

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING IN ESSEX, 1986-2005

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This report updates the 1994 review of the 20m grid fieldwalking system in Essex. 1,865 hectares have been walked and 250 sites identified. A synthesis of results is presented and the role and effectiveness of fieldwalking as an evaluation technique is examined. A number of case studies (Stansted Airport and the A120) are considered, where both fieldwalking and large-scale excavation have taken place, enabling comparisons of results to be made.

1 INTRODUCTION

Fieldwalking has long been used as a method of archaeological survey. In Essex since 1985 the technique has been applied as a systematic and standardised means of assessing the archaeological potential of areas of farmland threatened by large-scale development. It was first used in this county as part of the Stansted Airport project (1986-91), where it was successful in locating many sites in advance of airport construction (Havis and Brooks 2004).

With the publication in 1990 of Planning and Policy Guidance 16 (PPG16) which formalised the role of field evaluations within the planning process, there was a sharp rise in the number of fieldwalking projects in the county. This upsurge coincided with a sharp increase in planning applications for golf-courses and a number of major road and residential schemes.

The increase in fieldwalking projects emphasised the need for a standardised approach to the technique within Essex, in order to ensure that the results of individual projects are directly comparable with one another, regardless who had carried out the work. This approach also facilitates county-wide study of settlement patterns and densities.

This article updates the review of fieldwalking in Essex which was published in 1994 (Medlycott and Germany 1994). This is needed for two reasons. Firstly, additional areas have been fieldwalked in the intervening 10 years, the results of which are summarised (Fig. 1, Table 1). Secondly a number of large-scale projects have progressed from the fieldwalking stage, through to the trial-trenching, excavation and publication stages. This article will thus also assess the role of fieldwalking as an evaluation methodology, establishing both its successes and its shortcomings. The project on re-assessing the fieldwalking data was part of a the wider European Project PlanarchII, Action 2C funded by InterregIII.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Extensive Survey

Extensive fieldwalking is a well-tested method of survey used in landscape surveys (e.g. Hayfield 1980; Shennan 1985). In the extensive method described below a 10% sample of the survey area is walked on a controlled grid-system.

The grid-system used is based on the National Grid. This is because many large developments such as mineral extraction obliterate much of the existing landscape. It is therefore essential that the recording system is based on permanent reference points. The development area is first sub-divided into kilometre squares, each of which is given an identifying letter. Each kilometre square is then sub-divided into hectares, numbered 1-100., starting at the south-west corner. Each hectare is then sub-divided into 20m square boxes, labelled A-Z (excluding O), starting in the south-west corner. A transect 2m wide (i.e. 10% of each 20m box) is then walked along the western edge of each box and the finds gathered. Total retrieval is carried out on this 2m wide strip.

It is not practicable to undertake a fieldwalking survey based on the National Grid on a narrow linear development, such as a road scheme. For these sorts of survey, a base-line is laid out along the length of the development. The development area is then sub-divided into hectares and 20m transects, as in the area surveys, but laid out at right-angles to the main base line. The National Grid co-ordinates are recorded for the corners of each hectare length walked.

2.1.1 Recording, finds-processing and identification

A fieldwalking record-sheet is completed for each hectare. This records which 20m runs were walked, who walked them, the condition of the field-surface and crop (if any), the weather and the topography. The finds are then washed and marked with an identifying code, recording site, kilometre square, hectare and 20m transect. They are then quantified according to type and date. The number of individual sherds for each 20m transect and their combined weight is recorded on finds-processing sheets (e.g. Km 1, Ha. 3, transect F - Roman pot 12 sherds, 42g.).

A 'site' is defined as a deviation from the norm for the survey areas (this is expressed mathematically in the following equation).

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2}{n} - \mu^2}$$

where

- n = the number of 20m transects walked
- $\sum x$ = the sum of the find-type
- $\sum x^2$ = the sum of the find-type individually squared
- μ = the mean of the find-type per 20m transect
- σ = the standard deviation

Usually the site is identified by a cluster of finds, each weighing more than two standard deviations. The *relative* density required to define a site fluctuates widely from period to period, and from one survey area to another. For example, in an area producing very little Saxon finds, a couple of Saxon sherds in adjacent runs would be interpreted as a site, whilst a post-medieval site would probably take the form of a dense cluster of over two standard deviations of pottery and tile set against a background scatter of similar material. The definition of a site is thus essentially a statistical one, backed up by professional judgement.

