

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

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

*on behalf of the
Capel House Property Trust Ltd*



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March 2006

ASC: 712/DMF/7

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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		
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Cover: General view of the site



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

Summary

Fieldwalking of 15 hectares was undertaken in March 2006 to complete survey of a c.49 hectare parcel of arable land, which is subject to proposed planning application for mixed development, and is located on the northern outskirts of Daventry, Northamptonshire. Large amounts of modern detritus were noted on the surface of the three walked fields but very little archaeologically significant material was identified.

Previous archaeological investigations by ASC Ltd have identified two locations where subsurface features suggest the presence of Romano-British or Iron Age farmsteads. Absence of surface archaeological finds above these features suggests that minimal damage is being caused by the current agricultural regime and indicates that the results of fieldwalking would not enable accurate interpretation of the scale of human activity within the proposal area during these periods.

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 (CHT), to carry out a programme of fieldwalking survey on a 49 hectare parcel of arable land (NGR SP 581 645, site centre: Fig. 1). The phase of work detailed in this report encompassed 15 hectares of the proposal area and was carried out to complete survey of parts of the site north of the extant farm buildings that were unploughed during the first phase of fieldwalking in December 2005 (Hancock 2005b). Fieldwork was commenced on the 14th March 2006. The weather was cold but otherwise fine during site work.*

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 *Other Archaeological Work*

ASC has previously completed an archaeological desk-based assessment (Rouse and Hunn 2005), geophysical survey (Hancock 2005a), fieldwalking (Hancock 2005b) and evaluation trenching (Hancock 2006) over targets located by the geophysical survey. The results of these investigations are summarised in Section 3 of this document.

1.4 *Setting*

1.4.1 *Location and Description*

The whole of the proposal site encompasses an area of *ca.* 49 hectares 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 proposal 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 Lane 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. The location of the fifteen hectares fieldwalked during this phase of survey is shown in Figure 2.

1.4.2 *Existing Buildings and Access*

Main access to the site is via an un-metalled track off Welton Lane. 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.

1.4.3 *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.

1.4.4 *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 (Hancock 2005c), which covered field methodology and finds processing respectively.

2.3 *Methods*

2.3.1 The three fields comprising the survey area were allocated an incremental number in the order in which they were surveyed following on from number from the field numbers used in the 2005 survey (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 The small paddock/pasture field immediately south of the farm was not ploughed and could not be walked (Fig 2).

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 *Confidence Rating*

Given field conditions, and the method used, it is felt that a reasonably high confidence rating can be assigned to the results of 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	Weather Conditions
6	57939/64934	1,7	Clay loam with band of grey silt adjacent to and parallel with the canal	Slight slope descending to north	Overcast
7	58202/64905	2,6,8	Clay loam with band of grey silt adjacent to and parallel with the canal	Slight slope descending to northeast and east	Overcast
8	58532/64942	2,7	Clay loam with intermittent areas of grey silt adjacent to and parallel with the canal.	Flat	Overcast

