

# Covington Archaeology Project

## 20-30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

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### Summary information:

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 HER Event No: CHER 12258  
 Date of works: 20-30<sup>th</sup> September 2013  
 Grid reference: TL57  
 Site code: COVTP13  
 Receiving body: Return to landowners. Particular finds retained with permission by Covington History Group in documented reference collections.  
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## 1. Summary

Following on from COVTP12, it was decided to focus on attempting to locate evidence of medieval Covington within the village itself using historical sources as a guide. Excavations also took place to investigate the ditches in the field known as Mitchells (alias Bovetune, Mote Close) and a preliminary testpit was also put in over a substantial anomaly in the field named Glebe 2 following the magnetometry survey here. Eleven testpits were dug in total. The excavations of the ditches in Bovetune produced significantly fewer finds than expected but showed that the surface of the ditches were puddled and that the ditches were at least 1.5m deep. The testpit in Glebe 2 produced a range of Roman and some Iron Age pottery and was found to be over a deep ditch. The testpits in the village were, with the exception of TP4, unsuccessful in locating structures. It proved difficult to use the documentary sources accurately enough to locate buildings that are known to have existed, largely due to variation in the width of the road. TP4 contained an apparent stone structure and a large quantity of medieval pottery fragments.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> century. The village is near the top of a south facing ridge looking over the Kym valley. The geology is boulder clay overlaying Oxford 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<sup>1</sup>, although this cannot be contextually verified. Crop marks viewed on aerial photographs (although undated) suggest there may have been some Bronze Age and Iron Age habitation<sup>2</sup>. Two Iron Age coins<sup>3</sup> 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<sup>4</sup>. Recent **fieldwalking and magnetometry** surveys and the finding of numerous Roman coins and other metalwork indicate Roman occupation to the north of the village<sup>5</sup>. 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<sup>6</sup>. 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<sup>7</sup>. Cambridgeshire HER has several

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<sup>1</sup> CAM-BA13D6

<sup>2</sup> See entries on Cambridgeshire HER database

<sup>3</sup> CAM-E2E7F4, PAS [DENO-B7C9C2](#)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-19341681>

<sup>5</sup> Covington Fieldwalking COVTD12 (report submitted to CHER); See Portable Antiquities Scheme – Covington.

<sup>6</sup> Portable Antiquities Scheme - Covington

entries, including fish ponds, moat features, ridge and furrow which begin to give clues to the medieval village<sup>8</sup>. Historical records such as terriers and wills are available largely from the late medieval 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

The previous season's project COVTP12 had been highly supported by Jigsaw (Cambridgeshire) staff and it was intended that the Group would plan and carry out an archaeological investigation more independently, putting into practice that learned on courses from the Jigsaw Training Programme 2013. There are two periods of archaeological interest in the village – Roman and medieval. It is clear there is a Roman site north-east of the village itself. A **magnetometry survey was carried out** which indicated considerable earthworks and based on this a testpit was placed across a strong anomaly. Cropmarks in the eastern section of a field known as Mitchells (sometime known as Bovetune or Mote Close) and local recollections indicate the existence of a figure of eight shaped moat which was filled in in the twentieth century. This area was surveyed, both resistivity and magnetic were used, and three testpits were placed in response to this data. Both the Roman site and Mitchells are owned by T.R. Brown & Sons who kindly gave permission for archaeological investigation. Covington has a clear medieval structure, borne out by **old maps and descriptions of the manor**. Manorial documents detail ten tofts, ten gardens etc., and indentures indicate that these were one acre in size. Maps dating from 1764 show a range of plots lying between Keyston Road and a parallel farm track to the East which fit this description. The location of cottages on some of these plots is shown on the 1891 OS map. Testpits were placed in the village on sites where the knowledge of the previous existence of cottages coincided with known medieval messages with the aim of finding physical evidence of the medieval village and its occupants. These latter sites were all on privately owned land and excavated either by the landowner or with their permission.

### 3. Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the staff of Jigsaw for the training, time, equipment and expertise they have given us.

Excavators: S. Parsons, M. Parsons, R. Brown, M. Brown, I. Baker, L. Lockhart, M. Riswick, K. Day, H. Day, D. Peck.

Magnetometry survey: S. Parsons

We are very grateful for the meticulous photographic recording of our project by J. Turrell.

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<sup>7</sup> VCH *A History of the County of Huntingdon: Volume 3* (1936), pp. 38-41

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Application.aspx?resourceID=1000](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Application.aspx?resourceID=1000)

Permission to excavate was given by R. Brown, S. and D. Peck, E. Triance, I. Baker and D. and C. Saunders.

#### **4. Aims and methodology**

The aims of the 2013 archaeology project were:

1. Investigate the ditches in Bovetune (Mitchells Field)
2. Locate physical evidence of the medieval village of Covington
3. Begin to investigate the Roman site north-east of the village

CHG took out insurance to cover archaeological activity by members of Covington History Group within the Parish boundaries.

