



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**FIELDWALKING SURVEY OF
LAND AT MONKSMOOR FARM
DAVENTRY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

*on behalf of the
Capel House Property Trust Ltd*



Alastair J Hancock BSc PgDip

December 2005

ASC: 712/DMF/4

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	DMF	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	712
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Daventry		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Daventry		
<i>NGR (to 6 figs):</i>	SP 581 645 (centre)		
<i>Present use:</i>	Agricultural		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	c.1000 new dwellings		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Northamptonshire County Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	November 2005		
<i>Client:</i>	Capel House Property Trust Ltd c/o Kember Loudon Williams Ltd Ridgers Barn Bunny Lane Eridge Tunbridge Wells Kent TN3 9HA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Bob Meek		
<i>Telephone</i>		<i>Fax:</i>	

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	A. Hancock	<i>Date:</i>	2 nd December 2005
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Cover: General view of the site



Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In November 2005 a fieldwalking survey was undertaken as part of pre-planning assessment of c.49ha of land located on the northern outskirts of Daventry, Northamptonshire. Very little archaeologically significant material was identified.

A light scatter of worked flint was present across the site. A concentration that may indicate prehistoric activity is noted in the field southeast of the farm buildings.

Four sherds of Romano-British pottery and two sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered during fieldwalking but significant concentrations are absent. A general spread of post 18th century pottery, tile, damaged field drain and brick were also identified, probably related to agricultural activities and rubbish tipping.

1. Introduction

1.1 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) was commissioned by Kember Loudon Williams Ltd, on behalf of Capel House Property Trust Ltd, to carry out a programme of fieldwalking survey on a 49 hectare parcel of arable land (NGR SP 581 645, site centre: Fig. 1). Fieldwork commenced on the 1st November 2005 and was completed on the 8th November. The weather was generally fine during the majority of the fieldwork although it was overcast with intermittent showers on the 3rd November. Fieldwalking of areas north of the farm buildings was not possible as they remained unploughed and set aside as winter stubble and the area walked during this phase was reduced to c. 33ha. No other problems were encountered during the fieldwork.*

1.2 *Reason for Work*

In line with guidance contained in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning* (DOE, 1991) and as part of a program of Environmental Impact Assessment leading to production of an Environmental Statement CHT have commissioned archaeological investigations by ASC designed to determine the presence and characterise the extent of archaeological remains which would be affected by proposed development plans.

1.3 *Previous Archaeological Work*

ASC completed an archaeological desk based assessment (Rouse and Hunn 2005) and geophysical survey (Hancock 2005) prior to this work and evaluation trenching over targets located by the geophysical survey after completion of this phase of fieldwalking. The results of these investigations are summarised in Section 3 of this document.

1.4 *Setting*

1.4.1 *Location and Description*

The proposal site covered a total area of *ca.* 49 Ha and is situated south of the village of Welton, which is located to the north east of the town of Daventry. Daventry Reservoir bounds the survey area at the south and the Grand Union Canal defines its northern extent. The eastern side of the site is delimited by a canalised stream which acts as the

outflow of the reservoir and also defines the Norton Civil Parish boundary. The B5385 Welton Road and part of the A425 forms the western edge of the survey area. The site is internally divided into separate fields by a number of hedgerows.

1.4.2 *Existing Buildings and Access*

Main access to the site is via an un-metalled track off the Welton Road. The buildings of Monksmoor Farm are situated at the end of this track, c.250m from the western boundary and c.100m from the northern boundary of the site.

1.4.2 *Planning Constraints*

The site does not lie within a conservation area although the Grand Union Canal Conservation Area may encroach its northern boundary. The site does not fall within an area designated by *Daventry District Council* as an Area of Archaeological Significance. There are no listed buildings present on the site and no scheduled monuments are located within the proposal site or the immediate surrounding area.

1.4.3 *Geology and Topography*

The soils of the site are mainly of the Wickham 2 Association (Soil Survey, 1983, 711f), described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. The underlying geology consists of drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or mudstone. Soils of the Oxpasture Association (Soil Survey, 1983, 572h) exist at the south of the site and are described as fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. The underlying geology in this area consists of drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay shale. The site topography gently undulates, although a general trend of western higher ground descending to a lower eastern floodplain is evident.