Find Type	<i>n</i>	$\sum x$	$\sum x^2$	μ	σ
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	no. of 20m transects walked	sum of the find-type	sum of the find-type individually squared	mean of the find-type per 20m transect	standard deviation
Prehistoric pot	46637	2124	68661	0.045	1.175
Roman pot	46637	29279	3650494	0.627	8.776
Saxon pot	46637	590	10742	0.012	0.452
Medieval pot	46637	46598	2237200	0.999	6.780
Post-medieval pot	46637	168575	22998370	3.614	22.043
Roman tile	39135	206801	121655536	5.284	55.660
Medieval/post-medieval tile	35724	1799068	766040078	50.360	146.090
Daub	46637	2620	184571	0.056	1.960
Burnt flint	39302	189590	26895825	4.823	25.974

Table 1: Essex field-walking statistics: combined results

3 ANALYSIS

In the discussion below the fieldwalking statistics are sub-divided into main period groups. Where the text below refers to ‘hectare walked’ it means the 10% sample examined within a hectare.

3.1 Prehistory

The 57 projects have identified 96 sites with evidence of prehistoric activity, that is a density of one site for every 19 hectares walked.

The prehistoric period is represented by pottery, worked flint and burnt flint. Prehistoric pottery is however only rarely found, probably because of its fragile nature which does not survive repeated ploughing or weathering well. On average there is 1g of prehistoric pottery per hectare walked, although usually this means there is either a small cluster of sherds or nothing at all. Worked flint is a more common find, with an average of 6 flakes for each hectare walked, the vast majority are undiagnostic flakes, but axes, scrapers and arrowheads have also been recovered. The earliest find was part of a Palaeolithic axe, and all other periods onwards are represented. Burnt flint is the most numerous of the prehistoric finds, with an average of 102g per hectare walked. Although burnt flint is not in itself datable, studies of burnt stone mounds and spreads in Britain and Ireland have placed the majority in the second millennium BC (Buckley 1990). Burnt flint also commonly occurs in a wide variety of contexts on Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. It is thought to represent domestic and industrial activity in the form of cooking and water-heating.

3.2 Roman

The 57 projects have identified 49 sites with evidence of activity in the Roman period. That is a density of one site for every 38 hectares walked. Though the density is less than that of the prehistoric period, it has to be remembered that the Roman period only covers 400 years.

Roman sites are identified by pottery, tile and brick and occasional fragments of lava and pudding-stone quern. In addition on a number of coastal fieldwalking sites briquetage,

deriving from Late Iron Age or Roman Red Hills (salterns) has been recorded as daub. On average there is about 16g of Roman pottery per hectare and 132g of Roman tile. The pottery tends to be small, abraded and undiagnostic, there is however sufficient to show that it spans the whole Roman period from the early first to the late fourth centuries AD.

3.3 Saxon

Saxon sites have only been rarely identified by fieldwalking, and those that have been located have been identified by the presence of no more than a couple of sherds. Only 7 sites have evidence of Saxon activity, a density of one site for every 266 hectares walked.

The paucity of Saxon evidence in the fieldwalking record has been noted by others (Hayfield 1980). It is probable that a number of factors are responsible for this lack of sites. Firstly it could be due to retrieval bias as the friable nature of the pottery does not survive repeated ploughing and weathering well. Saxon pottery in Essex is very similar in friability of fabric to that of the prehistoric period and the rate of survival of both types is broadly comparable, the prehistoric period is simply better represented in the fieldwalking record because it also had worked and burnt flint. Secondly, it is also possible that there was simply less pottery being used in this period. Thirdly the excavation record also records a drop in the number of sites of this period by comparison to those of the later Roman period, suggesting that population decline and possible abandonment was taking place in some areas (Tyler 1996).