##### Bovetune

A resistance survey and a magnetometry survey were carried out on this field prior to the excavation period. Three 1m test pits were opened, one on the southernmost arm of the figure of eight ditch, one on the central arm and one just inside the northwestern corner where the magnetometry survey suggested an anomaly. Grass was strimmed back around each target and turf lifted off and set to one side on a tarpaulin. Spoil was not always sieved due to its compactness but gone through by hand. A metal detector was swept over spoil heaps periodically. Finds were carefully washed and placed in labelled bags. One pit was closed because natural geology had been reached. The other two pits were closed because the full extent of operating depth had been reached. Before pits were closed, section drawings and plans were produced. Archaeological contexts and finds were recorded throughout.

##### Roman site (TP1, (TP11)

A magnetometry survey was carried out on this site contemporary with the start of the archaeology project. As a result of this, a significant anomaly was chosen for further investigation and a 1m test pit (TP1) was opened. The turf was lifted off and set to one side on a tarpaulin. Spoil was not sieved due to its compactness but gone through by hand. A metal detector was swept over spoil heaps periodically. Finds were carefully washed and placed in labelled bags. The pit was closed because natural geology had been reached. Before the pit was closed, section drawings and plans were produced. Archaeological contexts and finds were recorded throughout. TP11 was opened over another anomaly shown on the magnetometry but this was closed after very little work due to unforeseen circumstances. (This testpit will be reopened in 2014.)

##### TPs 4, 7, 8, 9, 10

These were sited with reference to the 1891 OS map.

TP4 (4 The Pentelows): The distance from the edge of Keyston Road to the front edge of the cottages marked on the 1891 OS map was measured and this measurement was used to calculate the location of the pit and a 1m testpit was opened. The turf was lifted off and set to one side on a tarpaulin. Spoil was sieved and a metal detector was swept over spoil heaps periodically. Finds were carefully washed and placed in labelled bags. This pit was not closed and remained open for further investigation in 2014.

TP7, 10 (14 Keyston Road): Measurements were taken as above from the road to the front of the cottage shown on the 1891 OS map. Alignment with the garage of Rookery Farm was also taken into account in locating the possible site of 'The Old Post Office' and a 1m testpit was opened (TP7). This pit clearly missed the cottage site and so TP10 was opened. The turf was lifted off and set to one side on a tarpaulin. Spoil was sieved. A metal detector was swept over spoil heaps periodically. Finds were carefully washed and placed in labelled bags. Both pits were closed when natural was met.

### TP13

This was opened in the front garden of No. 4 The Pentelows. The Pentelows was a field with many 'lumps and bumps' before it was flattened and a small estate of four houses were built in the 1960s. Medieval and Roman finds have been collected from gardens in the southern half of the estate. Pottery finds have not been reported from the northern half of the estate. The exact site of TP13 was chosen at random and there was no preceding geophysics or reference to maps or surveys.

The following system of recording was used throughout:

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century, and finds in subsoil (702) also are modern. Context 703 contained some earlier material, certainly from 16-17<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>9</sup> shows tenements on the East side of Keyston Road and these would have been in place by 1300<sup>10</sup> so it is entirely possible that there were medieval buildings on this land. The lack of 19<sup>th</sup> century finds bears out the use of the land as pasture within the last 150 years.

## 6. Conclusions

Most of what was found referred to modern occupation (particularly 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<sup>9</sup> 1801 Enclosure Map – Huntingdon Records and Archives

<sup>10</sup> David Hall



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**

**A: Finds reports**

**B: Map showing distribution of finds**

**C: Map showing testpits and their numbers**

**D: Trench descriptions and context inventory**

**E: Drawings**

**F: Locality maps**

## 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.

<b>Type</b>	<b>No. of contexts</b>	<b>No. Fragments</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
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
<b>Total</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>1719</b>

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
<b>Total</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>811</b>

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.
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>811</b>	

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
17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century green glass	2	2	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>116</b>

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	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century green glass
502	1	12	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century green glass
801	27	98	Green, clear, blue, brown and press-moulded modern glass.
802	1	5	Modern clear glass
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>116</b>	

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

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

## 8. Results

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

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 | <i>A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms.</i><br>Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1   |
| Medieval Pottery Research Group | 2001 | <i>Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics</i><br>Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2 |



<b>Test Pit/Context</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Basic Form-Description</b>	<b>Sherd Count</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Pottery Date Range</b>	<b>Context Date Range</b>
<b>Test Pit 3 (302)</b>	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	
<b>Test Pit 4 (403)</b>	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	

<b>Test Pit/Context</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Basic Form-Description</b>	<b>Sherd Count</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Pottery Date Range</b>	<b>Context Date Range</b>
<b>Test Pit 8 (801)</b>	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		
<b>Test Pit 8 (802)</b>	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	

<b>Test Pit/Context</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Basic Form-Description</b>	<b>Sherd Count</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Pottery Date Range</b>	<b>Context Date Range</b>
					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	
<b>Test Pit 9 (902)</b>	Shelly ware	Body sherd	1	0.004	Later 12th to 15th century	Later 12th to 15th century
<b>Test Pit 9 (903)</b>	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	
<b>Test Pit 9 (905)</b>	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 13<sup>th</sup> century

**TP3 - 18<sup>th</sup> century farm/kitchen rubbish**

18<sup>th</sup> century tile

Post-Medieval redware – 18<sup>th</sup> century.

