

LAND SOUTH OF GREAT PAXTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Archaeological Field Survey Results



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Archaeological field survey, comprising fieldwalking and metal detecting, was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at Great Paxton, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 213 632). The work was undertaken on behalf of Michael Taylor, in response to a request by Cambridge Archaeology and Planning Countryside Advice (CAPCA) for a pre-determination scheme of archaeological investigation.

The field survey identified three finds scatters representing two definite sites and one potential site. The sites comprise two Iron Age / Roman pottery scatters, one of which coincides with a cropmark visible on aerial photographs, and a prehistoric flint scatter.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological field survey was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at Great Paxton, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 213 632). The proposed development area (PDA) is located to the south of Great Paxton village and comprises five arable fields, covering 87.7 ha. The PDA is bounded to the south and west by minor roads and to the north and east by further agricultural fields (Figure 1).

The field survey comprised field walking and metal detector survey and was carried out in November 2009. A geophysical survey was also undertaken in December 2009 by Bartlett Clark Consulting, the results of which are detailed in a separate report (Bartlett 2010).

The work was undertaken on behalf of Michael Taylor, in response to a request by Cambridge Archaeology and Planning Countryside Advice (CAPCA) for a pre-determination scheme of archaeological investigation.

Geology and Topography

The PDA is situated at a height of between 20m and 45m AOD and spans a small valley with high points to the south and north draining into a stream - a tributary of the River Great Ouse - which bisects the site (Plates 1 and 2).

The underlying geology of the PDA is Boulder Clay (IGS 1977). Immediately to the west of the site, along the course of the River Great Ouse, the geology changes to River Terrace Deposits (sands and gravels) and Alluvium.

Archaeological Background

A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) yielded a total of 20 identified sites within 500m of the PDA boundary. Of these, six, all cropmarks (see Aerial photographic evidence), fall within the PDA itself.

Prehistoric

Regionally, known prehistoric sites on the boulder clay are scarce in comparison to the wealth of prehistoric remains on the river terrace gravels along the Great Ouse valley. It is, therefore, unsurprising that no prehistoric sites are recorded on the boulder clay of the PDA itself, whilst immediately to the west, on the river terrace gravels, the remains of a probable Bronze Age barrow (destroyed during works on the airfield in 1944) as well as a flint scatter are recorded within 500m of the PDA boundary. Further to the south-west and west, a wealth of prehistoric remains spanning the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods and including funerary monuments and settlement, have been encountered during quarrying to the north of Little Paxton.

Roman

Roman sites and findspots are more common on the boulder clay and two occur within 500m of the PDA. Of these, the projected course of the Godmanchester to Sandy Roman road, which enters the PDA in the far south-east corner, is the most significant. A large number of cropmarks which are potentially Iron Age / Roman in date have also been recorded in the area. A number of these cropmarks fall within the PDA (see below). Slightly further a field, significant Roman settlement remains have been excavated in the quarries to the north of Little Paxton.

Medieval

The village of Great Paxton, the historic core of which lies *c.*500m to the north of the PDA, dates from the Anglo-Saxon period. Saxon remains including a cemetery, which has largely been quarried away, and possible lime kilns and ditches are known from the west of the village. Within the village itself, Holy Trinity Church dates from at least the 11th century and medieval pottery has been found in surrounding gardens.

Aerial photographic evidence

A recent aerial photographic assessment of the area (Palmer 2009) has revealed a total of 16 cropmark sites within 500m of the PDA boundary, six of which fall within the PDA itself. The remains largely comprise linear and rectilinear cropmarks which can be interpreted as field boundaries and enclosures. In addition medieval ridge and furrow is recorded as both cropmarks and earthworks. For the purposes of this report the cropmarks listed on the CHER have been allocated a Cropmark Site number and are shown in Figure 2.

Cropmark Site CM1

A group of linear cropmarks forming part of a rectilinear enclosure (Palmer 2009).

Cropmark Site CM2

A series of linear cropmarks, once again forming an enclosure. A linear cropmark just to the east of this enclosure apparently connects two springs or watercourses visible on aerial photographs (Palmer 2009)

Cropmark Site CM3

Linear cropmarks forming a series of rectilinear enclosures (Palmer 2009).

Cropmark Site CM4

Ridge and furrow is visible as cropmarks across the majority of the southern, north-facing slope of the PDA (Palmer 2009).

Cropmark Site CM5

Cropmarks indicate two adjacent irregular enclosures, with associated features; potentially pits and structures (Palmer 2009). This cropmark site is situated on the projected course of the Sandy to Godmanchester Roman road.

With the exception of the ridge and furrow, which is almost certainly medieval, the cropmarks are undated. However, the form of the cropmarks is typical of settlement enclosures and field systems dating from the Iron Age, Roman and early medieval periods.

Methodology

(see Figure 3)

Fieldwalking

For the purposes of the field survey the PDA was divided into pre-determined fieldwalking transects. In order to rapidly assess a relatively large area, transects were spaced 50m apart. In the field, these transects were located and followed by the on-site surveyor, using a GPS. Using the GPS operator as a guide, the transects were then walked in broad c.20m wide curves in order to get good coverage of the ground surface. Artefacts were individually collected and plotted by GPS. Where artefact scatters were considered to represent an archaeological site, the extent of the site was plotted by GPS and sufficient artefacts for dating collected, with the remainder left on the ground surface for subsequent intensive fieldwalking.

Each field was allocated a letter (A-E) and notes were made about the ground condition and crop visibility. Daylight was average to good for the whole of the project and the weather conditions variable. Ground surface visibility, although hindered slightly by a low crop of winter wheat, was on the whole was good.

A number of plantations, which at the time of survey consisted largely of scrub and newly planted saplings, were located within the PDA (see Figure 3). The planted areas were largely around the perimeter of the PDA. These areas, which covered only a small percentage of the PDA, were not fieldwalked or metal detected.

Metal detecting

A targeted metal detector survey of the PDA was undertaken in areas around cropmarks. The survey incorporated two areas, shown in Figure 3, one in the western part of the PDA around Cropmark Sites CM1, CM2 and CM3, and one in the south-east of the PDA around Cropmark Site CM5.

The survey was conducted in tandem with the fieldwalking along the pre-determined 50m transects. Transects were walked at a slow pace, with the sweep covering 1.5-2.0m, using XP detectors. The survey was carried out by two experienced detectorists

from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Throughout the survey small iron objects were discriminated out, and very recent objects of little or no archaeological significance, such as milk bottle tops, ring pulls, modern shotgun cartridges etc. were collected but discarded prior to finds assessment.

RESULTS

Fieldwalking

A total of 282 artefacts were collected from the fieldwalking at Great Paxton. Fragments of late post-medieval / modern pottery and ceramic building materials, and naturally fractured flint which had been picked up were immediately discarded, leaving a final total of 183 artefacts. The finds assemblage comprised 125 sherds of pottery and 56 flints as well as one fragment of imported stone and one fragment of burnt stone.

Artefacts were collected from across the PDA albeit occurring in low densities across the majority of the area. Artefact distribution plots are shown in Figure 4 (flint and stone) Figure 5 (Iron Age and Roman pottery) and Figure 6 (medieval and early post-medieval pottery).

Significantly higher densities of artefacts were recovered from two areas in Field C which are defined as Sites C1 and C2. In addition, a slightly less dense pottery scatter in Field D is considered a potential site; Site D1 (see Figure 7).

Site C1

(Figures 5 and 7)

In the west of Field C an extensive Roman pottery scatter along with lower levels of Iron Age material clearly marks an archaeological site. The highest density of pottery was found overlying Cropmark Site CM3 and comprised Roman material dating to the 2nd to 4th century AD with middle to late Iron Age pottery forming a smaller component of the scatter (Anderson, see below). A total of 24 Roman sherds and eight Iron Age sherds were collected from this high density scatter as a sample with further surface material being left for any future phases of intensive field walking. It is estimated that at least 50% of the pottery scatter was left on the ground surface.

To the west of this scatter, a less dense pottery scatter coincides with Cropmark Sites CM1 and CM2. The disparate scatter, considered to be part of Site C1, comprised 5 sherds of Roman pottery, including 2nd to 4th century material as well as one sherd of 1st to 2nd century pottery and six sherds of middle to late Iron Age pottery.

