Field Walking and metal detector survey at Chilton Leys, Stowmarket

Archaeological Field Walking Report

oxfordarchaeology east east east

June 2012

Client: Taylor Wimpey Ltd.

OA East Report No: 1375
OASIS No: oxfordar3-129192
NGR: TM 0396 5997

Field Walking and metal detector survey at Chilton Leys, Stowmarket

Fieldwalking Summary

By Anthony Haskins MSc BSc (Hons) PIFA

Editor: Paul Spoerry PhD BTech (Hons) MIFA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

Report Date: June 2012

Report Number:	1375
Site Name:	Chilton Leys, Stowmarket
HER Event No:	HGH052
Date of Works:	June 2012
Client Name:	Taylor Wimpey Ltd.
Client Ref:	Text
Planning Ref:	N/A
Grid Ref:	TM 0396 5997
Site Code:	XSFSTM12
Finance Code:	XSFSTM12
Receiving Body:	Suffolk County Council
Accession No:	

Prepared by:	Anthony Haskins
Position:	Fieldwork Supervisor
Date:	

Checked by:	Paul Spoerry
Position:	Manager, OA East
Date:	2/7/12
Signed:	.....

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

Table of Contents

Summary **5**

1 Introduction **7**

1.1 Location and scope of work 7

1.2 Geology and topography 7

1.3 Archaeological and historical background 7

1.4 Acknowledgements 8

2 Aims and Methodology **9**

2.1 Aims 9

2.2 Methodology 9

3 Results **10**

3.1 Finds assemblage 10

3.2 Coins and Metal work 10

3.3 Industrial residue 11

3.4 Lithics 11

3.5 Prehistoric Pottery 12

3.6 Roman/Medieval Pottery 12

3.7 Modern Pottery 12

3.8 Clay pipe 12

3.9 Glass 12

3.10 CBM 12

4 Conclusions **13**

4.1 Discussion 13

4.2 Recommendations 13

Appendix A. Bibliography **14**

Appendix B. OASIS Report Form **15**

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location map

Fig. 2 Ceramic Building Material

Fig. 3 Modern material (Slate, Clay pipe, Slag, Modern pottery, Glass)

Fig. 4 Metalwork (Copper alloy and Iron objects)

Fig. 5 Coins

Fig. 6 Lead

Fig. 7 Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval pottery

Fig. 8 Lithics (Chalk object, Flint; Burnt, Cores and Tools)

List of Tables

Table 1 Finds Quantification Data

Summary

Field walking was carried out across the proposed development area of Chilton Leys, Stowmarket. The field walking aimed to identify areas of archaeological interest as an aid to evaluation trenching of the area at a later date.

Material from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age through to Medieval date was recovered including a Silver Irish long cross coin, dated to 1280 to 1307AD and a barbed and tanged arrowhead.

Two areas were identified as having a higher concentration of finds than the rest of the field.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 During the first week of June Oxford Archaeology East carried out fieldwalking across a c.11ha area south of the A14 on the northwest edge of Stowmarket. This was carried out in partial satisfaction of a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation provided by Sarah Poppy of Suffolk County Council (23/4/12).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The field under investigation is currently used for arable farming. It is L-shaped, with one arm lying adjacent to, and southwest of, the A14 dual carriageway, with the second arm extending south westwards from the northern end. The area walked is lower lying along the north eastern field edge, rising up to a high point towards the south of the field, elsewhere levelling out to a plateau.

1.2.2 A possible north to south aligned paleo-channel was identified as a linear depression during the fieldwalking, located around the halfway point along the north edge of the field.

1.2.3 The underlying geology consists of Crag group sedimentary bedrock formed up to 5 Million yeas ago in the Quaternary and Neogene periods. This is overlain by sand and gravel (superficial deposits) of the Lowestoft Formation formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (web resource; BGS Geology of Britain viewer).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The earliest known archaeological remains in the area are located to the south and north of the walked field. A beaker and stone 'battle axe' were found c.1960 (MSF5414) in the area of Stowmarket. The find spot is identified as south of the development area. Further prehistoric remains where found in association with a Roman cremation in a glass vessel that was recovered by workmen c.1875 (MSF6360) in Newton with Dagworth. The workmen also recovered a Bronze Age side looped spearhead (MSF6359).

