



**Tamworth Road  
Keresley  
Coventry**

**Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey**

*for*  
**Pegasus Planning Group Ltd**


CA Project: 660275  
CA Report: 14231

June 2014

# Tamworth Road Keresley Coventry

## Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey

CA Project: 660275  
CA Report: 14231

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Tamworth Road, Keresley
<b>Location:</b>	Coventry
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 3153 8337
<b>Type:</b>	Fieldwalking
<b>Date:</b>	15 May 2014
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	KER 14

In May 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological fieldwalking survey on land off Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry. The survey, which was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group Ltd, was undertaken in support of a planning application for the residential development of the land by Lioncourt Homes.

The site comprises c. 42ha. of farmland, of which 14.6ha was selected for fieldwalking survey, based on the results of a community-based fieldwalking survey carried out in 2011. However, only four (c. 8ha) of the seven fields designated for fieldwalking were available for the current survey due to arable or pasture surface cover. An apparent concentration of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint, comprising two retouched blades and a small assemblage of flint-working debitage, was recovered from the northern part of the site, in an area where comparable material had been collected in 2011. Most of the finds collected by the survey, comprising sherds of 18th and 19th-century pottery, fragments of glass and pieces of clay pipe, were recovered from a field, formerly known as 'Spring Meadow', in the central western part of the site. Medieval pottery and tile and an architectural stone fragment of possible medieval date were collected from this field in 2011, leading to suggestions that it may have been the site of a medieval settlement. However, a geophysical survey of the site revealed no evidence for a medieval building or any other buildings or settlement in this area, so it seems likely that the finds from this field, which include Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern material, were imported with soil dumped on the site from other locations where remains of these periods did occur. Some of the sherds may have entered the site through manuring of the fields.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological fieldwalking survey on farmland off Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry (site centred on NGR: SP 3153 8337; Fig. 1). The survey, which was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group Ltd, acting on behalf of Lioncourt Homes, was undertaken in support of a planning application for the residential development of the land.
- 1.2 In 2011, a community-based fieldwalking survey of the site located an area of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint, the assemblage being sufficiently sizeable to suggest Neolithic settlement in the vicinity. The site has also been the subject of a *Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* (HDBA) prepared by CA (2013) and a geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeological Services West Yorkshire Archaeological Service (ASWYAS 2014), which were submitted in support of the current planning application. The extent and scope of the fieldwalking survey was established following discussions with Chris Patrick, Coventry City Council's Conservation and Archaeology Officer (CCCCAO).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by CA (2014) and abided by the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009) and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### **The site**

- 1.4 The proposed development site, which covers an area of c. 42ha, is located on the outskirts of Keresley, approximately 4km to the north-west of Coventry city centre (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by Tamworth Road to the west, by a hotel, golf course and Sandpits Lane to the south, by residential properties and Bennetts Road South to the east, by Hall Brook to the north and agricultural fields and woodland to the north-west. The ground slopes to the east and north-east, descending from c. 146m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the western edge of the site to c. 118m aOD at the eastern edge.

- 1.5 The fieldwalking survey area, as agreed with CCCCAO, comprised five fields and parts of two adjacent fields, covering c. 14.6ha; however, when the survey was carried out only three fields and part of one field were suitable for survey (approximately 8ha) due to ground vegetation cover (Figs. 2 and 3).
- 1.6 The geology within the site comprises Carboniferous sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the Keresley Member. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2014).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.7 The site has been the subject of a HDBA (CA 2013) and a geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2014), from which the following has been summarised.
- 1.8 The HDBA reported that Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint had been recovered from the northern part of the site and that there was potential for below-ground prehistoric remains in this area (CA 2013). It also indicated that there was some potential for below-ground remains of a medieval building within the site. A number of historic hedgerows were identified, in addition to a number of heritage assets of negligible significance, including poorly preserved ridge and furrow earthworks.
- 1.9 The geophysical survey demonstrated that there was a clear correlation between the levels of magnetic contamination and current land-use with a high degree of ferrous contamination on the fields under arable cultivation and a very 'quiet' magnetic background in the pasture fields (ASWYAS 2014). Against these varying backgrounds anomalies caused by sub-surface pipes and other modern activity were identified. Anomalies due to ridge and furrow and later ploughing and geological boundaries were also noted. The only features of possible archaeological potential were a line of pit-like anomalies towards the eastern edge of the site. Overall the archaeological potential of the site was considered to be low.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.10 The objectives of the survey were to provide information about the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent and date. Combined with the results of other archaeological investigations to be carried out at the site, this information will enable the local planning authority to identify and assess the significance of the heritage resource within the site, to consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and to