3.4 Medieval

The 57 projects have identified 54 medieval sites, a density of one site for every 35 hectares walked. Medieval sites are identified by their pottery, on average 25g per hectare, and it is possible that some of the daub recovered dates from this period. It has to be stated however that the density of medieval sites is probably under-represented in the fieldwalking record. Firstly many medieval sites are still standing or have been incorporated within post-medieval sites, thus on the farm-land sites which get fieldwalked in advance of development, the site of the farmhouse and yard are rarely available for walking, but this is where the settlement was most likely sited in the medieval period. Secondly, a number of the sites (Crondon Park, Ongar Radio Station, Thorndon Park) were medieval deer-parks where settlement was deliberately discouraged during the medieval period, therefore though they were undoubtedly in use during the medieval period, this use is not of a sort that features in the fieldwalking record. The fieldwalking sites are predominately 12th and 13th century in date, corresponding to the massive population growth in that period. These sites were largely abandoned in the 14th century, suggesting that they were less viable than others when faced with the combined troubles of that century; famine, poor weather, plague and the peasant's revolt. Their failure to survive is the reason why they turn up in the fieldwalking record.

3.5 Post-medieval

44 post-medieval sites have been identified, that is one site for every 42 hectares walked. Post-medieval sites are located by pottery, brick and tile. On average there is 90g of pottery, and 1,150g of tile per hectare walked. Post-medieval tile in particular forms a practically constant background scatter. This widespread dispersal maybe because of its use in field drains, its incorporation into manure heaps and its use as metalling for farm tracks. In areas where none is recovered it is usually because the area was under woodland or scrub for much of that period. The relatively low numbers of post-medieval sites identified is because, as with the medieval period, the survey technique avoids the extant post-medieval buildings which means that they are not making their way on to the post-medieval fieldwalking statistics.

4 COMPARISON BETWEEN FIELDWALKING AND EXCAVATION RESULTS

Since the publication of the 1994 article (Medlycott and Germany 1994), a series of large-scale excavations have taken place on areas that were previously fieldwalked as part of the planning process. It is therefore now possible to compare the interpretation of the fieldwalking data with the results of the excavations. For the purposes of this study, two of the largest projects in the county have been chosen, Stansted Airport and the A120 Trunk-road.

4.1 Stansted Airport

The largest fieldwalking survey in Essex to date took place at Stansted Airport between 1985-87 when 293.4 ha. were extensively fieldwalked. A total of 31 sites were identified by this method, an average of 1 site for every 9.5 hectares walked. In the first phase of airport development (1986-91) this was followed by a mixture of pre-emptive excavation of sites identified from documentary sources or by the fieldwalking, and the rescue excavation of sites discovered during construction work (Havis and Brooks 2004). In the later phases of airport development (1999-2001) evaluations by trial-trenching were undertaken on all proposed development areas, including those that had been previously fieldwalked, followed by full excavation where archaeology was identified (Framework Archaeology 2000 & 2004).

The following statistics only refer to those areas that were fieldwalked **and** excavated. There are still substantial areas within the airport boundary that have been walked but remain as yet undeveloped and hence unexcavated, as well as a number of areas that were excavated but never fieldwalked, either because the development process outpaced the fieldwalking programme or because they were unavailable for fieldwalking. The scale of the Stansted development and the large extent of the excavations means that here archaeological landscapes have been excavated, rather than the more discrete entity usually considered to be a site.

4.1.1 Prehistoric

Five prehistoric sites were predicted by the fieldwalking. These sites were all excavated in advance of development and all produced prehistoric features, a prediction hit rate of 100%. However, the excavations within the fieldwalked area actually produced a total of 13 prehistoric sites, which means that fieldwalking only found 38% of the sites discovered to date. The excavated sites date from the Neolithic period onwards, with peaks of activity in the later Bronze Age and early Iron Age. Mesolithic flints were also recovered, but no features, attesting to activity in the area at that period.

4.1.2 Roman

Three Roman sites were predicted by the fieldwalking and all three on excavation produced Roman features, including a cremation cemetery and a farmstead, a prediction hit rate of 100%. However, the excavations within the fieldwalked area actually produced a total of seven Roman sites, which means that fieldwalking only found 43% of the sites discovered to date.

4.1.3 Saxon

Four Saxon sites were predicted by the fieldwalking. These sites were all excavated in advance of development and no Saxon features were revealed. However, pollen analysis of river deposits in the Pincey Brook have established that at least part of the Stansted area was under arable production during the Saxon period, and it is clear from the Domesday Book that much of the area was being actively managed as wood pasture in the later Saxon period. In addition two sites (RWS and SCS) produced Saxon material, albeit in very small quantities. SCS is close to one of the fieldwalking Saxon find-spots and may actually represent the same phase of activity.

