Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Surveys

at Southwick Wood and Short Wood

Southwick, Northamptonshire

November 2008

Stephen Morris

April 2009

Report 08/217

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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Simon Carlyle		
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(Front cover: Survey area, facing east towards Southwick Wood, water tower and covered reservoir)

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Archaeological surveys at Southwick Wood and Short Wood, Southwick, Northamptonshire	
Short description	The geophysical survey undertook a detailed survey that identified three parallel linear anomalies, probably drainage features. The fieldwalking recovered a single Mesolithic flint implement. The earliest ceramic material recovered were six fragments of Roman tile. The medieval finds include three sherds of pottery and a single sherd of glazed tile. A moderate number of post-medieval pottery sherds were also recovered concentrated to the northern side of the field. The majority of the roof tile was post-medieval in date, which formed a moderate scatter and two pieces metalworking debris was also collected. Other finds included a fragment of 18th-19th century wine bottle and an iron agricultural tool of undetermined date. The majority of the finds were probably related to field manuring.	
Project type	Fieldwalking and geophysical survey	
Site status	Arable farmland	
Previous work	Unknown	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Unknown	
Significant finds	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Farmland to the south of Southwick, Northamptonshire	
Study area	*c* 4.42ha	
OS Easting & Northing	502000 291300	
Height aOD	*c* 65m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust	
Project brief originator	-	
Project design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Stephen Morris	
Project Manager	Bill Boismier	
Sponsor or funding body	Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	November 2008	
End date	November 2008	
ARCHIVES	**Location**	**Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)**
Physical		Flint, pottery, metal work, tile, metal working debris (1 box)
Paper		Project records (1 box)
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological surveys at Southwick Wood and Short Wood, Southwick, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	08/217	
Author	Steve Morris	
Page numbers	6 text, 6 appendices, 5 figs, 2 plates	
Date	9th April 2009	

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS AT SOUTHWICK WOOD AND SHORT WOOD SOUTHWICK, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NOVEMBER 2008

Abstract

In November 2008, Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted geophysical and fieldwalking surveys on farmland, covering 4.42 hectares, to the south of Southwick, Northamptonshire. The geophysical survey undertook a detailed survey that identified three parallel linear anomalies, probably drainage features. The fieldwalking survey, which followed on from the geophysical work, recovered a single Mesolithic flint implement. The earliest ceramic material recovered was six fragments of Roman tile. The medieval finds include three sherds of pottery and a single sherd of glazed tile. A moderate number of post-medieval pottery sherds, concentrated on the northern side of the field, were also recovered. The majority of the roof tile, which formed a moderate scatter, was post-medieval in date. Other finds included a fragment of 18th-19th century wine bottle, two pieces metalworking debris and an iron agricultural tool of undetermined date. The majority of the finds were probably related to field manuring.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) proposes to extend the existing woodland of Southwick Wood and Short Wood, near Southwick, Northamptonshire. The proposal would be to replant an area on a stretch of arable farmland between the two existing woods, recreating the once continuous strip of woodland. Prior to reforestation, NWT contracted Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) to conduct a series of archaeological surveys to allow for a mitigation strategy to be devised and implemented on any archaeology that may be present on the land (NGR TL 022 914; Fig 1).

NA was commissioned to undertake geophysical and fieldwalking surveys on the area of farmland to the south of Southwick, Northamptonshire, which is being considered for the expansion of the present woods. The land subject to the survey work comprises a field totalling 4.42 hectares.

The objective of the surveys was to identify, locate and characterise the extent, character and date of any potential archaeological remains encountered within the proposed woodland expansion area. The work was undertaken in November 2008.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Geology and topography

The survey area lies approximately 0.5km to the south of the village of Southwick, in an arable field situated on the brow of a hill that overlooks a tributary valley of the River Nene to the north (Fig 1; Plate 1). The south-east corner of the field is occupied by a water tower and a covered reservoir that lie outside the proposed woodland expansion. The west side of the field forms a

boundary with the present Short Wood and east side of the field is bounded by the Southwick to Oundle Road, which separates the field from Southwick Wood. Both woods stretch for over 1km to the west and east respectively. The north side of the field outside the proposed woodland expansion continues down the valley side to the edge of Southwick. The field boundary on the south side forms part of the parish boundary between the villages of Southwick and Glapthorn.

The land is predominantly sited upon a stratum of Oxford Clay and Kellaways Beds, capped by glacial Boulder Clay deposits (BGS 1978). The survey area lies between 65m and 67m aOD.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

A desk-based assessment carried out by NA (Soden 2008) reconstructed and detailed the medieval and evolving landscape of Southwick Wood and Short Wood from information derived from historical maps and documentary evidence.

The woods are located at the boundary of part of the former royal hunting ground of Rockingham Forest that once extended from Oxford to Stamford, but lay outside the jurisdiction of the forest law. On the 1431 map the proposed area of augmentation was partially under woodland, joining Southwick and Short Woods and denoted as East Dodhawes. This piece of woodland was still depicted on maps from the end of the 16th century to the mid 17th century, as East Dodhawes or Oundle Wood. By the late 18th century the area of interest had been cleared of its woodland and become an open plot, known as Dodhawes Close. Both Short and Southwick Woods were noted as '*celebrated preserves*' on a plan produced for the sale of the Southwick estate in 1834. The area between Short and Southwick Woods has remained as open farmland to the present day, within the Parish of Southwick. The development of the water tower and covered reservoir in the latter part of the 20th century was the only change of land use on the site.

