Covington Big Dig 8-10ᵗʰ June 2012

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CONTENTS

1. Summary

Covington History Group (CHG) exists to explore what it was like to live in the village in the past using a variety of methodologies, including archaeology. Whilst we know how old some of the houses are[1], we do not know how the shape or extent of the village has changed over time. Consequently, in June 2012, an archaeology project was started. Ten test pits were dug more or less at random within the village. Nearly one quarter of the village population were involved in the project. Two features were found along with finds ranging in age from mediaeval or earlier to 20ᵗʰ century. Most finds were of general habitation in nature, with the exception of two French coins (1800, 1854). Interpretation of the finds would indicate that the mediaeval village was south of the current centre (TL055708) and this provides a focus for future inquiry. The high proportion of residents who were involved in the Big Dig and their enthusiasm would indicate that a future, more focused, archaeological project would be well-supported.

2. Introduction

Covington is a small village on the Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire borders. There are 39 houses and approximately 80 residents. There is a parish church and a village hall (formerly a Victorian schoolroom). The locality is mainly arable, though there is some grazing. The village lies half a mile off the B645 and is accessible only by single track roads. (See Appendix F – maps)

The church is reputed to be the highest in Cambridgeshire at 76m above sea level and dates from at least early 12ᵗʰ century. The village is near the top of a south facing ridge looking over the Kym valley. The geology is boulder clay overlaying London clay. There are a series of ponds and natural springs.The oldest artefact found in the village is a Bronze Age tanged and barbed flint arrowhead[2], although this cannot be contextually verified. Crop marks viewed on aerial

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[1] Covington History Trail
[2] CAM-BA13D6

photographs (although undated) suggest there may have been some Bronze Age and Iron Age habitation[3]. Two Iron Age coins[4] were found north of the village. Nearby archaeological activity has included the discovery of an Iron Age coin hoard now held at St. Neots museum[5]. A recent fieldwalking survey and the finding of numerous Roman coins and other metalwork indicate Roman occupation to the north of the village[6]. Analysis of finds so far collected from this site would suggest this is a small farmstead. Finds collected using metal detectors support the view that people lived in the area in Roman times, particularly the third century AD[7]. There is currently no evidence of Saxon occupation with the possible exception of the village name 'Covington' and a reference in Domesday to 'Aschel who held 8 hides at the Conquest, prior to the parish being awarded to Roger d'Ivry[8]. Cambridgeshire HER has several entries, including fish ponds, moat features, ridge and furrow which begin to give clues to the medieval village[9]. Historical records such as terriers and wills are available largely from the late mediaeval and very little is known about the village prior to this. Architectural examination of the church indicates several rebuildings and modifications since it was constructed in late 12th century and there is a more or less complete list of incumbents with their patrons. Several houses dating back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries still survive (see Covington Village Trail). Much of the land was owned by the Duke of Manchester following enclosure of his estates in 1764. Further enclosure took place following the 1801 Act. The population of the village reached its peak of 240 in the early 1800s but has since declined dramatically, following national trends regarding rural populations and agricultural practices. Apart from agriculture, census records show a significant proportion of workers were involved in the Northamptonshire shoe trade until its demise last century. The coming of the Midland Railway in 1864 had little real effect upon life in Covington. Apart from a few wealthy tenants, most inhabitants were poor and there are many references to Covington residents in the Thrapston Workhouse registers.

Covington History Group joined Jigsaw Cambridgeshire (Jigsaw) in February 2012 with the aim of learning how to use archaeology, alongside historical sources, to find out more about our village. The Group has ten core members and it was decided that the first project should aim to involve as many residents as possible. For several years, there had been the intention to hold a Big Dig in the village and advice was sought from Stephen Macaulay of OAE as to how to go about such an event. The issues facing CHG were lack of expertise in methodology and finds recognition (however, finds had been taken to the County Finds Officer and logged on the PAS Finds Database for some time and there is some non-professional expertise within the Group), and access to specialist equipment such as geophysics survey technology. Soon after, lottery funding was acquired for the setting up of Jigsaw Cambridgeshire. Initial meetings to discuss how the archaeological project in the village should proceed were followed by members of CHG attending training courses run by Jigsaw. These included Testpitting, Finds recognition, Roman pottery and how to operate Geophysics equipment. Jigsaw also supported us in a fieldwalking exercise over an area where Roman artefacts had been found.

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[3] See entries on Cambridgeshire HER database
[4] CAM-E2E7F4, PAS DENO-B7C9C2
[5] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-19341681
[6] Covington Fieldwalking COVTD12 (report in preparation); See Portable Antiquities Scheme – Covington.
[7] Portable Antiquities Scheme - Covington
[8] VCH *A History of the County of Huntingdon: Volume 3* (1936), pp. 38-41
[9] http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Application.aspx?resourceID=1000

## 3.	Acknowledgements

## 4.	Aims and methodology

The aims of the Big Dig event were:
1. Locate evidence of medieval and earlier human activity
2. Put into practice in real situation skills learnt on training courses prior to more focused project
3. Introduce community outside CHG to looking for undocumented past.

CHG took out insurance to cover archaeological activity by any village resident on land owned by residents. It was a condition of insurance that no pit would be more than 1m deep.

It was decided not to focus on one area of the village but to use random sampling for this first Dig with all residents being given the opportunity to host a testpit in their garden or wider property. Some residents were approached directly due to their properties being of potential interest. (There are several potential sites of archaeological interest away from the nucleus of the current village but it was decided to leave these for more targeted investigation following a proper survey and restrict the Big Dig to a more community based project.) All testpits were therefore in gardens. Eight pits were opened over the weekend and one shortly after (see Appendix C.

The exact position of pits was decided upon and recorded using GPS on Friday afternoon. A meeting was held for all participants (testpit owners and diggers) in the evening. A Jigsaw archaeologist described procedures to be followed and went over the completion of recording sheets. Digging took place all day Saturday and Sunday morning, with a plenary meeting held Sunday lunchtime.

Each pit was measured to be 1m square. The turf was stripped off and laid to one side on tarpaulin. Soil was taken off in 10cm layers and sieved as necessary. Finds were carefully washed and placed in labelled bags. Some pits were closed because they had reached natural geology, others because we ran out of time. Before pits were closed, section drawings and plans were produced. Archaeological contexts and finds were recorded throughout.

The following system of recording was used:
Site code:		COVTP12
Testpit number:	TP1, TP2, etc
Context number:	101, 102, for TP1; 201,202 for TP2, etc.

The following documents were completed for each testpit:
Context Master List, Context Recording Sheet for a FILL/CUT (each context), Plan and Section drawings.

5. Results and Interpretation

Several of the testpits are unfinished and so the results detailed below can only be seen as interim.

TP1

Location: Old Rectory garden
Grid Reference: TL 05683 70984
Aims: Located next to a ditch, possibly part of an original moat. Aim was to see if it extended further so excavated a testpit to immediate west of ditch, hoping to catch the edge of the ditch if it had extended further west at any stage in its history.
Results: Conclusively proved that the original ditch did not extend to the west since natural was reached under (103) at 0.4m down, much higher than the ditch to the east.
Interpretation: No closer to proving whether this ditch was part of an original moat, since the moat could have had gaps in it. We have proved that it wasn't a continuous ring, if it was a moat.

TP2

Location: 22 Keyston Road
Grid Reference: TL 05660 70881
Aims: 22 Keyston Road was originally two one-up-one-down Victorian cottages. The owner says outhouses had stood in the garden which serviced the houses (e.g. privies). Testpit sited hoping to locate one of these outhouses.
Results: Only topsoil excavated (in three 10cm 'contexts' but all same archaeological context). Contained a massive dump of 'modern' rubbish: lots of metal including a 1902 Coronation mug, so probably this dump dates to some time after 1902. Traces of burning, so rubbish put in here and periodically burnt? Topsoil overlies yellowy silty-clay – probably subsoil rather than natural, unexcavated. One piece of Midland Black ware in deepest context so may be worth reopening testpit and going deeper.
Interpretation: A dump of kitchen related material in early 20th century. No traces of earlier (or later) outhouses or any other structures, but the subsoil was not excavated and could have produced material. Warrants further investigation.