A total of 10 flints were recovered from Site C1, however, the majority are chronologically undiagnostic and consistent with background levels of material found across the PDA. One burnt stone was also collected, although perhaps of greater significance is a fragment of volcanic tuff found to the south-east of Site C1 which is

considered to be a possible Roman import from the continent (Simon Timberlake pers comm).

In terms of topography, the two elements of Site C1 occupy two higher points either side of a small yet relatively broad and shallow dry valley, possibly the site of a spring. The dense pottery scatter also occupies a distinct shelf of flatter ground. Few artefacts were recovered from the lower-lying area between the two main scatters. This could be due to an absence of occupation, linked perhaps to poor drainage and the possible presence of a spring in this area. Alternatively, colluvium may have accumulated in this area which could be masking archaeological evidence.

Site C2

(Figures 4 and 7)

In the north of Field C, immediately adjacent to the stream which bisects the PDA, a flint scatter was recorded. The scatter consisted of 15 flints and included earlier prehistoric material, notably a late Mesolithic/ early Neolithic blade core, alongside less chronologically diagnostic and probably later prehistoric flints (Billington, see below). Due to the relatively low numbers of finds and in order to better define the extent of the scatter all of the surface flint was collected at Site C2.

The scatter is significantly located in a more sheltered position at the base of the north facing slope next to a stream. Cropmarks on aerial photographs also suggest a possible spring line, joining the stream at approximately this location. Also of note, regarding Site C2 is the apparent depth of colluvium and / or alluvium along the bottom of the valley, indicated by a much finer and less stoney plough soil in this area. It is, therefore, possible that an increased soil depth is masking a more significant site.

Site D1

(Figures 5 and 7)

In the south-west of Field D, towards the bottom of the south-facing slope, a fairly low density scatter of Roman and Iron Age pottery was identified. The material, all of which was collected, included eight sherds of Roman pottery, two of which can be dated to the 2nd to 4th century AD. In addition two sherds of Iron Age to Roman pottery and one sherd of firmly Iron Age pottery were collected.

Background material

(Figures 4-6)

All other artefacts collected during fieldwalking were found in low densities and fairly evenly spread across the PDA, which is consistent with background levels of artefacts that would be expected in plough soil. This general finds assemblage

includes fragments of Roman pottery, some of which can be dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and further middle to late Iron Age pottery. Medieval pottery ranging in date from the 13th to 15th century and including Lyveden wares as well as a single sherd of Saxo-Norman St. Neots ware were also collected. Early post-medieval pottery recovered largely comprised glazed and unglazed red earthenwares dating to between the 16th and 18th centuries (Hall and Tabor, see below). Worked flint, largely working waste, was also found in low densities across the PDA and represents activity from the Mesolithic through to later prehistoric periods.

Metal detecting

(Figure 8)

A total of 84 metal objects were collected from the two designated areas during the metal detecting survey. No high density scatters of material were identified and, with the exception of one possible Roman find from Site C2, none of the artefacts were associated with the cropmark sites. The vast majority of the metal finds were undated or clearly post-medieval / modern in date, although a few items of more significance were recovered. These include a silver penny, probably of Edward I (1237 – 1307) found in Field A, just to the south of Great Paxton village, two possibly Roman objects and a potentially Saxon wrist clasp (Appleby and Hall, see below).

Discussion

The Flint Scatter

The earliest identified site (Site C2) is a multi-period flint scatter and occupies a position at the bottom of the north-facing hillside in the south of the PDA, immediately adjacent to the stream. Earlier prehistoric sites in the region are generally limited to the gravel terraces of the River Great Ouse just to the west of the PDA. Although located on the boulder clays, the proximity to the major prehistoric landscape of the Great Ouse Valley and its situation next to a water course means the presence of a prehistoric flint scatter in the PDA is unsurprising. Whether the flint derives from features such as pits sealed by the plough soil, or is limited to a surface scatter within the plough soil is not known.

Further flint finds recovered during field walking attest to Mesolithic / early Neolithic through to later prehistoric (Bronze Age – Iron Age) activity in the PDA but no further sites were identified.

Iron Age – Roman sites

Iron Age and Roman activity in the PDA was found to be more widespread and in areas, intense. Site C1, a Roman and middle to late Iron Age pottery scatter overlies a series of cropmarks (Cropmark Sites CM1, CM2 and CM3) and clearly represents a series of settlement related enclosures. The high density 2nd to 4th century Roman

pottery scatter in the eastern half of Site C1 is certainly indicative of occupation. The aerial photographic evidence combined with the field walking finds suggest a relatively extensive site of ditched settlement enclosures and associated field systems, fairly typical of Iron Age / Roman sites in the region such as that recently excavated by the CAU at Papworth Everard (Patten 2008). Indeed, the wealth of cropmarks in the area around the PDA, which are suggestive of Iron Age / Roman sites, as well as the close proximity of the Sandy to Godmanchester Roman road suggest the area around the PDA thrived during this period.

Further Iron Age and Roman activity is represented by a pottery scatter (Site D1) in the northern half of the PDA. Although unrelated to cropmarks and less dense than Site C1, this should still be regarded as a potential site.

Finally, cropmark site CM5, had no associated finds scatter and remains undated. However, its form is once again typical of later prehistoric or Roman enclosed settlements, an interpretation supported by the recovery of a single sherd of Iron Age pottery from this area. Given that the majority of the site of the cropmark was found to be covered by a recent plantation where fieldwalking was not possible, more significance should perhaps be attached to this single find. The cropmark is also located adjacent to the projected route of the Sandy to Godmanchester Roman road. Consequently, the cropmark should certainly still be considered as a potential archaeological site.

Medieval and post-medieval activity

No medieval or post-medieval sites were identified during the fieldwalking. Finds dating to these periods occurred in low densities and were spread fairly evenly across the PDA. The results of the metal detector survey, which recovered almost entirely post-medieval metalwork, echo this distribution. It is almost certain that the presence of medieval and post-medieval material is entirely due to the manuring of fields which, given the presence of ridge and furrow cropmarks on aerial photographs, is likely to have been carried out since the medieval period.

CONCLUSION

Fieldwalking and metal detector survey at Great Paxton, has identified two definite sites, represented by a prehistoric flint scatter and an Iron Age / Roman pottery scatter, and one potential site, represented by an Iron Age / Roman pottery scatter, within the PDA.

The results of the fieldwalking in particular, combined with existing aerial photographic evidence, provide compelling evidence for Iron Age to Roman settlement remains in the west of the PDA. The presence of a prehistoric flint scatter is also significant given the site's location on the boulder clays, away from the richer prehistoric landscape on the river terrace gravels along the course of the River Great Ouse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was commissioned by Michael Taylor. Dan McConnell of CAPCA advised and monitored throughout. Jane Matthews was responsible for field survey and graphics. The metal detecting survey was carried out by Andy Hall and Dan Britten. The project was managed by Emma Beadsmoore.

SPECIALIST STUDIES

Flint – Lawrence Billington

A total of 56 flints were recovered from the fieldwalking, of these five pieces were un-worked burnt chunks, the remainder were worked and all were unburnt. A very high proportion of the assemblage was lightly patinated (86%). This patination appears to have a chronological significance, with all of the diagnostically ‘early’ pieces (Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic), being patinated and the unpatinated pieces showing technological traits most consistent with a later prehistoric date (MBA-IA). Most pieces displayed some form of edge damage, typical of material collected from the plough soil.