1.3.2 A large number of medieval sites and buildings have been identified around the development. The most significant in terms of location is Shepherds Farm which is adjacent to the site. Shepherds farmhouse is a 15th century 3 cell open hall, which has had later modifications carried out on it in the 16th and 19th centuries (DSF4915). A spread of medieval pottery has been recovered from 'behind house' (MSF22051).

1.3.3 Also in the surrounding area are Bridge Farm (DSF5903) and Boards Farm (DSF5386), located to the northeast of the development area, and Top Hill House, located to the north, all of which are based around 16th century buildings which have undergone further modifications up to the 19th century.

1.3.4 Further evidence for medieval occupation around the area under investigation is located to the south of the site at Chilton Hall (MSF23639) and Chilton Hall Farm (MSF5391). Chilton Hall Farm has evidence for a moated site, whilst Chilton Hall is a series of listed buildings (Chilton Hall DSF6385, Chilton Hall Barn DSF4246 and Chilton Court DSF4245) including a possible moated site. The earliest building is Chilton Hall, dated to the 16th century. Chilton Hall Barn and Chilton Court are dated to the 18th and 19th centuries respectively.

1.3.5 The final building of interest within 1km of the site is the Stowmarket Incorporated Union Workhouse erected in 1781.

1.3.6 A further HER entry records medieval kilns producing pottery of of Ipswich Glazed ware style, that were excavated in August 1937 during road widening works. The description lists that the pottery was 'found in road widening half mile (or 1 mile) outside Stowmarket, Bury side, Aug 1937'. The area of the field walking has been identified as a possible source.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The Author would like to acknowledge Mike Green, Lindsey Kemp and Dave Brown for their hard work in walking the field. The author would also like to thank CSA Environmental Planning who commissioned the work on behalf of Taylor Wimpey, and Severine Bezie for the illustrations included in this report.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of the fieldwalking was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence and significance of any surviving archaeological material within the development area to aid in locating the evaluation trenches.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The brief required that a sample of the c.11ha field be systematically fieldwalked and that a systematic non-ferrous metal detector survey also be carried out.

2.2.2 A series of north-west to south-east aligned transects were laid out 20m apart using a Leica GPS. The transects were each walked from the north-west to the south-east for visual recovery of finds and for the non-ferrous metal detector survey.

2.2.3 The field was walked in wet and overcast condition on a weathered surface with a crop of recently germinated sugar beet present, that did not hinder the fieldwalking.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Finds assemblage

3.1.1 The finds assemblage recovered from field walking is summarised by transect in Table 1 below.

	CBM	Slate	Clay	Slag	Pottery			Chalk	Cu alloy		Coins	Fe	Lead	Glass	Flint		Total
Transect			pipe		Modern	Med/Rom	Prehistoric	Object	Object	Ring		Object			Worked/Burnt	Plough struck	
A	43	3	3	3	9	19			4	1	1		4	13	4	1	108
B	63	1		4	9	7			1		1	8	1	10	6	3	114
C	35		1	1	1	5			2			2	1	3	6	3	60
D	37		4	2	6	2			1			5		4	5	2	68
E	42				4	2					1				4	3	56
F	48				1	5						2		1	2	1	60
G	10					5					1		1		2	3	22
H	18					4							1		1		24
I	7				1	2			2						3	2	17
J	15					5									1		21
K	2					4									2	5	13
L	16				1	3										2	22
M	2					3									2	3	10
N	13					11					1	1			2		28
O	4		1						2				1		2	2	12
P	10				3	8									1		22
Q	3				1	5	1		3			1	5		3	1	23
R	26				4	8						3	2		2	1	46
S	2		1		1										2	7	13
T	12				4	2						2				1	21
U	5		1		5				1			3	1		2		18
V	16			1	1	1		1							2		22
W	6					2									1		9
X	1				1	1											3
Y																	0
Total	436	4	11	11	52	104	1	1	16	1	5	27	17	31	55	40	812
Percenta	53.83	0.49	1.36	1.36	6.42	12.84	0.12	0.12	1.98	0.12	0.49	3.33	2.1	3.83	6.79	4.94	100

Table 1. Finds quantification data

3.2 Coins and Metal work

3.2.1 Five coins were recovered from the non-ferrous metal detecting survey (Figure 5).

3.2.2 A single silver coin was recovered in very good condition and has been identified as a Irish Long cross from the reign of Edward 1, dated to 1280-1307AD.