3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 Detailed gradiometer survey methodology

The survey was conducted with Bartington Grad 601-2, twin sensor array, vertical component fluxgate gradiometers (Bartington and Chapman 2003). These are standard instruments for archaeological survey and can resolve magnetic variations as slight as 0.1 nanotesla (nT).

The site was divided into 30m grid squares which were set out manually by tape measure and optical square. The instruments were carried at a brisk but steady pace through each grid, collecting data along 1m spaced traverse lines. Measurements were automatically triggered every 0.25m along the traverses, giving a total of 3600 measurements per grid.

All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (EH 2008; Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002).

The data was processed using Geoplot 3.00s software. Striping was removed using the 'Zero Mean Traverse' function (ZMT) and destaggering of the data was performed as necessary. No further processing was required.

The processed data is presented in this report in the form of greyscale plots (scale +3nT to -3nT black ~ white). These have been scaled, rotated and resampled (georectified) for display against the Ordnance Survey base mapping (Fig 2). Interpretation plots have been overlaid onto the

greyscales. Stacked trace plots have not been included as it was considered that they would be illegible at printing scales and uninformative to the non-specialist reader.

3.2 Detailed gradiometer survey results

The survey data contains three parallel linear anomalies situated towards the northern edge of the site. These are of indeterminate character, and could represent either backfilled ditches or field drains. There is also a concentration of strong dipolar anomalies towards the eastern end of the site. These are most likely to represent ferrous debris in the soil, but it is also possible that they indicate an area where burning has occurred. Unfortunately the anomalies lack any diagnostic characteristic which would permit a more certain interpretation.

The data contains many isolated dipolar anomalies which probably indicate ferrous debris within the soil. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted in the interpretation plot. Two magnetic haloes also occur, due to ferrous material within the structure of the reservoir and within the southern field boundary.

3.3 Conclusion

This survey has revealed nothing which may confidently be interpreted as archaeological. The linear anomalies are of indeterminate origin, although the possibility that they represent ditches of archaeological origin cannot be entirely excluded.

Although this survey suggests an absence of significant archaeological remains on the site, it does not conclusively prove such an absence. It is known that archaeological features cut into Boulder Clay sometimes lack a clear magnetic signature (EH 2008, 15) and one should also consider that ephemeral features, such as cremation deposits or post-built structures, rarely ever produce identifiable anomalies.

4 FIELDWALKING SURVEY

4.1 Fieldwalking survey methodology

The fieldwalking survey was undertaken by walking along parallel transects spaced 20m apart, laid out square to a baseline set up along a linear edge of the survey area, using an optical square, tapes and ranging poles. The field surveyed was walked systematically at a slow pace along the parallel transects. Surface finds were collected from a corridor extending about 2m to each side of the transect line. The overall sample of the surface area will therefore be about 20%. The field had been ploughed, rolled and allowed to weather, to produce the optimum condition for artefact visibility.

All the finds were identified and each category subsequently had their distributions plotted in 20m ‘stints’ within each transect and tied in to the Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 1:2,500, using MapInfo GIS system. The distribution of each category of finds was mapped at a scale of 1:2,500 and analysed to identify meaningful concentrations.

All artefacts predating the 20th century were collected. The artefacts collected included pottery of medieval or earlier date and post-medieval artefacts, but excluded modern materials. All worked and burnt flint was also retrieved. Samples of brick, tile and slag were collected, with any

concentrations of these materials being noted. All finds were cleaned, processed and examined by suitably qualified specialists.

Standard NA Fieldwalking Record Sheets were used to record the results, including ground surface visibility and weather conditions. The survey was undertaken using standard procedures in accordance with The Institute for Archaeologist's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1994, revised 2001) and the Northamptonshire County Council's Fieldwork Standards and Guidance (1995).

4.2 Summary of the results

Table 1: Fieldwalking finds quantification

Artefact Type	**Total**
Flint (no.)	1
Medieval pottery (sherds)	3
Post-medieval pottery (sherds)	46
Tile (no. frags.)	41
Metalworking debris (no. frags)	2
Small finds (no.)	2

5 FIELDWALKING SURVEY RESULTS

The following sections include the principal author's summaries of the specialist reports, full versions of which can be found in the appendices.

5.1 **Worked flint** by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray and Stephen Morris

A fragment of a flint blade, dated to the Mesolithic, which had been modified to produce an end scraper, was recovered from Transect 1, stint 15 (Appendix 1; Fig 3). The recovery of a single flint does not have great significance for the site, but it indicates itinerant prehistoric activity had occurred.

5.2 **Medieval pottery** by Iain Soden and Stephen Morris

Three sherds of Lyvden-Stanion ware pottery, one of which was glazed, were collected. The two unglazed sherds are Lyvden-Stanion type wares, which date to between the mid 12th to 15th centuries and the glazed Lyvden-Stanion 'B' ware sherd dates to the 13th to 14th centuries (Appendix 2, Table 2; Fig 3). The pottery formed no significant distribution.

5.3 **Post-medieval pottery** by Tora Hylton and Stephen Morris

The post-medieval pottery, which totalled 46 sherds and accounted for over 92% of the entire pottery assemblage, was scattered mainly across the central to northern edge of the field

(Appendix 3, Table 3; Fig 4). Several of the sherds come from 16th- to 18th-century vessels, including a single sherd of Midland black ware and Nottingham stone ware, and three sherds of miscellaneous stone wares. However, the majority of the pottery consists of 18th- to 19th-century glazed and unglazed kitchen or storage earthenwares.