Find No.	Chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	blade core	flake core	core fragment	end scraper	unworked burnt
11					1					
23				1						
24										1
31				1						
32			1							
47		1								
48		1								
54			1							
63			1							
106			1							
134										1
170							1			
177							1			
188						1				
189					1					
199				1						
200				1						
209										1
209			1							
225		1								
241									1	
246				1						
254		1								
255			1							

Find No.	Chunk	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	blade core	flake core	core fragment	end scraper	unworked burnt	
259				1							
262			1								
263						1					
268			1								
275			1								
277										1	
278			1								
282			1								
284				1							
285				1							
287			1								
288				1							
291								1			
292						1					
293			1								
294				1							
296	1										
297			1								
298				1							
299			1								
301						1					
311			1								
325			1								
327			1								
330			1								
339	1										
349				1							
355			1								
356				1							
360										1	
361			1								
366				1							
	2	4	21	14	2	4	2	1	1	5	56

Table 1: Flint types

A distinct part of the assemblage consisted of pieces showing technological traits diagnostic of a structure blade based core reduction strategy, dateable to the Mesolithic/early Neolithic. These traits are seen most clearly in the presence of four blade cores (Finds 183, 263, 292 and 301). All are exhausted, and have single striking platforms with trimmed platform edges and fine blade scars. Their regular, prismatic form suggests a Mesolithic date for these pieces, although they are also found in early Neolithic contexts. Only two products from these type of core were recovered (Finds 11 and 189), regular parallel sided blades, perhaps suggesting that discard in this location was largely limited to exhausted elements of reduction sequences carried by mobile groups making efficient use of raw material. Two flakes also bear traits indicative of this early technology, including platform trimming and fine, blade-like

dorsal scar patterns (Finds 349 and 355). The sole retouched tool from the assemblage (Find 241), an end scraper, was manufactured on a blade blank and dates to the same broad period.

Aside from these pieces the bulk of the assemblage is made of flake based debitage, including flakes, chips and a flake core (Find 177). Although some of these, especially the partly cortical flakes, could reflect earlier stages in the reduction of the blade based material discussed above they show different technological traits, with unprepared platforms, the use of hard hammers and more irregular morphology. These pieces suggest an expedient flake based industry with little care taken over the form of removals or the maintenance of cores. This material is likely to relate to later Neolithic and early Bronze Age technologies.

As mentioned above, a small percentage of material was unpatinated and perhaps represents somewhat later flint working. This included an irregular flake core (Find 170) and a series of flakes (Finds 31, 284, 288 and 298) some of which showed a very low level of control over core reduction. These pieces may reflect later prehistoric flint work, from the Middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

Distribution

Only one convincing concentration of flint was recovered from the site consisting of 15 pieces (Finds 287, 288, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 297, 298, 299, 355, 356, 360, 361 and 366). This cluster itself clearly represents a palimpsest of chronologically mixed material with several earlier pieces including a blade core and flake, alongside less diagnostic flakes and three unpatinated, potentially later prehistoric flints.

Summary

The flint assemblage reflects prehistoric activity from the Mesolithic period potentially into the Iron Age. A single tool was recovered; the bulk of the assemblage appears to represent flint working waste. A single concentration was identified that, although overlain by a later material, had a strong, probably Mesolithic, component.

Iron Age and Roman pottery – Katie Anderson

23 sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fieldwalking. This primarily comprised late Iron Age sherds, although three middle Iron Age sherds were identified (Finds 354, 133 and 202). All of the sherds were body sherds and consequently no vessel forms could be identified. Shell-tempered sherds were the most commonly occurring fabric, which is not unexpected for this area of Cambridgeshire. A small number of grog-tempered sherds and sandy sherds were also identified. It could not be determined if the sherds were handmade or wheel-thrown due to the size and condition of the sherds. As a result the assemblage can only be broadly dated middle/late Iron Age.

A moderately large assemblage of Roman pottery was collected, totalling over 50 sherds. Many sherds could only be dated as 'Romano-British' due to the condition of the sherds, however, a number could be more specifically dated. This included a small number of Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, which date to the mid 2nd-4th century AD and a Hadham red-slipped ware dating to the 3rd-4th century AD. There were also a small number of sherds which could be dated to the early Roman period (mid 1st-2nd century AD). Very few vessel forms were identified, comprising a small number of beaded rim jars.

A large proportion of the Iron Age and Roman pottery was collected from a dense scatter overlying a known cropmark comprising a series of rectilinear enclosures of likely Iron Age / Roman date.

A breakdown of the Iron Age and Roman pottery by date and, where possible, type is included in Appendix A.

Medieval and early post-medieval pottery – *David Hall and Jonathan Tabor*

A total of 42 sherds of medieval and early post-medieval pottery were recovered during fieldwalking. Of these, 21 are medieval and largely comprise 13th to 15th century material, including two sherds of Lyvedon ware. A single sherd of St. Neots ware is the only earlier material present in the assemblage. A further 21 sherds of pottery can be broadly dated to the first half of the post-medieval period (late post-medieval material was either not collected or discarded along with modern pottery). The majority of the sherds are glazed and unglazed red earthenwares dating to the 16th to 17th century although a few sherds of black glazed ware are also present.

None of the medieval and post-medieval pottery occurred in concentrated scatters and it is relatively evenly spread across the PDA. The presence of most, if not all of the material is highly likely to be the result of manuring during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

A breakdown of the medieval and post-medieval pottery by date and, where possible, type is included in Appendix A.

Metalwork - *Grahame Appleby & Andrew Hall*

A total of 84 items of metalwork were recovered during the fieldwalking weighing 1194g. The majority (43) consisted of copper alloy objects, with 2 silver items, 29 lead and pewter items and the remainder (10) iron objects. One object (<014>) may be of Saxon attribution with a second piece of copper alloy (<027>) possibly medieval. A medieval hammered silver 'long cross' coin was also found (<001>). Only two objects may be Roman in date (<019>, <079>), with the remainder clearly post-medieval or modern in origin; discarded from the assemblage, although included for completeness, was a spent .303 bullet.

Silver

<001> MD 12. hammered silver Long Cross penny, probably of Edward I (1237-1307); diameter 17.95mm; weight 1g.

<002> MD 77. Worn early Victoria silver sixpence dated 1839; diameter 19.34mm, weight 3g. 19th century.

Copper alloy

<003> MD1. Casting spill, 10.6mm long, weight 1g. Undated.

<004> MD 2. George IV token dated 1830, with laural leaf decoration on reverse, milled edge and perforation. Diameter 25.56mm, weight 4g. 18th – 19th century.

<005> MD 7. Copper-zinc alloy Tombac(k) or ‘Hessian’ button; diameter 14.9mm, weight 2g. 18th – 19th century.

<006> MD 8. Plain button, gilded with eyelet/hoop intact. Diameter 21.26mm, weight 4g. 19th – early 20th century.

<007> MD 15. Rectangular sheet fragment folded or bent into irregular shape, 30mm wide, weight 7g. Undated.

<008> MD 17. Sub-rectangular casting spill or debris; 10.25mm x 11.85mm, weight 4g. Undated.

<009> MD 18. ‘Early’ bust Victoria Half-penny with seated right facing Britannia on reverse dated 1867; diameter 25.52mm, weight 7g.

<010> MD 19. Length of sheet or binding folded into irregular shape; width 14.2mm, weight 3g. Undated.

<011> MD 25. Small sheet or vessel fragment less than 1mm thick, *c.* 24mm wide, weight 1g. Undated.

<012> MD 30. Spent .303 round – discarded.

<013> MD 36. Penny of Edward VII (uncrowned) dated 1907; diameter 30.8mm, weight 9g.

<014> MD 38. Cast possible wrist or shoe clasp with traces of decorative motif (animal?) on one side, possibly Saxon if the former, 18th century if the latter; width 12.49mm, weight 3g. Date – uncertain and requires positive identification.

<015> MD 39. Small sheet fragment folded, width 16mm, weight 1g. Undated.

<016> MD 44. Small, distorted space or washer with three rectangular perforations for attachment; diameter *c.* 30mm, weight 1g. Post-Medieval.

<017> MD 45. Probable shell casing/shrapnel; weight 6g.

<018> MD 49. Four-hole button; diameter 16.85mm, weight 2g. 19th – 20th century.

<019> MD 52. Small curved object, possible rim fragment from an open-work horse harness or similar; estimated diameter *c.* 80mm; weight 7g. Possibly Roman or Medieval.

<020> MD 53. Small thimble; height 15.9mm; weight 3g. 18th – 19th century.

<021> MD 56. Small flat washer; diameter 14.17mm, weight 1g. Modern.