3.2.3 The four remaining coins were made out of copper alloy. Two of these coins were identified as Roman, the larger of the two was badly abraded and unidentifiable but is likely to date from mid second to early third century, whilst the smaller was better preserved and was identified as a coin of Herennia Etruscilla (wife of Trojan Decius) and dates from 249-251 AD (Chris Faine pers. comm). The Roman coins were found on the eastern side of the southern arm of the field

3.2.4 The two remaining coins were modern (George V).

3.2.5 A selection of copper alloy objects were recovered from the site (Figure 4). The majority of them were modern and of no archaeological interest. However three of the copper objects relate to horse bridles.

3.2.6 A single copper alloy ring of unclear date was also recovered

3.2.7 Seventeen pieces of lead were recovered from the site (Figure 6). As well as a general spread of fragments in the eastern arm of the field where other finds were recovered in abundance, a further discrete scatter was found in the western arm. The majority of lead fragments in both scatters appear to derive from windows (window came pieces). It seems possible that the pieces in the western arm may relate to activity associated with the late medieval to modern Shepherds Farm positioned close by.

3.2.8 Twenty six iron objects were recovered composed of a mix of modern material such as nails, parts of machinery, and a keyhole face plate. A key was also recovered that may be medieval in date.

3.3 Industrial residue

3.3.1 The industrial residue recovered from the site (incorporated in Fig. 3) is made up of a mix of post medieval blast furnace residue and three fragments of pre-blast furnace 'tap' slag which could potentially be Roman or medieval. However, the material is likely to be a background spread where some metal working has occurred in the vicinity of the site and not directly indicative of metal working on the site.

3.4 Lithics

3.4.1 The flint recovered from the site was mainly a mid to dark reddish-brown material with pale cream coloured cortex and areas showing some recortification. All the material recovered was heavily abraded as would be expected from a ploughed field.

3.4.2 A number of flakes were recovered from the site, however, due to the nature of the local geology and the high flint content of the soil it was difficult to discern the intentionally struck material from accidental fractures made through agricultural practices. Due to this material it was therefore decided that only those items that were felt to be intentionally struck were recovered.

3.4.3 Forty of the recovered lithics have characteristics constant with plough struck flint with prominent V shaped bulbs of percussion, little or no indication of platform, and irregular fractures and have as such been ignored.

3.4.4 Three core fragments were recovered from the area walked. These all showed signs of structured platforms aimed at the production of narrow flakes. All the recovered fragments had opposed platforms. The single intact core had been worked to exhaustion and showed incipient cones from either an attempt to further reduce the core or through plough related damage.

3.4.5 Thirty two pieces of debitage were recovered, composed of a mix of secondary and tertiary flakes and some well formed blades. The majority of the material has bulbs of percussion likely to have been created by soft hammer.

3.4.6 Two end scrapers were recovered along with a single thumbnail scraper and these are all likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date

3.4.7 Two flint arrowheads were also recovered. The first was formed on a blade with semi abrupt retouch at the distal end to form a point notches were present at the proximal end to form a rudimentary tang.

3.4.8 The second was heavily damaged but likely to be a green low barbed and tanged arrowhead (Green 1984) with invasive retouch applied to both surfaces. The

arrowhead is similar in form and material to one found at Great Finborough to the south-west of the site (FNG 029).

3.4.9 The flint recovered is very similar to the Neolithic material in the Cedar Fields excavation (Anderson 2004), located to the south-east of the development area. Interestingly the Cedar fields site is situated on the same geological strata as the eastern side of the development area (web resource; BGS Geology of Britain viewer).

3.4.10 A single chalk object was recovered, the item may be part of a spindle whorl or loom weight.

3.5 Prehistoric Pottery

3.5.1 A single heavily eroded sherd of Iron Age flint tempered pottery was recovered from transect Q (Mortimer, R Pers. Comm.).