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aim of the fieldwalking survey was to gather information about the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, including the potential for survival of sub-surface archaeological deposits, to enable informed decisions to be made regarding future management or effective mitigation of development impact.

2.2 *Requirements*

The work was carried out according to Sections 3 and 4 of the project design, which covered respectively field methodology and finds processing.

2.3 *Methods*

- 2.3.1 Each of the fields comprising the survey area was allocated a number, in the order in which they were surveyed (Fig 2).
- 2.3.2 The OS National Grid was used for the survey, with lines spaced at 20m intervals and stints 20m in length. The grid was laid out using a GPS accurate to 1m.
- 2.3.3 Each stint was identified by a ten figure grid reference, relating to its southern end. In addition, each hectare square within each field was numbered, and each stint within that hectare was allocated a letter code.
- 2.3.4 Because of the large size of the fields, and consequently the great number of canes that would have been required to set each up totally before walking, the grid was established, walked and dismantled in progression across each field.
- 2.3.5 For each hectare square, details relating to the area walked, topography, soil and weather conditions, and the team members responsible, were recorded on ASC's *Fieldwalking Record Sheet*. This form is based on that proposed by Medlycott & Germany (1994). Information from these sheets forms the basis for Table 1.
- 2.3.6 Artefacts collected from each stint (3m-wide coverage) were bagged and labelled with the relevant grid reference.
- 2.3.7 Finds processing was carried out according to the project design. All finds were recorded using ASC's *Fieldwalking Finds Record Sheet*, based on that proposed by Medlycott & Germany (1994). For ease of handling and presentation, this information was subsequently transferred onto computer, and is available as an appendix to this report.
- 2.3.8 Following recording, certain classes of material were disposed of. These included: slag and post-1700 materials. Retained material was stored in clean polythene bags, clearly marked with a permanent marker according to field, hectare square and stint.

2.4 *Field Conditions*

- 2.4.1 All the fields covered by the survey were walked following ploughing, and after they had weathered for at least three weeks.
- 2.4.2 A number of areas within the overall survey area could not be walked (Fig 2). The fields to the north of the farm buildings (inclusive of that containing the ring ditches discovered during the geophysical survey) had not been ploughed and were set aside as winter stubble. The field immediately south of the farm buildings was in use as a paddock/pasture and other areas were planted with trees and were thus unsuitable for walking.
- 2.4.3 Other information relating to the areas walked, soils, topography and weather conditions for each field is summarised in Table 1.

2.5 *Monitoring*

The HET were notified of the commencement and completion of works on site. No formal monitoring visits were made by the HET.

2.6 *Confidence Rating*

Given the conditions detailed above, and the method used, it is felt that a reasonably high confidence rating can be assigned to the project (on an ascending scale of 1-5, a rating of 4 seems appropriate).

Field No.	NGR (SP) at centre	Adjoining fields	Soils	Topography	Conditions
1	57940/64700	3,5	Clay loam	Slope descending to southeast	Sunny
2	58320/64700	3	Clay loam	Central high ground descending sharply south and east	Overcast
3	58170/64480	1,2,4,5	Clay loam around periphery, sandy loam at centre	Gradual slope to east	Overcast
4	58140/64300	3,5	Clay loam	Flat	Overcast
5	57850/264390	1,3,4	Clay loam, sandier towards centre	Southwestern high ground, gradually sloping northeast	Overcast and intermittent rain

