



Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Meldreth, Cambridgeshire, 2013

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with contributions by Kathryn Betts

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Front cover image - Meldreth Primary School children digging Test Pit 12 on school grounds
Image taken on 5th July 2013 by Kathryn Betts



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1 Summary

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological excavation of 32 1m² 'test pits' in the Cambridgeshire village of Meldreth carried out in summer 2013. The programme was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its 'All Our Stories' programme and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Connected Communities theme which funded the Cambridge Community Heritage programme at the University of Cambridge in 2012-13. Over three weekends, more than 300 residents of the village of Meldreth and the local area took part in the excavations in 32 different locations throughout the present village. The results provided new evidence for the development of the area now occupied by the village, which mostly lies alongside a small stream, from the prehistoric period onwards.

Parts of the area appears to have been quite intensively used by humans in the prehistoric period, with unusually large volumes of Bronze Age pottery recovered from at least four different sites likely to be indicative of settlement and/or burial. Pottery of Roman date favours the south of the present village, and suggests settlement took the form of a dispersed scatter of small settlements such as farmsteads surrounded by arable fields to the north. No evidence was found for any activity dating to the period between the 5th–9th centuries AD, but Saxo-Norman pottery was found widely, with particular concentrations on the manorial site of Topcliffe as well as in the south of the village around Flambards moated site. The absence of any Thetford ware from Meldreth suggests that this activity is likely to be post-Conquest in date and that the medieval settlement originates in this period rather than earlier. The high medieval period sees the settlement extend westwards, probably laid out in the 12th or 13th century over former arable, with apparently new settlement sites founded at Chiswick and North End. This growth ceases in the late medieval period, although Meldreth does not appear to be as badly affected in this period of widespread demographic and settlement contraction as many settlements in the eastern region. In the post-medieval period, however, the test pit data indicates that Meldreth stagnated, with the southern end of the settlement particularly badly affected.

2 Introduction

In the summer of 2013, a series of 32 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated in the village of Meldreth (south Cambridgeshire) primarily over the three weekends of 8th-9th June, 6th-7th July and 17th-18th August. Approximately two-thirds of the pits were excavated in residential gardens. Excavations were undertaken by residents of Meldreth and members of the public participating in a community archaeology project, run by Meldreth Local History Group in partnership with Access Cambridge Archaeology (University of Cambridge). The excavation was co-funded by the Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) under their *All Our Stories* funding stream and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under their *Connected Communities* programme, *Cambridge Community Heritage*. The excavations were planned and undertaken in collaboration with Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA), based in the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, who provided advice, logistical support, on-site instruction and supervision and post-excavation support.

2.1 All Our Stories

The *All Our Stories* grant programme¹ was initiated jointly by the AHRC and HLF to help local communities explore and discover more about their past. The funding was specifically intended to promote contacts and interaction between local communities and academic researchers based in UK universities, with the aim of giving community groups greater access to resources and expertise that exists within universities, while creating new opportunities for academics to conduct research and gather data in a community context. Responding to this grant call, a team of researchers based in the University of Cambridge was brought together to form 'Cambridge Community Heritage' (CCH), to act as a point of contact for community groups interested in making use of this funding opportunity². A series of brain-storming sessions were held in mid-late 2012 allowing interested parties to meet and discuss the potential projects. In total 500 projects were funded by the scheme nationwide, including 23 that were assisted by CCH. These projects included several test pitting projects in villages across East Anglia, including Meldreth, West Wickham, Toft, Shillington and Sharnbrook.

2.2 Test pit excavation and rural settlement studies

Rural settlement has long been a crucial area of research for medieval archaeology (Gerrard 2003; Lewis et al 2001, 5-21), notably since the pioneering work of W. G. Hoskins, Maurice Beresford and John Hurst in the 1940s and 1950s (Hoskins 1955; Beresford 1957; Beresford & Hurst 1971). Until recently, however, attention has focused largely on the minority of medieval settlements that are presently deserted or extensively shrunken. Currently occupied rural settlements (CORS), now overlain by domestic housing and related buildings of living secular communities – the villages, hamlets and small towns of today – were generally largely disregarded as targets for

¹ <http://www.hlf.org.uk/news/Pages/AllOurStories.aspx> (accessed October 2013)

² <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/cambridgecommunityheritage.html> (accessed October 2013)

research-driven excavation, despite the fact that CORS greatly out-number DMVs (Lewis et al 1997, 143-6; Dyer and Everson 2012, 13). The importance of CORS data is further underlined by evidence showing that DMVs are atypical when compared to medieval settlements overall, tending to be smaller, poorer, later, and less favourably sited (Lewis et al 1997, 146-155), as well as unevenly distributed - numerous in the central province of England but much less common elsewhere (Beresford and Hurst 1971, fig 13; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000, 28-9). CORS, by definition covered by modern settlement, are often perceived as archaeologically inaccessible, but test pit excavation is a remarkably effective means of recovering useful archaeological data from such sites (Cooper and Priest 2003; Lewis 2003; Jones and Page 2007; Gerrard and Aston 2012). Despite these recent advances, however, the number of CORS to have seen methodical research-orientated investigation that includes excavation remains very small.

The University of Cambridge test pit programme aims to increase the number of currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) for which test pit data can be used to reconstruct their development in order to help redress the bias in existing rural settlement research previously focused on deserted and severely shrunken sites (DMVs) (Wade 2000; Gerrard 2003; Taylor 2010; Dyer and Everson 2012). Test pits can be sited wherever possible on unbuilt-up land within selected CORS, usually in private gardens, and the excavated data analysed and mapped. Access Cambridge Archaeology, working with members of the public including school pupils, has carried out test pit excavations in more than 50 CORS, most in eastern England. This new research is contributing towards developing the evidence-base upon which our knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of the medieval rural settlement pattern of eastern England is based, generating a new overall dataset that is more representative of the entire range of medieval settlements, not just on the minority of medieval settlement sites which are now deserted (Lewis 2006; 2007a; 2007b). The excavations at Meldreth contribute to this research.

3 Aims, objectives and desired outcomes

3.1 Aims

The aims of the test pit excavations in Meldreth were as follows:

- To strengthen the village' sense of community.
- To engage with local communities and widen the participation of people in the heritage of the area.
- To allow local community participants to develop a wide range of practical and analytical archaeological skills.
- To increase knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the setting, origins and development of Meldreth and its environs.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of test pit excavations in Meldreth were as follows:

- To investigate the archaeology of the environs of Meldreth through test-pitting carried out by members of the community in properties throughout the village.
- To provide the opportunity for a minimum of 30 volunteers to learn new practical and analytical archaeological skills.

- To support and engage with members of local communities through involvement with the project.

3.3 Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the test pit excavations in Meldreth were as follows:

- A minimum of 80 people with new archaeological skills.
- A minimum of 150 people with an enhanced understanding and awareness of Meldreth.
- An engaged and informed local population.
- An improved knowledge and understanding of the archaeological resource of the village of Meldreth.

4 Location

The village of Meldreth is situated in south Cambridgeshire, 15km southwest of Cambridge, 25km northeast of Hitchin and 33km east of Bedford, centred on TL 37610 45812 (figure 1). The parish lies in the valley of the River Cam or Rhee, which marks the northern edge of the parish boundary; a tributary of which, the River Mel, also rises immediately south of the village at Melbourn Bury and runs through the village along the back of properties on High Street, before joining the Rhee north of the parish church.

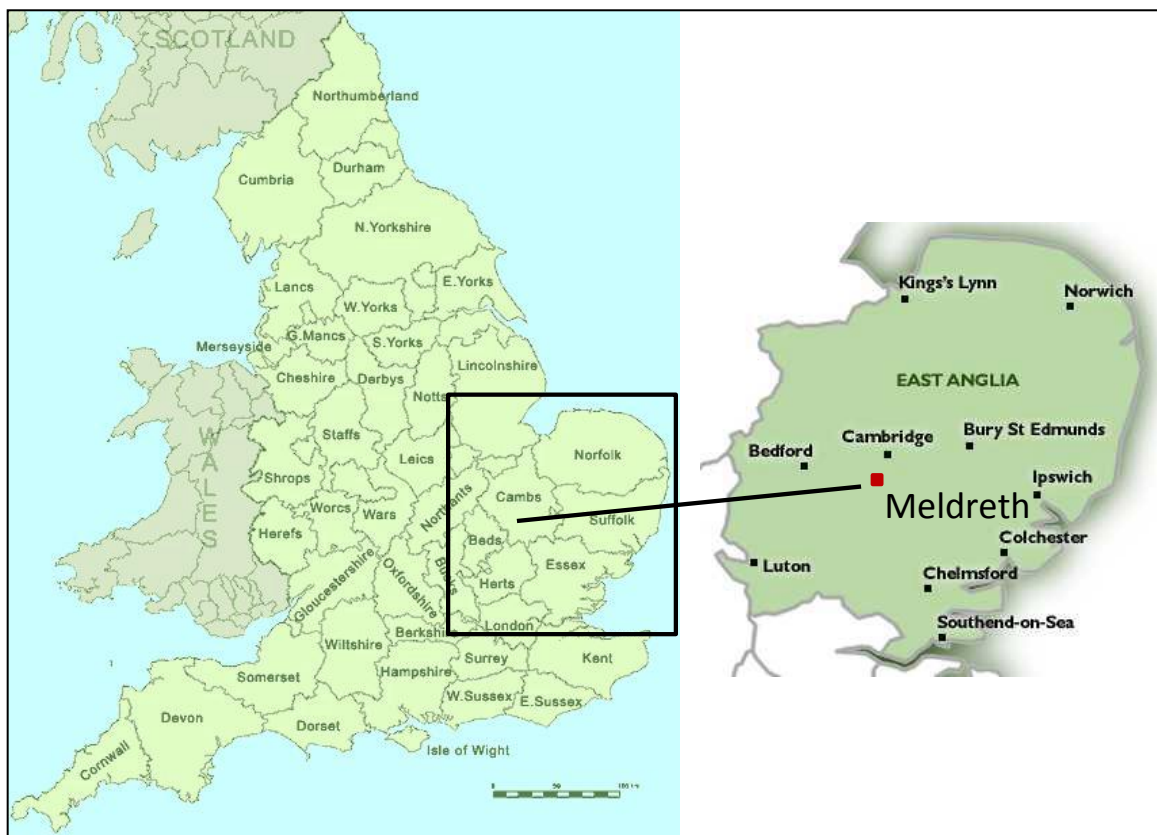


Figure 1 - The location of Meldreth village.

The present village of Meldreth is broadly linear in layout in a N-S orientation along the River Mel. In the latter part of 19th century settlement at Meldreth was divided into several discrete elements. The largest of these was arranged as a north-south-orientated linear row along High Street. This part of the settlement is very regularly laid out, suggesting it was planned at some point. The properties are long and narrow and are likely to preserve a much earlier arrangement, of either medieval or early modern date. The curving line of field boundaries contiguous with those of the residential plots west of the High Street hints at the possibility that these properties were laid out over medieval strip fields. The High Street settlement was in the 19th century still separated by 2-300m from three small clusters of settlement to its south, west and north. These lay respectively around the railway station, Chiswick End and Meldreth Manor, with the latter close to Marvels Green where the village stocks stand (Wright et al 1982). Approximately 200m north-east of Meldreth Manor there was a smaller, less regular linear row running past the church and another, further north-east again, constituting a small green extending from College Farm towards Shepreth Common (Wright et al 1982). With the exception of the cluster around the station, these settlement elements may relate to the five manors recorded in Meldreth in Domesday Book (see below). Today, after infill in the 19th to 20th centuries, the settlement now forms an almost continuous polyfocal settlement more than 3 km long running between the neighbouring villages of Shepreth and Melbourn (figure 2). The parish church of Holy Trinity is located at the northern edge of the modern settlement and dates from the late 12th century with extensions from the 14th and 15th centuries³. Village landmarks include two moated sites near the church (the sites of two of the former medieval manors). A Bronze Age hoard was found close to the railway station in 1880⁴. Several mills once existed in the parish. Topcliffe Mill still stands and was in use until 1942⁵.

Meldreth underwent a rapid expansion in the post-World War II years as a base for commuters working in London, with the population rising from 636 in 1951 to 1740 in mid 1991⁶. The modern village today is dominated by residential housing ranging in age from medieval through to modern, with approximately 1600 inhabitants living in 629 households in the 2001 census⁷ and 2500 in 2013 (Kathryn Betts pers. comm.). It lies just off the main A10 road that connects Cambridge to Royston, and clusters along Station Road, Whitecroft Road, High Street and North End. The village is served by a railway line that opened in 1851 and connects midway on the main Cambridge -- London Kings Cross connection, and a primary school that opened in 1910. Extensive plum and apple orchards were planted in the mid 19th century are part of the intrinsic character of the village, and a designated Local Nature Reserve called Melwood constituting a narrow belt of woodland adjacent to the River Mel. The village also hosts a post office/shop, two farm shops an art gallery and *The British Queen* public house. There are 38 Grade II listed buildings in Meldreth, and one Grade I listed building which is the Church of Holy Trinity. Marvell's Green at the Fenny Lane junction still has the 18th century stocks and the base of a whipping post last used in 1860.

The village hosts an active history society run by the residents of Meldreth, who maintain a large website detailing the history of the village (<http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/>).

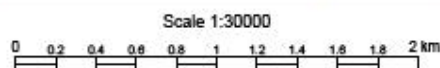
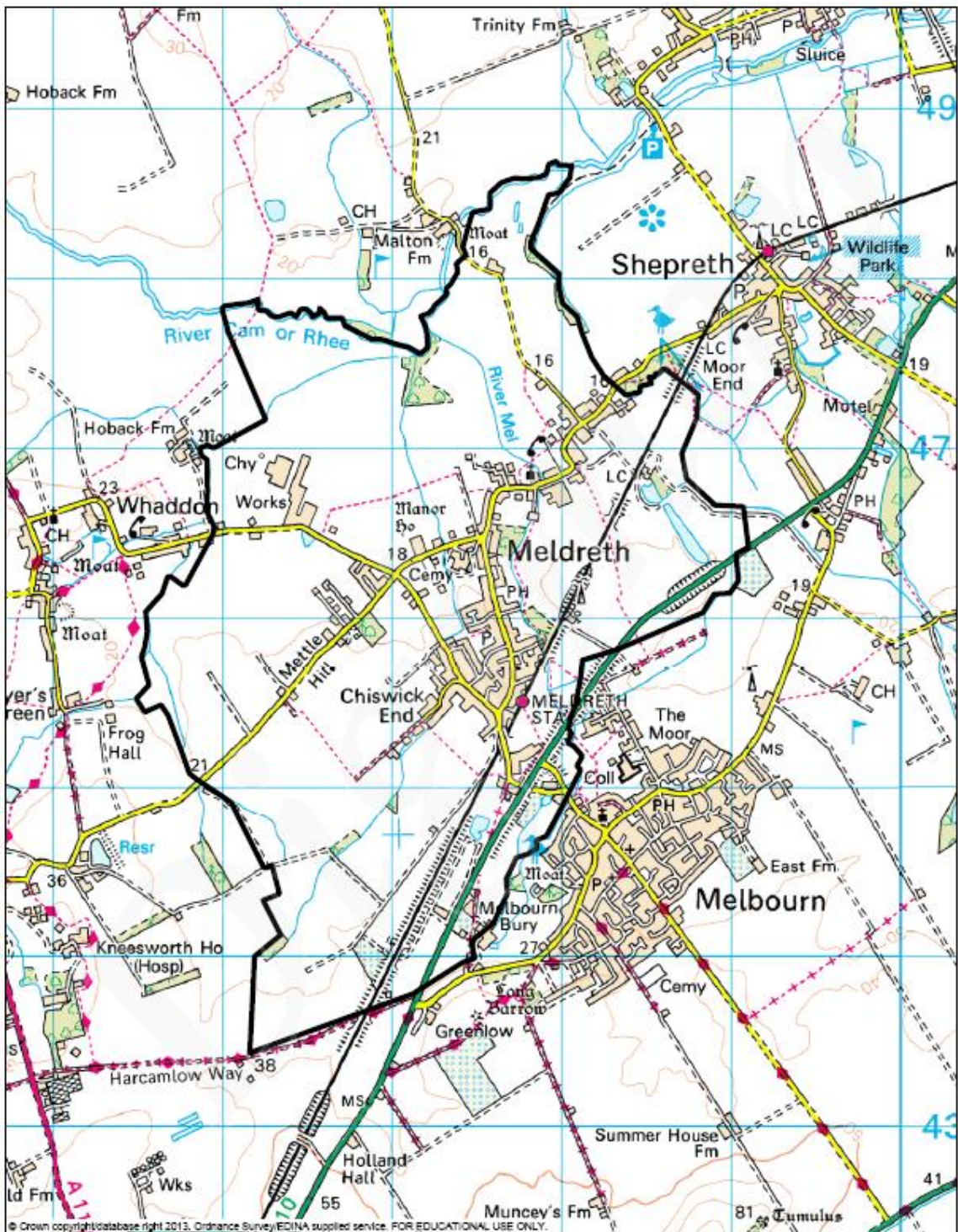
³ http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page_id_305_path_0p2p.aspx (accessed November 2013)

⁴ http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page_id_284_path_0p4p.aspx (accessed November 2013)

⁵ http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page_id_305_path_0p2p.aspx (accessed November 2013)

⁶ http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page_id_305_path_0p2p.aspx (accessed November 2013)

⁷ http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page_id_305_path_0p2p.aspx (accessed November 2013)



Nov 05, 2013 10:39
Alexander Pryor
University of Cambridge

Figure 2 - The county parish of Meldreth.

5 Geology and Topography

Cambridgeshire is an inland county in East Anglia and is bordered by Peterborough and Lincolnshire to the north, Northamptonshire to the northwest, Bedfordshire to the southwest, Hertfordshire and Essex to the south, Suffolk to the southeast and Norfolk to the northeast. Meldreth parish lies on fairly flat and low-lying ground that rises from about 15m near the river Rhee to some 40m in the south, on the northern slopes of hills that rise to over 100m OD in and around the market town of Royston c.5km to the south. The village rests on Cretaceous-era chalk bedrock of the West Melbury Marly chalk Formation that formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago⁸.

The surrounding landscape is broadly composed of gently rolling open arable farmland with drainage ditches and small streams and fragmented hedgerows forming field boundaries.

6 Methodology

6.1 Excavation strategy

The test pit excavation strategy used at Meldreth involved members of the public excavating 1m² test pits, initially under the direction of experienced archaeological supervisors. This method of sampling currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) was developed during the Shapwick Project in Somerset in the 1990s (Gerrard 2010), employed effectively by the Whittlewood Project in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire in the early 2000s (Jones and Page 2007) and has been used extensively by ACA in their Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme and in community excavations within in East Anglia since 2005 (Lewis 2005, 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and forthcoming). These projects have shown that carrying out very small excavations within CORS (in gardens, playgrounds, driveways, greens etc) can produce archaeological data which, although largely unstratified, can be mapped to reveal meaningful patterns which allowed the development of more robust hypotheses regarding the spatial development of the settlement in question. The more sites that can be excavated, the more refined, and therefore more reliable, the resulting picture is.

Test pits were sited wherever members of the public in Meldreth could offer sites for excavation.

6.2 Excavation methods

Digging of the test pits in most cases took place over two days. The number of participants at each test pit varied between four and around 10 volunteers, although at Meldreth Primary School's pit there were approximately 150 helpers. Each team was provided with a standard pro-forma recording booklet into which all excavation data were entered. Excavation proceeded according to the following methodology:

- Test pits were 1m². Turf, if present, was removed in squares by hand. Each test pit was excavated in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m (with the exception of Test Pit 28 which was excavated to 1.4m).

⁸ <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> (accessed November 2013)

- All spoil was screened for finds using sieves with a standard 10mm mesh, with the exception of any heavy clay soils which were hand-searched.
- All artefacts from test pits were retained in the first instance. Excavators were instructed to err on the side of caution by retaining everything they think may even possibly be of interest.
- Cut features, if encountered are excavated stratigraphically in the normal way.
- Masonry walls, if encountered, are carefully cleaned, planned and left in situ.
- In the unlikely event of in situ human remains being encountered, these are recorded and left in situ. The preservation state of human bone is recorded, so as to inform any future excavation.
- Recording was undertaken by excavating members of the public using a pro-forma recording system. This comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience.
- The horizontal surface of each context/spit was photographed and drawn at 1:10 scale before excavation, and the colour recorded with reference to a standardised colour chart, included in an instruction handbook issued separately to all participants. The bottom surface of the test pit was also photographed. Sections were also photographed if possible.
- All four sections were drawn at 1:10 scale with the depth of natural (if reached) clearly indicated on pre-drawn grids on page 13 of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- Other observations and notes were included on the context record sheet for each context or on continuation sheets at the back of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- A register was kept by each test pit excavation team detailing photographs taken, including context number, direction of shot and date and time of day.
- After the excavations were completed the archaeological records and finds are taken to the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HERs, publication and ongoing research into the origins and development of rural settlement. Finds were returned to owners after analysis is complete if requested; otherwise they were sorted for curation by the University of Cambridge, in accordance with the discard policy document.

