



# Keyston Big Dig 2022

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

By Robert Wishart

Report Date: February 2023

**Report Number: 1**

**Site Name:** Denford Meadow, Keyston

**Date of Works: September 2022**

**Grid Ref:** Location on Application

**Site Code: KEY DM 22**

**Receiving Body:** St John the Baptist Church, Keyston

Prepared by: Robert Wishart  
Position: Archivist, Covington and Keyston History Group  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Checked by: Thomas Richard Brown  
Position: Chairman Covington and Keyston History Group  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Signed: .....

**Disclaimer**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Covington and Keyston History Group being obtained. Covington and Keyston History Group accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned.*

**Covington and Keyston History Group**  
**Robert Wishart**  
**Hillymead House**  
**2 Linden Grove**  
**Keyston**  
**Cambridgeshire**  
**PE28 0RG**

t: 01832 710239  
e: Robert.wishart@rawdatastrategy.com

## Contents

Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Location and scope of work.....	5
Geology and topography.....	5
Archaeological and historical background.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	5
Aims and Methodology.....	6
Results and Interpretation.....	7
Introduction.....	7
Field Walking.....	7
Test Pits.....	7
Finds Summary.....	8
Environmental Summary.....	9
Discussions and Conclusions.....	10
Pottery Identification.....	10
Coin Identification.....	11
Recommendations.....	11
Appendices.....	12
Appendix 1 – Magnetometer Results.....	12
Appendix 2 – Finds Reports.....	13
Ceramic Building Materials.....	13
Glass.....	16
Metalwork.....	17
Pottery (Excluding Test Pits).....	19
Teeth, Bones and Shells.....	27
Appendix 3 – Section Drawings.....	29
Appendix 4 – Plan Drawings.....	31
Appendix 5 – Test Pit Photographs.....	32
Appendix 6 – Finds Reports – Test Pits.....	33
Context 1 – Top Soil.....	33
Context 2 – Sub Soil.....	34
Context 4 – Bottom of pit.....	34

## Summary

The Covington and Keyston History Group (CKHG) was created to provide residents of both villages with a vehicle through which they could explore the history of their villages using a variety of methods, including archaeology. The Covington History Group (CHG) had existed for a number of years and was well versed in what was required to conduct a dig, but needed some new blood. No such group existed in Keyston but there were a number of people with a keen interest in history, so an initial meeting was held in Keyston village hall. At this meeting Richard Brown from the CHG stated that his group had conducted some fieldwalking on land in Keyston during 2020 and had found substantial pottery supporting the theory that there had been some form of Roman settlement. This piqued the interest of Keyston residents and with sufficient numbers agreeing to take part, the group was created and the dig was organised.

As we knew the exact location of the grid used in 2020 this was replicated and on the weekend of the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. The new group took part in a field walking exercise. Initially we had to set up the grid and the finds tent but once they were completed field walking took place. Over the following two weekends 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> we used a magnetometer borrowed from Jigsaw to scan the field. We also conducted some metal detection at the same time. Although nothing major was identified on the magnetometer results it did point to one point of interest and the following weekend 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> September the group met once again on Denford Meadow to dig four test pits.

Overall, the CKHG collected 73 Finds Bags from the Denford Meadow site over the two periods (2020 and 2022). 55 bags came from within the grid site, 8 bags were collected from areas around the grid and 10 bags were collected from the test pit activities.

Although no indication of a property was found, the sheer volume of pottery suggested that something had occurred on Denford Meadow or somewhere very close by in the early Roman period and this carried on for a significant period of time; we just do not know exactly what was there.

## Introduction

### Location and scope of work

Covington and Keyston are both small villages on the Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire borders. Covington has approximately 38 houses and 80 residents, whilst Keyston is slightly larger with approximately 70 houses and 200 residents. Both parishes have 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Century churches and benefit from having village halls. There are 3.7 miles between the two villages.

### Geology and topography

Denford Meadow lies to the north of Keyston village close to the A14 and Obelisk Farm. The agricultural land is grade2 (very good) quality The soil is strong clay and has traditionally been used for arable agriculture mixed with some pastoral elements; subsoil is a clay and sand mixture.

### Archaeological and historical background

The two villages have existed for a long time, each appears in the Domesday Book on its own accord and research suggests they were even older. In Keyston a Neolithic greenstone axe was found and is now stored in the British Museum<sup>1</sup> also Roman and Iron Age ditch enclosures have been identified. Whilst in Covington a Bronze Age tanged and barbed flint arrowhead<sup>2</sup> has reputedly been found, and previous archaeology has identified both Iron Age, Saxon and Medieval sites.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank T Brown & Son (Covington) Ltd and Richard Brown for letting us conduct the dig on their land. We are also indebted to the staff of Jigsaw for the provision of the Magnetometer, Robert McLaren for setting up the grid, Martin and Jannine Petch for scanning the site and to everyone who took part in any or all events be that setting up the tent, field walking, pot washing, metal detection, excavation, item identification, refilling the test pits and dismantling the tent. We could not have done this without you. Special thanks to our local archaeologist Will Punchard who, along with fellow archaeologist Jon House and Simon Parsons, supported the dig and the identification of finds; without their help, we would have been severely limited in what we could achieve.

Thank you one and all.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Ancient Stone Implements, Weapons and Ornaments, of Great Britain by John Evans

<sup>2</sup> CAM-BA13D6

## Aims and Methodology

The main objectives of this dig were:

- a. Try to identify what had existed on Denford Meadow that would explain the pottery being found
- b. Enthuse Keyston residents as to the benefits of local archaeology
- c. Train a new group of people in the key skill sets required to conduct a dig

The initial starting point was to replicate the fieldwalking grid exactly as it had appeared in 2020. This was fairly straight forward as we know the exact location of the datum from the previous grid and thereby recreated the same set up. The rest of the first weekend consisted of allocation of individuals / pairs to each grid and fieldwalking all 30 squares bagging items in labelled bags for washing at a later date.

It was then planned that the magnetometer would be used over the site, to try and find changes in the geometric field. We did not have anyone with previous experience of the magnetometer so we were relying on someone training themselves based on documentation and some remote resources. We therefore gave two weekends to this activity.

As long as we were far enough away from the magnetometer, we were also able to use metal detectors to find items again all finds were bagged and labelled.

The final phase was to dig some test pits based on locations identified by the magnetometry results. Focus was primarily on a single grid square where three test pits were dug, a fourth being put into an adjoining square.

The Covington and Keyston History Group took out insurance to cover all archaeological activities by its members and guests on land owned by a group member. It was a condition of the insurance that no pit would be more than 1 metre deep.

Each pit was measured to be 1m square. The top soil was removed and placed on tarpaulin. Some of the soil was extremely heavy and had to be broken up to see if it contained any finds. Whenever a different context was met the soil was placed on a separate tarpaulin. All finds were carefully placed in labelled bags which were washed at a later date. Some pits were closed because they had reached natural geology. One pit could have done with further investigation but we ran out of time. Before pits were closed section drawings were produced. Archaeological contexts and finds were recorded throughout.

The following system of recording was used:

Site Code:                      KEY DM 22                      Cell Number: B3

Test pit number:              TP1, TP2, etc

Context number:              1,2,3 etc

The following documents were completed: Test Pit Master List, Context Record Master List, Context Recording Sheet for each context, Section drawings of each Pit, Photograph of each Pit.

# Results and Interpretation

## Introduction

As this was the Group's first attempt at archaeology, a lot of what was gained from the activity was experience. Although some members of the CHG had been involved in previous digs, this time it was a new group that was learning as they progressed. In this aim, the dig was a resounding success, the group has learnt a host of new skills including how to field walk, pottery identification, and how to dig and record a test pit, all of which will be useful in any future digs.

The grid was set out as thirty squares each of twenty square metres, the northern edge of the grid was assigned using the letters A-E and the eastern edge was given the numbers 1-6. To ensure that everyone had an equal opportunity, the resulting 30 cells were assigned by drawing them from a hat.

## Field Walking

Unfortunately the days leading up to the field walking had been very dry which made it harder to spot items. The group was also inexperienced and was not sure what they were looking for so some stones were assumed to be pottery and picked up and some pottery was assumed to be stone and left behind. But as the day progressed people started to become accustomed to what they were looking for and finds gathered pace.

## Test Pits

The magnetometry results only showed one point that could be of interest in cell B3. This became the main focus of our dig by putting a trench immediately above the anomaly (Test Pit 1); to see the extent of this anomaly we put two further trenches (Test Pit 2 and 3) in the same square. One final test pit (4) was put in a neighbouring square C3 as what we believed to be a Roman coin had been found in that square and, as it was close to the anomaly, it was considered worth investigation.

All the Test Pits were one metre square and some were easier to dig than others. Test Pit 2 quickly hit the chalky boulder clay with Test Pit 4 following shortly after. Test Pit 3 found the going harder but with some support the chalky boulder clay level was reached. This left Test Pit 1 where we reached what looked like a cut and so this Test Pit was extended to see how deep this went.

Having recorded all of the trenches they were refilled and the site left in the same condition we found it.

## Finds Summary

Very few pieces of Glass, Bone, Teeth, or Shell were discovered on the site. If there had been human occupation, we would have expected to find much more evidence of what they were eating and, if they had been keeping animals in the field, we would have found more animal teeth. Most of the animal bone found was at the bottom of Test Pit 1, suggesting it was some sort of rubbish dump possibly some distance from the settlement to remove odours.

By far the best bone-based discovery was a small fork made out of some undistinguishable bone, although we cannot date the find it looks very impressive.

As for ceramic building material, in a couple of cells we discovered a large amount of daub and even some brick and tiles. But at the same time, I am aware that some of the participants were not picking up pieces of daub when they were field walking as they were focusing on pottery so the distribution may not be indicative of where any building stood.

The discovery of clay pipe pieces may not be that unusual but finding 12 unique pieces in a very small section of field was interesting, yes the farm workers would have smoked and it is not a surprise to find clay pipes but the volume must be related to the continued use of this field for agriculture.

Turning to the metal items we found on the site there were a few coins but they were extremely difficult to date. It was felt that at least one of them was early roman possibly two, and a third was deemed to be a George II farthing. Some of the other finds consisted of parts of jewellery such as brooches and pins and we even found some buckles and a button. But the vast majority of the finds were nails, mostly hand made, and farm based materials e.g. horseshoes and pieces of modern farm machinery. But overall metal finds were very positive although difficult to date.

This brings us to the pottery found; two thirds of the pottery was defined as being of Iron Age / Roman origin with the vast majority of it coming from the Nene Valley which, given how close Keyston is situated to this centre, is not surprising. The main pottery types were Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware, Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware and Roman Shell Gritted Ware. There were a few pieces of expensive pottery such as Samian Ware but they were few and far between suggesting a focus on locally available products. There were also a range of sizes of items found but not many seemed to be from the same item which raises the issue as to why so many pieces exist on the site from so many different objects.

The other third we classified as Post Roman, covering everything from the Middle Ages right through to Victorian. The main finds in this group were Shelly Coarseware, Late Medieval Oxidised, Lyveden A, Iron Glazed and Midland Purple. Again, mostly are locally produced items that have not travelled very far.

The distribution of the pottery did not provide any clues as to where any buildings may have been as it was scattered over the entire site.