TP3

Location: The Old Hall
Grid Reference: TL 05708 70826
Aims: Located test pit to north of building known as 'the brewhouse' on the piece of raised land which the brewhouse also stands on. The brewhouse probably dates to the Medieval (at earliest) and the house dates from 1653 . Hypothesis was that this might be a house platform, and if so, that we might find other structural remains in this testpit.
Results: Almost immediately beneath the turf (301) we uncovered a cobbled laid surface (302). Not neatly laid and only one stone thick. This was above the natural to the north and east of the testpit, but a feature was cut into the SW of the testpit – a possible posthole or pit (303) [304].
Interpretation: There is photographic evidence that a lean-to building (piggery) was on this site in early 20th century so post hole/pit could be a post from the piggery? But no dating material from (303) so difficult to say without extending the test pit to the south.   Cobbled surface

could be from the farm yard that used to be here when this farm ran teams of traction engines in the early 20th century.

TP4
Location: Varneys
Grid Reference: TL 05554 70790
Aims: located testpit in the back garden vegetable plot of Varneys, a timber-framed house (originally two cottages dated to the early nineteenth century) expected Medieval and/or post-Medieval finds because of proximity of pit to village green.
Results: Lots of finds recovered. Excavated topsoil in two 10cm spits (401) and (402). Excavated subsoil (403) . Did not hit natural so may not have seen all the archaeology. Not as many earlier finds as expected.
Interpretation: General refuse you would expect from an old house. No structural remains but may not have gone down far enough to hit them.

TP5
Location: The Manor
Grid Reference: TL 05447 70744
Aims: Located testpit to the SE of the house dating from 1735 but likely on the site of earlier buildings and next to church burial ground (earliest date for the church is 1120). Hoped to find evidence of earlier house, possibly Manor house.
Results: Excavated topsoil and two layers of subsoil. No structural remains and finds not very exciting or informative. Piece of worked stone/lime mortar uncovered – medieval and probably dumped from the church during renovations in 1882-3 (scatter of similar material in corner of abutting field)
Interpretation: Finds contemporary with known date of current house or later. No evidence of any structures. Does not appear to be site of any earlier building.

TP6
Location: Longacre
Grid Reference: TL 05723 70756
Aims: Located testpit to the E of the house. Aim as general aim of COVTP12 of trying to find Medieval settlement of Covington.
Results: Not fully excavated. Mostly garden/building rubble. One small piece of St. Neots ware/shellyware which would indicate the need to dig deeper.
Interpretation: The excavation only uncovered the kind of modern refuse expected in most gardens. This house was built in the 1960s and the plot would have been disturbed during the construction. However, the test pit was right at the back of the plot, where it joins the field and so is likely to have been undisturbed although it may have been a dumping area from elsewhere in the garden. The presence of shelly ware would warrant further investigation on this site, especially as it would appear to form an original medieval tenement.

TP7
Location: Bottom Farm
Grid Reference: TL 05677 70465
Aims: Located testpit to the E of the house, to the W of Keyston Road. Bottom Farm dates from 1808 although it appears on an earlier enclosure map (1764 Welstead map – Huntingdon Records and Archives). South of Bottom Farm is the site of The Three Pigeons , an 18th century alehouse. Road predates enclosure and 1614 terrier (Huntingdon Records and Archives). No evidence of any other earlier access to village from South so hoped to find buildings in association with this.
Results: Butchered bone in topsoil (701) – probably 19th century, and finds in subsoil (702) also are modern. Context 703 contained some earlier material, certainly from 16-17th centuries and possibly a century earlier. Layer of building materials.
Interpretation: No structural remains found. However,there is general habitation evidence. Was this a midden or rubbish area? Rather odd to have a rubbish heap between the house and the main street.

TP8
Location: Longacre (front garden)
Grid Reference: TL 05649 70752
Aims: Located in Longacre front garden to try and locate remains of cottages shown in 1764 enclosure map.
Results: Only got through topsoil and a bit of subsoil (due to time constraints) so probably didn't hit any structural layers. Wide variety of finds in topsoil – building materials, clay pipe, household waste and two Napoleonic coins, all dating from 19th century.
Interpretation: Have missed the site of the cottage and are probably in the back garden with general household refuse. Use historical data to pinpoint exact location for further investigation. Inclusion of two French coins is unusual for the village.

TP9
Location: Front garden No2 The Pentelows
Grid Reference: TL 05705 70636
Aims: As general aims of excavation. The Pentelows is a small close of four split level bungalows built in the 1960s on land that was pasture at least since the mid 19th century. Oral recollections hold that the field was full of lumps and bumps in the 1930s-40s.
Results: Lots of finds, particularly in (903) and (905). (905) is a cut or dark brown, mouldable clay through (904) which is yellow and sandy.. Possibly a ditch or, more likely, a rut or similar from the building work here in 1960s. The natural here is brown boulder clay so it is not certain that the natural was reached.
Interpretation: This is a difficult site to interpret because of the disturbances caused by the building of the houses. Historical mapping[10] shows tenements on the East side of Keyston Road and these would have been in place by 1300[11] so it is entirely possible that there were medieval buildings on this land. The lack of 19th century finds bears out the use of the land as pasture within the last 150 years.

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[10] 1801 Enclosure Map – Huntingdon Records and Archives
[11] David Hall

6.   Conclusions

Most of what was found referred to modern occupation (particularly 19th century)of Covington. Significant evidence for medieval occupation was found to the east of Keyston Road at The Pentelows and there were two finds at The Old Rectory. No evidence for structures was found. Many pits were not finished i.e. natural was not reached, due to time constraints and the need for novice diggers to find their feet. Results do, however, give some indication of where to dig next in the search for the medieval village.

During the Big Dig, members of CHG were supervised by Jigsaw staff and were trained in how to record excavations. Those who had attended testpitting training courses took the lead in planning and managing the project, and in working with other residents. Following the Dig, finds processing sessions were held and members who had been on pottery identification courses were able to put their new skills into action. Further excavation projects will be able to be carried out under minimal supervision by Jigsaw, but with their advice and support where required.

In total, eight members of CHG took part, along with twelve other residents(including two children) and two visitors. The Dig certainly caught the imagination of village residents and was well received. Sadly, not much of note was found, although there was great hilarity at TP2 where the contents of a previous kitchen were dug up. The finds processing evening was attended by four residents who do not usually come to meetings of the CHG.

Following this project, it is planned to run a similar event in 2013, but this time focusing pits on sites identified using geophysics equipment or other specific evidence, with the aims of locating the medieval village and investigating roman occupation.

Next Steps:
- Members attend training for Geophysics and Magnetometry equipment
- CHG identify sites for survey and borrow equipment
- Identify sites for 2013 Big Dig

7.   References

See footnotes.

8.   Appendices

APPENDIX A. FINDS REPORTS

A. 1   BRICK, ROOF TILE, DRAIN/SEWER PIPE AND FIRED CLAY

BY ROB ATKINS BSOCSC. DIPARCH MIFA

1.   Methodology

A.1.1   A very small assemblage of CBM and slate (brick, peg roof tiles, pantiles, slate, drain/sewer, fired clay and a possible fitting) comprising 71 fragments (weighing 1.719kg; Table 1) was assessed.

Type	No. of contexts	No. Fragments	Weight (g)
Brick	8	32	761
Ceramic peg	7	25	619
Pantile	2	6	133
Slate	3	5	118
Drain/sewer	1	1	7
Fired clay	1	1	37
?Fitting	1	1	44
Total		**71**	**1719**

Table 1: *Quantification of CBM (and slate) by type, no. fragments and weight*

2. Results

Brick

A.1.2   The 32 brick fragments were all small with no dimensions (even thicknesses) surviving (Table 2). Four fragments were diagnostic with none earlier than mid 18th century in date.

Ceramic peg tile

A.1.3   The ceramic peg tiles (25 fragments) were extremely abraded with an average weight of just 24.76g per sherd (Table 3). No fragments had peg holes and so it is uncertain whether they were from one or two peg hole type tiles. The tiles were a diverse group, dated from the medieval to post-medieval periods, and were in a number of different fabric types.