avoid or minimise conflict between conservation of the heritage resource and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### **Methodology**

- 1.11 The fieldwalking survey area, as agreed with CCCCAO, comprised five fields and parts of two adjacent fields, covering c. 14.6ha; however, when the survey was carried out only three fields and part of one field (Fields A, B, F and G) were suitable for survey (approximately 8ha) due to ground vegetation cover (Figs. 2 and 3).
- 1.12 The fields within the site were allocated a letter. A series of lettered transects were established within the individual fields using a Leica Smart Rover GPS. Transects were marked out on site using temporary flags, in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (2012). Transects were aligned parallel to the longest boundary of the individual field being surveyed and were spaced at 20m intervals (i.e. 25 collection units per hectare). Transects were tied in to the OS grid and assigned identifiers (e.g. Transect A, Transect B, etc., in Field A; Transect A, Transect B, etc., in Field B; etc.).
- 1.13 The fieldwalking team walked the transects and observed 2m-wide corridors centred on each individual transect as a basis for artefact collection. For each field walked, details of land use/field conditions, ground visibility and fieldwalking personnel were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets.
- 1.14 The length of each transect was subdivided into a series of 20m stints. Artefacts recovered from each individual stint were bagged together. Bags are marked with the CA site code, the field number, the alphanumeric transect number and the stint (e.g. KER 14, Field G, Transect B, 0–20m).
- 1.15 There was provision for artefacts considered by the survey team to be of special archaeological interest to be located individually using a Leica Smart Rover GPS, although in the event, no such artefacts were recovered. There was also provision for detailed fieldwalking at a greater resolution in areas where finds concentrations were noted. However, it was decided in the field that there was no need for such intensification of survey. All artefacts were collected, with the exception of any materials positively identified as modern.

- 1.16 The archive and artefacts from the fieldwalking survey are currently held by CA at their offices in Newport Pagnell. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum under an accession number as yet unallocated, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix A, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS

### *Introduction*

- 2.1 Following an initial inspection of the site, it was apparent that only four out of the seven approved areas were suitable for the fieldwalking survey (Areas A, B, F and part of G). These had recently been ploughed or the crops were still emergent at the time of the survey and did not hinder or impact on surface artefact collection. The remainder of the site was under established arable crop or pasture (Figs. 2 and 3). The weather conditions were generally conducive to fieldwalking, with partially cloudy skies initially, improving to fine, bright conditions later in the day.
- 2.2 The fieldwalking grids and distribution of recovered artefacts are shown in Figure 4. There were no finds in the ploughsoil in Field A.

### *Field B*

#### **Prehistoric**

- 2.3 In the northern part of the field there was an apparent increase in the occurrence of worked flint in the ploughsoil. Two flint tools and six flakes derived from flint working, most broadly dateable to the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods, were recovered.

#### **Roman**

- 2.4 A heavily abraded bodysherd of Roman pottery in an oxidised fabric was recovered from near the southern corner of the field.

#### **Post-medieval/modern**

- 2.5 A single sherd of 18th/19th-century pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil in the northern part of the field.





## **Field F**

### **Prehistoric**

- 2.6 Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from near the centre and northern edge of the field.