- <022> MD 61. Machine manufactured copper alloy nail, broken; length 18.7mm; weight 5g. Modern.
- <023> MD 62. 17th century 'His Half-penny' token on reverse; diameter 17.15mm, weight 1g.
- <024> MD 71. Thin sheet fragment, bent and possibly cut/reduced; 30.23mm wide, weight 2g. Undated, but probably modern.
- <025> MD 72. Copper-zinc alloy Tombac(k) or 'Hessian' button; diameter 17.34mm, weight 2g. 18th – 19th century.
- <026> MD 74. Plain flat, narrow washer; diameter 15.56mm, weight 1g. Modern.
- <027> MD 75. Small fragment of sheet with incised parallel lines and chevron decorative motif on one side. The piece is damaged with cuts and nicks, possibly representing the reduction of a larger object for recycling. Length 33.5mm, weight 2g. Undated, possibly Medieval belt plate or similar.
- <029> MD 79. Half-penny of Edward VII (bust uncrowned) dated 1909; diameter 25.62mm, weight 5g.
- <030> MD 81. Length of copper piping; plumber's off-cut. Diameter 9.66mm, weight 28g. Modern.
- <031> MD MD 128. Four-hole button; diameter 13.65mm, weight 1g. 19th – early 20th century.
- <032> MD 131. Domed uniform/livery button; diameter 14.57mm, weight 2g. 19th – early 20th century.
- <033> MD 143. Four hole button; diameter 16.53mm, weight 2g. 19th – 20th century.
- <035> MD 162. Cone off a small candle snuffer; height 34.37mm, weight 10g. 17th – 18th century.
- <036> MD 165. Small cylindrical tube with loop at one end – possible terminal hook/loop for chain link item such as a bracelet or similar; length 15.6mm, diameter 4.55mm, weight 1g. 19th century.
- <037>. MD 166. Copper-zinc alloy Tombac(k) or 'Hessian' button with surviving loop; diameter 25.38mm, weight 6g. 18th – 19th century.
- <038> MD 172. Small sheet or binding fragment, 12.86mm wide, weight 1g. Undated, but probably modern.
- <039> MD 174. Copper-zinc alloy Tombac(k) or 'Hessian' button; diameter 22.95mm, weight 4g. 18th – 19th century.
- <040> MD 175. Small irregular shaped sheet fragment; length 21.63mm, weight 1g. Modern.
- <041> MD 192. Flattened thimble; weight 3g. 19th century.
- <042> MD 193. Bottom half of tear/heart-shaped garter or braces/belt slip hook; length 34.53mm, weight 7g. 19th – 20th century.
- <043> MD 194. Plain button with traces of gilt on reverse, no loop. Diameter 20.96mm, weight 4g. 18th – 19th century.
- <044> MD 206. Small pulley fitment; length 28.2mm, weight 8g. Modern – 20th century.
- <045> MD 314. Relatively thick (2.4mm) curved flat sheet or ring with remains of perforation and number '2' on one side; weight 2g. Modern.
- <046> MD 321. Plain gilt button missing loop; diameter 18.76mm, weight 3g. 19th century.

<82> MD 73. Copper alloy rivet with surviving leather, probably from a harness of similar; modern. Diameter 14.46mm, weight 5g.

Lead and Pewter

<028> MD 76. Small decorative (flower and petals) finial from an 18th century tobacco box; height 16.95mm, weight 8g.

<034> MD 159. Large, possibly pewter, plate fragment folded into irregular shape, with possible rim edge. Width 76.45mm, weight 14g. Undated, possibly post-Medieval due to preservation condition.

<060> MD 51. Pyramidal, straight sided with rectangular base. Height 16.04mm, base 9.85mm x 14.21mm; weight 11g. Post-Medieval, possibly an apothecary's weight or similar.

<066> MD 126. Fragment tube or bar with a right-angled bend; diameter 5.83mm, weight 13g. Undated, probably post-Medieval.

<063> MD 68. Small sub-circular repair or stopper of uneven thickness; 17.68mm x 19.6mm, weight 13g. Undated, probably post-Medieval.

<069> MD 149. Lead musket or pistol ball made in a two part mould; diameter 16.41mm, weight 17g.

<073> MD 168. Broken, circular, bottle-top like disc; diameter 24.56mm, weight 8g. Post-Medieval?

<079> MD 191. Lead repair, probably for a piece of pottery or a vessel. The larger part of the repair is slightly domed and sub-rectangular (17.3mm x 17.8mm) and the other circular and flat, (diameters 18mm); weight 27g. Possibly Roman or Medieval.

<081> MD 307. Lead square shaped repair or spacer, with narrow waist; 21mm x 18.42mm, weight 30g. Undated.

The remaining 19 fragments of lead, total weight 575g, were all scrap, casting debris or spills and non-diagnostic.

Iron

<047> MD 6. Square cross-sectioned handmade nail with small head; length 71.87mm, weight 9g. Undated.

<048> MD 96. Broken and heavy curved knife or sickle/scythe blade; length 128mm, weight 56g. Undated; probably post-Medieval.

<049> MD 135. Square cross-sectioned handmade nail with square washer at one end; length 87.47mm, weight 32g. Undated.

<050> MD 161. Chape from an iron buckle; 42.15mm x 49.8mm, weight 20g. Post-Medieval.

<051> MD 179. Large terret ring or rein guide from a cart or horse-drawn carriage; weight 49g. Post-Medieval.

<052> MD 308. Square cross-sectioned handmade nail with flat triangular head; length 59.46mm, weight 10g. Undated.

<053> MD 310. Fragment of square cross-sectioned horseshoe with two in situ nails; width 14.3mm, thickness 10.94mm, weight 46g. Post-Medieval.

<054> MD 315. Large circular cross-sectioned joiner's dog or staple. Weight 78g, length *c.* 92mm. Post-Medieval.

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APPENDIX A

Pottery spot dates

Finds No.	Date	Notes
9	Iron Age	
26	Iron Age	
27	Roman	2nd-4th AD
29	Post Med	
33	Post Med	C16-17 GRE
34	Post Med	C16-17 GRE
35	Roman	
37	Roman?	
55	Roman	
59	Post Med	C17 CRE
60	Roman?	
66	Roman	
69	Roman	2nd-4th AD
70	Roman	
80	Roman	2nd-4th AD
82	Roman	2nd-4th AD
85	Iron Age	
86	Roman	2nd-4th AD
89	Roman	Mid 2nd-3rd AD
90	Roman	3rd-4th AD
91	Iron Age	
94	Iron Age	
100	Roman	2nd-4th AD
101	Roman	2nd-4th AD
102	Iron Age	
103	Roman	2nd-3rd AD
104	Iron Age	
105	Roman	3rd-4th AD
108	Iron Age	
113	Roman	2nd-4th AD
114	Roman	
117	Roman	2nd-3rd AD
118	Roman	
119	Roman	2nd-4th AD
120	Roman	3rd-4th AD
121	Roman	2nd-4th AD
129	Roman	
133	Iron Age	
136	Roman	2nd-3rd AD
137	Roman	
138	Iron Age	
139	Roman	
140	Roman	

141	Iron Age	
142	Roman	
145	Roman	
146	Post Med	C17-18 GRE
148	Iron Age	
154	Roman	2nd-4th AD
155	Roman	3rd-4th AD
156	Roman	
157	Med	C15
158	Post Med	C17 CRE
160	Roman	
169	Post Med	C17
176	Roman	
183	Roman	2nd-4th AD
187	Post Med	C17 GRE
198	Late Iron Age	
202	Iron Age	
203	Roman	2nd-3rd AD
204	Med	C13 Lyveden Ware
205	Med	C14 - 15
207	Med	C15 - 16
210	Iron Age / Med	Late Iron Age or C13
211	Roman	1st-2nd AD
212	Late Iron Age	
215	Roman	
216	Roman	2nd-4th AD
217	Iron Age	
218	Med	C15
220	Med	St. Neots C10-12
221	Iron Age / Roman	
229	Post Med	C17 CRE
230	Roman	
231	Iron Age / Roman	
232	Post Med	C17 CRE
234	Roman	2nd-4th AD
237	Iron Age / Roman	
238	Roman	
239	Roman	
240	Roman	2nd-4th AD
242	Roman	
243	Iron Age	
244	Med	C13 - 14
245	Roman	
247	Med	C15
250	Post Med	C17 CRE
251	Roman	
252	Med	C15 reduced ware
253	Post Med - Mod	Omit from plot