There are also occasional sherds of table wares, which include 18th- to 19th-century utilitarian white wares and underglazed transfer print earthenwares. A single piece of fine 18th- to 19th-century porcelain was also recovered.

Overall, the pottery distribution probably represents no more than manure scatter, with a moderate spread across the central to northern edge of the field. The pottery was probably disseminated from the south-eastern corner of the field, where the entrance was located, visible on the late 19th century ordnance survey map, which is now occupied by the water tower and the reservoir.

5.4 **Ceramic building material** by Pat Chapman

An assemblage of 41 small and worn fragments of tile were collected, but with little to distinguish them by period. There are a few pieces that may be of Roman origin by the fabric and there is a single sherd of green-glazed medieval roof tile, but half the fragments are probably post-medieval pantiles, dating from the 17th century onwards. The remaining fragments are just general building material of any period, a small piece of brick and small fragments of 19th- to 20th-century field drains (Appendix 4, Table 4; Fig 5).

5.5 **Other finds** by Tora Hylton and Stephen Morris

Glass wine bottle
A fragment of a base of an 18th to 19th century green glass wine bottle was recovered from transect 9 (Appendix 6, Table 5; Fig 4).

Iron agricultural tool
A small iron implement (Plate 2), of unknown date, was recovered from transect 3. It has a blade at right angles to the shaft and may have been an agricultural tool, resembling a small hoe, or possibly a woodworking tool (Appendix 6, Table 5; Fig 4).

5.6 **Metalworking debris** by Andy Chapman

Two very small fragments of dark grey, vesicular and glassy slag were recovered from transects 3 and 6. These are too small for anything to be said beyond that they derive from iron working, either smelting or smithing (Appendix 5; Fig 5).

6 DISCUSSION

The results of the geophysical and fieldwalking surveys have produced little evidence of any significant archaeological activity within the survey area. What evidence there is of activity on the site appears to relate largely to agricultural activity, after the woodland clearance in the later part of the post-medieval period. However, the recovery of a Mesolithic flint artefact clearly

shows the landscape was inhabited by man from an early time, even if this is representative of only a transitory occupation.

The geophysical survey results suggest it was unlikely that any occupation or activity had occurred on the site, except for the three possible linear drainage features, which were probably not introduced until after the woodland had been cleared for farmland. The ferrous anomalies encountered on the survey probably relate to iron debris deposited as part of the arable farming practice of field manuring, including the loss of agricultural equipment or farm machine parts.

Six fragments of Roman tile were recovered from the west side of the field, which may have been introduced to the site by field manuring or, possibly, they may derive from a Roman building in the vicinity. A single sherd of glazed medieval tile was also recovered. The majority of the pottery and tile recovered from the fieldwalking survey area date to the 18th or 19th centuries, which corresponds with or post-dates the woodland clearance and the introduction of farming to the site. The distribution of 18th- and 19th-century pottery is indicative of manuring.

The woodland appears to have been in existence from at least the medieval period, if not earlier. The clearance of the woodland for farming has continued until the present day, with only the development of the water tower and reservoir having had a major impact on the site. The re-establishment of woodland to the site is unlikely to impact on archaeological remains within the proposed woodland area.

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EH 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*, English Heritage

Gaffney, C, Gater, J, and Ovendon, S, 2002 *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper, **6**

IFA 1994 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation,* Institute for Archaeologists

Soden, I, 2008 *The historic character of Southwick and Short Wood, Southwick, Northamptonshire, from maps and documentary evidence,* Northamptonshire Archaeology, Report **08/199**

Maps

BGS 1978 *Geological Survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift Geology*, Sheet 171, Kettering and Corby, British Geological Survey

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Appendix 1: The flint by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

One piece of worked flint, the distal portion of a blade (51mm long and 22mm wide), was recovered from Transect 1, stint 15. The distal end was modified with steep retouch to produce an end scraper, probably dated to the Mesolithic. There is some crushing of the edges around the distal end and one of the sides and the post-depositional edge damage is likely to be due to ploughing. The flint is heavily patinated white and was likely to have been of the vitreous type of flint.

Appendix 2: Medieval pottery by Iain Soden

Three sherds of Lyvden-Stanion ware was recovered, one of which was glazed. The two unglazed sherds are Lyvden-Stanion type wares, which date to between the mid 12th- to 15th-centuries and the glazed Lyvden-Stanion 'B' ware sherd dates to the 13th- to 14th-centuries. Lyvden-Stanion 'B' ware forms are usually jugs decorated with yellow strips and/or stamps pads, with external dull olive-green glaze. A few jars, bowls and aquamaniles are known.