6.3 On-site archaeological supervision

- Professional archaeologists from ACA were on site for the duration of the excavations and visited all the test pits regularly. They provided advice to the excavation teams and checked that the excavation was being carried out and recorded to the required standard. Pottery and most other finds were provisionally spot-dated/identified on-site by experts.

6.4 On-site finds identification and retention

- Non-metallic inorganic finds and bone (unless in very poor condition) were washed on site where possible, thoroughly dried and bagged separately for each context of the test pit or trench. Either on site or during post excavation the animal bone, pottery, burnt clay, flint and burnt stone are bagged separately, ready to be given to specialists.

6.5 Trench and test pit closing and backfilling

- A member of the archaeological team inspected each test pit before it was declared finished confirming whether or not natural has been reached. A small sondage may be excavated within the bottom of the pit to examine whether or not natural has been reached. Some test pits will stop above natural or 1.2m on encountering a feature (ancient or modern) which is deemed inadvisable or impossible to remove, or have to finish at a level above natural due to time constraints.
- All test pits were backfilled and turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

6.6 Recording

- The test pits were recorded following a Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990); whereby numbers (fill) or [cut] were assigned to individual contexts and feature numbers (F) to stratigraphic events.
- The test pit recording system used by excavating members of the public comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience (Lewis 2007).
- It is used in conjunction with the live presentation and written instruction handbook also developed and delivered by ACA. This system has been used successfully by ACA to record required archaeological data from the excavation of over 1,000 test pits since 2005.
- This pro-forma format, which includes designated spaces, prompts and pre-drawn 1:10 planning grids, is used in order to ensure that all required observations are completed and recorded.
- All photographs in the photographic archive comprise digital images.
- The site code is MEL/13.

6.7 Finds processing and recording

Previous experience of test pit excavation indicates that the most common archaeologically significant finds from test pit excavations in currently occupied rural settlements are pottery, faunal remains (including animal bone and shell), worked stone and ceramic building material. Upper layers typically yield variable quantities of predominantly modern material (post-1900), most commonly including slate, coal, plastic, Perspex, concrete, mortar, fabric, glass, bricks, tile, clay pipe, metal, slag, vitrified material, coins, flint, burnt stone, burnt clay, wood and natural objects such as shells, unworked stone/flint and fossils.

Few excavations retain all the finds that are made if they are deemed to be of little or no research value. Test pit excavations may produce significant quantities of modern material, not all of which will have research value.

6.7.1 *Finds appropriate for recording, analysis, reporting, retention and curation.*

- All pottery has been retained.
- All faunal remains, worked and burnt stone have been retained
- All finds pre-dating 1800 have been retained

6.7.2 *Finds appropriate for disposal after recording and reporting.*

- The following finds, which are not considered to warrant any further analysis, were photographed, their weight and number recorded, and then discarded: slate, coal, plastic, Perspex, modern glass, modern metal objects (including nails), concrete, modern mortar, modern fabric, shoes and other modern items (including batteries and shotgun cartridges), naturally occurring animal shells, unworked flint and other unworked stone (including fossils).
- C20th window and vessel glass was discarded after sorting, counting and weighing.
- C19th and C20th CBM were discarded after counting and weighing, retaining one sample of any hand-made, unusual or older type of CBM.
- Most fragments of C20th metal whose use can be identified were discarded, as were any unidentifiable objects of ferrous metal, aluminium or modern alloys from contexts containing other material of post-1900 AD date. Modern nails were also discarded but handmade nails were retained.
- C20th tile (floor, roof and wall) was discarded after counting and weighing, retaining a single sample of each type of pre-modern tile. Any decorated examples were retained unless they were recovered in large quantities, in which case representative samples were retained with the remainder discarded after counting and weighing.
- Modern wood was discarded after counting and weighing.

6.7.3 *Legal ownership of finds*

- Ownership of objects rests in the first instance with the landowner, except where other law overrides this (e.g. Treasure Act 1996, 2006, Burials Act 1857).
- Owners of private unscheduled land where test pits have been excavated who enquire about the final destination of finds from excavation on their property will be informed that ACA prefers to retain these in the short term for analysis and ideally also in the longer term in order that the excavation archives will be as complete as possible.
- Most land-owners are not concerned about retaining ownership of the finds and are happy to donate them to ACA.
- If the landowners are unwilling, for whatever reason, to donate any or all of the finds from the excavation on their land to ACA, the requested finds are returned to them after recording and analysis is completed, safely packaged and conserved (if required), accompanied by a letter explaining how they should be cared for and asking for them to be returned to ACA/University of Cambridge if for any reason the owners no longer wish to retain them, and that if they are moved from the address to which they were returned the ACA should be informed. The location of such finds will be stated in the site archive. Requests from landowners for the return of finds may be made and will be honoured at any time.

6.7.4 *Curation of Archaeological Finds*

- All finds which were not discarded or returned to owners were retained and stored in conditions where they will not deteriorate. Most finds were stored in cool dry condition in sealed plastic finds bags, with small pierced holes to



ventilate them. Pottery, bone and flint were bagged separately from other finds.

- Finds which are more fragile, including ancient glass or metal objects, were stored in small boxes protected by padding and where necessary, acid free paper. Metal objects were curated with silica gel packets where necessary to prevent deterioration.
- All finds bags/boxes from the same context were bagged/boxed together, and curated in a single archive containing all bags from all test pits excavated in the same settlement in the same year. All bags and boxes used for storage were clearly marked in permanent marker with the site code (which includes settlement name, site code and year of excavation), test pit number and context number.

7 Archaeological and Historical Background

Historical data (see below) pertaining to Meldreth indicates that it was a place of some importance in the medieval period, with a minster church, several manors and a probable hundredal meeting place. Notable archaeological finds include a Roman coffin, found in 1815, and the late Bronze Age 'Meldreth Hoard', discovered in 1880. Other prehistoric landmarks include an ancient trackway which runs through Meldreth aligned parallel to the Icknield Way, along the present-day Ashwell Street. The Avenell Way, another early trackway with prehistoric origins passes through the village as it runs from Odsey near Baldock to Cambridge. The history of Meldreth has been thoroughly compiled by the Victoria County History (Wright et al 1982) and archaeological data recorded on the county Historic Environment Record (searchable online via Heritage Gateway), and these sources have informed the short summary provided below.

Meldreth is first recorded in the Domesday Book as *Melrede*. The 'mel-' element may derive from 'mill' (Ekwall 1936, 305), or be derived from the River Mel which runs east of the village, although a more complex, lost derivation of the name has also been posited (Reaney 1934, 58-61). The '-dreth' element is not discussed but early spellings with a 'd' suggest it may derive from 'reed'. The first church in Meldreth probably dated from around 970 AD, but could possibly be earlier. The church was a minster church, recorded as such in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin (ed), 2003, 540), one of relatively few churches mentioned in Domesday Book. The present church building dates from the late 12th century with extensions in the 14th and 15th centuries. The 12th century chancel is unusually long, perhaps preserving the layout of the 11th century minster church.

Chiswick End meaning "cheese farm" lies west of the southern part of the village, and is first mentioned in 1260 (Reaney 1943, 60). It has been suggested that this was where 25 free Danish settlers (sokemen) mentioned in the Domesday Book had settled, close enough to the existing village to be part of it but still separate from the dwellings of the recently-conquered native British.⁹ Bury Lane is first documented in 1327 (Reaney 1943, 60), and Sheene Farm in 1476 (Reaney 1943, 61). In North End the street formerly widened to a village green near the Malton Lane junction. It has been suggested that Mettle Hill, c. 500m west of Chiswick End, first documented in 1319, may refer to site of a moot or hundredal meeting place (Reaney 1943, 60).

The complex manorial history is immediately apparent in the Domesday Book where five different entries are made for Meldreth (Williams and Martin (ed), 2003). These holdings were then in the hands of the Abbot of Ely (ibid., 524); Earl Roger (ibid., 529); Count Alan (ibid., 531); Hardwin de Scales (ibid., 540); and Guy de Raimbeaucourt (ibid., 543), although the Abbey of Ely held rights in several of the holdings. Several of the manors mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 held property in both Meldreth and the neighbouring village of Melbourn. At least four moated sites are known in the village, and are likely to be the remains of manorial residences at Sheene, Topcliffe, Vesey and Flambards manors. Sheene Manor was given to the French Abbey of St Evroul after the conquest and subsequently to Sheen priory in Surrey in 1415. Topcliffe Manor was also once part of St Evroul's estate and was granted to the Savoy Hospital and then to St Thomas's Hospital in the 16th century. John de Topcliffe lived there during the Peasants' Revolt but was

⁹ http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page_id_464_path_0p2p57p.aspx (accessed November 2013)

forced to flee due to threats from the rebels. Vesey's Manor stood south of the church, close to Topcliffe's and in the 13th century its owners were granted a licence to build a chapel. The ruins of a house stood within the moat until the early 20th century. Flambard's manor site now sits at the centre of the Flambards residential estate. Unlike the other manors, the moat of Flambards has an oval shape, clearly visible on 19th Ordnance Survey maps. Excavations in the 1930's by archaeologist Tom Lethbridge found evidence of early glazed pottery on the site (*Proc. C.A.S.* xliii. 2). The site is now barely visible although is preserved as a grassed area surrounded by a 20th century housing development.

Domesday Book includes a total of 8½ mills in the village; an unusually high number. The only mill that remains today is Topcliffe Mill, near the church. This was associated with Topcliffe Manor and is likely to be on the site of one of the Domesday mills. Several moated sites, once home to medieval manor houses, can still be seen in the village.

Before the 18th century, all buildings were traditionally built of a plastered timber frame with roofs thatched with long straw or plain tiled. Chiswick House, Sheene Manor and No.33 North End date from the 16th century. Farm buildings were weather-boarded and thatched until the 19th century when brick, slate and pantiles were more commonly used.

Due to the proximity of Meldreth to Cambridge, much of the land in and near the village was at some time owned by various of the University of Cambridge colleges. Notable events of recent times include the enclosure of the open fields which took place in 1820, and the arrival of the Royston-Cambridge railway line and station which were opened in 1851, opening Meldreth to wider markets. In the early nineteenth century approximately two thirds of the adult male population of the village were employed in agricultural occupations. This changed in the latter half of the century, as Meldreth was caught up in the Coprolite boom of the 1860s-1890s as phosphate-rich coprolites were dug for fertiliser. In addition to the digging that took place near Meldreth the village became a major centre for the milling of the coprolite in preparation for transport by railway to Ipswich for further processing into fertiliser¹⁰. By 1900 the coprolite boom had subsided being replaced by at least two cement manufacturing and lime burning factories in Meldreth – Cambridge Portland Cement Co. Ltd. (now Cam Farm) and Meldreth Portland Cement & Brick Co. Ltd. (now Marley Eternit). Agriculture remained important though, and there were thirteen farmers employing 94 people.

In 1086 around 50 tenants were recorded at Meldreth, and by 1327 59 people paid the lay subsidy, with 253 adults in recorded in the Poll Tax of 1377; 47 households were taxed in 1563; and c. 70 houses in the 1670s (Wright et al 1982, 83-97). In 1801 there were 73 households in the village. This figure had more than doubled by 1871 but then remained fairly constant until the Second World War. Post war expansion in the village was rapid with new housing being developed just north of the London-Cambridge railway line. Private residential estates such as The Grange, Oakrits and Flambards Close and local authority developments such as Elin Way and Howard Road, Bell Close and Gables Close have increased the size of the village since the 1960s. By 1971 there were 455 houses in Meldreth, of which over 160 belonged to the District Council. More recently, housing estates have been built off Whaddon Road (Burtons) and off Whitecroft Road (Mary's Way and Melrose).

¹⁰ http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page_id_521_path_0p4p.aspx (accessed November 2013)

Development in the southern part of the village has thus been consolidated, whereas in the north, the village's linear character, arranged along twisting lanes, has been retained.

The following paragraphs summarise the finds listed on the Historic Environment Record, accessed via the Heritage Gateway website¹¹.

7.1 Prehistoric period

Field-walking in the area connected with work on the A10 bypass route unearthed a Palaeolithic oval scraper flint tool (CHER 08764), while a polished flint Neolithic axe head was found in a field behind the British Queen public house in 1980 (CHER: 03426). Other finds include a late Bronze Age hoard (CHER: 03117), which was discovered near the railway station in 1880 (now curated in the British Museum). The hoard contained over 60 items including 2 palstaves, 25 socketed axes, 1 gouge, 1 chisel, 1 knife, 9 swords, 3 socketed spearheads, 1 cauldron ring and 15 metal lumps. Iron Age finds have also been noted during fieldwalking including pottery sherds and a spindle whorl (CHER: 08764A),

7.2 Roman period

There is abundant evidence for activity around Meldreth during the Roman period, with finds including a stone coffin associated with a Late Iron Age coin and Roman armlet, pin and vessel, found in fields to the west of the modern settlement of Meldreth (CHER: 03167). Fieldwalking finds along the A10 bypass route have also included some Roman bells, nails and pottery sherds (CHER: 08764B), while metal detected finds in fields north of the modern settlement include Roman brooches, coins and a seal box (CHER: 10224, 08417). To the west of the village Roman-era bricks, tiles and pottery sherds have been found (CHER: 03248, 03221) giving good evidence for residential settlement in the area during the Roman period.

7.3 Anglo-Saxon period

Settlement and activity appears to have continued in the area around Meldreth village during the Anglo-Saxon period, with previous finds including Saxon pottery sherds at Flambards Manor discovered in 1933 (CHER: 01275a). Further finds have been made during fieldwalking and metal detecting activities near the A10 bypass, including pottery sherds (CHER: 02113) and a silver Saxon penny (CHER: 00379).

7.4 High and Later Medieval periods

¹¹ http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/advanced_search.aspx?reset=true (accessed November 2013)

The earthwork remains of several moated sites survive today around Meldreth, a testament to the complex manorial history of the village. These include the moat earthwork remains of Topcliffe's Mill near the parish church (CHER: 01249), thought to be the site of Topcliffe's Manor, Veysey's Manor also near the parish church (CHER: 01252)(figure 3), Sheene Manor in the SE of the parish (CHER: 01250, 01251), and Flambard's Manor in the village centre (CHER: 01275). Another moated site of unknown provenance exists in the south of the parish at St John's College

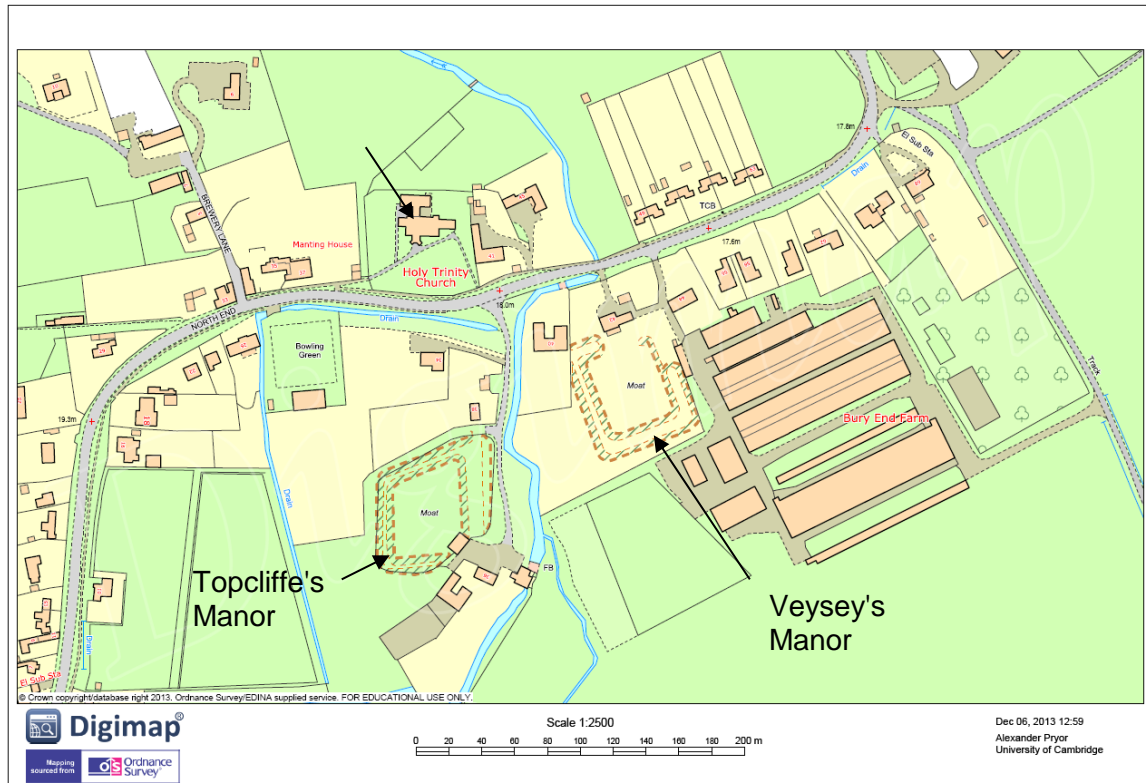


Figure 3 - Map showing location of moated manor sites close to the parish church of Holy Trinity, at the northern end of the modern settlement of Meldreth.

Farm (CHER: 01246). Other medieval finds include human remains discovered in the gardens of properties on North End near Holy Trinity Church in the north of the parish (CHER: 03136), and a medieval ridge and furrow system that survives in fields in the SW of the parish (CHER: 08556a) and north of the church.

7.5 Post-Medieval period

Few post-medieval finds are listed in the historic environment records, however it is clear that a substantial village settlement continued through this period. Recorded finds include gravestones at Holy Trinity Church (CHER: 03060A).

Other finds of unknown date include human remains found at Meldreth Manor School (CHER: 11017), and ring ditches noted on aerial photographs to the north (CHER: 07944, 08574) and south (CHER: 08554) of the village.

8 Results of the test pit excavations in Meldreth

The approximate locations of the 32 1m² test pits excavated over three weekends in June, July and August 2013 can be seen in figure 4. The data from each test pit is discussed in this section and set out in numerical order. Most excavations were undertaken in spits measuring 10cm in depth, but in cases when a change in the character of deposits indicated a change in context, a new spit was started before 10cm.

An assessment of the overall results, synthesizing the data from all the pits, including deductions about the historic development of Meldreth and the potential of the buried heritage resource of the village is presented in the following Discussion section (Section 9). Finds from each test pit are discussed in summary in this section, and listed in detail in the relevant appendices (Section 12). Photographs of sites under excavation and of all finds are included in the archive, but not included in this report for reasons of space.

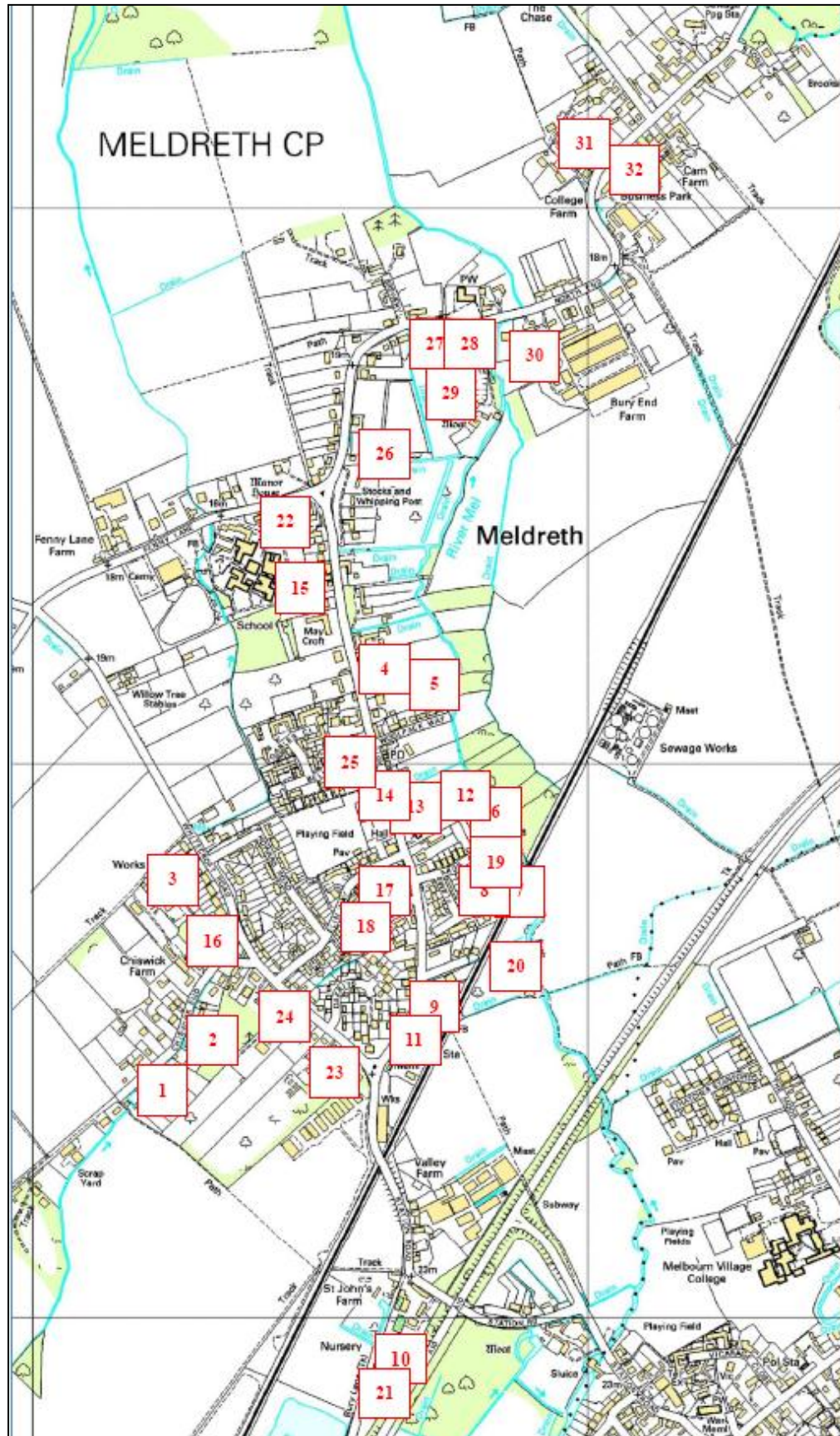


Figure 4 - Map showing the location of test pits excavated in Meldreth over the summer of 2013. Map prepared by Kath Betts.

