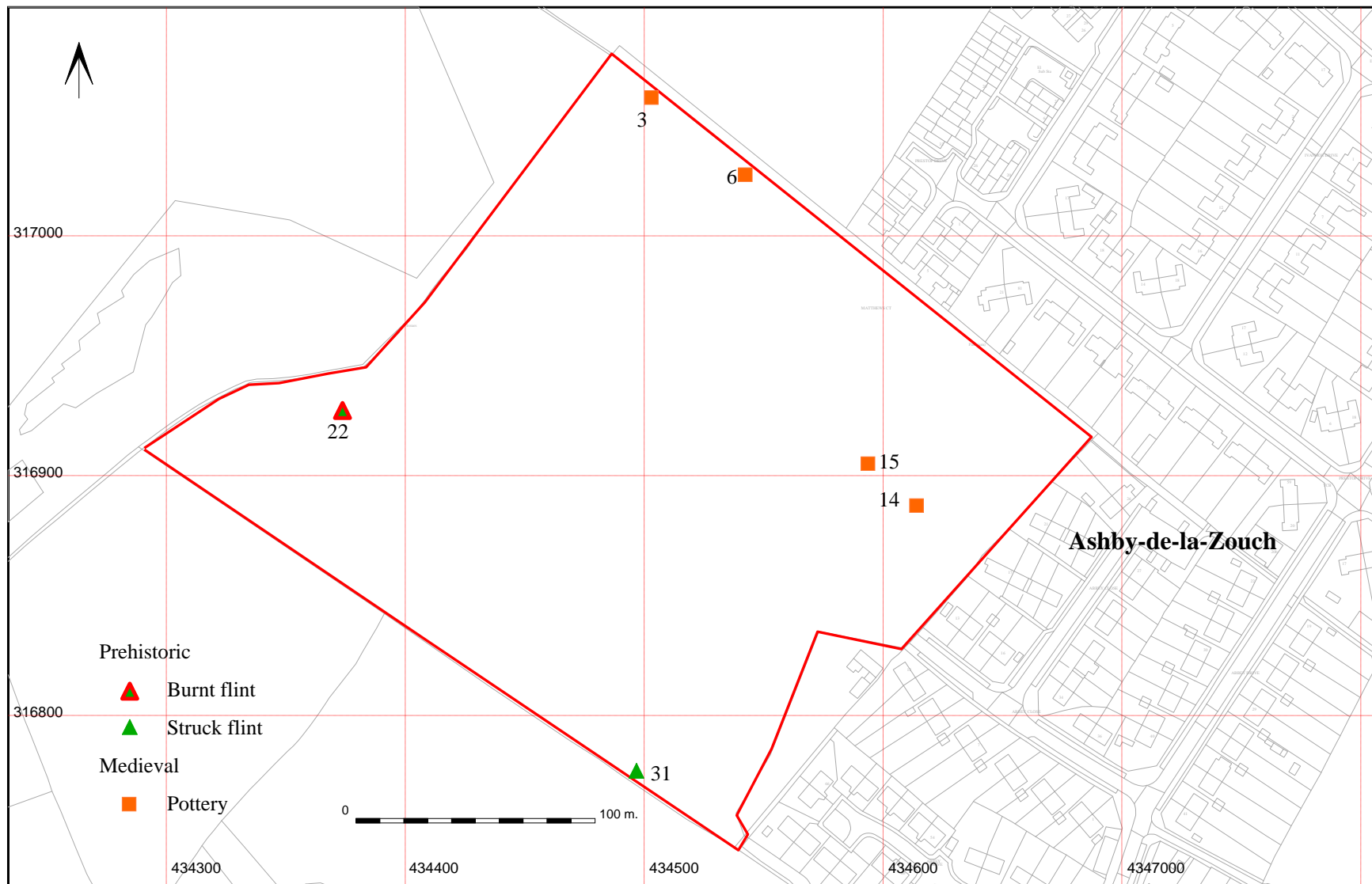


Figure 4: Artefact plot – prehistoric and medieval finds

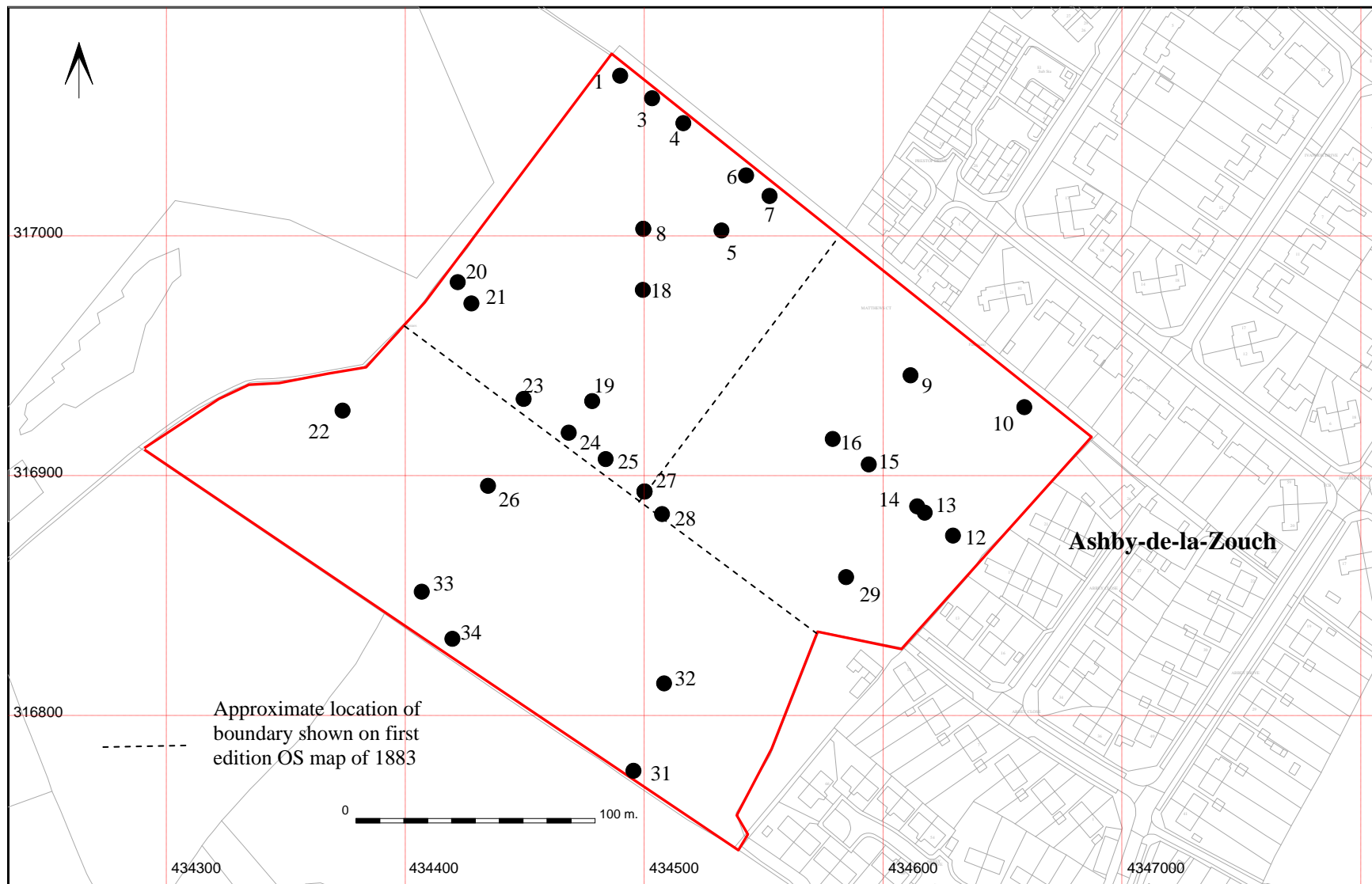


Figure 3: Artefact plot showing distribution of all findspots (Findspots 2, 11, 17 and 30 are omitted as they were not artefacts)



Image 1: General view westwards across fieldwalking area, from footpath at eastern margin



Image 2: General view looking northwards, showing good surface visibility with the crop just starting to sprout