### **Roman**

- 2.7 A sherd of abraded Roman fine greyware pottery, possibly from the base/lower body of a tankard, was recovered from the north-eastern edge of the field.

### **Post-medieval/modern**

- 2.8 In the north-eastern half of the field there was a noticeable increase in the occurrence of post-medieval and modern material in the ploughsoil. Finds comprised sherds of pottery, fragments of glass and pieces of clay pipe.

## **Field G**

### **Prehistoric**

- 2.9 A flake of worked flint was recovered from near the eastern corner of the field.

### **Post-medieval/modern**

- 2.10 A random distribution of eight sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery and two fragments of clay pipe were recovered from the ploughsoil.

### ***The finds evidence by Jacky Somerville***

- 2.11 Finds recovered from fieldwalking included worked flint, pottery, ceramic building material, glass and clay tobacco pipe.

### **Prehistoric**

- 2.12 A total of fourteen items of worked flint were recovered, consisting of seven flakes (one of which was heavily burnt), three blades, one bladelet, one chip and two tools. The latter were both retouched flakes. Blade technology features during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods and the bladelet is a typically Mesolithic item.

### **Roman**

- 2.13 Single sherds of Roman pottery were recorded from Fields B and F. That from Field B was heavily abraded and consists of a bodysherd in an oxidised fabric. The sherd from Field F was moderately abraded and consists of the base/lower body of a

small vessel (tankard?) in a fine greyware fabric. Both sherds are only broadly dateable to the Roman period.

### **Post-medieval/modern**

- 2.14 Fifty-seven sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered. The most common wares were: late 18th to 19th-century refined whiteware (half of which featured transfer-printed decoration); 18th and 19th-century black-glazed earthenware; and a range of stonewares. The latter included one sherd of Westerwald, which is a German stoneware exported to Britain during the late 17th and 18th centuries.
- 2.15 Other pottery types represented include: Midlands Purple, which dates to the 15th to mid 17th centuries; glazed and unglazed earthenwares, of 16th to 18th-century date; yellow slipware, tin-glazed earthenware and mottled, brown-glazed earthenware, all of which date to the late 17th to 18th centuries; Creamware, which dates to the mid to later 18th century; and porcelain and brown-glazed earthenware, both of which are 18th to 19th-century in date.
- 2.16 A single fragment of tin-glazed earthenware tile, twenty fragments of clay tobacco pipe and two fragments of modern glass were recorded. The majority of the clay pipe fragments were from the stem and are broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries. One bowl was also recovered, with a maker's mark "Andrew Bradley" incuse on the base of the foot. It has not been possible to locate this pipe-maker.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The fieldwalking survey, which was carried out over the course of a day with generally good weather and light conditions, recovered a small assemblage of prehistoric worked flint, Roman pottery and post-medieval/modern pottery, clay pipe and glass. Due to ground vegetation cover, only part of the site was suitable for fieldwalking survey (c. 8ha).

### ***Prehistoric flint***

- 3.2 In the northern part of the site, in Field B, there was an apparent concentration of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint, although the scatter was quite dispersed and

only comprised two retouched blades and six flakes derived from flint working. However, they were in an area where a community-based fieldwalking survey had collected material of a comparable date in 2011, suggesting that the site is the focus for activity dating to this period. The geophysical survey carried out by ASWYAS (2014) earlier this year did not identify any anomalies to suggest any form of settlement or other activity in this vicinity, although the temporary or seasonal encampments of this period are unlikely to have left a significant archaeological footprint.

### ***Roman pottery***

- 3.3 Two abraded sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the ploughsoil. There are no known Roman sites within the vicinity and it is likely that the sherds entered the site through manuring of the fields. Sherds of Roman pottery were also found during a fieldwalking survey to the west of Tamworth Road (CA 2013).

