Field Walking Report

Land West of Mill Lane
Great Malvern
Worcestershire

Field Walking Report

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1	Alexandra Latham Supervisor	Gerry Thacker Project Officer	Ian Scott	

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Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oxford archaeology.com
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Land west of Mill Lane, Great Malvern, Worcestershire

Archaeological Fieldwalking Report

Written by Alexandra Latham and Gerry Thacker

with contributions from John Cotter and illustrated by Emily Plunkett

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Summary

During the 10th and 11th of April 2013 Oxford Archaeology undertook a fieldwalking survey on land to the west of Mill Lane within the Poolbrook area of Great Malvern, Worcestershire. The majority of the field was accessible and pottery, clay pipe and ceramic building material was recovered. The majority of the finds date to the late post-medieval period, although a few sherds of Malvernian ware of likely late medieval / early post medieval date, and a single sherd of Roman date were also found. No prehistoric pottery or struck flint was recovered.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 During 10th to the 11th of April 2013 Oxford Archaeology carried out a systematic fieldwalking survey on land to the west of Mill Lane, Poolbrook, Great Malvern on behalf of CgMs Consulting.

1.1.2 The field, which is around 3.7 hectares in size, is situated on the eastern edge of Great Malvern. The site is bounded to the north by a residential development, to the west and south by agricultural land and to the east by Mill Lane (Fig. 1).

1.1.3 The field was sited at 40m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) at the centre, rising up to 45m AOD along the western and eastern edges.

1.2 Archaeological and historical background

1.2.1 The following information was compiled from public source documents.

1.2.2 The name Poolbrook is derived from the various pools which used to be situated in the area, including Bell's Pool, Aikley's Pool, Hunt's Pool and Hastings' Pool, and the brook which runs through the village off the Malvern Hills eventually joining the river Severn. Of these pools the only still surviving is Hastings' Pool.

1.2.3 A pottery industry based within the Malvern area left remains dating from the Late Bronze Age to the Norman Conquest. Products were traded as far as South Wales, via the River Severn.

1.2.4 William I designated the land around Malvern as a Royal Forest, including not only his land at Hanley lying to the east of the Hills, but also much of the surrounding area including Poolbrook. In this instance 'forest' being a legal term where special laws applied giving protection to game for hunting. It did not necessarily imply ownership, and much of what became the Malvern Chase was never owned by the king. However it did mean that those having rights of Common which included the right to graze certain animals and collect firewood could exercise them throughout the Chase rather than just in the manor of which they were tenants.

1.2.5 It was nearly 600 years before further recorded changes took place. Charles I, looking for ways to raise money had a survey made of the Malvern Chase in 1628. A charter of 'disafforestation' was signed at Westminster in March 1632. The charter included an agreement that the king would give up all crown rights over the Chase in exchange for one third of the common land which he promptly sold. Gradually (with the interruption of the Civil War) the common land was subject to enclosure.

1.3 Acknowledgements

1.3.1 OA would like to acknowledge William Bedford of CgMs Consulting who commissioned the work. The project was supervised for OA by Alexandra Latham with the assistance of Tom Black and Emily Plunkett. The fieldwork was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker.

2 Fieldwalking Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of field walking survey was to:

- seek to provide information on the presence/absence of finds in topsoil across the area.
- provide information about the date and distribution of any finds recovered from the area to aid in defining any future archaeological works.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 All works were carried out in full accordance with the appropriate IFA by-laws, standards and policies.

2.2.2 The site was divided up into 25 transects, each 10 meters apart and up to 160m in length, and generally aligned at 90º to the northern field boundary. Each 10m segment of each transect was assigned a context number based on the transect number, for example transect 6, 0-10m = 600, 10-20m = 601, 20-30m = 602 etc, and the finds were placed in pre-labelled bags accordingly.

2.2.3 Several transects (1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25 and 26 could not be investigated due the ground being unploughed and under pasture (see Fig. 2).

2.2.4 All artefacts were cleaned and processed in line with UKIC recommended standards (1996). The finds were classified by material and artefact class and spot-dated to broad period categories. The finds were washed and bagged with their identifying code before being sorted by date and type into the following classes:

- Roman pottery
- medieval pottery
- post-medieval pottery
- clay pipe
- ceramic building material

2.2.5 The post medieval pottery and clay pipe were further subdivided into broad categories including 17th -18th century, 18th -19th century and 19th century.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 Results are presented graphically in Figure 3 which shows the distribution of the finds and the table in Appendix A lists the transect, block, artefact type and date. A brief description of the pottery forms the contents of Appendix B.