Table 1: Location, extent and conditions of survey

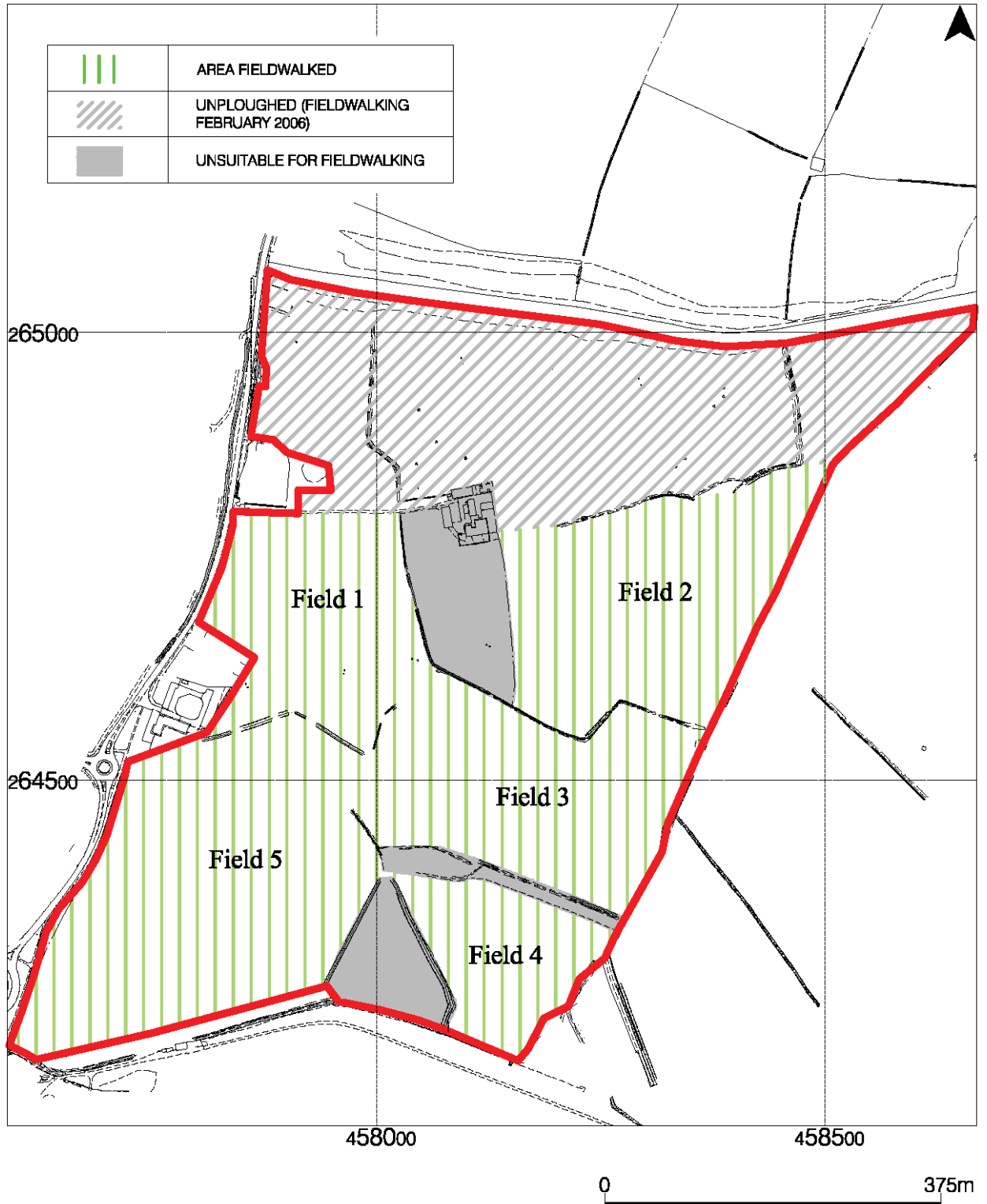


Figure 2: Area of site fieldwalked

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The following sections summarise the findings of prior archaeological desk-based assessment (Rouse and Hunn 2005) and geophysical survey (Hancock 2005).

3.1 *Early Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Early prehistoric remains are not known from the proposal site or its immediate environs.

3.2 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

No Iron Age remains have been recovered from the site. An Iron Age hillfort known as *Borough Hill* (RCHM, 1981, 3, fig 54) is located c.1.5km to the south east of the site.

3.3 *Romano-British* (AD43-c.450)

3.3.1 No Romano-British (RB) remains have previously been recovered from the survey area, although the geophysical survey has identified probable hut circles and stock enclosures that may date to this or the preceding period (Fig 3. Block 3). RB remains are known at *Borough Hill* (*ibid*) and a farmstead of this period has been excavated (Wilson, 2004), and other features of this date recorded (ASC Ltd, forthcoming) near Middlemore Farm, c.1.5km west of the site.

3.3.2 The geophysical survey also identified anomalies indicating the presence of cut and infilled features at the southwest of the proposal site (Fig 3. Block 14). Proximity to the dam suggested that they could be contemporary with its construction although subsequent evaluation trenching designed to determine their form and date recovered Romano-British pottery from the fills of some of these features (ASC Ltd, forthcoming)

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

Saxon remains are not known from the site although Daventry was extant at the time of the Domesday Survey and was valued at £3.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

3.5.1 The name '*Monksmoor*' is said to have originated from the monks of Daventry Priory, who owned the site during this period, with the '*moor*' suffix being added in reference to the quality of the land (Gover *et al*, 1975, 20).