4.1.4 Medieval

Seven medieval sites were predicted by the fieldwalking. These sites were all excavated in advance of development and all produced medieval features, a prediction hit rate of 100%. These sites included the 12th-14th century farmstead at Roundwood (RWS), which the fieldwalking find's distribution suggests is part of a much larger complex, possibly a hamlet or small village. The excavations within the fieldwalked areas discovered a total of 13 medieval sites however, so the fieldwalking process only identified 54% of the sites.

4.1.5 Post-medieval

The fieldwalking survey at Stansted Airport did not collect post-medieval tile, and it is thought that interpretation of site distribution and land-use patterns is therefore not trustworthy for this period. Within this limitation it can be stated that two sites were identified by the recovery of post-medieval pottery during the fieldwalking survey. These were both stripped. One concentration marked the location of the Tudor manor of Bassingbourne Hall (BHS) and the second (PFS) had no cut features at all and was interpreted as the site of a manure-heap. However, the excavations within the fieldwalked area actually produced a total of four post-medieval sites, the fieldwalking therefore only found 25% of the post-medieval sites (with cut features) discovered to date. One of these was a late medieval and early post-medieval hunting-lodge, which failed to register on the fieldwalking survey, largely it is thought because the peg-tile, which was ubiquitous on the site, was not collected.

4.2 A120 Trunk-road

The construction of the new A120 trunk-road (Timby *et al.* forthcoming) across the boulder-clay plateau of north-west Essex caused the destruction of some 190 hectares of farmland. A field-walking project was carried out along the proposed route in 1990, a total of 85% was walked according to the standard Essex method, the remainder being under pasture, woodland or under re-deposited topsoil. Some 36 sites of potential archaeological interest were identified, 35 by field-walking and 1 by metal-detecting evidence. A further 18 sites were identified during the watching-brief phase, these were however all on areas that were not available for fieldwalking or were extensions to sites previously identified during the fieldwalking/excavation stages. They have therefore not been included within the following analysis of results. The following table presents the list of those sites identified by fieldwalking and subsequently archaeologically investigated, in a number of cases adjacent fieldwalking scatters have been grouped together to form a single site. Interpretation of the results needs to take into account that only the road width was stripped and examined, there may have been further features or deposits immediately adjacent that were not revealed.

Site	Name	Prehist.	Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post-med
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1	Takeley Church	F	X	US	US	US
2	Warish Hall	US	S		S	X
3	Fanns Wood	UF			X	
4	Frogs Hall West		X			
5	Frogs Hall East	UF	US		S	
6	Little Canfield Hall	US			X	
7	Stone Hall	S				
8	Stone Hall	S				
9	Strood Hall	US	S		US	X
11	Highwood Farm	S			X	X
12	Dunmow Roundhouse	US			S	
14	Hoblong's Brook	UF	X			
16	Chelmer River	US			X	US
17	Clobbs Wood	US	US		US	X
18/19	Clobbs Cottage/Grange Farm	S			X	
20	Grange Lane	US				X
21	Clay Lane				S	
22	Throes Farm	US	UF		S	
23	Bramble Lane					X
24	Blatches	US			S	
25/26	Stebbingford		F		US	
27/28	Greenfields	S	US		X	X
29	Straits Farm				X	
30-32	Graunts Courts	X	X			
33/34	Rayne Roundabout		S			US
35	Rayne	X				
36	Fenton's Farm	X				

- S Site predicted by fieldwalking and confirmed by excavation US Site not predicted by fieldwalking, but found during excavation or watching-brief
- F Site predicted by fieldwalking, only finds recovered UF Site not predicted by fieldwalking, but finds made found during excavation or watching-brief
- X Site predicted by fieldwalking, nothing found

Table 2: Fieldwalked sites on the A120 and the results of further archaeological investigation (the term 'site' here is used to mean cut features are present)

The results of 27 excavations are thus analysed here:-

4.2.1 Prehistoric

Nine areas of prehistoric activity were predicted by the fieldwalking, largely on the basis of the recovery of struck and burnt flint. The excavations established that five (56%) of these were linked to prehistoric sites, whilst one (11%) only had finds and three (33%) had neither finds or features. However a further 12 areas contained prehistoric remains that had not been predicted by the fieldwalking. These comprised nine sites with cut features and three finds-scatters. Therefore out of the total of 14 prehistoric sites excavated 64% were unpredicted. Of interest is the fact that though the cut features all date from the Late Bronze Age onwards, the residual finds include earlier material, including at Clobbs Cottage/Grange Farm Mesolithic flints and at Strood Hall Neolithic flints.