## Environmental Summary

In truth we are not really any further forward as to what was on Denford Meadow. The magnetometry results did not identify any buildings, only what turned out to be some sort of rubbish pit. The lack of any significant finds in terms of bones, teeth and glass suggests that there was no human occupation as we would have found more evidence of activities, but of course we have found significant pottery - how did it get onto the field if not through human occupation? The daub and brick found suggests some sort of building but as we know there are no foundations perhaps it was something wooden with daub on its sides; this could easily have been some sort of shelter for animals. But with only the daub in column E to back this up and a lack of animal teeth it is likely that if it had been there, it was only for a short period.

## Discussions and Conclusions

### Pottery Identification

In some ways the Group was very lucky as we had access to an excellent reference collection but the sheer quantity of finds and the fact that they were mainly small to medium size pieces meant that we did not explore them in as much detail as we would have liked.

What would have been better would have been some idea as to what the sherds were from. I know it is difficult to imagine what each sherd would have looked like in its heyday but I think we should at least try and obtain more data from the finds e.g. using the rims and bases to estimate sizes, trying to allocate the pieces to three main types Jugs, Jars, Dishes/Bowls

Illustrating pottery from a sherd is a specialised skill set that requires high quality artists. Perhaps a more enlightened method would be to identify some software that could be used to enhance photographs of the finds to try and create a 3D model of the sherd. I accept we could not do this for every find but if we could identify a few large pieces, we may be able to bring them back to life.

We have chosen to store all the items of pottery in Keyston Church and if advancements in affordable software mean we can return to some items and see what they looked like this would be very positive.

Another consideration would be the support for the creation of other reference collections, due to the amount of pottery sherds found and identified (particularly prevalent being the LNVCW and LNVCCW). Could some of these be given to other local groups to help with their identification process?

Covington reference collection had already been documented but it had not been digitalised so we have recently created a PDF version of both the Iron Age / Roman and the post Roman documents. As other history groups often ask for access to the Covington Reference Collection, we see this as a way of giving them access without putting the collection at risk.

Another possibility is to consider how we might enhance the reference collection. We could start by looking at swapping our excess pottery with other reference collections in different parts of the country that may have pottery that is scarce in our area.

## Coin Identification

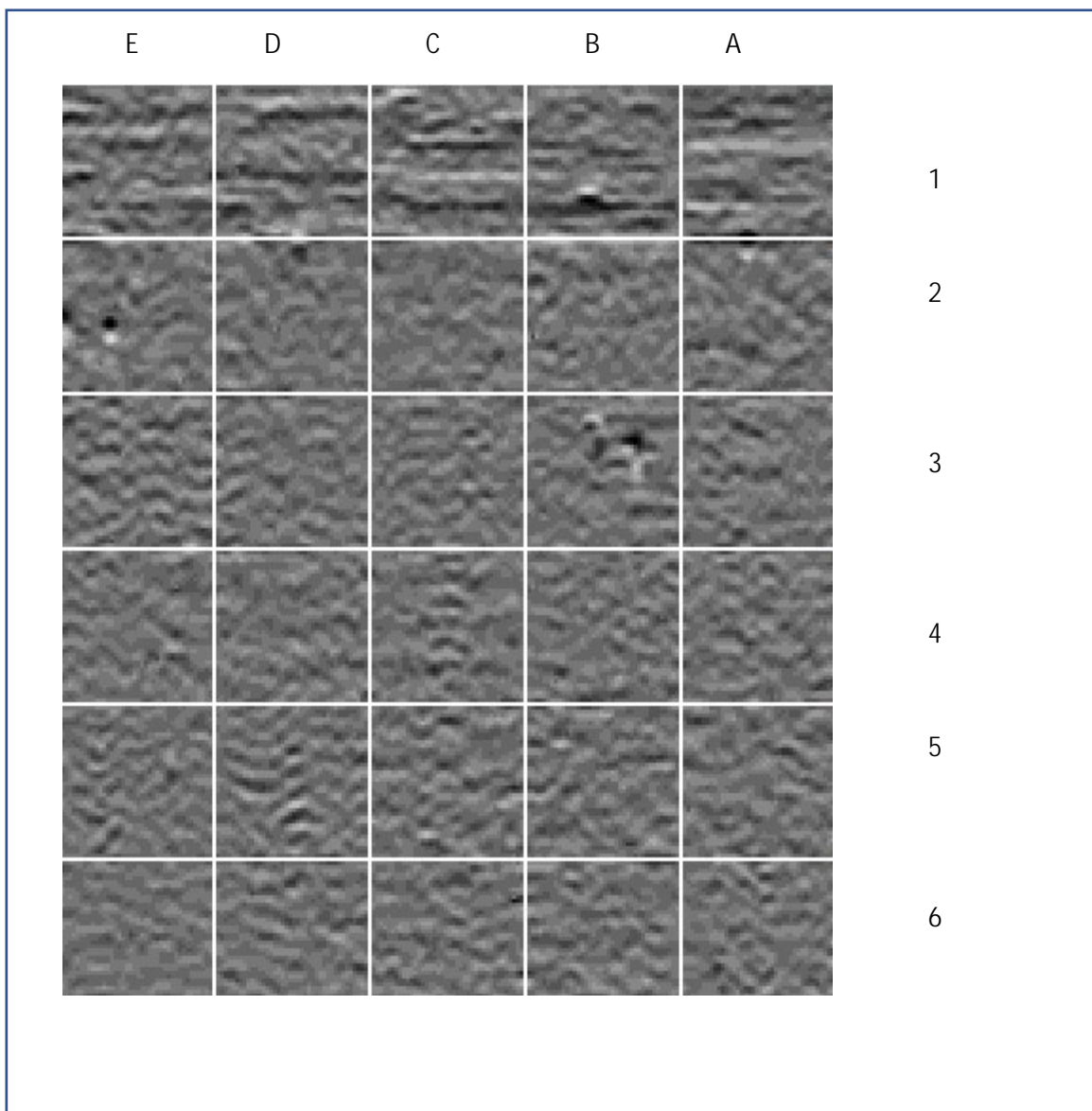
The identification of the coins we found proved to be very difficult, they had deteriorated due to having been under the soil for so long. The question was whether or not to clean them. The best option would be to have them professionally cleaned but that would have been too expensive. Cleaning them ourselves puts the coins at risk due to not having the correct product and solutions. Leaving the coins as we found them means we may never know exactly what they are. Should we just bite the bullet and clean them or would something like a coin identifying app be the next step?

## Recommendations

We found a substantial amount of roman pottery and daub suggesting that there must have been some form of roman settlement on this field or very nearby. Other finds show that this field has been in almost constant use. We would like to locate the property and some crop marks on the adjacent field may mean that the building was on that field and the items have been washed down to Denford Meadow. So, it is proposed we investigate Great Stocks South in 2023 and should that not prove conclusive return to Denford Meadow at some time in the future.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Magnetometer Results



The only square that showed anything worth investigating was B3

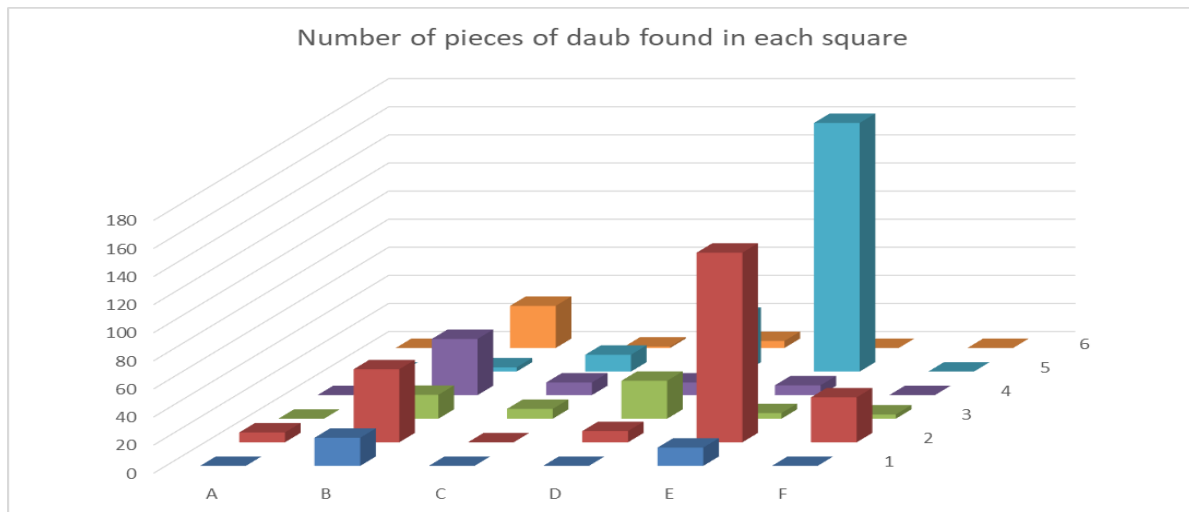
## Appendix 2 – Finds Reports

### Ceramic Building Materials

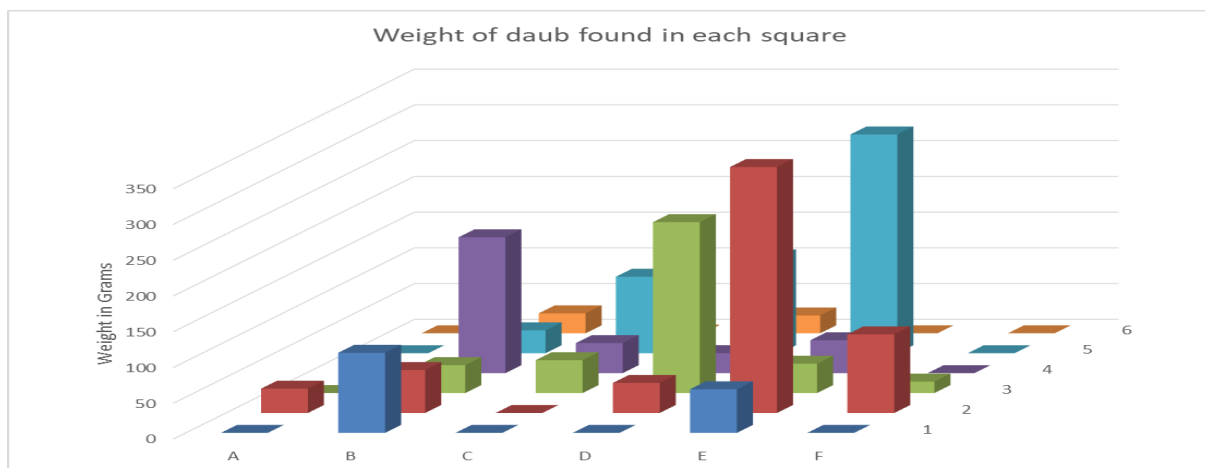
In this section we will look at where building materials were found and the type of material. The most prevalent and most informative is probably the building material daub which was clay mixed with straw to create a coating surface that was applied to walls.

In total there were 657 pieces of daub collected weighing 2.08kg over the two different field walking events 2020 and 2022 (126 weighing 0.763 kg in 2020 and 531 weighing 1.32kg in 2022) so a lot more daub was collected during the second event.

