

**SHARPES CORNER
LAKENHEATH
SUFFOLK**

FIELDWALKING

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Key Terms

Throughout this document, the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
CBM	Ceramic building material
Client	RPS on behalf of: Sanctuary Group
HER	Suffolk Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NMR	National Monuments Record
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. 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 report has been prepared by James Newbould (Project Officer). Fieldwalking was undertaken by James Newbould, David Ingham and Wesley Keir (Project Officers) with GPS survey carried out by Mercedes Planas (Souterrain).

Artefact summaries were prepared by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Figures were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology is grateful to Simon Blatherwick of RPS for commissioning the project.

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Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location and background. Methodologies are presented in Section 2. The results and conclusions of the fieldwalking are outlined in Section 3. Section 4 is a bibliography. Section 5 (Appendix 1) summarises the artefacts recovered from the fieldwalking.



Non-Technical Summary

RPS (on behalf of Sanctuary Group) are gathering baseline archaeological information (RPS 2010) to support a planning application for land at Sharpes Corner, Lakenheath. It is proposed that a very sheltered housing development be constructed within the proposed Development Area (DA).

As part of this data-gathering exercise, RPS (in liaison with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service – CAS) have agreed a programme of evaluative works. One element of these works comprises fieldwalking. The reasoning for use of this method is defined in a brief from the CAS (2010). RPS commissioned Albion Archaeology to produce a method statement for the fieldwalking (Albion Archaeology 2010), to undertake the fieldwork and to produce a report (this document) on the results.

The fieldwalking identified 71 artefacts from 67 findspots. They comprised items from the prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

Three prehistoric worked flints and a single sherd of Roman pottery could indicate general background human activity within and around the DA during these periods. However, they may be a result of the importation of artefacts in later periods from elsewhere through activities such as manuring.

Seven sherds of medieval pottery, eighteen sherds of post-medieval pottery and nineteen fragments of medieval/post-medieval CBM were also recovered. They were spread evenly across the site and did not display significant clustering. Their numbers and distribution does not suggest the presence of sub-surface remains. However, their presence within the DA is consistent with its location c. 0.5km to the north of the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement of Lakenheath. The even distribution of artefacts from the medieval through to the modern period reflects the rural setting of the DA throughout its history.

The project archive will be deposited with Suffolk County Store in accordance with the terms and conditions which are to be agreed in advance of deposition. An OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project (OASIS ID number 74531).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

RPS (on behalf of Sanctuary Group) are gathering baseline archaeological information (RPS 2010) to support a planning application for land at Sharpes Corner, Lakenheath. It is proposed that a very sheltered housing development be constructed within the proposed development area (DA).

As part of this data-gathering exercise, RPS (in liaison with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service – CAS) have agreed a programme of evaluative works. One element of these works comprises fieldwalking. The reasoning for use of this method is defined in a brief from the CAS (2010). RPS commissioned Albion Archaeology to produce a method statement for the fieldwalking (Albion Archaeology 2010), to undertake the fieldwork and to produce a report (this document) on the results.

1.2 *Site Location and Archaeological Background*

The DA is centred on grid reference TL 7116 8384 and covers an area of c. 9.8ha. The land available for fieldwalking covered an area of c. 7.7ha (Figure 1).

The DA comprises arable agricultural land with a small collection of farm buildings at the southern end of the site. It is irregularly shaped, with its northern and western curved boundaries defined by the large Cut-Off Channel running around the edge of Lakenheath. The southern side is bounded by Pine Farm and a small housing estate and the eastern side by fields.

The archaeological background has been summarised in the desk-based assessment (RPS 2010).



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The methodologies used during the fieldwalking are detailed in Section 2.2 below. Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IfA's *Code of Conduct (1999a)*
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (1999b)*
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001)*
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)*

The project archive will be deposited with Suffolk County Store in accordance with the terms and conditions which are to be agreed in advance of deposition. An OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project (OASIS ID number 74531).

2.2 Fieldwalking

On 9th April 2010, fieldwalking was carried out on all available land within the DA (7.7 ha). Land had been ploughed and harrowed in preparation for the survey.

The survey was based on the establishment of 20m transects and the systematic collection of surface artefacts within a 2m-wide corridor along the edge of each transect. Network RTK GPS was used to plot each find-spot, ensuring that artefact concentrations could be accurately located during subsequent stages of evaluation.