8.1 Test Pit one (MEL/13/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the middle of the rear garden lawn of a bungalow built in 1976, on an old Bramley apple orchard owned by George Palmer (33 Chiswick End, Meldreth, SG8 6LZ. Approximate location TL 37242 45404).



Figure 5 - Location map of MEL/13/1

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, whereupon natural chalk deposits were discovered. Excavation was halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

This test-pit produced small quantities of Glazed Red Earthenware and English Stoneware dated to the post-medieval period, and a small assemblage of 21 Victoria-era sherds.

TP	Context	GRE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1					1	1	1800-1900
1	2	1	12			7	24	1550-1900
1	3	1	5	1	7	11	33	1550-1900
1	4					2	2	1800-1900

Table 1 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/1

Other finds consisted of a few faunal remains, metal nails, a handle and other scraps, a bone shirt button (figure 5a), stone, mortar, charcoal, glass, clay pipe stem and brick fragments.



Located at the SW edge of the modern village, the pottery assemblage suggests that this area was not occupied until relatively recently compared with other parts of the village, in the Victorian era. Some post-medieval activity is also indicated, most likely as arable fields but there is no evidence for earlier use of this area. This is interesting in light of the pottery found at nearby test pit two, which contained evidence for activity in the Roman period, and then continuous occupation from the High Medieval period onwards. This collectively suggests that the edge of Meldreth village during the Medieval period fell somewhere between house numbers 17 and 33 in Chiswick End.

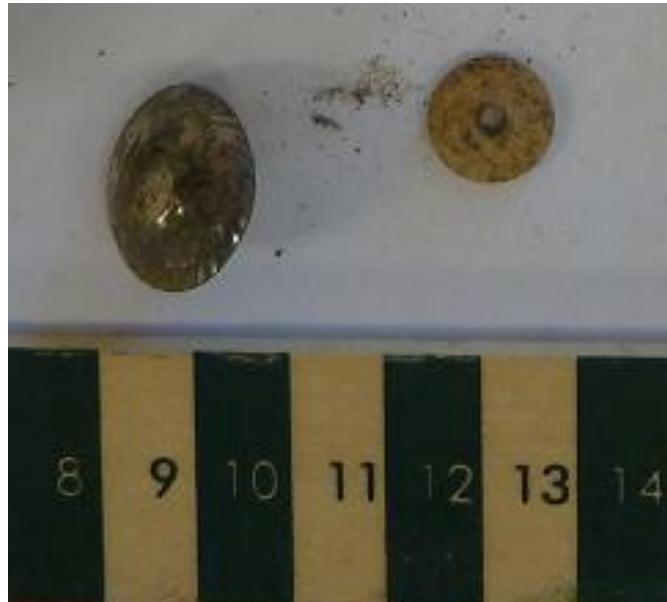


Figure 5a - Bone shirt button (right) and metal handle (left) from context 1 of Mel/13/1.

8.2 Test Pit two (MEL/13/2)

Test pit two was excavated on a patch of bare earth covered in peaty compost immediately alongside a garage wall in the front garden of a bungalow, which was built on an old orchard that formerly belonged to John Payne of Melbourn (17 Chiswick End, Meldreth, SG8 6LZ. Approximate location TL 37291 45546).

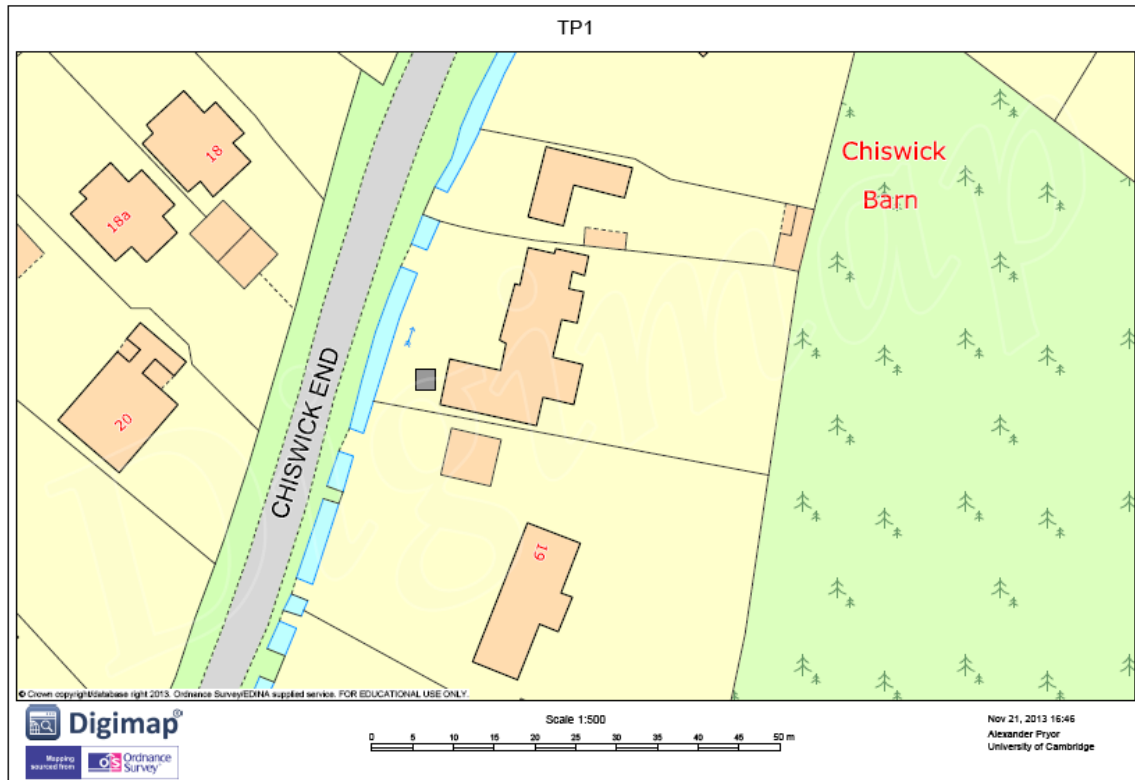


Figure 6 - Location map of MEL/13/2

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.6m at which point a chalky natural flat surface was encountered across the centre of the test pit with two parallel linear features cutting into this natural on either side of the test pit (recorded as fills 6A and 6B).

This test pit produced single sherds of Romano-British Ware and Early Medieval Sandy Ware, and six sherds of Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the late 12th-14th centuries AD. Five sherds of Late Medieval Ware dating to the 15th-16th century, some Glazed Red Earthenware and Staffordshire Slipware from the post-medieval period and a small assemblage of 20 Victorian-era sherds were also found.

TP	Context	RB		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1							1	42					4	12	1400-1900
2	2					3	20							2	2	1150-1900
2	3									5	52			6	13	1550-1900
2	4	1	4							2	34	1	3	6	32	100-1900
2	5			1	5			2	17	2	25			1	2	1100-1900
2	6					3	98	2	5			1	1	1	2	1150-1900

Table 2 – *Pottery excavated from MEL/13/2*

Other finds consisted of glass, metal nails, tacks, tube and a lead soldier, oyster shell, stone, charcoal, brick and a coin from 1957 that was found while metal detecting on the spoil heap. The faunal assemblage recovered from this test pit included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig and some other unidentifiable remains.

The pottery finds indicate that the area first saw activity during the Roman period, and was most likely used as fields at this time. The area then appears to have been abandoned until the Medieval period, after which it was continuously occupied including during the Late Medieval period. It is interesting to contrast the finds from test pit 2 with those from nearby test pit 1, which contains no evidence for use until the post-medieval period and does not appear to have been occupied until the Victorian era. This suggests that the SW edge of Meldreth village during the Medieval period probably lay somewhere between house numbers 17 and 33 in Chiswick End.

8.3 Test Pit three (MEL/13/3)

Test pit three was excavated behind the garden of 57 Whitecroft Road on grassy land that once belonged to 17th century Bluebell Cottage (57 Whitecroft Road, Meldreth, SG8 6LS. Approximately TL 37261 45783).



Figure 7 - Location map of MEL/13/3

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.5m without encountering natural. Due to time constraints, excavation was halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled

Test pit 3 produced a single sherd of Romano-British ware, small quantities of Medieval Shelly Ware, Early Medieval Sandy Ware and Hertfordshire greyware all dating to the 12th-14th centuries, two sherds of Late Medieval Ware dating to the 15th-16th centuries, a few sherds each of Glazed Red Earthenware and Staffordshire Slipware and small quantities of Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	RB		SHC		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1					1	4					1	1	1	1	5	5	1100-1900
3	2	1	1									2	2	2	4	6	9	100-1900
3	3			1	7	2	8			2	7					2	2	1100-1900
3	4			1	1	1	11	2	2									1100-1200

Table 3 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/3

Other finds consisted of glass, plastic, clay pipe fragments, brick, tile, slate, charcoal, a metal shirt button, and a battery core. The faunal assemblage recovered from this

test pit included bones of sheep/goat, chicken and some other unidentifiable remains.

The single Romano-British sherd indicates activity in this area at that time, most likely connected with farming (although nearby test pit 16 contained a larger quantity of sherds possibly indicating the presence of a farmhouse nearby). The area then appears to have been abandoned until the medieval period and has been in use ever since including during the late medieval (Black Death) era. This is a similar picture to that observed at test pit 2 nearby.

8.4 Test Pit four (MEL/13/4)

Test pit 4 was excavated behind a large barn that stands in the grounds of The British Queen public house, a Grade II listed timber-framed building and the last remaining public house in the village (The British Queen, Meldreth. Approximately TL 37632 46139). The British Queen was built in the 17th century¹² and has been a public house since at least 1841, when Nathan Driver was the publican. During the 1920s and 1930s, Percy Cox had a smithy here and in the 1970s the barn was used as a car workshop (Kathryn Betts pers. comm.).



Figure 8 - Location map of MEL/13/4

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, at which point natural clay/chalk deposits were reached. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

This test pit produced a pottery assemblage including: single sherds of Early Medieval Sandy Ware and Hedingham Ware each dating to the 12th-14th centuries; single sherds of Staffordshire Slipware and Staffordshire Manganese Ware dating from the 17th century onwards; and a large assemblage of 72 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds consisted of glass, coal, oyster shell fragments, a Cinzano glass bottle, slate, a wooden cork, clay pipe fragments, metal nails and a battery terminal. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, horse, cat and some other unidentifiable remains.

¹² <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-52279-british-queen-public-house-meldreth-cambr> (accessed November 2013)



TP	Context	EMW		HED		SS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1									2	15	1800-1900
4	2					1	23			17	142	1650-1900
4	3									2	63	1800-1900
4	4	1	6							6	58	1100-1900
4	5			1	2			1	5	14	96	1200-1900
4	6									19	144	1800-1900
4	7									10	127	1800-1900
4	8									2	9	1800-1900

Table 4 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/4

The finds from this test pit indicate that the area was first used during the medieval period, most likely as fields. This seems to have been followed by a period of abandonment until the 18th-19th century when the area was occupied again. This suggests that the area had always been open fields until the building of the British Queen public house, which coincided with an apparent episode of infilling between the main village cluster to the south and the northern residential cluster near the parish church from the 17th century onwards (also seen in test pits 15 and 22 and 26).

8.5 Test Pit five (MEL/13/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the rear garden of a detached property adjacent to the British Queen public house on a grassy lawn close to the river behind the house which is now called Longmead (90A High Street, Meldreth, SG8 6LB. TL 37746 46133). At one time called "The Limes", the property was once part of Sheene Manor. Sylvia Gipson recalled the house: "*I remember the house had a small ornamental garden at the back and the rest of the land was orchards right down to the river. Then all the trees were taken out and the gardens were created*". In the late 1950's the house was owned by the Jackson family of Fowlmere and otter hounds were kept in kennels at the bottom of the garden.



Figure 9 - Location map of MEL/13/5

Test Pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, followed by a sondage in one corner that encountered natural clay at 0.7m depth. Excavation was halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Test Pit five produced a range of pottery types in small numbers including: late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ware dating to 1200-800BC, St Neots Ware and Stamford Ware dating to the Anglo Saxon period, Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Hedingham Ware, Hertfordshire Greyware and Late Medieval Ware dating to the 12th-15th centuries, and six Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds included stone, glass, a clay insulator, slate, brick, tile and fragments of mussel and oyster shell. The faunal assemblage included bones of pig and some other unidentifiable remains.



TP	Context	BA		SN		STAM		EMW		HED		HG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	2															1	1	1800-1900
5	3															5	9	1800-1900
5	4	1	2			1	3	3	13	2	5	4	24					1200BC-1400
5	5			1	1							1	1	4	8			900-1550

Table 5 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/5

The finds from test pit five suggest the area has always primarily been used as fields or gardens, and has never had been directly occupied. Activity began during the Bronze Age, followed by a period of abandonment until the early medieval period, before once again falling from use at the end of the medieval era until the 19th century. Located close to the River Mel, this test pit suggests that no residential or industrial activity ever took place associated with this stream in this part of Meldreth (a pattern also observed in test pit 6, although see discussion of interpretation of this pit). Finds from test pit 12 however suggest that in other parts of the village settlement did continue right down to the stream.

8.6 Test Pit Six (MEL/13/6)

Test Pit six was excavated close to the River Mel on the rear garden lawn of a 1970s detached house, built when the Flambards estate was developed (14 Flambards Close, Meldreth. Approximately TL 37844 45891). Previously, Flambards Mill was located close to the test pit site. A mill probably stood on the site for centuries although the most recent building was erected in the early 1840s and stood until it was destroyed by fire, c. 1910.



Figure 10 - Location map of MEL/13/6

Test pit six was excavated through a large deposit of modern bricks and other rubble to a depth of 0.7m, at which point a solid concrete slab was encountered covering the entire base of the test pit. Excavations were halted at this point and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	HG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1					3	5	1800-1900
6	2	1	8	1	2	5	5	1150-1900
6	3					4	25	1800-1900
6	4					4	35	1800-1900
6	7					59	2060	1800-1900

Table 6 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/6

Test Pit 6 produced a single sherd of Hedingham Ware dating to the late 12th-14th centuries, a single sherd of Late Medieval Ware dating from 1400-1550, and a large collection of 75 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds included glass, wood, shell, a spherical red plastic bead, brick, asbestos, nails, and a penny coin dated 1920 found towards the bottom of the pit in context 7. The faunal assemblage included a single bone of wood pigeon and four other unidentifiable remains.

Interpretation of this test pit site centres around the solid concrete surface, discovered at 0.7m depth, and it is possible that this is connected with the most recent mill that stood near to this site, connected with activities of Flambards Manor. The pottery from this test pit suggests very low levels of activity during the medieval period with the first major occupation occurring during the Victorian era; however these finds were clearly deposited on top of the concrete slab, which indicates some re-deposition and mixing of deposits has occurred. It is highly likely that evidence for earlier activity would be preserved underneath the concrete surface, and the date of first occupation of this area is thus at present unknown.

8.7 Test Pit seven (MEL/13/7)

Test pit seven was excavated on the eastern part of Flambards Green, within what was once a moat but is now the centre of a housing estate (close to house numbers 17 and 18, Flambards Close, Meldreth. Very approximate location TL 3784 4580). Formerly part of Flambards Manor, a medieval manor house stood on the site. The moat was filled in when the houses were built c. 1970.

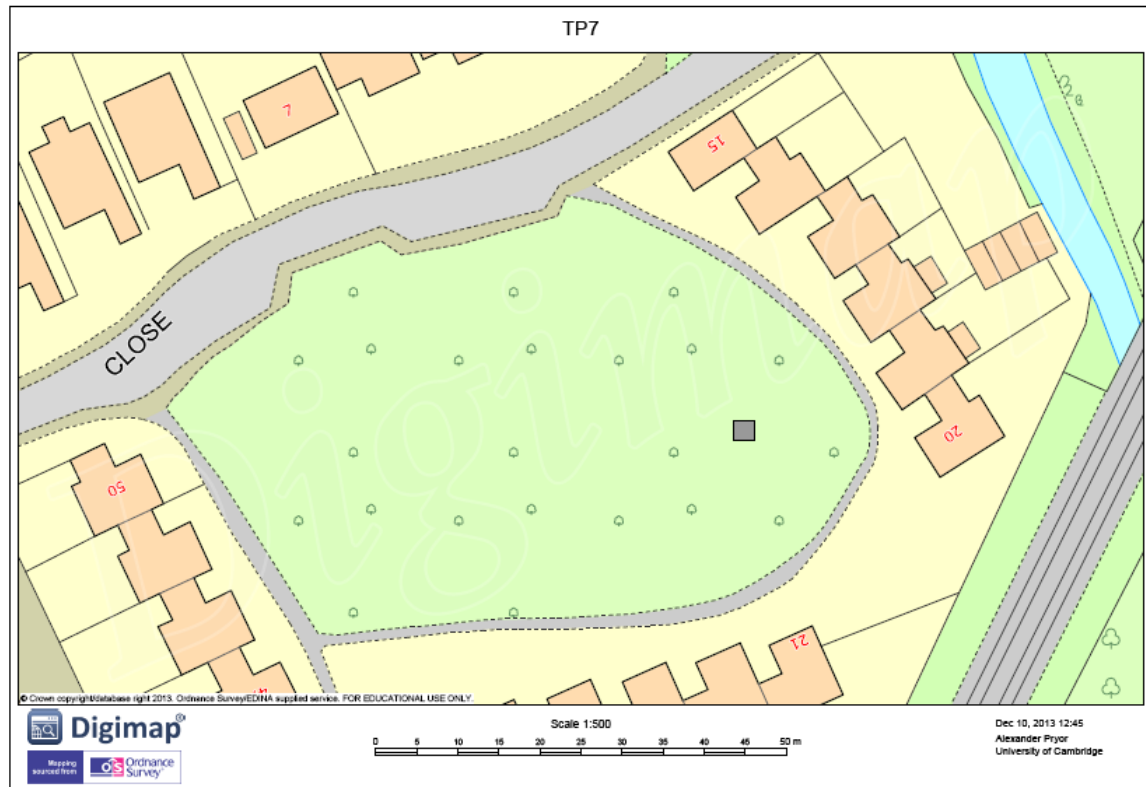


Figure 11 - Location map of MEL/13/7

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, without finding natural. Excavation then continued in the SW corner of the trench to a total depth of 1.0m, also without finding natural. Due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	SN		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		MG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1					1	9			4	18							1100-1200
7	2					2	6	2	6	26	199	1	1	2	22	1	1	1100-1900
7	3					3	8	2	25	17	94							1100-1400
7	4					1	16	2	2	19	94							1100-1400
7	5			4	16					6	44							1100-1200
7	6	2	7							7	21							900-1200
7	7			2	17					20	110							1100-1200
7	8	2	12															900-1100

Table 7 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/7

Test pit seven produced small quantities of St Neots Ware dating to the Late Saxon period, sherds of Early Medieval Sandy Ware, Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Hedingham Ware, Mill Green Ware and a large assemblage of 99 pieces of Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th -14th centuries, two sherds of Late Medieval Ware from the 15th -16th centuries and a single Victorian-era sherd.

The other finds from test pit seven included a modern clear glass bottle, a metal mincer part and other metal objects, daub, coal, fragments of oyster and mussel shell, stone and clinker. An amber bead appears to be of modern date. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, horse, chicken, a wader bird and some other unidentifiable remains. The most remarkable find from this test pit was a pewter mirror case of later 13th or 14th century date, found in context 2 (see appendices).