As can be seen from the attached graph most of the pieces of daub were found in column E although there is also significant volume in column B



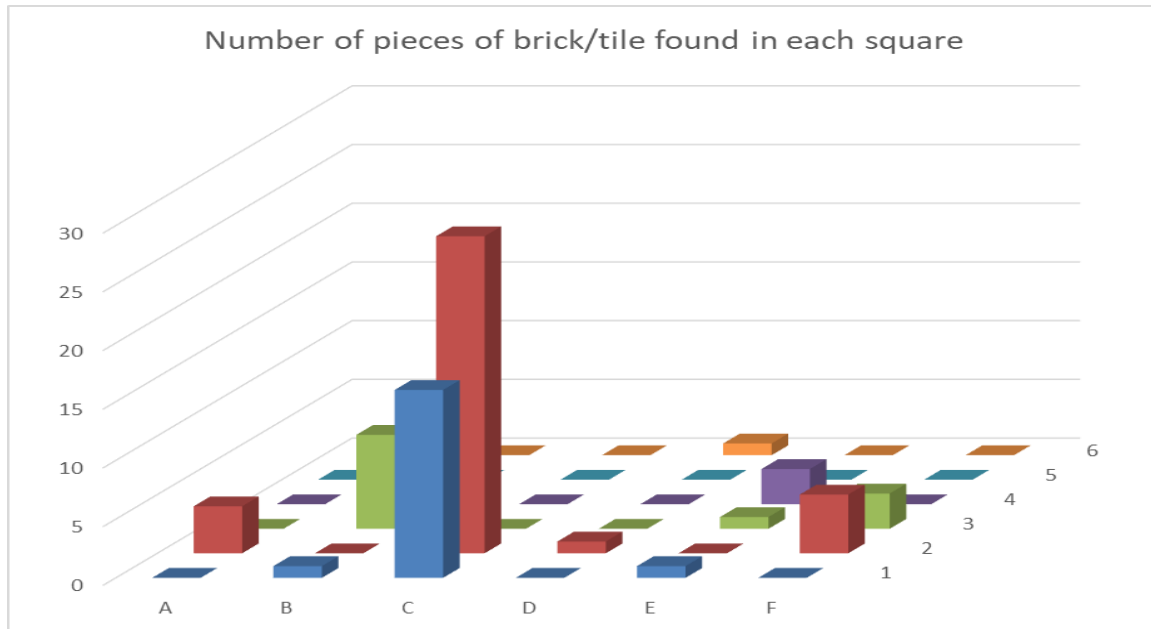
Turning to the weight of the pieces found in each square we can see that the larger pieces are scattered much more across the site.



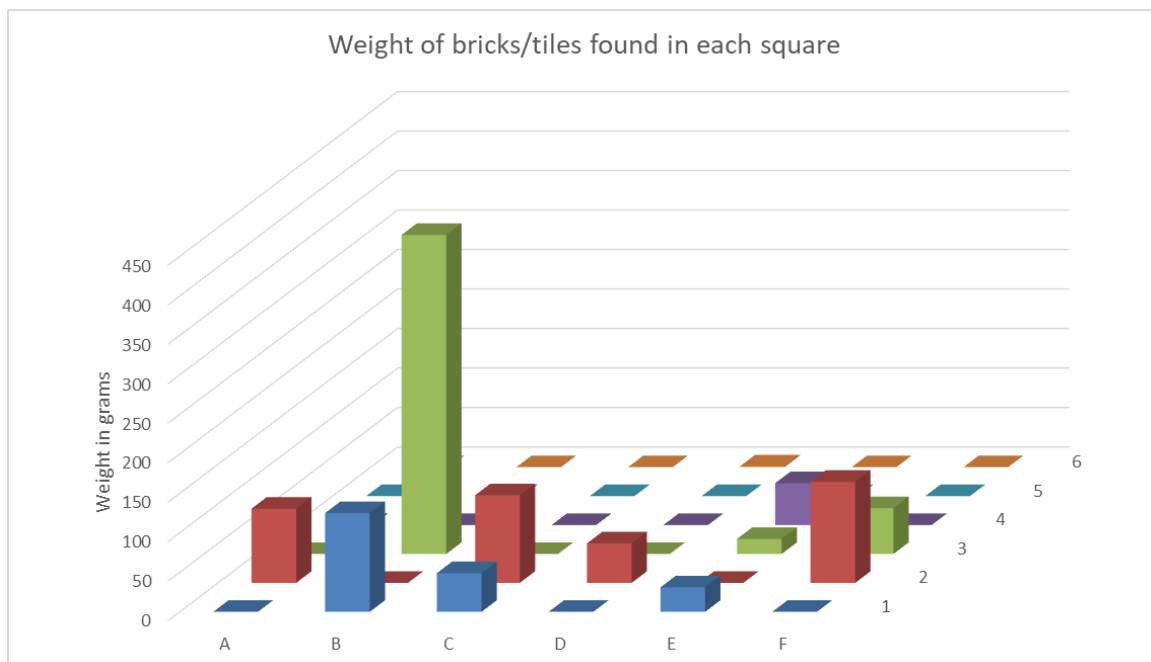
Of course, larger pieces are more likely to be moved as a result of ploughing but the volume of daub in column E suggests that was the most likely site for any building.

But daub is not the only building material that was found on the site; although nowhere near as widespread, we also found bricks and tiles scattered across the site.

When we look at these finds they suggest a different focus with most of the finds being in column C rows 1 and 2.



This time the weight of the items tends to agree with the volume with the heaviest items being found in the bottom left hand corner. This could have been caused by tractors dragging these items to the corner used by the tractor to leave the field.



Interestingly the heaviest concentration was found in cell B3 which was the site of the main test pit, details of which can be found later on in this report.

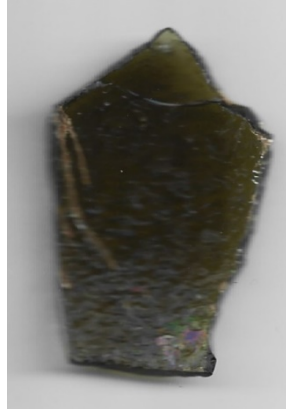
Although not used as a building material, we also found 12 pieces of clay pipe almost all of them were from the stem of the pipe, one just about reaches the bulb of the pipe. They range in length from 2cm to 4.5cm with diameters ranging from 0.6cm to 1cm. All have the same white colour and were probably owned by those working the land who just threw them away when they broke. They were scattered across the whole site but the quantity found was interesting.



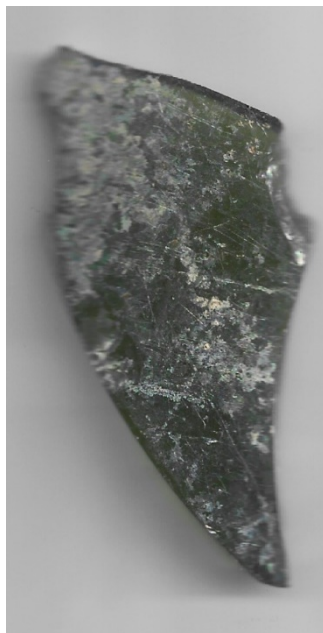
## Glass

Perhaps surprisingly there was very little glass found on the site, with only four pieces being found. Two were small indistinguishable segments the other two were more pronounced.

One is very thin only 2mm in width, it is made of green glass, and it is transparent it has a frosted design and was probably some form of drinking vessel.



The second is probably more modern it is also made of green glass and is transparent but it is much thicker at 5mm width and has a silver covering. Again, it was possibly a drinking vessel although its size suggests it was somewhat larger than the first one.

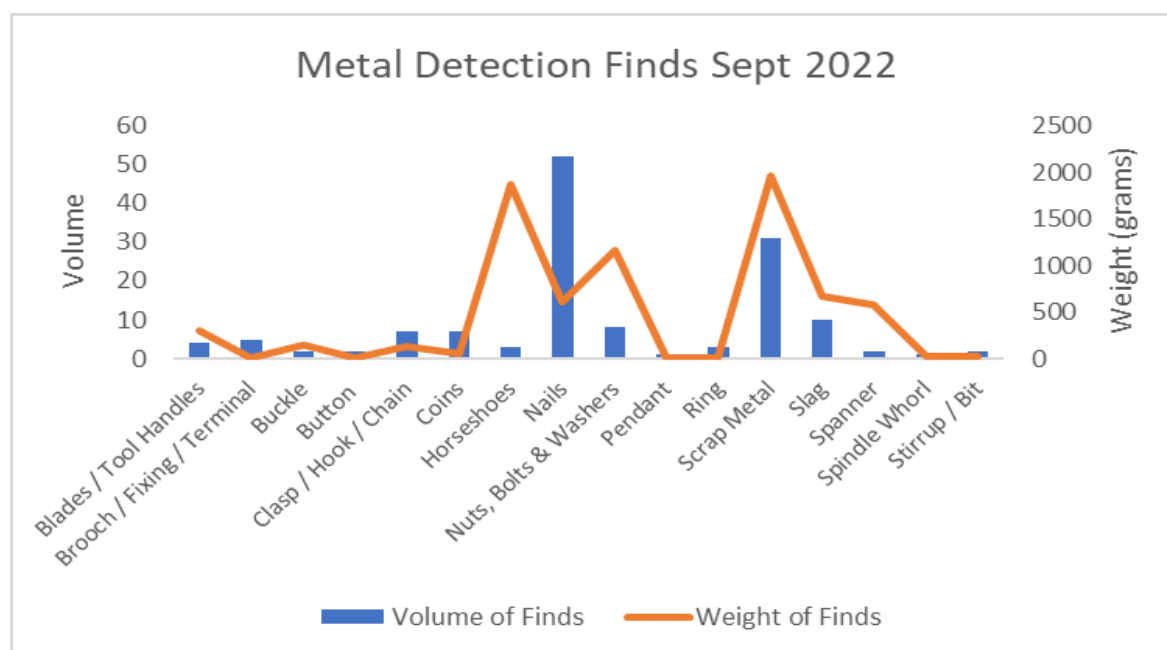




## Metalwork

140 metal items were found over the course of the dig with most of the items being nails or parts of nails. In terms of weight, we found a lot of scrap metal mainly parts of tractors and other farm machinery. We also found lots of items relating to horses (e.g., Horseshoes, Stirrup, Bit, and a Buckle from a saddle)

Description	Number	Total Weight in grams
Blades / Tool Handles	4	305
Brooch / Fixing / Terminal	5	14
Buckle	2	143
Button	2	10
Clasp / Hook / Chain	7	129
Coins	7	52
Horseshoes	3	1864
Nails	52	602.5
Nuts, Bolts & Washers	8	1165
Pendant	1	2
Ring	3	11
Scrap Metal	31	1968.5
Slag	10	675
Spanner	2	575
Spindle Whorl	1	29
Stirrup / Bit	2	28



But not all of the finds were waste products, we did find 7 coins - 4 of which were identified as Roman Grot coins. Another is thought to be Emperor Hadrian possibly a Dupondius. Another coin was thought to be a George II farthing. A further coin has still not been identified but could be Roman.

