

Covington:
a Medieval Village
History Uncovered
by the Jigsaw
Training Dig



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



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Covington: a Medieval Village History Uncovered

Jigsaw Training Dig

Archaeological Evaluation

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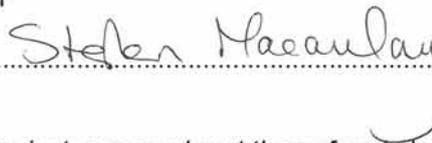
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Summary

The Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Training Dig at Covington took place from 4 – 18 July 2015, and was a training exercise for volunteers across the county to learn excavation and recording techniques.

There were three main phases of earlier occupation of the field: the 11th – mid/late 13th century when three north to south aligned boundary ditches were in use across the site; the mid 15th – 16th century when ditches/pits to the south-east and north-west of the site were in use, as well as a pond close to the manor site. The final phase of use was the 20th century animal disease burning pit in the south-western part of the site and the demolition of post-medieval buildings marked on the 1764 and 1851 maps.

Two Level 3 workshop training sessions were run during the excavation, as part of the 2015 Jigsaw Training Programme, there were Medieval pottery making and building a Roman-style pottery kiln.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Manor Field, Covington, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire TL055706.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was conducted as a training exercise for Jigsaw volunteers as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Community Archaeology Project.
- 1.1.3 The project also sought to determine the nature of archaeological remains in Manor Field, following extensive geophysical survey and small-scale excavation by Covington History Group in the parish. A geophysical survey using a magnetometer in Manor Field revealed interesting patterns of ditches and possible enclosures. The medieval character of the village was previously unknown, making this site of particular interest to Covington History Group and Jigsaw Cambridgeshire community archaeologists.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Covington History Group.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Manor Field is to the south-west of the current village, and lies on a sedimentary bedrock of Oxford Clay overlain by Oadby Member – Diamicton (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The field, which lies at an elevation of c.79m OD, is currently pasture farmland.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Adapted from Woolverton: Community Fieldwalking Exercise at Mitchells Field, Covington, Cambridgeshire

Roman (c. AD43-410)

- 1.3.1 Roman pottery and metalwork has been found in the fields to the north-east of the current village, while magnetometer geophysical surveys have revealed Roman and Iron Age field systems (CHER 05575), some of which were trial-trenched in 2014 (Parsons *et al.* 2015). Metal detecting finds support the view that people lived in the area in Roman times, particularly the 3rd and 4th centuries AD (Parsons *et al.* 2013).

Medieval (c. AD1066-1500)

- 1.3.2 A medieval double moated site known as Bovetune or Moat/Mote Close survives in the woodland and field to the north of the village; previously visible earthworks in the field were ploughed out and backfilled in living memory by the previous landowner (CHER 00315). The name 'Bovetune' may refer to a manor or farm belonging to Nicholas de Bovetune (listed in Victoria County History), or could simply refer to the semantic meaning 'above the town' (Page *et al.* 1936, 36). The manor was divided between two knights in 1086, so this could have been one of the farms. Alternatively the moats could have been stock enclosures. Resistivity and magnetometer geophysical surveys of the moated site remains in the field were conducted in 2013 by Covington History Group. Bovetune field was excavated by Covington History Group in 2013 by strategically placing trenches across moated areas highlighted by the geophysical survey (COVTP13; ECB 4351). The moats were deliberately puddled (lined), and some were 1.5m deep, with an unusual absence of dating material (Parsons pers. comm.).

-
- 1.3.3 There may be a second putative medieval moat or fishponds at The Manor House to the north of the site, which possibly relates to the original manor house (see Manorial Background, below) (CHER 00313).
- 1.3.4 The Church of All Saints, located to the south-west of Mitchell's Field, dates from the 12th century (CHER 10564).

Post-medieval (c. AD1500-1900)

- 1.3.5 The population of Covington peaked at 240 people in the early 1800s, but has since declined (Parsons et al. 2013, 2). Land was enclosed by the Duke of Manchester from 1764, and again following the Enclosure Act of 1801 (Parsons et al. 2013, 2). Several houses dating to the 17th and 18th centuries still survive (Parsons et al. 2013, 2).

Manorial Background

by Mary-Ann Parsons

- 1.3.6 The Domesday survey of 1086 records Covington as being held, prior to the Conquest, by Ascell (variously spelt), of whom little is known except that he appears to have also been Lord of Winwick in the Hundred of Polebrook. Following the Conquest, the manor (along with nearly seventy others) was given to Roger de Ivry as tenant in chief of the King as a reward for his services. The holding was 8 ½ hides, which were taxable, and there was land for 13 ploughs.
- 1.3.7 The survey also records there being two men-at-arms holding two hides of the land, and the Victoria County History page for Covington suggests that there were two manors, on the basis of there being two moated sites and the two men-at-arms above mentioned (Page et al. 1936: 38-41). However, this is unlikely as the acreage was barely enough to support the one knight's fee referred to in 1086, let alone two. Roger de Ivry (grandson of Raoul de Bayeaux) died in 1079 and was succeeded by his son, also Roger, who was forced to flee to Normandy in 1087. De Ivry owned estates in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire (Sheriff of Gloucester), Huntingdonshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire and is extremely unlikely to have lived in or even visited the parish (Triance pers. comm.).
- 1.3.8 At some point during the early medieval period, however, a controlled layout to the village was imposed, including the ten tenements which feature in manorial transactions for the next seven hundred years. Although there are some earlier stones in the walls, the church dates from 1120 with a substantial rebuild in 1160 (Halsey 2011). The manor house and demesne are situated next to the church but the current building is eighteenth century.
- 1.3.9 Following Roger de Ivry's departure, the manor was given to Bernard St. Walery, who was killed in 1190 at Acre in Palestine. He was succeeded by his son Thomas St. Walery and then grand-daughter Annora. In 1227, overlordship passed (via the Crown) to the Earldom of Cornwall and the de Bayeaux family become Lords of the Manor for the next 150 years or so (Triance pers. comm.). During this period, there is evidence of a much more direct connection of the Lord of the Manor with the village itself.
- 1.3.10 Rectors appointed by the de Bayeux family were either family members or local e.g. Alexander de Baocis 1329, Raymond de Melchburn 1356, William Longe de Dene 1361. Three small shields from horse harnesses have been found: two bear the arms of Sir Henry Tilly from Cornwall (and were found 100m apart in the same field), the other bears the arms of Richard de Bayeux. Sir Richard de Bayeux (de Bayeaux, de Bajocis,

de Bayons) became a Knight of the Bath in 1329 (William Arthur Shaw, Knights of England) and was Sheriff of Huntingdon with Warin de Bassingbourn in 1334. The church provides further evidence for a wealthy tenant of the manor during this period: there is a great deal of modification and building from 1300, including the construction of the tower and of a chantry chapel on the south side, towards the manor (Halsey 2011); a Purbeck marble coffin lid situated next to the altar and dating from the early fourteenth century, is now known to have been inscribed with the name Richard de Bayeux (Lambeth Palace Library Church Plans ICBS file number 08691). It is conceivable that the coffin lid and chantry chapel are contemporary and related, especially as the coffin lid is known to have been moved from elsewhere in the chancel in the 19th century. Both items would have been unusually expensive for a small rural community and would also indicate the presence of someone aware of court fashions.

- 1.3.11 Despite the economic depression around the end of the 13th century and the Great Famine of 1315-17, there appears to have been wealth in Covington at least until the time of the Black Death in 1349. In February 1369, a document confirming the transfer of the Manor from Sir Richard de Bayeux and Katherine his wife to son Richard and Sir William de Burton is dated 'Covynton Thursday the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle 31 Edward III' (Calendar of Close Rolls: Edward III Volume 13 1369-1374 British History Online). This may coincide with a clearance of the village away from the vicinity of the manor house.
- 1.3.12 In 1379 the Earl of Warwick replaced the Earldom of Cornwall as overlord, but the manorial holding continued in the Bayeux family, sometimes through the female line, until 1479 when it passed via marriage to William and Thomas Sapcote, then Sir Guy Sapcote and then, in 1555 (via his three times widowed daughter Anne) to the Earl of Bedford (Page et. al. 1936: 38-41). By this time, it would appear that the manor was solely a financial asset to be traded by the Lord and the actual house and demesne were tenanted locally.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks to all the volunteers who took part in the Jigsaw Training Dig, and in particular to the volunteer supervisors: Simon Parsons, Josephine Fried, Christine Green, Michael Fortune, Phil Hill, Mick James, Simon Coxall and David Loose. Special thanks to Mary-Ann Parsons for organisation within the village and for providing the Manorial background for this report; also thanks to all the Covington History Group for their enthusiasm and involvement. Further thanks to T Brown and Son for permission to excavate their land, and to Covington Amenities Committee for providing refreshments.
- 1.4.2 Particular thanks to Oxford Archaeology East staff members Paddy Lambert for his excavation expertise and supervision and Dave Brown for carrying out a topographical survey to plot trench and feature locations. Stephen Macaulay managed the project.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to train attendees in the practices and methodology of archaeological excavation and post excavation procedures and also to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within Manor Field. This was done using various archaeological techniques, lunchtime field schools and two specialist training courses.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A selection of different techniques were used during the excavation.

- Geophysical survey
- Topographical survey
- Metal detecting survey
- Targeted excavation
- Auger survey
- Practical workshops

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by David Brown using Leica GS08 GPS equipment.

2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the Jigsaw *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 Conditions on site were reasonably good but variation in weather over the two week period did provide some testing conditions. Hot weather hardened the ground and short periods of heavy rain did produce some flooding in Area 1.

2.2.7 The recording and context attribution was variable across the site according to the skill set of the excavators, since many volunteers had not previously excavated. Each trench was supervised by a volunteer supervisor (under general Oxford Archaeology/Jigsaw Cambridgeshire supervision).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results are discussed in order of trench locations and areas. Area **1** was located to the far east of the site, close to Keystone Road. Area **2** was located in the centre of the field and Area **3** to the west of the field. (Fig 1). All trench and feature descriptions appear in the context inventory (Appendix A).
- 3.1.2 Trench locations were targeted on areas highlighted by the geophysical survey (Figure 2) where it was hoped there would be a good chance of discovering archaeological features.

3.2 Area 1

- 3.2.1 Area 1 (Fig 6) was located at the eastern end of Manor Field on a flat area, close to the main Keystone road. The geophysical results here showed an area characterised by strong, ditch-like anomalies. It was decided to target Trenches **1** and **1a** on two of these that possibly formed an eastern boundary or enclosure ditch (Fig 3).

Trench 1 (Fig 6, Plate 1)

- 3.2.2 Trench 1 measured 12m x 1.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. It was located on a long linear anomaly that ran parallel with the Keystone road.
- 3.2.3 The earliest feature within the trench was a late medieval midden **118** located 5m from the northern end of the trench. The feature was not fully excavated due to its excessive depth but had a noted width of at least 4m and a depth of more than 1.5m.
- 3.2.4 The lower fill (119) of the midden consisted of a firm greyish brown silty clay with a thickness of 0.20m. This deposit contained bone and pottery dating to the late 15thC (Appendix B).
- 3.2.5 The upper fill (127) of the feature probably equates to fill 114 seen in section 105, this consisted of a firm greyish brown silty clay that also contained pottery dating to the 15th century. The maximum depth of this deposit was also 0.2m.
- 3.2.6 Above this, the midden deposits were truncated by a late 19th or early 20th century pit **133** which had been dug into the top of the midden. The feature was characterised by *in situ* heated clay and a layer of burnt animal bone (115).
- 3.2.7 The cut of feature **133** consisted of a wide U shape with an uneven base (section 105, Plate 1). On the western edge of the feature a solid, redeposited clay (108) was noted. This seems to be part of the construction of the pit. This redeposited material had a distinct vertical edge on its eastern side up against a heavily heated or burned deposit (107). The redeposited clay material had a width of 0.36m and a depth of 0.25m.
- 3.2.8 The burned deposit (107) consisted of a firm pinky red silty clay that had been heated repeatedly to a high temperature. The deposit had a depth of 0.50m and an excavated width of 0.80m. This fill of the pit contained no finds, which suggests that this may have been a pit lining into which the material that was to be burned was placed.
- 3.2.9 Above the burned clay deposit existed a light grey layer of burned animal bone (115). This deposit was 0.80m wide and had a depth of 0.16m. This deposit may give an indication of the primary use of the pit. It is possible that the pit was constructed to incinerate diseased animal carcasses.