18<sup>th</sup> century industrial red earthenware –  
maybe a Staffordshire charger?

**TP9**

Thetford Ware (late Saxon 12<sup>th</sup> century)

Shelly 'soapy' ware. Probably a developed St

Neots ware, 13<sup>th</sup> century

Shelly ware. Probably Lyveden-Stanion (Northants)

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

*Grey sandyware. Late Medieval 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.*

## FINDS INVENTORY FOR TP2 (NOT INLCUED ABOVE)

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

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

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

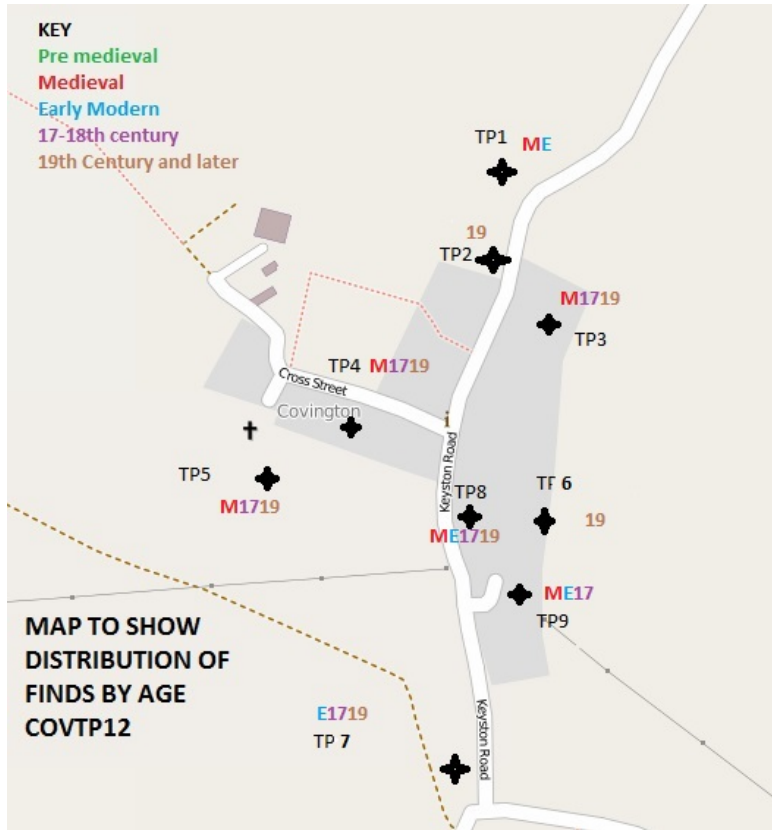
## FINDS INVENTORY FOR TP6 (NOT INLCUED ABOVE)

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

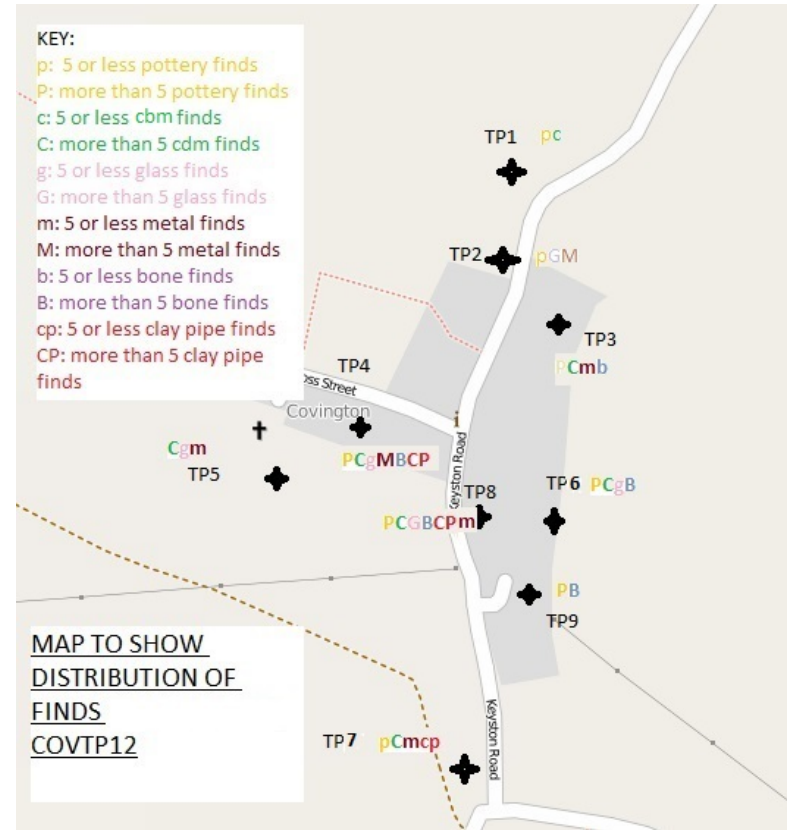
(Finds ID TP2 and 6 by CHG)