Some very nice finds related to jewellery

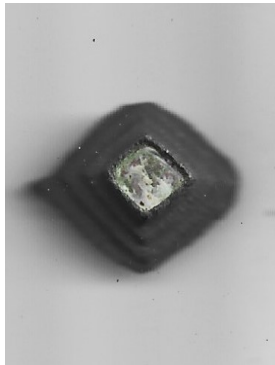
Pendant



Brooch Clasp



Brooch



We also found

Spindle Whorl



Ring



Hairpin

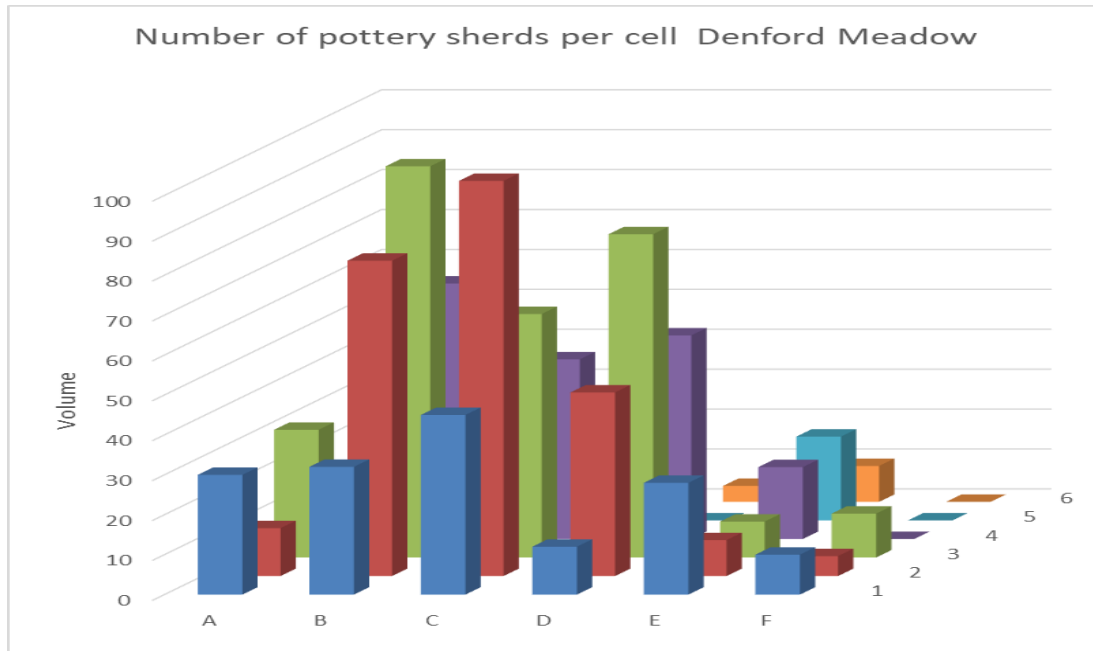


Musket Ball (1cm)



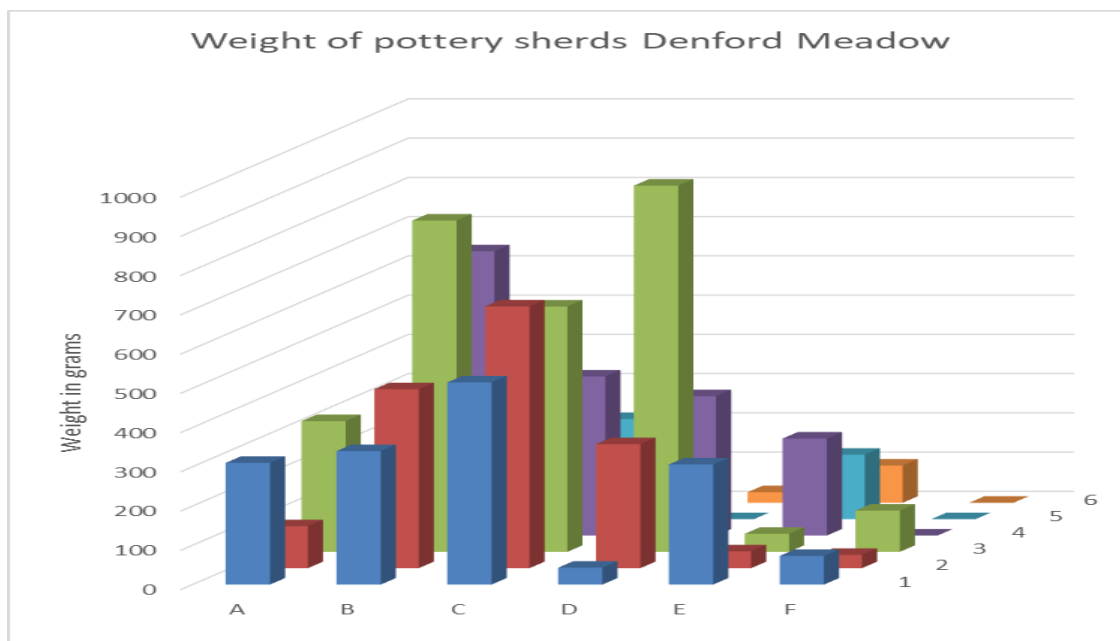
## Pottery (Excluding Test Pits)

Maybe somewhat surprisingly but definitely not intended exactly 1,000 pottery items were recovered from the grid. 653 items were picked up in 2020 and a further 347 in 2022.



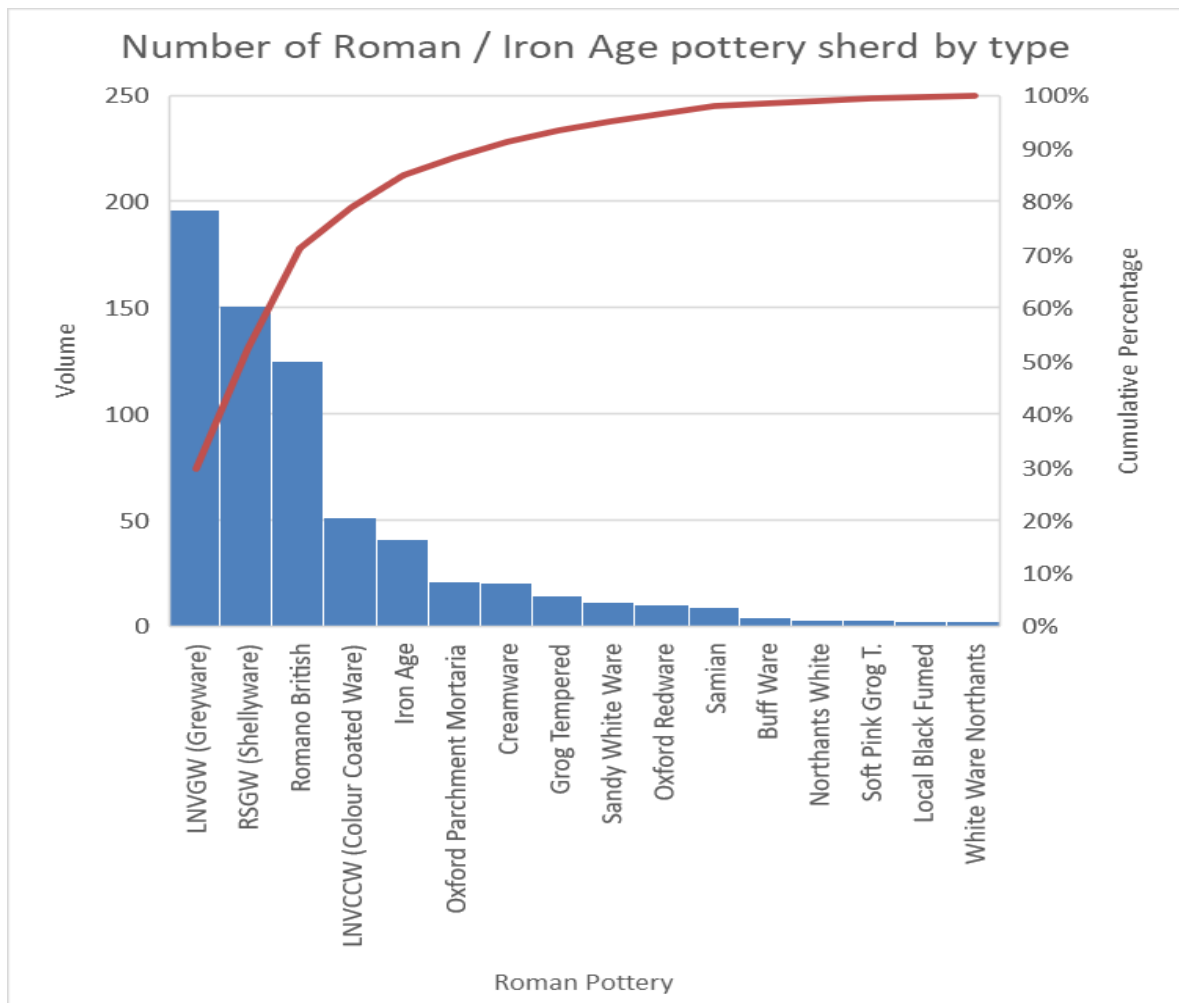
As can be seen, the majority of the finds are located near to the centre of the grid with B3 and C2 being the two highest peaks with the number of finds reducing as we moved to the margins of the grid.

In terms of weight, 8.921kg of pottery was picked up with B3 and D3 having the biggest deposits whilst the further we progress across the site this reduces substantially.