As might be expected for a test pit excavated within the boundaries of a moated medieval manor site, test pit seven produced exceptionally large quantities of medieval pottery including a range of different types and wares. A single sherd of Mill Green Ware manufactured at Mill Green in Essex is also worthy of note. Only one other test pit (TP 25) had Mill Green Ware, suggesting that the members of Flambards Manor had access to particular trade links or other forms of contact not available to most other residents of the village. Interestingly the deposition of pottery sherds ceases in the Late Medieval period and there is no evidence for habitation until the present-day housing estate was built in the 1970s. This strongly indicates an abandonment of the moated manor site around the 14th century. Test pits 8 and 19 were also excavated within the confines of the moat and all three indicate an identical history, concluding with an apparent abandonment of the site in the late medieval period with no further deposition or dumping of waste at all.

Figure 11a – Mirror case from MEL/13/7.2



8.8 Test Pit eight (MEL/13/8)

Test pit eight was excavated on the western part of Flambards Green, within what was once a moat but is now the centre of a housing estate (close to house numbers 48 and 49, Flambards Close, Meldreth. Very approximate location TL 3779 4579). Formerly part of Flambards Manor, a medieval manor house stood on the site. The moat was filled in when the houses were built c. 1970.



Figure 12 - Location map of MEL/13/8

Test pit eight was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, without finding natural. Excavation continued in the SW corner of the pit to a total depth of 0.8m, with the sediments becoming increasingly chalky. Due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery from test pit eight pre-dated the end of the medieval period, and comprised a single sherd of St Neots Ware from the Late Saxon period, and small quantities of Medieval Sandy Ware, Medieval Shelly Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th -14th centuries.

TP	Context	SN		SHC		EMW		HG		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	3					1	29			1100-1150
8	4			1	6	3	7	1	12	1100-1200
8	5	1	6							900-1100
8	6					1	6			1100-1150

Table 8 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/8

The other finds from test pit eight included coal, modern glazed tile, fragments of shell, stone, substantial quantities of daub and a possible highly degraded coin in context six. The faunal assemblage included single bones of cow, pig and a small number of other unidentifiable remains.

Excavated within the boundaries of a moated medieval manor site, test pit eight is notable for the *lack* of medieval pottery that was recovered. Deposition during the known period of use is low by comparison with finds from test pits seven and 19, most likely reflecting patterns of land use and activity within the residential complex with the western part being kept relatively clean. Interestingly the deposition of pottery sherds ceases almost entirely in the Late Medieval period and there is no evidence for habitation until the present-day housing estate was built in the 1970s. This strongly indicates an abandonment of the moated manor site around the 14th century. Test pits 7 and 19 were also excavated within the confines of the moat and all three indicate an identical history, with abandonment of the site in the late medieval period and no further deposition or dumping of waste at all.

8.9 Test Pit nine (MEL/13/9)

Test pit nine was excavated near the main road on a grassy lawn adjacent to a terraced property of Allerton Terrace, a row of houses built c. 1910 for railway workers (14 High Street, Meldreth. Approximately TL 37679 45522). A second pit was also dug a few metres distance from this pit, recorded as Test Pit 11.



Figure 13 - Location map of MEL/13/9

Test pit nine encountered natural chalk across the whole of the test pit at a depth of 0.3m. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled, and a new test pit started a few metres to the north (test pit 11).

Test pit nine produced three sherds of Hertfordshire Greyware and 33 Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	HG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	1	1	5	6	21	1150-1900
9	2	2	6	15	20	1150-1900
9	3			12	24	1800-1900

Table 9 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/9

Other finds included glass, fragments of clay pipes, brick, stone, coal and charcoal, slate, metal objects, winkle and oyster shells. Two buttons were also found. The faunal assemblage included a single rabbit bone and four other unidentifiable remains.



The finds suggest that this area was used as fields some time during the 12th-14th centuries, but has otherwise remained unoccupied until the Victorian period, possibly shortly before the present houses were built at the site. Test pit 11 was excavated a few metres away from test pit nine, and tells a similar story with all the pottery found coming from the Victorian era. Located at the SE edge of the modern main village settlement at Meldreth, it therefore appears that this area of High Street has only been recently colonised, probably during an episode of village expansion in the 19th century. Settlement in earlier times appears to have been located west and north of this area.

8.10 Test Pit 10 (MEL/13/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in a field to the rear of Fieldgate Nurseries, a family business started in 1969 (32 Station Road, Meldreth, SG8 6JP. Approximate location TL 3763 4488).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, reaching a sandy clay soil with areas of chalk showing in the eastern corners of the pit. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

This test pit produced a range of pottery including a collection of Romano British ware, small quantities of Medieval Shelly Ware, Medieval Sandy Ware, Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware all dating to the 12th -14th centuries, a single sherd of Staffordshire Slipware dating to the post-medieval period and five Victorian-era sherds.

Figure 14 - Location map of MEL/13/10



TP	Context	RB		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1			1	2			1	1	4	13	1	5	1	3	100-1900
10	2	3	6											4	4	100-1900
10	3	1	1			1	5	1	1	1	4					100-1400
10	4	1	8	3	12	2	10	1	3							100-1400
10	5	2	7													100-400

Table 10 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/10

Other finds included metal tacks, a hand-made square nail, brick, tile, stone, and some shell. The faunal assemblage included three unidentifiable bones of sheep-sized animals.

This test pit was one of two dug within the same field just a few tens of metres apart (see also TP 21). Both pits contained seven Roman pottery sherds, suggesting a relatively consistent distribution and density of activity during this period across this area of Meldreth, and together with the Roman pottery finds from the main centre of the village they contribute towards a general scatter of Roman-era pottery that most likely corresponds to the presence of one or a couple of farms surrounded by farmed fields at this time. The area around test pit 10 then appears to have been abandoned until the medieval period when the small quantities of pottery indicate its use as fields during the 12th -14th centuries, but was then little utilised again until the post-medieval period. The pottery from test pit 21 includes further fragments from the late medieval

and post-medieval periods, indicating small variations in distribution and spatial patterning across this field.

8.11 Test Pit 11 (MEL/13/11)

Test pit 11 was excavated near the main road on a grassy lawn adjacent to a terraced property of Allerton Terrace, a row of houses built c. 1910 for railway workers (14 High Street, Meldreth. Approximately TL 37679 45522). A second pit was also dug a few metres south from this pit, recorded as Test Pit 9.



Figure 15 - Location map of MEL/13/11

Test pit 11 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m without finding natural. Due to time constraints excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from this test pit comprised a single type, represented by 74 Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	VIC		
		No	Wt	Date Range
11	1	24	31	1800-1900
11	2	22	42	1800-1900
11	3	15	18	1800-1900
11	4	8	9	1800-1900
11	5	5	39	1800-1900

Table 11 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/11

Other finds from Test pit 11 included glass, metal, stone and brick, coal and charcoal, fragments of clay pipe, 1 red bead, a china doll's head, an LNER railway button, a

battery core, slate and cinder. The faunal assemblage included a range of unidentifiable remains of mostly sheep-sized animals.

The finds suggest that this area remained unoccupied until the Victorian period, possibly shortly before the present houses were built at the site. Test pit nine was excavated a few metres away from test pit 11, and tells a similar story with virtually all the pottery found coming from the Victorian era. Located at the SE edge of the modern main village settlement at Meldreth, it therefore appears that this area of High Street has only been recently colonised, probably during an episode of village expansion in the 19th century. Settlement in earlier times appears to have been located west and north of this area. The button found in Context 4 is a testament to the site's railway connections, and fits well with the known history of the present houses on the site that were built specifically for railway workers (Kathryn Betts, pers. comm.).

8.12 Test Pit 12 (MEL/13/12)

Test pit 12 was excavated by school children on a school playing field behind Meldreth Primary School approximately 26m from the River Mel, on land that, to the best of local knowledge, had not previously been built on before (Meldreth Primary School, High Street, Meldreth, SG8 6LA. TL 37807 45932).

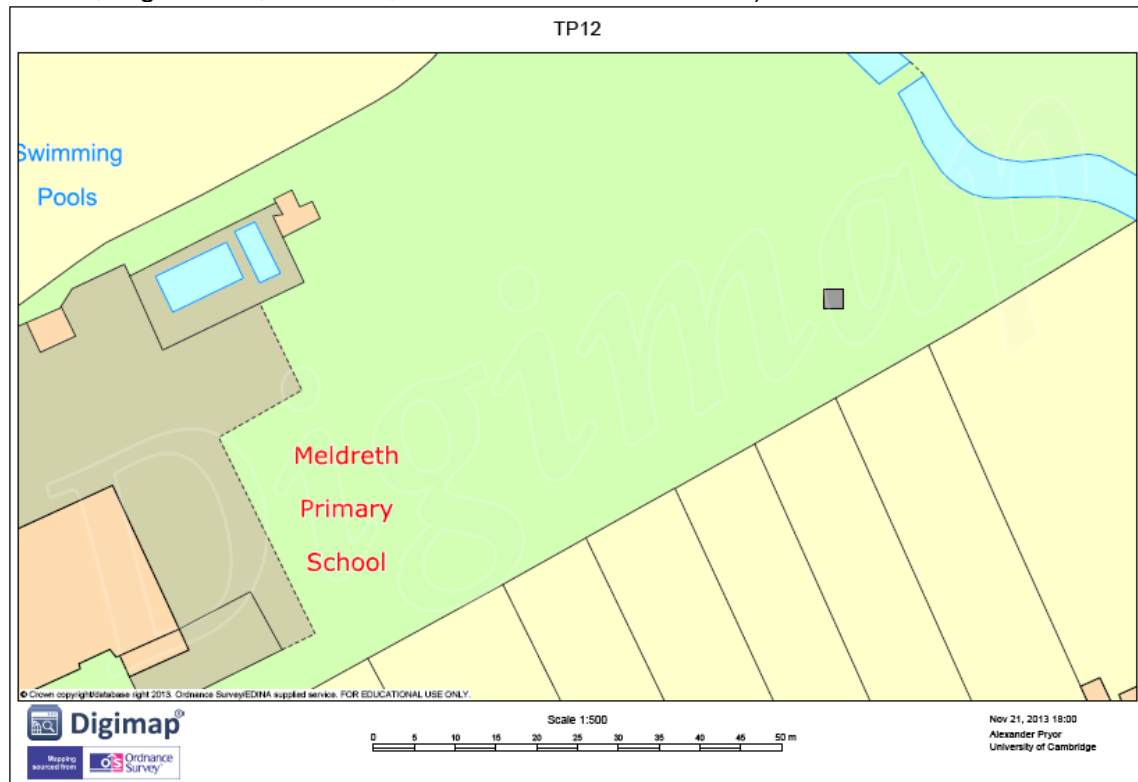


Figure 16 - Location map of MEL/13/12

Test pit 12 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, encountering chalky clay sediments. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from MEL/13/12 included a wide range of types including Bronze Age sherds, St Neots Ware, an assemblage of Early Medieval Sandy Ware Early Medieval Shelly Ware, Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware all dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Glazed Red Earthenware, English Stoneware and six Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	BA		SN		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		GRE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
12	1											1	1					1	1	1150-1900
12	2					3	17					2	7					3	3	1100-1900
12	3					1	1	1	3	2	6	4	14			1	9	2	3	1100-1900
12	4			3	12	3	20	8	21			9	49	1	1					900-1600
12	5					8	37	10	55			10	79							1100-1200
12	6			1	3	1	4			1	8									900-1400
12	7	3	7	2	5	2	2	1	12			5	8							1200BC-1200

Table 12 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/12

Other finds from test pit 12 included coal, glass, metal nails, a George II farthing coin, other metal objects and scraps, coal, brick, mortar, fragments of oyster shell and pumice stone. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig and some other unidentifiable remains.

Test pit 12 was one of eight pits to contain Bronze Age pottery, strongly indicating settlement activity somewhere in the vicinity of the present Meldreth village at this time. The area around test pit 12 then appears to have been abandoned until the late Saxon era when occupation resumed, with 72 sherds of High Medieval pottery indicating definite settlement when the immediate area where the test pit was dug was likely used for dumping household waste. This test pit is one of several excavated near the River Mel to show evidence for past settlement by the waterway, showing that the village continued down to the stream in at least this part of the village, and could have been used for either residential settlement or industrial activities.

Deposition in test pit 12 ceases in the late medieval period, with only a very small background scattering of finds after this date. In this context the find of an 18th century George II farthing coin is intriguing, as the area was not settled at the time this coin would have been in circulation, so the coin is likely to be a casual loss. In summary, the findings from this test pit support local memories that the area has not been settled in recent times, but also reveal clear evidence for occupation during the medieval period that subsequently disappeared and moved west to the present location of the village.

8.13 Test Pit 13 (MEL/13/13)

Test pit 13 was excavated in the rear garden of a large detached seventeenth century timber framed Grade II listed¹³ thatched cottage located next to Meldreth Primary School (Keys Cottage, High Street, Meldreth. Approximate location TL 3768 4592). The pit was located to the rear of an adjacent 1980s house, built on land that formerly belonged with Key's Cottage.



Figure 17 - Location map of MEL/13/13

Test pit 13 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m encountering a fine clayey soil. Natural was not found, but coring to 0.96m discovered a grey/white clay at the base of the sondage that was interpreted as natural. Due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from Test Pit 14 included a wide range of types including Romano British Ware, St Neots Ware and Stamford Ware dating to the Saxon period, Medieval Shelly Ware, Medieval Sandy Ware, Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th -14th centuries, Late Medieval Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware, English Stoneware and a very large assemblage of 201 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds from this test pit included glass, metal nails, an old metal hinge and other metal objects, a Chinese coin, clay pipe fragments, plastic, tile, brick, a corroded battery, shell fragments and some stone (figure 17a). The faunal assemblage

¹³ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-52278-keys-cottage-meldreth-cambridgeshire> (accessed November 2013)



included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, horse, cat, chicken and some other unidentifiable remains.

TP	Context	RB		SN		STAM		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		LMT	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
13	1																
13	2															1	22
13	3											1	2			3	22
13	4					1	1							3	5	2	6
13	5	2	11					1	1					11	31		
13	6			1	2			1	4	1	4	1	2	3	11		

GRE		SS		EST		VIC		Date Range
No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
				1	3	23	25	1700-1900
1	8					39	165	1400-1900
		1	5			5	8	1200-1900
								1000-1550
								100-1200
						1	3	1100-1900

Table 13 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/13

The two sherds of Romano-British ware found in this test pit form part of a general pattern of Roman-era pottery found across the central part of the present settlement at Meldreth, indicating activity in the area at this time most likely corresponding to a small number of farms surrounded by fields. Low levels of activity seem to have continued in the area around test pit 13, which was most likely used as fields throughout most of the past 2000 years although with some increase in activity during the 12th-14th centuries possibly indicating a nearby domestic residence at this point. The low-density deposition suggesting use as fields or gardens resumes in the post-medieval period, until clear evidence for reoccupation appears in the Victorian era. Located close to the core of the village, Mel/13/13 appears to be a completely classic example of a Meldreth test pit, producing a selection of finds typical for the history of the village.

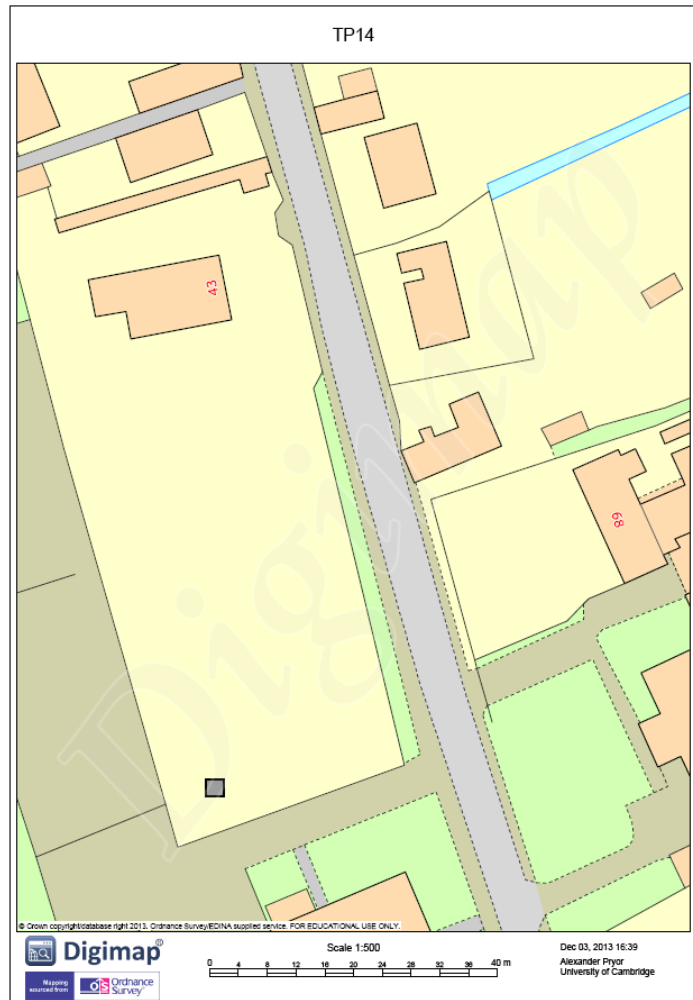
8.14 Test Pit 14 (MEL/13/14)

Test pit 14 was excavated in the garden adjacent to a large detached property, close to the drive that leads to the village hall car park (43 High Street, Meldreth. TL 37625 45869). The main part of Meldreth House was built in 1848 using clay bats on a brick foundation.

Test pit 14 was excavated to a depth of 0.9m, uncovering natural deposits of clunch mottled with iron. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from Test Pit 14 included single sherds of Bronze Age and Romano British Ware, Early Medieval Sandy Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Late Medieval Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, English Stoneware and 24 Victorian-era sherds.

Figure 18 - Location map of MEL/13/14



TP	Context	BA		RB		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
14	1									1	7	2	12			1	2	1400-1900
14	2											1	1			9	15	1550-1900
14	3			1	5					1	5					12	25	100-1900
14	4													1	8	2	52	1700-1900
14	5									1	22							1400-1550
14	6							8	39									1100-1150
14	7									1	1							1400-1550
14	8	1	6					1	2									1200BC-1200
14	9					1	2											1100-1150

Table 14 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/14

Other finds from this test pit included glass, slate, coal, brick and mortar, daub, charcoal, shell and assorted metal objects. The faunal assemblage included some unidentifiable bones of mostly sheep-sized animals.



Test pit 14 was one of eight pits to contain Bronze Age pottery, strongly indicating settlement activity somewhere in the vicinity of the present Meldreth village at this time. The single sherd of Romano-British ware also contributes towards a general scatter of Roman-era pottery across the central part of the present settlement at Meldreth, indicating activity in the area at this time most likely corresponding to a one or a couple of farms, surrounded by fields. The area around test pit 14 then appears to have been abandoned until the High Medieval period when small-scale deposition may indicate habitation somewhere in the vicinity. Low levels of activity seem to have continued corresponding to the use as gardens or fields up until the 19th century, when increased deposition indicates the area was occupied once again.

8.15 Test Pit 15 (MEL/13/15)

Test pit 15 was excavated on an area of rough land in front of a detached property located in the central part of Meldreth village (79 High Street, Meldreth. Approximate location TL 37535 46302).

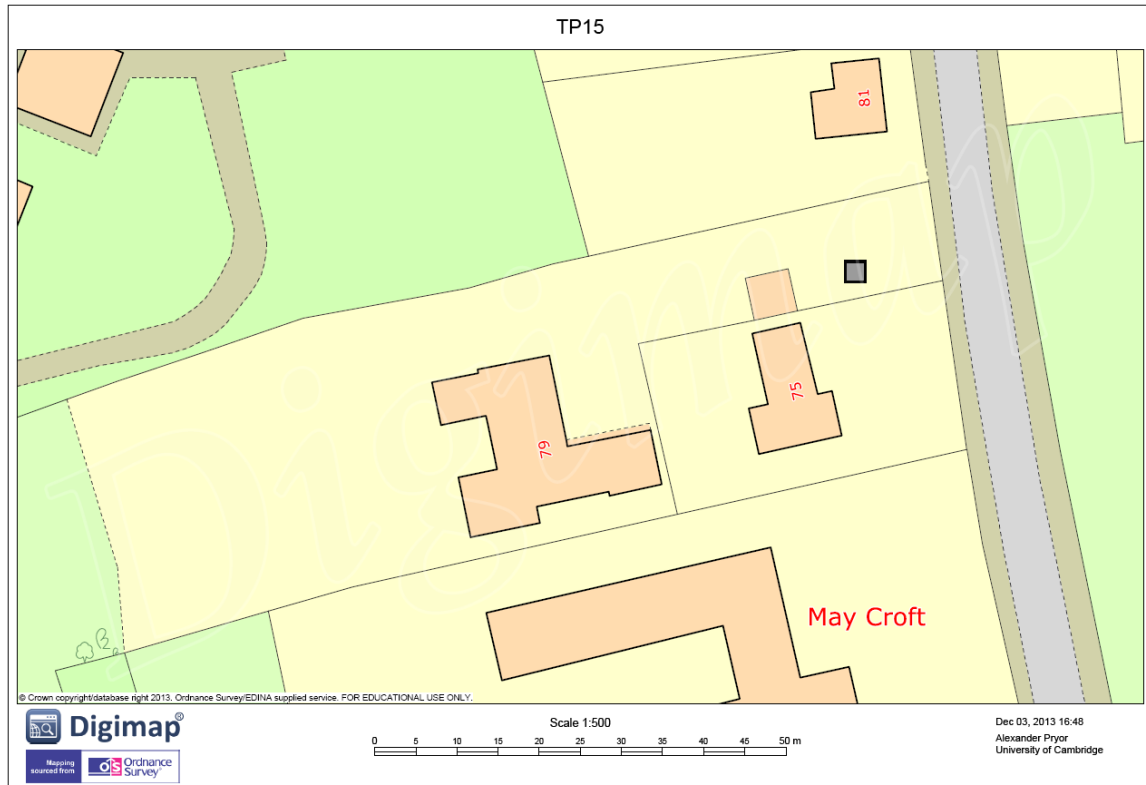


Figure 19 - Location map of MEL/13/15

Test pit 15 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m, uncovering evidence of a trench slot running through the southern part of the test pit where a pipe was believed to have been laid. This part was left unexcavated, and digging continued in the northern part of the pit to a depth of 0.8m whereupon solid clay layers were reached. The excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from this test pit included small quantities of Romano British ware, Hedingham Ware, Late Medieval Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware and four Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	RB		HED		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
15	1									1	1	1800-1900
15	2			1	10	1	7	1	14	3	8	1200-1900
15	3	1	1									100-400

Table 15 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/15

Other finds from test pit 15 included a metal nail, brick and tile fragments, and some oyster shell fragments. The faunal assemblage comprised a single bone of fox.



