

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Fieldwalking Survey on land between

Huntingdon Road and Histon Road,

Cambridge

October 2006



December 2006

Carol Simmonds

Report 06/157

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Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House

Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Fieldwalking survey at land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road, Cambridge	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<i>A artefact surface collection survey (fieldwalking) was carried out in advance of a potential development on 58 hectares of land at Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. Light scatters of artefacts were recovered from across the entire area including flint, pottery and tile spanning the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The Roman pottery was restricted to one field at the north end of the site, otherwise no significant concentrations were identified.</i>	
Project type	Fieldwalking	
Site status	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Geophysics by GSB Prospection, aerial photography	
Current Land use	Agriculture, Playing Fields, Research Cultivation	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	58ha	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. numbers)	TL 437 607	
Height OD	20mOD- 12.5mOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	JSAC	
Project brief originator	JSAC	
Project Design originator	JSAC	
Director/Supervisor	Carol Simmonds	
Project Manager	Adam Yates NA, Margaret Bennett-Samuels JSAC	
Sponsor or funding body	David Wilson Estates	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	October 2006	
End date	October 2006	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	ECB2409	Pottery, glass, fired clay, flint, clay pipe
Paper		record sheets
Digital		digital mapping, photos, reports
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title		
Serial title & volume		
Author(s)		
Page numbers		
Date		

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

NOVEMBER 2006

FIELDWALKING SURVEY AT LAND BETWEEN

HUNTINGDON ROAD AND HISTON ROAD,

CAMBRIDGE

OCTOBER 2006

Cambridge, Huntingdon Road Field walking

Staff

Project Manager	Adam Yates
Field work	Carol Simmonds BA Hale Moharramzedah BA, MA Paul Clements BA Elizabeth Verrinder BA MA
Text	Carol Simmonds
Artefacts	Tora Hylton
Illustrations	Carol Simmonds

Quality Control

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Adam Yates		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

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**FIELDWALKING SURVEY AT LAND BETWEEN
HUNTINGDON ROAD AND HISTON ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE**

Abstract

A artefact surface collection survey (fieldwalking) was carried out in advance of a potential development on 58 hectares of land at Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. Light scatters of artefacts were recovered from across the entire area including flint, pottery and tile spanning the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The Roman pottery was restricted to one field at the north end of the site, otherwise no significant concentrations were identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

David Wilson Estates are seeking planning permission for a development on about 58ha of land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road, Cambridge (NGR: TL 437 607, Fig 1). The site consists of agricultural land, sports pitches and the premises of NIAB and its supporting buildings. Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC), on the behalf of David Wilson Estates, to carry out a fieldwalking survey of the site as part of a larger ongoing process of archaeological assessment.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Historical and archaeological

A Desk Based Assessment carried out by JSAC in August 2006 concluded that there were records pertaining to prehistoric and Roman archaeology in the vicinity of the site. The site was assessed as having medium to high potential for remains (JSAC 2006).

JSAC also commissioned an Aerial Photographic Survey from Air Photo Services in August 2006. Assessment of photographs dating between 1946 and the present identified possible ridge and furrow in all surveyed fields. A linear bank aligned south-west to north-east was assumed to be either a manmade undated feature or a natural anomaly. In field 4 there were

a series of possible pits or natural vegetation hollows.

2.2 Topography and Geology

The site is situated to the north-west of Cambridge on low lying land centred at NGR TL 437 607.

The site slopes gently from a height of 20mOD at the south down to the north-eastern edge at approximately 12.5mOD. The geology is calcereous loams of the Mitlon series, overlying the river terrace and chalky drift. Beneath this is Oxford clay bedrock (SSEW 1983, Fig 2).

3 OBJECTIVES and methodology

3.1 Objectives

The general objectives of the fieldwalking exercise were to enable the identification of potential areas of archaeological interest. Specific objectives were:

- 1 To collect and plot the location of artefacts on the surface of the ploughsoil
- 2 Provide data regarding the survival, nature, extent and possible significance of archaeological deposits
- 3 Identify sites which may only exist in the ploughsoil
- 4 To inform research and conservation issues including the need for further fieldwork or preservation in situ.