Table 1: Location, extent and conditions of survey

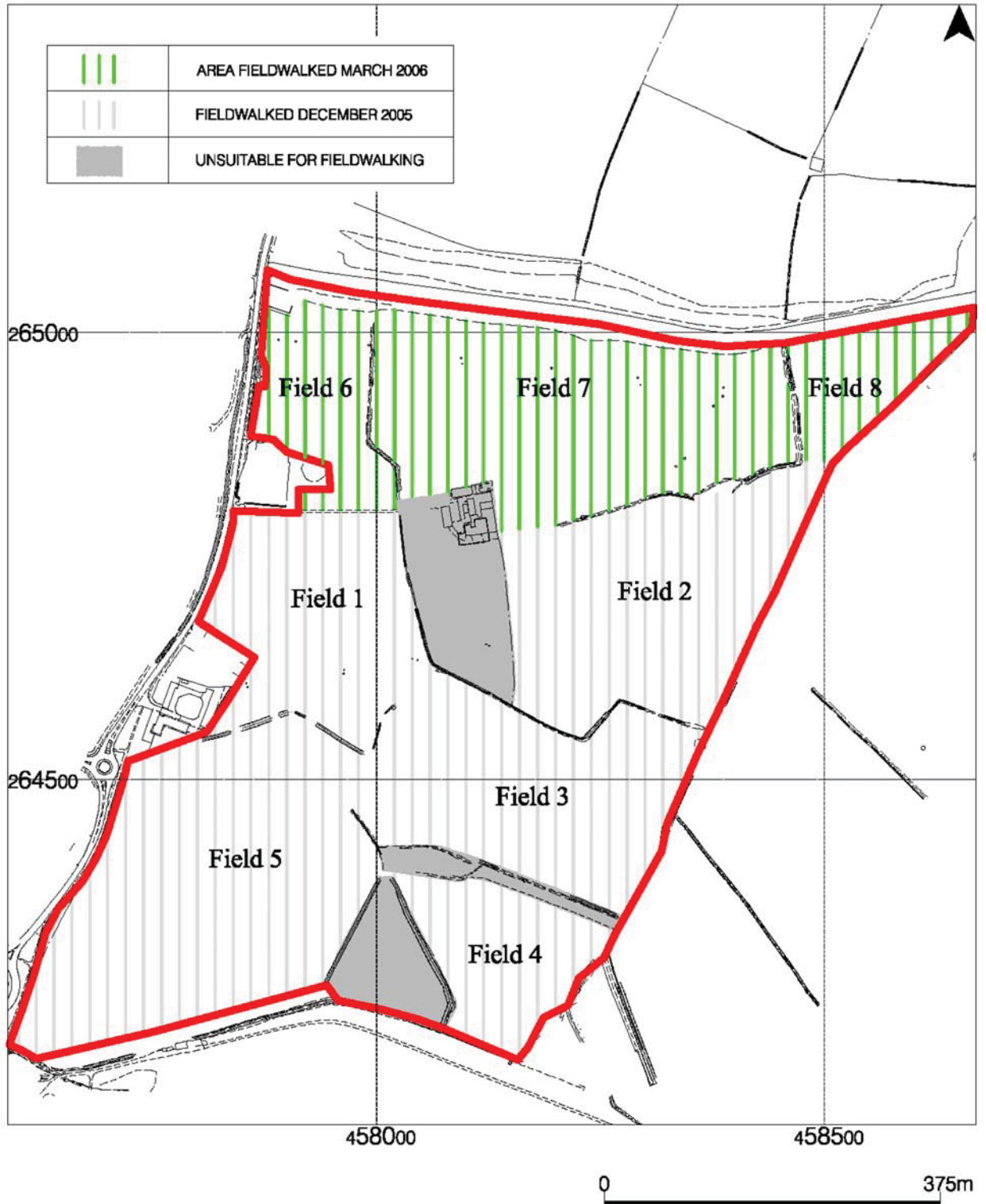


Figure 2: Area of site fieldwalked

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 ASC's archaeological desk-based assessment (Rouse and Hunn 2005), geophysical survey (Hancock 2005a), first phase of fieldwalking survey (Hancock 2005b) and evaluation trenching (Hancock 2006).

3.1 *Early Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Early prehistoric remains were not known from the proposal site prior to ASC's investigations. The first phase of fieldwalking survey identified a light scatter of flint artefacts on and around a grassy knoll located to the east of the farm buildings. It is likely that this concentration indicates ephemeral prehistoric activity although the presence of a nodule of burnt flint, a type of artefact often associated with occupation sites, could suggest more intensive use of this favourable topographic location.

3.2 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

No Iron Age remains have been recovered from the site. An Iron Age, and possibly earlier, 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 Romano-British (RB) remains had not been recovered from the proposal site prior to ASC's work.

3.3.2 In the surrounding area structural 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.

3.3.3 The geophysical survey has identified possible hut circles and stock enclosures located within the proposal area, immediately northwest of the extant farm buildings. It is likely that these features date to the RB or preceding period (Fig 3. Block 3).

3.3.4 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). Evaluation trenches excavated over these magnetic anomalies revealed ditches and possible pits containing Romano-British pottery.

3.3.5 The first phase of fieldwalking survey recovered only four spatially disparate RB pot sherds. Such a small assemblage suggests that the area was subject to non intensive agricultural use. However, the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching indicate that the results of the first phase of fieldwalking have not provided a reliable indication of the archaeological potential of this period.