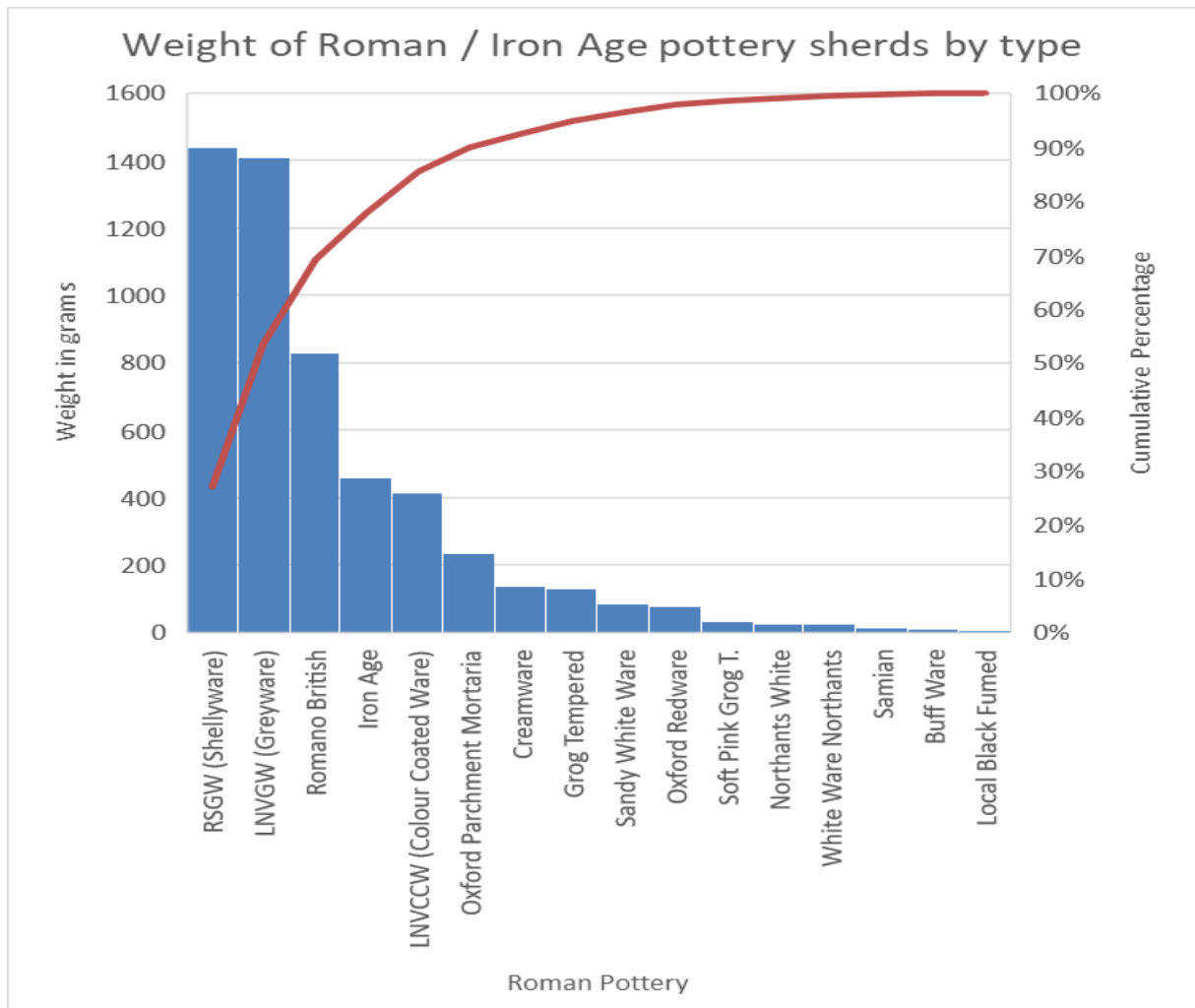
Pottery finds from within the grid were split into two main types Roman / Iron Age and Post Roman.

Starting with the Roman / Iron Age pottery sherds - 663 different sherds were identified, they mainly fell into three categories Lower Nene Valley Greyware (LNVGW), Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware (LNVCCW), and Roman Shell Gritted Ware (RSGW). The Romano British category was a catch all category that was fairly large due to our inexperience in identifying the different forms of pottery.



The 663 sherds had a total weight of 5.322kg and although we found more pieces of LNVGW than RSGW the pieces of RSGW found were larger and weighed more (average 9.52g) than the LNVGW (average 7.18g).

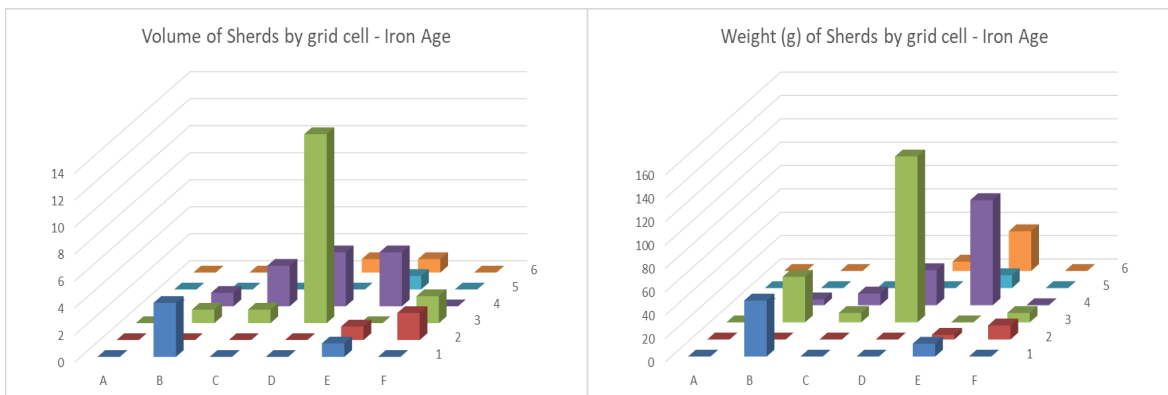
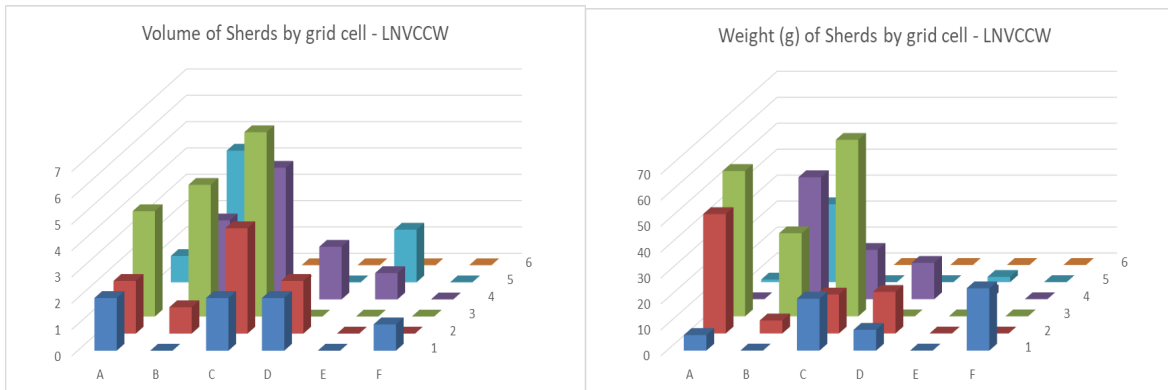
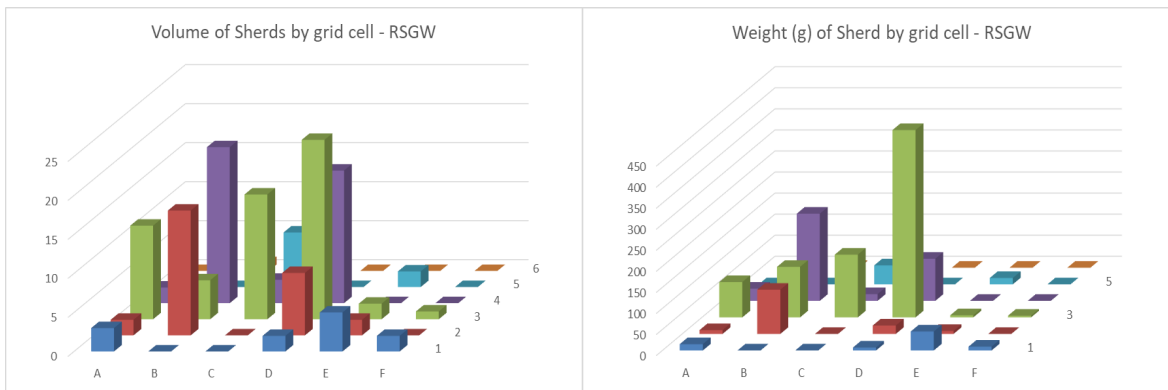
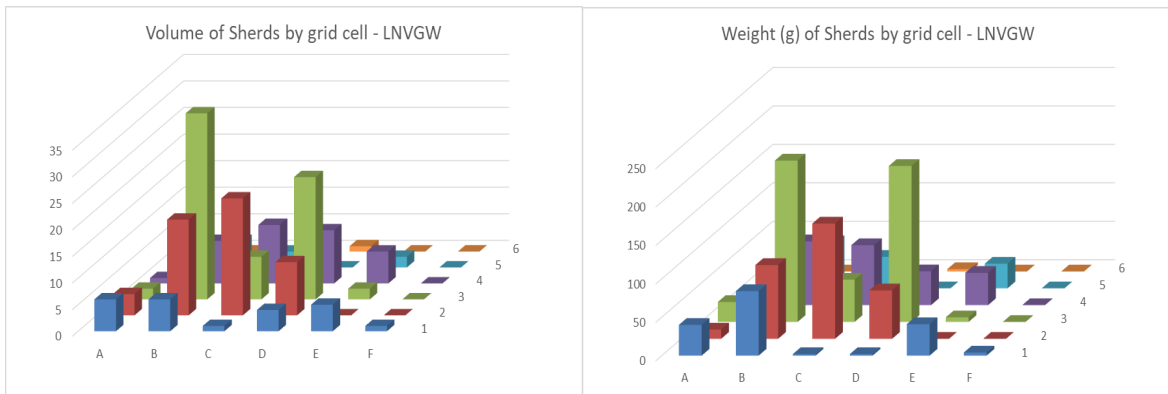
The same applied to the Iron Age pottery (average 11.22g) and the LNVCCW (average 8.08g) which saw Iron Age surpass LNVCCW.



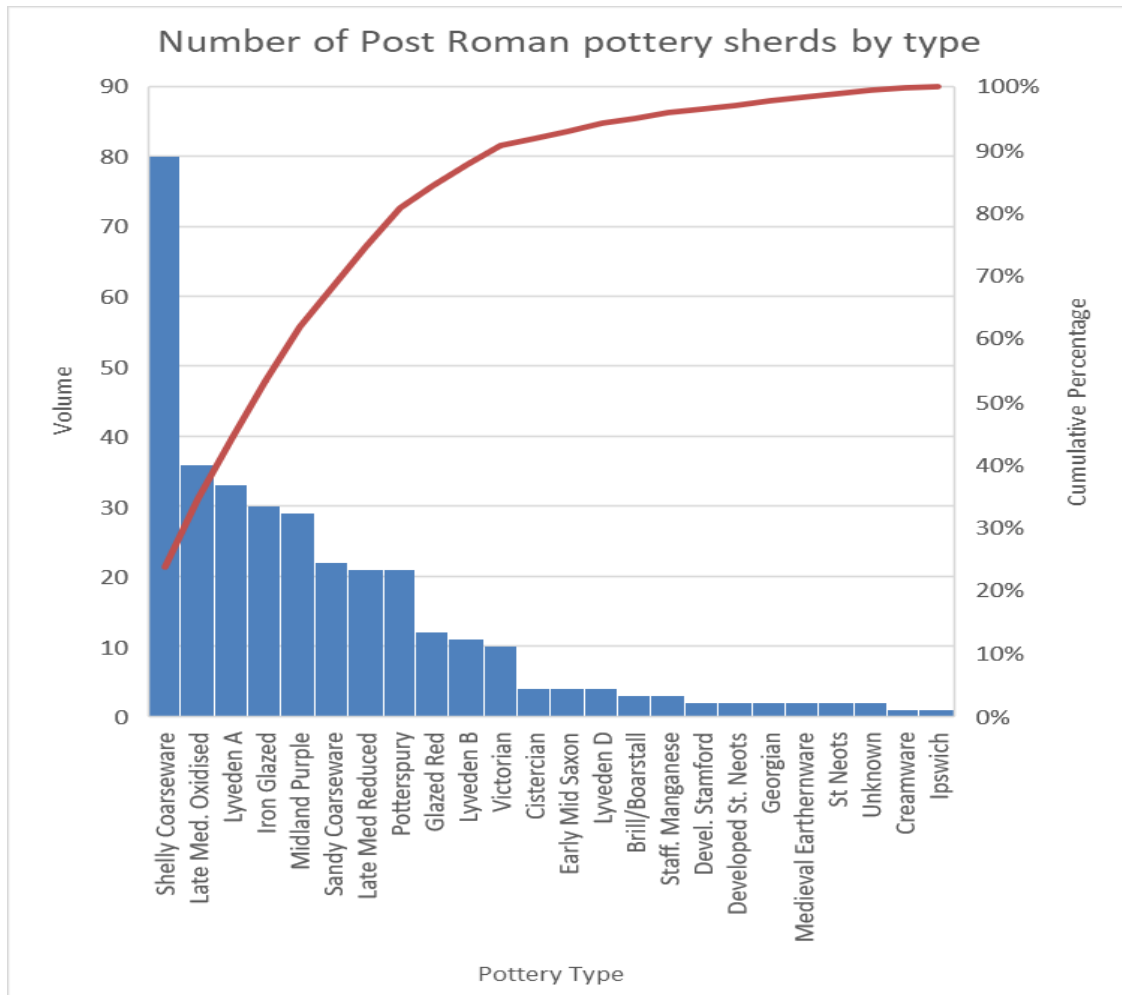
Having identified the four most common groups the final set of graphs look at the spread of each of these items across the site.