- 3.2.10 A layer of charcoal (116) rested on top of the bone layer (Plate 1). This deposit had a width of 0.54m and a depth of 0.22m. The layer was devoid of any finds. The pit was deliberately backfilled with a deposit of clay (104) which had a width of 0.85m and a depth of 0.35m. Metal ends of scaffold planks and nails were found at the base of the fill. These either related to the wooden material used for combustion or were part of the backfill of the pit.
- 3.2.11 It is entirely possible that, when pit **133** was first dug, evidence of the midden or other medieval features were still visible. It may have been that the pit was dug deliberately into a pre-existing depression.
- 3.2.12 To the south of midden **118** and pit **133** were a series of small features. Two of these were thought to be modern intrusions. A tree bowl (**123**) was located at 11m from the northern end of the trench and a post hole (**117**) which related to the removal of a telegraph pole. Two earlier features were also noted at this southern end of the trench.
- 3.2.13 An east-west linear ditch (**121**) was recorded at 9m from the northern end of the trench (Fig 6). The ditch was 0.68m wide and had a depth of 0.30m. The base was concave and the sides gently sloping. The feature contained a single fill (122) which consisted of a greyish brown clayey silt containing a small amount of bone, charcoal and pottery dating to the mid-15th Century. The orientation of the ditch suggested a possible drainage function as the area to the east of Trench **1** was seen to be the lowest area of the field and ditches would have naturally drained towards it.
- 3.2.14 Another small, terminating gully (**113**) was recorded at the southern end of Trench **1**. This was located at 12m from the northern end of the trench (Fig 6). The feature was orientated north-south and measured 0.75m x 0.30m and had a depth of 0.17m. The base of the feature was concave and the sides were gently sloping. The fill (109) consisted of dark brown silty clay that contained a few stones, animal bone and pottery dating to the 13th Century. The purpose of this small feature was not clear but drainage seems unlikely because of the direction in which it runs.
- 3.2.15 The features in Trench **1** were sealed by a grey brown silty clay subsoil (101) and a grey silty clay topsoil (100). These had an average combined depth of 0.55m.
- Trench 1a** (Fig 6, Plate 2)
- 3.2.16 Trench **1a** was located 5m south of Trench **1**, on a geophysical anomaly that appeared represent a possible boundary or enclosure ditch. The trench was orientated east-west. It measured 6m x 1.8m and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.50m. A single ditch-like feature (**102**) was found 2m from the western end of the trench. This feature had been re-cut.
- 3.2.17 The earliest phase of the ditch (**102**) (Plate 2) measured 0.80m wide and had a depth of 0.90m. The base of the feature was uneven and steep sided. It contained a single fill (106) that consisted of a brownish yellow silty clay fill that contained pottery dating the feature to the mid 12th century.
- 3.2.18 The later re-cut of the ditch (**132**) truncated and widened the earlier feature. It measured 1.6m wide and had a depth of 0.60m. The base was uneven and the sides sloping. The fill (105) consisted of a greyish brown silty clay material that contained mid 12th century pottery and bone. The date of the pottery in the earlier ditch and that found in the later re-cut suggest a fairly contemporary opening and widening of the feature.

3.3 Area 2

3.3.1 Area 2 (Fig 6) was located centrally to the field in areas of interest highlighted by the geophysical survey, specifically on a large boundary-type feature that ran north-south across the field.

Trench 2 (Fig 6, Plate 3)

3.3.2 Trench 2 measured 4m x 5.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m.

3.3.3 The geophysical results showed two possible north to south aligned, parallel ditches running across the field. It was decided to target Trench 2 on the eastern one of these, extending a small (0.5m wide) trench that the Covington History Group had excavated over ditch 312 in Spring 2015.

3.3.4 A section was dug across ditch 305 to the south side of the trench. This revealed a wide U-shaped feature containing three fills. The lowest fill (304) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay 0.34m deep containing mid 12th – 13th century pottery. The middle fill (303) was light greyish brown and 0.68m deep, containing fired clay/CBM and 13th century pottery. The top fill (301) was dark brownish grey silty clay that contained mid-15th century pottery, suggesting that the ditch may have been in use during this period.

3.3.5 Ditch 305/312 was truncated by a modern field drain (309) with fill (308). Neither the cut nor the fill were obvious during excavation or in the section, but the size of the field drain indicates a trench for the pipe must have been excavated vertically, rather than with a mole.

3.3.6 An E-W gully (307), 0.76m wide and 0.24m deep, ran into ditch 305 from the east, underlying the top fill of ditch 305, (301). The fill (306) was a mid greyish brown and contained 12th century pottery.

3.3.7 A small, shallow ditch (302), 0.89m wide, led into ditch 305/312 from the west. The lower fill (311) was a mid yellowish grey silty clay and was 0.08m deep with no recorded finds. The upper fill, (308), contained substantial pieces of animal bone, fired clay, and pottery dated to the 12th century. A relationship slot with 305 was not excavated, so it is impossible to prove that the features are contemporary, other than by pottery dating.

Trench 2a (Fig 6, Plate 4)

3.3.8 Trench 2a measured 1.7m x 5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m. The trench was positioned over an area where the earthworks and grass cover suggested another ditch running parallel to 305/312 was located.

3.3.9 A large V-shaped boundary or possible defensive ditch 314 orientated N-S was partly excavated. The bottom ditch fill (324) was a mid greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.24m deep and contained pottery dated to the mid 12th century.. The middle fills (315) and (316) on either side of the pipe trench are probably equivalent, since both consisted of a similar mid brownish grey silty clay and were 0.64m and 0.8m deep respectively. Both fills contained 12th century pottery. These fills were truncated by pipe trench 323 with fill (313), 1.6m wide and 0.6m deep.

Since pottery dating to the 12th century was found in fill (313), it seems likely that the same material excavated to lay the pipe trench was back-filled. Above these layers is a dark greyish brown overburden/fill (318) measuring 0.1m deep, and overlying this was the topsoil (317), 0.38m deep, which was a mid greyish-brown.

- 3.3.10 This N-S ditch appears to be in line with earthworks in the field north of the track leading to the Manor house; the step down in terrain resulting from the supposed medieval threshing floor to the lower ground to the east (Figure 2). This suggests that a ditch may have run N-S across both fields.

Trench 2b (Fig 6, Plate 5)

- 3.3.11 Trench **2b** measured 1.7m x 7m. It was located over a geophysical anomaly to the north of the site. The high magnetic response from this area was believed to relate to the demolition of the post-medieval buildings visible on cartographic evidence from 1764 and 1851 (Figures 4 & 5 respectively).
- 3.3.12 Trench 2b was opened by machine for volunteers to excavate at a later date. Rubble, including large quantities of clinker from demolition of post-medieval buildings was recovered, and attributed a fill number (320). The topsoil was allocated the number (319).

3.4 Area 3

- 3.4.1 Area 3 (Fig 6) was located in the north-west of the field, close to the moat/hollow way running NNE-SSW along the western field boundary, and near to the present-day Manor House.

Trench 3

- 3.4.2 Trench **3** (Fig 6, Plate 6) measured 3.3m x 7.5m, was orientated NNE-SSW, with a maximum depth of 0.98m. It was located over a geophysical anomaly that looked like a reverse S shape, with a possible east-west ditch to the south.
- 3.4.3 Excavation uncovered an east to west aligned ditch (**505**) with a U-shaped bottom, which was excavated in full, producing large quantities of animal bone. The lowest fill (504) was a mid brownish-yellow silty clay, only 0.08m deep, which contained pottery dating to the 11th century, undiagnostic fired clay, mussel shell and animal bone. The upper fill (503) was a mid greyish-brown clayey silt, which had a depth of 0.54m and contained 12th century pottery, a variety of shells, animal bone and fired clay.
- 3.4.4 Ditch **505** truncated an earlier possible ditch terminus **533** orientated N-S to the south-east of the feature. This feature contained a fill (508) that was a mid yellowish-grey and 0.14m deep, containing fired clay.
- 3.4.5 This trench also contained a gully/ditch **531**, 0.65m wide and 0.17m deep, containing a light yellowish brown silty clay fill (532). No artefacts were recovered.
- 3.4.6 Ditch **531** was truncated by ditch terminus **529**. This feature was 0.55m wide and 0.21m deep, and contains fill (530), which was a light yellowish-brown silty clay. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 3a

- 3.4.7 Trench **3a** (Fig 6, Plate 7) was located in the north-west of the site, to the north-west of Trench **3**. Originally, a north-east to south-west trench was excavated over a circular anomaly on the geophysical survey, but after a north-east to south-west beam slot (**507**) was uncovered, the trench was extended each side to form a cross-shape, in order to reveal other possible beam slots.
- 3.4.8 Beam slot **507** ran north-east – south-west along the middle of the trench. It was over 5.5m long, 0.75m wide, and 0.2m deep, with a flat base. The fill (506) contained 13th century pottery and animal bone.

-
- 3.4.9 A second possible beam slot (**510**) runs parallel to **507** to the west – but this could also be a small, gully terminus. Its width was only 0.32m and its depth 0.14m. It contained fill (509), with a mid yellowish-brown silty clay and an absence of artifacts.
- 3.4.10 A third possible beam slot (**523**) abuts **507**, running north-west to south-east. It measured over 1.15m in length, 0.64m wide, and 0.06m deep with a flat base. Its fill (524) was a mid greyish-brown silty clay containing mid 12th century pottery.
- 3.4.11 A post hole (**525**) with fill (526) measuring 0.13m x 0.25m with a depth of 0.12m, underlay beam slot 523, and did not contain any artefacts. It may relate to the beam slot in some way, or be an earlier feature.
- 3.4.12 A probable ditch (**527**) running north-south had an unknown relationship with the other features in the trench. It measured 1.56m in length, with a width of 0.69m and a depth of 0.1m. The base of the feature was flat, and the sides were vertical. It contained 528, a mid yellowish-brown silty clay, and no artifacts were recovered.

Trench 3b

- 3.4.13 Trench **3b** (Fig 6 & 7, Plate 8) was located in the north-west of the site, adjacent to the moat/hollow way. It measured 15.5m x 1.5m, with a maximum depth of 1.3m. The geophysical survey did not uncover any obvious features or anomalies in this area. The trench was located here because of the possibility that the top of the field might have been the location of the medieval manor house.
- 3.4.14 Part of a sterile pond (**513**) was excavated. This feature was over 2.8m long, over 1m wide and 0.62m deep, with a flat bottom. The fill (514) was a light brownish-grey silty clay containing a well-preserved egg (Plate 14) with some fragments of 14th-15th century tile, and some mid 15th century pottery.
- 3.4.15 A sub-circular pit (**515**) was located to the north-east end of the trench, and appeared to continue under the baulk. It was 1.25m long, 0.8m wide, and 0.2m deep. The fill (516) was a mid brownish-yellow and contained 12th century pottery and a mussel shell.
- 3.4.16 A large feature (probably a ditch or pit) (**517**) was excavated in the middle of the trench. This was initially believed to be a ditch but, upon excavation, was discovered to be something much larger, possibly a cess pit or quarry pit. The cut of **538** was also revealed at the bottom of ditch **519**, which suggested **538** may be part of the same feature. Fill (518) was mid brownish-yellow in colour and contained 15th century pottery and fired clay. The fill of **538**, (539) was light brownish-green, containing charcoal and shells, fired clay and mid 12th century pottery. This suggested that fill (539) was not equivalent with (518) but was a lower/earlier fill.
- 3.4.17 Feature **517** was truncated by a north-east to south-west linear ditch **519/537**. It was 0.92m wide and 0.36m deep, and the fill (520) was a mid brownish-yellow silty clay, containing mid 15th century pottery and fired clay. Fill 520 may be equivalent to 536, and is visible in section across pit **521** underneath this fill. No finds were recovered from 536.
- 3.4.18 A large pit **521** truncated the linear ditch **519/537**. It may have been square/rectangular in shape, and had a steep slope to an indeterminate base. It was over 4.5m in length, 0.92m wide, and 0.3m deep. Its fill (522) was a mid brownish-grey silty clay, containing fired clay, a mussel shell and pottery dating to the 11th century. A lower deposit revealed in the section of this feature (536) was probably a lower fill of ditch **519/537**, rather than a lower fill of this pit.

3.5 Auger Survey of the Hollow Way

3.5.1 Located at the very western edge of Manor Field, within the hedgerow bounding it (Fig 7), existed a deep ditch. This feature was believed, locally, to be the remnants of a moat or possibly a disused track way. Although not within the area of excavation it was decided to carry out a small auger survey which would hopefully determine the profile and depth of the feature.

Feature Dimensions

3.5.2 The ditch was measured from the outer sides of two possible banks which were located to the east and west of the ditch, giving a width of 22m. The western most bank had suffered more erosion at the point of survey but was seen to be more intact a few metres to the south. Three separate points were augured across the holloway (Fig 7). These showed a depth of 4m, from the top of the existing bank to the base of the ditch. Silting of the base of the ditch was found to be up to 0.90m thick and was more evident on the eastern side. The base was a compacted material which consisted mostly of chalk. The survey suggested that the feature had a flat bottomed base. The presence of the banks on either side of the ditch suggest deliberate digging with some of the up-cast being used to form the banks.

The feature within the landscape

3.5.3 The Hollow Way was located within a dense hedgerow that bounded the western end of Manor Field and ran north to south for a length of 198m. At each end the ditch had been filled in and, in the case of the northern end, within living memory. What remains seems to be a small portion of a longer track way which, when cartographic sources and aerial photographs are consulted, continues both north and south from the point of investigation (Fig 2 & 4).

3.5.4 Its southwards route follows an existing field boundary terminating at the B645. North from the point of the auger survey it appears to have continued in a relatively straight line skirting the west of the church yard and then follows an ancient field boundary to a point north of Covington. From there, a possible route can be traced as far as Molesworth, 2.8km to the north.

3.5.5 The only part of the trackway that seems to be a hollow way or sunken track is the area that passes close to the Manor house and church and it may be that this stretch was deliberately dug as a hollow way to screen the people using the route from those living at the manor house. Another indication that a route existed to the west of Covington may be the name of an existing road in the village: Cross Street is located between the possible trackway and Keystone Road, now the main thoroughfare through the village.

Conclusion

3.5.6 Although it was impossible to determine the date or exact use of the feature from such a small investigation, the auger survey did reveal a flattish steep sided ditch that had, in some areas, silted up naturally and in others had been subject to the dumping of rubbish. Cartographic and photographic evidence, as well as the name of the existing Cross Street, all suggest that the surveyed area could have once been on the line of an early roadway.