4.2.2 Roman

Eight areas of Roman activity were predicted by the fieldwalking. The excavations confirmed the presence of cut features at three (37.5%) of these sites, including one farmstead and cremation cemetery complex at Strood Hall. One (12.5%) had finds dating to the Roman

period but no cut features and four (50%) had neither features or finds. A further four areas contained Roman remains that had not been predicted by the fieldwalking. These comprised three sites with cut features and one finds-scatter. Thus in total fieldwalking only found 50% of the Roman sites with cut features.

4.2.3 Saxon

It has been noted previously (Medlycott and Germany 1994) that fieldwalking is not a successful means of locating Saxon sites. No Saxon sites were identified along the A120 during the fieldwalking phase, however the excavation at Takeley Church did reveal a Saxon building. It is of interest that the date of the building was only established during the post-excavation phase by radio-carbon dating (cal. AD 670-880).

4.2.4 Medieval

Thirteen areas of medieval activity were predicted by fieldwalking. Of these the excavations confirmed the presence of cut features on six (46%) of the sites, the remaining seven (54%) sites had neither medieval features or finds. It is possible that the latter sites reflect manuring or rubbish disposal patterns in the past. Certainly the medieval fieldwalking scatter at Greenfields was located immediately outside the garden boundary of a surviving medieval/post-medieval house, it is possible at least in that case that the material had been simply dumped over the boundary in the medieval period and that any archaeological features associated with the material are within the garden or the house itself. An additional four sites were discovered during the excavation phase which had not been predicted by the fieldwalking, fieldwalking thus only found 60% of the total number of sites with cut features

4.2.5 Post-medieval

Seven post-medieval sites were predicted by the fieldwalking, however excavation revealed that none of these fieldwalking scatters corresponded to cut features. Excavation did however reveal three sites of post-medieval date, comprising field-ditches, that had not been predicted by the fieldwalking. It is thought that the post-medieval field-walking scatters relate directly to manuring and rubbish-disposal patterns. There was a consistent 'background' scatter of post-medieval material over the entire survey area probably derived from muck-spreading, it is possible that some of the individual hot-spots mark the location of the manure-heap itself prior to spreading. Other scatters were found in close proximity to surviving post-medieval buildings and here it is thought that they may reflect a pattern of casual rubbish disposal beyond the immediate building/garden boundary.

5 DISCUSSION

The Hey and Lacey assessment of archaeological evaluation techniques (2001) examined the use of fieldwalking and compared its results with those of desk-based assessment, geophysics and trenching. The fieldwalked sites looked at were mostly undertaken on the 20m grid-system, comparable to that used in Essex. The assessment found that fieldwalking was successful at indicating sites and suggesting their date (with the exception of Saxon sites), and that it reflects to an extent the density and distribution of buried remains. However under their criteria it only ranked as 'poor to moderate' as an evaluation technique, as it did not perform better than trenching at locating or dating sites, and it is not successful at indicating site layout or the condition of the buried archaeology. This current study suggests that the broad findings of Hey and Lacey are correct.

The current survey of fieldwalking sites in Essex, raises a number of further issues that need to be considered when using fieldwalking as a survey tool or interpreting fieldwalking results. Fieldwalking does find areas with cut features, and can attribute a broadly accurate date to them. However, it is evident from the comparisons between the fieldwalking results and the excavation results on the A120 and at Stansted Airport that it does not find all sites with cut features. For the prehistoric period it found about 40% of the sites with cut features, for the Roman period about 46%, for the Saxon period 0%, for medieval period 57% and for the post-medieval period only about 12%. The post-medieval figures are however rather misleading because post-medieval tile was not collected during the Stansted fieldwalking project, and it is considered that at least one additional site would have been found if it had been collected.