### ***Post-medieval and modern finds***

- 3.4 The post-medieval and modern pottery sherds collected from Fields B and G were probably introduced to the site through manuring of the fields. However, the greater incidence of post-medieval/modern material in the north-eastern half of Field F was significant and suggests some form of activity in this area, although the nature of this activity is uncertain.
- 3.5 The map of Edward Baker's Estate at Keresley, dated 1771, shows that the field originally formed parts of two fields, 'Spring Close' to the south-west and 'Spring Meadow' to the north-east (CA 2013). The hedgerow dividing the two fields was not removed until the 20th century and is visible as a cropmark shown on aerial photographs of the site, along with several other linear cropmarks of uncertain date and provenance.
- 3.6 The cropmarks and distribution of finds from the current survey correlates with the results of an earlier fieldwalking survey of this area, which also recovered medieval pottery, fragments of medieval floor tile and a possible medieval stone architectural fragment. The recovery of the medieval material prompted suggestions that there may have been a medieval building in this area. However, the geophysical survey undertaken by ASWYAS (2014) revealed no evidence for a medieval building or any other buildings or settlement within the site. It would therefore seem likely that the finds from this area, which include Roman, medieval, post-medieval and

modern material, were imported with soil dumped on the site from other locations where remains of these periods did occur.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Mo Muldowney, assisted by Emily Evans, Mark Patenall and Rob Scott. The report was written by Simon Carlyle, with a contribution by Jacky Somerville, and the illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Mo Muldowney and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

#### 5. REFERENCES

ASWYAS (Archaeological Services West Yorkshire Archaeological Services) 2014 *Keresley Sustainable Urban Expansion, Coventry: Geophysical Survey*, draft report

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 12 March 2014

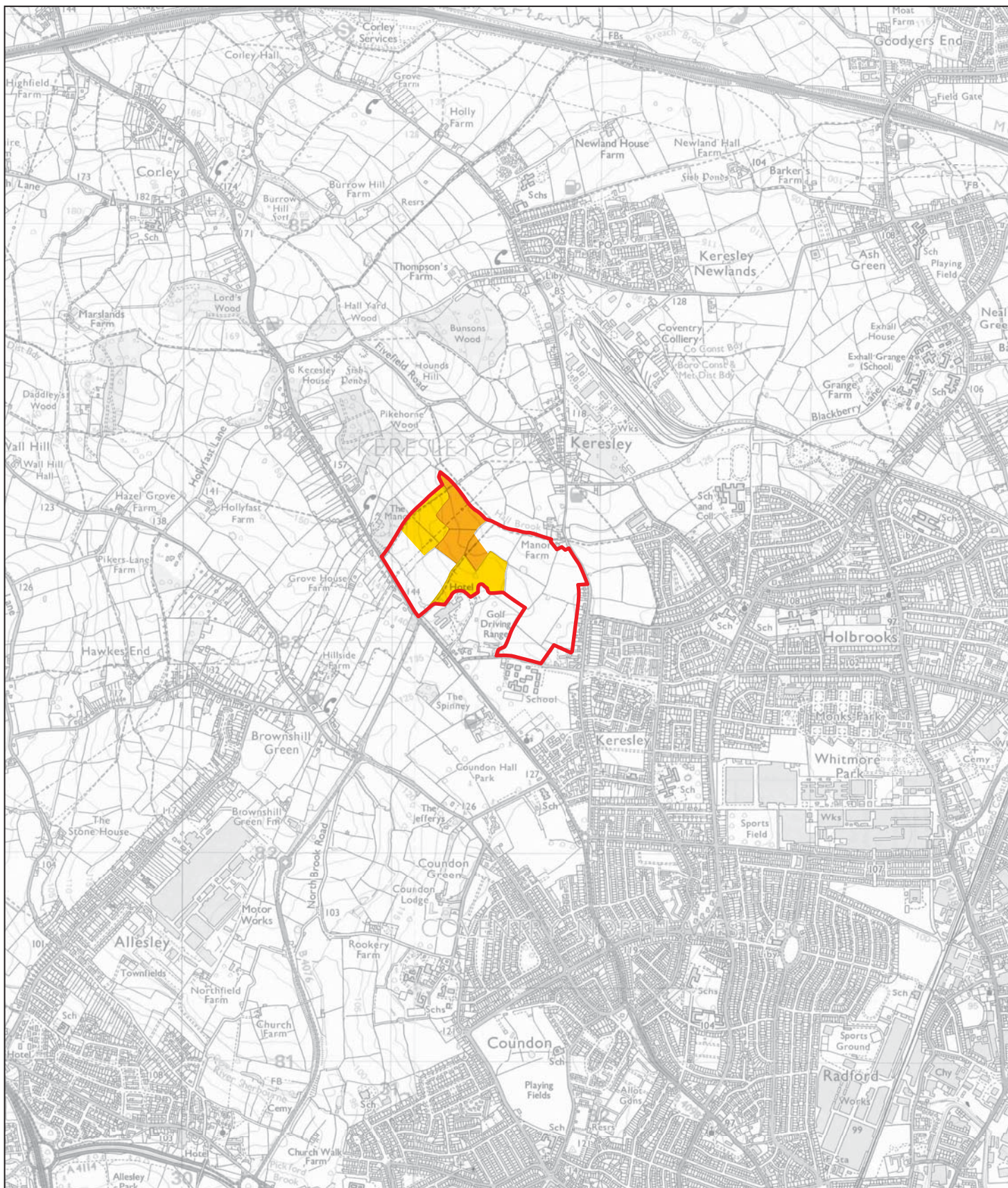
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Keresley Sustainable Urban Expansion, Coventry: Heritage Statement*, CA report **13586**




DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



## APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry	
Short description	The site comprises c. 42ha. of farmland, of which 14.6ha was selected for fieldwalking survey, based on the results of a community-based fieldwalking survey carried out in 2011. However, only four (c. 8ha) of the seven fields designated for fieldwalking were available for the current survey due to arable or pasture surface cover. An apparent concentration of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint, comprising two retouched blades and a small assemblage of flint-working debitage, was recovered from the northern part of the site, in an area where similar material had been collected in 2011. Most of the finds collected by the survey, comprising sherds of 18th and 19th-century pottery, fragments of glass and pieces of clay pipe, were recovered from a field, formerly known as 'Spring Meadow', in the central western part of the site. Medieval pottery and tile and an architectural stone fragment of possible medieval date were collected from this field in 2011, leading to suggestions that it may have been the site of a medieval settlement. However, a geophysical survey of the site revealed no evidence for a medieval building or any other buildings or settlement in this area, so it seems likely that the finds, which include Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern material, were imported with soil dumped on the site from other locations where remains of these periods did occur.	
Project dates	15 May 2014	
Project type	Fieldwalking survey	
Previous work	Fieldwalking survey (2011, unpublished)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry	
Study area	14.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 3153 8337	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Mo Muldowney (CA)	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		
	Accession no: n/a	Content
Physical	The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum	
Paper		Site records
Digital	Coventry City HER	Report, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry: Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey</i> . CA typescript report <b>14231</b>		



-  site boundary
-  fieldwalking area
-  area not accessible for fieldwalking

0  1km

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 660275 DATE 29.05.2014  
DRAWN BY LM REVISION 00  
APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



2



3

- 2 General view of the survey area, looking north-west
- 3 General view of the survey area, looking north-east