256	Post Med	C17 GRE
258	Roman	
260	Post Med	C17 CRE
261	Post RB	
264	Med	C13 Lyveden Ware
265	Roman	
266	Post Med	C16 GRE
267	Roman	2nd-3rd AD
270	Med	C14
272	Med	C13
276	Post Med	C17 GRE
279	Med	C15, burnt
280	Roman?	
281	Post Med	C17 GRE
283	Med	C15
286	Post Med	C17
289	Post Med	C17 CRE
290	Med	C15
300	Iron Age / Roman	
302	Roman	
303	Roman	
304	Roman	
305	Med	C13 Lyveden Ware
313	Med	C14-C15 plain red ware
317	Roman?	
318	Med	C15
320	Late Iron Age	
336	Post Med	C18 black glazed pancheon
341	Post Med	C17 GRE
346	Med	C15 reduced ware
351	Med/Post med	
353	Post Med	C17 pancheon rim
354	Iron Age	
	*GRE = Glazed Red Earthenware *CRE = Course Red Earthenware	

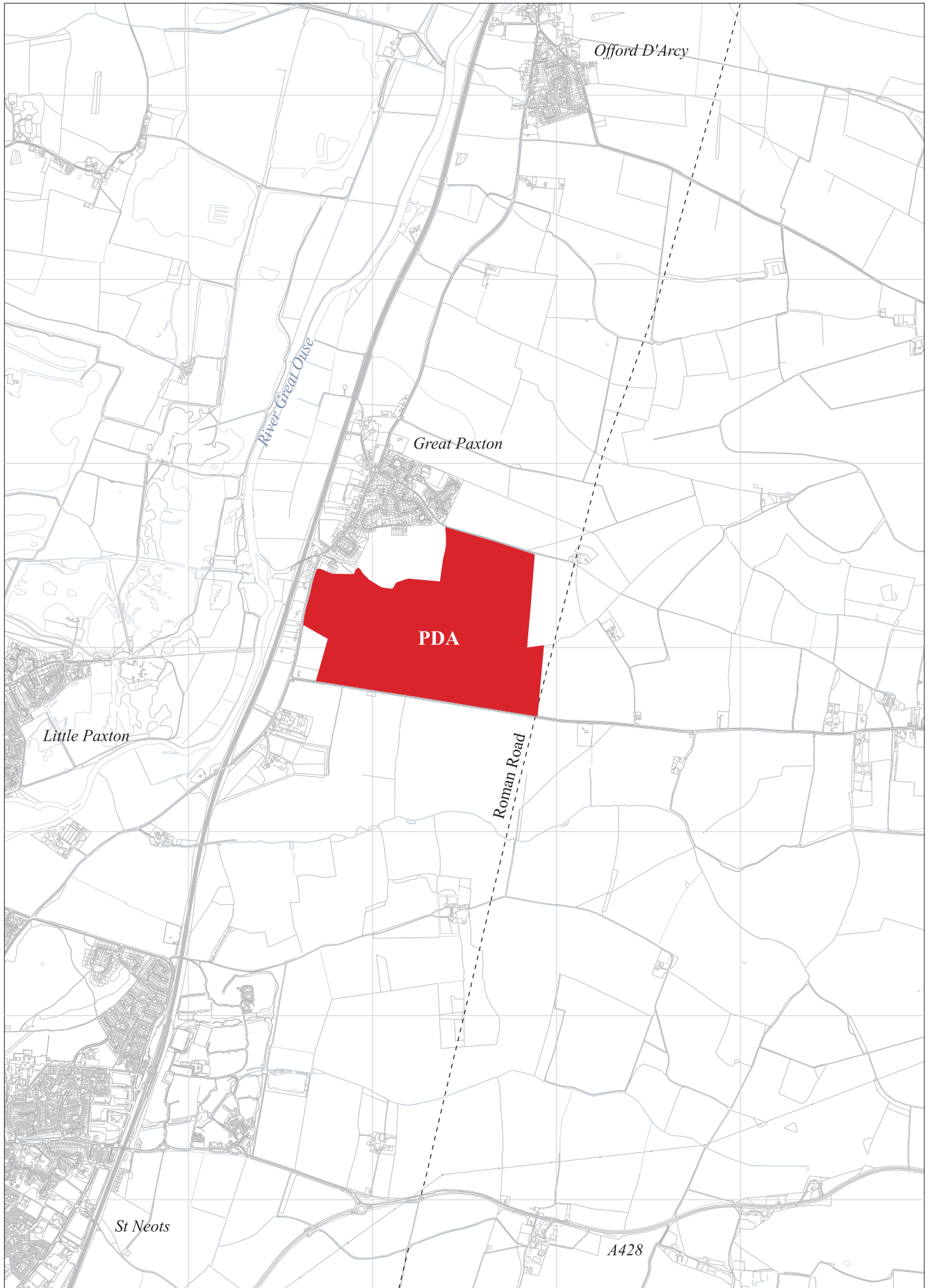


Figure 1. Location map

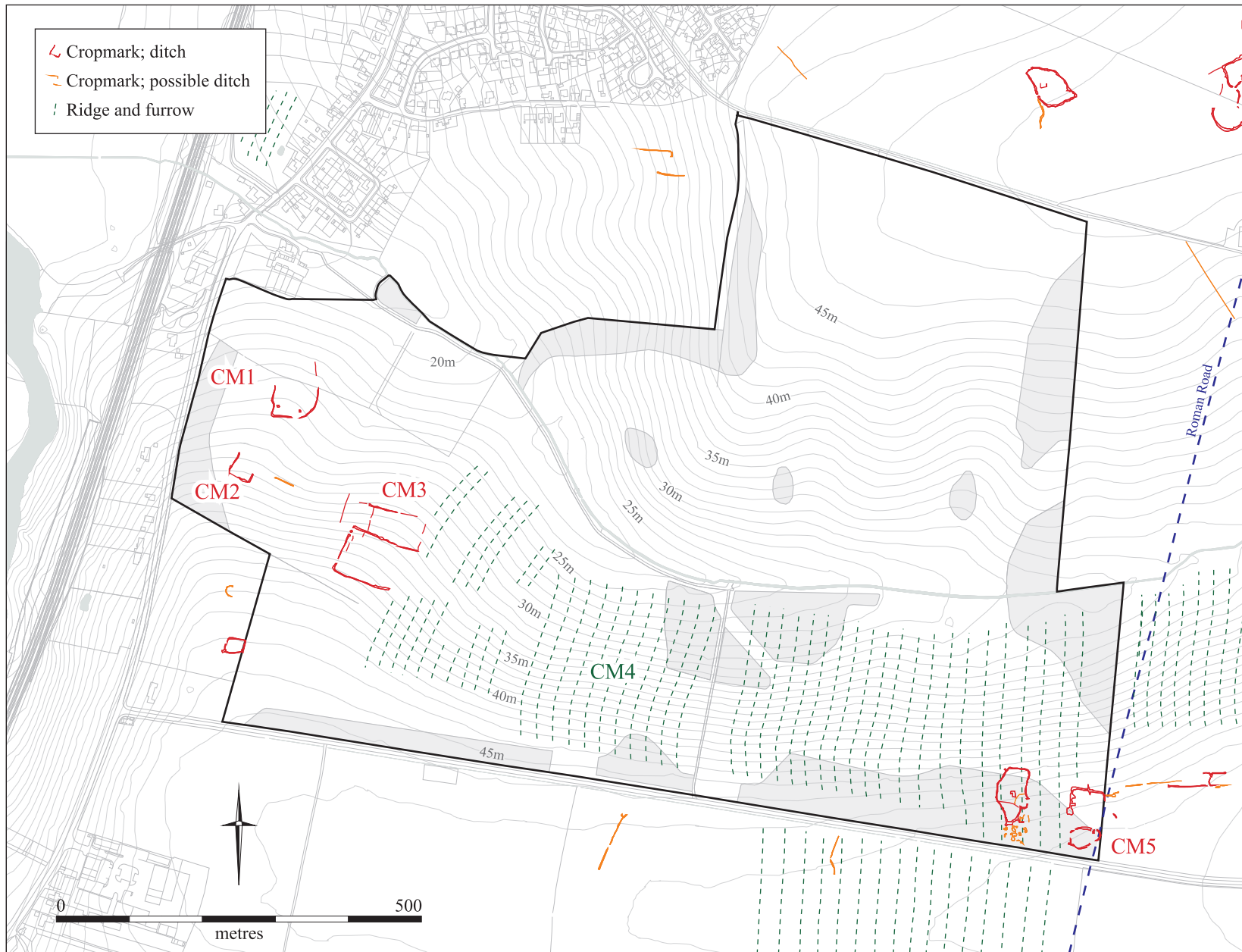


Figure 2. Cropmarks and topography

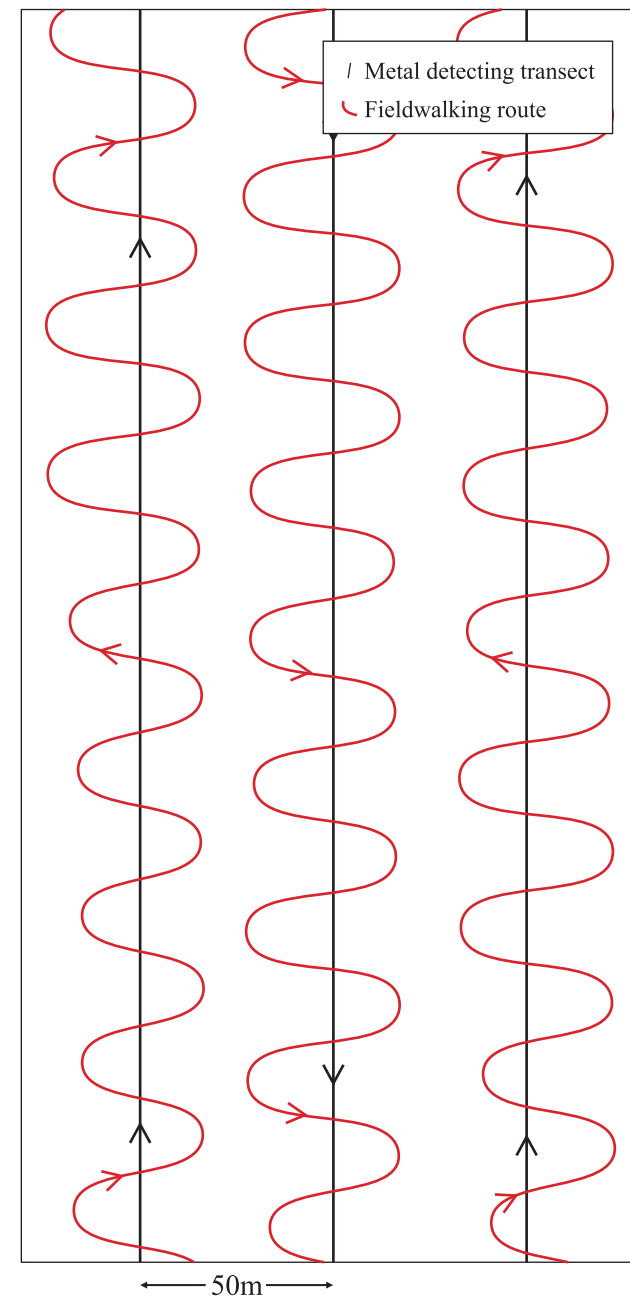
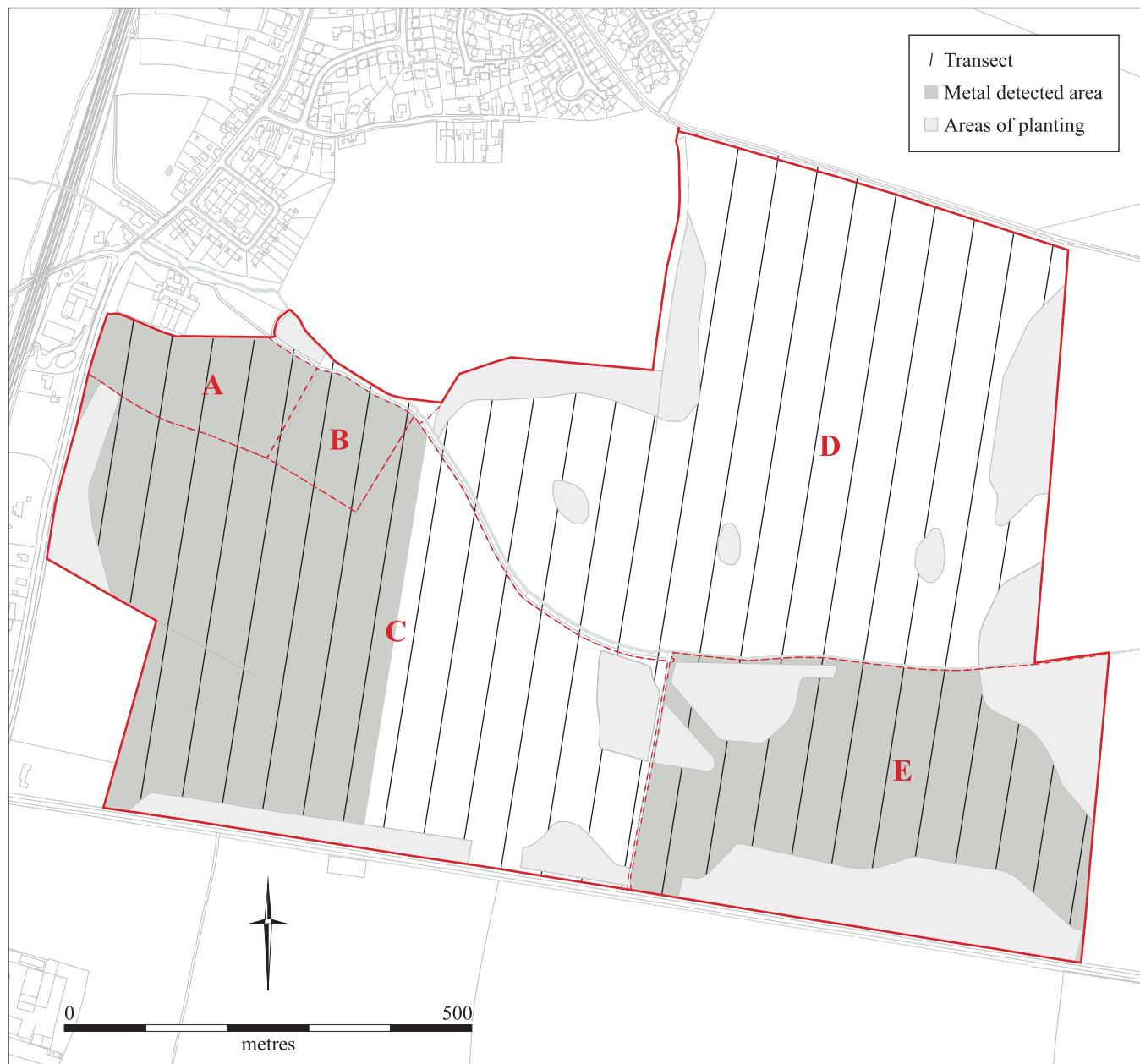