APPENDIX B: Maps showing distribution of finds

**a) By age**

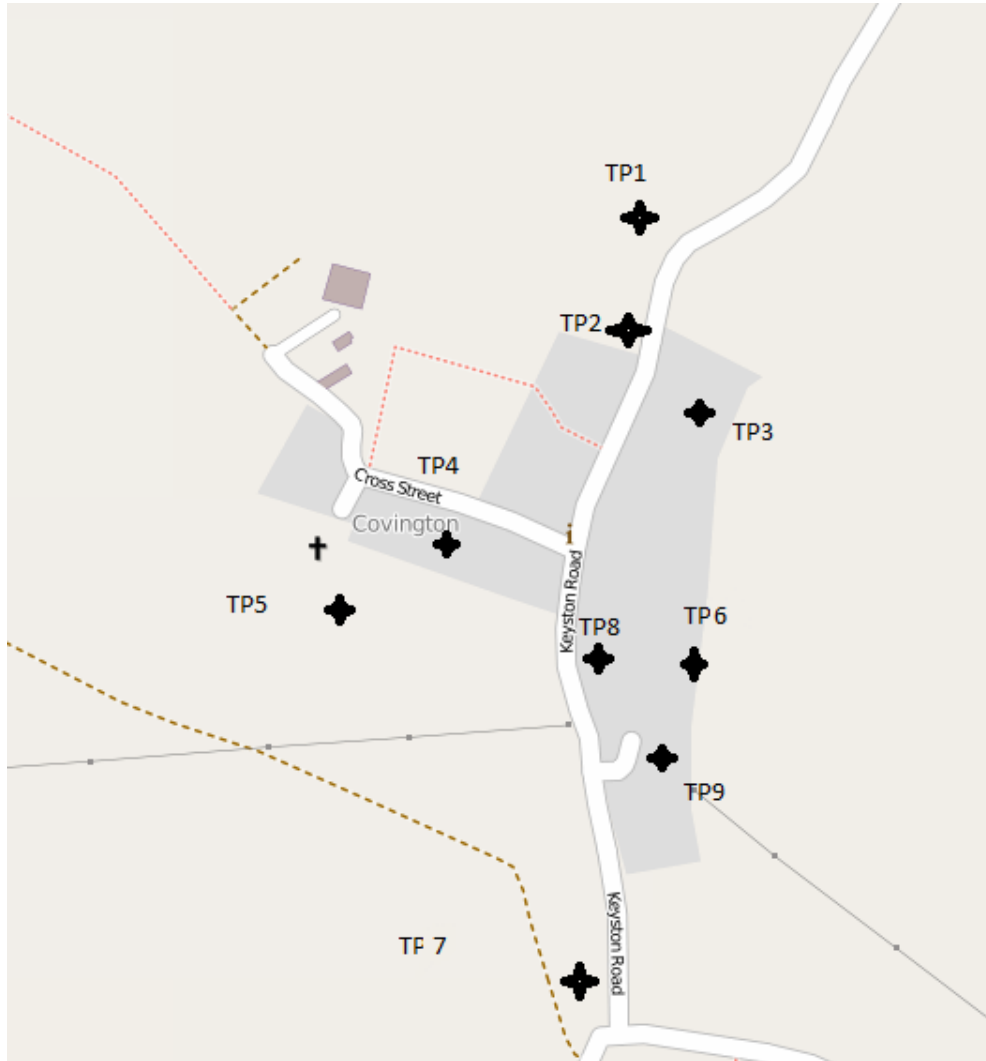


**b) By type and quantity**





APPENDIX C: Map showing test pits and their numbers



## APPENDIX D: Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.44
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.0
					<b>Length (m)</b>	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 13 <sup>th</sup> century
103	fill	1m	-	Natural	CBM, flint, stone	

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	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.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.0
					<b>Length (m)</b>	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
Dark brown loose soil above layer of 30mm gravelly stones overlying cobble stones. Post hole or pit cut into subsoil layer.				Avg. depth (m)		.8
				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
Medium brown going to light brown soil with some inclusions. 401 and 402 can be considered together.				Avg. depth (m)		.3
				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
Silty clay with the occasional inclusion. Some large chunks of mortar or stone with the appearance of having been dressed.				Avg. depth (m)		.4
				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
Dark brown clayey silt with moderate inclusions. Mostly building/garden rubble. One piece of Shelly ware.				Avg. depth (m)		.5
				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
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				Avg. depth (m)		.45(incl turf)
				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		