3.5.7 In some cases these trackways are very early in origin and can date from the Iron Age. Over the course of time, cart wheels, hooves and feet wore away the floor of these roads. As they deepened, they sometimes became natural water ways.

3.5.8 The Saxons also used holloways, (from the Anglo-Saxon *hola weg* meaning a “harrowed path,” a sunken road”) as land divisions or boundary markers. The positioning of the church at Covington, which most probably replaced an earlier Saxon church, means that the feature may possibly date from this period.

3.6 Finds Summary

3.6.1 The two main artefact types recovered were pottery and animal bone. The pottery is mostly medieval in date, with one residual Romano-British sherd. The ceramic building material was predominantly late 19th/early 20th century perforated brick, but some late medieval/early post-medieval roof tile was recovered, as well as significant quantities of fired clay. Several quernstones and whetstones were found, as well as a roughed out worked bone weaving beater. Metal detecting uncovered a range of finds from the medieval to modern periods: more likely casual losses rather than associated with occupation.

3.7 Environmental Summary

3.7.1 The animal bone was predominantly sheep/goat, although cattle, dog, horse and pig were also represented. The sheep/goat were predominantly adult specimens, which suggests they were kept predominantly for wool production, rather than for meat. Large quantities of mussel shells (and some oysters and cockles) were also recovered, compatible with medieval dietary habits.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 Excavations in Manor Field, Covington have added a great deal to our knowledge of the historical development of this part of the parish. The geophysical results suggested a pattern of linear boundary ditches and enclosures across Manor Field. Linear boundary ditches were found. Excavation revealed that there were three main phases of occupation on the site: early medieval, late medieval and post-medieval/modern.

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 Although no prehistoric finds were recovered from the features, the presence of a few residual worked flints recovered from the topsoil suggests some occupation in the vicinity. For example, ditch **531** in Trench 3, which may also relate to **527** in Trench 3a, may be prehistoric in date.

4.3 Early medieval (11th – mid/late 13th century)

Area 1

4.3.1 The geophysics survey suggested there was a complex network of inter-cutting ditches and enclosures at the bottom/east end of the field. Some of these may relate to the early medieval period, but were not revealed by the excavation.

4.3.2 A single, small ditch terminus (**113**) containing 13th century pottery was excavated to the south of Trench 1 and a north-south boundary ditch containing mid 12th century pottery was excavated in Trench **1a**. These suggest that there may have been more occupation in the area during the medieval period. The track to Manor House may be the southern boundary to the medieval village green. It cannot be proved whether dwellings were aligned with the present Keystone Road, or were related to the modern track running east-west to the south of the Manor House.

Area 2

4.3.3 The deep boundary ditch in Trench 2 (**305/312**) contains pottery dating to the 12th and 13th centuries, suggesting this ditch was in use, or going out of use during this period. This ditch is the easternmost of two large ditches revealed by the geophysical survey, indicating that the ditch to the west may also date to this period.

4.3.4 The other features in this trench also date to this period; ditch (**302**) also contained 11th to 12th century pottery and is probably contemporary with the boundary ditch, while gully **307** contained 12th century pottery. The function of these deep boundary ditches is uncertain.

4.3.5 A third, large, 12th century boundary ditch (**314**) in Trench 2a seems to run parallel to ditch **305/312** in Trench 2, and also the ditch between them, that is visible on the geophysics. It also appears to link up with the slope down from the probable threshing floor in the village green to the north of the track to Manor Field.

Area 3

4.3.6 An animal bone and mussel-rich ditch (**505**) containing 11th and 12th century material was possibly used as a midden by occupants of an adjacent building in Trench 3a. This ditch may also have formed a possible enclosure around the buildings, although this cannot be proved.

4.3.7 The two confirmed beamslots in Trench 3a (**507 & 523**) contained 12th and 13th century pottery, suggesting that a building was occupied in the 11th and/or 12th

centuries. This also supports the interpretation that ditch **505** was being used as a midden while the buildings were occupied.

- 4.3.8 There is also some evidence of early medieval activity in Trench **3b**. Pit **515** contained 12th century pottery, and the bottom fill (539) of the large pit/ditch **538** and fill (522) of the large square feature **521** contained 11th century pottery. This may relate to manorial buildings on the site or in its vicinity.
- 4.3.9 The earliest and most significant phase of occupation of the site appears to date to the early medieval period. Excavation evidence suggests that people were dividing the land with boundary ditches and possibly even living on this part of the site.

4.4 High medieval (14th – early 15th century)

- 4.4.1 The site seems to be deserted during this period, which may have been the result of widespread depopulation caused by the Black Death. However, this pandemic does not seem to have had a drastic effect in Covington, and instead it may be that the abandonment of the site was the result of localised considerations; specifically a decision to move village houses away from the manor house at the top of the field. This interpretation may be supported by the existence of a probable holloway to the north-west of the site, deliberately constructed as a sunken lane to hide passing travellers from view (Fig 7).

4.5 Late medieval (mid 15th – 16th century)

Area 1

- 4.5.1 The other significant phase of land-use seems to be in the late medieval period (App B.2.5.) In Area **1**, several pits and ditches (**118**, **121**, **111**) contained pottery dating to this time. These features seem to relate to drainage, or the construction of boundaries.

Area 2

- 4.5.2 The only late medieval use of this area of the field was the top fill of ditch **305**, suggesting that this feature continued to function as a ditch in this period.

Area 3

- 4.5.3 There was some activity at the top end of the field in the late medieval period. Pond **513** contained mid 15th century pottery and 14th-15th century tile. This pond may have been related to an earlier manor house on the site, or may have related to the 12th century or earlier building revealed in Trench **3a**. Both the large pit/ditch (**517**) and the north-east to south-west linear ditch (**519**) contained 15th century pottery.

4.6 Post medieval and modern (17th century – Present)

Area 1

- 4.6.1 The most significant evidence of post-medieval and modern usage of the field was found in Trench **1**. A modern pit (**133**) containing burnt material and animal bone, probably relating to a livestock disease outbreak such as Foot and Mouth, in the early 20th century. The layering of burnt material over large quantities of white burnt animal bone suggests that this pit was used on several occasions.

Area 2

- 4.6.2 Field drains were uncovered near the bottom of the ditches in Trench **2** and Trench **2a**, showing that the archaeological layers must have been disturbed in recent years. There

was no earthwork evidence of ridge and furrow, although it probably did exist. Modern farmers often run field drains along the line of medieval furrows, which are already positioned to run down the contours and provide surface drainage. The landowner remembers his father levelling the field in the mid 20th century.

- 4.6.3 Demolition material, including post-medieval pottery, CBM and clinker was recovered from a slight depression or ditch in Trench **2b**. Artefacts were all modern and therefore discarded. The material would relate to the buildings on the site shown on historic maps (Fig 4 and 5).

4.7 Further research possibilities

- 4.7.1 Further investigation in the area of Trench **1** may reveal evidence of the clearance of buildings in the 14th century.
- 4.7.2 In the area of Trench **2a** a possible defensive ditch was located. Further trenching of an east-west extension of this ditch, which can be seen on both the geophysical survey and as parch marks on the field itself, may give further indication of a defensive nature.
- 4.7.3 Further investigation into the area around the beam slots in Trench **3a** would draw more definite conclusions about whether this was a significant structure, and ascertain whether there were adjacent dwellings.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
Large C15/16th ditch/pit [118], probably equating to [121] underlying late medieval pit [111]. Truncated by mod pit [133] containing burnt material & animal bone. Small ditch [113] to the south, containing C13th pottery, a tree throw [123] & the hole for a telegraph post [117].				Avg. depth (m)		
				Width (m)	1.5m	
				Length (m)	12.5m	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
103	layer			sterile subsoil		mid 15 th century
104	fill			capping clay of pit		modern
107	fill			burnt clay layer		
108	fill			spoil layer from mod pit		
109	fill			small ditch terminus		13 th century
110	fill			pit/ditch		12 th century
111	cut			Medieval pit/ditch		
113	cut			small ditch terminus		
114	fill			Medieval pit/ditch		15 th - 16 th century
115	fill			burnt bone layer of pit		
116	fill			burnt wood layer of pit		
117	cut			telegraph pole cut		
118	cut			pit/ditch		
119	fill			pit/ditch		15 th - 16 th century
120	fill			fill of telegraph pole cut		mid C15 th pot & plastic
121	cut			Medieval ditch/pit ?=[118]		
122	fill			Medieval ditch/pit fill		mid 15 th century
123	cut			cut of tree throw		
124	fill			fill of tree throw		
127	fill			pit/ditch		
128	fill			pit/ditch slump fill		
131	fill			Medieval ditch/pit slump fill		
133	cut			cut of modern pit		

Trench 1a						
General description				Orientation		E-W
N-S 12 th century boundary ditch [102] with later recut [132].				Avg. depth (m)		
				Width (m)		
				Length (m)		
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	layer	-	0.3	topsoil	-	
101	layer	-	0.46	subsoil	-	
102	cut			original ditch cut		
105	fill			ditch recut fill		mid 12 th century
106	fill			original ditch fill		mid 12 th century
132	cut			ditch recut		
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Large 12 th century boundary ditch running N-S [305/312], with contemporary E-W gully [307] running into it from east. A small E-W ditch [302] may be earlier or contemporary to the boundary ditch.				Avg. depth (m)		
				Width (m)		5.6m
				Length (m)		3.65m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
301	fill			ditch fill		mid 15 th century
302	cut			small ditch cut		
303	fill			ditch fill		12 th - 13 th century
304	fill			ditch fill		mid 12 th - 13 th century
305	cut			ditch cut		
306	fill			gully fill		12 th century
307	cut			gully cut		
308	fill			small ditch fill		11 th century
309	cut			field drain cut		
310	fill			field drain fill		
311	fill			small ditch fill		
312	cut			ditch cut		

Trench 2a						
General description				Orientation		E-W
C12th defensive/boundary ditch running N-S, parallel with [305] in Trench 2				Avg. depth (m)		
				Width (m)		1.7
				Length (m)		5m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
313	fill			backfill for field drain		12 th century
314	cut			early Med defensive ditch		
315	fill			ditch fill west		12 th century
316	fill			ditch fill east		12 th century
317	layer			topsoil		modern
318	fill/layer			overburden/fill		
322	fill			field drain fill		
323	cut			field drain cut		
324	fill			silting of ditch		mid 12 th century
Trench 2b						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Demolition from post-medieval farm buildings.				Avg. depth (m)		
				Width (m)		
				Length (m)		
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
319	layer			topsoil		modern
320	layer			demolition layer		modern
Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
C11th ditch [505] excavated in full, producing large concentrations of animal bone. Ditch/beamslot [531] truncated by ditch terminus [529].				Avg. depth (m)		
				Width (m)		
				Length (m)		
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
501	layer			topsoil		
502	layer			subsoil		
503	fill			upper fill of ditch		12 th century
504	fill			lower fill of ditch		11 th century
505	cut			cut of ditch		
508	fill			ditch terminus/pit fill		
529	cut			small ditch terminus cut		
530	fill			small ditch terminus fill		
531	cut			Ditch/beamslot cut		

532	fill			Ditch/beamslot fill		
533	cut			ditch terminus/pit cut		
Trench 3a						
General description					Orientation	N-S-E-W
Prominent beamslot running N-S [507] contained C13th pottery, another possible N-S beamslot to E [510], another possible beamslot [523] containing C12th material abutting beamslot [507] & containing a small post hole [525] & further possible beamslot or shallow ditch [527] running NW-SE; no obvious relation to other features.					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	5.5
					Length (m)	10.6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
506	fill			beamslot fill		13 th century
507	cut			beamslot cut		
509	fill			gully/beamslot fill		
510	cut			gully/beamslot cut		
523	cut			beamslot cut		
524	fill			beamslot fill		12 th
525	cut			posthole in beamslot		
526	fill			posthole in beamslot		
527	cut			ditch		
528	fill			ditch		
Trench 3b						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Sterile pond [513] containing C15th material. N-S ditch [519/537] cutting possible ditch/pit [517/538] including top fill (518) & lower fill (539). N-S ditch [519/537] in turn cut by [521]. Small C12th pit [515].					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	1.5
					Length (m)	15.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
513	cut			pond cut		
514	fill			pond fill		14 th - 15 th century
515	cut			pit cut		
516	fill			pit fill		12 th century
517	cut			ditch/large pit cut. = [538]		
518	fill			ditch/large pit top fill		mid 15 th century
519	cut			N-S ditch cut = [537]		
520	fill			N-S ditch fill = (536)		mid 15 th century
521	cut			pit cut		
522	fill			pit fill		11 th century
536	fill			N-S ditch fill = (520)		
537	cut			N-S ditch cut = [519]		
538	cut			ditch/large pit cut = [517]		
539	fill			ditch/large pit lower cess(?) fill		12 th century

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork and Slag

Metal finds catalogue

By James Fairbairn

- B.1.1 A total of twenty six pieces of metalwork were found during the community excavation at Manor Field, Covington. Nine of which were found during the excavation and 17 were found during the metal detecting survey.