A summary of the results of the survey is presented in Section 3; detailed information on the artefacts recovered is contained in Appendix 1.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Collection Conditions

Fieldwalking was carried out on all suitable land within the DA (7.7ha). The weather was warm and sunny with ground conditions consistent across the entire area. The ground had been ploughed and harrowed and was unsown. Overall, the conditions were reasonably good for an effective fieldwalking survey.

3.2 Artefacts

Appendix 1 contains detailed technical data relating to the artefacts. Each findspot has a unique number related to Appendix 1 and shown in brackets within the main text, *e.g.* (52).

The fieldwalking recovered 71 artefacts from 67 findspots (Figures 1-4). They comprised 29 sherds of pottery, 19 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), three worked flints, a fragment of clay pipe and four iron objects. A further six findspots (17, 18, 24, 26, 33, 45) comprised late 20th-century material which was discarded. The distribution of all artefacts is illustrated in Figure 1 and is summarised below by period.

3.2.1 Prehistoric

Three fragments of worked prehistoric flint were recovered (13, 54, 64), one of which (64) showed retouching. The size and condition of the flints precludes tighter dating and their numbers were too few to show clustering (Figure 4). They are considered to reflect background prehistoric activity within and around the DA.

3.2.2 Roman

Roman artefacts comprised a single sherd of Oxford colour coat fine ware pottery (67), recovered from the south-eastern part of the DA (Figure 2).

3.2.3 Medieval/post-medieval

Seven sherds of undiagnostic medieval pottery, broadly datable to the 13th–16th centuries, and eighteen sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered (Figure 2). Nineteen fragments of medieval/post-medieval CBM were also identified (Figure 3). A clay pipe and four iron artefacts (two nails, a buckle frame and possible handle fragment) are likely to be of post-medieval or later date (Figure 4). Their dispersed distribution is not considered to be significant and attests to the general agricultural use of the DA in this period.

3.2.4 Modern

Modern artefacts comprised three brown stoneware bottles sherds (30, 42, 46). Four pieces of modern tile and a brick (7, 32, 43, 66) and six fragments of late 20th-century material (17, 18, 24, 26, 33, 45) were also collected and subsequently discarded. The latter group is excluded from Appendix 1.

3.3 Conclusions

Prehistoric and Roman artefacts could indicate general background human activity within and around the DA during these periods. However, they may be a result of the



importation of artefacts in later periods from elsewhere through activities such as manuring.

The distribution of medieval and post-medieval pottery does not show any significant clustering and is spread fairly evenly across the DA (Figure 2). This pattern is mirrored in the distribution of medieval/post-medieval CBM (Figure 3).

The numbers and distribution of medieval and post-medieval materials do not in themselves suggest the presence of sub-surface remains. However, their presence within the DA is consistent with its location *c.* 0.5km to the north of the settlement of Lakenheath. The town is thought to have originated in Saxon times (LKH254, MSF22767) and to have developed throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods (RPS 2010, 3.14-3.15).

The Lakenheath tithe map of 1853 indicates that land within the DA was used for arable farming and allotments (RPS 2010, 3.4, fig. 3). The even distribution of artefacts from the medieval through to the modern period reflects the rural setting of the DA throughout its history.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2001. *Procedures Manual, Volume 1: Fieldwork. 2nd Edition.*

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RPS 2010. *Sharpes Corner, Lakenheath: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. JLJ0732-R02.*



5. APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF ARTEFACTS

5.1 Introduction

The fieldwalking yielded an artefact assemblage (67 findspots), comprising mainly post-medieval pottery, and CBM of late medieval / post-medieval date (Table 1). Findspots 41 and 64 each contained two artefacts.