3.5.2 The site lay within open fields to the north east of the medieval centre of Daventry and extensive traces of subsequently denuded ridge and furrow have been recorded (Brown, 1991, fig. 16). Parallel north-south aligned linear geophysical anomalies attest the presence of ploughed out remnants of this open field system (Fig 3. Blocks 1 and 4). The *Daventry Extensive Urban Survey*

records the existence of a windmill and watermill at locations now subsumed by Daventry Reservoir (Ballinger *et al*, 1999, 3.1.2.5).

3.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

3.6.1 The site remained in agricultural use throughout the post medieval period and was inclosed in 1803. The Grand Junction Canal was constructed by William Jessop between 1793 and 1815 and forms the northern boundary of the site. An area of anomalous magnetic background was noted adjacent to the canal and could suggest dumping of material excavated during its construction. The stretch of the canal within the desk based study area includes the Braunston Tunnel, opened in June 1796 (Faulkner 1993, 95).

3.6.2 Daventry Reservoir was opened in 1804 and its dam forms the southern boundary of the site. It was built to supplement the two existing reservoirs in the area; Braunston Reservoir and Drayton, or Daventry Old, Reservoir (*ibid*). It could originally hold 362,000,000 gallons when full, has an area of almost 100 acres (*ibid*).

3.6.3 Farm buildings were in existence on site by the time the first Ordnance survey map was published in the 1880s. This map also shows the existence of a rifle range in the two central fields that run parallel to the eastern boundary of the site.

3.7 *Modern (1900-present)*

3.7.1 The second edition Ordnance Survey map was published in 1901 and little had changed in the layout of the site. The rifle range is no longer labelled and a sand pit had been cut into one of the central fields.

3.7.2 OS mapping from 1927 reveals that site layout had remained largely unchanged. A hydraulic ram was installed to the west of the farm buildings and the sand pit first recorded on the 1901 map had expanded slightly. A hedgerow was removed approximately halfway up the western boundary of the site.

3.7.3 The existing access track is not present on the 1952 Ordnance Survey mapping and must therefore be a recent addition to the farm. The sand pit and hydraulic ram were still present at this time.

3.7.4 Modern Ordnance Survey mapping shows that many field boundaries were removed during the second half of the 20th century. The sand pit is no longer in existence and the hydraulic ram has been removed, leaving a drain in its place.

3.7.5 Four pipelines cross the northern half of the site. Strong magnetic anomalies caused by these subsurface features were noted during geophysical survey.

3.8 *Comment*

The summarised evidence indicates that the site has unknown potential for discovery of prehistoric human activity. The hut circles and stock enclosures identified by

geophysical survey and other features containing RB pottery at the southwest of the survey area indicate that the Iron Age or Romano-British activity is present. Agricultural use during the medieval and post medieval periods suggests that archaeological potential for these periods could be low.



	SITE BOUNDARY
	APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF SERVICE PIPES



Figure 3: Location of geophysical survey blocks

4. Results

4.1 The range and quantity of artefacts recovered are summarised in Table 2.

4.2 Relatively few finds were recovered. Quantities of archaeologically significant material were insufficient for statistical analysis by standard deviation from the mean (Medlycott & Germany 1994), and are plotted directly on the basemap using their fieldwalking grid co-ordinates (Fig 4).

4.3 The following paragraphs contain comment on the quantity, range, condition and location of the finds recovered in the survey.

4.4 *Prehistoric*

Seven struck flints were collected. The flint assemblage consists of two scrapers, one burnt nodule and four waste flakes.

The raw material used for producing the worked flint was grey/brown in colour and of reasonable quality. One of the flints was slightly patinated and five possessed varying amounts of dorsal cortex.

A scraper and a waste flake were recovered from Field 5 at spatially disparate locations. The scraper was collected in the general area of the cut and infilled features located by geophysical survey Block 14 (Fig 3). The spatial correlation of lithic and features is probably coincidental given that this area is the highest point of the southern half of the site (Fig 4).

A burnt flint nodule, a scraper and three waste flakes were recovered in Field 2. They were collected on and around a grassy knoll which overlooks the floodplain at the east of the site (Fig 4).