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

- 3.4.1 Saxon remains have not been recovered from the site although Saxon activity in the wider area is confirmed by burials discovered within an earlier RB structure at Borough Hill.
- 3.4.2 Daventry was extant in the later Saxon period and is valued at £3 by the Domesday Survey.

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 in the proposal area (Fig 2. Blocks 1 and 4).
- 3.5.3 Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the first phase of fieldwalking. The low density of pottery suggests that the ridge and furrow in the proposal area was located some distance away from the focus of settlement and common village fields, and was not manured with material collected in and around dwellings. An alternative interpretation could suggest that it may have been cultivated as part of the demesne system (Jones, 2004).
- 3.5.4 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. A linear band of anomalous magnetic readings was noted adjacent to the canal during the geophysical survey 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 proposal area. 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 and 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.

3.6.4 Quantities of post-medieval brick, tile and pottery were recovered during the first phase of fieldwalking survey. The presence of these artefacts results from manuring and other agricultural practices.

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 was 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 constructed 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.



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

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

Modern brick, tile and pottery comprised the bulk of finds recovered during the first phase of fieldwalking survey. The abundance of these artefacts results from modern agricultural practice and imported pipe trench backfill.

3.8 *Comment*

The summarised evidence indicates that the proposal area may have potential for discovery of prehistoric human activity. The proposed hut circles and stock enclosures identified by geophysical survey likely date to the IA or RB period. Other features located at the southwest of the survey area contained RB pottery and confirm that RB archaeology is present. Agricultural use during the medieval and post medieval periods suggests that archaeological potential for these periods will be low.

	SITE BOUNDARY
	APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF SERVICE PIPES