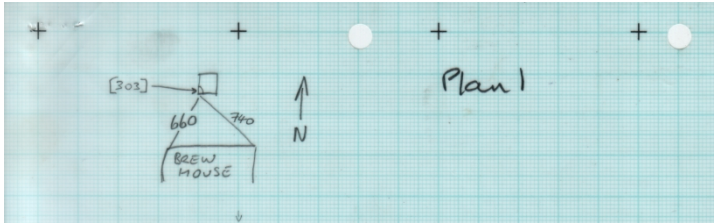
Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Silty brown clay with little inclusion. Front garden currently laid to lawn, abutting Keyston Road. In the vicinity of historically recorded cottage. Napoleonic coin 1854, 1st French Republic un décime coin 1800.				Avg. depth (m)		.5
				Width (m)		1
				Length (m)		1
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

<b>Trench 9</b>						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		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.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		.7
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1
				<b>Length (m)</b>		1
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
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

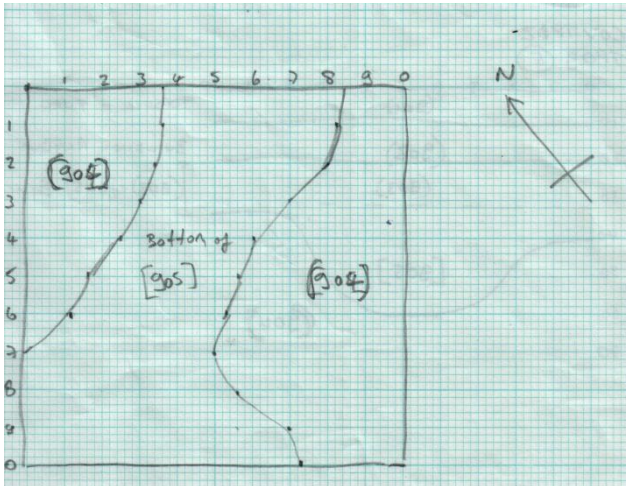