Figure 2: Selected images 1 and 2 showing ground conditions

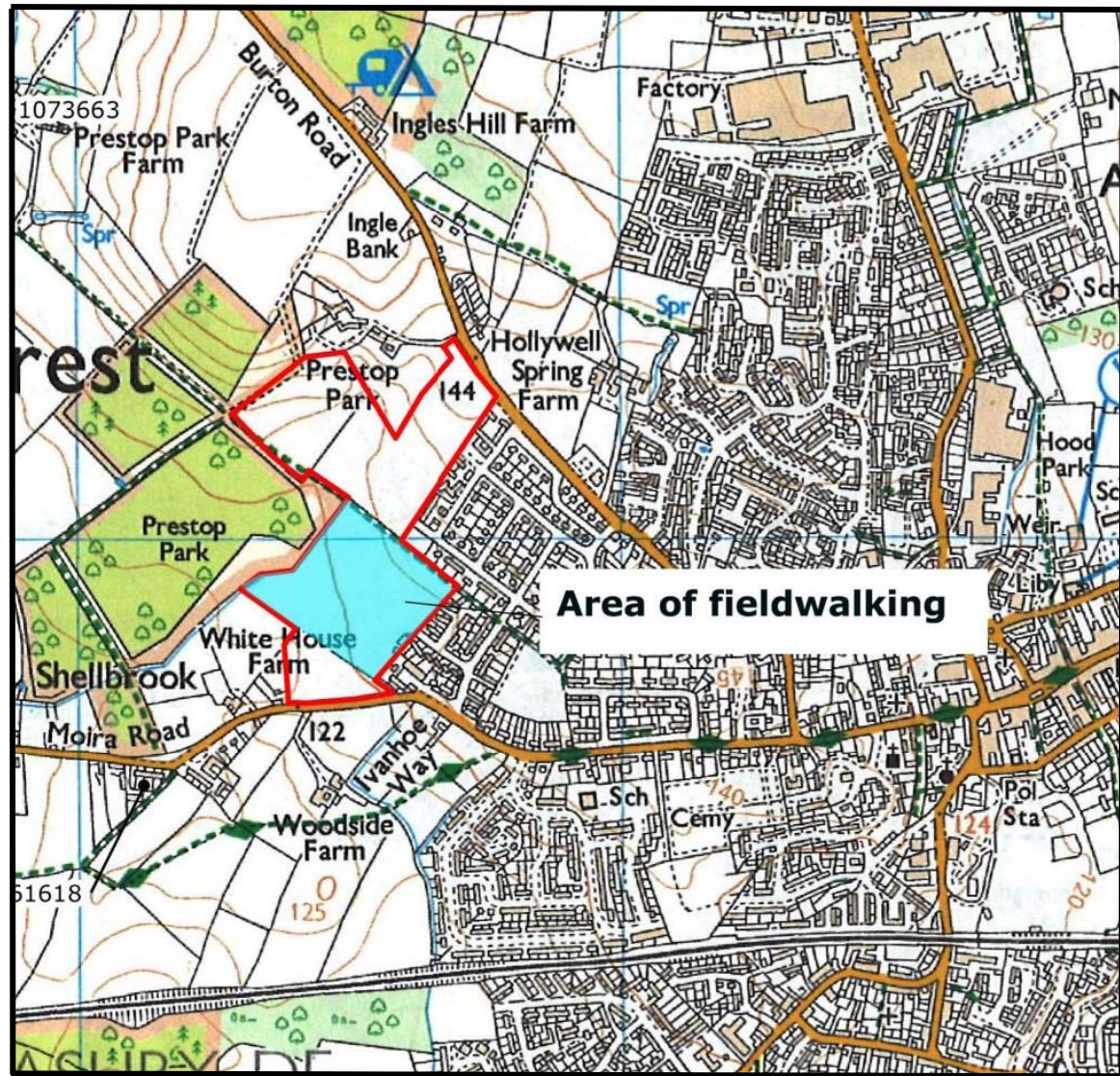


Figure 1: Site location plan

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011).

Central
Bedfordshire

Albion
archaeology



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