Located in the land between the main southern cluster of village houses and the church to the north, the pottery finds from test pit 15 indicate the area has largely functioned as fields since the Roman period, with breaks in use during the Saxon period and also during the post-medieval period. This is a similar picture to that observed at test pit 22 located nearby, and also in pits 4 and 26, together suggesting that a gap of open fields existed for much of the last 2,000 years between the main village core and the village church, the latter of which has two moated manorial sites near to it.

8.16 Test Pit 16 (MEL/13/16)

Test pit 16 was excavated on a grassy lawn to the rear of a detached property built on farmland in the mid 1950s by Ralph Newell, originally known as Lyndhurst (39 Whitecroft Road, Meldreth, SG8 6LS. Approximate location TL 37346 45684).

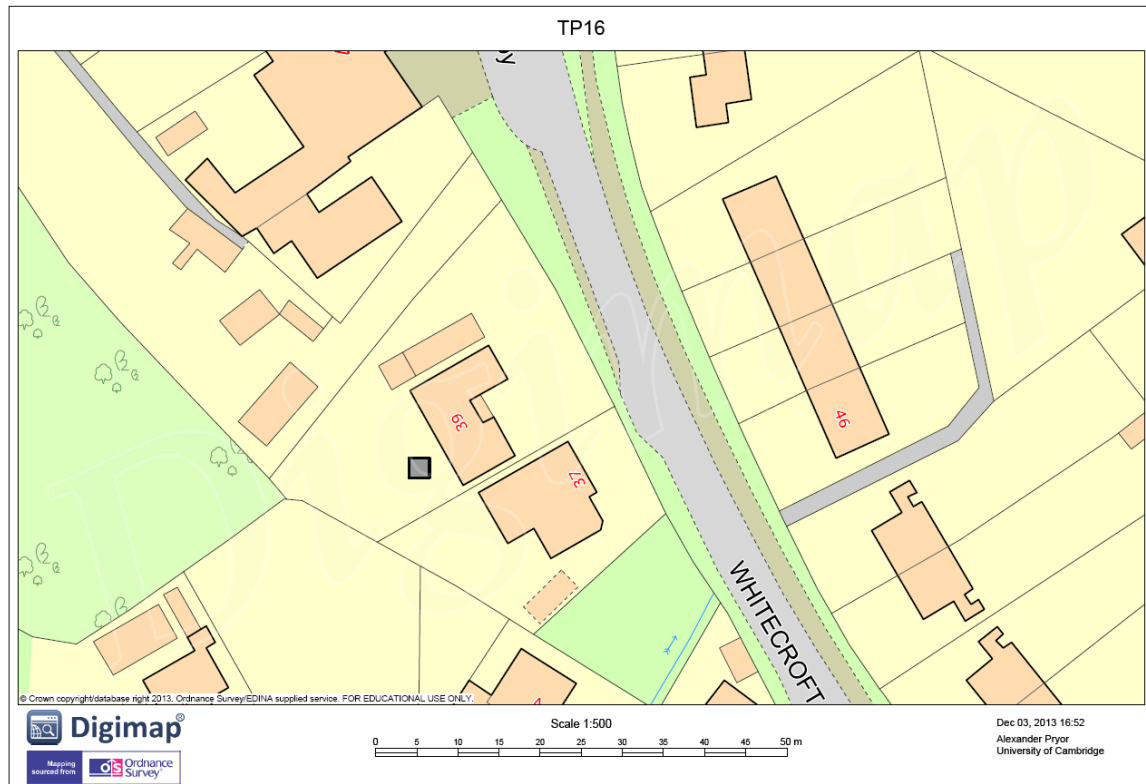


Figure 20 - Location map of MEL/13/16

Test pit 16 was excavated to a depth of 0.9m whereupon some large bones were discovered in semi-waterlogged sediments. Due to waterlogging and time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	RB		EMW		HED		HG		LMT		GRE		HSW		WCS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
16	1							3	10			4	44			1	4	19	47	1150-1900
16	2											2	14					29	74	1550-1900
16	3							2	7									1	1	1150-1900
16	4					1	2	1	3					1	11					1200-1650
16	5			1	2			4	24	1	21							1	1	1100-1900
16	6							5	24											1150-1200
16	7							2	7											1150-1200
16	8	5	16																	100-400

Table 16 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/16

The pottery from test pit 16 included five sherds of Romano-British Ware, Early Medieval Sandy Ware, Hedingham Ware, Late Medieval Ware, and an assemblage

of post-medieval sherds including Glazed Red Earthenware, Harlow Slipware, Cologne Stoneware and 50 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds included glass, metal nails, a metal coin, a metal button and other metal scraps, oyster and whelk shells, clay pipe fragments, stone, mortar and charcoal. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig and some other unidentifiable remains. These included large fragments of cow bone found in the bottom of the pit.

The Romano-British sherds found here indicate the site was certainly used at this time, and form part of a general scatter of similarly-dated finds across the central part of the present village at Meldreth. Smaller numbers of Roman-era sherds were also noted at nearby test pits 2 and 3 and those found around the rest of the village together collectively suggest the existence of a Roman farmhouse or homestead nearby. The area then appears to have been abandoned during the Saxon era, but reoccupied during the medieval period. Activity dropped off again in the late medieval and post-medieval periods suggesting a change in the way the land immediately around the test pit was used, but the finds from this and from neighbouring test pits collectively suggest that this part of the village as a whole remained continuously occupied from the high medieval era through to the present time.

8.17 Test Pit 17 (MEL/13/17)

Test pit 17 was excavated in the rear garden of a 1960s semi-detached property (7 The Grange, Meldreth. Approximate location TL 37602 45745). This test pit was located in the back garden, close to the location of an older house which was demolished in 1962.

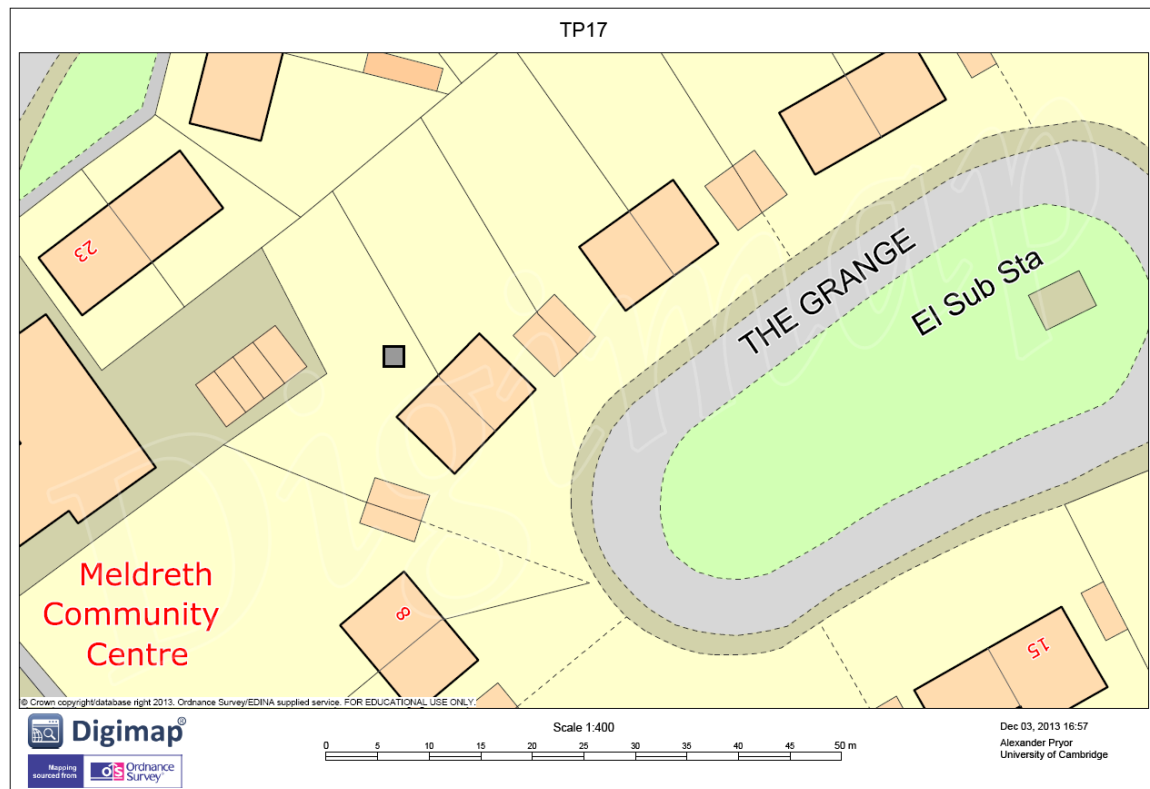


Figure 21 - Location map of MEL/13/17

Test pit 17 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m, uncovering a clay-rich deposit which was assumed by the excavators to be natural. Excavations were therefore halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

This test pit produced a single sherd of Hertfordshire Greyware and three Victorian-era sherds. The other finds from test pit 17 included brick, coal, glass, a metal tack and a possible musket ball. The faunal assemblage included a single bone each of dog, cat, rabbit, crow and frog/toad, as well as some other unidentifiable remains.

TP	Context	HG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
17	2			2	2	1800-1900
17	3	1	8	1	3	1150-1900

Table 17 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/17

The evidence suggests this area was not used until relatively late in the history of the village, with only minimal disturbance occurring until the modern houses were constructed in the 1960s. This is surprising, given the proximity of the pit to the main

road through the village (High Street) and the likely central part of the medieval village. It is also starkly different to test pit 18, excavated just a few metres to the SW.

8.18 Test Pit 18 (MEL/13/18)

Test pit 18 was excavated in the rear garden of a 1960s semi-detached property (8 The Grange, Meldreth. Approximate location TL 37589 45714). This test pit was located in the back garden, close to the location of an older house which was demolished in 1962.

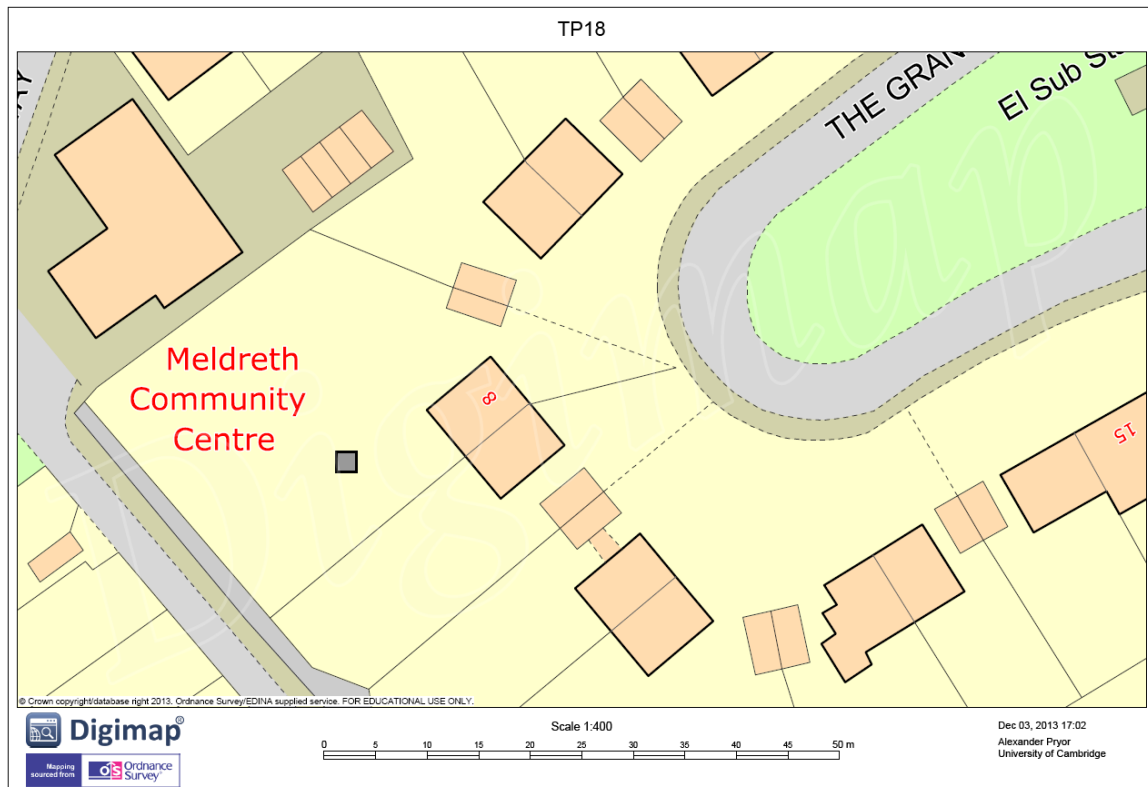


Figure 22 - Location map of MEL/13/18

Test pit 18 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m encountering a light grey/creamy clay, with a small 0.2m² sondage excavated to a further 20cm depth in the NE corner of the pit where soil was still present. Due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	SN		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
18	1					2	5	1	4	3	9	1	3	1	2	1100-1900
18	2					1	2			2	9			32	35	1100-1900
18	3	4	8	2	3	9	15			2	2			2	2	900-1900
18	4			7	16	3	4	1	2	2	11	3	3			1100-1600
18	5			3	13	1	2			4	27					1100-1200
18	6					4	63			4	19					1100-1200

Table 18 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/18

The pottery from this test pit included St Neots Ware dating to the late Anglo Saxon period, an assemblage of 12th -14th century sherds including Medieval Shelly Ware, Medieval Sandy Ware, Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware, some Glazed



Red Earthenware dating to the post-medieval period and 35 sherds of Victorian-era sherds.

The other finds from this site included burnt daub, stone, glass, clay pipe fragments, brick, slate, tile and charcoal. No faunal remains were recovered from Mel/13/18.

Test pit 18 holds good evidence that the area was first occupied during the medieval period, probably some time in the 11th -12th centuries. The pit was one of seven in the village to produce more than 50 sherds of pottery dating to the 12th -14th centuries, indicating very intensive activity in these areas at this time. The area was abandoned in the late medieval era likely correlating to a fall in population related to the Black Death, and the area then appears to have been used as fields or gardens until the 19th-20th centuries. Test pit 18 contrasts sharply with test pit 17 that was dug a few metres to the NE, indicating the localised nature of past depositional activity in this part of the village.

8.19 Test Pit 19 (MEL/13/19)

Test pit 19 was excavated in the SE corner of a patch of grassy common land in the middle of a 1970s housing estate (Flambards Green, Meldreth. Very approximate location TL 3784 4579). The pit was located within what was once a moat that was filled in when the modern houses were built, formerly part of Flambards Manor. A medieval manor house once stood near this site.

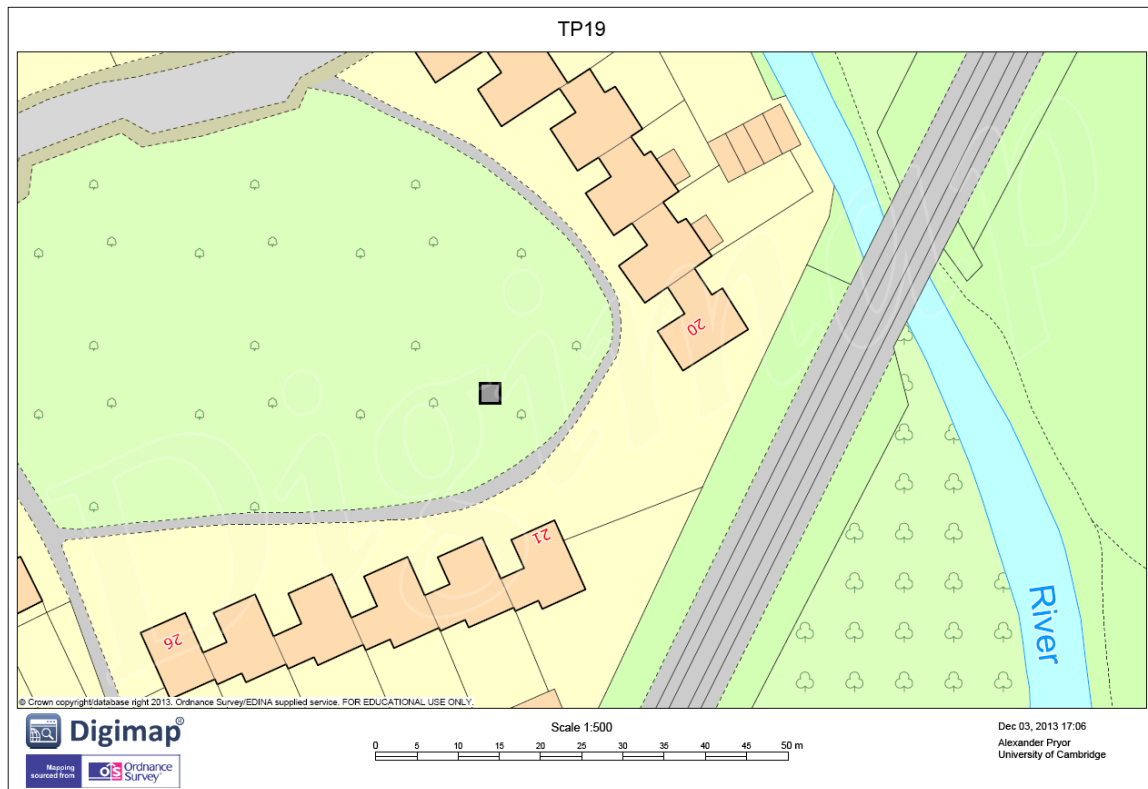


Figure 23 - Location map of MEL/13/19

Test pit 19 was excavated to a depth of 1.05m, encountering a layer of natural clay. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	RB		SN		STAM		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
19	1									1	6									1100-1150
19	2							2	15	4	44	11	33	32	118	3	30	2	2	1100-1900
19	3							4	10	9	53	30	96	34	229					1100-1400
19	4							7	71	23	217			14	95					1100-1200
19	5			1	3			2	10	1	11			13	119					1000-1200
19	6	1	1			1	1	24	121	1	5			2	5					100-1200
19	7							5	12					1	4					1100-1200

Table 19 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/19

Test pit 19 produced a single sherd of Roman-era pottery, and single sherds of St Neots Ware and Stamford Ware dating to the late Anglo Saxon period. The High Medieval assemblage included large quantities of Medieval Shelly Ware, Medieval

Sandy Ware, Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-14th centuries. Three sherds of Late Medieval Ware and two sherds Victorian-era sherds were also found.

Other finds from this test pit included a metal screw and other metal nails and tacks, fragments of oyster and whelk shell, charcoal, stone, slate and a chalk spindle weight. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, red deer, chicken, wader and a large collection of other unidentifiable remains from mostly sheep-sized animals.

As might be expected for a test pit excavated within the boundaries of a moated medieval manor site, test pit 19 produced exceptionally large quantities of medieval pottery including a range of different types and wares. Interestingly the deposition of pottery sherds virtually ceases in the Late Medieval period and the site appears to have been kept clean until the present-day housing estate was built in the 1970s. This strongly indicates a total abandonment of the moated manor site around the 14th century. Test pits 7 and 8 were also excavated within the confines of the moat and all three indicate an identical history, concluding with an apparent abandonment of the site in the late medieval period with no further deposition or dumping of waste at all. Test pits 7 and 19 were both excavated in the eastern part of the moated site and both had very large quantities of pot, indicating intense activity and dumping in this part of the residential complex. By contrast, test pit 8 was dug in the western part and produced only eight sherds in total, reflecting different activity zones across the site.

The single sherd of Romano-British ware contributes towards a general scatter of Roman-era pottery across the central part of the present settlement at Meldreth, indicating activity in the area at this time most likely corresponding to a one or a couple of farms, surrounded by fields.