The Lower Nene Valley pottery (Greyware and Colour Coated Ware) follow fairly similar patterns to the overall finds distribution with the majority of finds in the centre of the grid.

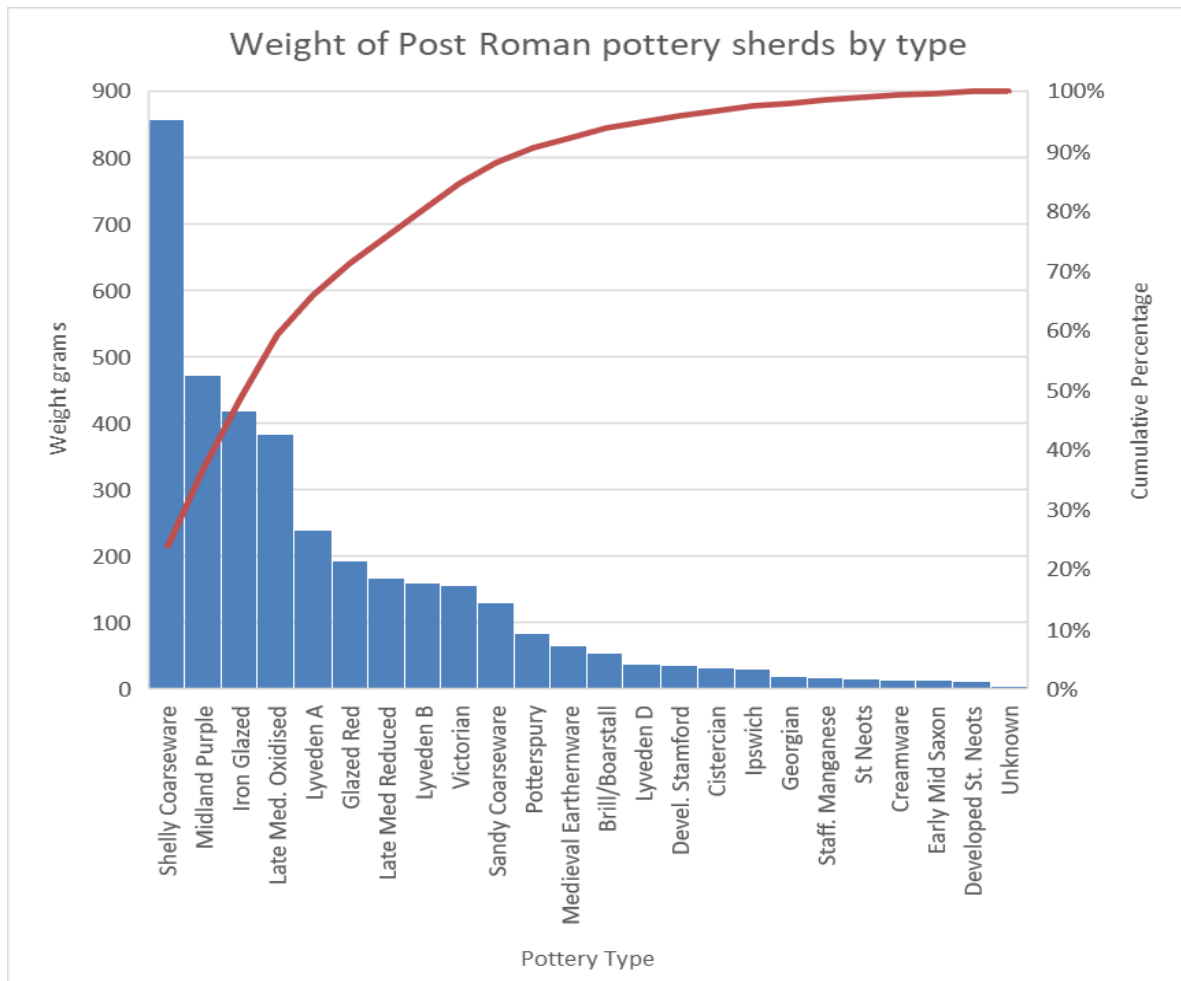
But the Iron Age finds and to some extent the RSGW items show a predominance in cell D3. The Iron Age finds are so strongly associated with this one cell that it raises the question what was going on in this cell during the Iron Age.



Moving on to the post Roman discoveries, 337 sherds were identified but this time there was a clear winner in the number of items found. Shelly Coarseware made up just short of 24% of the finds with a group of four others at roughly the same level - Late Med. Oxidised, Lyveden A, Iron Glazed, Midland Purple.



These 337 weighed a total of 3.599kg but once again the size of the pieces found changed the order of the rankings. Although Shelly Coarseware is still by far the biggest value, Midland Purple has moved up to second in the rankings and Lyveden A has dropped to fifth meaning that although more pieces of Lyveden A were found they were much smaller.



Once again, we have plotted the four main pottery types.

The Shelly Coarseware is concentrated B – E, 1 – 3 range putting it in the lower part of the centre of the grid

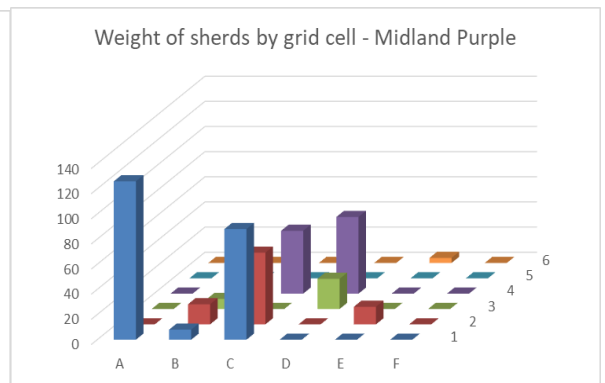
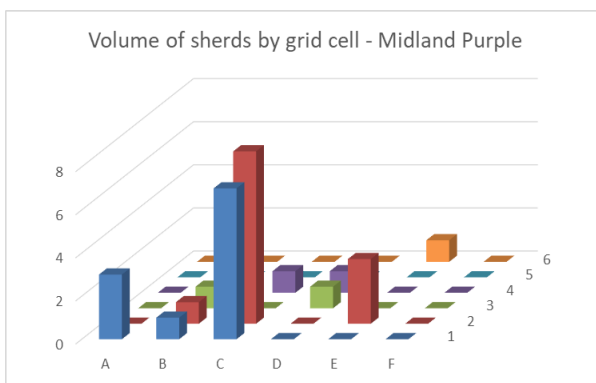
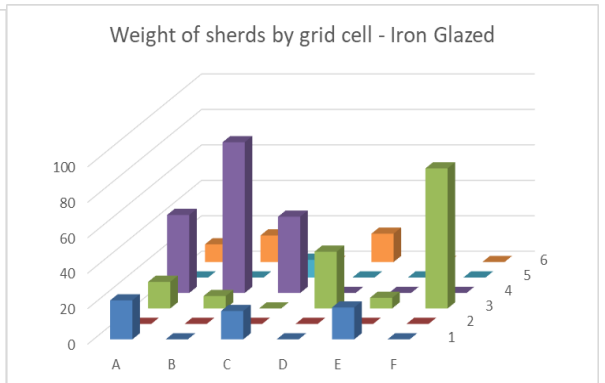
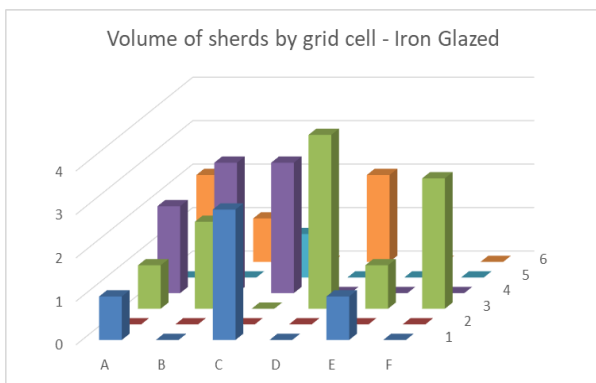
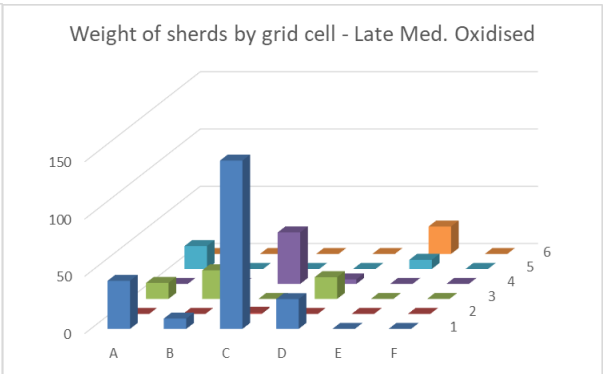
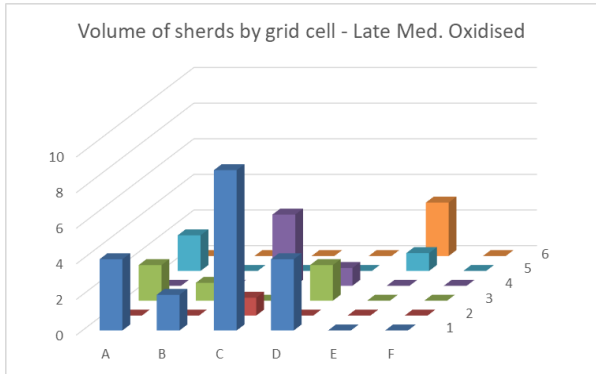
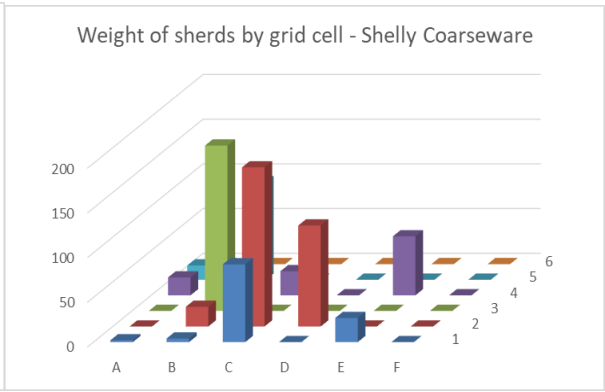
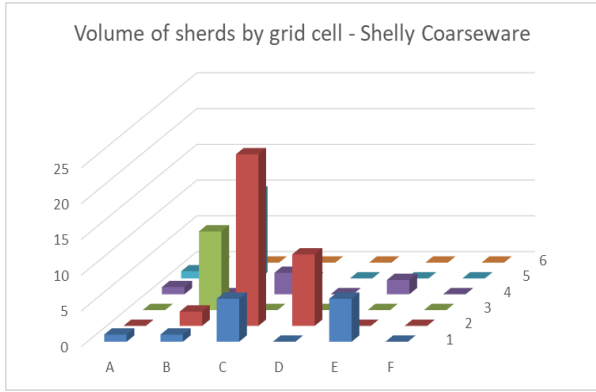
The Late Med. Oxidised finds are spread mainly across row 1, A – D near the edge of the field and the entry point.