3.2 Methodology

The strategy of fieldwork and post-excavation was designed to fulfil the overall aims and objectives listed above. All works were conducted in accordance with the *Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists* (1999). The scope of the works is set out in a specification prepared by JSAC (2006) and approved by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The survey examined Fields 1-6 and Fields 7-9 as an additional area to the north-west,

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adjacent to Histon Road. Fieldwalking was undertaken in all parts of the development site suitable for this type of survey. Fields 7 and 8 were only partly surveyed as only a 50m wide easement fell within the proposed development area. Parts of Fields 4 and 5 were not walkable due to coverings of stubble or cultivation beds. Field 6 and part of Field 5 were sports fields or under permanent pasture. Of those which were walked the visibility varied from 5 (very good) to 1 (poor) (Fig 4). Where fields were walked, visibility was sufficient to ensure that the results were a true representation of the site's potential.

The transects were laid out individually from baselines set up along the most convenient edge of each field. The parallel transects, spaced 20m apart, were laid out at right angles to the baselines and orientated approximately with the length of each field. Each field survey was undertaken by walking systematically at normal pace along the parallel transects with individual finds collected and plotted in 20m stints within individual transects. The distribution of each category of finds have been mapped at a scale of 1:2500 and analysed to identify meaningful concentrations.

4 RESULTS

Artefact scatters are shown in Figure 5 omitting the occasional finds of modern brick, tile and iron objects.

4.1 Field 1 (Figs 2-5)

Field 1 was located on the north-eastern side of the site. Field 1 was drilled with low shoots of winter wheat appearing during the time of survey, resulting in good visibility (5).

The collection survey produced a very low artefact distribution, with only a single sherd of heavily abraded Roman pottery, a fragment of post-medieval glass and a single fragment of a clay pipe stem. The largest artefact type was post-medieval pottery with 20 sherds.

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Table :1 Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 1

<i>Artefact Type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No. of Artefacts</i>
Clay Pipe	Post-medieval	1
Glass	Post-medieval	1
Pottery	Roman	1
	Post-medieval (17 th -20 th century)	20

4.2 Field 2 (Figs 2-5)

This field adjoined the south-western side of Field 1. It was bounded on its south-western side by Fields 3 and 4, and divided from them by a substantial hedge. Field 2 was drilled with low shoots of winter wheat appearing during the time of survey, resulting in good visibility (5).

Roman pottery included an abraded sherd of abraded samian ware, a sherd of burnt Nene valley colour coat (post 250AD). Of the post-medieval pottery two sherds were German stoneware pottery. Other finds included a fragment of fired clay.

Table 2: Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 2

<i>Artefact Type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No. of Artefacts</i>
Flint	Flakes	1
Tile	Roman	1
Pottery	Roman	6
	Medieval	1
	Post-medieval	15

4.3 Field 3 (Figs 2 to 5)

Fields 3-6 lie within NIAB managed property. Field 3 was located to the south-western side of Field 2 and to the west of Field 4. The field was drilled with low shoots of winter wheat

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appearing during the time of survey, resulting in good visibility (5).

No significant finds scatters were noted in the field.

Table 3 Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 3

<i>Artefact Type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No. of Artefacts</i>
Flint	Flakes	1
Glass	Post-medieval	2
Clay Pipe	Post-medieval	15
Pottery	Medieval	2
	Post-medieval	35

4.4 Field 4 (Figs 2-5)

Field 4 was located to the south-western side of Field 2 and to the east of Field 3. Not all of the field was walked owing to the mixed land use onsite. The southern quarter of Field 4 was drilled with low shoots of winter wheat appearing during the time of survey. This area of field had good artefactual visibility (5). Other parts were stubble and cultivation beds with grassland delineating the areas and these were not walked, as such the artefactual visibility in these areas was poor (1).

Finds comprised post-medieval clay pipe, pottery and glass.