Other CBM

A.1.4   A small collection of other CBM comprised six 18th/19th century pantile fragments, a late 19th/ 20th century salt glazed drain or sewer pipe, a fired clay fragment with a withie impression and a possible fitting (Table 4).

Slate roof tile

A.1.5   Five 19th/20th century slate roof tile fragments were found in three contexts and

they were likely to have originated from Wales (Table 5).

Context	No.	Weight	Comments
101	3	10	?brick
302	4	246	19th/20th century
401	6	48	Undiagnostic
403	3	50	Undiagnostic
501	1	39	Undiagnostic
503	11	356	1 yellow brick with mortar attached (116g). Mid 18th/19th century; 10 orange sandy. 1 mortar attached. 1 18th/19th century - remainder undiagnostic
801	3	6	?brick - undiagnostic
802	1	6	Machine made 19th/20th
	32	761	

Table 2: *Brick*

Ctxt	No.	Wt (kg)	Comments
101	2	43	Orange with grey core (27g) ?medieval; Hard orange (16g) post-medieval
302	12	236	1 yellow (28g) med/late medieval?; 1 yellow with reduced grey core (40g) Late medieval/postmedieval? 1 hard orange (11g); 4 orange sandy (65g) 1 mortar ?late medieval/post-medieval; 5 orange sandy with grey core (92g) late medieval/early post-medieval
401	3	48	1 yellow/orange mixed (16g); 2 hard orange sandy (32g)
501	1	12	Orange with grey core
503	4	216	3 orange sandy (155g). Mortar on two? ?late medieval; 1 yellow (61g) ?medieval
801	2	61	Hard orange oxidised. Post-medieval
802	1	3	Orange sandy with grey core
	25	619	

Table 3: *Ceramic roof tiles (Peg)*

Ctxt	No.	Wt (kg)	Comments
401	2	35	Pantile Orange sandy (18th/19th century
401	1	7	Drain/sewer Late 19th/20th century
401	1	37	1 withie impression 10mm diameter
503	4	98	?pantile. Orange sandy with grey core. 18/ 19th century. Well made
801	1	44	Ceramic fitting? 19th/20th century

Table 4: *Other CBM*

Context	No.	Weight	Comments
302	1	7	19th/20th
403	3	8	19th/20th
801	1	103	19th/20th
	5	118	

Table5: *Slate*

A. 2   METALWORK

BY JEMIMA WOOLVERTON (IDENTIFICATION BY JAMES FAIRBAIRN)

3.   Methodology

A.1.6   A very small assemblage of metalwork comprising 23 fragments (weighing 0.811kg; Table 6) was assessed. A large quantity of modern metalwork was also excavated from a dump in Test pit 2 (contexts 201, 202 and 203) but was discarded by excavators after the excavation. *(Ed's note: The metal work was extremely rusty and much was discarded after being recorded – see additional finds identification pg20-21.)*

Type	No. of contexts	No. Fragments	Weight (g)
Nails	3	6	52
Knife blade	1	1	18
Alloy stud	1	1	2
Horse shoe	1	1	26
Guttering bracket	1	1	117
Furniture stud	1	1	17
Copper tube	1	1	140
Tin lid	1	1	4
Anti-aircraft gun shells	1	5	304
Wing nut	1	1	14
Modern washer	1	1	50
Bullet end	1	1	45
Buckle ?military webbing bag buckle	1	1	16
Unid metal	1	1	6
Total		**23**	**811**

Table 6: *Quantification of metalwork by type, no. fragments and weight*

4. Results

A.1.7   All metalwork dates from post-medieval and modern periods.

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
302	3	29	Modern nails
401	1	26	Small horse or pony shoe
403	3	13	Modern alloy stud and modern nails
502	1	12	Modern nail
802	1	18	? knife/razor blade
802	14	713	Guttering bracket, furniture stud, copper tube, tin lid, anti-aircraft gun shells, wing nut, modern washer, bullet end, buckle (probably military webbing bag buckle), unidentifiable metal.
Total	**23**	**811**	

Table 7: *Metalwork by context*

A. 3 GLASS

BY JEMIMA WOOLVERTON (IDENTIFICATION BY CAROLE FLETCHER)

5.   Methodology

A.1.8   A very small assemblage of glass comprising 30 fragments (weighing 0.116kg; Table 8) was assessed.

Type	No. of contexts	No. Fragments	Weight (g)
Clear modern glass	2	18	60
Green modern glass	1	5	27
Blue modern glass	1	2	7
Press-moulded modern glass	1	1	4
Brown modern glass	1	2	5
17th/18th century green glass	2	2	13
Total	**8**	**30**	**116**

Table 8: *Quantification of glass by type, no. fragments and weight*

6. Results

A.1.9   All glass dates from post-medieval and modern periods. All 'modern' glass dates from the Victorian period or later. Fragments in contexts (403) and (502) probably date from the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries.

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
403	1	1	17th/18th century green glass
502	1	12	17th/18th century green glass
801	27	98	Green, clear, blue, brown and press-moulded modern glass.
802	1	5	Modern clear glass
Total	**30**	**116**	

Table 9: *Glass by context*

A. 4 CHARCOAL

BY JEMIMA WOOLVERTON

7.   Methodology

A4.1   A very small assemblage of charcoal comprising 7 fragments (weighing 0.008kg; Table
10)   was assessed. Excavators were not requested to keep charcoal, so this sample may not
be   representative.

Type	No. of contexts	No. Fragments	Weight (g)
Charcoal, probably modern	2	8	8
Total	**2**	**8**	**8**

Table 8: *Quantification of charcoal by type, no. fragments and weight*

8. Results

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
403	3	7	Charcoal, probably modern
802	3	1	Charcoal, probably modern
Total	**6**	**8**	

Table 9: Charcoal *by context*

A. 5 POTTERY

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

i.　　The archaeological intervention produced a small pottery assemblage of 113 sherds, weighing 0.0.876kg, from three contexts. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd weight is low at approximately 7g.

Methodology

A.1.10　　The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

A.1.11　　Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Covington History Group until formal deposition.

Assemblage

A.1.12　　The test pits produced a mixture of 19th-20th century ceramics including fragments from a bone china vessel decorated with a single line of gilding, and a small number of post-medieval and medieval sherds. The majority of the medieval material was recovered from Test Pit 9 and includes a small sherd from a Stamford ware jug (Late 9th-end of the 12th century) and sherds from St Neots and Developed St Neots vessels.

A.1.13　　The pottery, although domestic in origin, most likely represents rubbish disposal, with the medieval sherds having been disturbed by post-medieval activity.

Bibliography

Medieval Pottery Research Group　1998　*A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms.* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I

Medieval Pottery Research Group　2001　*Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Test Pit/Context	Fabric	Basic Form-Description	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
Test Pit 3 (302)	Post-medieval Black Glazed ware-Modern Redware	Rim sherd, base sherd and body sherds from several vessels the majority of which are black glazed internally. Several sherds are unglazed and may be from vessels that have lost their glaze or from unglazed portions of vessels.	9	0.079	17th-20th century	19th-20th century
	Refined White Earthenware	Body sherd	1	0.002	19th-20th century	
	Shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.007	Later 12th to 15th century	
Test Pit 4 (403)	Stoneware	Fragment of water or sewer pipe	1	0.003	18th-20th century	20th Century
	Yellow ware-industrial slip ware	Base of small jar, body sherd from a bowl and small body sherds	6	0.031	19th century	
	Post-medieval Black Glazed ware	Abraded body sherds from several vessels	5	0.017	17th-18th century	
	Modern Redware	Body sherd from ?drinking vessel	1	0.002	19th-20th century+	
	Refined White Earthenware	Rim from a drinking vessel and body sherds from various vessels including transfer printed wares	5	0.008	19th-20th century	
	Refined White Earthenware-Flow Blue	Rim and body sherd from a plate or saucer	2	0.005	19th-20th century	
	Bone China	Rim from a drinking vessel	1	0.002	19th-20th century	
	Staffordshire White Salt Glazed ware	Body sherd	1	<0.001	Early-late 18th century	
	Stoneware (unsure or origin probably English)	Body sherd	1	0.021	18th-20th century	
	Bourne D type ware	Sherds from the rim of a jar or jug	2	0.005	Mid 15th-mid 7th century	
	Unprovenanced	Small abraded slightly micaceous body sherd	1	0.002	Medieval	
	Unprovenanced	Small abraded sandy ware body sherd from a jar	1	0.001	Medieval	