3.2 General ground conditions

3.2.1 The ground conditions were generally good, although the field had had not been recently ploughed and the remains the crop were still evident on surface. Certain areas of the field were under gpasture, and could not be walked (Fig 2).

3.3 Finds retention policy

3.3.1 Ceramic building material was recovered from across the field, retained and briefly examined. This class of material was not however of sufficient age to merit further examination or retention. Items which were clearly of modern origin such as plastics were also discarded.

3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 In total 206 sherds of pottery were recovered. The sherds ranged in date from Roman (a single sherd) to late post medieval (pottery of Victorian date representing the majority). Twenty pieces of clay pipe were recovered, mainly represented by stem fragments and with two 18th century exceptions, all were of nineteenth century date.

4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The field had not been recently ploughed, and the remnants of the previous crop remained. However artefact visibility was good in most cases, although transects 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24 and 25 were in grassed areas within which no finds were visible.

4.2 Fieldwalking objectives and results

4.2.1 Finds were recovered from across the available areas of the field. These were spot dated and the results are shown in Figure 3, with symbols indicating the various dates, quantities and types of artefacts recovered.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The plot of the recovered artefacts (Fig. 3) does not indicate any clusters of material pre-dating the post medieval period. Although several sherds of a likely late medieval/ early post medieval date (Malvernian wares) were recovered these are evenly distributed throughout the accessible transects. That a single Roman sherd was recovered (Severn Valley ware) is to be expected given the local origin of much of this pottery.

4.3.2 The majority of the pottery is likely to have arrived on the field through the practise of manuring, and after the deforestation of the area during the reign of Charles I.

4.3.3 No prehistoric pottery or struck flint was recovered during the course of the fieldwork, although there was an emphasis on the recovery of these classes of material.

Appendix A. Finds by Transect and Block

Context	Pot sherds	Spot-date	Clay Pipes	Pipe date	Comments
400	3	19C			TPW (Transfer Printed Ware)
403	2	19C			Mod stoneware, blackware (local black-glazed cream/buff earthenware)
404	1	19C	1	19C	Mouthpiece, TPW
407	1	19C			TPW
408	1	19C			TPW
410	1	1770-1830			CREA (Creamware)
500			2	19C	
502	1	18/19C			Prob flowerpot rim. Local post-med redware (PMR). Fresh
503			1	19C	
504			1	19C	
511	1	19C			TPW
514	1	1770-1830			CREA
517	1	19C			TPW
518	1	19C			TPW
600	2	19C			TPW
601	2	19C			TPW
602	1	19C			TPW
605	1	1380-1550?			V worn body Malvernian ware?
606	1	19C			TPW
607			1	18/E19C	
608			1	19C	
612	1	1380-1550?			Worn bo Malvernian ware - poss 15/16C?
613	1	1380-1550?			Worn bo Malvernian ware - poss 15/16C?
701	1	19C			TPW & v worn bo blackware with glaze speck?
704	1	1770-1830			CREA
705	1	19C			TPW

712			1	18C	
713	1	ROMAN	1	19C	Worn scrap (1g) Severn Valley ware (seen by P Booth)
717	1	19C			TPW
719	1	18/19C			Blackware
710			1	19C	
718	1	1380-1550?	1	E18C	Malvernian ware? Worn body, or poss post-med?
720	2	19C			TPW, Blackware
801	1	1380-1550?	1	19C	Worn jar bo ? Malvernian ware with int glaze
802	2	17/18C			Blackware rim (glazed) & prob med 13/14C early Malvernian ware inturned cookpot rim, reduc fabric with coarse grits (seen by P Booth)
804	2	1770-1830			CREA, PMR (Post-med redware)
807	1	18/19C			Blackware
808	2	19C			TPW, local buff slipware pad base
809	1	1380-1550			Worn sagging ?jar base Malvernian ware
810	1	1770-1830			CREA
813	1	1380-1550?			Malvernian ware? V worn cookpot rim or edge of handle?
814	2	1770-1830			CREA, Black
816	1	19C			TPW
817	3	1770-1830			CREA, Black
818	1	17-19C?	1	19C	Small bo PMR or fine Malvernian?
819	3	18/19C			Black bowl rim, PMR flowerpot
901	1	17-19C?			Worn thick basal frag prob post-med blackware lacking glaze
902	1	17-E19C			V worn ?blackware large bowl/pancheon