8.20 Test Pit 20 (MEL/13/20)

Test pit 20 was excavated on an area of land close to the railway line and not far from Meldreth train station, close to a former footpath. in the SE part of Meldreth parish, (across the railway line from 32 High Street, Meldreth. Very approximate location TL 3782 4559). Old maps show no evidence of occupation on the site.

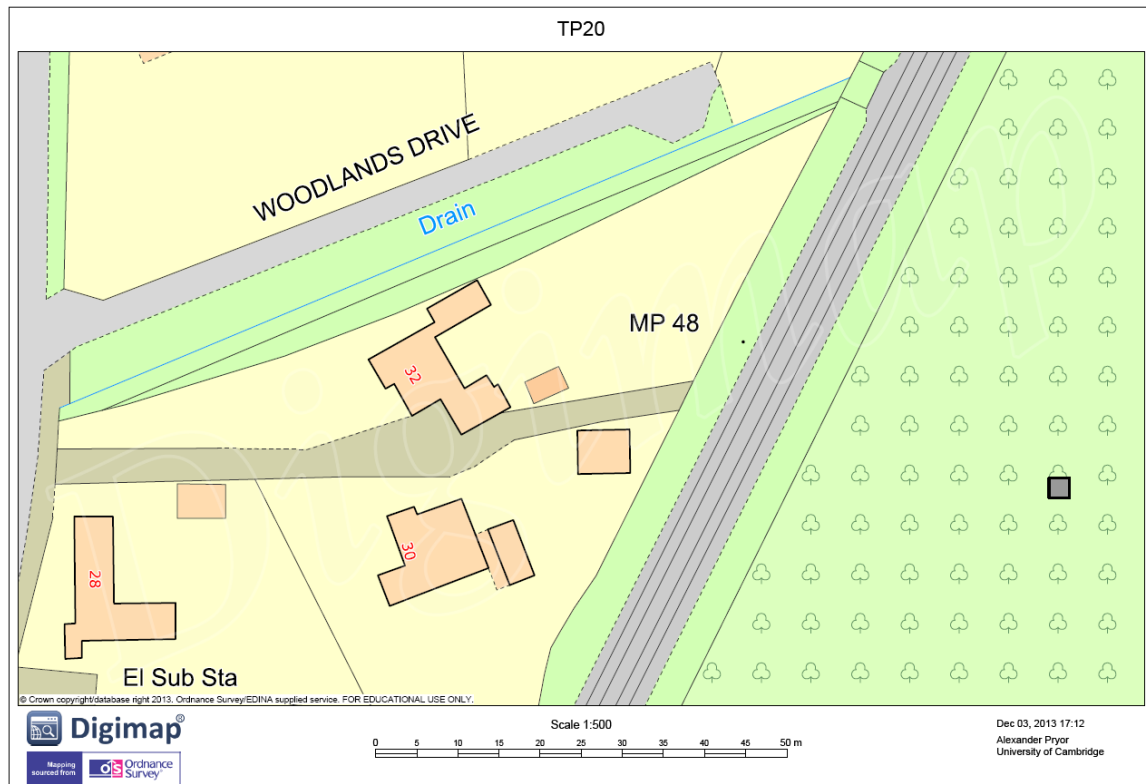


Figure 24 - Location map of MEL/13/20

Test pit 20 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, exposing a solid clay layer that was assumed by the excavators to be natural. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	BA		RB		SN		EMW		HED		HG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
20	1					1	3					3	14	1	3	1000-1900
20	2					5	20	3	6			3	4	6	6	900-1900
20	3	1	5			5	32			1	1	3	15			1200BC-1400
20	4			2	2	5	15									100-1100
20	5	4	12	1	6											1200BC-400
20	6	6	28													1200-800BC

Table 20 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/20

The diverse pottery assemblage from MEL/13/20 included 11 Bronze Age sherds, three Romano-British sherds, 16 sherds of St Neots Ware dating to the late Anglo Saxon period, Medieval Sandy Ware, Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-14th centuries and seven Victorian-era sherds.

The other finds from this test pit included glass, plastic fireworks containers, brick, fragments of oyster shell and large quantities of unworked flint. This test pit produced the largest assemblage of knapped flints from the Meldreth test pitting project, comprising one primary flake, 11 secondary flakes and eight tertiary flakes, and the relatively large quantities of worked flint from test pit 20 indicates some potential for substantial lithic scatters to be located in this area. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat and some other unidentifiable remains.

Excavated in the far SE corner of the modern distribution of housing in Meldreth, test pit 20 produced a surprisingly rich and diverse assemblage of pottery indicating past settlement in this vicinity. This commenced some time during the Bronze Age, with the pottery finds suggesting that intact, stratified prehistoric contexts may be preserved at below 0.5m depth relating to residential housing activities. The area was also used during the Roman period, perhaps as fields and activities continued into the Anglo Saxon and high medieval eras. The area was then abandoned in the late medieval period likely relating to a contraction of the village due to the effects of the Black Death, and was not used again until the 19th century when it appears to have functioned as fields.

Test pit 20 is located near to the River Mel, and the number of finds may indicate Bronze Age settlement in this vicinity, sited close to the stream.

8.21 Test Pit 21 (MEL/13/21)

Test pit 21 was excavated in a field in the southern end of the parish, behind some garden nurseries and next to Bury Lane (now a track) (Fieldgate Nurseries, Station Road, Meldreth. Very approximate location TL 3762 4494).

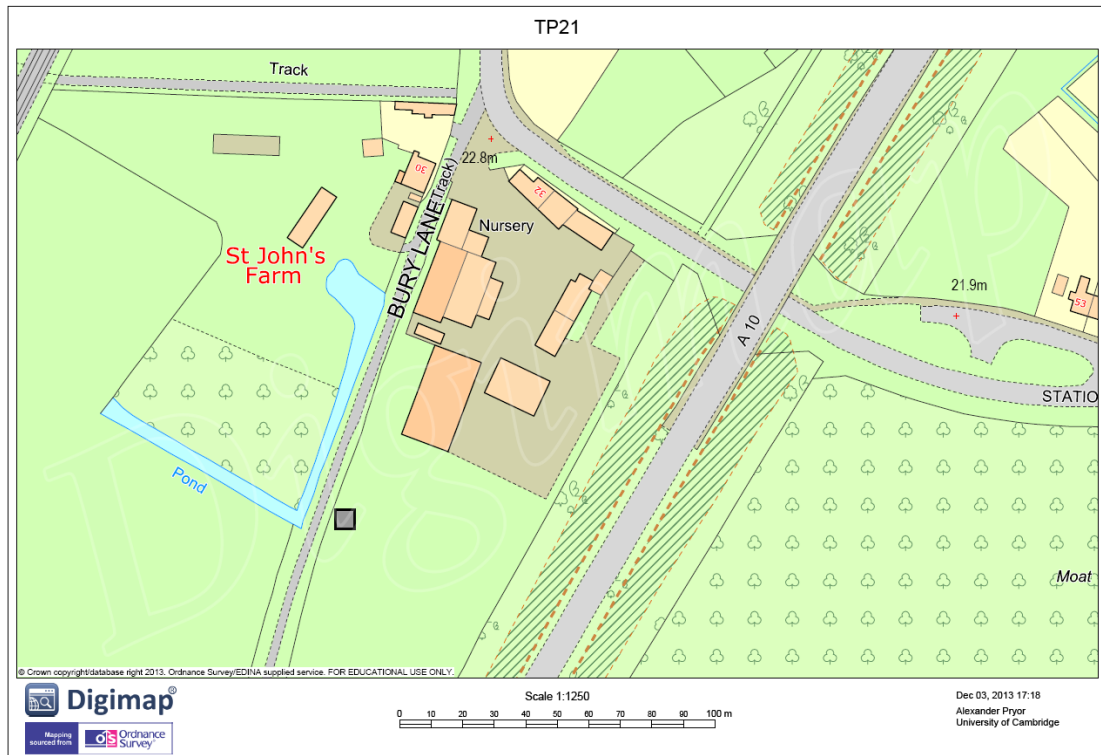


Figure 25 - Location map of MEL/13/21

Test pit 21 was excavated to a depth of 1.0m. Excavations were halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from this test pit included seven Roman-era sherds, two sherds of St Neots Ware from the Late Saxon period, some Heddingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware from the late 12th-14th century AD, some Late Medieval sherds, some Glazed Red Earthenware dating to the post-medieval period and two Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	RB		SN		HED		HG		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
21	1	2	4			1	1					2	26			100-1600
21	2							2	2							1150-1200
21	3	5	11													100-400
21	4			1	3			3	10	2	8			2	3	900-1900
21	5					2	3	3	7							1150-1400
21	6			1	4			1	1							1000-1200
21	8							1	2							1150-1200

Table 21 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/21



Other finds included metal nails and other metal scraps, shells, stone, brick, charcoal and some fragments of clay pipe and oyster shell. The faunal assemblage included six unidentifiable remains of sheep-sized animals.

This test pit was one of two dug within the same field a few 10s of metres apart (see also TP 10). Both pits contained an identical number of Roman pottery sherds (i.e. 7), suggesting a relatively consistent distribution and density of activity during this period across this area of Meldreth, and together with the Roman pottery finds from the main centre of the village they contribute towards a general scatter of Roman-era pottery that most likely corresponds to the presence of one or a couple of farms surrounded by farmed fields at this time. The area then appears to have been abandoned until the Late Saxon or medieval periods when it was in use as fields during the 11th -14th centuries, with low-key activity and small-scale deposition continuing into the post-medieval period. It appears that this area has never been occupied with residential housing.

8.22 Test Pit 22 (MEL/13/22)

Test pit 22 was excavated in the grounds of Meldreth Manor, a late seventeenth century Grade II listed¹⁴ red brick building towards the northern end of the village, on a lawn to the south of the building (Meldreth Manor School, Meldreth. TL 37470 46445). The building is today used as a school for disabled children and young people.

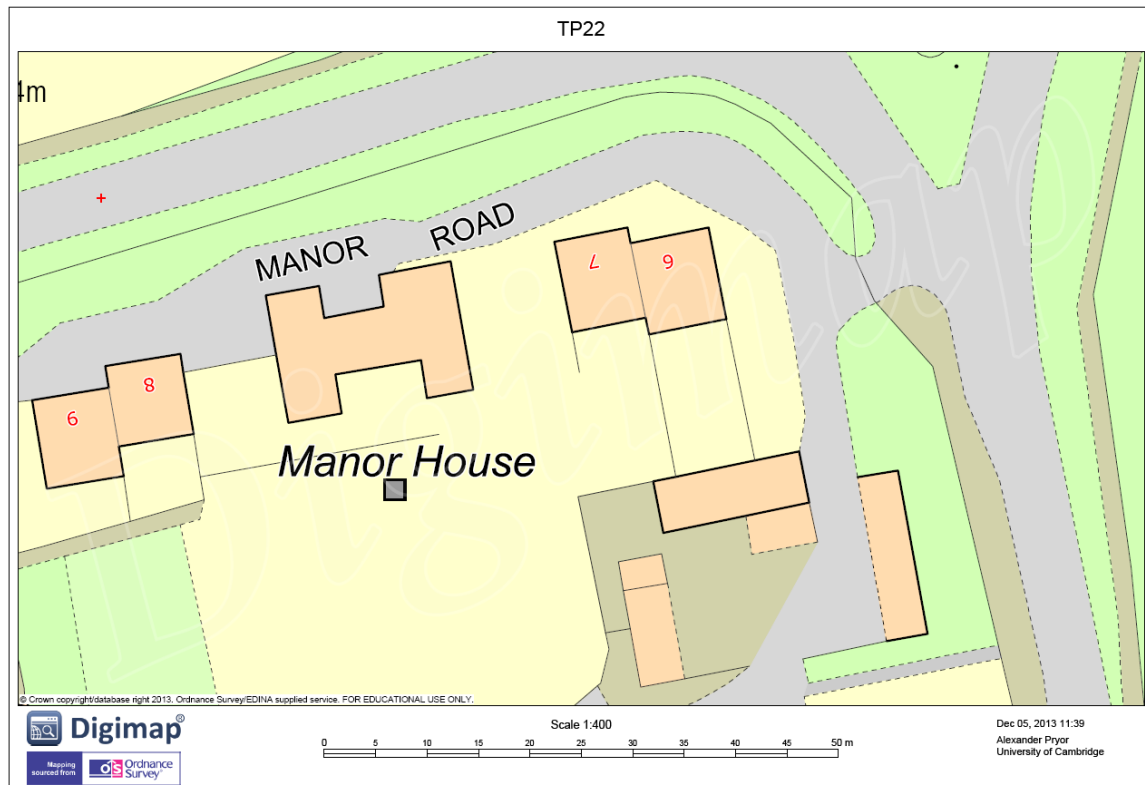


Figure 26 - Location map of MEL/13/22

Test pit 22 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, exposing a layer of clay mixed with small stones and pebbles. A small area of the pit was dug to a depth of 0.8m encountering no further finds. Excavations were halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from this test pit included two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware dating to the post-medieval period and 40 Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
22	2			3	12	1800-1900
22	3	1	31	6	13	1550-1900
22	4	1	7	20	67	1550-1900
22	5			7	56	1800-1900
22	6			4	9	1800-1900

Table 22 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/22

¹⁴ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-52282-manor-house-at-meldreth-manor-school-meld> (accessed December 2013)

Other finds included nails, fragments of clay pipe, tile, daub, glass, coal, slate and a button. The faunal assemblage included four unidentifiable bones of mixed sizes.

Located on land in the gap between the main southern cluster of village houses and the church to the north, the pottery finds from test pit 22 indicate the area has largely remained unoccupied or functioned as fields until the 19th century. While other pits in this area indicate the use as fields since the Roman period (see test pits 4, 15 and 26), test pit 22 has no evidence for activity until around the 16th century. It is also clear that disturbance during the Victorian period was more intense in the area around test pits 4 and 22, which is clearly related to their functions respectively as a public house and as a school. The finds from test pit 22 contribute towards the emerging picture suggesting that a gap of open fields existed for much of the last 2,000 years between the main village core and the village church, the latter of which also has two moated manorial sites near to it.

8.23 Test Pit 23 (MEL/13/23)

Test pit 23 was excavated close to Whitecroft Road on the site of Hope Folly, a building with a rich and varied history (11 Whitecroft Road, Meldreth. Approximate location TL 37557 45477). Hope Folly was built towards the end of the nineteenth century and variously used as a gasworks, prisoner of war camp in WWI, residential accommodation and mushroom growing (Kathryn Betts pers. comm.)

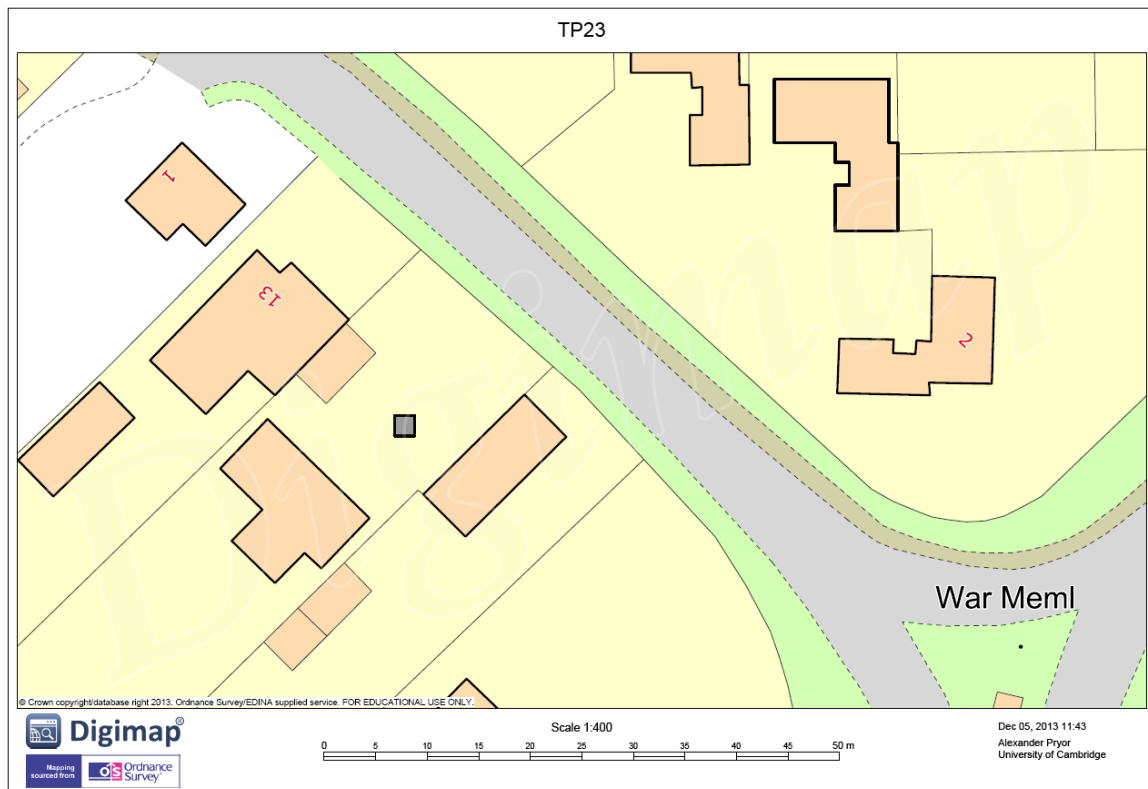


Figure 27 - Location map of MEL/13/23

Test pit 23 was excavated to a depth of 0.8m reaching natural chalk deposits. Excavations were halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	BA		RB		SN		HED		HG		LMT		MB		VIC		Date Range	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
23	1			1	2												1	1	100-1900
23	2			1	1			1	5			1	4				6	7	100-1900
23	3			3	11					1	2	1	5	1	2				100-1600
23	4									1	12								1150-1200
23	5					1	5												900-1100
23	6	9	25																1200-800BC
23	7	2	5																1200-800BC

Table 23 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/23

This test pit produced a range of pottery including 11 Bronze Age sherds, five Romano-British sherds, 1 single sherd of St Neots Ware dating to the late Saxon period, a few sherds of Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the



12th -14th centuries, Late Medieval Ware, Midland Blackware dating to the post-medieval period and seven Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds included glass, nails and other metal scraps, charcoal, stone, fragments of clay pipe, brick and tile. The faunal assemblage included three unidentifiable bones of mixed size.

Test pit 23 contains good evidence for Bronze Age residential occupation, contributing towards a widespread scattering of Bronze Age sherds across many areas of the modern-day village. The five Roman-era sherds also suggest activity during the 1st -5th centuries AD, and collectively with the Roman sherds from other test pits they suggest the likely presence of one or more farms or homesteads surrounded by fields at this time. The very small numbers of pottery sherds found after the Roman period suggest the area continued to be used as fields, but there is no evidence that the area immediately adjacent to test pit 23 was ever occupied. No evidence of the industrial activities that have taken place in the vicinity of 11 Whitecroft Road was found.

8.24 Test Pit 24 (MEL/13/24)

Test pit 24 was excavated in front of a house built in 1985 on farmland that was owned by John Elbourn (29 Whitecroft Road, Meldreth. Approximately TL 37426 45602). In the 1940s and 1950s Percy Cox had a forge near this site, and the pit is also close to fourteenth century Chiswick House.



Figure 28 - Location map of MEL/13/24

Test pit 24 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m encountering deposits of clay. Digging continued across half the pit to a depth of 0.7m, but due to time constraints excavation ceased at this point and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
24	1					3	8	1800-1900
24	2			1	9	4	5	1550-1900
24	3	1	5	1	2	3	25	1400-1900
24	4					3	7	1800-1900
24	5			1	21	5	8	1550-1900
24	6					10	44	1800-1900
24	7					2	12	1800-1900

Table 24 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/24

The pottery from this test pit included a single sherd of Late Medieval Ware, three Glazed Red Earthenware sherds dating to the post-medieval period and 30 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds from test pit 24 included glass, metal fragments, shell, charcoal, brick and other building rubble, slate and fragments of clay pipe. The faunal assemblage included a single bone of sheep/goat and some other unidentifiable remains. Test pit 24 also contained the only definitely retouched lithic from the Meldreth test pitting project, a secondary flake with bold, somewhat crude dorsal retouch that probably functioned as a cutting tool and most likely dates to the late prehistoric (Later Bronze Age to Iron Age) period.

Test pit 24 is the only one from the SW part of the village to show no pottery evidence for occupation prior to the late medieval period. Indeed, the small number of pre-Victorian sherds suggests the area was only ever used as fields or gardens until the 19th century. The presence of a likely Later Bronze Age or Iron Age retouched flint flake does however expand the evidence for prehistoric settlement in this vicinity, and ties in nicely with the Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery recovered from nearby test pit 23. No evidence of the forge that once stood near this site was found.

8.25 Test Pit 25 (MEL/13/25)

Test pit 25 was excavated on a grassy area beside a 17th century building constructed in 1676, which was used as a pub from at least 1726 to 1910 (The Old Bell, 51 High Street, Meldreth, SG86LA. Approximately TL 37606 45988).