Test Pit/Context	Fabric	Basic Form-Description	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
Test Pit 8 (801)	Refined White Earthenware-Flow Blue type	Rim sherds from a plate or bowl	2	0.017	19th-20th century	19th-20th century
	Refined White Earthenware	Rim from a drinking vessel, bases and body sherds from various vessels including transfer printed wares	27	0.430	19th-20th century	
	Bone China	Body sherds including a single sherd with a single gilded line	2	0.001	19th-20th century	
	Refined White Earthenware-industrial slipware	Body sherd	1	0.001	19th-20th century	
	Yellow ware	Body sherd	3	0.005	19th-20th century	
	Refined White Earthenware-sponge printed	Rim sherd	1	0.001	19th-20th century	
	Staffordshire White Salt Glazed ware	Body sherd	1	<0.001	Early-late 18th century	
	Refined White Earthenware	Rim from a shell edged plate	1	0.003	19th century	
	Porcelaineous stoneware type	Rim and body sherd	3	0.013	19th-20th century	
	Dyed Bodied ware	Body sherd	1	0.005	19th-20th century	
	Post-medieval Black Glazed ware	Base sherds from different vessels	2	0.016	17th-18th century	
	Modern Redware	Small upright rim sherd probably from a plant pot	1	0.002	19th century	
	Staffordshire Mottled ware or Manganese Mottled ware	Body sherd from a drinking vessel	1	0.008	18th-19th century	
	Stoneware	Rim from a bottle	1	0.019	19th-20th century	
	Shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.002	14th-end of the 15th century	
	Stamford ware?	Abraded body sherd from a jug	1	0.003	Late 9th-end of the 12th century	
Test Pit 8 (802)	Stoneware	Body sherd	1	0.004	19th-20th century	19th-20th century
	Refined White Earthenware	Body sherd	3	0.005	19th-20th century	
	Shelly ware	Rim and body sherd from separate vessels	2	0.011	14th-end of the 15th	

Test Pit/Context	Fabric	Basic Form-Description	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
					century	
	Post Medieval Redware	Pierced body sherd possibly from a strainer	1	0.003	16th-19th century	
	Unprovenanced Glazed ware	Body sherd from a jug with copper speckled green glaze	1	0.004	Medieval	
	Medieval Sandy reduced ware-Late Medieval Reduced ware	Body sherd	1	0.006	14th-end of the 15th century	
Test Pit 9 (902)	Shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.004	Later 12th to 15th century	Later 12th to 15th century
Test Pit 9 (903)	Developed St Neots	Body sherd	2	0.005	Mid 11th-mid 13th century	Later 12th to mid 14th century
	Shelly ware	Body sherds from various vessels including a sooted sherd	5	0.058	Later 12th to 15th century	
	Shelly ware	Two rim sherds from different jars	2	0.027	Later 12th to 15th century	
Test Pit 9 (905)	Stamford ware	Small glazed body sherd from a jug	1	0.001	Late 9th-end of the 12th century	Later 12th to mid 14th century
	Shelly ware	Small abraded body sherds	3	0.004	Later 12th to 15th century	
	Shelly ware	Rim from a wide mouthed jar or a bowl	1	0.020	Later 12th to 15th century	
	St Neots-Developed St Neots	Base sherd from a jar	1	0.011	Late 9th-mid 13th century	
	St Neots	Base sherd from a jar	1	0.002	Late 9th-end of the 11th century	

Table 1: Pottery dating

Additional identification of pottery from TP1, TP3 and TP9:

TP1 (102)

Medieval peg tile

Lyveden-Stanion Ware (Northants), prob 13th century

TP3 - 18th century farm/kitchen rubbish

18th century tile

Post-Medieval redware – 18th century.

18th century industrial red earthenware –

maybe a Staffordshire charger?

TP9

Thetford Ware (late Saxon 12th century)

Shelly 'soapy' ware. Probably a developed St

Neots ware, 13th century

Shelly ware. Probably Lyveden-Stanion (Northants)

model but later than most – 15th- 16th century. Rim of a big jar.

Grey sandyware. Late Medieval 14th-15th century.

FINDS INVENTORY FOR TP2 (NOT INLCUDED ABOVE)

Test Pit/Context	Fabric	Basic Form-Description	Weight (kg)	Date Range	Context Date Range
Test Pit 2 (201)	China clay	Clay pipe stem 1.5cm long		Modern	19-20th century
	Clear glass	part of trifle bowl or similar	0.0122	19-20th century	
	Green glass	drinks bottle	0.014	19-20th century	
	Brick	Brick	0.123	Modern	
	Part burnt coal/coke		0.070	19-20th century	
	Yellow glazed pottery	Inconclusive	0.005	19-20th century	
	White glazed pottery	Plate/bowl	0.013	19-20th century	
	Black glazed pottery	Jug?	0.017	19-20th century	
	Blue and white glazed pottery	Plates	0.006	19-20th century	
	Iron, some enamelled	Very rusty – kitchen utensils	0.119	19-20th century	
	Teeth and bone	Pig tooth, small mammal bones	0.030	19-20th century	
	Slate	Roof tile	0.006	Undiagnostic	
Test Pit 2 (202)	iron/steel	sickle		19-20th century	19-20th century
	China clay	clay pipe stem 1.5cm long		Modern	
	Clear glass	Part of trifle bowl or similar	0.008	19-20th century	
	Teeth and bone	canine tooth	0.047	19-20th century	
	Burnt brick flakes	Brick	0.016	Undiagnostic	
	Glass clear	Window	0.011	19-20th century	
	Green glass	Drink bottle	0.761	19-20th century	
	Light blue glass	medicine bottle	0.174	19-20th century	
	Green glass (thin)	bottle	0.008	19-20th century	
	Blue patterned pottery	plate	0.007	19-20th century	
	Cream glazed pottery		0.005		
	Salt glazed pottery red clay		0.002		
	Cream glazed pottery	Jar – impressed decoration around neck	0.477	19-20th century	
	Metal – some tinned?		0.431	19-20th century	

Test Pit/Context	Fabric	Basic Form-Description	Weight (kg)	Date Range	Context Date Range
Test Pit 2 (203)	Thin white glass	plate/cup/bowl	0.431	19-20th century	19-20th century
	Bone	Head of femur – large animal	0.039	19-20th century	
	Metal	'Cork and top of bottle' ?	0.016	19-20th century	
	Brown glaze grey clay	Pot	0.018		
	Blue on white glaze pottery	Plate	0.006	19-20th century	
	Thick potter sherd, glazed in and out		0.011	19-20th century	
	Midland Black ware		0.002	17-18th century	
	Rose pink glass	Vase or ornament	0.145	19-20th century	
	Light blue/green glass	Bottle. W. A. Gilbey on base	0.559	1860-1910	
	Clear glass	Lemonade bottle – welded top. Wellingborough inscribed	0.528	19-20th century	
	Thin clear glass	glass jar – discoloured surface	0.229	19-20th century	
	Glass – press moulded	Trifle dish/cake stand	0.634	19-20th century	
	Glass	Hand blown bottle	0.171		
	Thin glass	window	0.106	19-20th century	
	Glass	Small square based bottle. 5cm. Ointment perhaps	0.050	19-20th century	
	Thick green glass	Soft drinks bottle, inscribed St. Ives	0.257	19-20th century	
	Think clear glass	Jar e.g. jam jar	0.142	19-20th century	
	Dark green glass	Drinks bottles	0.832	19-20th century	
	Dark green glass	Square based, slightly textured – spirit bottle?	0.260	19-20th century	
	Green glass	Wine bottles?	0.852	19-20th century	
	Green glass	Drinks bottles – discoloured surfaces	1.175	19-20th century	
	Stoneware	Storage pots, at least three	1.568	19-20th century	
	Metal	Rusty kitchen pots and pans also handle	0.923	19-20th century	
	Enameled tin	Souvenir mug – 1902 coronation		1902	
	Metal	scythe or sickle		19-20th century	
	Metal	mug		19-20th century	