3.6 Roman/Medieval Pottery

3.6.1 A total of 104 sherds, making up 13% of the assemblage, were a mix of highly abraded undiagnostic body sherds of red and grey sandy coarse wares which could be either Roman or medieval in date (Fig. 7). Specialists of the pottery of both periods were asked to review this material but no consistent or certain dating was possible The highly abraded state might suggest that the pottery may relate to manuring practices.

3.7 Modern Pottery

3.7.1 Around 6% of the assemblage was post-medieval pottery, primarily red wares (included in Fig. 3). The material is heavily worn and abraded suggesting it is not a result of primary deposition and is likely to reflect manuring practices.

3.8 Clay pipe

3.8.1 Eleven fragments of clay pipe were recovered during the field walking (included in Fig. 3). These were stem fragments and could not be dated.

3.9 Glass

3.9.1 Around 4% of the recovered assemblage was glass (included in Fig. 3). The majority of the material was post medieval body sherds of glass vessels with a smaller quantity of post-medieval window glass.

3.10 Ceramic Building Material

3.10.1 The largest volume of material recovered was ceramic building material making up 54% of the assemblage. The material was a mix of brick and tile that was highly abraded and damaged and in most cases it was not possible to assign a date range, although the majority is likely to be later post-medieval to modern in date.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 Prehistoric

The flint distribution appears to show two areas of low concentration. The first area, where the majority of the tools and burnt flint were recovered, is located around the potential paleo-channel along the eastern side of the field. The other area of concentration is located around the middle of the field at the highest point with the majority of flakes, blades and two of the core fragments within this area. The majority of the working is quite well structured with tool forms identifiable to the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. However, some of the less well structured working could be of a later date.

Prehistoric pottery is generally fragile and therefore although only a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was collected during the fieldwalking its presence does suggest the likelihood that it derives from underlying features. The pottery is thought to date to the Iron Age.

4.1.2 Roman/Medieval

The Roman and medieval material is composed of a mix of heavily abraded body sherds of either medieval or Roman date. Further evidence of Roman occupation was identified through the two copper alloy coins from the south eastern arm of the field. A single silver medieval coin was also recovered.

The Roman/Medieval material forms two clusters within the site. As with the Prehistoric flint work one of these clusters focuses on the eastern side of the field near the north south depression and is associated with the two Roman coins.

The other area of concentration is towards the middle and western side of the field near to the Shepherds Farm. This material is also associated with the spread of lead and to a certain extent the spread of copper alloy objects. These may together represent a finds distribution of medieval to post-medieval date, however, these distributions do not seem to coincide with the background spread of CBM across the site and it is therefore unlikely to represent a building.

4.1.3 Post Medieval

Post medieval to modern material was recovered from along the north eastern edge of the field and in a spread of CBM at the south eastern edge of the field. Both of these spreads of material may be associated with the old A14 slip road that borders the north-east edge of the development area and the Chilton Fields housing estate to the south and east.

4.1.4 Conclusions

In conclusion two spreads of Roman and medieval material are evident, with the prehistoric lithics less-tightly grouped within the same areas. One spread primarily of

Roman or medieval pottery is located along the north-east side of the site, perhaps in part associated with the kilns found along the A14 in 1937, and the other spread is at the top of the slope nearer the north-western field edge and that could be associated with Shepherds Farmhouse.

However, the fact that all the material except the post medieval forms roughly similar patterns might imply that the clusters were formed through movement of finds by manuring and ploughing.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 The discussion highlights that there are two areas likely to be of particular interest from fieldwalking data. The dip on the eastern side of the area and the high point on the western side of the development area.

4.2.2 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, S. 2004 A Medieval Moated Site at Cedars Field, Stowmarket, Suffolk. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 15

BGS, Geology of Britain viewer. Available on: http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed on 28/06/2012

Green, S. (1984) Flint Arrowheads: Typology and Interpretation. Lithics 5 pp19-39

APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-129192		
Project Name	Fieldwalking at Chiltern Leys, Stowmarket		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	06-06-2012	Finish	08-06-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XSFSTM12	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	HGH052	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Housing Estate

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☐ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☒ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☒ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...	BARBED AND TANGED AF	Neolithic -4k to -2k
	Select period...	Coin	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...	Coin	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Mid Suffolk	Chiltern Leys Bury Lane Stowmarket	
Parish	Haughley		
HER	HGH052		
Study Area	11ha	National Grid Reference	TM 0396 5997