Table 2: Medieval pottery, by sherd count, fabric type and transect

Fabric Type	Transects								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Lyvden –Stanion unglazed (12th -15th C)	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lyvden –Stanion glazed (13th -14th C)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

Appendix 3: Post-medieval pottery by Tora Hylton and Stephen Morris

Table 3: Post-medieval pottery, by sherd count, fabric type and transect

Fabric Type	Transects								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Midland black (16th-17th C)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nottingham stone ware (18th -19th C)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Stone wares (17th-19th C)	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Glazed earthen wares (E.17th-19thC)	1	-	5	3	1	5	-	1	2
Earthen wares (17th-19th C)	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	3	1
Utilitarian white wares (18th-19th C)	-	1	1	-	-	4	1	-	-
Under-glazed transfer print (19th C)	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Porcelain (18th-19th C)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Flower pot (19th C)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unidentified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Total	**1**	**1**	**8**	**5**	**4**	**14**	**2**	**8**	**3**

Appendix 4: Ceramic building material by Pat Chapman

This is an assemblage of 41 small and worn fragments of tile, with little to distinguish them by period. There are a few sherds that may be of Roman origin by the fabric, shelly ware and orange pink/brown with grog and other inclusions, and the possible base of a flange. This is not surprising given the proximity of the Roman town of Ashton and other sites in the area. There is one sherd of green-glazed medieval roof tile. Nearly half the sherds are curved and could be either post-medieval pantiles, dating from the 17th century onwards as some have part of the return into the S-shape, or small fragments of 19th-20th-century field drains. The remaining fragments are just general building material of any period, and one small piece of brick.

Table 4: Quantification of ceramic tile

Field	Transect	Sherd no.	Comment
1	1	1	
	2	6	
	3	10	3 possible Roman 1 green-glazed medieval sherd
	4	7	Brick fragment
	5	4	1 possible Roman
	6	4	1 possible Roman
	7	5	
	8	2	1 possible Roman
	9	2	
Total		**41**	

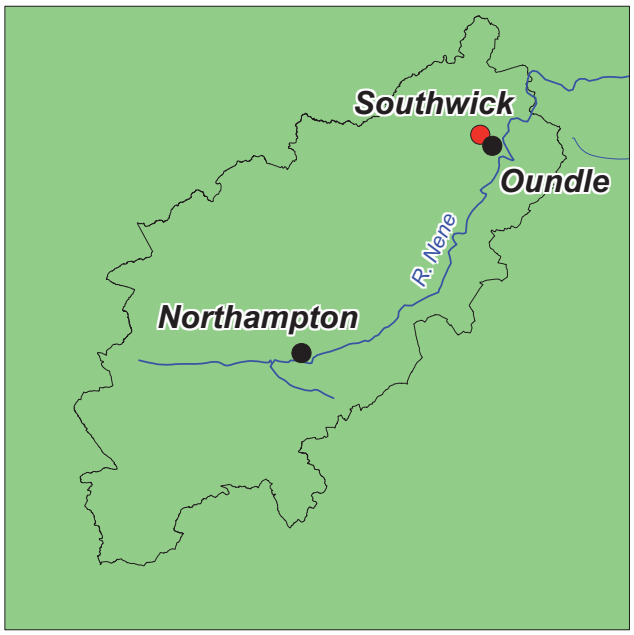
Appendix 5: Metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

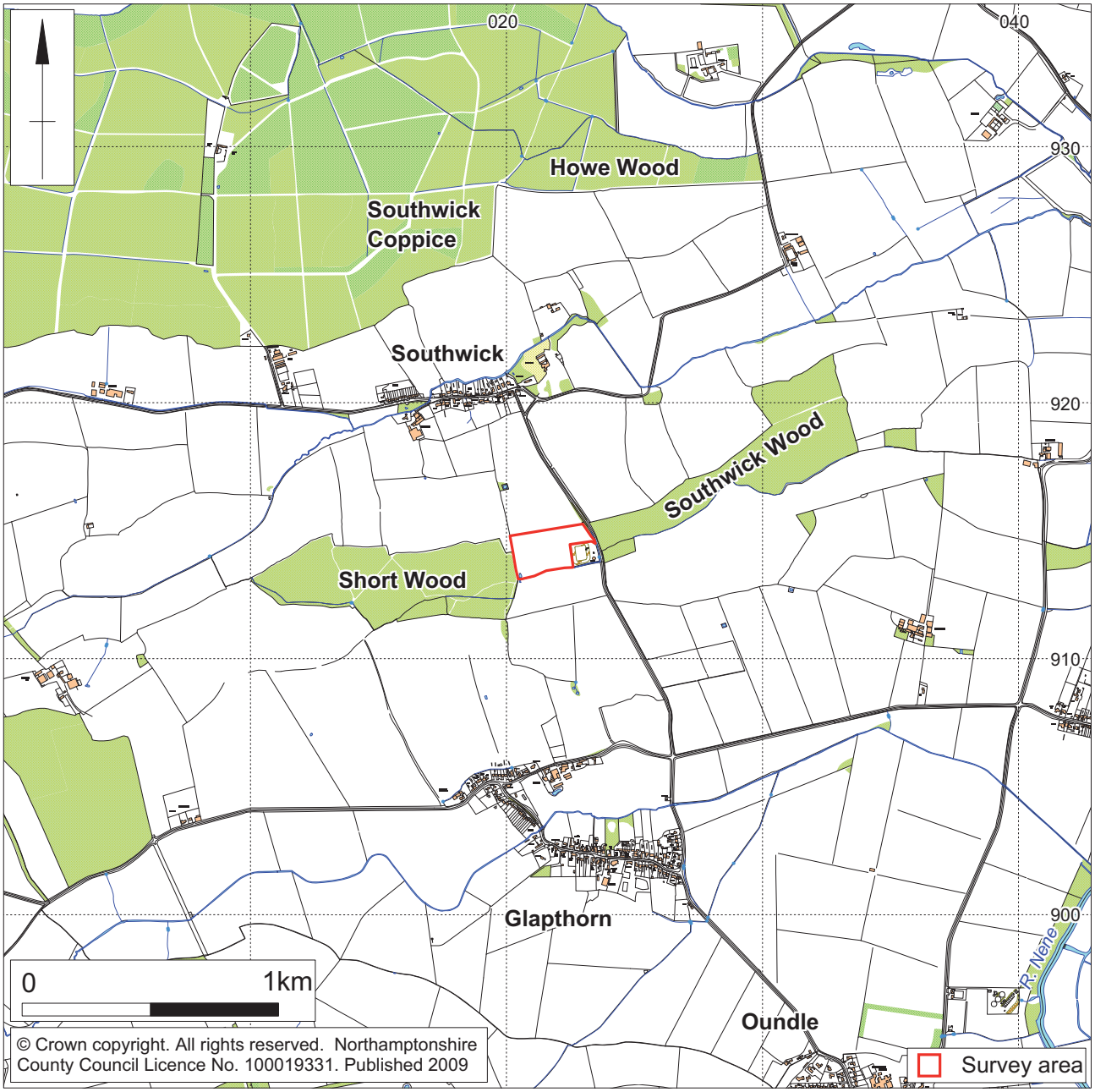
Two very small fragments of dark grey, vesicular and glassy slag were recovered from transects 3 and 6. These are too small for anything to be said beyond that they derive from iron working, either smelting or smithing