Area 1

SF No:	Context	Material	Weight gms	Date	Comments
101	119	Cu alloy	0.4	Medieval	sheet copper wastage
102	119	Lead	0.31	Med-Post med	scrap lead
103	119	Fe	39	Post med	rotary iron key
109	103	Cu alloy	1.1	Medieval	lace tag
110	103	Cu alloy	0.43	Medieval	buckle plate
111	103	Fe	39	Medieval	knife blade
112	119	Cu alloy	0.39	Medieval	belt decoration
113	119	Cu alloy	5.0	Medieval	belt buckle

Table 1: Metallic Finds from Area 1

SF 101 (Context 109)

- B.1.2 A small piece of curved sheet copper alloy, that seems to be cut or snipped from a larger piece. Length 75mm width 2mm and weight 0.04gms.

SF 102 (Context 119)

- B.1.3 Two small piece of scrap lead folded and twisted. Each piece tapers to a point. No indication as to use. Most probably of a post medieval date. Weight 0.31gms.

SF 103 (Context 119)

- B.1.4 A Post-Medieval (c.1500-1600) iron rotary key, broken and heavily corroded. It measures 140mm in length and weighs 39gms.

SF 109 (Context 109)

- B.1.5 A copper alloy lace chape or lace tag of medieval date. The lace tag is formed from a rolled sheet of copper alloy, being cylindrical in form with one open end and the other end folded over. Lace tags are featured in Egan and Pritchard (1998:284-5) where they are dated from c. AD 1300-1500. Weight 1.1g.

SF 110 (context 103)

- B.1.6 A Medieval copper-alloy buckle plate. The plate is flat, rectangular in both plan and cross section. The plate is 41mm long, 19mm wide, 1.1mm thick and weighs 2.4gms.

SF 111 (Context 103)

- B.1.7 An incomplete iron knife in three parts, probably of medieval date. The blade is slightly tapered in section. The handle was probably wooden or bone and attached to the handle by a tang which, incomplete, measures 50mm. The blade measures 90mm in length and is 20mm wide and has a thickness of 4mm and weighs 49gms.

SF 112 (Context 119)

- B.1.8 A medieval (c. AD 1250-1450) sheet copper alloy, quatrefoil belt mount in the shape of a clover leaf with a circular perforation designed to hold an attachment rivet, which is now missing. The reverse is slightly convex. It measures 10mm in length, 10mm wide, 1mm thick and weighs 0.39gms.

SF 113 (Context 119)

- B.1.9 Fragment of a late medieval (1350-1450) locking arm originally from a cast two piece buckle. The fragment pertains to the locking arm diameter. The ball end of the locking arm is knurled to afford grip. Length 40mm. Width 25mm. Weight 0.50gms.

Area 2

SF No:	Context	Material	Weight gms	Date	Comments
205	306	Lead	0.9gms		

Table 2: Metallic Finds from Area 2

SF 205 (Context 206)

- B.1.10 A small lead strip of unknown date. Possibly associated with glazing. Length 28m. Width 5mm. Weight 0.9gms.

Discussion

- B.1.11 The metallic artefacts recovered from the contexts within trench **1** give a strong indication of occupation. Objects such as the knife blades (**SF111**) would have had an everyday utilitarian use. The discovery of the large rotary key (**SF103**) suggests a door that required locking and small personal items such as the belt fitment (**SF112**) and broken buckle (**SF113**) suggest clothing that had some ornamentation. However, nothing suggests that the people who lived in Covington at this lower part of the village were anything other than the lower status occupants. The greater percentage of finds were from context 119. This context was probably a deliberate deposition of rubbish that evaluation trench **1** disturbed. It does seem that the date of the metallic artifacts along with the pottery recovered from this context give a medieval date for this context.

Metal Detecting Survey

Methodology

- B.1.12 A small-scale metal detecting survey was undertaken by Simon Parsons of the Covington History Group using Fisher F4 and Minlelab Safari metal detectors. The survey focused mostly on a raised flat area TL 053706 near Trench **3b** where it was suspected that a dwelling may have once stood (Fig 3). A search area marked on was laid out utilising the pre-existing geophysics grid and walked in various directions. Finds spots were recorded using a hand held GPS unit.

Find No	Object	Material	Find spot	Date
1	Crop sprayer nozzle	Modern alloy	TL 05406 70703	Modern
2	Crossbow bolt tip	Fe	TL 05392 70688	Med-post med
3	Water bottle	Aluminum	TL 05406 70704	20thC
4	Pewter button	Alloy	TL 05390 70677	18th-19thC
5	Elizabeth II penny	Copper	TL 05408 70685	20thC
6	Small copper coin	Copper	TL 05402 70694	18thC
7	Three Penny bit coin	Brass	TL 05384 70688	20thC
8	Hans Krauwinkel jetton	Cu	TL 05388 70689	17thC
9	Iron bolt	Fe	TL 05402 70685	Med-post med
10	Eyelet	Cu/tin alloy	TL 04424 70654	Post medieval
11	Piece of bronze	Bronze	TL 05428 70677	
12	Belt fitment	Cu	TL 05567 70639	Post medieval
13	Button	Copper alloy	TL 05441 70674	18th-19thC
15	Button	Bronze	TL 53239 24520	18thC
16	Charles I Farthing	Cu	TL 53423 24545	17thC
17	James I Silver coin	Silver	TL 53241 24532	17thC
18	Hans Krauwinkel jetton	Cu	TL 32359 24517	17th C

Table 3: Metal Detected Finds

MD1 (TL 05406 70703) A small crop spraying nozzle of a modern date. L 45mm. W 36mm. 32gms.

MD 2 (TL 05392 70688) An incomplete wrought iron probable Balista/Crossbow bolt head, of probable medieval to Post Med date (14th to 16th Centuries AD). Socketed with uneven corroded surface. L: 130mm W: 25mm. 83.0 grams.

MD 3 (TL 05406 70704) A crushed and broken aluminum water bottle possibly dating to WWII. Possibly a M1952 type commonly used throughout the war and were standard issue. L 100m. W 40M. 162gms.

MD4 (TL 05390 70677) A complete silvered cufflink element or probable button, of Early Modern dating (Late 18th to 19th Centuries AD). The cufflink element or button is circular in plan, with beveled edges. No decoration is present on the front of the cufflink element. The reverse is convex. A circular attachment loop has been fixed by solder in the centre of the reverse. It has a diameter of 13.1 mm, 4.5 mm thick, and the metal is 0.5 mm thick. It weighs 7gms.

MD 5 (TL 05408 70685) Elizabeth II Pre-decimal Pennies were struck from 1953 until 1967. Their were two different types on account of their being two different inscriptions. The first type was only struck in 1953 and the second type was struck from 1954 to 1967. The example found on Manor Field is of the latter type and dates to 1966. It has a diameter of 30mm and weighs 9.1gms.

MD 6 (TL 05402 70694) A small copper coin of 18th century date. Probably attributed to George II (1683-1760). The obverse and reverse have suffered from heavy corrosion. Diameter 22mm. Weight 4.5gms.

MD7 (TL 05384 70688) A 12 sided brass threepenny bit of Elizabeth II. Dated 1957. Diameter 21mm. Weight 6.7gms.

MD 8 (TL 05388 70689) Obverse: A Jetton of Hans Krawuinkel II. A central flower surrounded by 3 crowns and 3 fleur de lis. Enclosed within a border of small oval pellets forming a rope pattern. Enclosed by an inscription which is broken by a flower placed directly above one of the fleur de lis. (Mitchener: 440). 1553. Reverse: Imperial Orb in Normal tressure. Enclosed within a border of small oval pellets forming a rope pattern. Enclosed by an inscription which is broken by a small cross placed directly above the top lip of the tressure (Mitchener: 441). 1542. Diameter: 21.77mm.

MD 9 (TL 05402 70685) Iron Bolt fragment. Robust wrought iron shank of (now) square section with a small oval head; the extent of surviving metal is greater than might be expected of a headed nail with this sized head, and so an identification as a more substantial fitting is suggested. It commends a post-medieval date. Length: 35mm, width/thickness (shank), (head 40m): 15mm, Weight: 90gms.

MD10 (TL 05424 70654) Part of cast bronze or copper alloy eyelet date/use unknown. L 28mm. W 2.8gms.

MD 11 (TL 05428 70677) Hacked piece of Bronze date/use unknown. L 22mm. W 20mm. W 0.019kg.

MD 12 (TL 05567 70639) An incomplete post-medieval cast copper alloy sword belt hanger plate from a sword belt, dating to the 16th century AD. The remains of the hanger comprises one of possibly three separately manufactured mounts with an integral suspension loop. The top of the fitment is broken at the point of a rivet hole. The sword belt mount is symmetrical in plan and flat in plan. Four rivet holes, three at the top and one centrally at the bottom of the plate would have attached the mount to a plate or directly to the belt. The front of the fitment has a rudimentary chipped carved design. The circular suspension loop is integral to the mount and has a diameter of 12mm. Length 35mm. Width 21mm. Thickness 2mm.

MD13 (TL 05441 70674) Copper alloy button. Discoid button with a very slightly convex plain front with a raised centre. The rear suspension loop is integral but broken. Suggested date: Post-Medieval, 1800-1900. Diameter: 16mm, Thickness (at boss but clear of loop): 3mm, Weight: 10.1gms.

MD15 (TL 53239 24520) A complete post-Medieval cast copper-alloy one-piece button (c. 1750-c. 1800). This button is circular in plan, decorated at the front and plain at the rear. At the front it has a moulded double-petalled rose (or flower head) surrounded by a circumferential groove. A central concave spot may have contained enamel. The rear face has an integral drilled shank with a circular hole, 4mm in diameter. This button is in good condition and has a green patina overall. Height: 10mm. Diameter: 14.1mm. Thickness: 2mm. Weight: 2.5g.

MD 16 (TL 53423 24545) A copper-alloy farthing of Charles I, dating to the period 1625-1636. Maltravers Type 3. This coin has a misspelling of 'HIB' on the reverse, where the legend reads 'FRAN ET HIH REX'. Diameter: 16.7mm; thickness: 0.6mm. Weight: 0.5g.

MD 17 (TL 53241 24532) A Post Medieval silver half groat of James I (1603-1625), second coinage dating 1604-1619. Crown over rose obverse, crown over thistle reverse. Clipping evident at an angle of 6 o'clock and 2 o'clock. Initial mark – lost. Weight: 0.8gms, diameter: 16.4mm.

MD18 (TL 32359 24517) A copper-alloy post-medieval Nuremberg jetton of Hans Krauwinkel II (AD 1586-1635), rose and orb type. Mitchiner 1539. Diameter 22mm. Weight 0.9gms.

Slag

Context	No fragments	Identification
303	3	High temperature undiagnostic. One fragment probably associated with metalworking.
304	2	Metalworking slag with some ferrous content.
306	1	High temperature undiagnostic.
308	2	High temperature undiagnostic. Probably not domestic.

Table 10: Slag in Trench 2

Discussion

- B.1.1 The finds found during the metal detecting survey did not provide any evidence of definite occupation on or close to the mound in Area 3. Rather, the finds are more likely to be casual losses over a long period of time. The earliest of these seems to be the copper alloy belt fitment (12) which was discovered slightly south of the survey area and the crossbow bolt tip (2) which was found close to trench 3. Buttons and coinage are common losses on most fields and coinage recovered from the detecting survey and from spoil heaps ranged from Hans Krauwinkel Jettons (8 and 18) through to 17th and 18th century small denomination pieces (6, 16 and 17). Pre-decimal coinage was also found during detecting survey: a threepenny coin (7) and a penny (5), both from the 1950s.

B.2 Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

Analytical Methodology

- B.2.1 The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry.
- B.2.2 Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).
- B.2.3 The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG2001).
- B.2.4 All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

The Pottery

- B.2.5 The pottery assemblage comprised 996 sherds with a total weight of 9,293g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 5.01. A single residual Romano-British sherd aside, it was all Saxo-Norman or later. It was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F100: T1(1) type St. Neots Ware, AD850-1100. 1 sherd, 3g, EVE = 0.06.

F102: Thetford-type Ware, AD850-1100. 2 sherds, 21g, EVE = 0.

F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 173 sherds, 1,117g, EVE = 1.64.

F205: Stamford Ware, AD850-1250. 37 sherds, 108g, EVE = 0.12.

F209: Oolitic Ware, AD975-1350. 3 sherds, 18g, EVE = 0.

F319: Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware, AD1150-1400. 141 sherds, 2,347g, EVE = 0.57.

F320: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware, AD1225-1400. 20 sherds, 346g, EVE = 0.07.

F324: Brill/Boarstall Ware, early 13th-16th century. 1 sherd, 3g, EVE = 0.

F329: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 – 1600. 1 sherd, 6g, EVE = 0.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 338 sherds, 2,238g, EVE = 1.87.

F331: Developed Stamford Ware, late 12th – early 13th century. 2 sherds, 5g, EVE = 0.

F346: Bourne 'A' Ware, 13th – 14th century. 1 sherd, 12g, EVE = 0.

F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, AD1100-1400. 21 sherds, 87g, EVE = 0.

F365: Late Medieval Reduced Ware, AD1400-?1500. 27 sherds, 387g, EVE = 0.10.

F375: Peterborough-type Glazed Oolitic Ware, 13th – 14th century. 1 sherd, 34g, EVE = 0.

F401: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware, AD1450 – 1550. 221 sherds, 2,539g, EVE = 0.55

F404: Cistercian Ware, AD1470 – 1600. 2 sherds, 2g, EVE = 0.

F1000: Misc 19th and 20th century Wares. 3 sherds, 5g.

F1001: All Romano-British. 1 sherd, 15g.

B.2.6 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type per trench is shown in Tables 1 - 4. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010).