Findspot	Find Type	Number	Weight (g)
1	Post-medieval pottery	1	17
2	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	17
3	Post-medieval pottery	1	3
4	Medieval pottery	1	4
5	Post-medieval pottery	1	6
6	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	98
7	Modern tile (discarded)	1	130
8	Post-medieval pottery	1	10
9	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	52
10	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	23
11	Medieval pottery	1	9
12	Post-medieval pottery	1	12
13	Worked flint	1	2
14	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	3
15	Iron nail	1	29
16	Post-medieval pottery	1	10
17	Late 20 th Century artefact (discarded)	1	n/a
18	Late 20 th Century artefact (discarded)	1	n/a
19	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	22
20	Medieval pottery	1	4
21	Post-medieval bottle glass	1	26
22	Post-medieval pottery	1	20
23	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	18
24	Late 20 th Century artefact (discarded)	1	n/a
25	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	7
26	Late 20 th Century artefact (discarded)	1	n/a
27	Medieval pottery	1	4
28	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	11
29	Medieval pottery	1	17
30	Modern pottery	1	4
31	Cast iron ?handle	1	227
32	Modern tile (discarded)	1	50
33	Late 20 th Century artefact (discarded)	1	n/a
34	Post-medieval pottery	1	10
35	Iron nail	1	19
36	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	36
37	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	15
38	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	20
39	Post-medieval pottery	1	15
40	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	36
41	Post-medieval pottery	1	12
	Post-medieval vessel glass	1	3
42	Modern pottery	1	17
43	Modern tile (discarded)	1	27



Findspot	Find Type	Number	Weight (g)
44	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	36
45	Late 20 th Century artefact (discarded)	1	n/a
46	Modern pottery	1	34
47	Post-medieval pottery	1	13
48	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	17
49	Iron buckle frame	1	20
50	Medieval pottery	1	4
51	Post-medieval pottery	1	45
52	Post-medieval pottery	1	13
53	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	4
54	Worked flint	1	10
55	Post-medieval pottery	1	19
56	Post-medieval pottery	1	11
57	Post-medieval pottery	3	29
58	Post-medieval pottery	1	5
59	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	64
60	Medieval pottery	1	8
61	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	14
62	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	33
63	Post-medieval pottery	1	7
64	Worked flint	1	4
	Clay tobacco pipe stem	1	4
65	Medieval / post-medieval CBM	1	46
66	Modern brick (discarded)	1	7
67	Roman pottery	1	13

Table 1: Finds Summary

5.2 Pottery

Thirty-one pottery sherds weighing 375g were recovered. The sherds are small, with an average weight of 12g, and generally abraded. They survive in a condition consistent with their recovery from the ploughsoil. With the exception of a worn Roman sherd, the pottery mainly ranges in date from the 13th century to the present day, with the bulk of the assemblage being of post-medieval origin (Table 2).

Pottery date	Sherd count.	%
Roman	1	3.4
Medieval	7	24.1
Post-medieval	18	62.1
Modern	3	10.4
	29	100.0

Table 2: Pottery by date range and sherd count

Twelve fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 3) in chronological order.

An abraded base sherd of late Roman fine ware (13g) represents the earliest pottery collected.

Six undiagnostic medieval sherds (41g) are broadly datable to the 13th–16th centuries and comprise a range of fabrics including sand-tempered coarse wares, single sherds



of late medieval oxidised ware, Cistercian ware, and Essex imports from Hedingham and Mill Green.

Post-medieval pottery comprised eighteen glazed earthenware sherds (233g), the majority deriving from large bowls, and single sherds of Staffordshire slipware and German stoneware. Three sherds deriving from modern brown stoneware bottles were also collected.

Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd count	Findspot
<i>Roman</i>			
R11D	Oxford colour coat	1	67
<i>Medieval</i>			
C17	Hedingham ware	1	20
C56	Mill Green	1	50
C	Non-specific medieval sandy	2	4, 29
E02	Late medieval oxidised ware	1	60
P12	Cistercian ware	1	27
UNID	Undiagnostic medieval	1	11
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	14	1, 3, 5, 8, 16, 34, 39, 47, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58
P03	Black-glazed earthenware	2	22, 63
P25	Frechen stoneware	1	12
P30	Staffordshire slipware	1	41
<i>Modern</i>			
P50	Brown stoneware	3	30, 42, 46

Table 3: Pottery Type Series

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

Nineteen sand-tempered pieces of flat roof tile (474g) and an abraded brick fragment (98g) broadly datable to the late medieval / post-medieval periods were collected. Fragments have an average weight of 28g and are generally battered and abraded. Four pieces of modern tile and a brick (total weight 214g) and six fragments of late 20th-century material (17, 18, 24, 26, 33, 45) were collected and subsequently discarded.