Appendix 6: Other finds by Tora Hylton and Stephen Morris

Table 5: Small finds, number, type and description

Small find number	Type	Description
1	Post-medieval wine bottle	Fragment of a base of a green coloured wine bottle. Bottle shows part of dimple
2	Agricultural iron tool (hoe)	Small iron tool, measuring 96mm in length It has a blade 38mm wide, with a slightly rounded blade edge (possible due to wear). The neck is 35mm long, leading to tear-shaped eye socket (25mm wide) set square to the blade.





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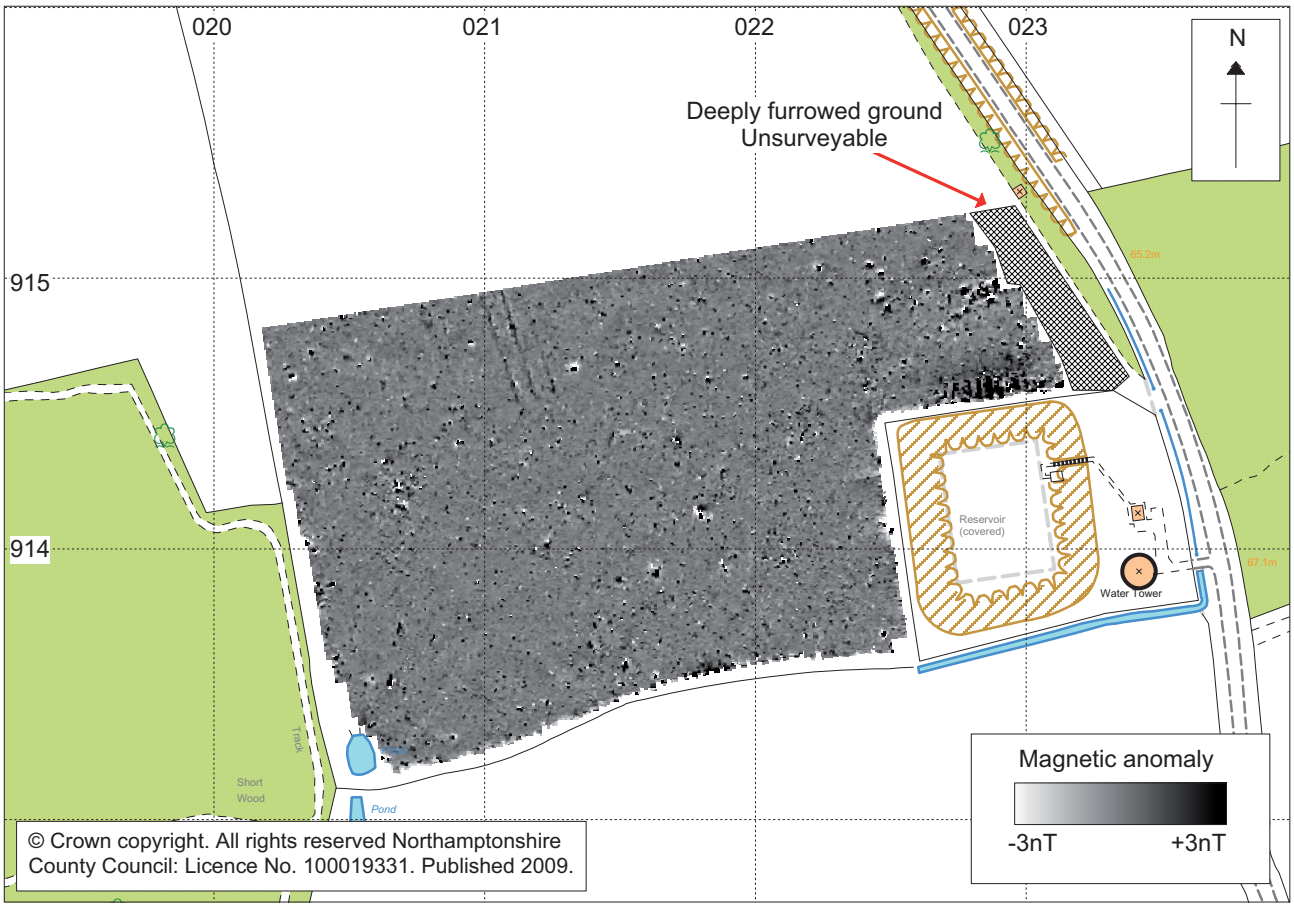
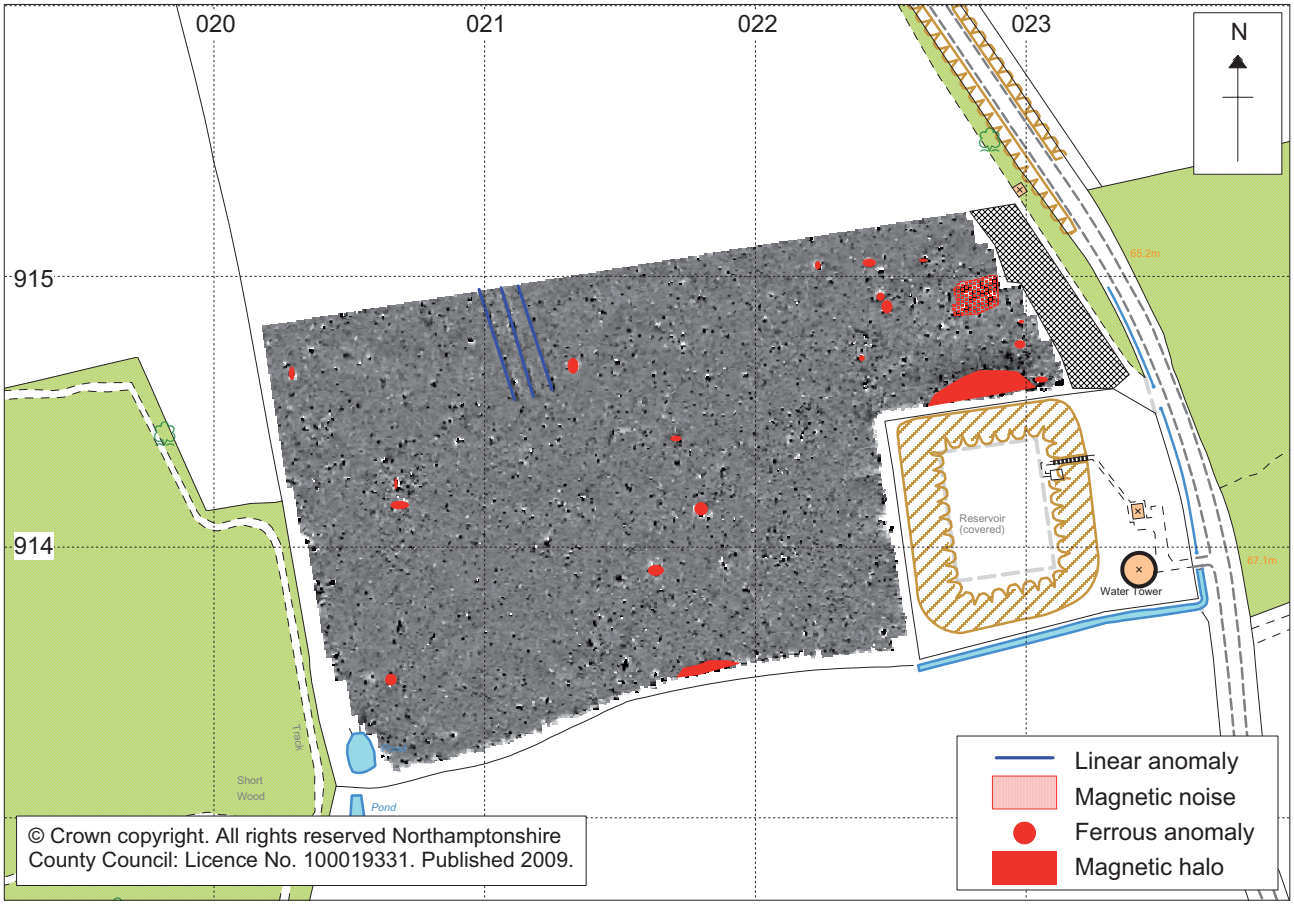
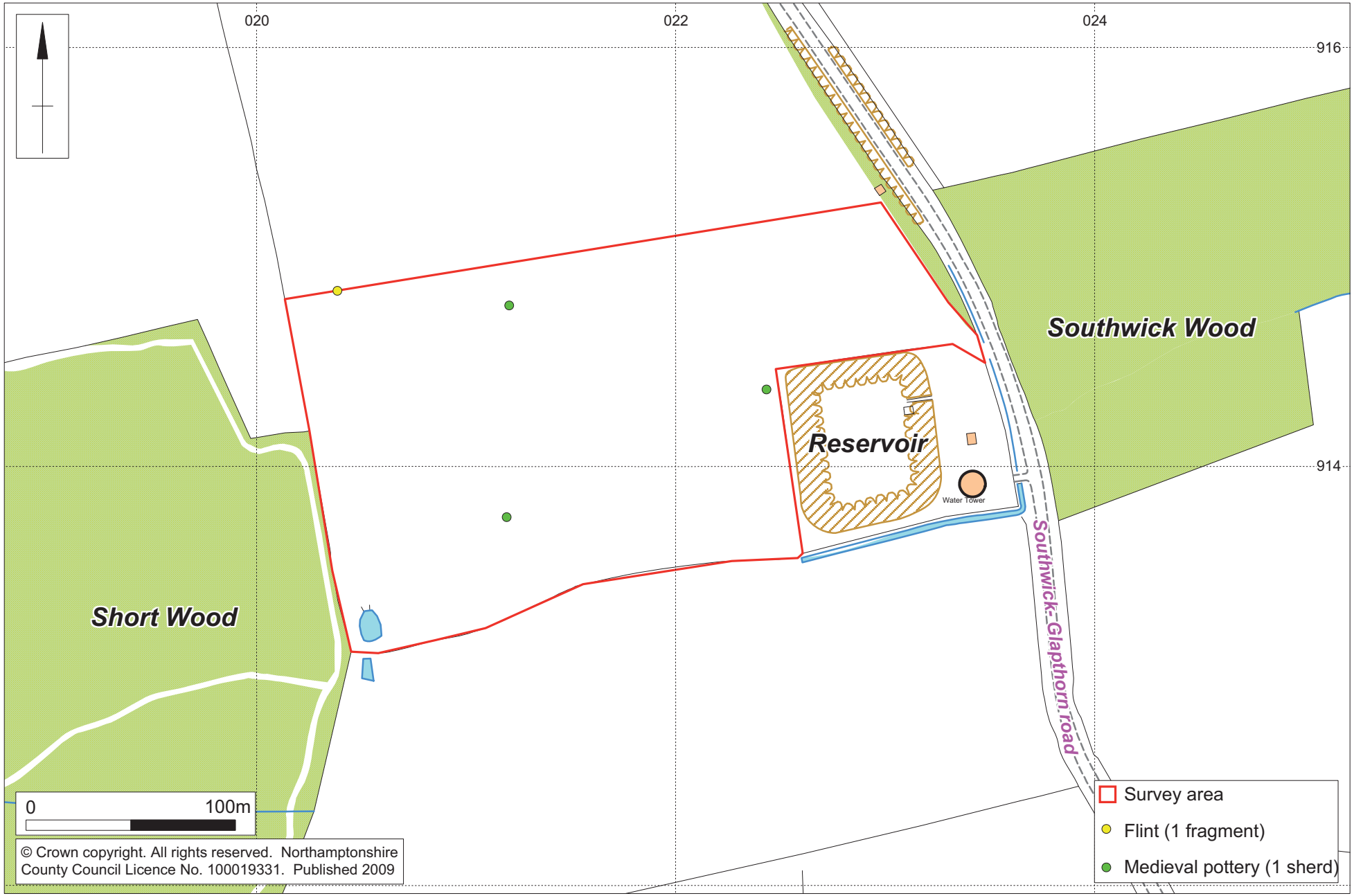
Site location Fig 1