Table 4: Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 4

<i>Artefact type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No. of Artefacts</i>
Clay Pipe	Post-medieval	4
Glass	Post-medieval	1
Pottery	Post-medieval	32

4.5 Field 5 (Figs 2-5)

Field 5 was located to the south-western side of Field 3 and to the east of Field 6. Not all of the field was walked owing to the mixed land use onsite. The western half of Field 5 was

Cambridge, Huntingdon Road Field walking

ploughed and had good visibility. The rest consisted of cultivation beds with grassland and a sports pitch. As such they were rated 1 and not walked.

Finds comprised post-medieval clay pipe and pottery.

Table 5: Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 5

<i>Artefact type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No. of Artefacts</i>
Clay Pipe	Post-medieval	4
Pottery	Post-medieval	15

4.6 Field 6 (Figs 2-5)

Field 6 was located to the east of Field 5 and south west of Field 4. Its current usage is a sports pitch precluded fieldwalking.

4.7 Field 7 (Figs 2-5)

Field 7 was located to the north-west of the site to the north-west of Field 1. Not all of the field was surveyed as only a 50m easement was required. The field was drilled with low shoots of winter wheat appearing during the time of survey. It was considered to be visibility level 5.

No significant artefact concentrations were noted in this field.

Table 6: Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 7

<i>Artefact type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No of artefacts</i>
Pottery	Medieval	1

4.8 Field 8 (Figs 2-5)

Field 8 was located to the north-west of the site, to the north-east of Field 7. The field was surveyed as only a 50m easement was required. The field was drilled with low shoots of winter wheat appearing during the time of survey.

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Table 7: Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 8

<i>Artefact type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No of artefacts</i>
Pottery	Post-medieval	10

4.9 Field 9 (Figs 2-5)

Field 9 was located to the south of Field 8. The field was drilled with low shoots of winter wheat appearing during the time of survey.

No significant artefact concentrations were recovered.

Table 8: Summary of artefacts recovered from Field 9

<i>Artefact type</i>	<i>Date/Description</i>	<i>No of artefacts</i>
Pottery	Post-Medieval	11
Clay-Pipe	Post-Medieval	1

5 DISCUSSION

Some flint was present across the western and southern part of the site, although no meaningful concentrations were present.

The distribution of Roman pottery may be significant as the majority of it was found in field 2. The majority of the pottery was undiagnostic, although there was a sherd of probable heavily abraded Samian, and a sherd of probable Nene Valley colour coat post dating 250 AD. The Roman material was in general heavily abraded. The quantities of material recovered do not seem sufficient to imply occupation, but are more likely a general indication of background activity.

The medieval pottery consisted of mostly small undiagnostic sherds and probably relate to manuring processes.

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The post-medieval pottery was mostly 16th-20th century in date, mainly consisting of undiagnostic sherds. However, a portion of the post-medieval pottery was identified as German stoneware, in particular a Sieburg tankard or *Schnellen* dating from 13th to 16th century (Hurst et al, 1986).