The issue of the density of sites per hectare therefore requires careful consideration. This article and the county-wide fieldwalking methodology has tended to consider the prehistoric period as single entity when in fact it is of course comprised of many periods. The excavations at Stansted and the A120 have shown that many more sites of the later prehistoric periods (later Bronze Age and Iron Age) with subsoil features were present than had been predicted by fieldwalking.

Another issue are those sites that are present in the fieldwalking record but are not represented by cut features in the subsoil. In only a few cases has it been possible to suggest that the finds scatter may derive from an archaeological site elsewhere, this was most notable at Rivenhall Airfield where the ground on the eastern side of the airfield had been levelled by the importation of soil during the Second World War. Apart from such rare cases, it is accepted that the finds in the ploughsoil represent activity in the past within that immediate area.

For the prehistoric period it is evident that the fieldwalking works better than trenching in identifying Mesolithic, Neolithic and Earlier Bronze Age sites (Hay and Lacey 2001), which are characterised by durable artefact scatters (flint and burnt stone) but have a tendency towards either little in the way of sub-soil features or very dispersed features. Fieldwalking is also the only method by which ploughsoil features, such as ploughed-out burnt mounds and flint scatters, can be identified. The Neolithic site of the Stumble located now within the inter-tidal zone in the Blackwater estuary (Heppell 2004 and forthcoming) is a good demonstration of the importance of surface deposits and artefact scatters as opposed to subsoil features in characterising and understanding sites of that period. Trial trenching is unlikely to be a successful method of evaluation for the earlier prehistoric periods (Trow 1995, Ennis and Brown 1999, English Heritage 2000), and this has significant implications with the archaeological development control framework, given that there appears to be a tendency to go straight to trial-trenching. The growing use of the 'strip, map and assess' method of evaluation for large infrastructure projects may be even more problematic as a means of identifying earlier prehistoric sites, or indeed later landscape use.

For the later periods fieldwalking scatters help establish where activity has taken place, in particular the extent of arable land. This is particularly valid in the medieval and post-medieval period where the widespread distribution of pottery and in particular peg-tile in the plough-soil is thought to reflect manuring of fields. It is possible therefore using fieldwalking to plot the increase, or indeed reduction, of arable farming, across a landscape. This is most useful in areas with marginal land such as heaths that were only enclosed for agriculture in the later post-medieval period.

The extensive field-walking that took place in advance of the building of Great Notley Garden Village on the outskirts of Braintree (Brooks 1994) illustrates the role of fieldwalking as a technique for interpreting landscape very well. The prehistoric period is characterised by very scarce prehistoric pottery sherds, some clusters of burnt flints, and slightly higher than usual amounts of struck flint flakes. Stripping of the fieldwalking concentrations found no sub-soil features. The finds therefore suggests that the area was used in the prehistoric period for activities which produced struck flints and occasional piles of burnt flints but little or no pottery and no sub-soil features. The most probable explanation is that rather than being an area used for domestic or agricultural activity, it was an area used for hunting where flints were made, used and discarded on an *ad hoc* basis and occasional cooking fires using heated stones were constructed. Roman, Saxon and medieval material is either very thin on the ground, or in the case of Saxon material, non-existent. This is despite the fact that the Roman and medieval town of Braintree is sited only 2.5 km to the north-east and the main road from Chelmsford to Braintree which is Roman in origin, forms the eastern edge of the housing-estate. The soil type is very heavy, dense boulder-clay and it is thought that the area remained under woodland or possibly pasture throughout these periods. Certainly the top-soil stripping of selected areas and watching-brief revealed no features at all of these dates. By the 18th century the area had been sub-divided between three or four small farms, and the land enclosed in an irregular patchwork of fields. Post-medieval pottery and tile was widespread over the whole survey area and presumably brought out and distributed with the manure from the farms. Some of the tile may also have been used in the hollow drains that were cut to improve the very heavy soil.