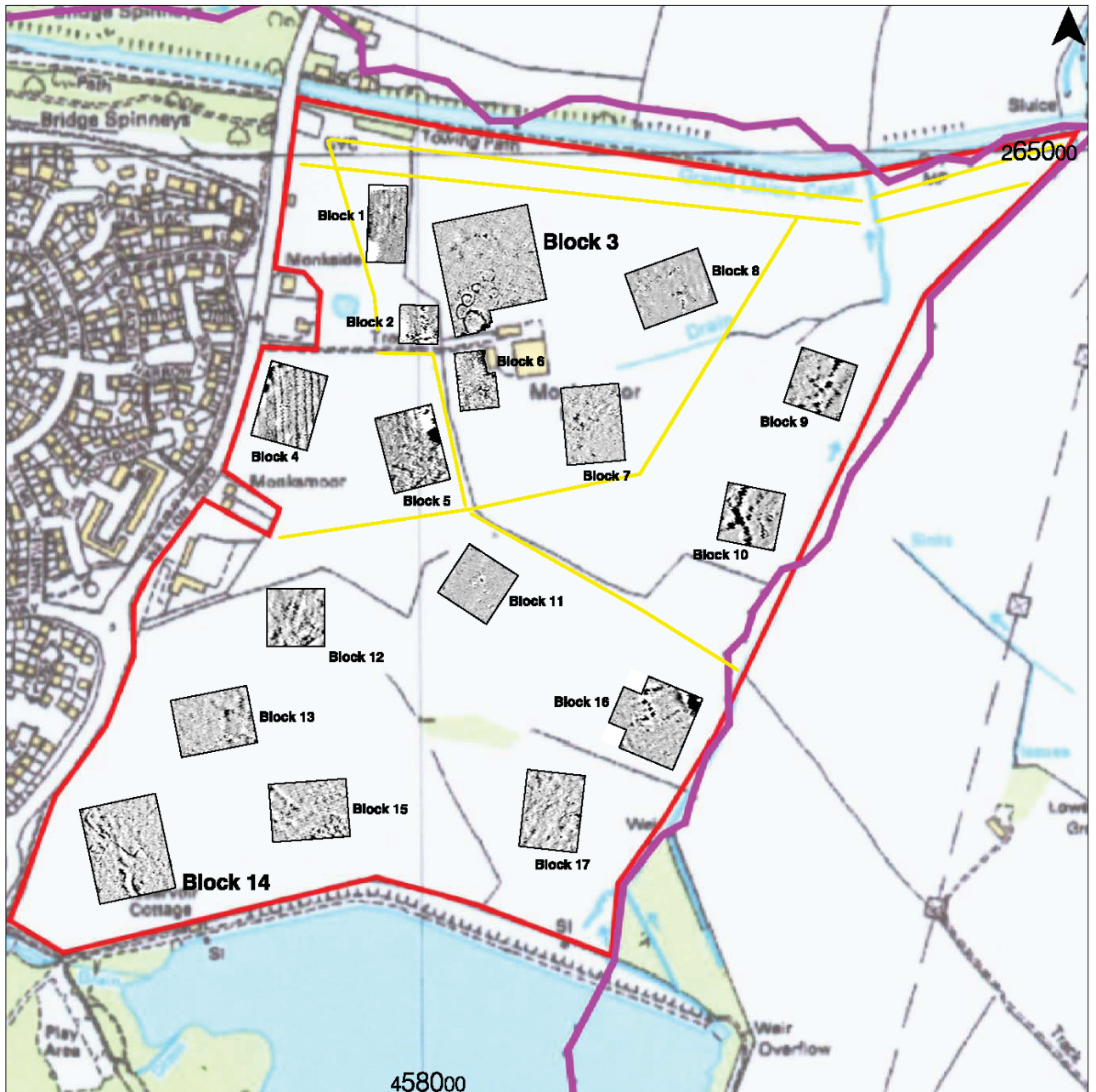


Figure 3: Location of geophysical survey blocks

4. Results (Figure 4)

- 4.1 A c.6m wide band of grey clayey silt devoid of ceramic or other types of detritus ran parallel with and adjacent to the canal. The grey silt was distinctly different to the brown soils covering the rest of the proposal area and could indicate dumping of material dredged from the canal. The location of the silt correlates with, and confirms the cause of the variation in magnetic background observed during the geophysical survey (Hancock 2005a, p8, 4.4).
- 4.2 Fragments of modern ceramic and other types of recent detritus were noted on the surface of the three walked fields. This material was most prevalent in Field 6 although concentrations were also noted along the route of pipelines (Fig 3) and adjacent to the farm buildings in Field 7. A marked fall in the abundance of fragments of ceramic and other detritus was noted over much of the central part of Field 7. Modern material was not collected.
- 4.3 A small fragment of metal working slag was collected from the surface of Field 6 and another from Field 7. One contains numerous gaseous voids and may be furnace clinker while the other is more solid with a higher ferrous content. The date of these finds is uncertain and valid conclusions cannot be drawn from these spatially disparate and possibly imported finds.
- 4.4 Collected 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). The following paragraphs discuss artefacts by period and contain comment on the quantity, range, condition and location of the finds recovered in the survey. A summary of the information is provided in Table 2.
- 4.5 *Prehistoric*
- Two struck flints flakes were collected from Field 6. One of these had a pronounced bulb of percussion and was bifacially retouched down one lateral margin for use as a knife. The unretouched flake was slightly patinated with two blade removal scars on its dorsal side.
- 4.6 *Romano-British*
- One pot sherd from the base of a 2nd – 4th century, olive green coated, Nene Valley beaker was recovered from Field 6.
- 4.7 *Medieval*
- Artefacts of definite medieval date were not recovered during phase two of the fieldwalking survey.
- 4.8 *Post Medieval and Modern*
- 4.8.1 Ceramic material of post medieval and modern date constituted the majority of finds collected during phase two of the survey.

- 4.8.2 A sherd of reddish/brown colour coated ceramic was recovered from Field 6 and a sherd of reddish/orange colour coated ceramic was collected from Field 7. The two sherds may be RB although it is unclear whether they are pot sherds or ceramic building material and their form is insufficiently diagnostic for definitive dating. Examination of the fabric of the two sherds suggests that a post medieval date may be more probable.
- 4.8.3 The earliest definite post medieval find was a fragment of a strap handle from a salt glazed, stone ware vessel dating to the 17th-18th centuries. The rest of the assemblage consisted of fragments of 19th - 20th century pottery and building debris. This material will typically have been incorporated into soils as the result of manuring or through dumping of material to consolidate waterlogged/eroding areas.