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Sarah Poppy Suffolk County Council
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry Oxford Archaeology East
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location ...	Location ...	Location ...
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☒	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☐ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☒ GIS	☐ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☐ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☒ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☐ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☐ Plans
	☒ Report
	☐ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

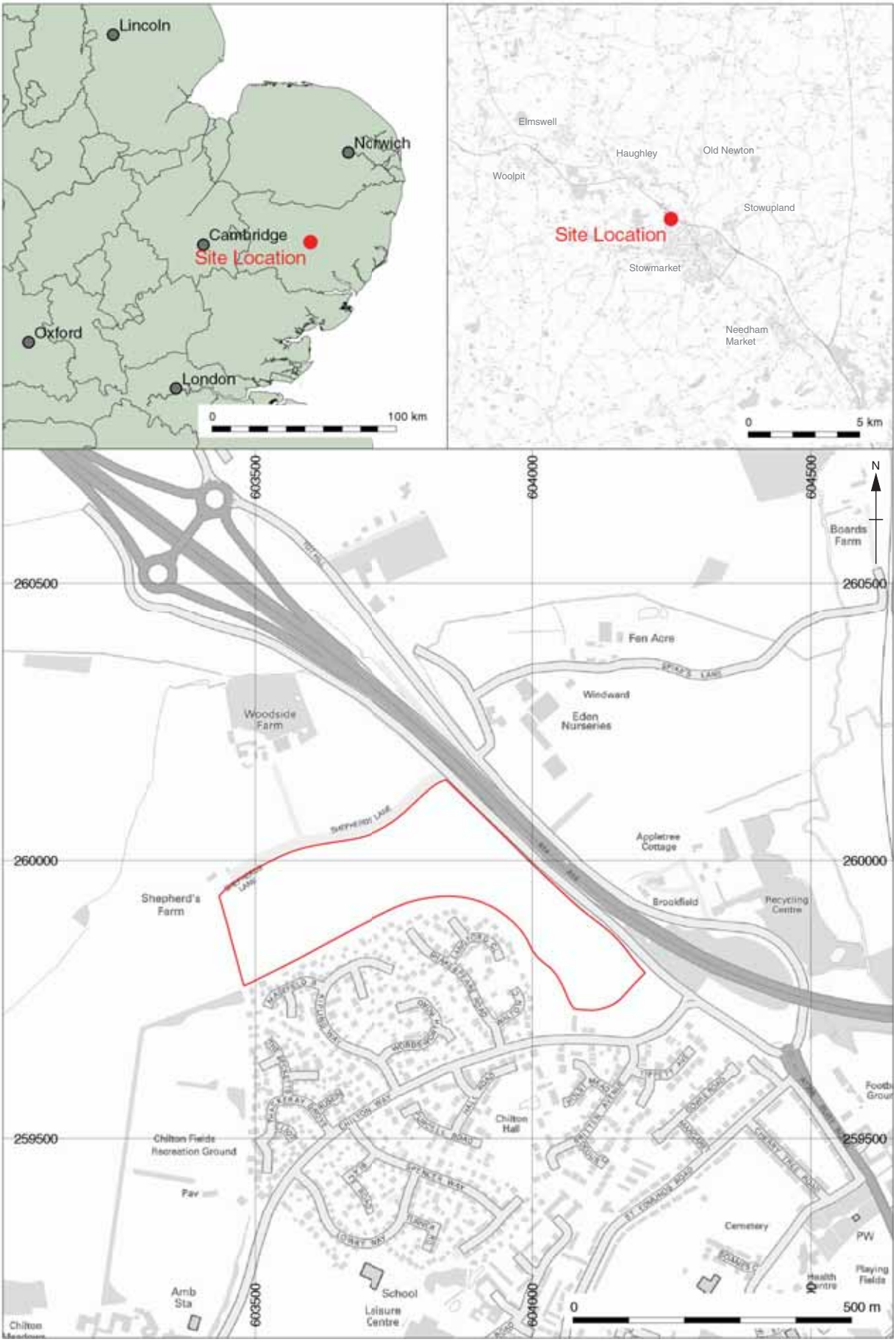

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Ceramic Building Material

Figure 3: Modern material (Slate, Clay pipe, Slag, Modern pottery, Glass)