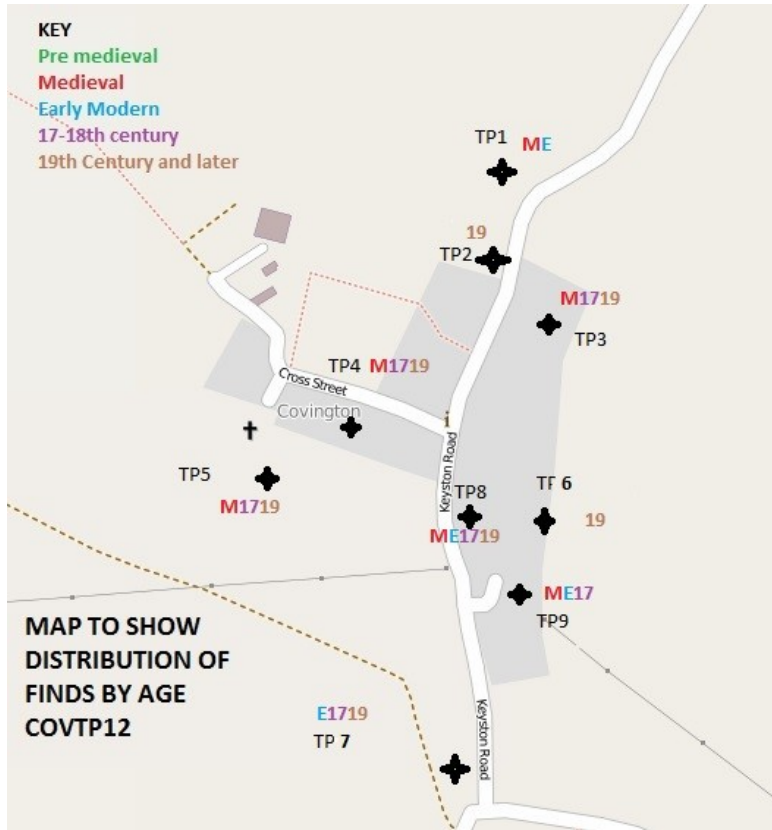| Test Pit/Context	Fabric	Basic Form-Description	Weight (kg)	Date Range	Context Date Range
	white enameled metal	frying pan		19-20th century	
	Metal	Hook or latch?		19-20th century	

FINDS INVENTORY FOR TP6 (NOT INLCUDED ABOVE)

Test Pit/Context	Fabric	Basic Form-Description	Weight (kg)	Date Range	Context Date Range
Test Pit 6 (601)	mortar/cement	building rubble	2.2		19-10th century
	red brick	building rubble	1.011	19-20th century	
	red pottery	flower pots and urns	0.248	19-20th century	
	clay	floor tile? – Victorian? unglazed		Modern	
	clay	roof tile	0.241	19-20th century	
	bone	dog?		19-20th century	
	glazed pottery	flower pot		19-20th century	
	Shelly ware			14th-end of 15th century	
	stone	cobble – part of			

(Finds ID TP2 and 6 by CHG)

APPENDIX B: Maps showing distribution of finds

a) By age

b) By type and quantity

KEY
Pre medieval
Medieval
Early Modern
17-18th century
19th Century and later

TP1 ME

19
TP2

M1719
TP3

TP4 M1719

Cross Street
Covington

TP5
M1719

TP8
ME1719

TP 6
19

ME17
TP9

MAP TO SHOW
DISTRIBUTION OF
FINDS BY AGE
COVTP12

E1719
TP 7

KEY:
p: 5 or less pottery finds
P: more than 5 pottery finds
c: 5 or less cbm finds
C: more than 5 cdm finds
g: 5 or less glass finds
G: more than 5 glass finds
m: 5 or less metal finds
M: more than 5 metal finds
b: 5 or less bone finds
B: more than 5 bone finds
cp: 5 or less clay pipe finds
CP: more than 5 clay pipe finds

TP1 pc

TP2 pGM

TP3
PCmb

TP4
Cross Street
Covington

Cgm
TP5

PCgMBCP

TP6 PCgB
TP8

PCGBCPm

PB
TP9

MAP TO SHOW
DISTRIBUTION OF
FINDS
COVTP12

TP 7 pCmcp

APPENDIX C: Map showing test pits and their numbers
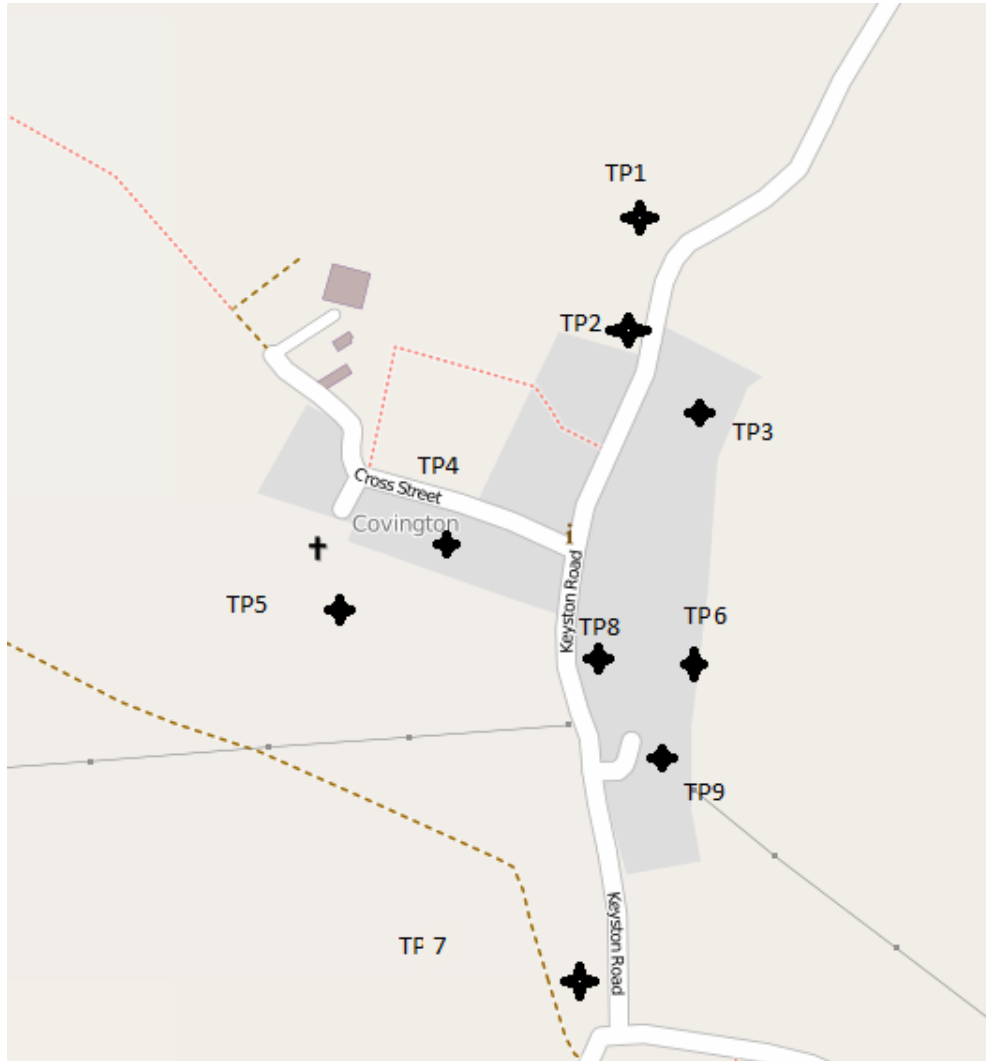
APPENDIX D: Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.44
					Width (m)	1.0
					Length (m)	1.0
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
101	fill	1m	0.28	Topsoil	CBM, stone	Medieval/post medieval
102	fill	1m	0.22	Subsoil	Peg tile Sherd	Medieval 13th century
103	fill	1m	-	Natural	CBM, flint, stone	