4.5 *Roman*

Four sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered during fieldwalking. One was collected in Field 5 in the general area of the cut and infilled features located by geophysical survey Block 14. Two sherds were collected from the southern part of Field 1 and another from Field 2. The sherds were relatively small and slightly abraded.

4.6 *Medieval*

A sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from Field 1 and another from Field 5, both were found at locations near Welton Road. The sherds were relatively small and slightly abraded.

4.7 *Post Medieval and Modern*

Post medieval (Fig 4) and modern finds (Fig 5) comprised the greater part of the artefact assemblage recovered during the survey. Little of the assemblage from this period seems to date from before 1700, and mainly consists of plough damaged field drain, 19th - 20th-century rubbish and building debris, typically brought to fields by rubbish tipping and manuring.

Field No.	FLINT			POTTERY			
	Flake no	Core no	Tool no	Prehistoric no	Roman no	Medieval no	Indeterminate pre1700?
1					2	1	
2	3	1	1		1		
3							
4							
5	1		1		1	1	
Total	4	1	2		4	2	

Table 2: Range and quantity of artefacts recovered (pre 1700)

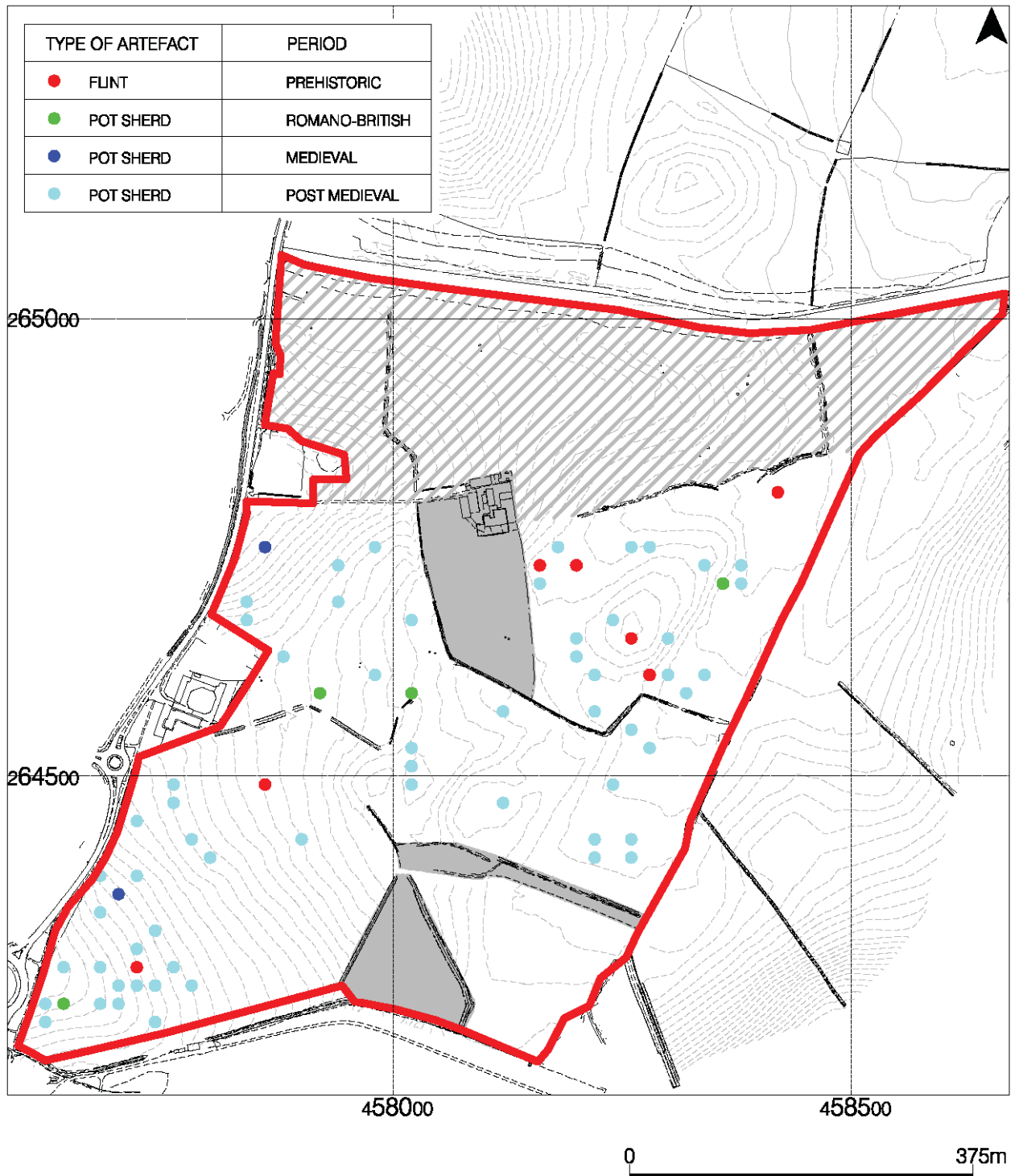


Figure 4: Spatial distribution of archaeological artefacts

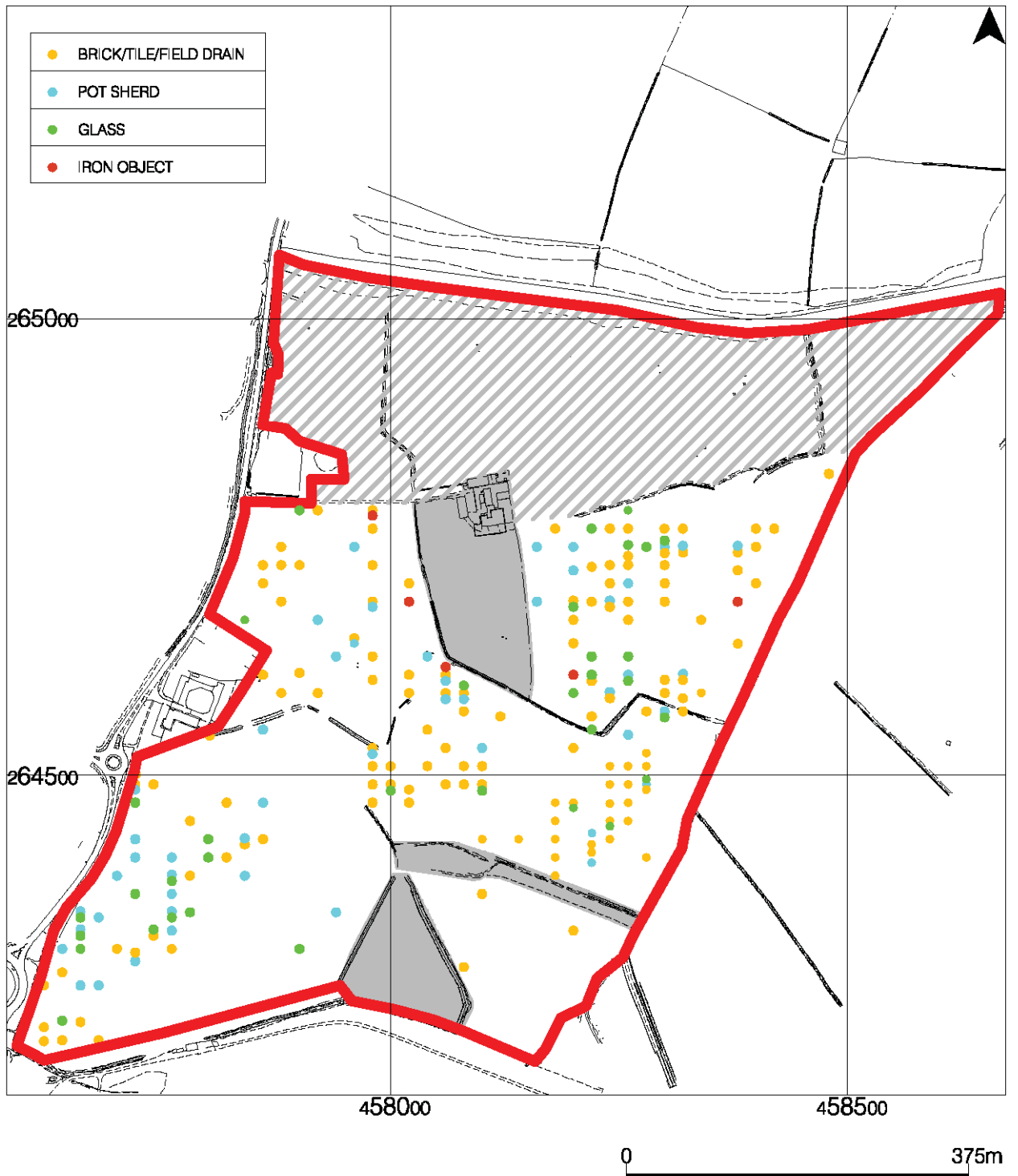


Figure 5: Spatial distribution of modern material

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Despite favourable ground and weather conditions during most of the survey low numbers of archaeological finds were recovered.
- 5.2 Relatively few worked flints were recovered from the survey area although a light scatter is identified on and around a grassy knoll in Field 5. The concentration probably indicates ephemeral prehistoric activity although the presence of a nodule of burnt flint, often associated with occupation sites, could suggest more intensive use of this favourable topographic location.