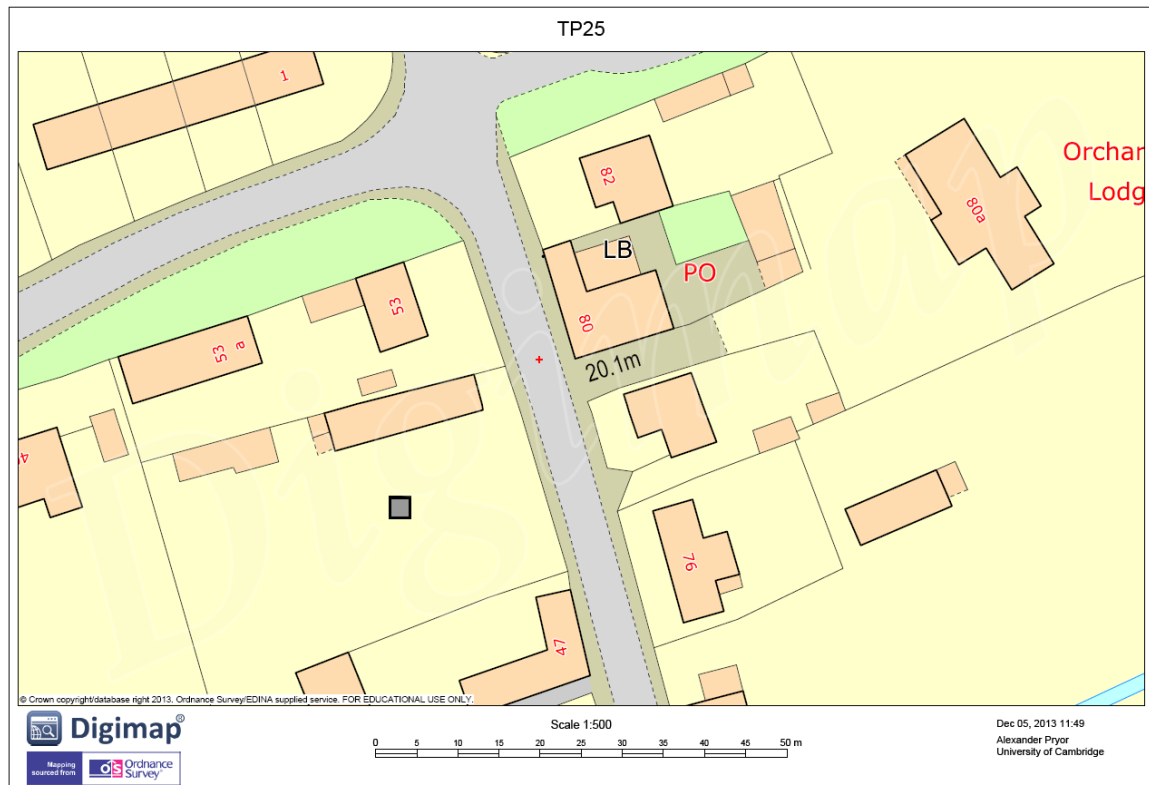


Figure 29 - Location map of MEL/13/25

Test pit 25 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, encountering a chalky, clay-rich soil. Due to time constraints, excavation ceased at this depth and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from test pit 25 included a range of medieval pottery from the 12th-14th centuries including Medieval Sandy Ware, Medieval Shelly Ware, Hedingham Ware, Mill Green Ware and a large quantity of Hertfordshire Greyware. Other types included Late Medieval Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Harlow Slipware, Staffordshire Slipware, English Stoneware and Manganese Ware all dating to the post-medieval period and a large collection of 140 Victorian-era sherds.

Other finds from this test pit included glass, nails, coal, fragments of clay pipe, fragments of oyster and mussel shell, slate, tile and brick. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, rabbit and some other unidentifiable remains.



TP	Context	SHC		EMW		HED		HG		MG		LMT	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
25	1							1	3				
25	2											1	1
25	3												
25	4	2	4	1	3	2	8	7	22	1	9	11	65
25	5			3	12	1	1	12	46				
25	6			3	20	4	8	9	29	1	2	1	4
25	7							17	48			2	2

GRE		HSW		SS		EST		SMW		VIC		Date Range
No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
								1	1	15	19	1150-1900
1	19					1	5			41	71	1400-1900
2	5	2	24							28	93	1550-1900
6	17	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	50	227	1000-1900
2	149									6	24	1100-1900
												1100-1550
												1150-1550

Table 25 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/25

MEL/13/25 produced a wide range of pottery types, albeit mostly in relatively small numbers. These suggest that the site was first used the High Medieval period and has been in continuous use ever since. Test pit 25 was one of seven to produce over 50 sherds of 12th-14th century pottery, indicating the intensity of deposition and activity at this time. Activity then dropped off during the late medieval period, likely associated with the consequences of the Black Death, and continued at a lower level possibly corresponding to its use as fields or gardens in the post-medieval era. The very large quantity of Victorian pottery suggests dumping of household waste in the area around the test pit during this period. Located in the heart of the village settlement at Meldreth, this test pit is a classic example of the history of the village over the last 1000 years.

8.26 Test Pit 26 (MEL/13/26)

Test pit 26 was excavated in the rear garden of a former miller's cottage connected with Topcliffe Mill (2 North End, Meldreth.TL 37610 46550). The village water pump near the cottage is Grade II listed. Behind the garden is a track, which once led directly to the mill. It is marked as a lane on old maps of the village.

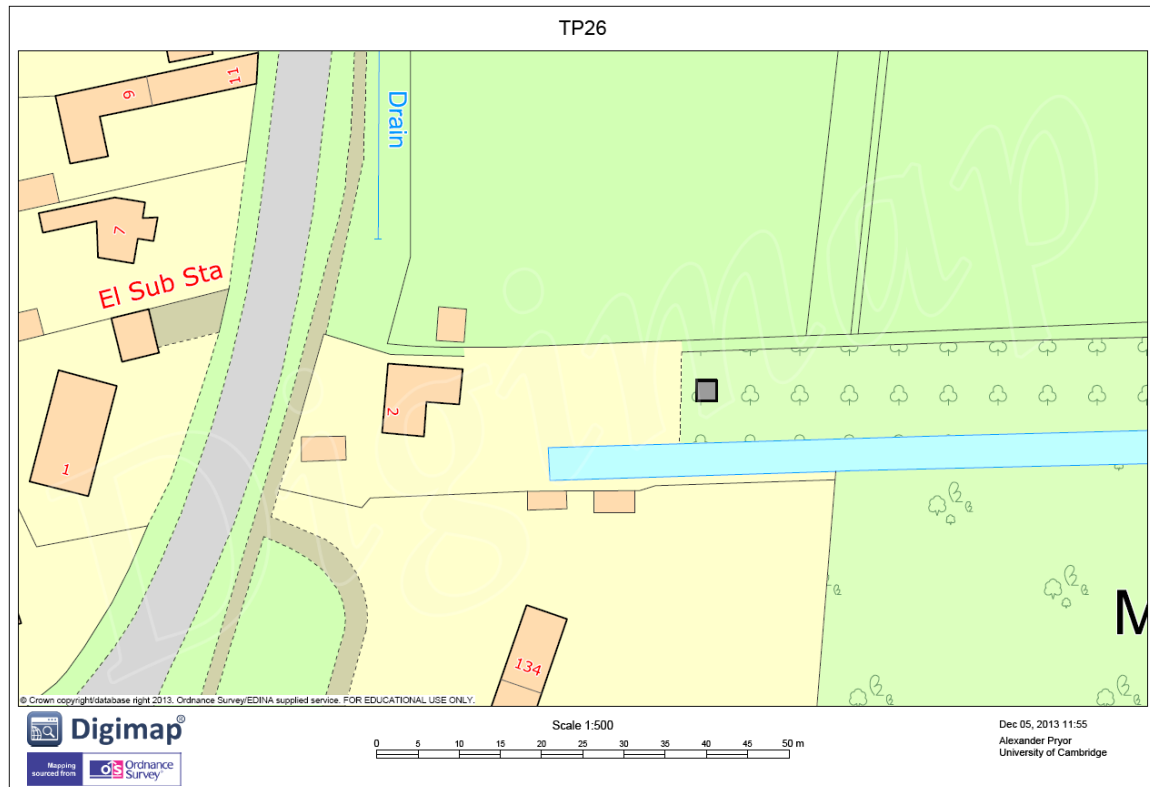


Figure 30 - Location map of MEL/13/26

Test pit 26 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, encountering a sandy clay with flint gravel. Excavation ceased at this depth and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from test pit 26 included 11 sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware and two Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
26	1			2	18	1800-1900
26	3	11	241			1550-1600

Table 26 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/26

The other finds from test pit 26 included nails and other metal scraps, plastic, brick, tile, coal and some possible worked stone. The faunal assemblage comprised a single unidentifiable bone of a cattle-sized animal.

Test pit 26 was one of very few in Meldreth to show no evidence for activity until the post-medieval period, and even after this it seems likely the area was only ever used as fields. Located on land in the gap between the main southern cluster of village



houses and the church to the north, the pottery finds from test pit 26 agree well with finds from other test pits in this area, including test pits 4, 15 and 22 that collectively suggest this area has only ever been used as fields, beginning perhaps as early as the Roman period. The finds from test pit 26 thus contribute towards the emerging picture suggesting that a gap of open fields existed for much of the last 2,000 years between the main village core and the village church, the latter of which also has two moated manorial sites near to it that would have been occupied by relatively rich families. This may imply a degree of spatial separation between the 'have's and have not's' of Meldreth during Medieval times.

8.27 Test Pit 27 (MEL/13/27)

Test pit 27 was excavated on the front lawn of a large detached property opposite Holy Trinity Church at the northern end of the parish, in an area that may once have formed part of the churchyard (34 North End, Meldreth. Approximate location TL 37743 46774). Human bones were found nearby in February 1976 during the digging of a trench for a domestic water pipe, and the remains of eight skeletons were noted (CHER: 03136).

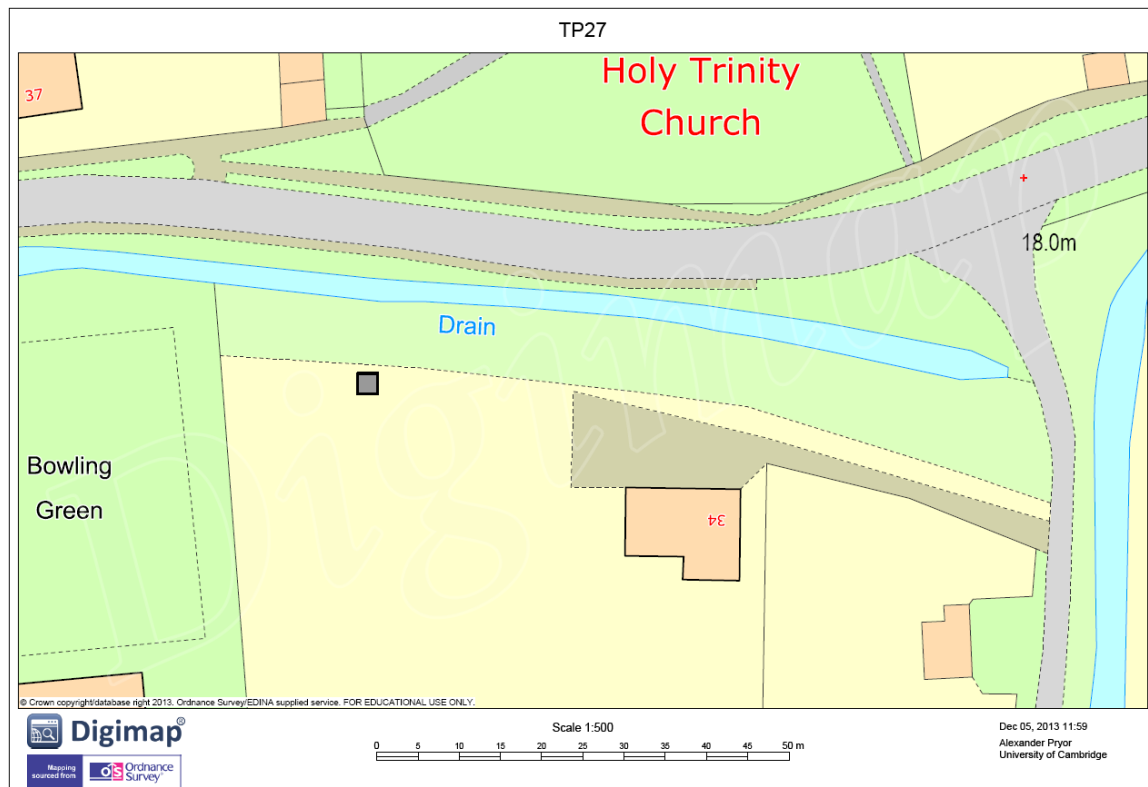


Figure 31 - Location map of MEL/13/27

Test pit 27 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, encountering natural chalk across the entire base of the test pit. Due to time constraints excavation ceased at this depth and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from this test pit included a single Bronze Age sherd, six sherds of St Neots Ware, two sherds of Medieval Sandy Ware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Late Medieval Ware from the 15th-16th centuries, post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware and three Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	BA		SN		EMW		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
27	1											1	1	1800-1900
27	2									1	1	1	6	1550-1900
27	3			2	9			1	5			1	1	1100-1900
27	4			3	13	2	4							900-1150
27	5	1	3	1	2									1200BC-1100

Table 27 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/27

Other finds from this test pit included shell, stone, glass, a penny coin made in 1807, chalk, brick and mortar. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig and some other unidentifiable remains.

The single Bronze Age sherd from test pit 27 contributes towards the general distribution of Bronze Age finds observed across eight test pits in Meldreth, collectively providing strong evidence for a Bronze Age settlement somewhere in the vicinity of the village, and possibly connected with the River Mel (see discussion). The area then seems to have been abandoned, and is not used again until the late Saxon era when it was likely used as fields or gardens (note that records indicate an early church may have been established in 970). The area appears to have been kept relatively clean ever since this time, with only minimal deposition of pottery and other finds. It is interesting to note that human bones were found in the vicinity of this property, suggesting the parish churchyard may once have included this land. This would explain the lack of finds after the Saxon period, as the present church building dates from the late 12th century which was likely the time the graveyard was also established.

8.28 Test Pit 28 (MEL/13/28)

Test pit 28 was excavated in an area of orchard adjacent to a detached property located opposite Holy Trinity Church, close to a lane (now a driveway) that leads from North End to Topcliffe Mill (38 North End, Meldreth, SG8 6NT. TL 37821 46752). The house was built as a gardener's cottage in 1948 by Miss Bowen, who owned Topcliffe Mill. It is very close to the site of two former manors: Vesey's and Topcliffe and at one time was part of the latter (Kath Betts, pers. comm.).



Figure 32 - Location map of MEL/13/28

Test pit 28 was excavated to a depth of 1.4m without reaching natural. Due to the difficulties of excavating at this depth excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Test pit 28 produced exceptionally large quantities of pottery, including a very large assemblage of 23 Bronze Age sherds and a single Romano-British sherd. A very large assemblage of Late Saxon pottery included 132 sherds of St Neots Ware and 3 sherds of Stamford Ware. Most of the remaining pottery was High Medieval dating to the 12th-14th centuries and included 19 sherds of Medieval Shelly Ware, 18 sherds of Medieval Sandy Ware and 66 sherds of Hertfordshire Greyware. A single Victorian-era sherd was also found.

The other finds from this pit included small metal tacks and nails, shell, charcoal, brick and other building material. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog, rabbit, chicken, domestic goose, squirrel, hedgehog, a

species of vole and a very large number of unidentifiable bones, mostly of sheep-sized animals.

TP	Context	BA		RB		SN		STAM		SHC		EMW		HG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
28	1					1	3									1	1	900-1900
28	2	1	2			1	4											1200BC-1100
28	3					1	1	1	1			1	5	4	16			900-1400
28	4					4	38							2	9			900-1400
28	5					2	3			1	3	3	30	2	9			900-1400
28	6	2	4			2	6							3	14			1200BC-1400
28	7	2	8			3	8			1	5	2	14	5	14			1200BC-1400
28	8	1	1			9	22			3	5			14	71			1200BC-1400
28	9	4	8			13	24			5	28	7	18	9	64			1200BC-1400
28	10	3	9	1	17	13	21	2	5	7	39	3	7	14	48			1200BC-1400
28	11	2	5			29	94					2	22	6	31			1200BC-1400
28	12	4	8			22	36			2	10			7	85			1200BC-1400
28	13					18	51											900-1100
28	14	4	18			14	82											900-1100

Table 28 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/28

The large assemblage of prehistoric Bronze Age pottery gives strong evidence for activity in this area at this time, and coupled with the presence of burnt bone suggests a possible urned cremation may have once existed here, although now dispersed. The single sherd of Roman-era pottery contributes towards the general distribution observed across 11 test pits in Meldreth, together indicating the probable presence of a farmhouse somewhere in the area surrounded by farmland. The very large assemblage of Saxon pottery clearly indicates people were living here at this time, and it is interesting to note the proximity of this settlement to the location of the parish church which is thought to have been first established around this time (it is mentioned in the Domesday Book). The find-bearing deposits continue deeper than 1.4 metres where the test pit was dug, and huge quantities of animal bones were also recovered, suggesting the possible presence of a substantial feature in this location.

As might be expected for a test pit dug close to two medieval moated manor sites, test pit 28 was one of seven across the village to produce more than 50 sherds of 12th -14th century pottery, again indicating the intensity of settlement activity at this time. All evidence for occupation ceases at test pit 28 before the end of the 14th century and the site does not appear to have been occupied again since then.

8.29 Test Pit 29 (MEL/13/29)

Test pit 29 was excavated on a moated site south of Holy Trinity Church, located near a detached building set back from the road and accessible by a long driveway (Topcliffe Mill, 36 North End, Meldreth. TL37761 46669). A manor house is recorded on the site from the 1290s. Around this time, the manor had approximately 30 cattle and over 100 sheep and employed a shepherd. Butter and cheese were sold in addition to surplus apples and cherries. In 1380 there was a thatched house and a gatehouse. In 1404, the house was under repair. It included a chamber, hall, kitchen and bakehouse. No record of the house has been found after this time. St Thomas's Hospital in London acquired the manor from the Savoy Hospital in 1553 and held it until 1948, when the mill and land were sold to Miss Maud Bowen.

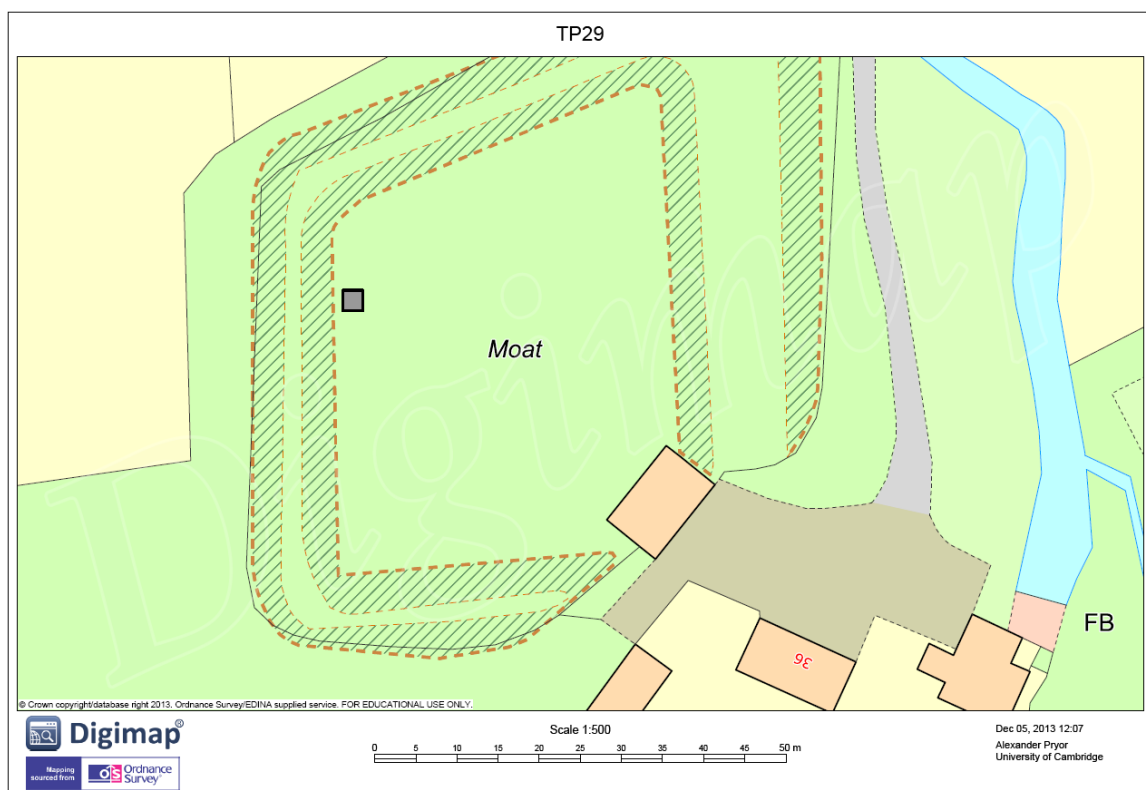


Figure 33 - Location map of MEL/13/29

Test pit 29 was excavated to a depth of 1.1m, encountering clay over the entire area of the test pit. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery from test pit 29 included five Bronze Age sherds, and two sherds of St Neots Ware and one of Stamford Ware dating to the Late Saxon period. Pottery dating to the 12th -14th centuries included 33 sherds of Medieval Sandy Ware, 24 sherds of Hedingham Ware, 86 sherds of Hertfordshire Greyware and seven sherds of Surrey Whiteware. Four sherds of Late Medieval Ware were also found.