5.4 Other Finds

Iron items comprised two complete timber nails, a square buckle frame and a cast iron handle(?) fragment, all likely to be of post-medieval or later date. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem and two pieces of 18th-century vessel glass were collected. Worked flints are represented by three broken flake fragments, one with retouch.

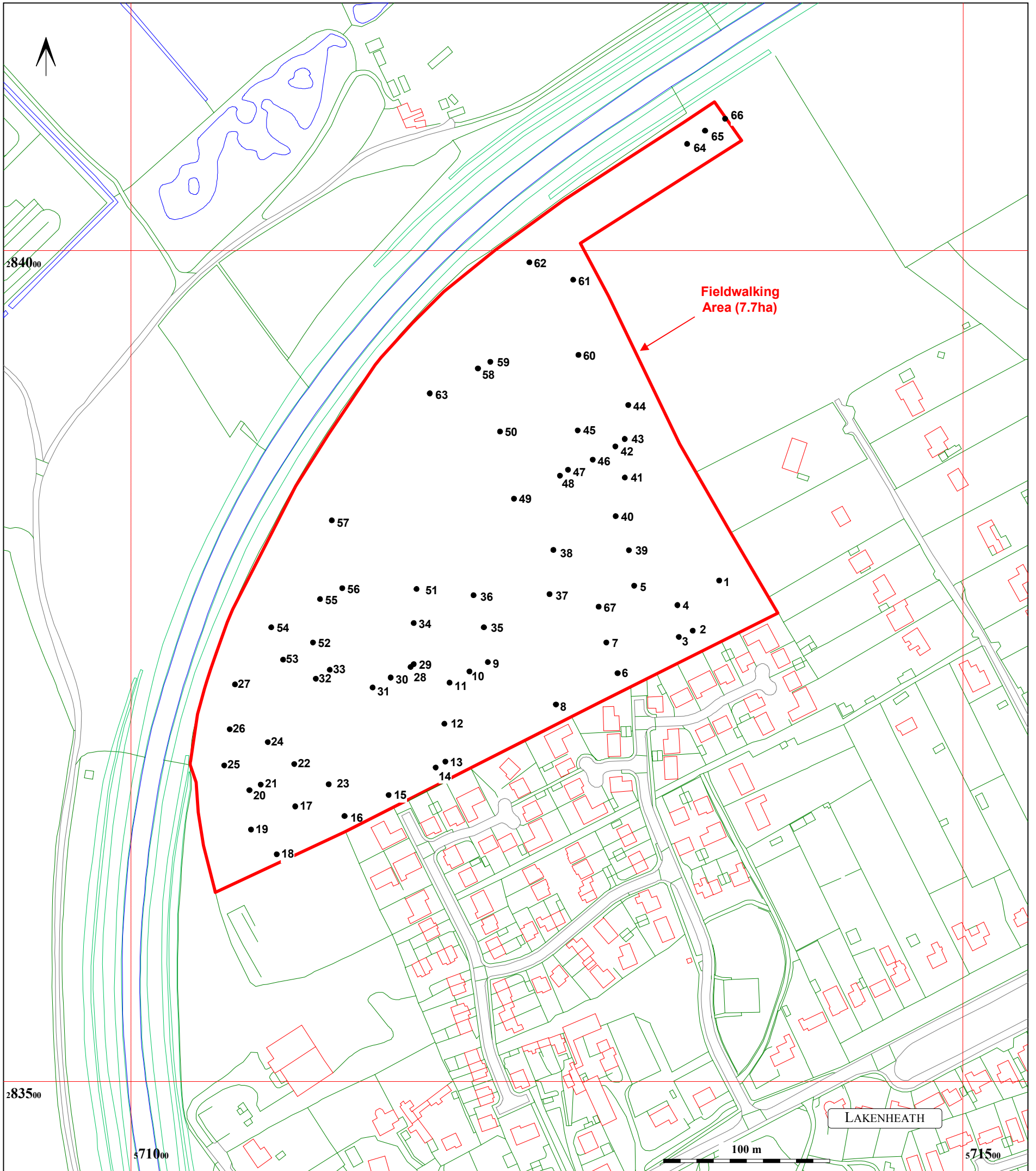
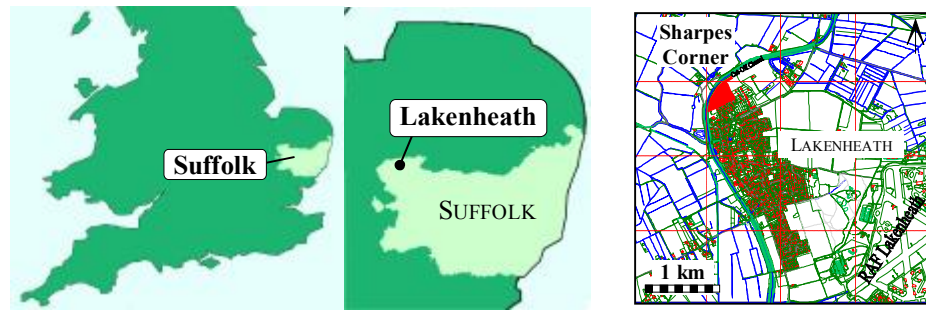