Field No.	FLINT			POTTERY			
	Flake no	Core no	Tool no	Prehistoric no	Roman no	Medieval no	Indeterminate pre1700?
6	1		1		1		2
7							1
8							
Total	1		1		1		3

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

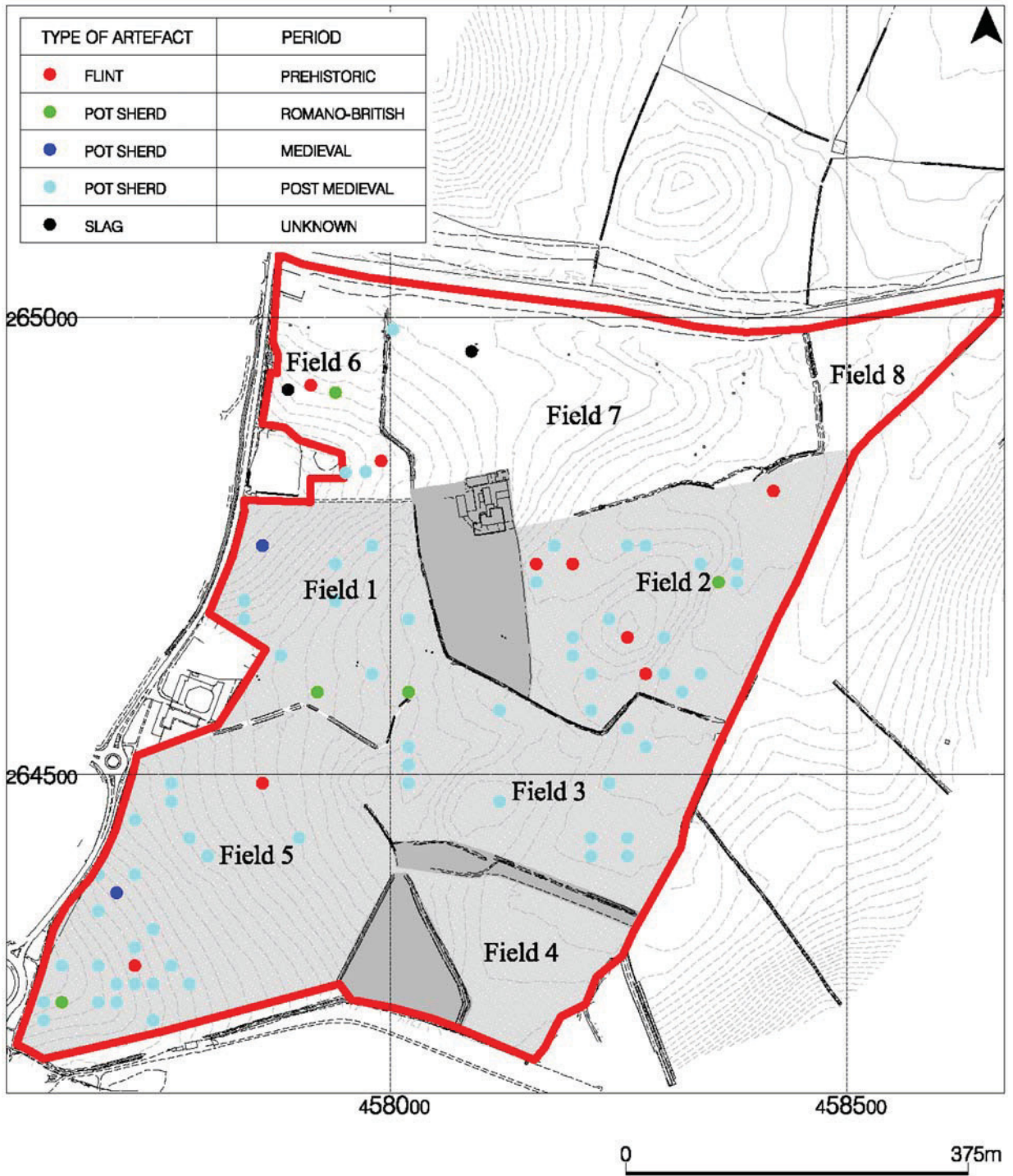


Figure 4: Spatial distribution of archaeological artefacts from 2005 and 2006 surveys