Chronology

B.2.7 Each context-specific assemblage was given a ceramic phase-date (“CP”) based on the range of ware-types present, as shown in Table X1, along with the occurrence by number and weight of sherds and EVE, along with the mean sherd weight for the phase. Each date has been checked against the stratigraphic matrix to confirm its veracity.

Phase	Date Range	Defining Wares	No sherds	Wt Sherds	Mean Sherd Wt
SN	AD1000-1100	F200	20	96g	4.8g
M1	AD1100-1150	F330, F360	153	958g	6.3g
M2	M12 th – E 13 th C	F319	99	797g	8.1g
M3	E-M13 th C	F320, F324	141	1823g	12.9g
M4	M13 th – L14 th C	F329	0	0	0
M5	L14 th -M15 th C	F365	0	0	0
M6	M15 th – M16 th C	F401, F404	467	4344g	9.3g
MOD	19 th C	F1000	8	36g	4.6g
U/S	Unstratified	-	108	1239g	11.5g
		Total	996	9293	

Table 4: Ceramic phase definition and pottery occurrence per ceramic phase

B.2.8 The data in Table 4 show that there were effectively two phases of activity at the site, one from the 11th – mid/late 13th century, then another from the mid 15th – 16th century. The small quantity of CP SN material suggests very strongly that activity at the site began in the 11th century, and perhaps slightly earlier if the features of this date represent the periphery of the settlement. This broadly corresponds with the dating of the late Anglo-Saxon settlement at West Cotton, which the ceramic evidence suggested was founded in the second half of the 10th century (Blinkhorn 2010, 317). It is worthy of note that all the Stamford Ware from this site is glazed, which is typical of the late 10th century and later products of the industry (Kilmurry 1980, fig. 28).

B.2.9 This suggests that there was a period of abandonment or shrinkage at this site of up to two centuries, and is supported by the paucity of glazed Lyveden/Stanion ‘B’ Ware (fabric F320), and, particularly, Potterspury Ware (fabric F329), both of which were very common after the mid-13th century at other sites in the region. For example, the excavations at Lime Street in nearby Irthlingborough produced fairly large assemblages of both wares (Blinkhorn 2003, table 4), and the picture was the same at the Raunds Area Project sites, with the assemblage of c 5,000 sherds of Potterspury Ware making it the most common medieval glazed pottery at West Cotton. Lyveden/Stanion ‘B’ Ware occurred there in only slightly lesser quantities (*ibid.* 2010, 300), and the sites at North Raunds produced similar results (*ibid.* 2009, table 6.20).

B.2.10 The data for this site also shows that the mean sherd weight for most of the ceramic phase assemblages is rather low, indicating that much of the pottery is the product of

secondary deposition. In the case of the CP M6 material, the low mean sherd weight is in part due to the presence of large quantities of residual material (see Table 5)

Phase	F200	F205	F330	F360	F319	F320	F365	F401	Total
SN	100%	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	96g
M1	53.2%	3.4%	40.3%	1.3%	-	-	-	-	958g
M2	22.6%	1.3%	49.9%	1.8%	24.5%	-	-	-	797g
M3	7.4%	2.0%	16.9%	2.0%	64.0%	6.7%	-	-	1823g
M6	2.6%	0.4%	18.2%	0.4%	15.8%	0.8%	8.7%	52.5%	4344g

Table 5: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase by fabric type by weight in grammes, major fabrics only. Shaded cells = residual

B.2.11 The data in Table 5 show a fairly typical pattern for sites of the appropriate date in this area (*ibid.*), other than, as noted, the paucity of 13th – 14th century medieval glazed wares. Residuality is very high in ceramic phase M6, c 40% of the pottery by weight, indicating that there was considerable disturbance of earlier strata at that time, probably due to consolidation and rebuilding after the period of abandonment. It is worthy of note that 13th – 14th century glazed wares are also very scarce amongst the residual material, showing that their absence amongst the stratified material is not due to later disturbance, and further suggesting that the site was abandoned fairly soon after they were introduced, as earlier wares are present in quantity. A similar range of pottery was present in the topsoil, in similar proportions, including the only sherds of 13th – 14th century Potterspurry Ware (F329), Bourne 'A' Ware (F346) and Peterborough-type Oolitic Ware (F375) from the site.

The Assemblages

Ceramic Phase SN, 11th century, 20 sherds, 96g, EVE = 0.17.

B.2.12 All the pottery from this phase was Type T1(2) St Neots Ware (fabric F200), and consisted entirely of body sherds except for the rims from two fairly large jars typical of the tradition. Just three contexts were of this date, two of which, 308 and 504, were the primary silts of ditches. The generally small mean sherd weight shows that all the groups are the products of secondary deposition, and seem fairly reliable evidence for a late 10th – early 11th century date for the start of late Saxon activity at the site.

Ceramic Phase M1, early – mid 12th century, 153 sherds, 958g, EVE = 1.04

B.2.13 The bulk of the pottery of this date appears to be the product of secondary deposition, with most of the groups consisting of fairly small groups of a few sherds, with few re-fits noted. It shows a typical profile for assemblages of this date in the region, with the bulk of it comprising F200 (53.2% by weight) and Shelly Coarseware (fabric F330, 40.3% by weight), along with smaller quantities of Stamford Ware (F205; 3.4%) and Sandy Coarsewares (F360; 1.3%). The only other pottery from the ceramic phase was a single small sherd of Thetford Ware (F102) and the residual Romano-British sherd (15g). All the Stamford Ware is glazed, which, as noted above, is typical of the products of the industry of the late 10th century or later (Kilmurry 1980, Fig. 28).

B.2.14 Fifteen rimsherds were noted, of which ten are jars (EVE = 0.69), four are bowls (EVE = 0.23), and one a pitcher (EVE = 0.12). Of the jars, six are in fabric F330 (EVE = 0.42) and the other four in F200 (EVE = 0.27). Two of the bowls are F330 (EVE = 0.10) and the other two are F200 (EVE = 0.13), with the pitcher being Stamford Ware. The pitcher

rim is of Kilmurry's Form 5 (*ibid.* fig. 51) which is of 12th - mid 13th century date (*ibid.* fig. 29). Overall, the assemblage is a very typical of the period both in terms of the vessel occurrence and the ware types.

Ceramic Phase M2, mid 12th – early 13th century, 99 sherds, 797g, EVE = 0.80

- B.2.15 This phase saw the introduction of the earliest products of the Lyveden and Stanion industries, in the form of the unglazed "A" Ware (fabric F319). The context-specific assemblages and the mean sherd weights are generally larger than in the preceding phase, but the material again all appears to be the product of secondary deposition.
- B.2.16 As is typical of the period, the main pottery type is fabric F330 (40.3%), along with fairly large quantities of F319 (24.5%) and F200 (22.6%). The minor wares are again Stamford Ware (1.3%) and Sandy Coarsewares (1.8%), with no other pottery types noted.
- B.2.17 Sixteen rimsherds were present of which fourteen were from jars (EVE = 0.73) and two from bowls (EVE = 0.07). Of the jars, nine are in F200 (EVE = 0.47), four in F330 (EVE = 0.23), and one in F319 (EVE = 0.03). The single F319 rimsherd has a typical thumb-impressed early form (Blinkhorn 2010, 286). One bowl was in F200, the other in F330. The lack of jug rims is most likely due to the relatively small assemblage size and the vagaries of archaeological sampling, with the Stamford Ware sherds, all of which are glazed, likely to be from pitchers.

Ceramic Phase M3, early- mid 13th century, 141 sherds, 1823g, EVE = 0.76

- B.2.18 This phase sees the introduction of 'high' medieval glazed wares in the form of Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware (fabric F320) and Brill/Boarstall Ware (F324). As noted above, they appear somewhat under-represented, which, given the complete absence of stratified Potterspury Ware (fabric F329), suggests the excavated areas were temporarily abandoned around the middle of the 13th century.
- B.2.19 The major ware was F319 (64.0%), along with smaller quantities of F330 (16.9%), with F320 making up just 6.7% of the group. Stamford Ware (2.0%) and F360 (2.0%) were present as minor wares, with the rest of the group made up of two sherds each of Developed Stamford Ware (F331) and Oolitic Ware (F209), and a single fragment of Brill/Boarstall Ware (F324). Residual pottery, in the form of F200, made up 7.4% of the assemblage. The paucity of glazed wares aside, this is a fairly typical profile for pottery of this date in the region. The proportion of F319 is somewhat exaggerated by the presence of large sherds from the base of a storage vessel from context 303. This aside, the assemblages had the same basic physical character as those from the preceding phases, and are largely the result of secondary deposition.
- B.2.20 Only four contexts produced pottery of this date, all the final back-fills of ditches, indicating further that there was a major re-organization or abandonment of the settlement at this time. The assemblage comprised entirely jars (EVE = 0.44), bowls (EVE = 0.11) and jugs (EVE = 0.21), with the higher proportion of jugs very typical of assemblages of this period. This proportion is even higher when the residual material is taken into account. Nine jar rims were present, all of which were fabric F330, apart from three residual F200 examples (EVE = 0.14). Both the bowl rims were residual F200 examples, while two jug rims were noted, one F319 (EVE = 0.14) and the other F320 (EVE = 0.07).

Ceramic Phase M6, mid 15th – mid 16th century, 467 sherds, 4344g, EVE = 0.76

- B.2.21 This is by far the largest ceramic phase group from the site, and although there is a large proportion of residual pottery (c 39% by weight), the stratified material is generally larger and better preserved than the earlier medieval groups, with a number of refits possible, so the mean sherd weight is larger than the raw data suggests. The residual pottery includes material from all of the above phases, including some early F319 rims, and as noted above, suggests the same picture of occupation and abandonment as the stratified material. It includes a sherd of Thetford Ware from a large storage jar with thumbled applied strips. The style of the decoration indicates it is a product of the eponymous Norfolk kilns. It cannot be taken as an indicator of pre-11th century activity, however, despite the industry beginning in the late 9th or early 10th century. Certainly, at West Cotton, nearly all the Thetford Ware was fragments of such storage jars (Blinkhorn 2010, 265), and none of it was stratified in deposits earlier than the 12th century (*ibid.* 311).
- B.2.22 As is typical of the period, most of the stratified material is Late Medieval Oxidized Ware (F401), along with lesser quantities of Late Medieval Reduced Ware (F365) and a few small sherds of Cistercian Ware (F404). All the rimsherds are in F401, other than a single bowl rim in F365 (EVE = 0.10). Most of the rims are jars (EVE = 1.16) with the rest bowls (EVE = 0.45), although non-rim fragments of 'developed' late medieval vessel forms are present, in the form of two bungholes from cisterns and a dripping dish, as well as the Cistercian Ware fragments, which are invariably from cups. It is possible that some of the jar rims may be from cisterns; certainly they often have similar rim-forms, and the two vessel types can often only be distinguished if they survive to a full profile, and a bunghole is present.
- B.2.23 Most of the stratified pottery of this date comes from Trench 1, with just 74g noted in Trenches 2 and 3 combined, indicating that Trench 1 was the focus of activity at this time. The bulk of it (2,021g from a total of 2,662g of stratified material, or 75.9% by weight) occurred in a single context, 119, the upper fill of a ditch, suggesting that the material is a dump of midden material used as backfill. While perhaps not a primary deposit, it is by far the best-preserved group of pottery from the site, and contained very little residual material, other than 101g of earlier medieval sherds. A number of re-fits were made, and a cross fit was noted between context 101, the subsoil, and context 119, indicating that there was some disturbance of the feature by later activity. All the 'developed' vessel sherds came from this group, and it is very clearly a domestic assemblage, and likely to have been deposited quite near to where it was initially used and broken.



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		F200		F205		F209		F319		F320		F329		F330		F331		F346		F360		F365		F375		F401		F404		F1000			
Tr	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date	
1	101	2	51	5	9			20	177	8	117	1	6	35	267							2	7	1	34	20	234					U/S	
1	103							1	9	1	8			3	23						3	11	3	25			21	123				M15thC	
1	104																												1	3	MOD		
1	105	3	24	2	2			4	28					15	144																	M12thC	
1	106	12	125					7	66					24	122						2	14										M12thC	
1	109							1	9	1	5			5	17	1	1				2	7										13thC	
1	110							1	12																							M12thC	
1	114							3	28					8	53										17	139						M15thC	
1	119							2	7	3	7			17	87						19	348			133	1671	2	2				L15thC	
1	120							4	59					8	46						1	3	2	5		11	64					M15thC	
1	122							2	40					13	89							1	2			6	209					M15thC	
1	9999	2	30			1	6	2	124					4	54										2	24						U/S	
Total		19	230	7	11	1	6	48	571	13	137	1	6	132	902	1	1	1	12	8	35	27	387	1	34	210	2464	2	2	1	3		

Table 6: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type, Trench 1

		F100		F102		F200		F205		F209		F319		F320		F330		F331		F360		F401					
Tr	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date	
2	301	1	3	1	19	15	94	9	19			40	526	3	19	83	462			1	3	5	39			M15thC	
2	303					1	2	4	11	1	3	18	782	3	117	43	235			2	4					13thC	
2	304					13	134	10	34	1	9	27	422			10	69	1	4	4	21					M12 th - 13thC	
2	306					3	16	2	8							15	153			1	4					12thC	
2	308			1	2	1	3	1	4							8	94			1	3					12thC	
2	9999													1	73	1	14										U/S
Total		1	3	2	21	33	249	26	76	2	12	85	1730	7	209	160	1027	1	4	9	35	5	39				

Table 7: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, Trench 2

		F200		F205		F319		F330		F360		F401		F1000		
Tr	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
2A	308	13	52													11thC
2A	313			1	2			7	19	1	1					12thC
2A	315									1	4					12thC
2A	316							3	9							12thC
2A	317							3	23	1	7	1	1	2	2	MOD
2A	324					1	11	3	99							M12thC
Total		13	52	1	2	1	11	16	150	3	12	1	1	2	2	

Table 8: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, Trench 2A

		F1001		F200		F205		F319		F324		F330		F360		F401		
Tr	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
3	503			84	491	3	19					17	107					12thC
3	504			1	30													11thC
3	506			9	30			1	15	1	3	2	14	1	5			13thC
3	514															1	7	M15thC
3	516	1	15									2	4					12thC
3	518			1	3			5	16			3	14			3	22	M15thC
3	520			7	18							4	16			1	6	M15thC
3	522			6	14													11thC
3	523							1	8									M12thC
3	539							1	8			2	4					M12thC
Total		1	15	108	586	3	19	8	47	1	3	30	159	1	5	5	35	

Table 9: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type, Trench 3

B.3 Glass and Plastic

- B.3.1 Two sherds of clear modern glass, totaling 0.012kg were recovered from subsoil (101).
- B.3.2 Two fragments of modern green plastic tubing weighing 0.005Kg were recovered from (120), supporting the interpretation of this feature as a modern telegraph pole.