Figure 1: Site location, fieldwalking area and all findspots

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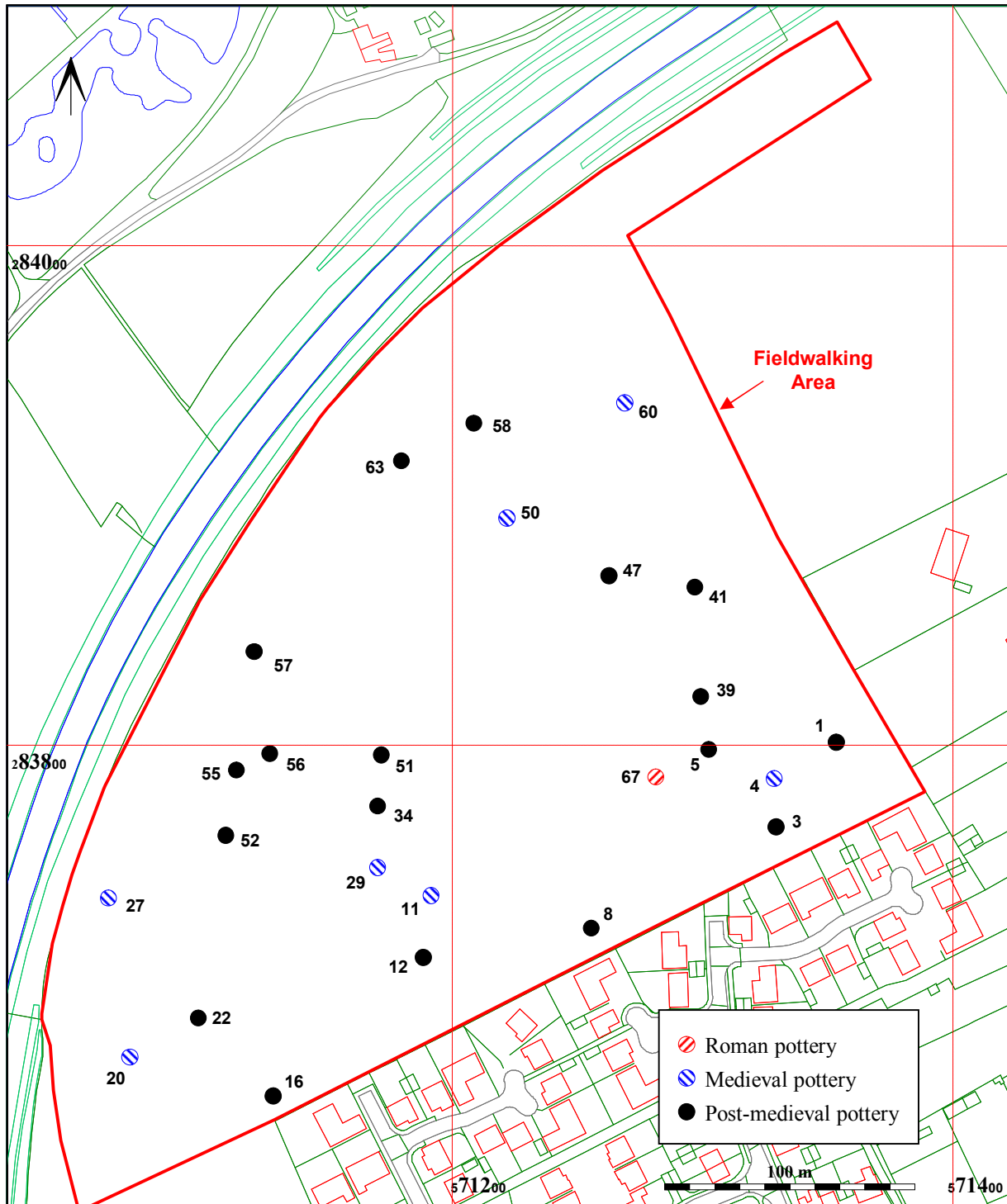