Scale 1:2,500 Geophysical survey results (top) and interpretation (bottom) Fig 2



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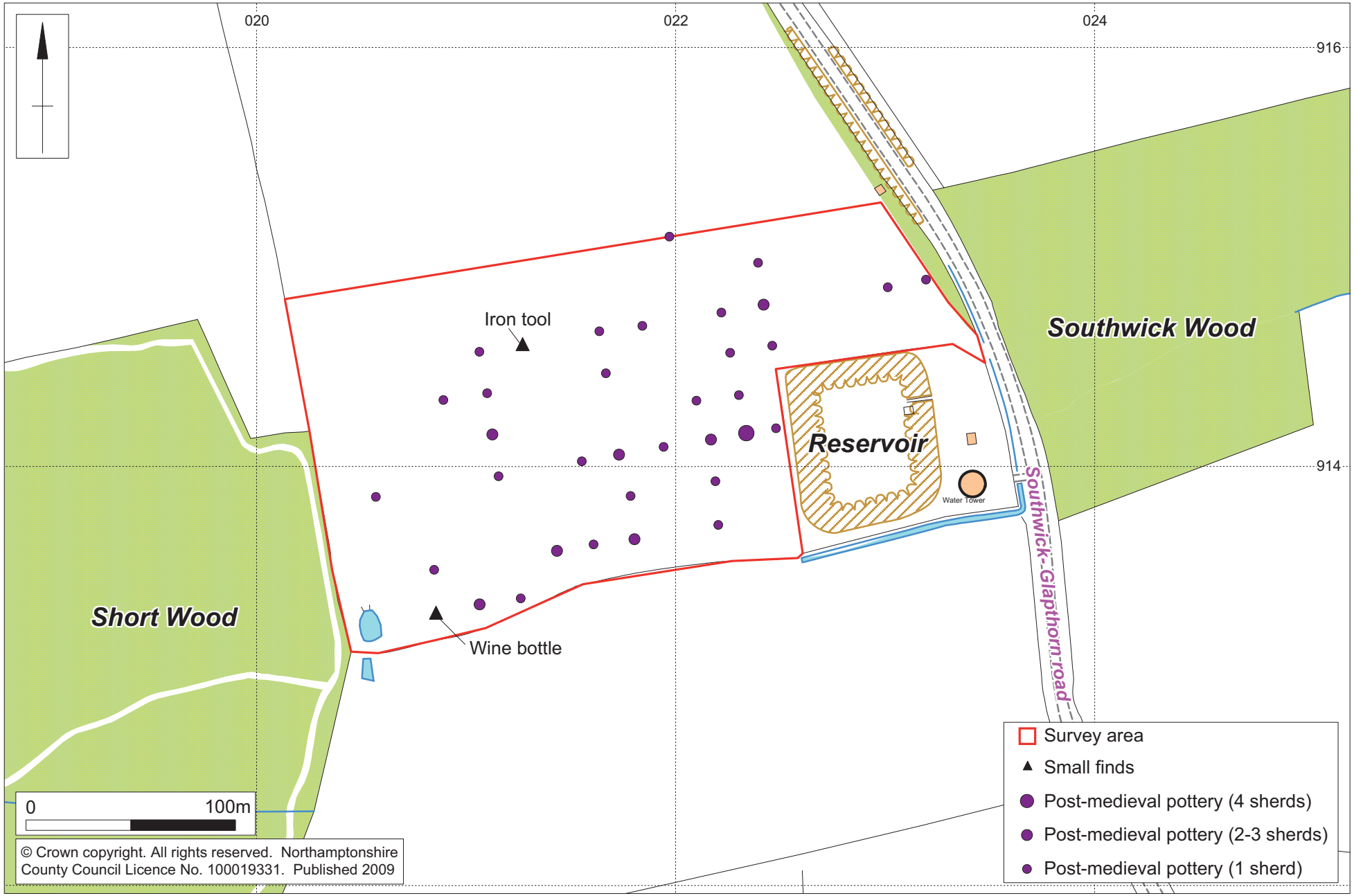
Distribution of flint and medieval pottery Fig 3