The conclusion of this study echoes that reached by Hey and Lacey (2001) in that if you wish to identify sites characterised by sub-soil features trial-trenching (on a standard grid at 5%) is the most effective single evaluation technique. But that the use of a range of evaluation techniques on any single site produces a more informative result. Thus fieldwalking can help establish the location of sites and their date range, identify sites which might not have sub-soil features and identify past landscape usage, whilst trenching establishes the nature and condition of the buried archaeology, and trenching and geophysics combined indicate site layout, whilst desk-based assessment and geophysics proved the most successful means of identifying Saxon remains (although no method was even moderately good at this). However long experience in Suffolk and Norfolk suggests that metal finds and metal detector surveys are currently the best means of locating Saxon sites and, moreover, that there may be significant differences in the quantity and quality of Saxon metalwork recovered from surface scatters and subsoil features, raising the possibility of a different kind of survey technique being required for these sites (Rogerson 1995).

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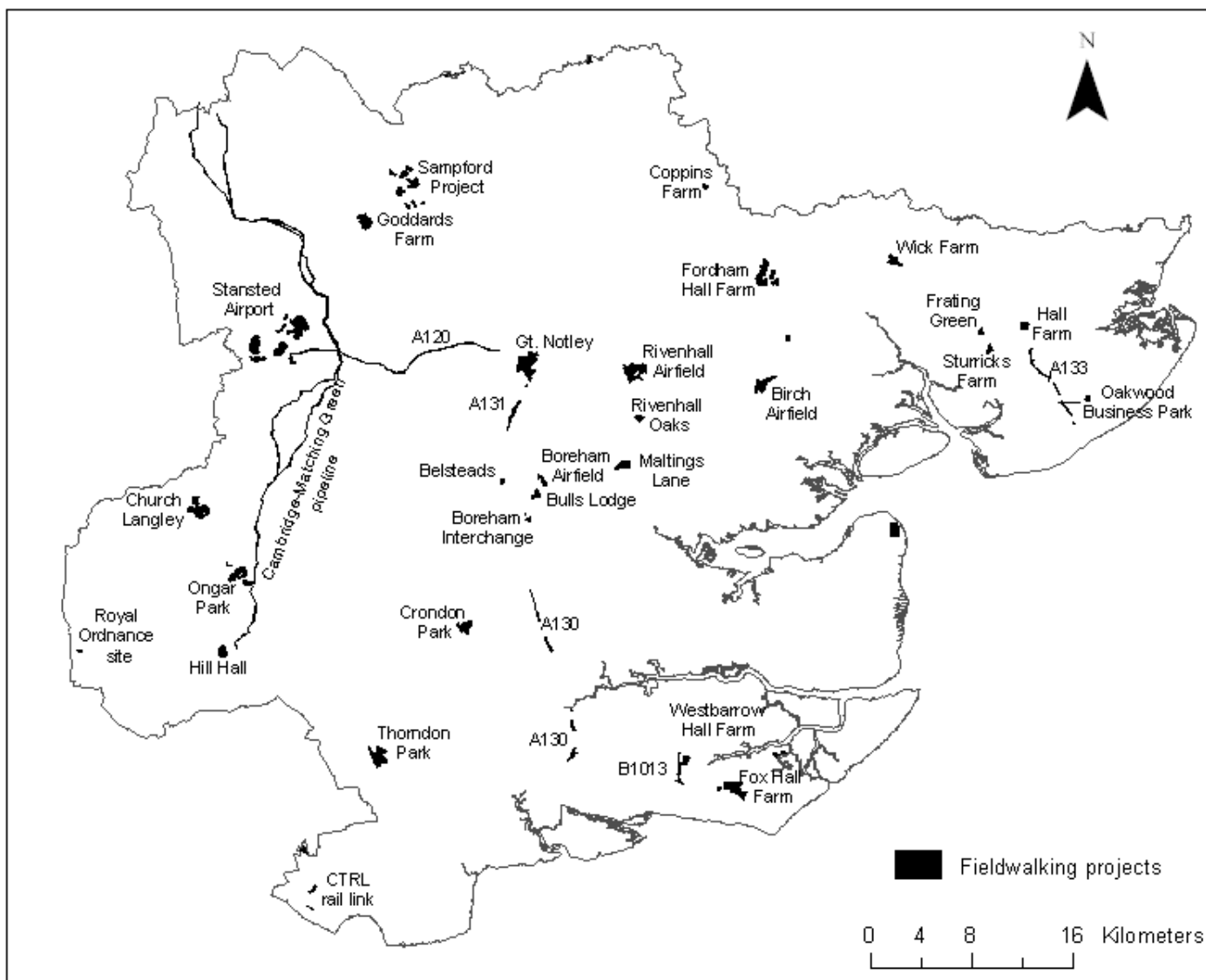