Figure 2: Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery findspots

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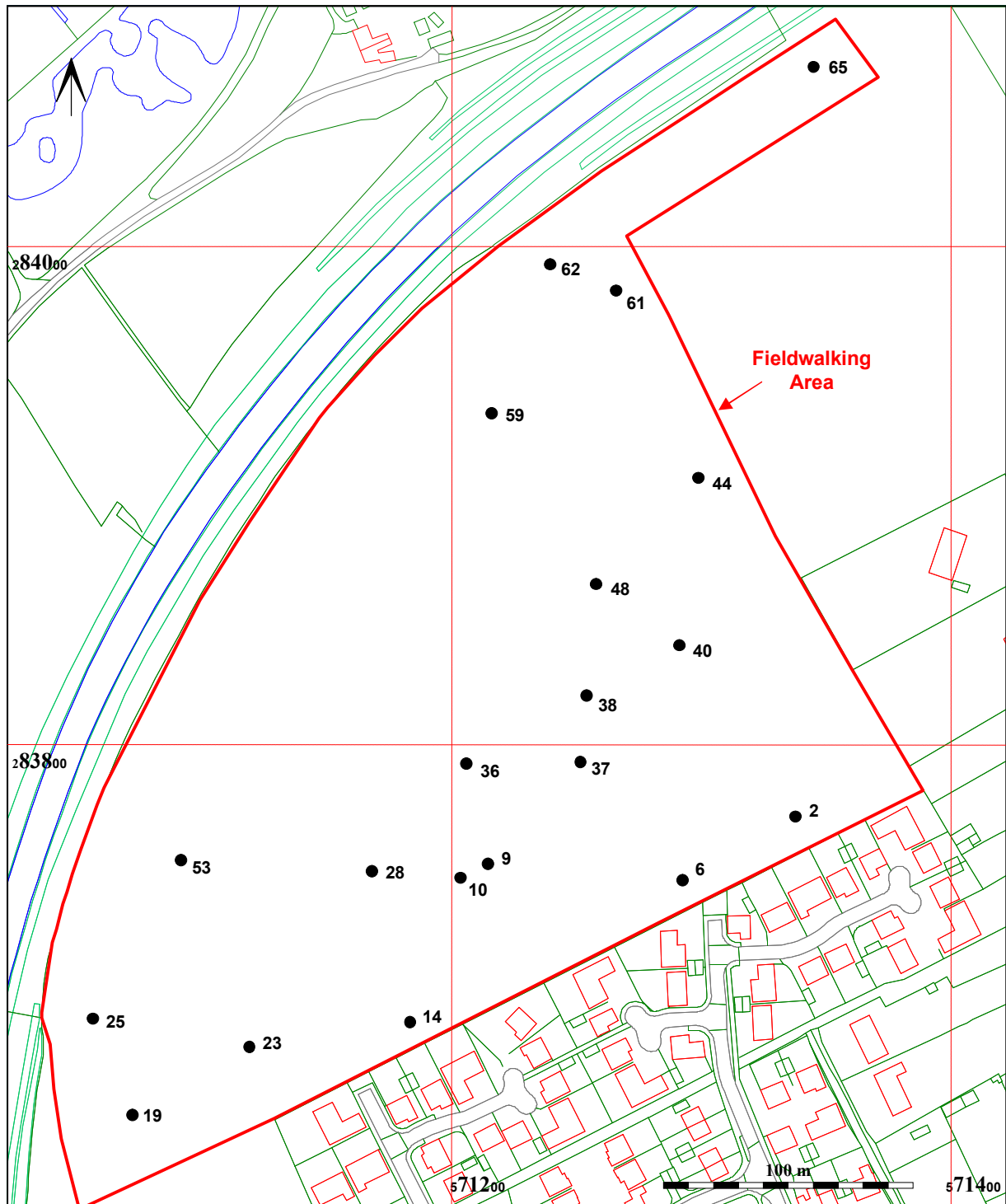