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Dark to medium brown topsoil. Domestic refuse, mostly 19th-early 20th century kitchen equipment and glass. Some burning. 1902 enamel Coronation mug. One piece of Midland black ware.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.0
					Length (m)	1.0
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
201	fill	1m	.10	topsoil	bone, cbm, flint, glass, metal, pottery, stone	modern 19th century
202	fill	1m	.10	topsoil	as above	as above
203	fill	1m	.10	topsoil	bone, flint, glass, metal, pottery, shell	as above

Trench 3

General description			Orientation	N-S

	Avg. depth (m)	.8
Dark brown loose soil above layer of 30mm gravelly stones overlying cobble stones. Post hole or pit cut into subsoil layer.	Width (m)	1
	Length (m)	1

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
301	fill	1	.1	topsoil	-	-
302	fill	1	.1	surface	bone, cbm, flint, metal, pottery	19-20th century modern early-late medieval
303	fill	1	.3	buried soil	-	-
304	cut	.2	.3	post hole	-	-

Trench 4

General description			Orientation	N-S

	Avg. depth (m)	.3
Medium brown going to light brown soil with some inclusions. 401 and 402 can be considered together.	Width (m)	1
	Length (m)	1

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
401	fill	1	.10	topsoil	cbm, metal	18-20th century modern
402	fill	1	.6	topsoil	bone, cbm, glass, pottery	modern
403	fill	1	.15	subsoil	-bone, cbm, clay pipe, flint, glass, metal, pottery, stone, charcoal	19-20th century modern 17-18th century medieval

Trench 5

General description					Orientation		N-S

General description	Avg. depth (m)	.4
Silty clay with the occasional inclusion. Some large chunks of mortar or stone with the appearance of having been dressed.	Width (m)	1
	Length (m)	1

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
501	fill	1	.2	topsoil	cbm, flint	undiagnostic
502	fill	1	.1	subsoil	cbm, flint, glass, metal	17-18th century modern
503	fill	1	.2	subsoil	cbm	mid 18th-19th century ? medieval/late medieval

Trench 6

General description	Orientation	N-S

General description	Avg. depth (m)	.5
Dark brown clayey silt with moderate inclusions. Mostly building/garden rubble. One piece of Shelly ware.	Width (m)	1
	Length (m)	1

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
601	fill	1	.36	topsoil	cbm, clay pipe, flint, metal, pottery	19-20th century
602	fill	1	.14	subsoil		not completed

Trench 7

General description					Orientation		W-E

General description	Avg. depth (m)	.45(incl turf)
Dark brown clay loam with generally frequent inclusions. Context 702-3 comprised a layer of gravel and general building rubble. This pit went down to the Oxford clay natural. (703) was solid blue/grey/yellow clay suitable for brick making	Width (m)	1
	Length (m)	1

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
701	fill	1	.1	topsoil	bone, cbm, slag, stone	-19th century
702	fill	1	.1	topsoil	-bone, cbm, flint, metal, pottery, stone	-15-19th century
703	fill	1	.17	subsoil/natural		

Trench 8

General description	Avg. depth (m)	.5
Silty brown clay with little inclusion. Front garden currently laid to lawn, abutting Keyston Road. In the vicinity of historically recorded cottage. Napoleonic coin 1854, 1st French Republic un décime coin 1800.	Width (m)	1
	Length (m)	1

Orientation: N-S

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
801	fill	1	.43	topsoil	bone, cbm, claypipe, flint, glass, metal, pottery, shell	9-12th century 14-15th century early modern 19-20th century
802	fill	1	.7	subsoil	clay pipe, metal, pottery, charcoal	14-15th century medieval 16-19th century modern

Trench 9

General description		Orientation	NW-SE
Dark brown crumbly soil to yellow sandy deposit. Historically known to have been pasture for last 150 years at least. Small estate of bungalows built here in 1960s. Pit area since then undisturbed and not cultivated but may be contaminated with soil moved from elsewhere on plot during building phase.		**Avg. depth (m)**	.7
		Width (m)	1
		Length (m)	1

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
901	fill	1	.1	turf layer	-	
902	fill	1	.1	topsoil	bone	later 12th-15th century
903	fill	1	.2	topsoil	bone, pottery, polished pebbles	11-15th century
904	fill	1	.11-.6	yellow sandy deposit, not sure of origin	-	-
905	cut	1	.2-.35	maybe back fill into ditch or rut	bone, pottery, charcoal, shell	late 9th to mid 14th century

APPENDIX E: Drawings
Ei   Plan drawings (archaeologically interesting pits only)