The presence of clay-pipe and a range of post-medieval pottery from all walked fields are consistent with background spreads and manuring and dumping in the medieval and post-medieval period. It is also possible that the scatters are consistent with the presence of ridge and furrow identified from aerial photographs.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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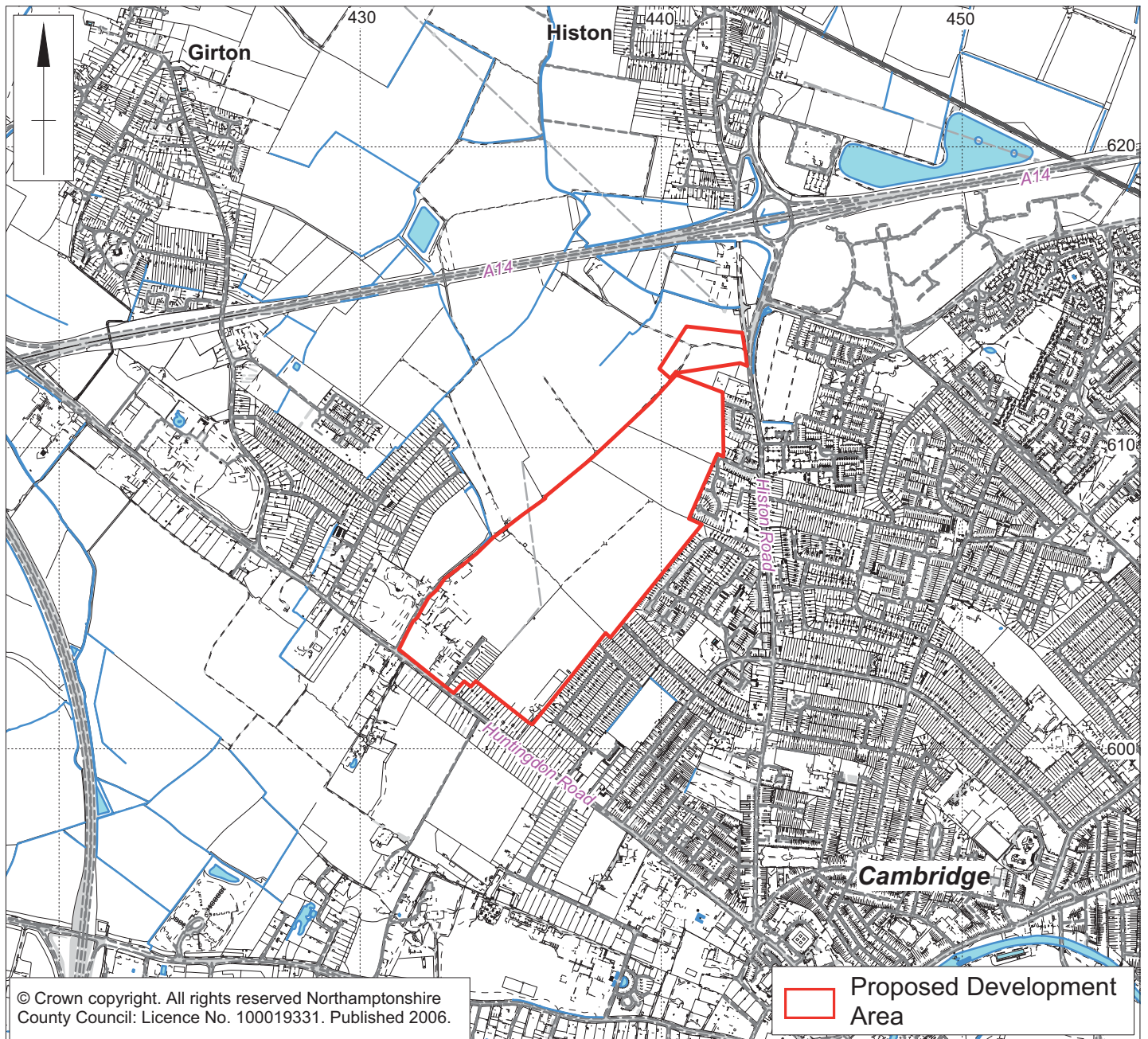
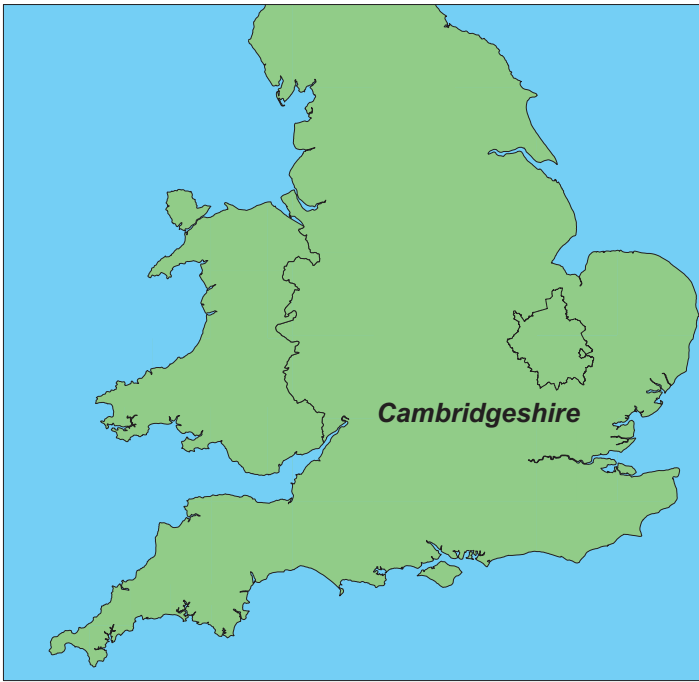
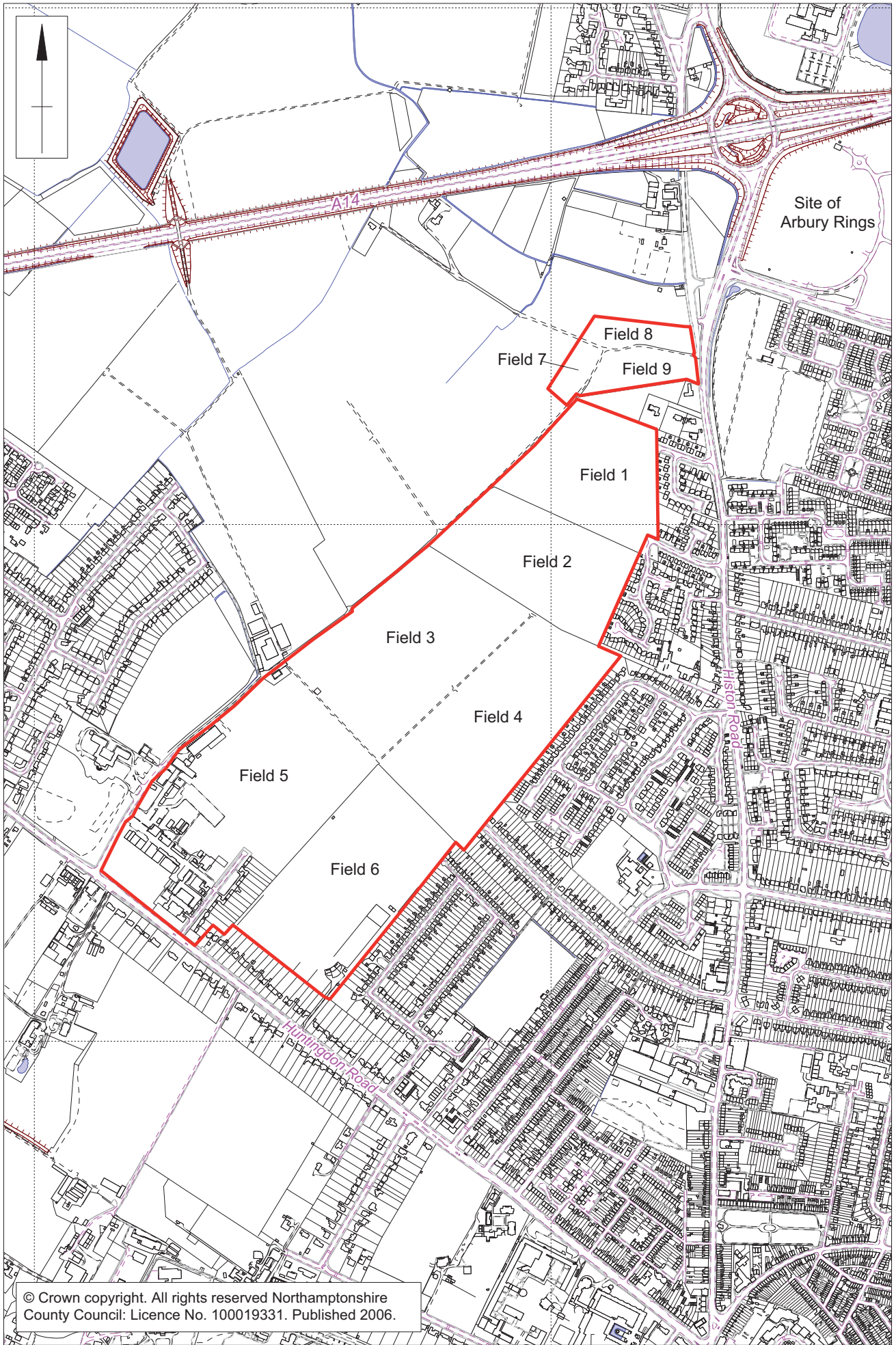