Figure 3: Medieval/post-medieval CBM findspots

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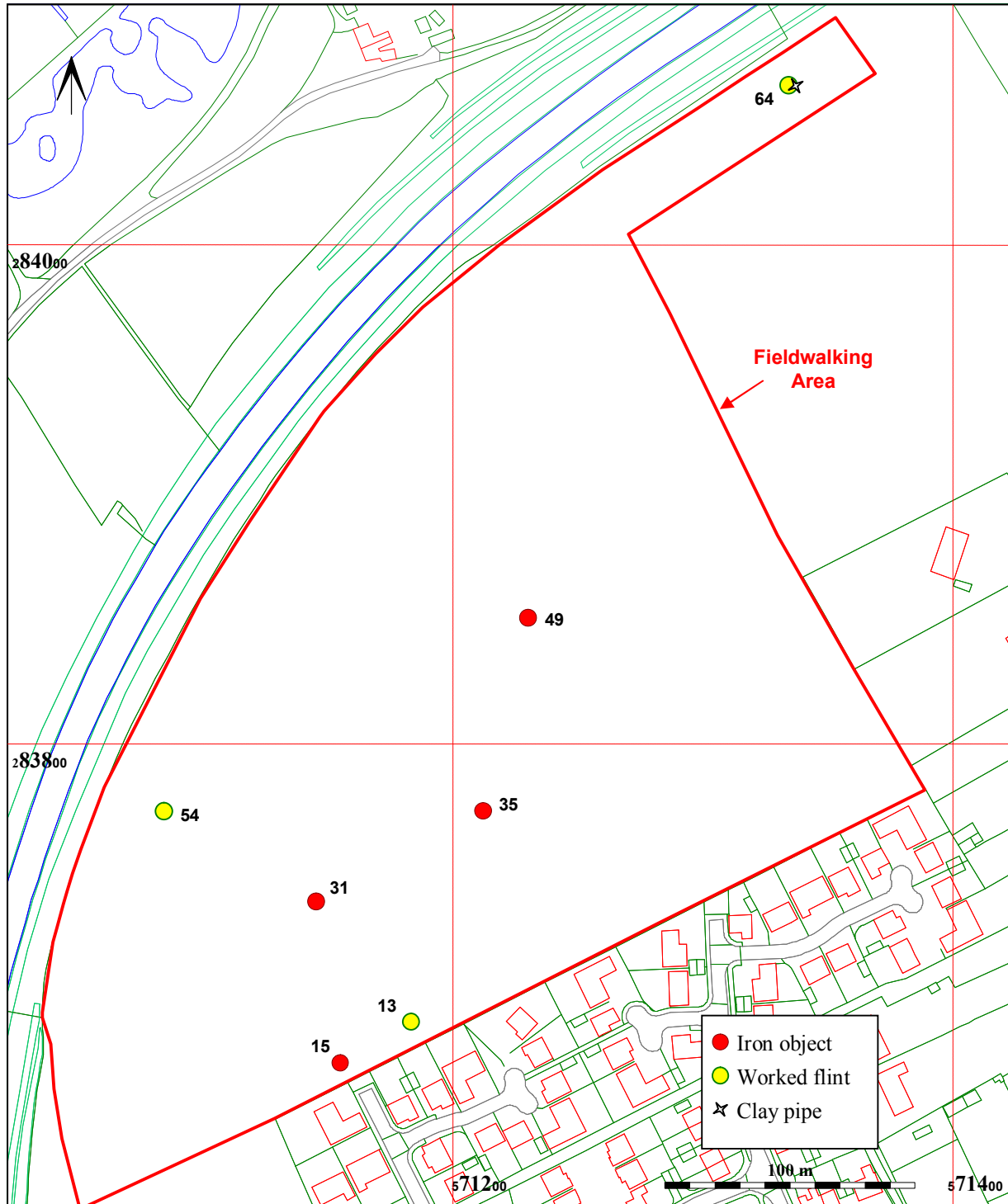


Figure 4: Other artefacts findspots

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