- 5.3 Recovery of only four sherds of Romano-British pottery would appear to suggest that Romano-British utilisation of the area fieldwalked was non intensive, *e.g.* light agriculture. However geophysical survey and later evaluation trenching have identified two Romano-British occupation sites. One of these sites is in the unploughed area north of the farm and was not field walked although the lack of RB material on the surface over the other site may suggest that modern agricultural practice has only slightly damaged those archaeological features present.
- 5.4 Medieval pottery was found in even smaller quantities than Romano-British material.
- 5.5 Post-medieval and modern artefacts comprised the bulk of the finds collected during the survey. Most dated to the 19th – 20th centuries and resulted from agricultural practice although the backfill of modern pipe trenches appears to have contained a significant amount of building rubble.
- 5.6 The total absence of archaeological artefacts and presence of a very light scatter of modern agricultural debris is noted in Field 4. The lack of finds from this field suggests that until relatively recently it was not suitable for agricultural or other use.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to *Kember Loudon Williams Ltd* for commissioning the fieldwalking survey on behalf of *Capel Property Trust Ltd* and for providing digital topographic mapping of the survey area. Thanks are also due to the tenant farmer Mr Evans for his assistance.

Fieldwork was carried out by A. Hancock BSc PgDip, C. Rouse BA, K. Semmelman MA PIFA, and M. Cuthbert BA. This report was prepared by Alastair Hancock and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Fieldwalking records
7. Finds
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be retained by ASC at their Milton Keynes office until such time as a suitable repository becomes available in Northamptonshire.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

IFA 1999b *Code of Conduct*. Institute of Field Archaeologists (Reading).