TP3 Plan 1
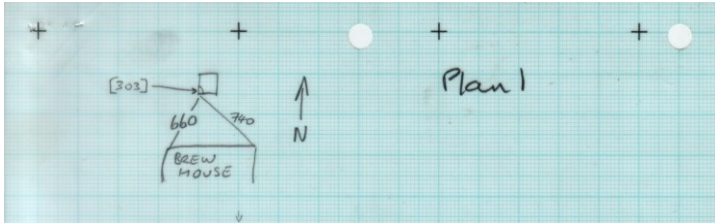
TP9 Plan 1
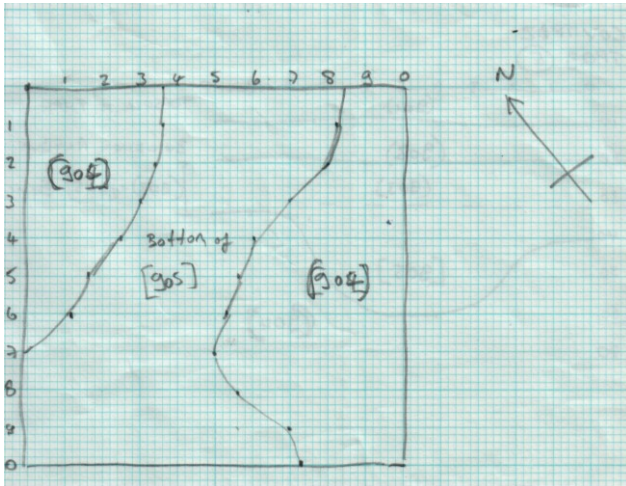
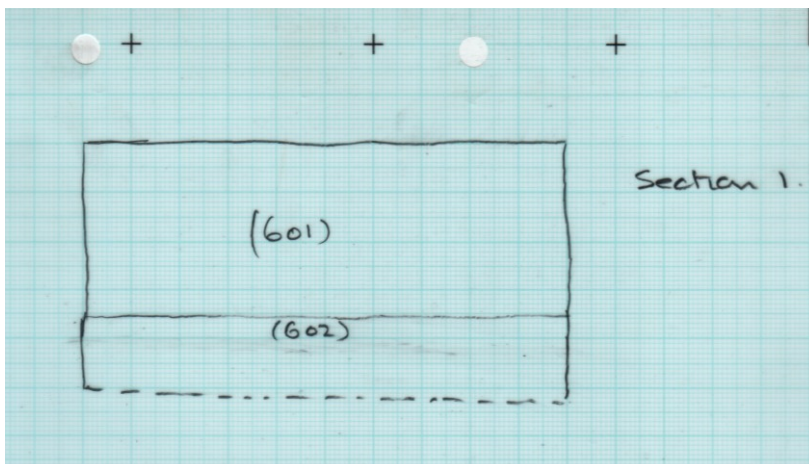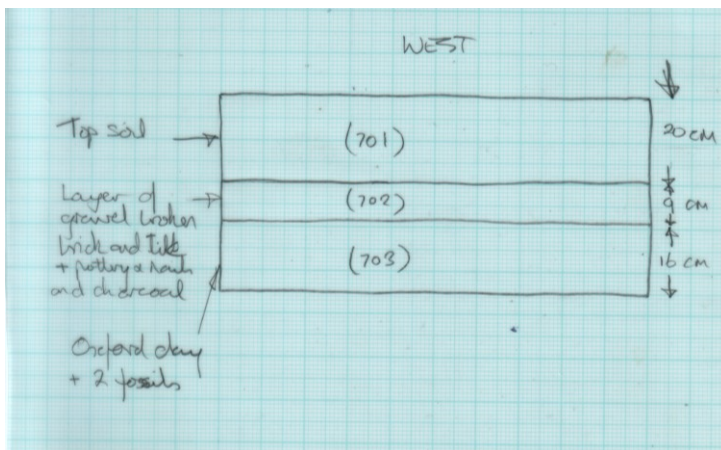## Eii   Section drawings
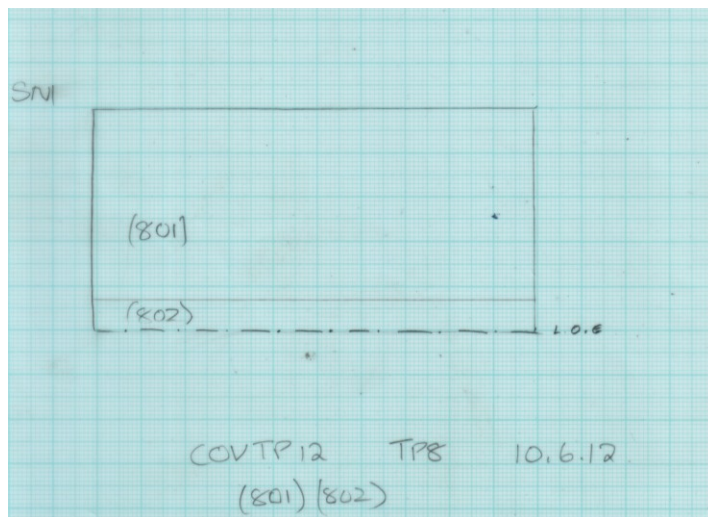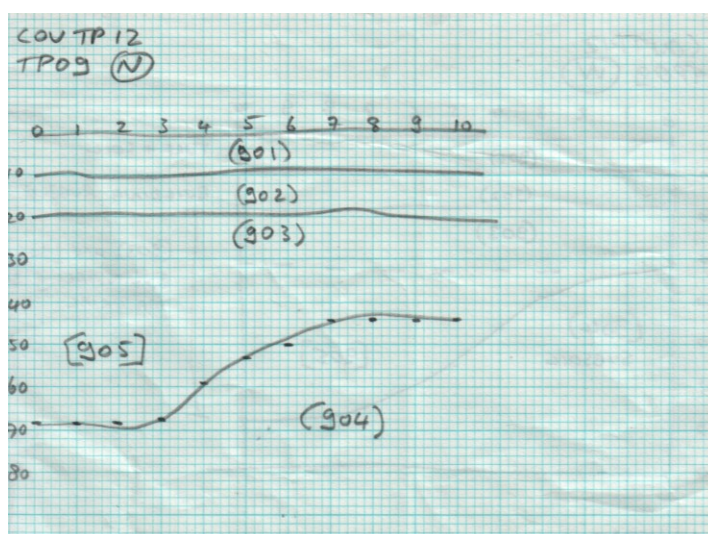
TP1 Section1
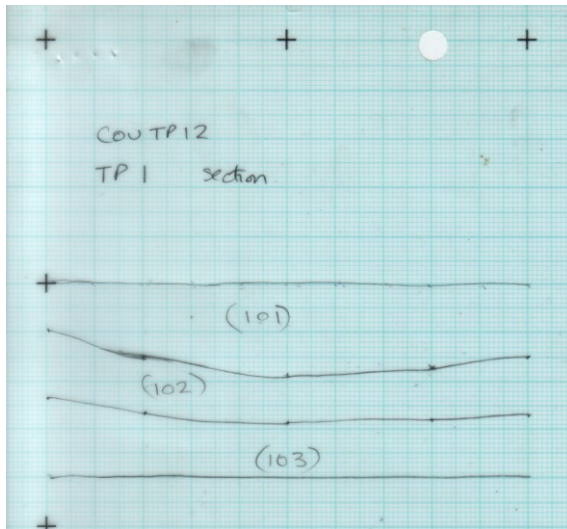
TP2 Section 1
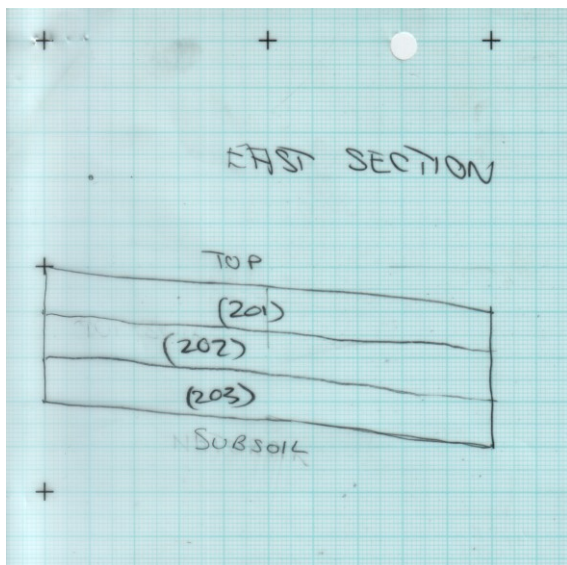
TP3 Section 1, 2

TP4 Section 1

COU TP12   TP 4

(401) and (402)

(403)

TP5 Section 1

COU TP12
TP5

(501)

(502)

(503)

TP6 Section 1

(601)

Section 1.