Figure 4: Copper alloy and Iron objects

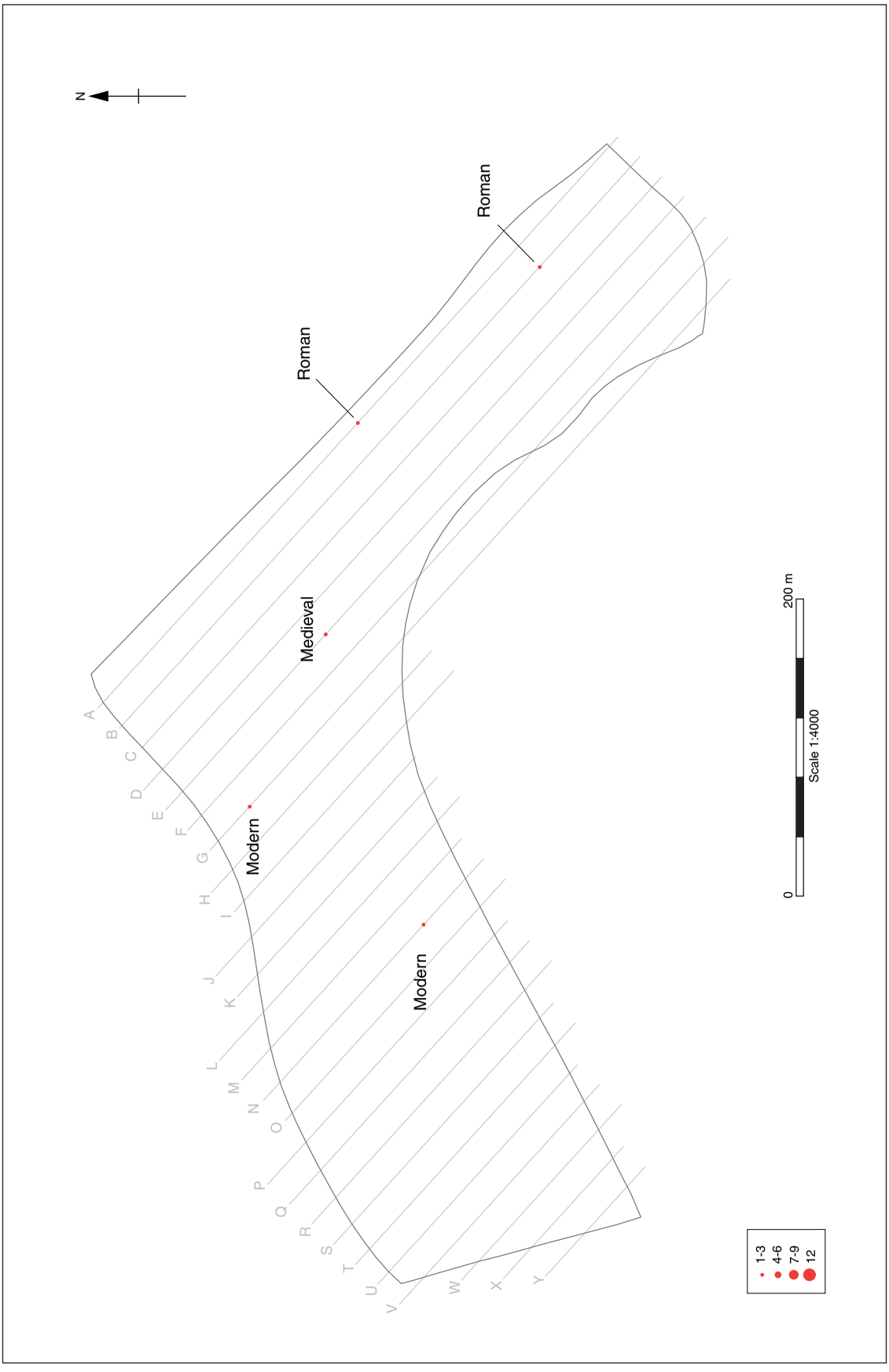

Figure 5: Coins

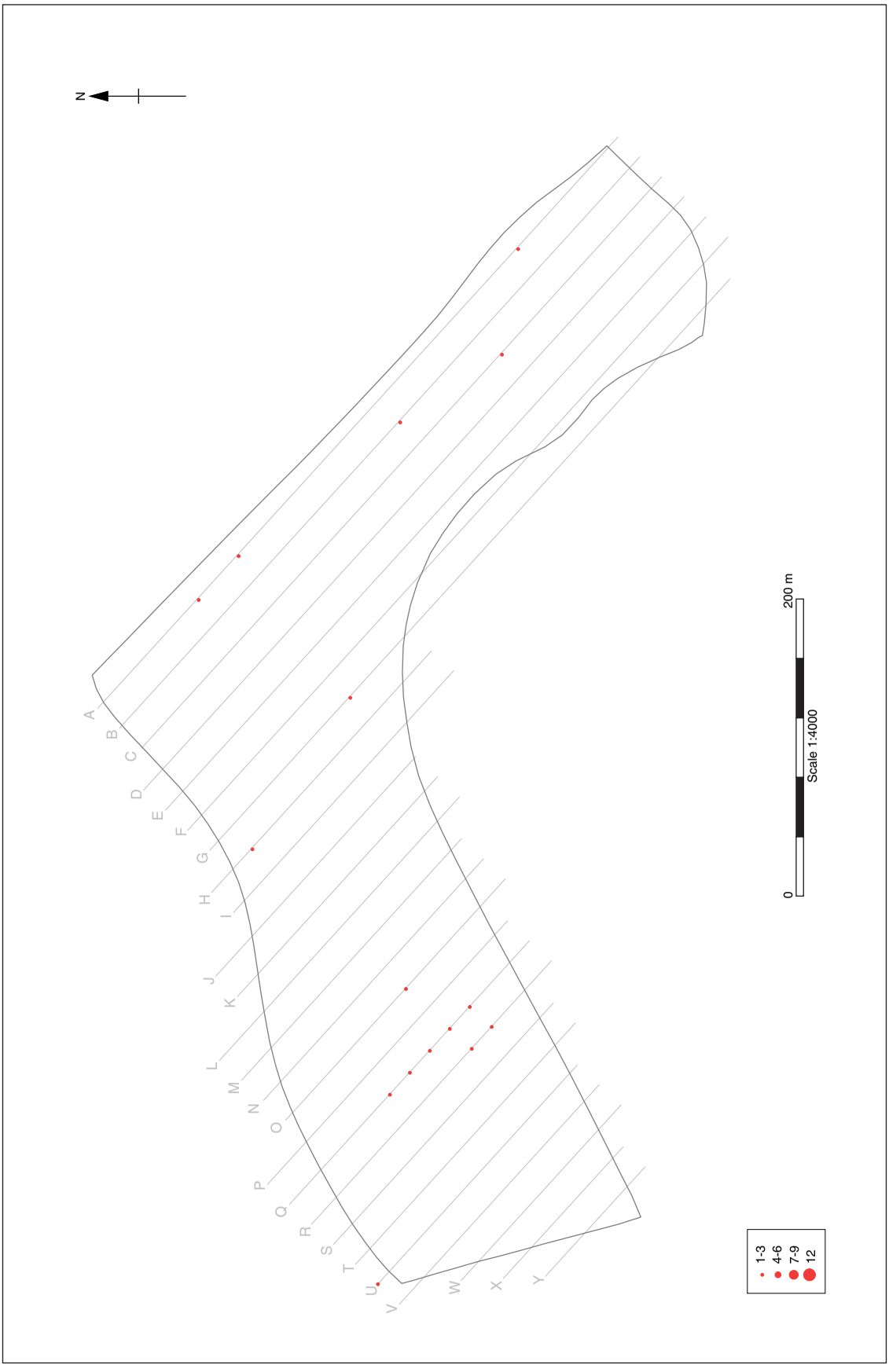

Figure 6: Lead

Figure 7: Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval Pottery. Shaded areas represent concentrations of probable significance

Figure 8: Lithics (Chalk Object, Flint ; Burnt, Cores and Tools) Shaded areas represent concentrations of probable significance

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@oxfordarch.co.uk
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net