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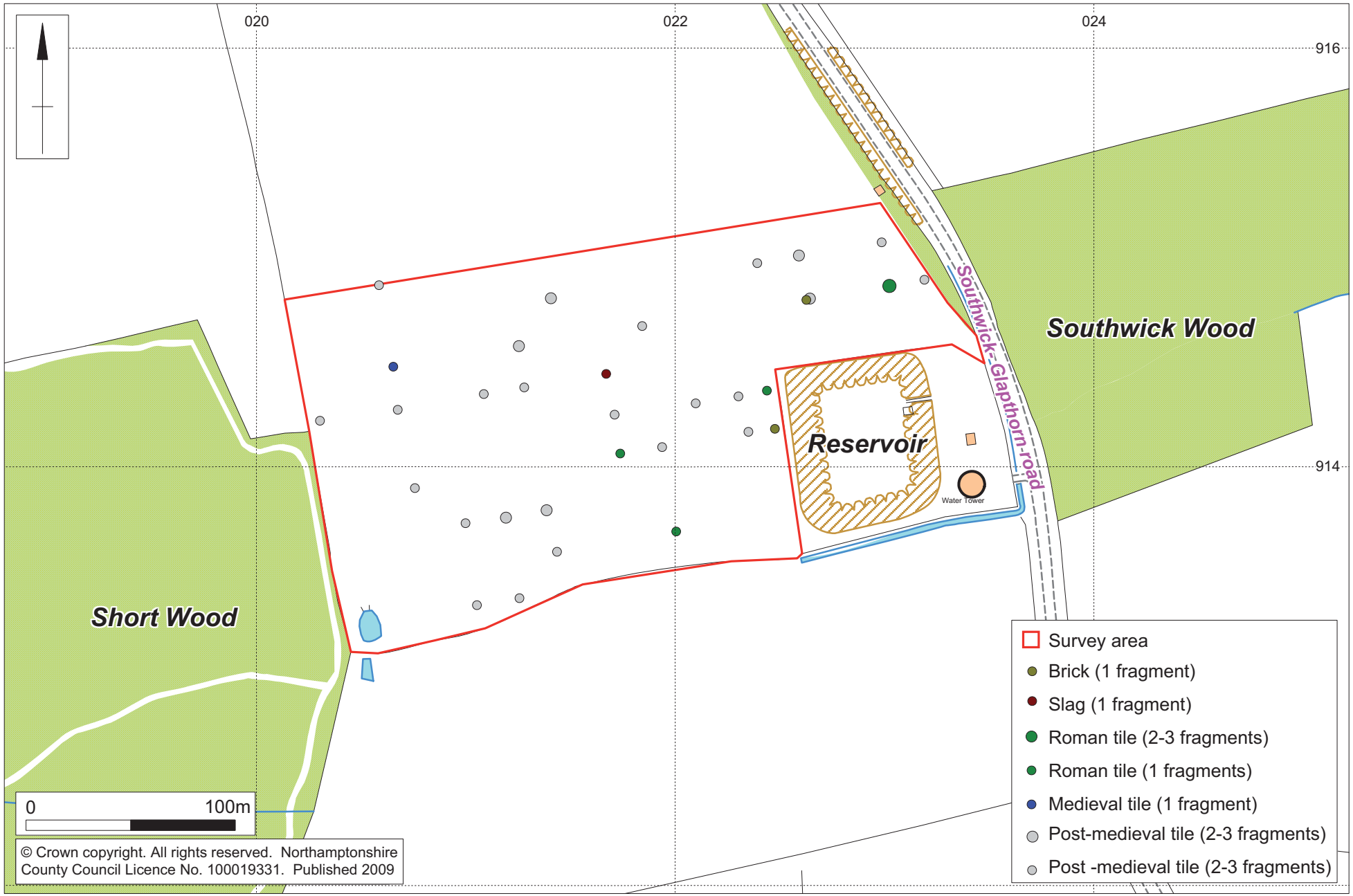
Distribution of post-medieval pottery and other finds Fig 4



1: 2,500

Distribution of Roman, medieval and post-medieval tile Fig 5

Plate 1: General view northwards from survey area towards Southwick, Howe Wood and Southwick Coppice in background

Plate2: Iron tool collected from ploughsoil, date and purpose unknown