					rim, traces glaze
903	2	19C			Mod stoneware, blackware
904	1	18/19C			PMR
905	1	18/19C			Black or Midlands Purple?
907	2	19C			TPW
909	1	19C			TPW
912	1	18/19C			Black
917	5	19C			TPW, YELL (Yellow Ware), Black
1001	3	19C			TPW
1002	3	19C			YELL, Black, SWSG (Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware 1720-1780)
1003	3	1780-1840			PEAR (Pearlware), CREA
1007			1	19C	
1011	1	18/19C			Black jar base
1012	1	18/19C			Black/STMO (Staffs mottled brown ware)
1017	1	1770-1830			CREA
1019	1	1380-1550?			Malvernian ware? Worn body with int glaze
1104	3	1780-1840			PEAR, CREA
1111	1	1770-1830			CREA
1113	2	E19C			YELL, Staffs slipware
1114	1	19C			TPW
1116	1	19C	2	19C	TPW & Joining pipe stems
1117	1	19C			TPW
1200	1	19C			TPW
1204	2	E19C			YELL, CREA
1207	1	1380-1550			Unglazed body Malvernian ware
1208	1	19C			Mod stoneware
1210	1	19C			TPW
1212	1	18/19C			Black
1214	1	19C			TPW

1216	1	1380-1550?			Malvernian ware? Worn body
1217	1	1380-1550?			Worn pad base Malvernian ware
1301	5	19C			TPW, PEAR, CREA
1304	2	19C			TPW, CREA
1308	1	19C			TPW
1313	3	19C			TPW
1314	2	1770-1840			PEAR, CREA
1400	3	19C			Bone china with transfer pint dec, Black, 1x rim v large unglazed cream stoneware drainpipe?
1401	1	1770-1830			CREA
1402	5	1770-1840			PEAR, Black, PMR
1403	5	19C			TPW, CREA, flowerpot
1404	1	18/19C			Black mug/jug base
1406	3	19C			TPW
1407	2	18/19C			Black or Jackfield-type, PMR
1408	2	18/19C			Black
1410	1	17-19C?			Small ?jug handle frag unglazed local orange-buff ware with white slip blob decoration
2100	27	E20C			TPW wall tiles incls 'Made in England', TPW, flowerpot, Black, 1x piece black plastic [Also 1x blue glass bottle - modern. Not in totals]
2101	3	19/20C			TPW prob including frag water closet
2102	1	19/20C			ENPO English Porcelain [Also 1x plastic ?electric insulator mid 20C?]
2103	2	19/20C			ENPO, TPW
2104	2	19C			ENPO, TPW, flowerpot
2105	3	19C			TPW, PEAR

2106	1	1770-1840			PEAR
2114	2	19C			TPW
2201	3	19C			TPW
2202	3	19C			TPW
2203	4	19/E20C			Mod stoneware, TPW
2204	8	19C			TPW, Blackware
2205	2	19C			TPW
2206	3	19C			TPW
2207	4	19C			TPW, ENPO
2211	1	19C	1	19C	TPW
2213	1	19C	2	19C	TPW
2214	1	1770-1840	1	19C	PEAR

Appendix B. Pottery

By John Cotter

B.1.1 The majority of the pottery recovered was late post medieval date and included local Midlands Black ware, Red ware (PMR) and Orange Buff ware. Other fabrics included Transfer Printed ware (TPW), Cream wares (CREA), Yellow ware (YELL), Midlands Purple ware, Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed ware (SWSG), Staffordshire Mottled Brown ware (STMO), Staffordshire Slip ware, Pearl ware (PEAR) and modern stonewares.

B.1.2 Several very worn sherds of Malvernian ware were recovered. This fabric has a date range of *c.* 1380-1550, although it can be 13th century locally. The examples recovered are however likely to fall into the later end of the date range, and are probably of 15th or 16th century date.

B.1.3 The single Severn Valley ware sherd recovered (713) was also in a very worn condition and could date anywhere between the 1st - 4th centuries (Paul Booth pers comm).

Appendix C. Bibliography and References

UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation), 1996. *Code of Ethics and Rules of Practice.* London UKIC.