(602)
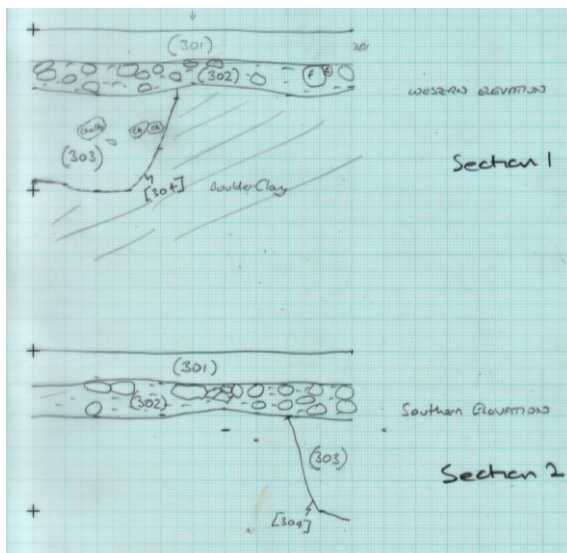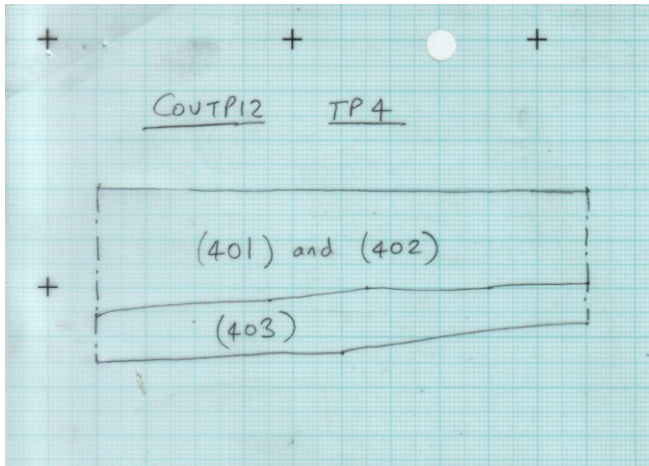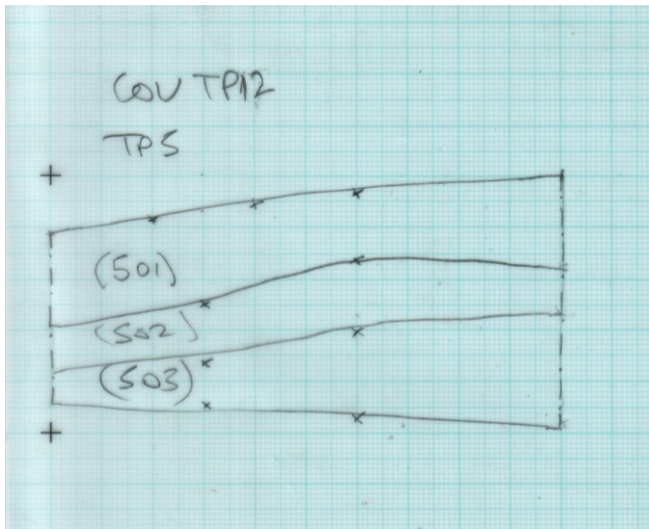
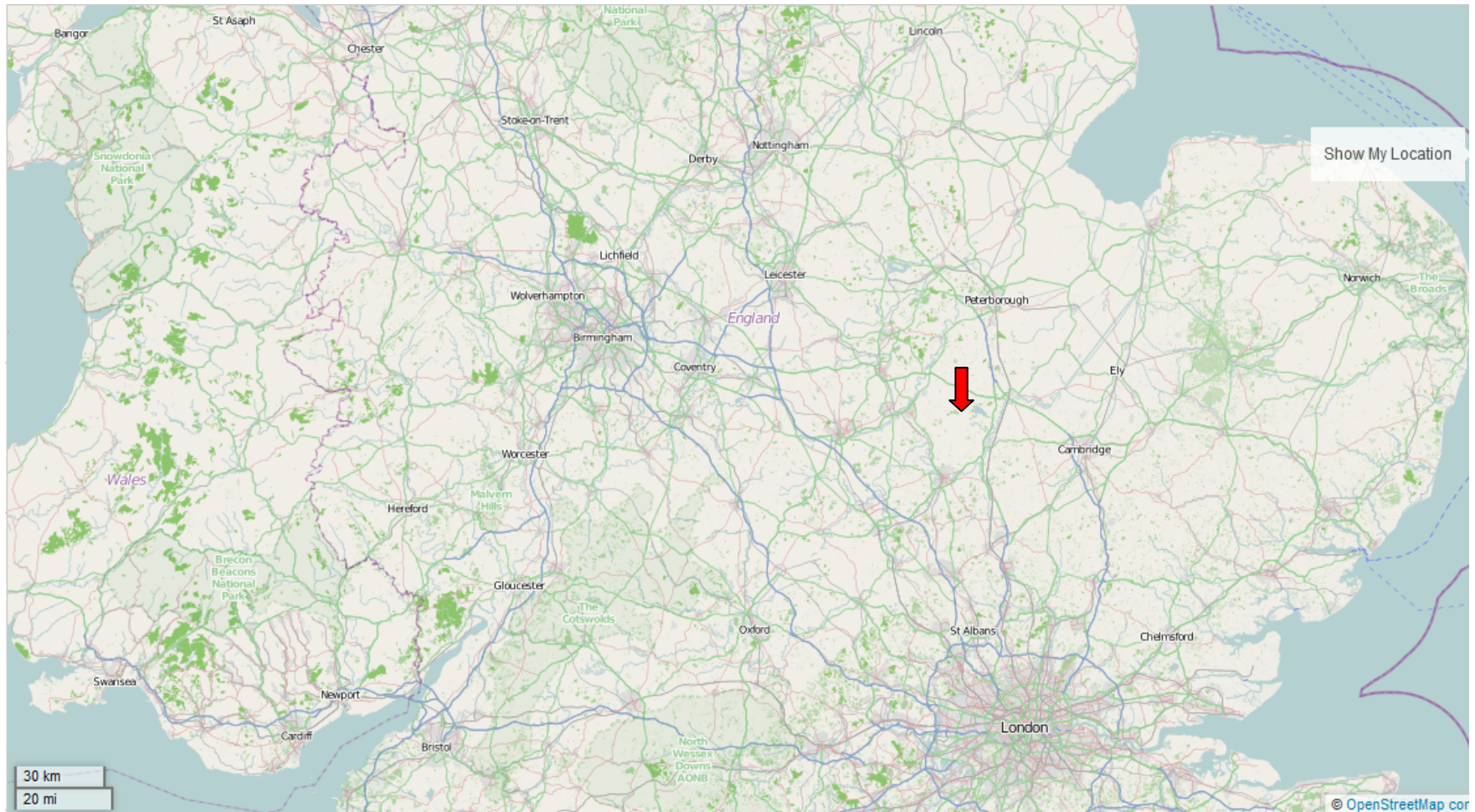TP7 Section 1

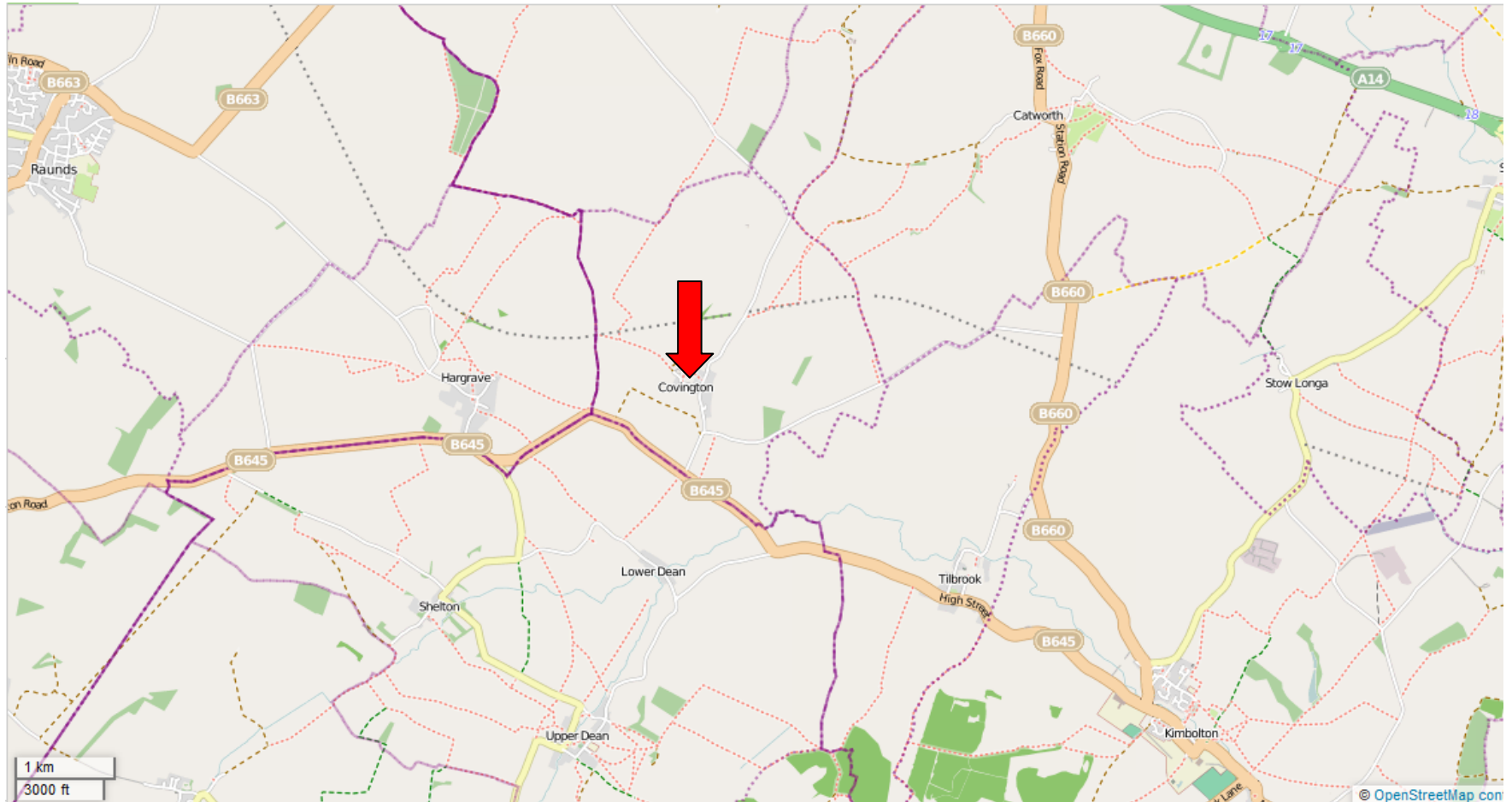TP8 Section 1

TP9 Section 1

APPENDIX F: Locality maps

F.i Central and Eastern England

F.ii Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire border

F.iii Covington Village