B.4 Flint

Anthony Haskins pers. comm.

- B.4.1 Three worked flints were recovered: a Mesolithic/early Neolithic, tertiary blade from (301), a secondary flake from (518), a secondary broken flake from (522).

B.5 Worked Stone and Slate

Carole Fletcher pers. comm.

- B.5.1 A whetstone and a large ?quartzite upper quernstone were recovered from context (306). Another whetstone/rubbing stone/pallet was recovered from (308), and a further fossiliferous limestone upper quernstone was recovered from (122).
- B.5.2 Two fragments of Welsh roofing slate were recovered from topsoil context (317).

B.6 Worked Bone

Carole Fletcher pers. comm.

- B.6.1 A worked bone fragment which appears to be a very rough cutout for a weaving beater was recovered from context (313) (Plate 16).

B.7 Ceramic Building Material

Context	Fabric	No. of sherds	Weight in Kg	Date Range for Context
101	Modern brick	9	0.849	Modern
103	Yellow tile	1	0.044	Modern
	Field drain	1	0.063	Modern
	Undiag CBM	29	0.150	Modern
104	Perforated brick	23	0.784	Modern
	Older brick (with rough holes)	1	0.170	Modern
	Field drain	1	0.139	Modern
114	Undiag CBM	11	0.039	Unknown
	Tile	1	0.047	late medieval – early post-med
119	Perforated brick	6	0.045	Modern
	Tile	3	0.150	late medieval – early post-med
	Fired clay	3	0.012	unknown
120	Undiag CBM	10	0.059	Modern
122	Undiag CBM	3	0.008	Modern
99999 (Area 1)	Modern brick	4	0.067	Modern
	Tile	1	0.027	late medieval – early post-med
	Pan tile (roof tile)	1	0.044	18/19 th century
303	Fired clay/CBM	7	0.016	unknown
308	fired clay	1	0.005	unknown
313	fired clay	4	0.049	unknown
317	field drain	1	0.017	Modern
503	fired clay	17	0.141	unknown
504	Fired clay	1	0.035	unknown
508	Fired clay	1	0.002	unknown
514	Red tile	2	0.154	Late Med 14/15 th century
	Pink/yellow tile	5	0.303	Late Med 14/15 th century
518	Fired clay	24	0.058	unknown
520	Fired clay	3	0.014	unknown
522	Fired clay	4	0.008	unknown
539	Fired clay	1	0.003	unknown

Table 11: Ceramic Building Material by Weight

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal remains

By Daniel Sharman

C.1.1 Excavations carried out at Covington (2015) recovered a total of 1597 specimens over three areas (see table 1) the largest quantity came from area 3, Context (503) contained the largest quantity of bone 509 specimens. Of the 1597 specimens a total of 478 were identifiable to species with another 380 to subspecies. This report aims to summarise the data attained through this analysis to give information on preservation, species representation and where possible age profiles and butchery.

Area	Fragment Count
1	605
2	318
3	674

Table 12 Faunal Fragment Count

Methodology

C.1.2 The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Cohen & Serjeantson (1996), Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999), and personal reference material. Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories where possible. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count. Butchery, pathology and gnawing were noted where possible. Ageing of the assemblage employed both mandibular tooth wear and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses. The ageing data of Silver (1969) was used to assess epiphyseal fusion of the post-cranial elements. The analyses of tooth eruption and mandibular toothwear stages were recorded following Grant (1982) for cattle, ovicapra and pigs.

Preservation

C.1.3 The material recovered from all three areas of the site overall were in a largely fragmentary state and in terms of preservation a range can be seen in all three areas. The majority of specimens were in a poor condition, however this is closely followed by moderate and good condition in terms of contexts (Table 13). Due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage, very few whole bones were recovered, the majority of long bones consisted of epiphyseal ends or shaft fragments meaning measurements were not enough to produce sufficient data and so will not be discussed in this report. When it was not possible to identify species it was attempted to place them into size categories (see Table 14). Of the assemblage, only 739 specimens were not identifiable on any level, which equates to 46% of the assemblage.

Preservation	Number of contexts	% of contexts	Fragment count
Very Poor	12	15	257
Poor	32	38	984
Moderate	16	20	143
Good	20	25	212
Very Good	1	2	1
Totals	81	100	1597

Table 13 Faunal Preservation Counts

Species representation

- C.1.4 The five main domestic species; Cattle, Dog, Horse, Pig, Sheep are all represented at this site along with other animals including bird and small mammals. The most common species represented in the assemblage was sheep/goat which makes up 68% of the total identified species and comprises of a minimum of 7 individuals (see Table 14).
- C.1.5 The second most common species was cattle, and then pig; when looking at the MNI for these two species they appear equally represented. Horse is also abundant on site and as can be seen, they were taking advantage of the local bird life and their own domesticated stock. These numbers show that the local population had a relatively large flock of sheep: this may have been because greater numbers were need to create the same meat output as cattle herds and pigs.

Taxon	NISP	MNI
Bird	19	N/A
Cattle	87	3
Chicken	2	2
Dog	2	1
Duck	1	1
Horse	11	2
Pig	30	3
Sheep/Goat	326	7
Sub-total	478	19
Cow-sized	198	N/A
Sheep-Sized	174	N/A
Small Mammal	8	N/A
Total	858	

Table 14 Nisp & MNI counts

- C.1.6 The representation of dog and horse bone would be indicative to working animals; however (as will be discussed later on) a horse phalange showed evidence of butchery. The presence of domestic Fowl indicates that the population had access to both eggs and meat, however there is not enough data to identify a husbandry strategy behind their presence and the same with the inclusion of a Teal bone, which could have either been wild or domesticated. However throughout the medieval period in England duck played a very small part of the economy and certainly does not appear domestically till the late medieval period onwards with Geese being favoured over Duck (Albarella

2005). The small mammal bones most likely represent pit fall deaths and show no signs of digestion or breakage by birds or other predators.

Age profiles

- C.1.7 Ageing data was derived from Mandible Wear stages and Fusion data. With regards to Wear stages the assemblage did not contain many good or whole mandibles and so limited data was gathered, again the majority of MWS came from Sheep. Of the three animals able to produce husbandry profiles based on wear stages, only sheep contained enough examples to attempt a mortality profile. What can be said of pig and cattle is that cattle contained both young and old individuals and pig mainly young individuals between 2 months to 2 years consistent with pig farming. Sheep mortality from this small sample suggests a flock geared towards wool production with an emphasis on keeping the animals into adulthood with a slow decline due to natural deaths or selected culling. This matches much to what Payne (1973) found in his study, that by keeping the majority of animals into late adulthood, the greater number of fleeces to be produced. Fusion data for Cattle showed that the animals are all between 1-4 years of age, Pigs are all over 1 year of age, with one individual surviving to be 4 years. Sheep again show a wide spread of ages which match with the MWS well.

Butchery

- C.1.8 Clear evidence of butchery was recorded on 30 specimens; this was found mainly on Cattle (37%) and Sheep (27%). The most common type of butchery mark was caused by a chopping blade; it is believed that this was mostly intended to split the bone for marrow extraction. Of note is that one specimen (a Horse 1st Phalange) displays a scrap mark up the whole of its length, which suggests that it was certainly de-fleshed, most likely for the purposes of skinning the animal for its hide for crafting. The very fragmentary nature of this assemblage could be attributed to general medieval butchery practices, as they tend to leave a higher proportion of fragmentation to an assemblage than earlier practices, as is discussed by Grant (1987).

Conclusion

- C.1.9 The population around this site held a focus on wool production, holding a far greater number of Sheep/Goat than that of Cattle or Pig. It would seem that the people of Covington were gaining their sustenance through a combination of Cattle- and Pig-farming, with additions to their diet from domestic, and possibly wild, birds; chicken and duck amongst others and selected sheep culling. A number of horses were amongst the assemblage, most likely representing traction or transportation. Butchery data indicates possible medieval practices taking place, with an emphasis on marrow extraction, and some evidence of skinning for hides. These factors would suggest that the assemblage is of a medieval date, as there is a clear gear towards wool production in the middle ages, and the good number of horses could have been used to transport the wool to other centres of production or trade as well as being used to pull a plough. Further works in the area would help to create a larger assemblage giving a greater range of data to work with, which would also help build on the husbandry profiles mentioned above and maybe give a better indication to the diet of the population and also how they are exploiting their landscape and the animals in it for their economic needs.

C.2 Mollusca

- C.2.1 A significant quantity of shell was recovered. Burrowing shells are not usually recovered on pre-development excavations, but were present in significant quantities on this site.
- C.2.2 Oysters, mussels and cockles were all present on the site, and were part of the standard Medieval diet. The large volume of mussel shells (and animal bone) from ditch fill (503) supports the interpretation that this ditch was used as a midden by those living in the adjacent house.

Context no.	Type	Weight (kg)
101	burrowing snail	0.016
	mussel	0.006
103	burrowing snail	0.001
	mussel	0.009
114	mussel	0.003
119	mussel	0.043
122	burrowing snail	0.002
99999	mussel	0.001
301	burrowing snail	0.048
	mussel	0.001
303	oyster	0.024
	burrowing snail	0.026
304	burrowing snail	0.001
313	burrowing snail	0.103
	mussel	0.003
317	burrowing snail	0.001
503	mussel	0.177
	burrowing snail	0.010
	oyster	0.008
	cockle	0.004
	banded tulip shell	0.005
504	mussel	0.006
	burrowing snail	0.001
506	burrowing snail	0.003
516	mussel	0.003
518	burrowing snail	0.008
520	burrowing snail	0.006
522	mussel	0.001
539	burrowing snail	0.019

Table 15: Mollusca by weight

APPENDIX D. JIGSAW TRAINING COURSES

Two Level 3 workshop training sessions were run during the excavation, as part of the 2015 Jigsaw Training Programme, there were Medieval pottery making and building a Roman-style pottery kiln.

Medieval Pottery-making Demonstration: Jigsaw Training Courses EA5 & EA6

Wednesday, 8th July 2015

The Medieval Pottery sessions consisted of a mixture of demonstrations and hands-on workshops. Graham Taylor from Potted History gave an introductory talk about the practical aspects of pottery-making, including types of clay, tempers, and kiln types, and showed a range of replica vessels. Participants then made small hand-built jars. This was followed by demonstration of a hand-driven fast wheel, and each person was able to throw a vessel on the wheel.

Building a Roman-style Kiln: Jigsaw Training Course EA7

Tuesday, 14th July 2015 – Thursday, 16th July 2015

Potter Jon Cane built and fired a Roman-style kiln, assisted by Jigsaw volunteers. The kiln site was chosen on a suitable spot in a part of the excavation field well away from trenches, overhead power cables and services. It was dug into the side of a bank with the flue facing into the wind. Jon and 11 Jigsaw volunteers dug the foundation of the kiln, and built it using modern commons bricks to save drying time. The bricks were secured with wet clay, consisting of earthenware slip and throwing waste that had been re-wetted. The stoke hole was excavated to 20cm below the kiln floor. Local potter and photographer John Turrell lent a metal kiln lid and pyrometer with a moveable probe.

The kiln was stacked with replica Nene Valley vessels made by Jon Cane and decorated by members of Jigsaw on Roman Pottery-making EA3 and EA4 in June 2015 and with the vessels made the previous week on EA5 and EA6. There was only one breakage in the kiln.

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APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-230422		
Project Name	Covington: a Medieval Village History Uncovered		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	04-07-2015	Finish	18-07-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	COVMAF15	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	ECB 4502	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Development Type	Not Recorded

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditches	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
Pits	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
Pits	Modern 1901 to Present		Select period...