Appendix D. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Land west of Mill Lane, Poolbrook, Great Malvern. Worcestershire

Site code: MAP13

Grid reference: SO 796 450

Type: Fieldwalking survey

Date and duration: 10 – 11 April 2013

Area of site: 3.7 hectares

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology undertook a fieldwalking survey on land to the west of Mill Lane within the Poolbrook area of Great Malvern, Worcestershire. The majority of the field was accessible and pottery, clay pipe and ceramic building material was recovered. The majority of the finds dated to the late post-medieval period, although a few sherds of Malvernian ware of likely late medieval / early post medieval date, and a single sherd of Roman date were also found. No prehistoric pottery or struck flint was recovered.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the appropriate County Museum in due course.

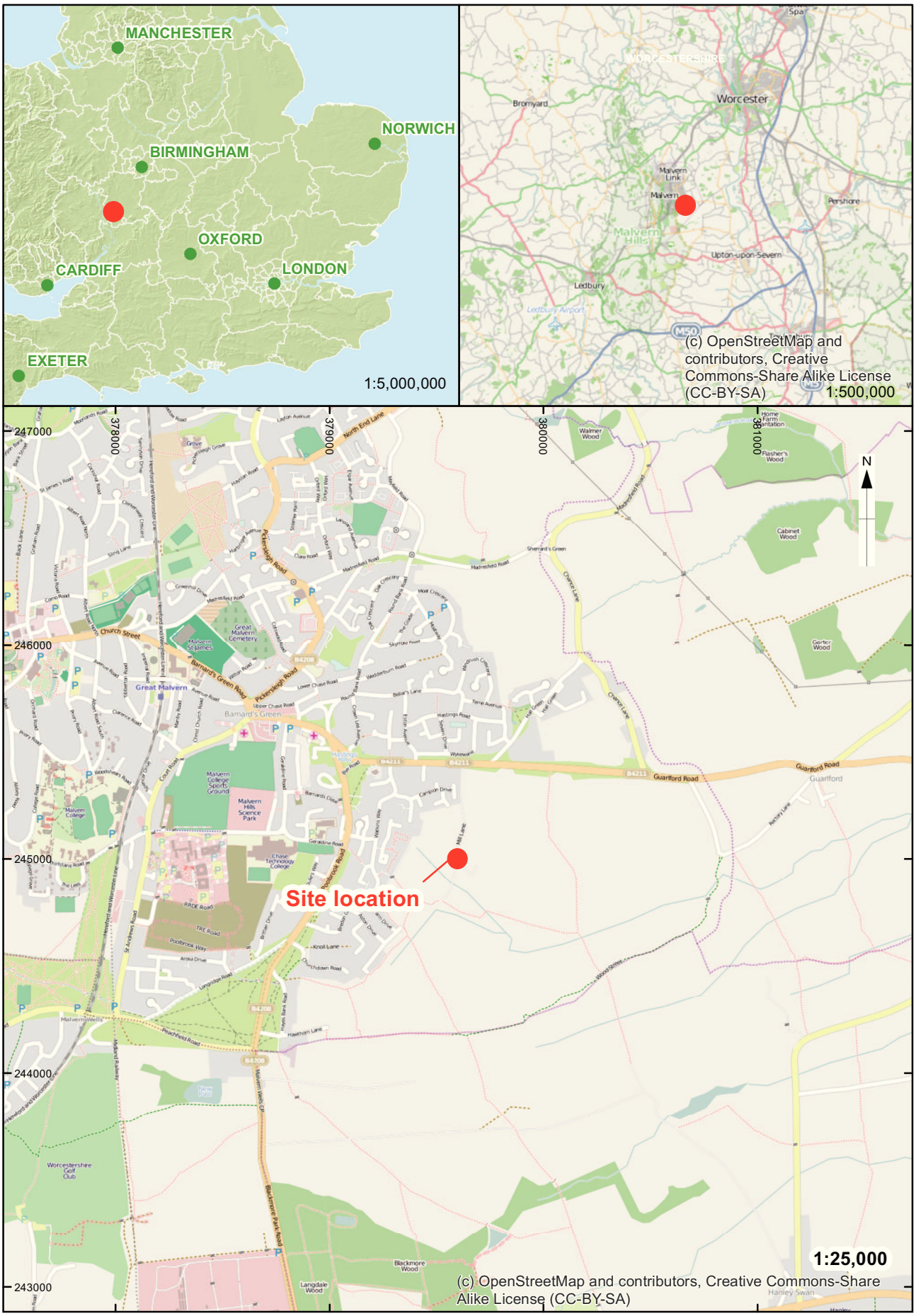

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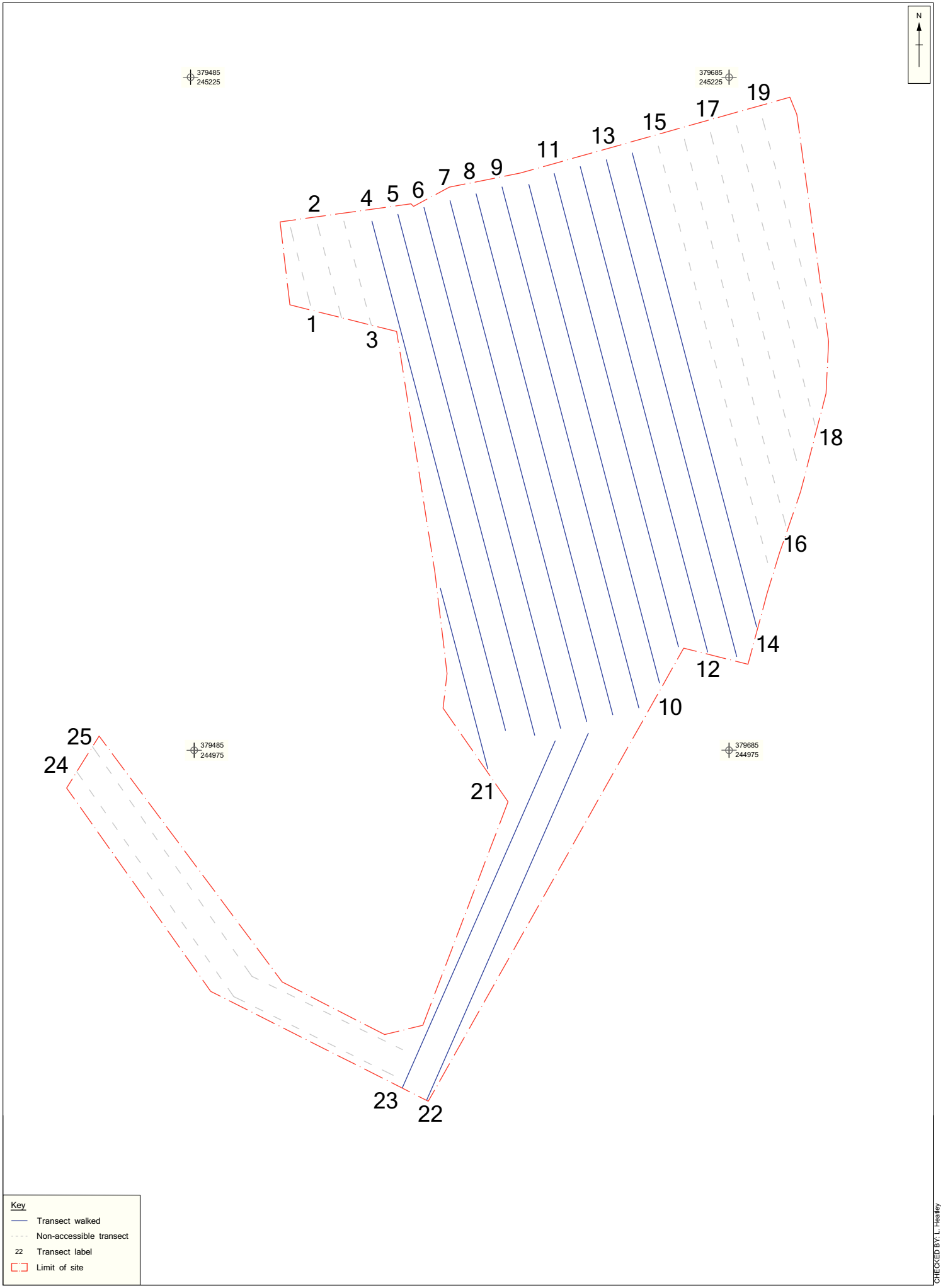
Figure 1: Site location

C:\oa\julia\Dobs Jobs\POOLMAFW\POOLMAFW_Figure01.mxd*julia.collins*01/05/2013

X:\Malvern Fieldwalking\010Geomatics\02 CAD\001current\blubell close Malvern.dwg(Layout1-A3 portrait)****Emily.Plunkett* 01 May 2013



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0 50 m

1:1250

Figure 2: Transects.