Iron Glazed finds are spread over the entire grid but in terms of weight they are focussed on row 4, A - C

Finally, the Midland Purple sherds are predominately at the bottom left-hand corner of the grid just at the entrance to the field.

All these points support the suggestion that pottery may have been washed down from the field directly above that which we have been searching namely Great Stocks South.





Whilst on the site and walking between the grid cells we sometimes spotted items that did not fall within the squares we were investigating. Rather than just leave these items we picked them up and recorded what we found.

Of the 31 items found 24 (77.4%) were from the Roman period and the remaining 7 (22.6%) were post Roman. In most cases the pottery was similar to that we found in the grid

Denford Meadow finds from outside grid	Iron Age / Roman		Post Roman		Grand Total	
Location / Pottery Type	Number	Weight (g)	Number	Weight (g)	Number	Weight (g)
<b>Between Hedge &amp; Plot</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>68</b>
Late Med. Oxidised	0	0	2	42	2	42
Northants White	1	2	0	0	1	2
RSGW (Shellyware)	3	24	0	0	3	24
<b>Edge Outside Grid</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>163</b>
Iron Glazed	0	0	3	15	3	15
LNVCW (Colour coated Ware)	1	12	0	0	1	12
LNVGW (Greyware)	6	54	0	0	6	54
Lyveden A	0	0	1	3	1	3
Romano British	2	5	0	0	2	5
RSGW (Shellyware)	8	69	0	0	8	69
Samian	1	5	0	0	1	5
<b>Road into Field</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>
LNVGW (Greyware)	1	6	0	0	1	6
Oxford Parchmentware Mortaria	1	6	0	0	1	6
Staffs. Slipware	0	0	1	4	1	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>247</b>

Some group members had a little spare time so did a small amount of field walking on a neighbouring field Great Stocks North.

Great Stocks North	Iron Age / Roman		Post Roman		Grand Total	
Pottery Type	Number	Weight (g)	Number	Weight (g)	Number	Weight (g)
Georgian	0	0	6	85	6	85
Iron Age	5	28	0	0	5	28
Iron Glazed	0	0	4	167	4	167
Lyveden A	0	0	7	127	7	127
Midland Purple	0	0	1	12	1	12
Oxford Parchmentware Mortaria	1	11	0	0	1	11
Potterspur	0	0	1	2	1	2
Romano British	2	13	0	0	2	13
RSGW (Shellyware)	3	16	0	0	3	16
Victorian	0	0	2	24	2	24
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>485</b>

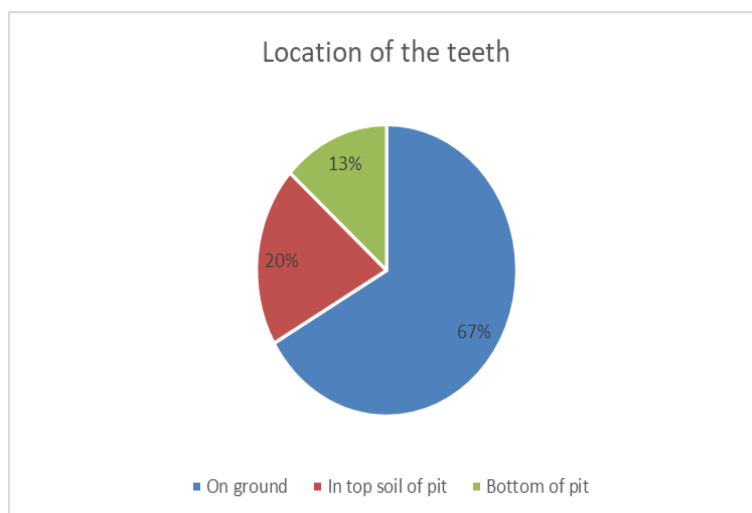
This field produced much more of a post Roman response with 21 (65%) being from this period, mainly Lyveden A and Georgian / Victorian pottery. This could be just because of a small sample but as this field was north of Denford Meadow the Roman pottery could already have been washed down.

## Teeth, Bones and Shells

Only a few teeth were found on Denford Meadow most of them belonging to sheep, suggesting that whatever had been happening on this field, it did not have much to do with animals.

Teeth				
Animal	Number	%	Weight (g)	%
Bovine / Horse	2	13.33	36	41.86
Sheep / Goat	9	60.00	30	34.88
Unknown	4	26.66	20	23.25

When we look at where the teeth were found, most were near the surface suggesting they were mainly lost naturally with only a few appearing at the bottom of the test pit.



Turning to the bones found across the site, they were almost all fragments very little of any size and too small to make any judgement as to their source.

Fragments of Bone				
Location	Number	%	Weight (g)	%
Found on the surface	7	20.59	13	6.07
Found in test pit 1	27	79.41	201	93.93

Once again, the overall site seems to be fairly clear of animal bones with the vast majority of the finds being discovered at the bottom of Test Pit 1.

One of the most interesting finds was a piece of worked bone that had been made into the shape of a two-pronged fork. It was only 4.1cm long and was very difficult to age or to define the bone that had been used to make it. It was found in cell B3 which of course was where our main test pit was dug.



Although no longer strictly a shell the fossil of a Devil's Toenail (or Gryphaea) was at some point an oyster shell and is an indication that Keyston was underwater some 100-200 million years ago.

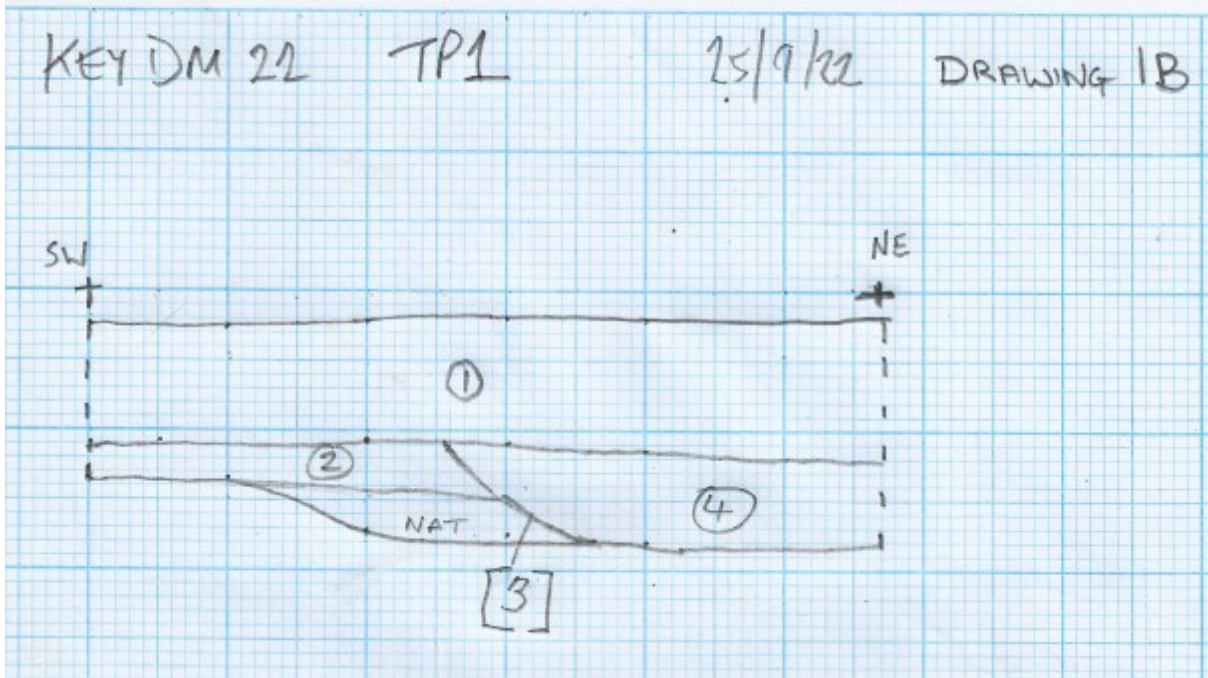


And another item found with the same timescale was a former marine animal an ammonite