## APPENDIX E: Drawings

### Ei Plan drawings (archaeologically interesting pits only)

TP3 Plan 1

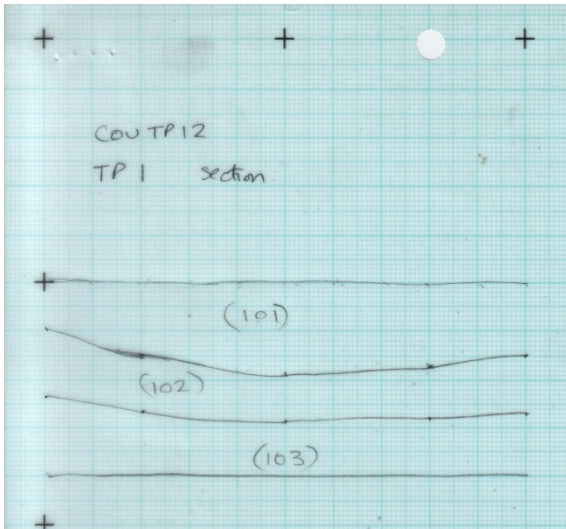


TP9 Plan 1

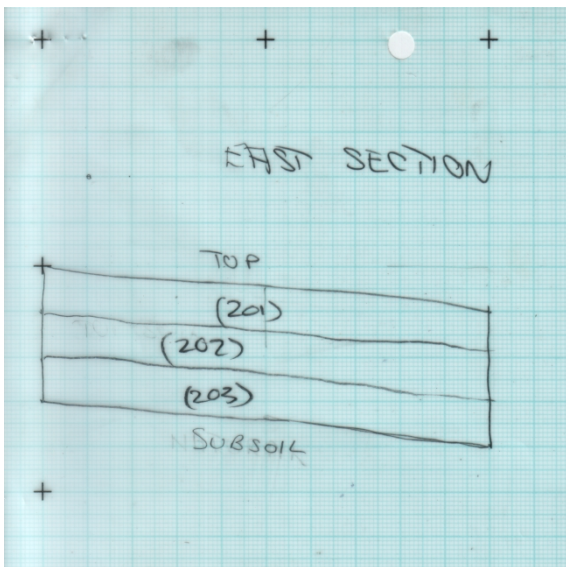


Eii Section drawings

TP1 Section1

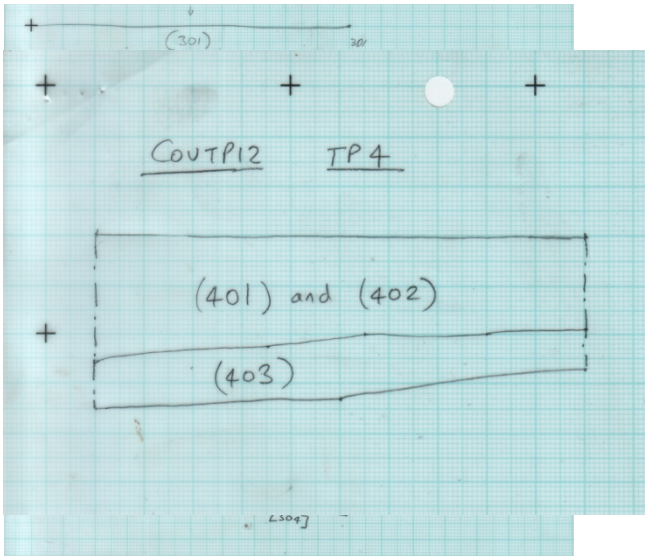


TP2 Section 1



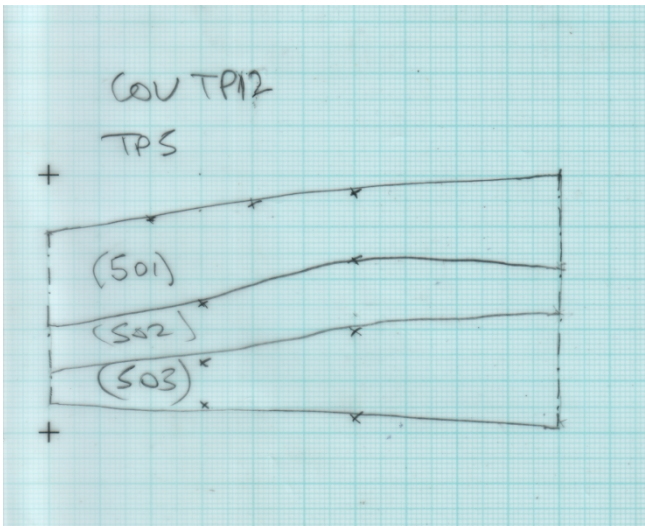


TP3 Section 1, 2

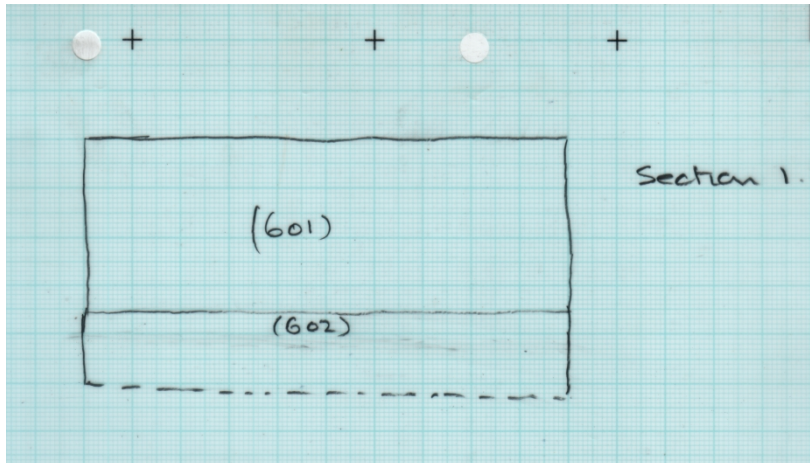


TP4 Section 1

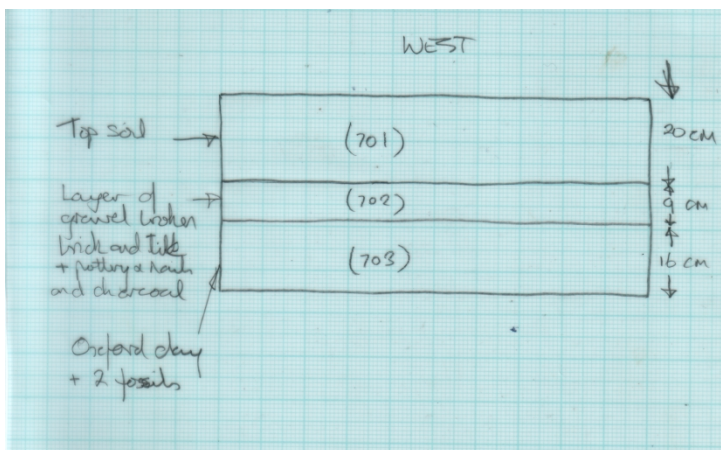