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Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

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Appendix 1: Pottery Catalogue

Field No.	Co-ordinate (SP)	No.	Period
1	457920/264580	1	Romano-British
1	458020/264580	1	Romano-British
1	457860/264740	1	Medieval
2	458360/264700	1	Romano-British
5	457640/264240	1	Romano-British
5	457700/264360	1	Medieval

Appendix 2: Flint Catalogue

Field No.	Co-ordinate (SP)	Type
2	458420/264800	Scraper
2	458160/264720	Waste
2	458200/264720	Burnt
2	458260/264640	Waste
2	458280/264600	Waste
5	457860/264480	Waste
5	457720/264280	Scraper

Appendix 3: SMR Summary

SMR Record Number	Parish Daventry	Site Name Monksmoor Farm
Date of Fieldwork November 2005	Grid ref. SP 946 980	Fieldworker Alastair Hancock
Sponsor Capel House Property Trust Ltd	Activity Field walking	
Landowner name/address: R Stafford Charles and Son Queens House 55-56 Lincolns' Inn Fields London WC2A 3LG		
Finds location ASC Milton Keynes office	Finds Destination N/a	
Records location ASC Milton Keynes office	Records Destination N/A	
Finds Quantity To be combined with evaluation	Records Quantity To be combined with evaluation	
<p>Summary of Results</p> <p><i>In November 2005 a fieldwalking survey was undertaken of some 33ha of land in advance of planning proposals for mixed development of an area of land north of Daventry, Northamptonshire. Few archaeological artefacts were recovered.</i></p> <p><i>Very few worked flint were recovered from the site although a light scatter was identified centred on NGR SP 458260,264720</i></p> <p><i>Four sherds of Romano-British and two sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered, with no discernable concentrations evident. A general spread of post 18th century pottery, tile brick and field drain fragments were also identified across the site, probably related to agricultural activities, rubbish tipping and backfilling of pipe trenches.</i></p>		