Figure 3. Plan of transects and metal detected area with method diagram



Figure 4. Plot of flint and worked/burnt stone

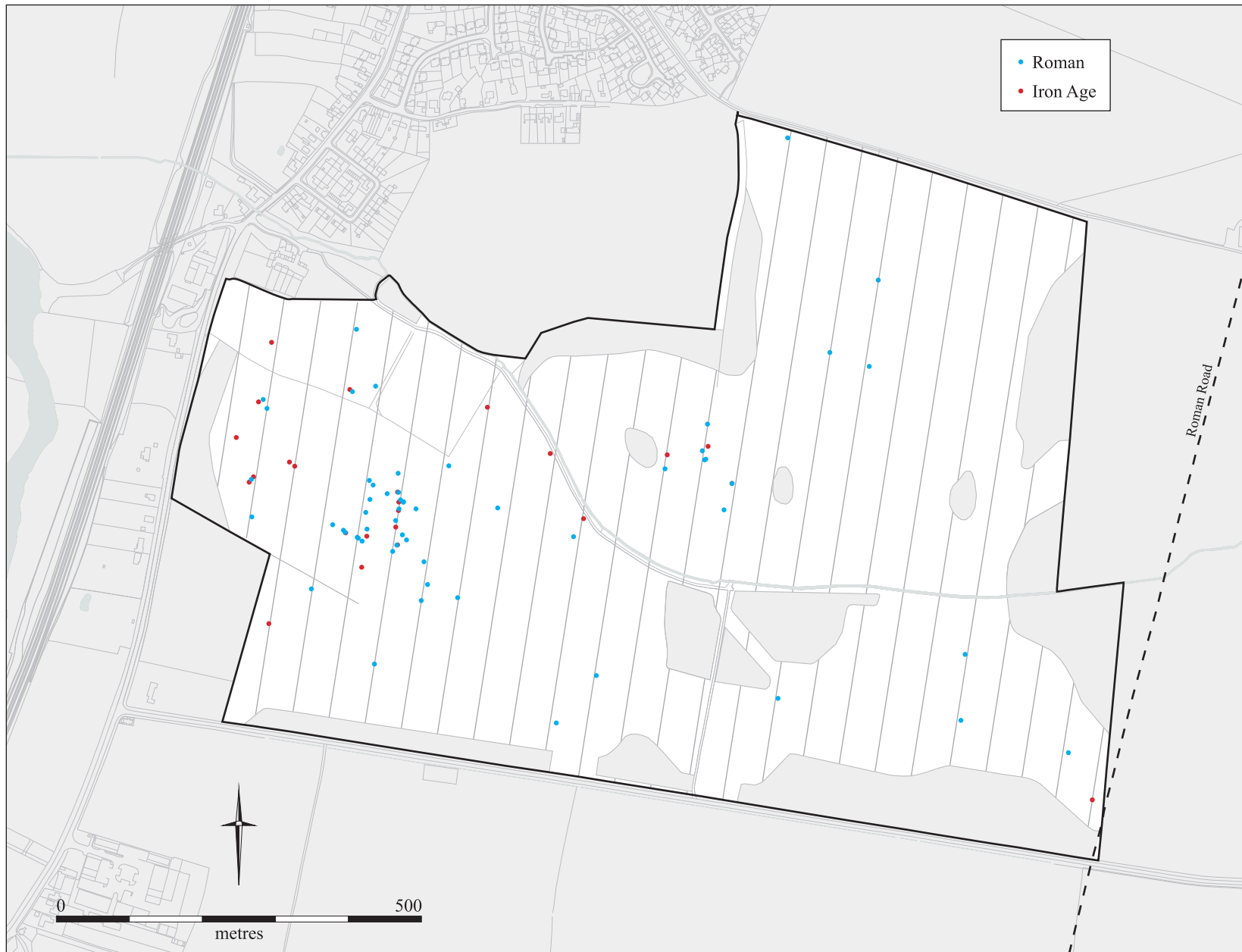


Figure 5. Plot of Iron Age and Roman pottery

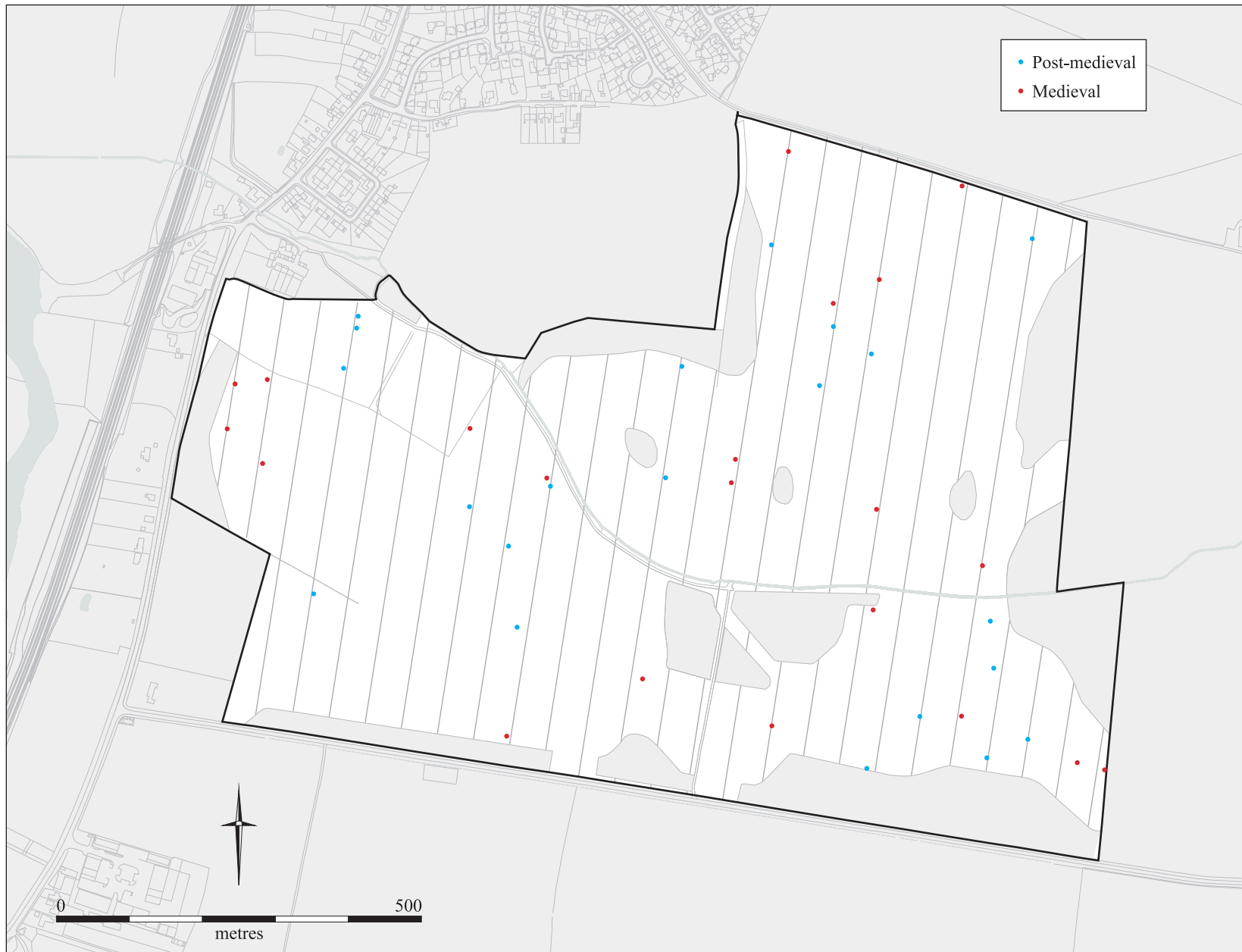


Figure 6. Plot of medieval and early post-medieval pottery

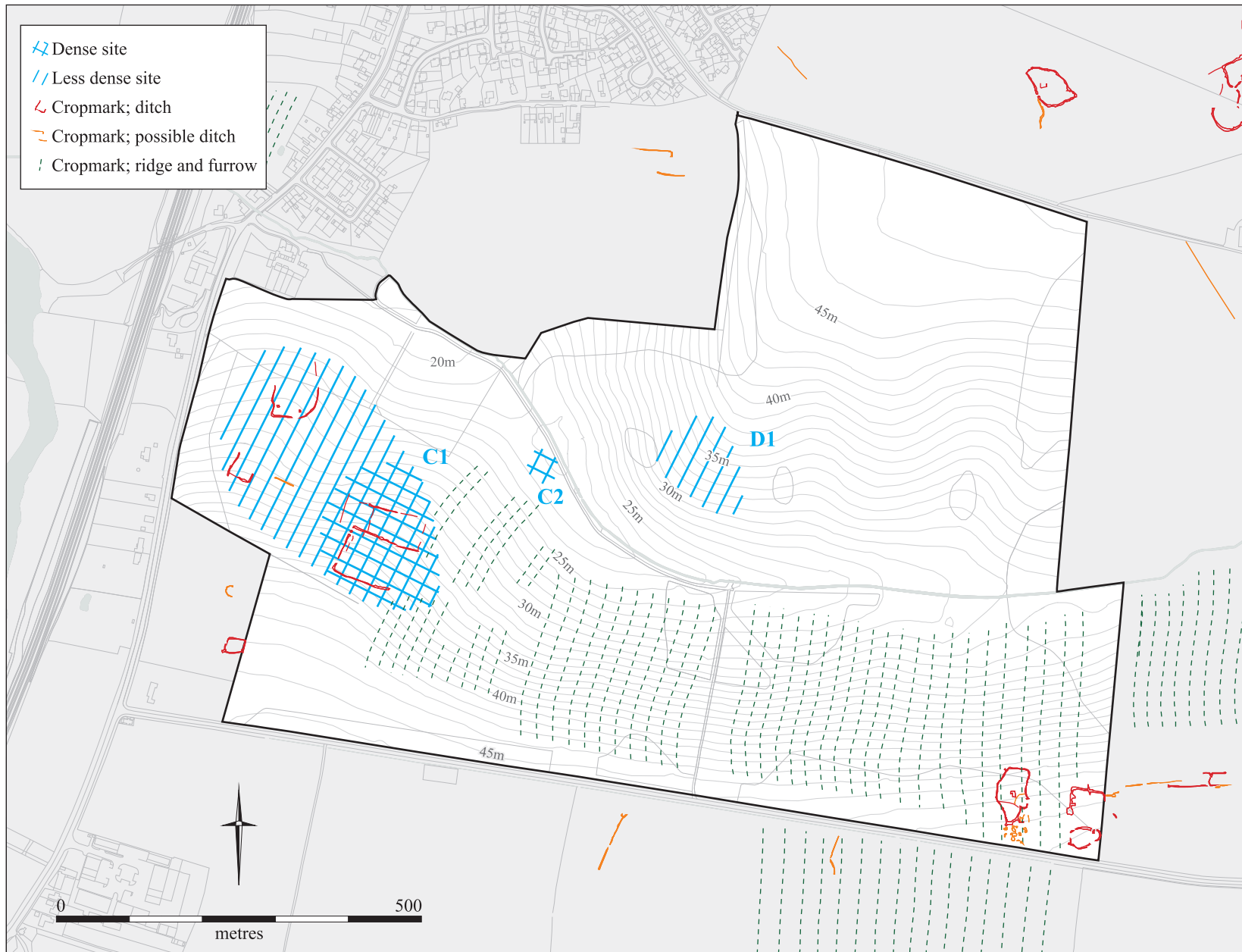


Figure 7. Identified sites

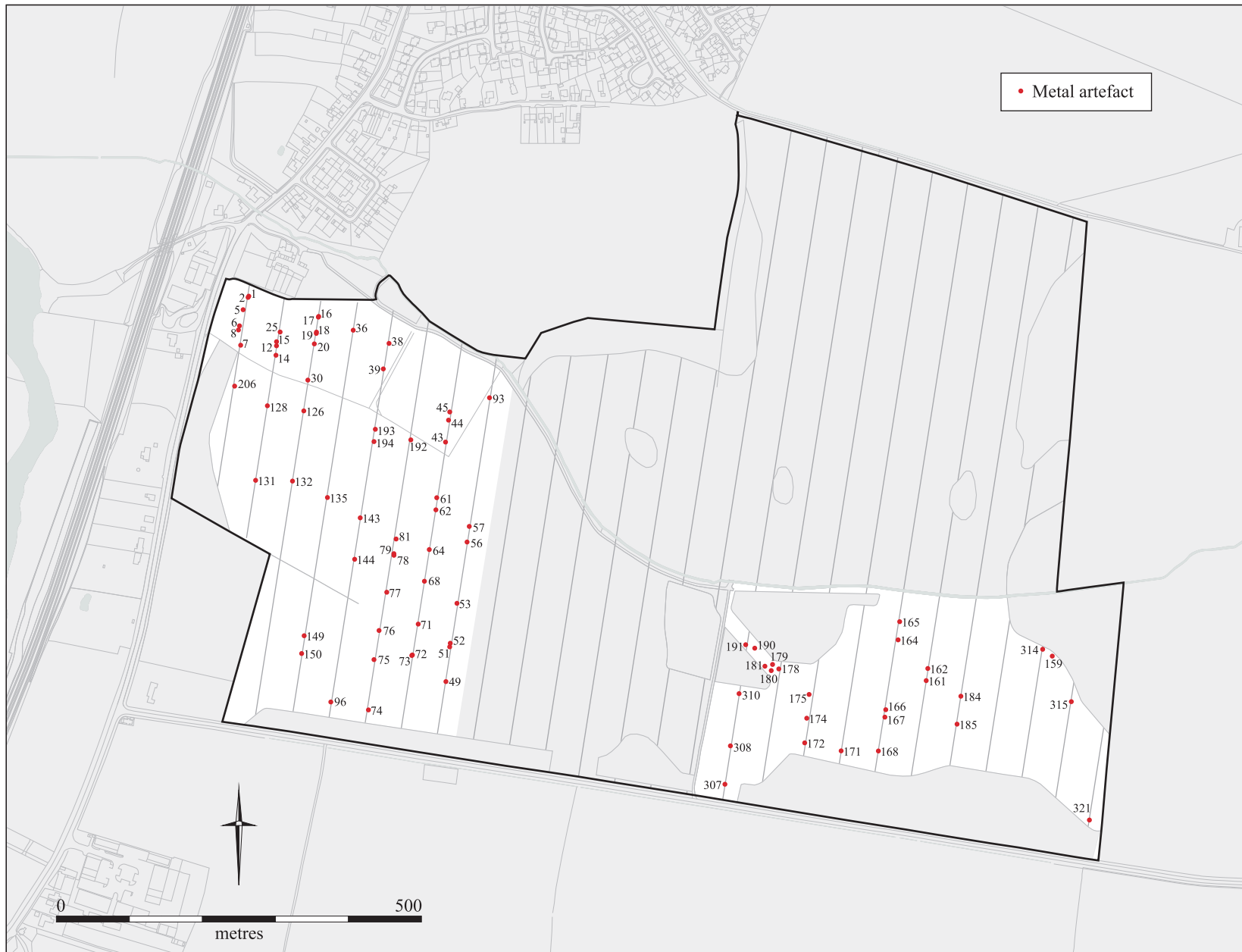


Figure 8. Plot of metal artefacts



Plate 1. The PDA from the east.



Plate 2. The PDA from the north. Sites C1 and C2 are situated on the north facing slope in the background of the photograph.

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-70378

Project details

Project name	Land south of Great Paxton, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Field Survey Results
Short description of the project	Archaeological field survey, comprising fieldwalking and metal detecting, was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) at Great Paxton, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 213 632). A separate geophysical survey was also carried out by Bartlett Clark Consulting. The field survey identified three finds scatters representing two definite sites and one potential site. The sites comprise two Iron Age / Roman pottery scatters, one of which coincides with a cropmark visible on aerial photographs, and a prehistoric flint scatter.
Project dates	Start: 18-11-2009 End: 01-12-2009
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GPS 09 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3312 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	ARTEFACT SCATTER Early Prehistoric
Monument type	ARTEFACT SCATTER Late Prehistoric
Monument type	ARTEFACT SCATTER Iron Age
Monument type	ARTEFACT SCATTER Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Medieval

Methods & techniques	'Fieldwalking','Geophysical Survey','Metal Detectors'
Development type	Golf course
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE GREAT PAXTON Land south of Great Paxton
Postcode	PE19 6
Study area	87.70 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 213 632 52.2531765362 -0.222795404623 52 15 11 N 000 13 22 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.00m Max: 45.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Emma Beadsmoore
Project director/manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Jonathan Tabor
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Michael Taylor

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	GPS 09
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	GPS 09
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'GIS','Geophysics','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	GPS 09
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Metal'
Paper Media available	'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land south of Great Paxton, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Tabor, J.L.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 912
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
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