TP5 Section 1



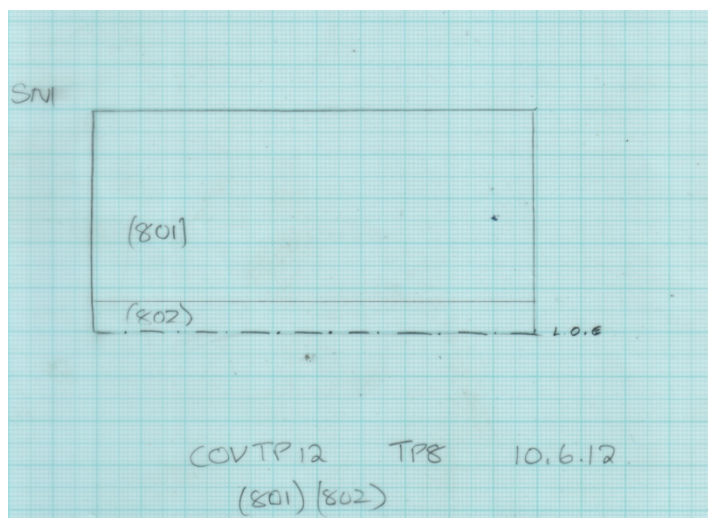
TP6 Section 1



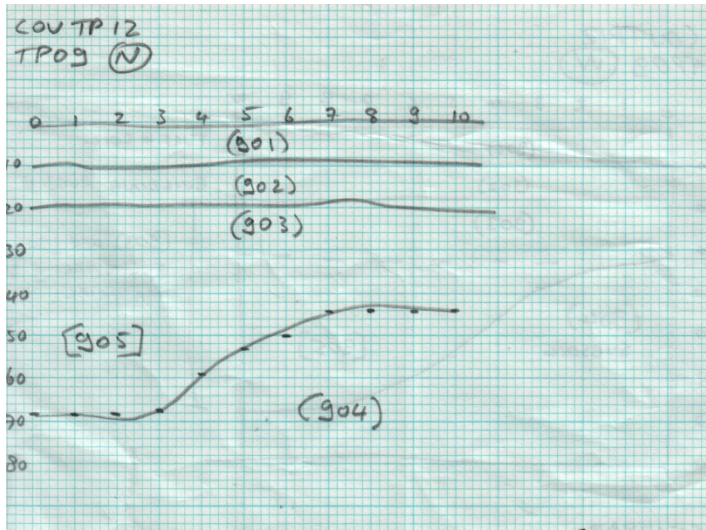
TP7 Section 1



TP8 Section 1

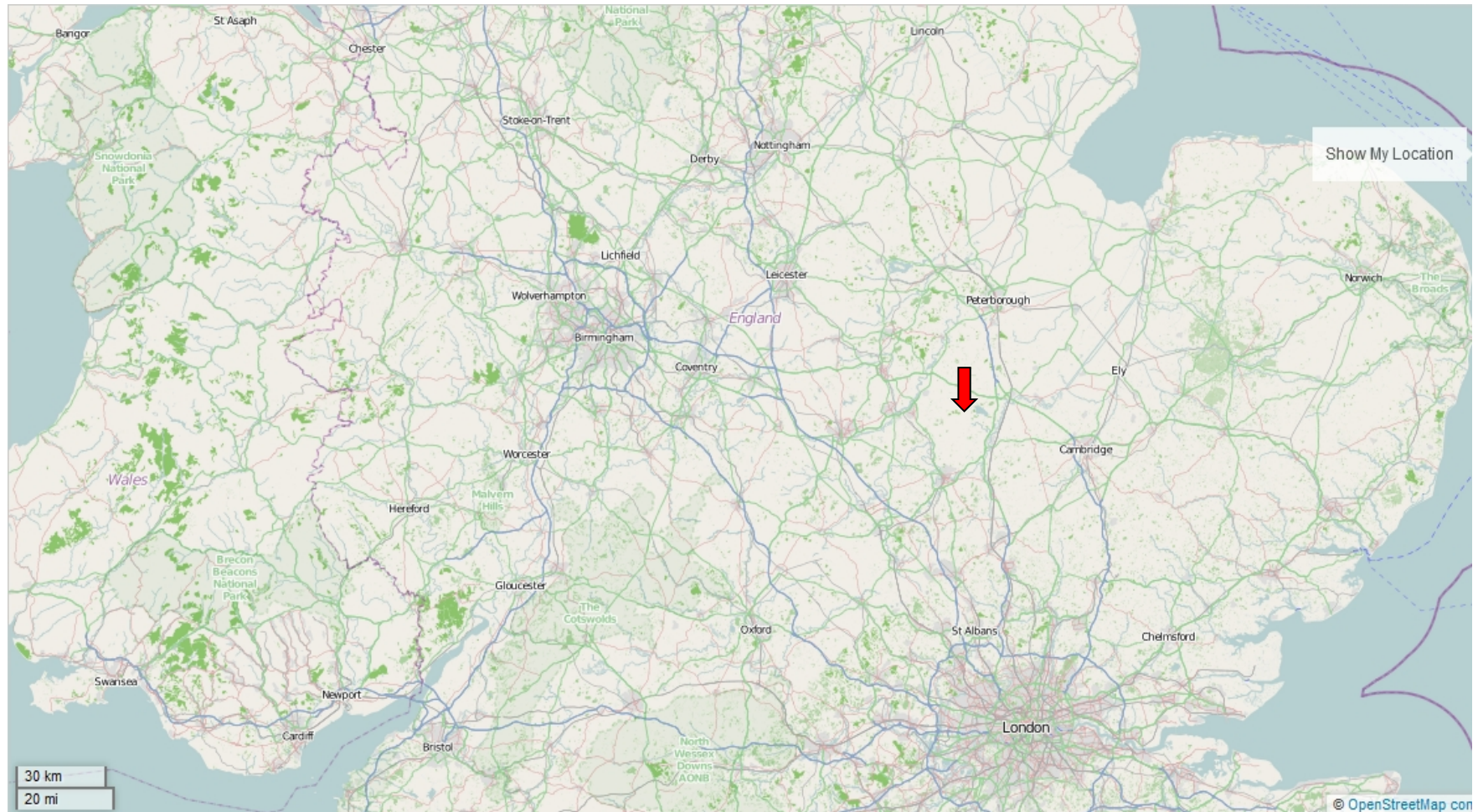


TP9 Section 1

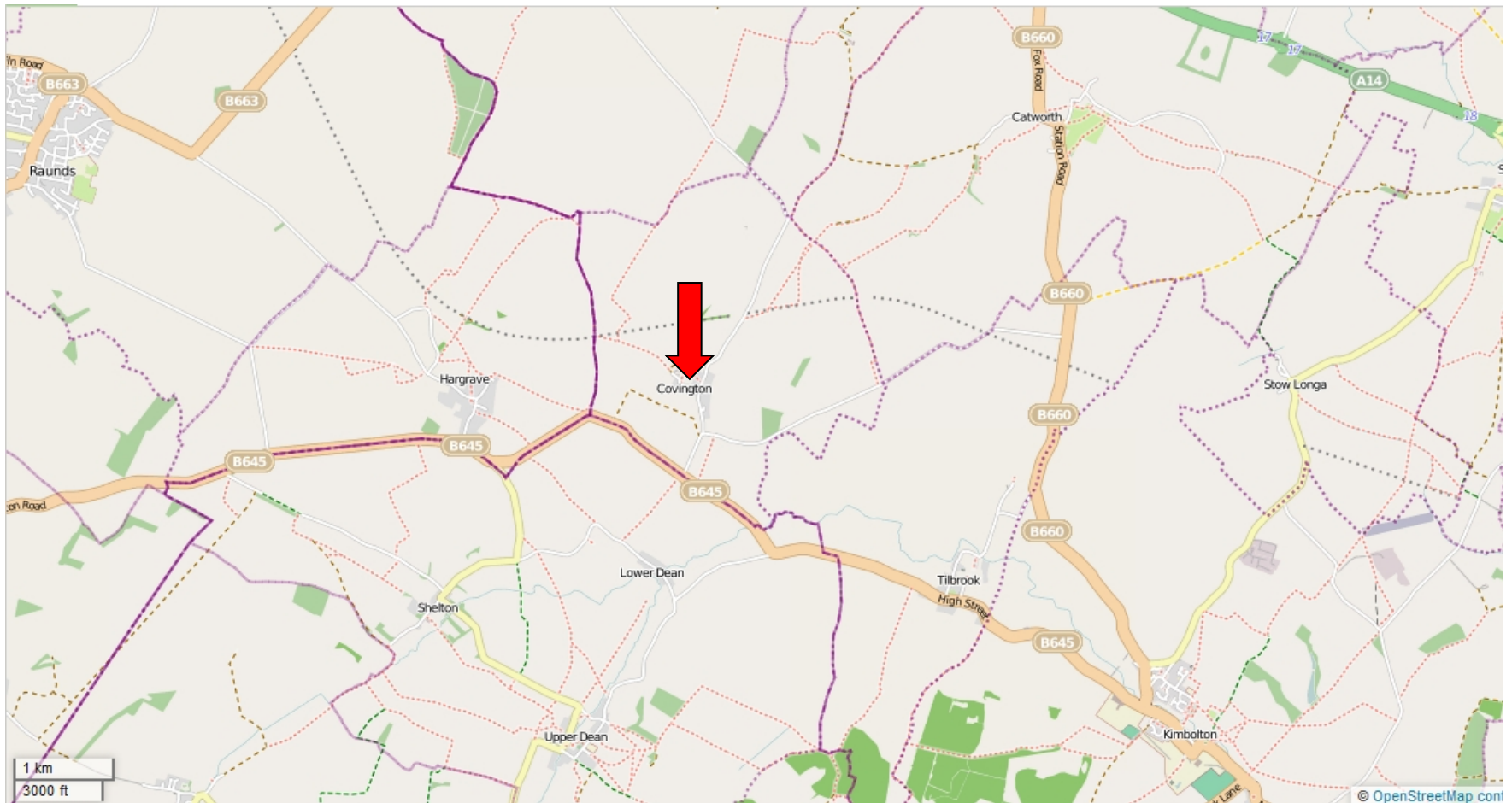


## APPENDIX F: Locality maps

### F.i Central and Eastern England



F.ii Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire border



F.iii Covington Village