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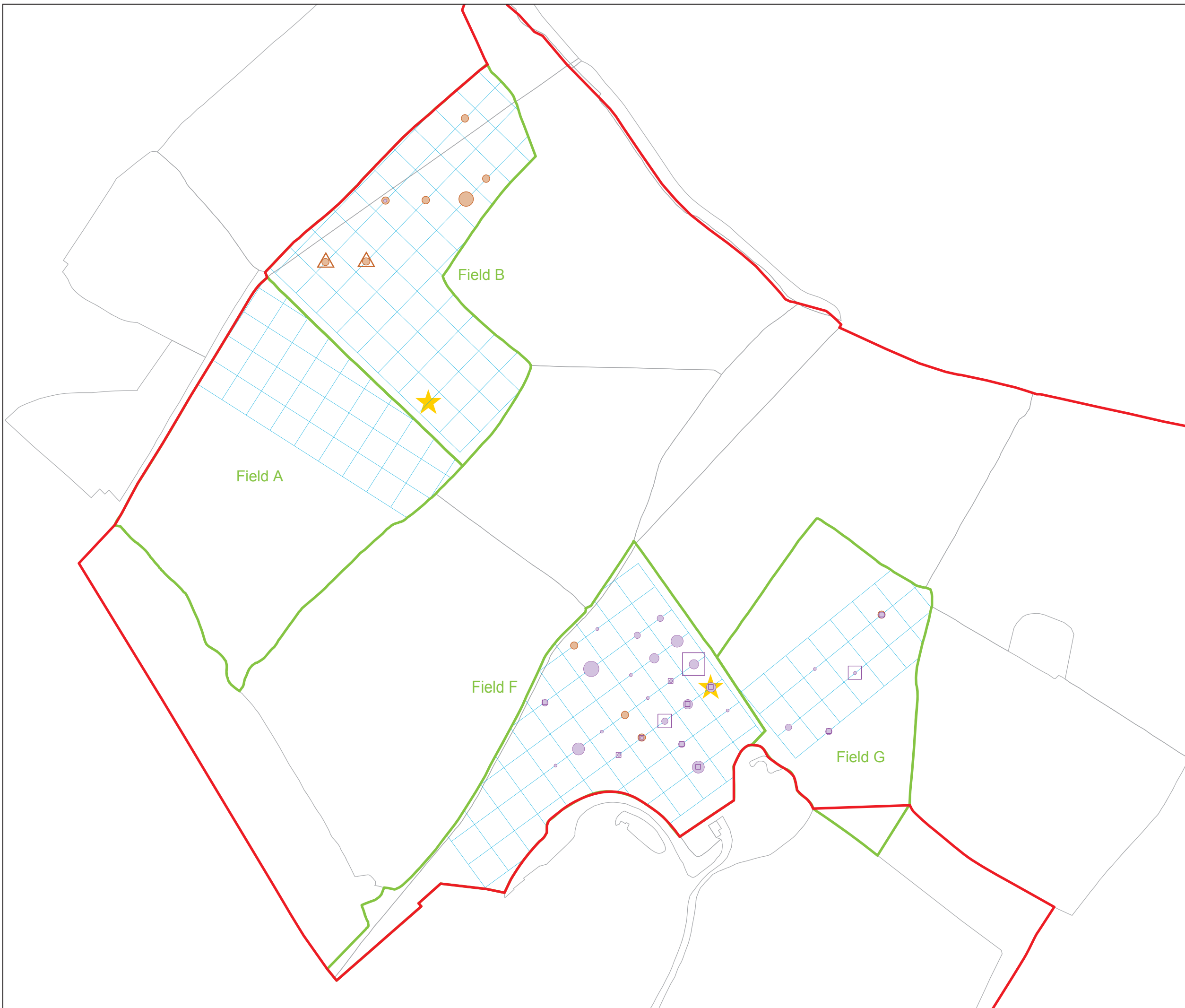
FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 660275 DATE 29.05.2014  
 DRAWN BY LM REVISION 00  
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FIGURE NO.

2 & 3



- site boundary
- fieldwalking transect
- field boundary

Prehistoric flint tools

- 1

Prehistoric flint flakes

- 1
- 2

Roman pottery

- ★ 1

post-medieval pottery:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

clay tobacco pipes:

- 1
- 2
- 3 - 5



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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Spatial distribution of fieldwalking finds**