Fig 1



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Fig 2

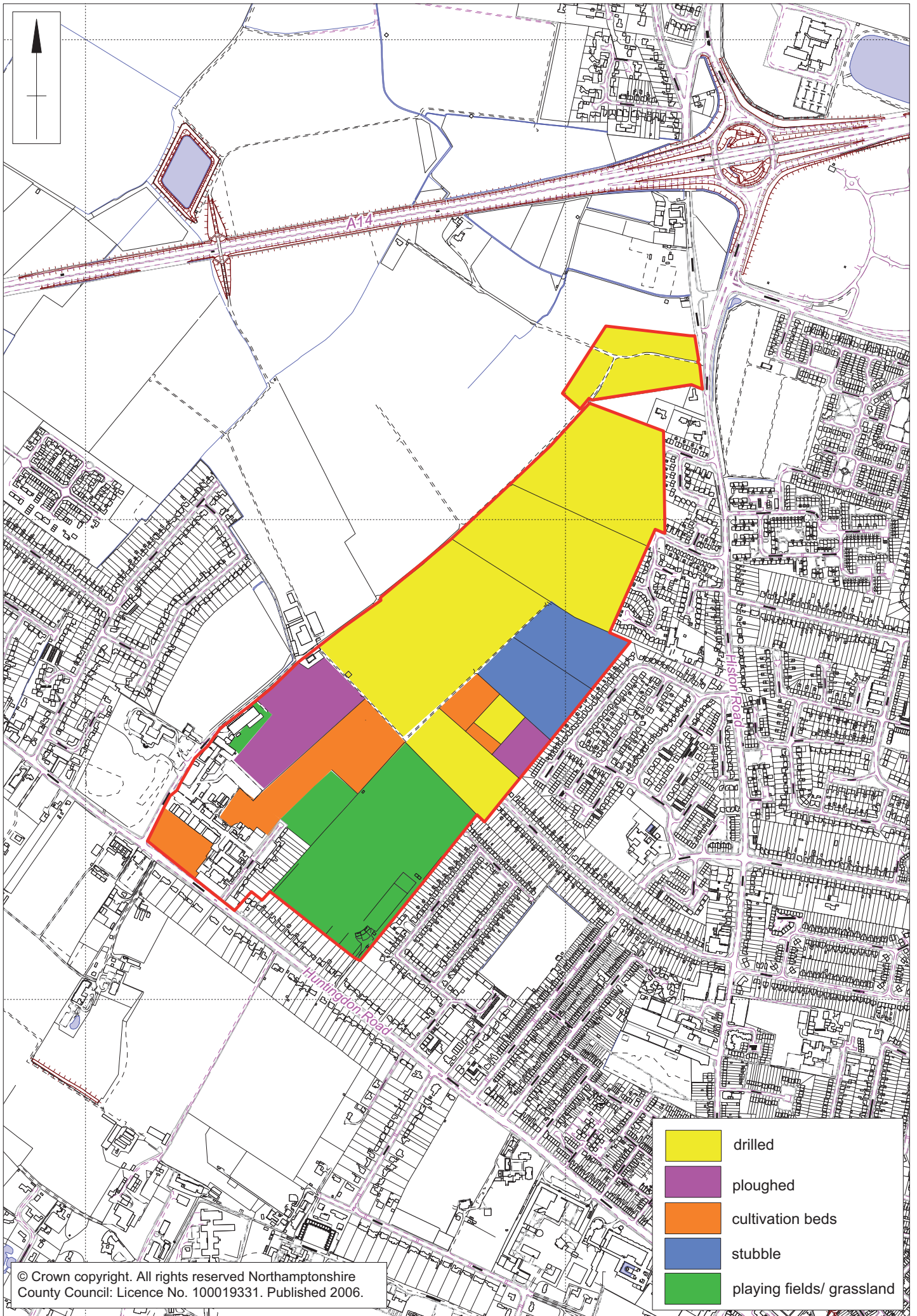