Fig. 1 Location of fieldwalking projects in Essex

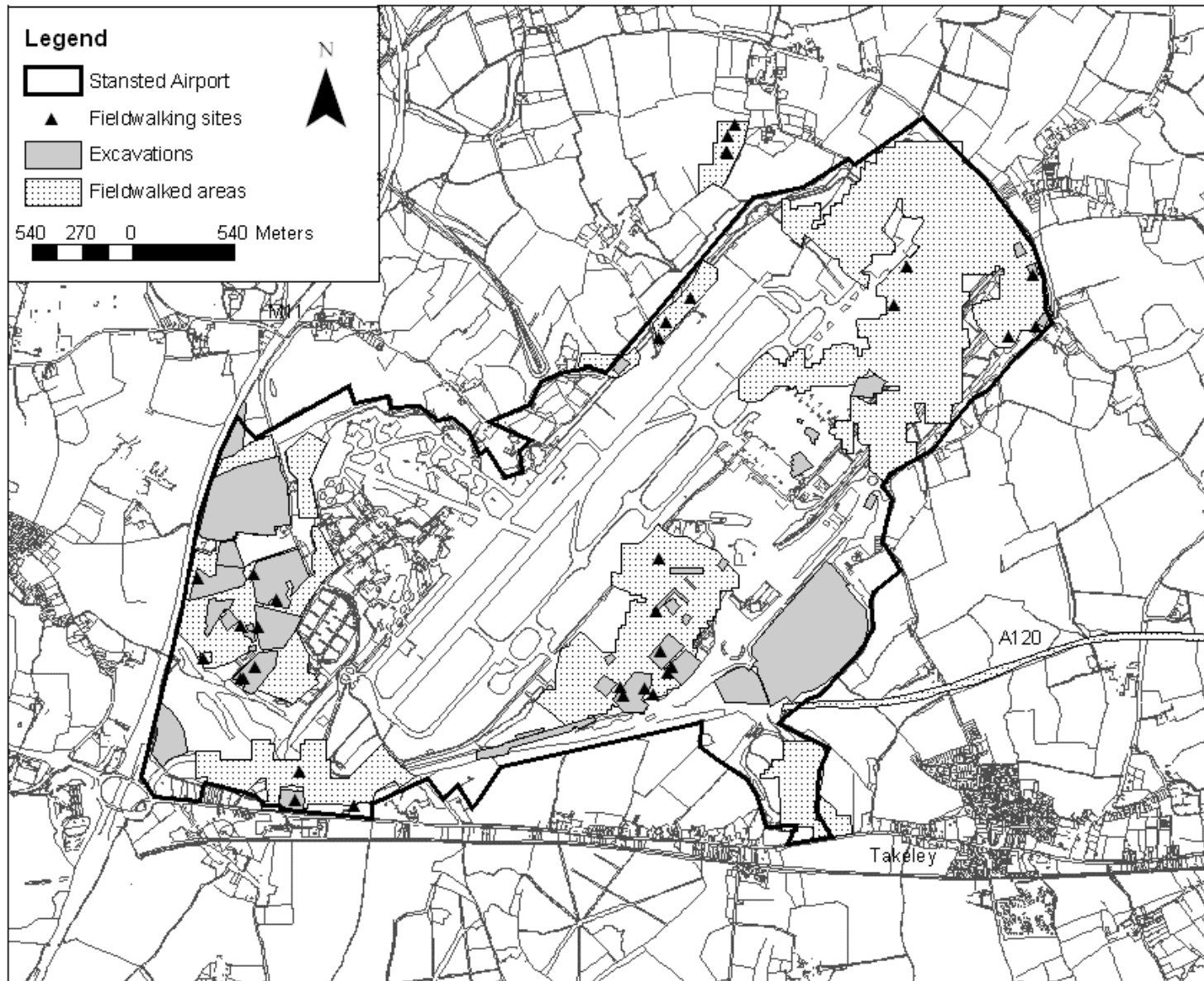


Fig. 2 Stansted Airport Project, showing fieldwalked areas and sites