Project Location

County	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	HUNTINGDONSHIRE	Manor Field, Covington, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 0RU	
Parish	COVINGTON		
HER	CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
Study Area	250 x 80m	National Grid Reference	TL50558 27066

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	JOANNA RICHARDS & JEMIMA WOOLVERTON
Project Design Originator	JOANNA RICHARDS & JEMIMA WOOLVERTON
Project Manager	STEPHEN MACAULAY (OA EAST)
Supervisor	JEMIMA WOOLVERTON (OA EAST)

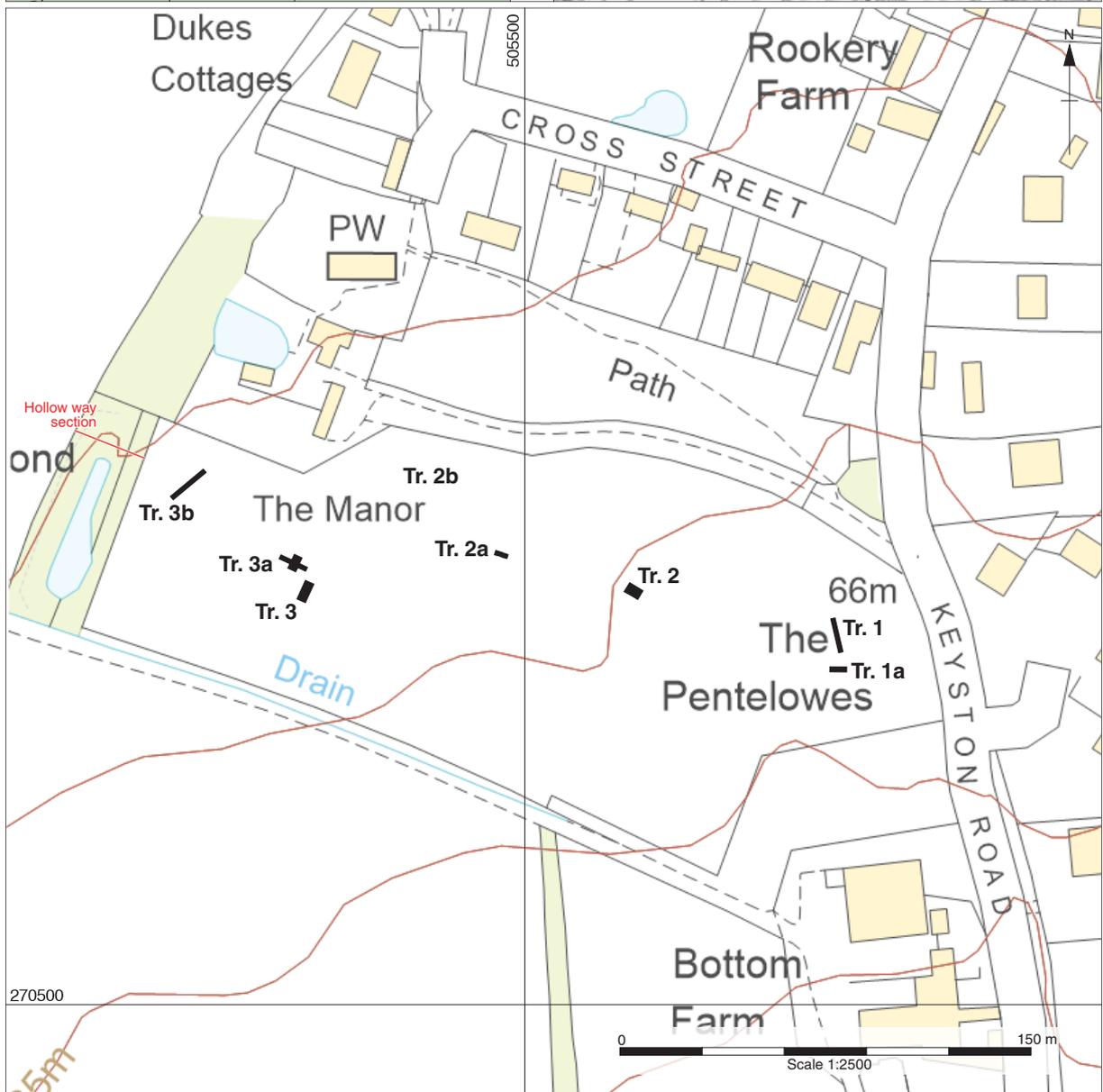
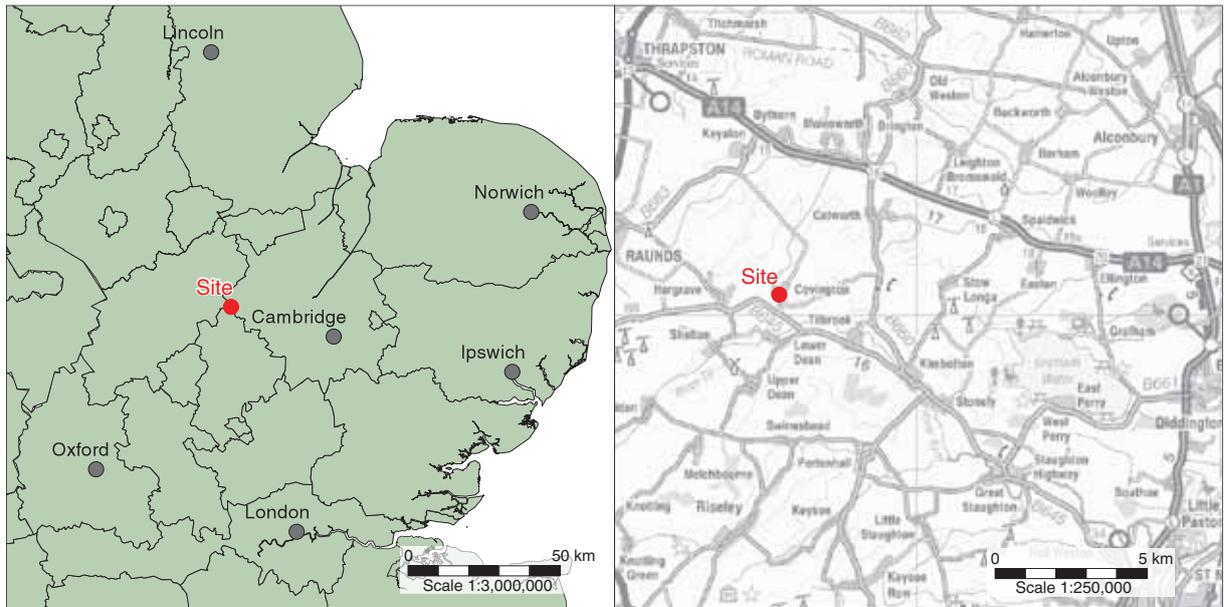
Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Covington History Group	OAE	OAE
COVMAF15	COVMAF15	COVMAF15

Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black)