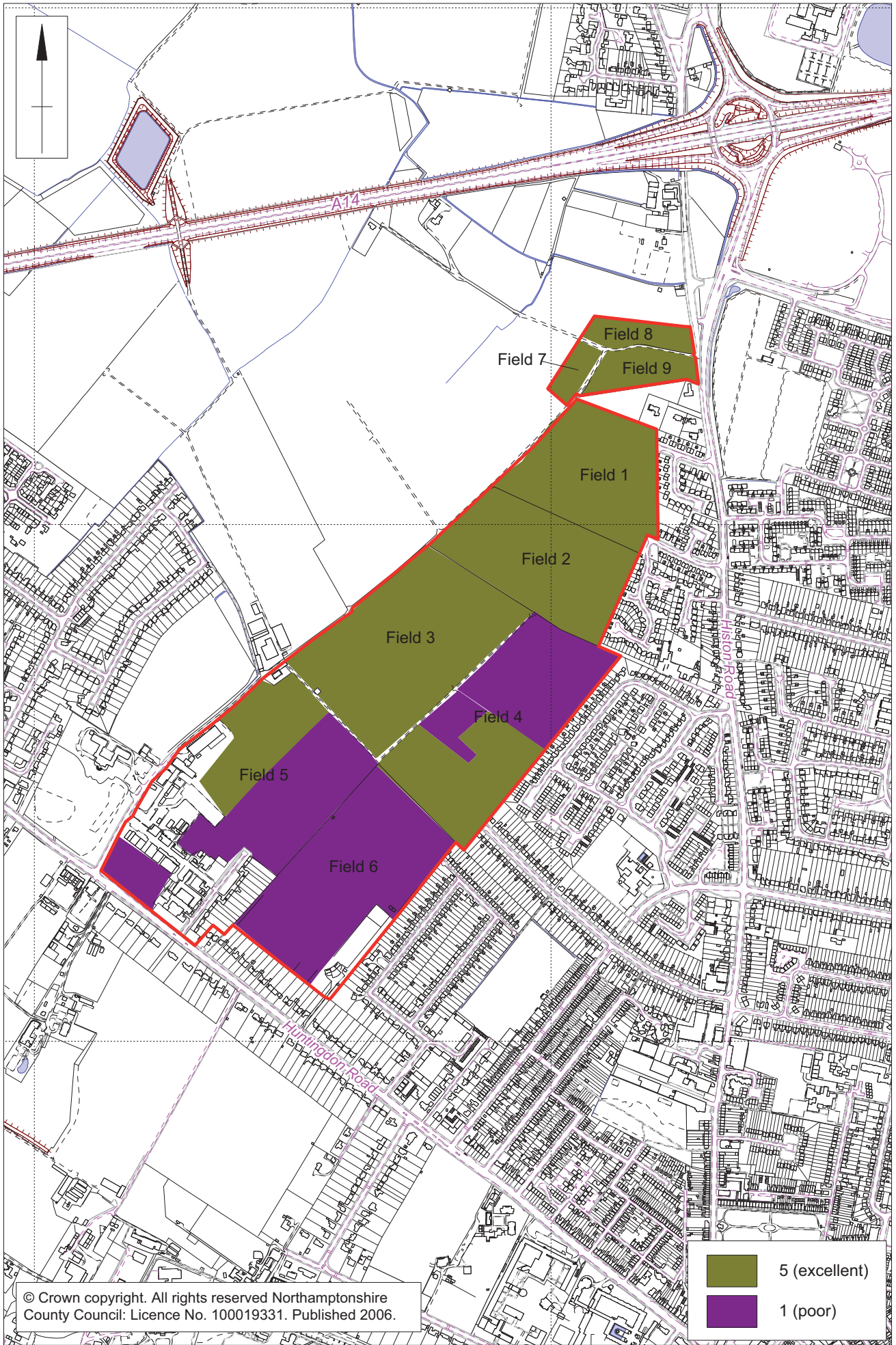
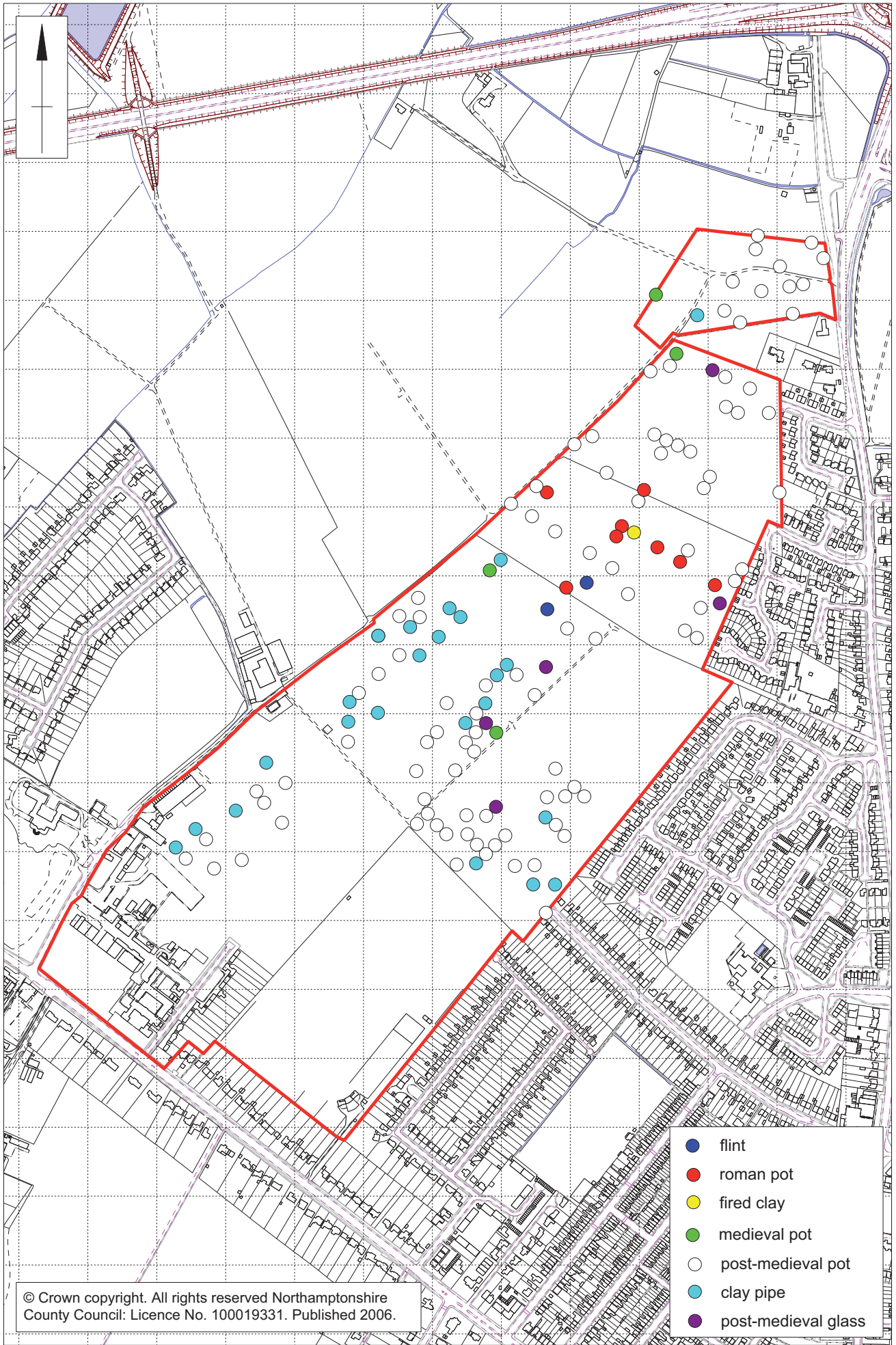


Fig 3



1:10,000

Fig 4



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1:7,500

Fig 5