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Very low numbers of archaeological finds were collected despite favourable ground and weather conditions.
- 5.2 The recovery of two flint artefacts from the relatively high ground in Field 6 supports the phase 1 fieldwalking conclusion which suggested ephemeral prehistoric activity on higher ground overlooking the eastern floodplain.
- 5.3 Recovery of one sherd of Romano-British pottery during phase 2 fieldwalking would appear to support a conclusion that Romano-British utilisation of the proposal area was non intensive, *e.g.* light agriculture. However, geophysical survey has located magnetic anomalies indicating the presence of Iron Age / Romano British farmsteads at two locations in the proposal area. Evaluation trenching at one of these locations has recovered RB pottery from ditches and possible pits (Hancock 2006), which suggests that the results of the first and second phases of fieldwalking do not adequately characterise the intensity of use of the proposal area during the RB period.
- 5.4 The absence of surface finds above the identified subsurface features indicates that the top/subsoil is shallowly disturbed by the current agricultural regime and suggests that the subsurface features may survive in relatively good condition
- 5.5 Post-medieval and modern artefacts comprised the bulk of material noted and collected during the survey. Most dated to the 19th – 20th centuries and will have resulted from agricultural practice, although the backfill of modern pipe trenches appears to have contained a significant amount of building rubble.

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 PIFA, L. Gill BSc PgDip, and T. Hortin BA MSc. This report was written by Alastair Hancock and edited by David Fell BA MA 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).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

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Wilson, N. 2004. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Middlemore Farm, Daventry*. (Unpublished). Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

Appendix 1: Pottery Catalogue

Field No.	Co-ordinate (SP)	No.	Period
6	457940/264918	1	Romano-British
6	457973/264831	1	Post Med?
6	457951/264830	1	Post Med
7	458003/264987	1	Post Med?

Appendix 2: Flint Catalogue

Field No.	Co-ordinate (SP)	Type
6	457913/264926	Flake
6	457990/264843	Knife

Appendix 3: Slag Catalogue

Field No.	Co-ordinate (SP)	Type
6	457888/264921	Clinker?
7	458059/264963	Slag

Appendix 4: SMR Summary

SMR Record Number	Parish Daventry	Site Name Monksmoor Farm
Date of Fieldwork March 2006	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 March 2006 a fieldwalking survey was undertaken on 15 hectares of land to complete initial fieldwalking survey carried out in December 2005. The work was carried out in advance of planning proposals for mixed development of an area of land north of Daventry, Northamptonshire. Very few archaeological artefacts were recovered during both phases of fieldwalking although site and weather conditions were favourable.</i></p> <p><i>Fieldwalking in 2006 recovered two worked flint from the western part of the site. One sherd of Romano-British pottery was also collected in the west of the area walked.</i></p> <p><i>Geophysical survey and evaluation trenching suggest that two farmsteads of possible RB date are located in the proposal area and the absence of significant surface concentrations of RB artefacts at these locations suggests that the fieldwalking has not proved a reliable indicator of the intensity of use of this area during this period.</i></p> <p><i>A general spread of post 18th century pottery, tile brick and field drain fragments were identified across the site, probably related to agricultural activities, rubbish tipping and backfilling of modern pipe trenches.</i></p>		

Appendix 5: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Monksmoor Farm, Daventry					
Short Description:	Fieldwalking survey of 15 hectares of arable land recovered little archaeological material. Previous evaluations have located two RB/IA farmsteads and suggest that the results of fieldwalking are not a reliable indicator of the scale of activity during these periods					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		DBA, Geophysical Survey, Fieldwalking Survey, Evaluation Trenching	
Current land use:	Arable		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		Yes	
Monument type:	na		Monument period:		Na	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	One sherd of RB Pottery, Two Lithics					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Northamptonshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 581 645	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Land surrounding Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	49 hectares		Height OD: (metres)		c.115m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	na		Project design originator:		A. J. Hancock	
Project Manager:	J. Hunn		Director/Supervisor:		A. J. Hancock	
Sponsor / funding body:	Capel House Property Trust Ltd					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	14 th March 2006		End date:		14 th March 2006	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	ASC Ltd		Pottery, Lithics			
Paper:	ASC Ltd		Fieldwalking Record Sheets			
Digital:	ASC Ltd		Project Design, Fieldwalking Report			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Fieldwalking Survey of Land at Monksmoor Farm, Daventry, Northamptonshire					
Serial title & volume:	Unpublished client report					
Author(s):	A. J. Hancock					
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