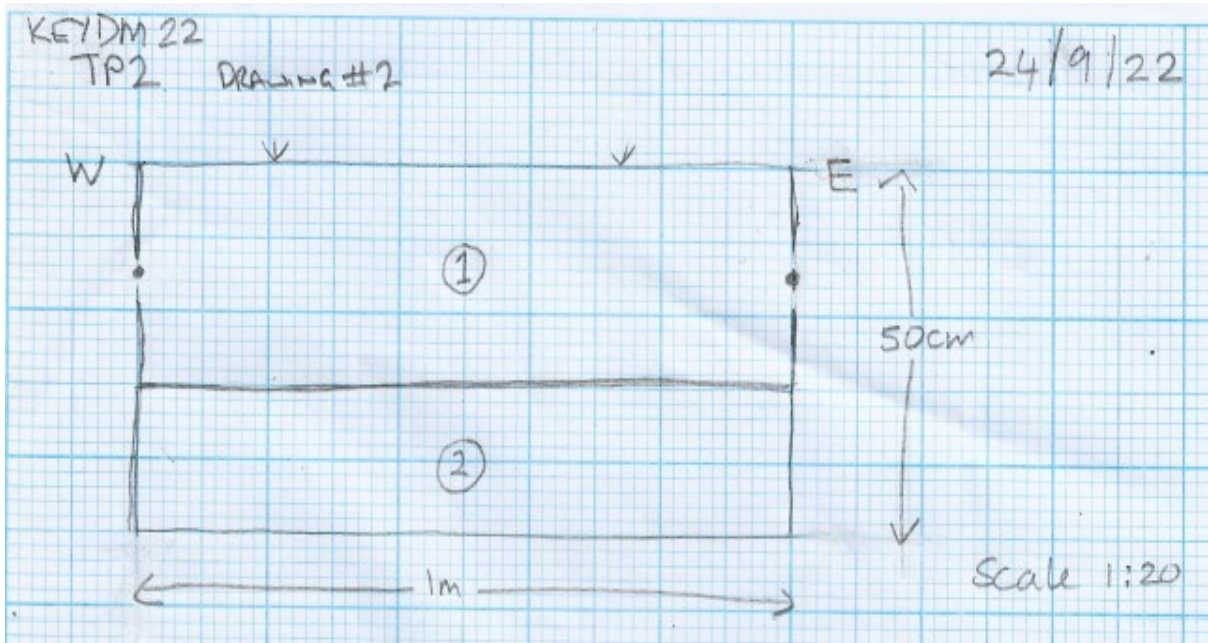


Appendix 3 – Section Drawings

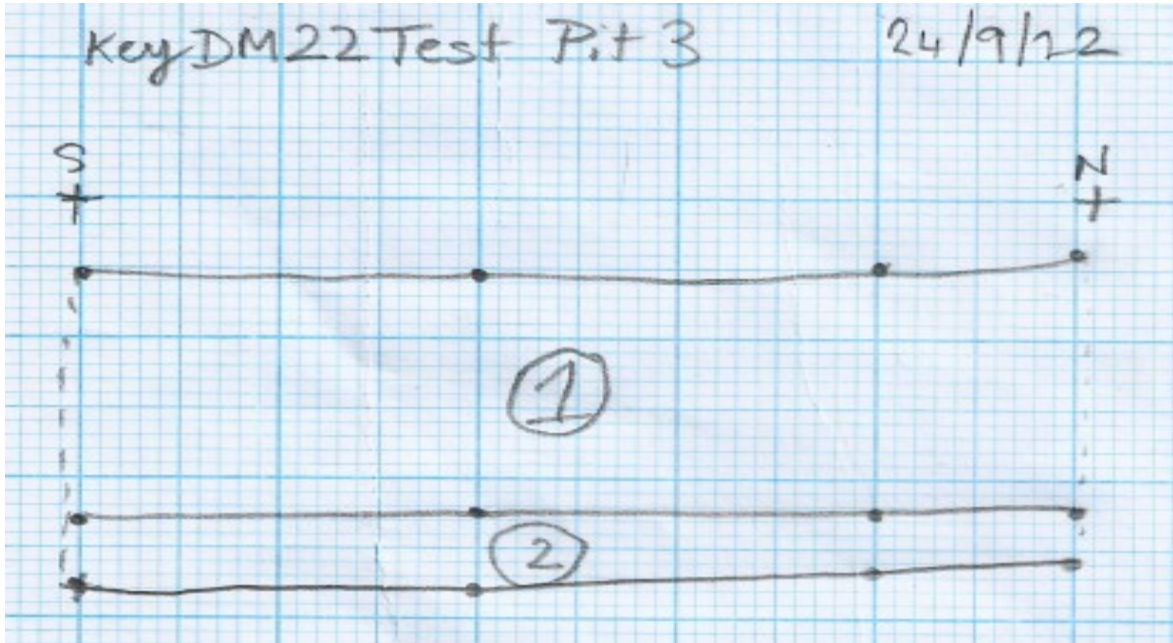
Test Pit 1 – location on application



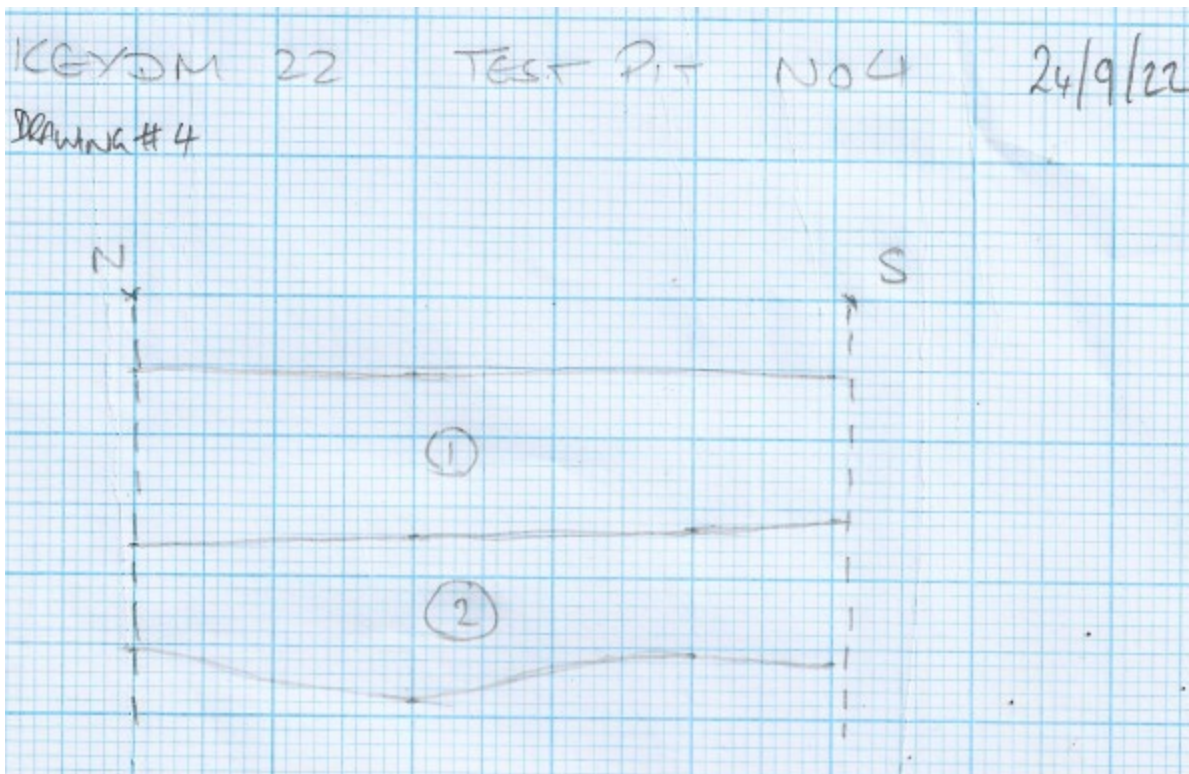
Test Pit 2 – location on application



Test Pit 3- location on application



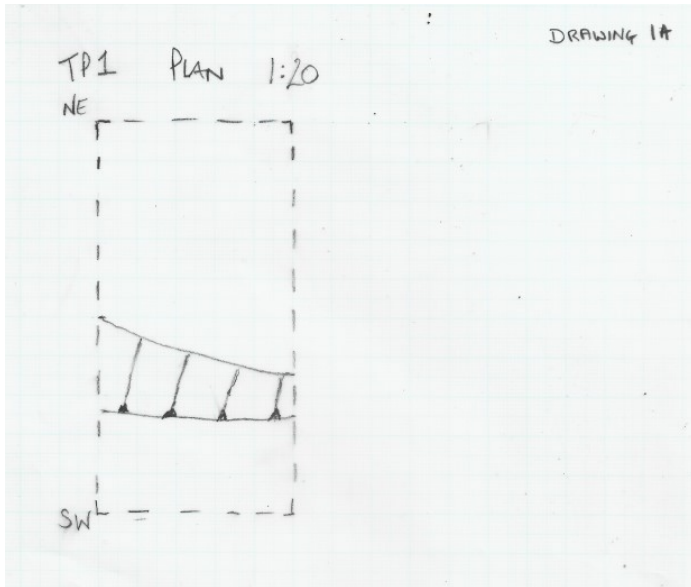
Test Pit 4- location on application



## Appendix 4 – Plan Drawings

Archaeologically interesting Pits Only

Test Pit 1



## Appendix 5 – Test Pit Photographs

Test Pit 1



Test Pit 2



Test Pit 3



Test Pit 4





## Appendix 6 – Finds Reports – Test Pits

Although four test pits were dug, there was only ever one that we expected to yield any finds (Test Pit 1). This was where the magnetometry results had suggested that there was some form of anomaly. Details of bone teeth and Ceramic Building materials have been covered earlier in this report so this section will focus purely on the pottery found at different layers of the dig.

### Context 1 – Top Soil

It was probably not a surprise that the number of sherds of pottery found in the top layer of each of the test pits was very similar to that found across the field with the main finds being LNVGW and RSGW (Shellyware)

Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 2	Test Pit 3	Test Pit 4	Grand Total
Creamware	1	0	0	0	1
Iron Age	6	0	0	2	8
LNVCCW (Colour coated Ware)	3	0	1	1	5
LNVGW (Greyware)	11	6	1	3	21
Oxford Parchmentware Mortaria	0	0	1	1	2
Romano British	6	6	2	1	15
RSGW (Shellyware)	14	4	1	1	20
Grand Total	41	16	6	9	72

When we look at the weight of the items found these two are even more prominent.

Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification (g)	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 2	Test Pit 3	Test Pit 4	Grand Total
Creamware	4	0	0	0	4
Iron Age	26	0	0	9	35
LNVCCW (Colour coated Ware)	12	0	21	11	44
LNVGW (Greyware)	76	74	8	9	167
Oxford Parchmentware Mortaria	0	0	7	30	37
Romano British	9	53	16	2	80
RSGW (Shellyware)	201	68	6	4	279
Grand Total	328	195	58	65	646

As this was the top soil, it was also not a surprise that we found a couple of post Roman finds. In Test Pit 1 we found 1 piece of Iron Glazed (35g) and 1 piece of Potterspury (20g) and in Test Pit 3 we found 1 piece of Staffs. Manganese weighing just a gram whilst in Test Pit 4, one piece of Lyveden A (13g) and 3 pieces of Shelly Coarseware (14g) but nothing substantial.

## Context 2 – Sub Soil

Everything found in the sub soil was classified as Iron Age /Roman Pottery, of the 50 items found most were found in Test Pits 1 & 2 and once again were LNVGW and RSGW (Shellyware)

Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 2	Test Pit 3	Test Pit 4	Grand Total
Creamware	0	1	0	0	1
Grog Tempered	2	0	0	0	2
Iron Age	0	1	0	0	1
LNVCCW (Colour coated Ware)	1	1	0	2	4
LNVGW (Greyware)	7	1	3	8	19
Oxford Parchmentware Mortaria	0	0	0	0	0
Romano British	0	0	2	4	6
RSGW (Shellyware)	10	0	1	6	17
Grand Total	20	4	6	20	50

You will also notice that 2 items of Grog Tempered ware were found in Test Pit 1 where none of this had been found in the top soil.

Iron Age Roman Pottery Identification (g)	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 2	Test Pit 3	Test Pit 4	Grand Total
Creamware	0	17	0	0	17
Grog Tempered	62	0	0	0	62
Iron Age	0	13	0	0	13
LNVCCW (Colour coated Ware)	1	3	0	2	6
LNVGW (Greyware)	53	1	6	36	96
Oxford Parchmentware Mortaria	0	0	0	0	0
Romano British	0	0	1	42	43
RSGW (Shellyware)	56	0	33	48	137
Grand Total	172	34	40	128	374

## Context 4 – Bottom of pit

Finally, we reach the bottom of Test Pit 1 as the only pit to have anything at this level. Once again the finds are very similar to previous levels suggesting the pit was dug during Roman occupation.

Context 4 - Test Pit 1	Number	Weight (g)
Iron Age	1	75
LNVCCW (Colour coated Ware)	4	26
LNVGW (Greyware)	9	76
Romano British	7	36
RSGW (Shellyware)	7	47