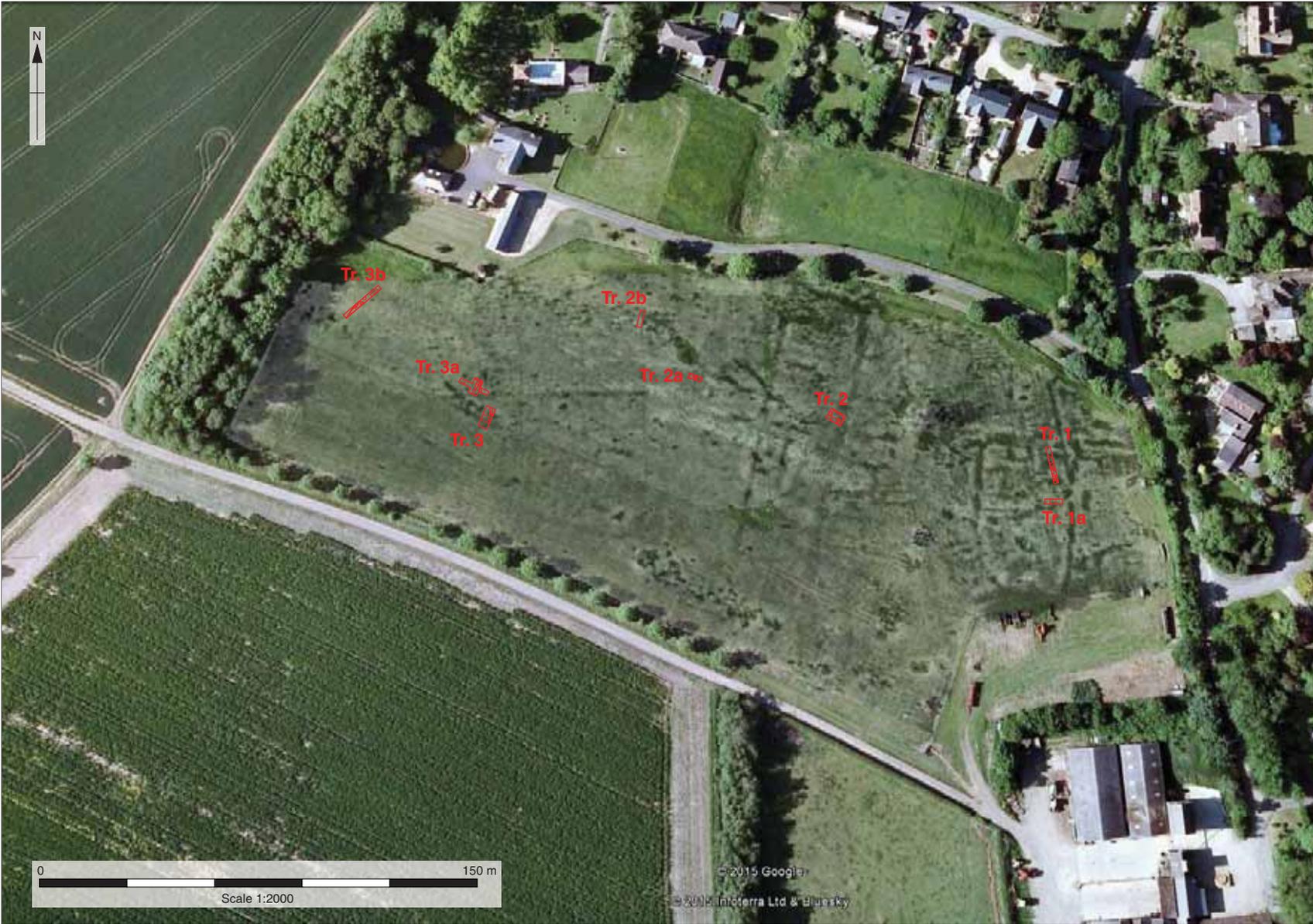


Figure 2: Topographical and trench plan

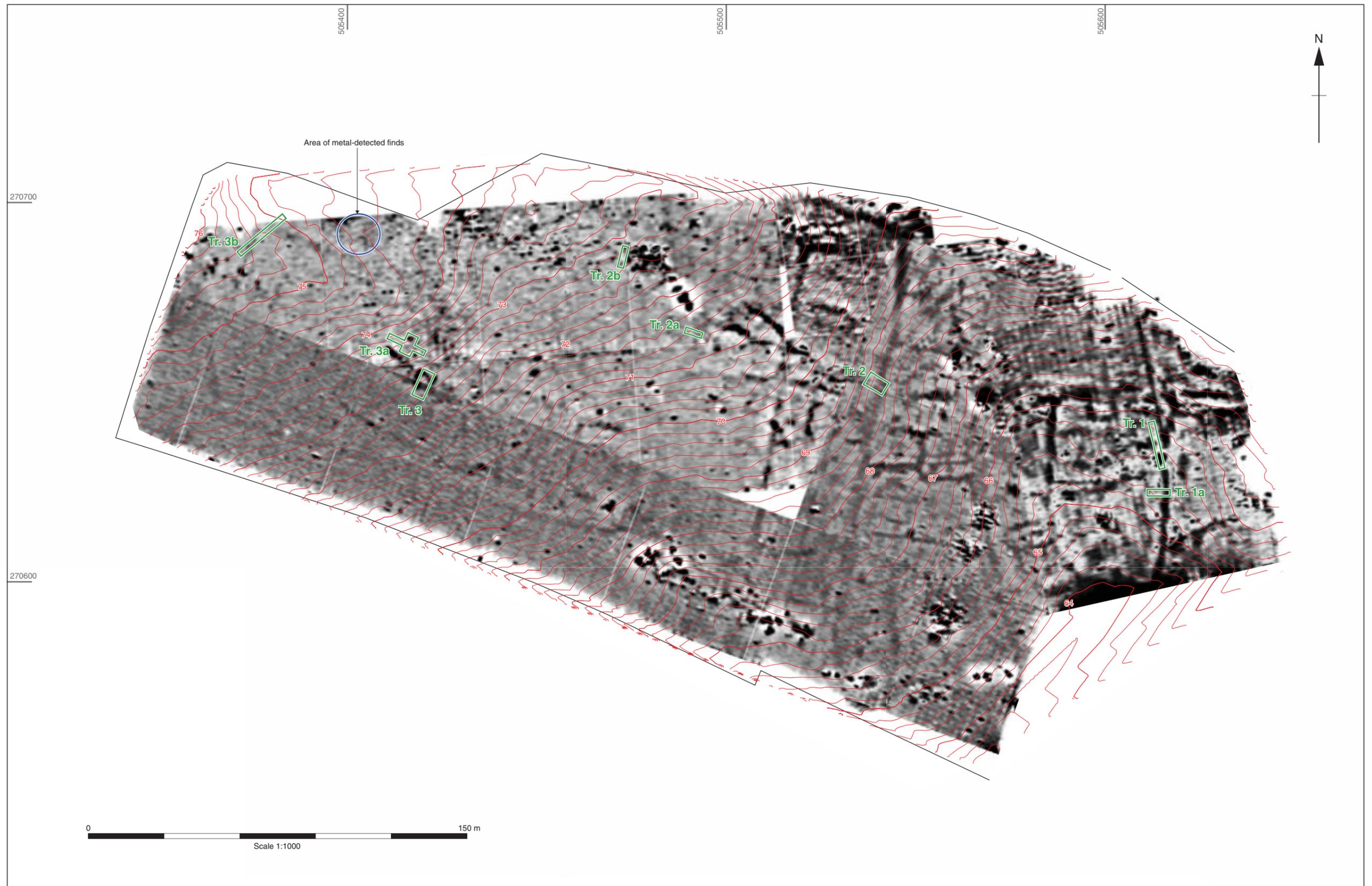


Figure 3: Geophysical survey and trench plan overlay

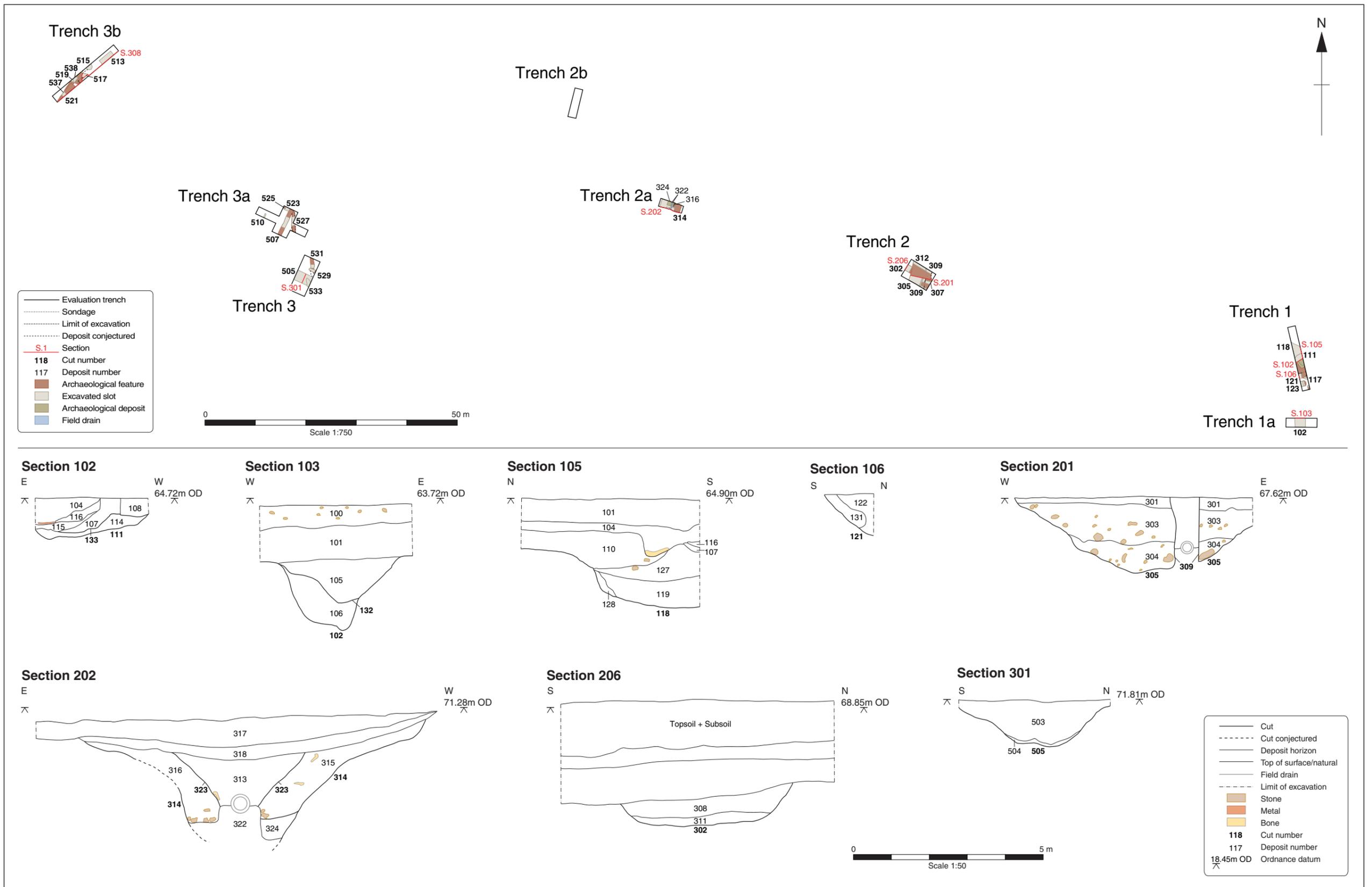


Figure 6: All trench plans and selected sections

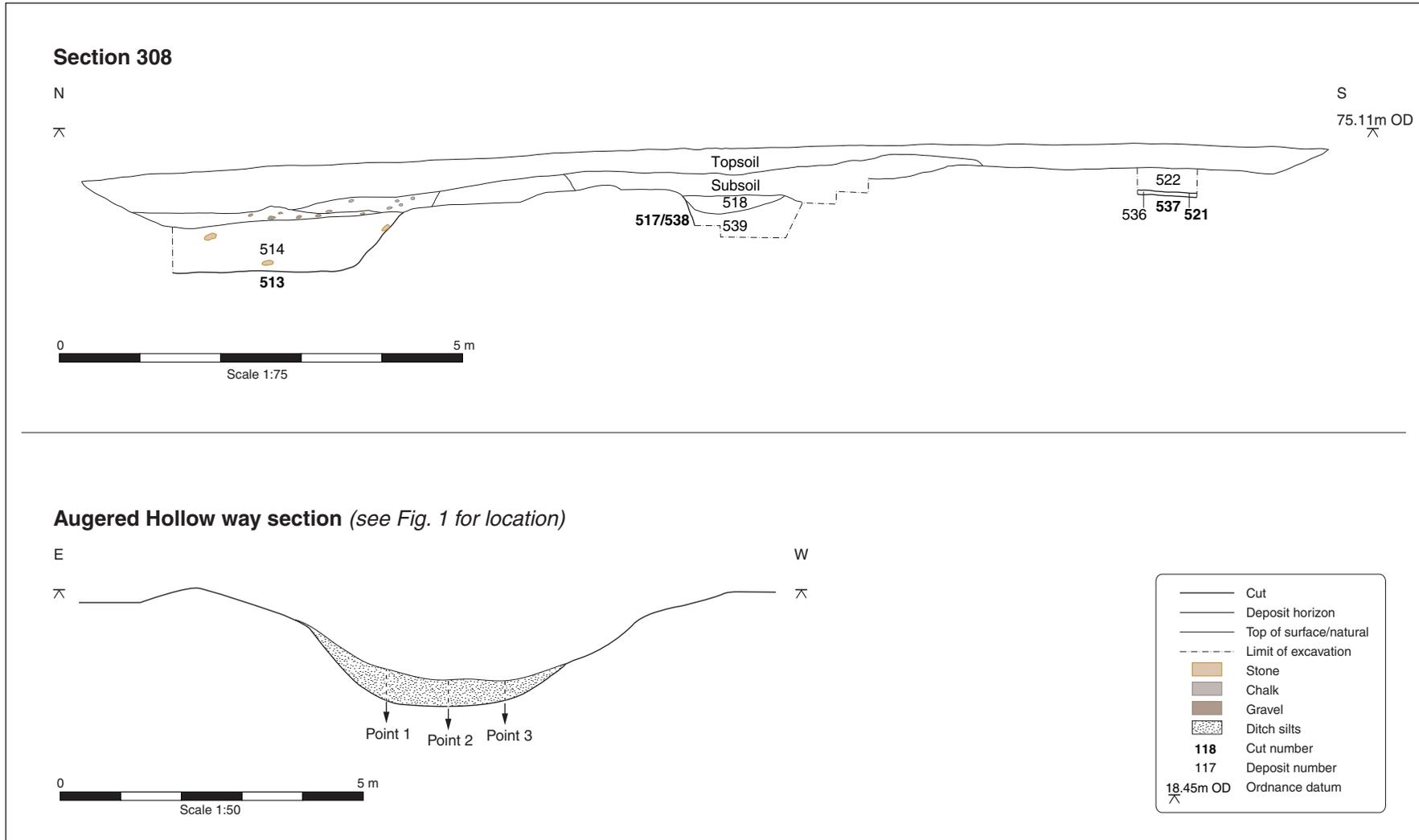


Figure 7: Section 308 and Hollow way section



Figure 8: Worked bone weaving beater



Plate 1: Trench 1 Modern Pit **133**



Plate 2: Trench 1a Ditch **102**

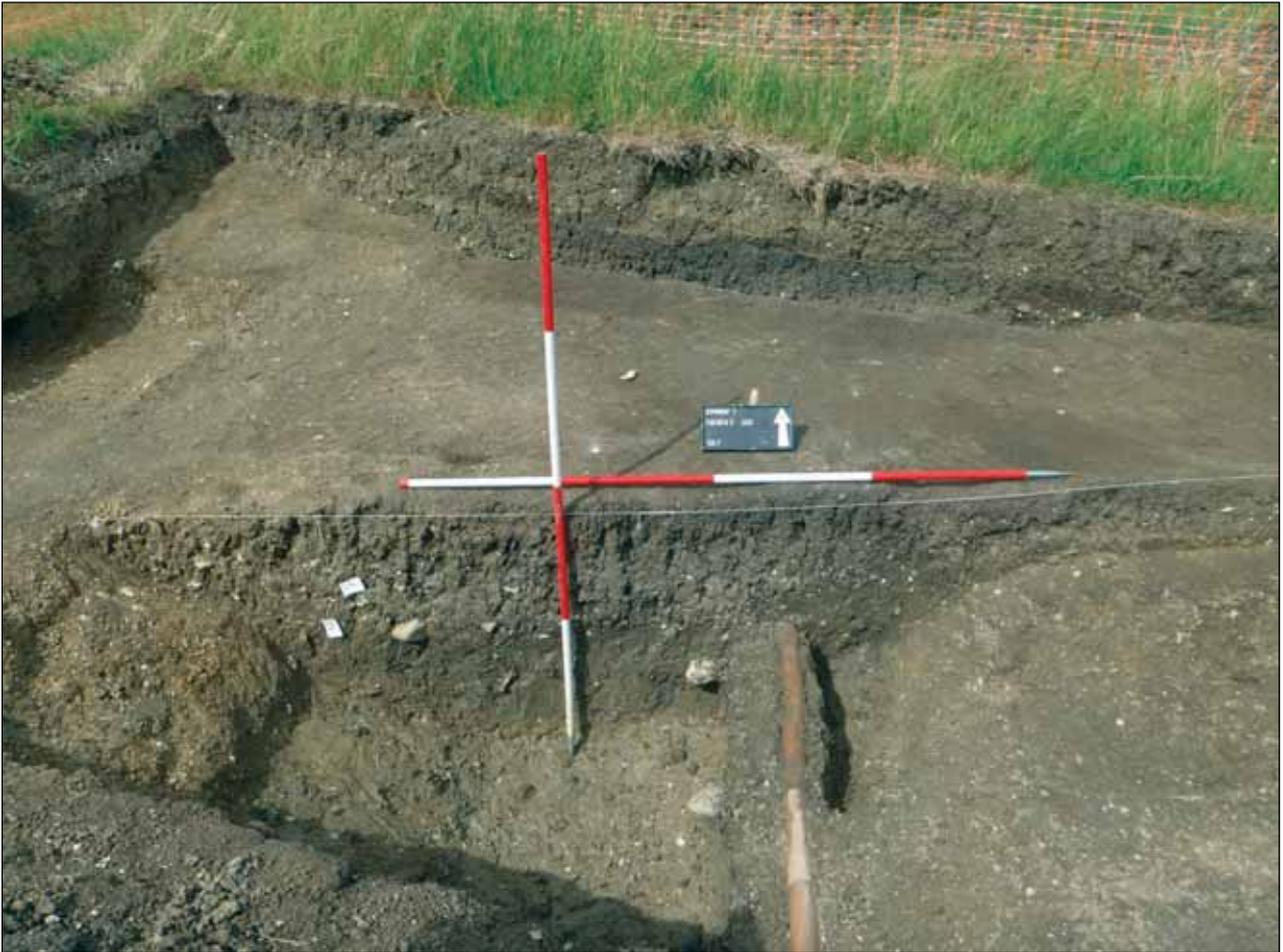


Plate 3: Trench 2 Ditch 305



Plate 4: Trench 2a Ditch 314



Plate 5: Trench 2b



Plate 6: Trench 3 Ditch 505



Plate 7: Trench 3a beamslot 507



Plate 8: Trench 3b, with 513 pond in foreground



Plate 9: Machine watching



Plate 10: Mattocking the clay



Plate 11: Excavating Trench 2



Plate 12: Section drawing in Trench 1



Plate 13: Excavating Trench 1 pit/ ditch 118



Plate 14: Mid-dig Team photo



Plate 15: End of dig Team Photo



Plate 16: Eggscavation



Plate 17: Medieval quatrefoil copper alloy strap fitting SF112



Plate 18: Locking arm with grooved filial of a Medieval copper alloy locking buckle SF113



Plate 19: Medieval pottery workshop, making hand-built pots



Plate 20: Medieval pottery workshop, using the hand-powered wheel



Plate 21: Roman kiln, building the flue arch



Plate 22: Roman kiln firing



Plate 23: Jon and Jo look inside the opened kiln



Plate 24: Replica Roman pots revealed



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