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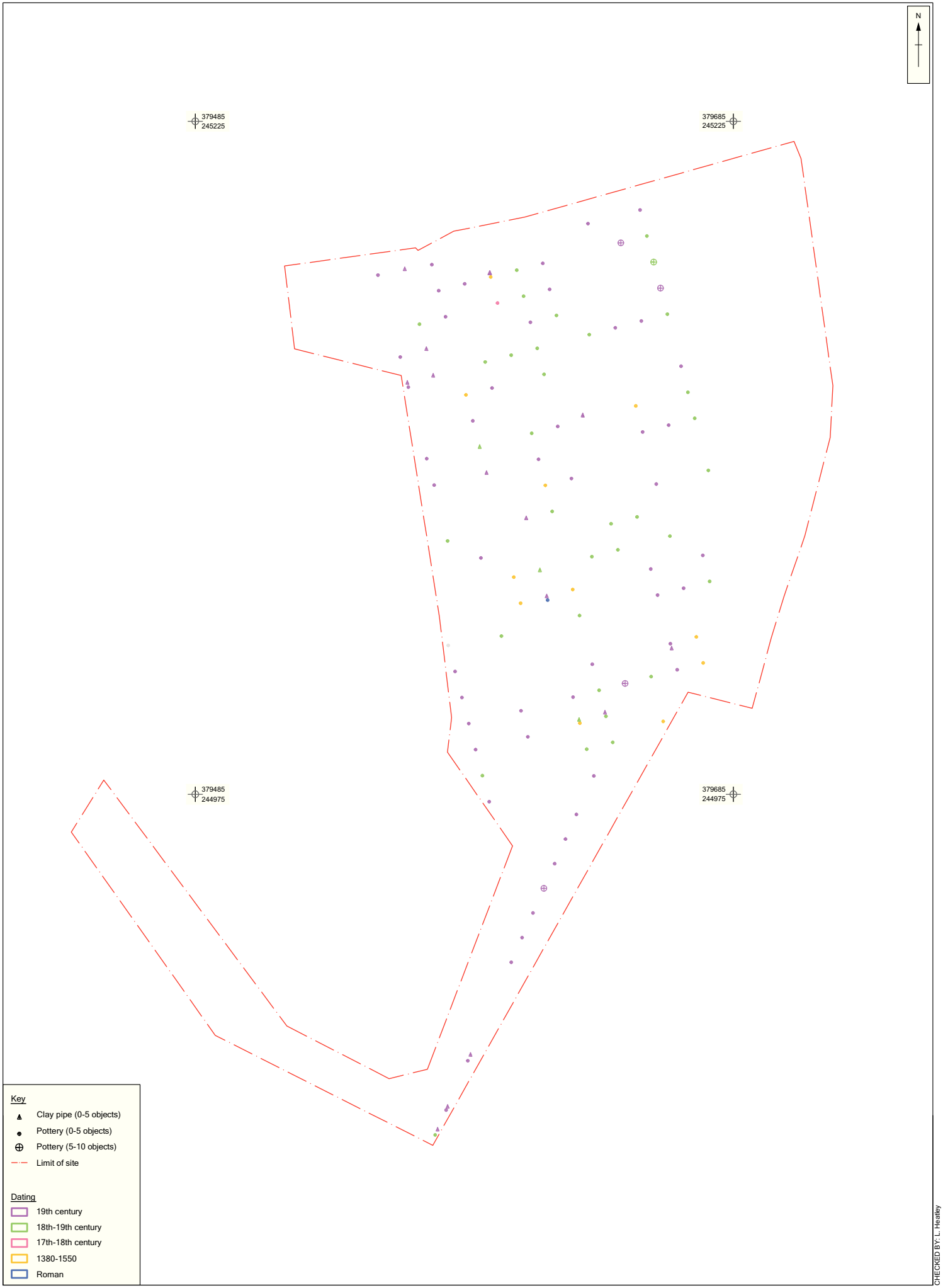

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0 50 m

1:1250 at A3

Figure 3: Finds distribution plot.

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0)1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0)1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
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