TP	Context	BA		SN		STAM		EMW		HED		HG		SWW		LMT		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
29	1									1	1	3	18	1	3	4	11	1150-1550
29	2							3	13	3	4	25	129	6	27			1100-1400
29	3							10	60	11	30	26	137					1100-1400
29	4					1	2	10	76	4	16	13	117					1000-1400
29	5							4	28	3	12	7	26					1100-1400
29	6							3	14	2	3	8	48					1100-1400
29	7							2	20			3	18					1100-1200
29	8							1	9			1	5					1100-1200
29	9	4	13	2	7													1200BC-1100
29	10	1	4															1200-800BC

Table 29 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/29

The most notable find from this test pit was a medieval metal arrowhead. Although bows with arrows were widely used in warfare and hunting, arrowheads are relatively unusual finds, associated (although not exclusively so) with higher status sites such as castles or a manorial sites. Other finds from this pit included other unidentifiable ferrous metal items, slag, oyster shell, charcoal, daub and some possible ancient brick. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, horse, chicken, teal and a large quantity of unidentifiable bones of mostly sheep-sized animals.

The assemblage of Bronze Age pottery gives strong evidence for activity in this area at this time and may indicate the existence of sealed, stratified Bronze Age contexts below 0.8m depth in this area. These finds contribute towards the general distribution of Bronze Age sherds observed from eight test pits across Meldreth. The area then appears to have been abandoned until the late Saxon era when it may have seen use as fields or gardens. A dramatic expansion in occupation activity then took place during the 12th -14th centuries, with more than 150 sherds of medieval pottery produced from the 1m² pit. The sherds of Surrey White Ware are particularly worthy of comment, as such material is a very rare find in the area, and Mel/13/29 is the only test-pit which produced it in Meldreth, suggesting that the occupants of the manor had access to resources and markets which were not exploited by other occupants of the village. Test pit 29 also produced huge quantities of bone, likely also reflecting the manorial history of the site. The pottery assemblage then shows very clearly an abandonment of the site before the end of the 15th century, and it was never occupied again. This is similar to the picture observed at other manorial sites around Meldreth (see discussion).



Figure 33a – Iron arrowhead from MEL/13/29.3

8.30 Test Pit 30 (MEL/13/30)

Test pit 30 was excavated on a grassy area beside a detached house constructed in c.1840, in the centre of the remains of a moated manor-house site (Bury Farm, 42 North End, Meldreth. TL 37907 46735). This is the site of Vesey's Manor House, present from at least the thirteenth century when Henry l'Evesque was licensed to build a chapel there. In 1467 the manorial site was apparently worthless. But in 1503 there was a two-storied house with a hall, kitchen, chapel and several chambers arranged around a courtyard. A house was also recorded here in 1563, and again subsequently in 1820. This structure is said to have burned down and photographs taken in 1926 show a ruinous building. The County Archaeology service regards the moat, most of which still exists, as being medieval, probably 13th century (Kathryn Betts, pers. comm.).

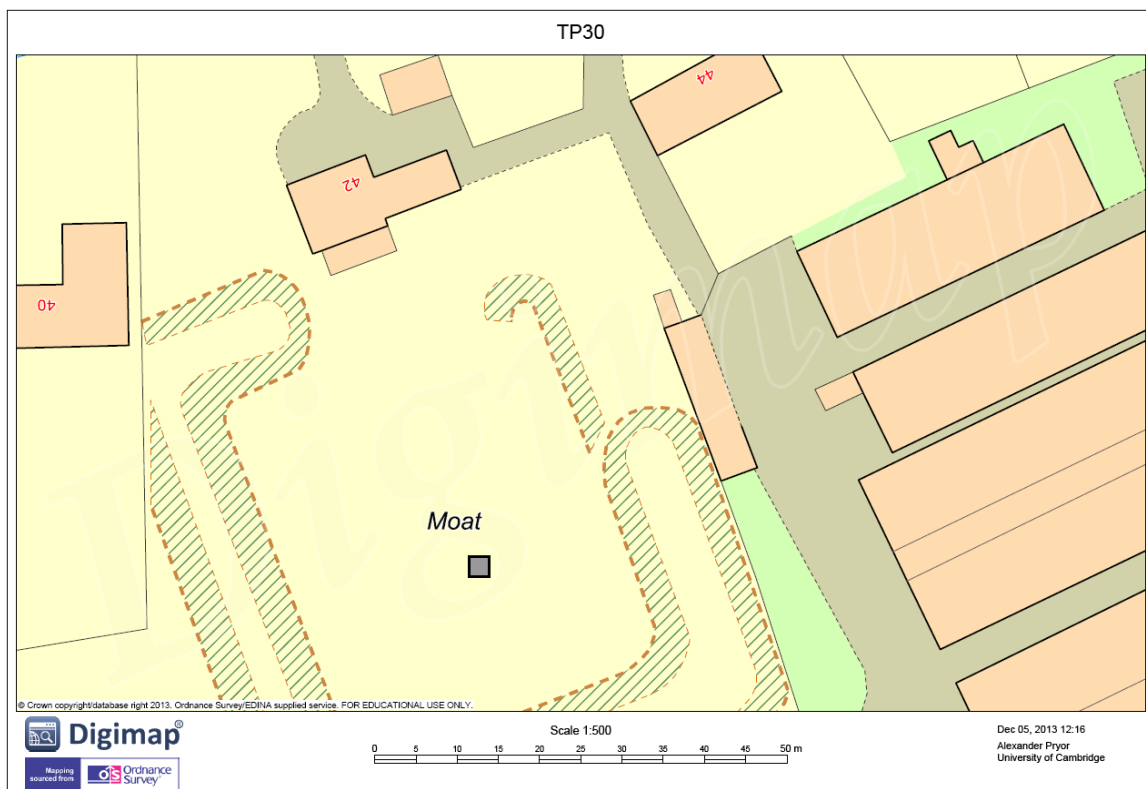


Figure 34 - Location map of MEL/13/30

Test pit 30 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, encountering clay over the entire area of the test pit. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	HG		LMT		GRE		GS		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
30	1	1	5			1	6			1	2	6	9	1150-1900
30	2	1	1	1	8	6	66	1	20	1	2	2	5	1150-1900
30	3			1	5	1	1							1400-1600

Table 30 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/30

The pottery from MEL/13/30 included two sherds of Hertfordshire Grey dating to the 12th -14th centuries, Late Medieval Ware dating to the 15th -16th centuries, Glazed Red Earthenware, German Stoneware and Staffordshire Slipware dating to the post-medieval period and eight Victorian-era sherds.

The other finds from this pit included a fragment of bullet, nails and other metal scraps, coal, mortar, glass (including a possible ancient fragment) and some fragments of oyster and mussel shell. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, rabbit, chicken and some other unidentifiable remains.

Unlike all the other test pits excavated inside moated manorial sites in Meldreth (test pits 7, 8, 19 and 29), test pit 30 produced very small quantities of pottery, suggesting there has been no significant deposition in this area at all. One possibility is that the test pit was excavated on an area that had been deliberately kept clean during the period the site was in use, however no obvious explanations for why this might be true are apparent. It appears likely to have been a garden feature rather than a residential moated site, and the presence of late medieval and post-medieval material (unlike at the moated sites of Flambards and nearby Topcliffe where material of this date is notably absent), suggest that this ornamental use may have dated to this period, possibly causing earlier material to be incorporated during its construction. This would explain why the medieval pottery was found in contexts with later material also present.

8.31 Test Pit 31 (MEL/13/31)

Test pit 31 was excavated in the front garden of a house built close to where an old shepherd's cottage dating to c.1600 once stood, at the northern end of Meldreth village (81 North End, Meldreth, SG86NU. Approximate location 37987 47092).

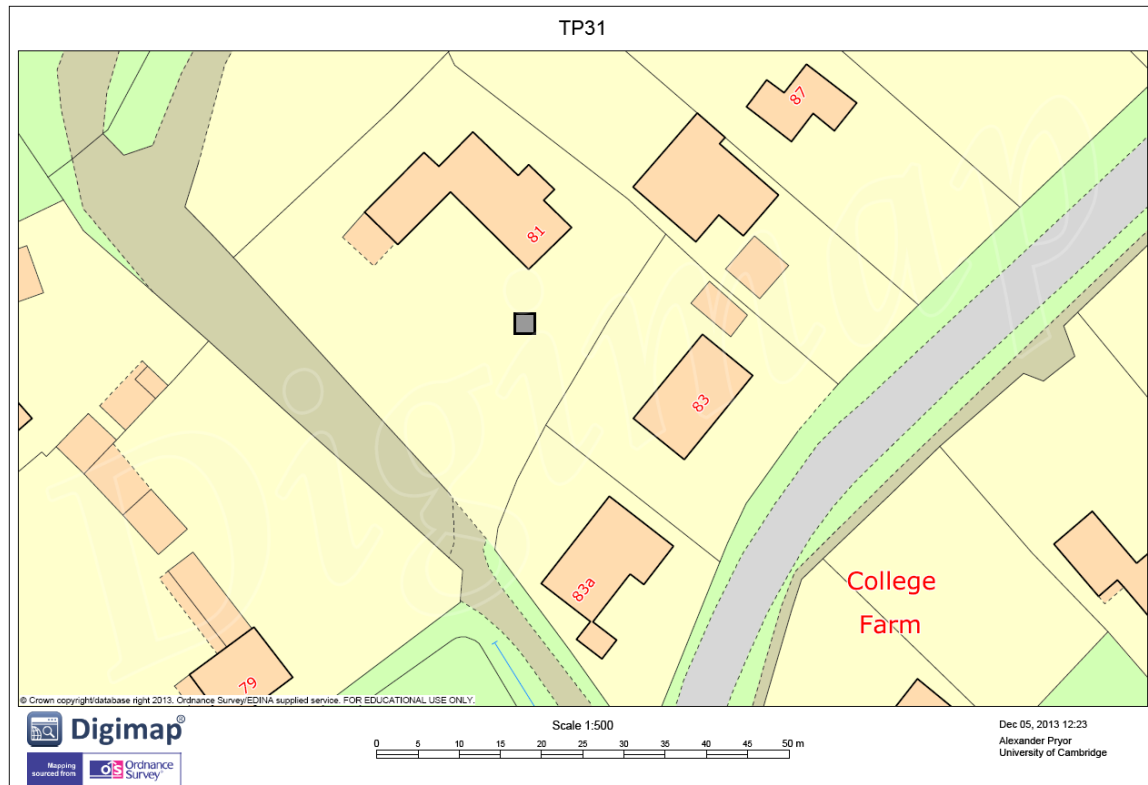


Figure 35 - Location map of MEL/13/31

Test pit 31 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, encountering clay and large quantities of flint over the entire area of the test pit. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	LMT		GRE		SS		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
31	2			1	4					5	16	1550-1900
31	3					2	6			23	74	1650-1900
31	4			2	5			1	2	72	140	1550-1900
31	5			1	2			1	2	114	316	1550-1900
31	6	6	44	5	162	4	47	1	5	62	181	1400-1900

Table 31 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/31

The pottery finds from test pit 31 included Late Medieval Ware, some Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and English Stoneware dating to the post-medieval period and a very large assemblage of 276 Victorian-era sherds.

The other finds from this pit included glass, tile, metal objects including a button and a piece of a horse shoe, fragments of clay pipe, slate, coal, slag, brick and tile, and



some fragments of oyster and mussel shell. The faunal assemblage included bones of cow, sheep/goat, pig, rabbit, chicken and some other unidentifiable remains.

The finds from test pit 31 agree well with the known history of the site, suggesting activity from around the 15th-16th centuries onwards. This expanded dramatically in the 19th century when the very large quantities of pottery suggest the area around the test pit was used for dumping household waste. The finds also show no evidence of activity prior to the 15th century, suggesting this area to the north of the main settlement and church at Meldreth may have remained as open fields and uncultivated land before this time, a pattern also observed in nearby test pit 32. The church and manors of Topcliffe and Vesey therefore may have marked the northern edge of settlement in Meldreth for a substantial period of time.

8.32 Test Pit 32 (MEL/13/32)

Test pit 32 was excavated in the rear garden of a house built in the early 21st century (2008?), on land that had previously formed part of the grounds of the adjacent College Farm (70A North End, Meldreth. TL 3811 47029).

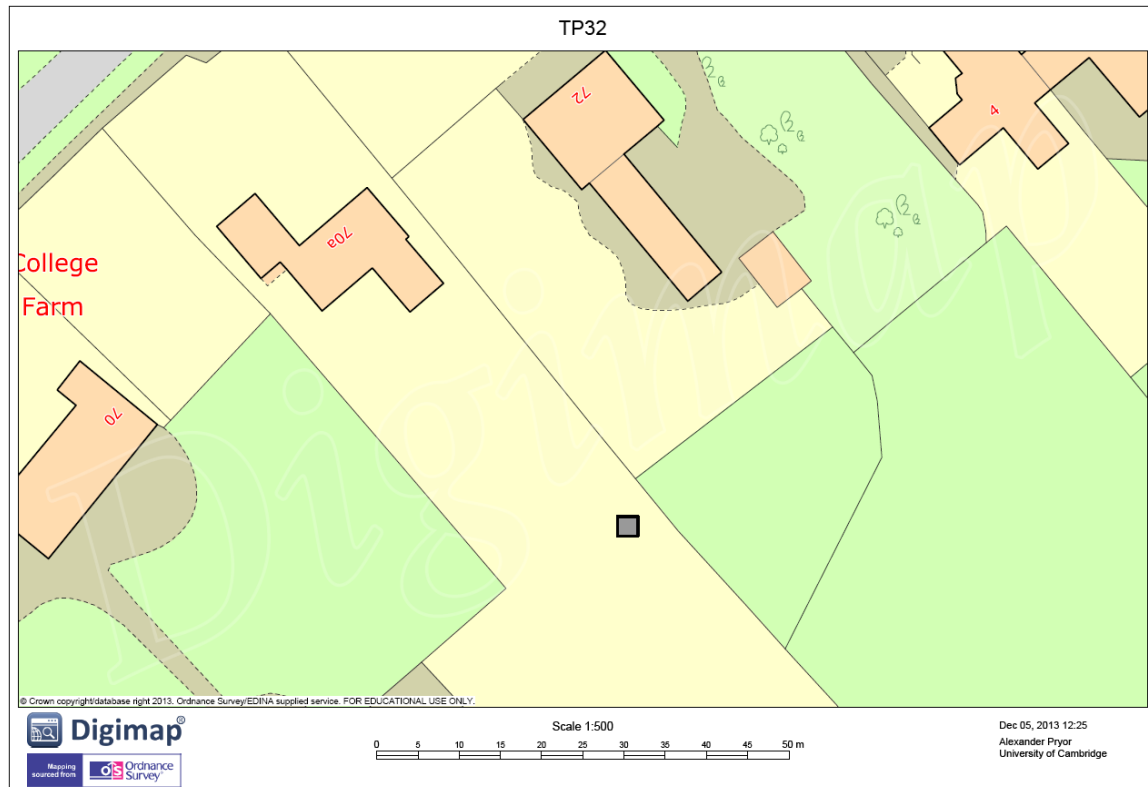


Figure 36 - Location map of MEL/13/32

Test pit 32 was excavated to a depth of 0.65m, encountering a chalky substrate assumed by the excavators to be natural. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

TP	Context	RB		SHC		HED		HG		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
32	1	1	1	1	8			2	4	2	7					100-1550
32	2							1	3					3	23	1150-1900
32	3													5	8	1800-1900
32	4											5	46			1550-1600
32	5									3	7			2	2	1400-1900
32	6					1	7									1200-1400

Table 32 – Pottery excavated from MEL/13/32

Test pit 32 produced small quantities of a range of different wares including a Romano-British sherd, some Medieval Shelly Ware, Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware dating to the 12th-14th centuries, Late Medieval Ware, some post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware and 10 Victorian-era sherds.



The other finds from this pit included metal nails, slag, slate, coal, stone, glass, charcoal and some brick and masonry rubble. The faunal assemblage included bones of sheep/goat, pig and five other unidentifiable bones.

The finds from test pit 32 include a sherd of Roman-era pottery that contributes towards the general distribution observed across 11 test pits in Meldreth, together indicating the probable presence of arable farmland. The finds indicate the continued use of this area as farmland into the medieval period, including during the 15th-16th centuries and then on into the post-medieval period until recent times (a pattern also observed in nearby test pit 31), when the land formed part of College Farm. There is no evidence for any actual settlement on this site at any point in the past, prior to the construction of the modern property in the 21st century. The church and manors of Topcliffe and Vesey therefore appear to have marked the northern edge of settlement in Meldreth for a substantial period of time.

9 Discussion

The archaeological test pitting in Meldreth was highly successful, producing a wealth of finds and other data that chart the development of the village while also engaging a large number of local residents in hands-on investigation of its past. Despite the relatively small number of pits excavated over such a large area, some significant general observations on the results can be made and contextualised within wider archaeological and historical research. These observations are discussed below in chronological order by historic period.

9.1 Prehistoric period

Material of possible prehistoric date in the form of worked flint was found in more than half the excavated test pits distributed across most of the present village, making it difficult to derive useful observations about the significance of this distribution. This is made even more difficult by the fact that such material is typically also difficult to date, and this is the case with much of the material from Meldreth, which may be of late Neolithic or Bronze Age date, but could also date to medieval or modern periods when flint was used in building. The flint assemblage generally is of relatively poor character, mostly flakes with no cores present. In terms of dating, there does not appear to be anything diagnostically predating the later Neolithic, possibly suggesting this part of the landscape was minimally utilised before the second millennium BC.

Much more reliable in terms of dating is pottery, and the distribution of prehistoric pottery from the Meldreth test pits is much less generalised and more meaningful, as a large number of sherds, all of Bronze Age date were recovered. Pottery of this date is extremely uncommon in test pit excavations within CORS, so any find of this material is noteworthy: the volume of finds from Meldreth is very large, and so of considerable interest and significance.

Finds of Bronze Age pottery came from pits grouped in four clusters, each of which is likely to represent a discrete node of activity. Working from south to north, the first site is in the south of the present village (MEL/13/23) which produced a total of 11 sherds along with worked and burnt flint. This test pit was excavated within 100m of another (MEL/13/24) which produced the only retouched flint artefact, and these two sites may be associated. Some 250m north-east of this lies a second node of prehistoric activity, represented by pottery from MEL/13/20, which produced 11 sherds as well as several pieces of worked flint, together strongly indicating settlement or possibly some other sort of intensive activity such as a burial, nearby. A third node of activity is indicated by Bronze Age pottery from three pits 250m further north in the centre of the existing village (MEL/13/12, MEL/13/14 and MEL/13/5), all lying within c. 150m of each other. These pits all produced worked flint, and two of them burnt flint of possible prehistoric date. The most northerly of the Bronze Age finds clusters lies just south of the church: three pits here produced Bronze Age pottery (MEL/13/27, MEL/13/28 and MEL/13/29), with MEL/13/28 yielding a remarkable total of 23 sherds. These pits also produced worked flint including the only blade found in Meldreth and burnt flint, with considerable quantities of the latter found in MEL/13/27 (more than 65g) and MEL/13/29. This may be site of one or more disturbed cremation burials.

The test pit excavations at Meldreth have thus revealed evidence for significant levels of activity in the Bronze Age, with four separate nodes of activity along the stream valley. These may have related to settlement or some other activity such as burial, and are most likely to represent a combination of both. Not all the sites are necessarily directly contemporaneous, and many represent a shifting pattern of small, mobile settlement and land use in this period. Given the large volume of Bronze Age pottery, it is intriguing that no material of Iron Age date was found from any of the Meldreth test pits, possibly suggesting a marked change in use of this part of the landscape in the later prehistoric period.

9.2 Roman period

The distribution of Romano-British pottery strongly favours the southern half of the present settlement, with just three pits in the north producing material of this date, and none more than a single sherd. This is the sort of volume which might be expected from cultivated land which was being manured to maintain its fertility, and so it is plausible that here we are seeing evidence for arable cultivation for at least some of this period. In the south of the present village eight pits produced Romano-British ware, with the most notable occurrence beyond the southern limits of the present village at Fieldgate Nurseries (MEL/13/10 and MEL/13/21), both of which produced seven sherds. This strongly hints at the presence of a settlement of some sort in the vicinity. It is possible that this same settlement was the source of the five sherds that came from both MEL/13/16 and MEL/13/23, as these are both close to the south-western margins of the present village. It is interesting to note that MEL/13/16 is in Whitcroft Road, and that nearby MEL/13/2 and MEL/13/3 also produced material of this date, albeit only a very small amount, hinting at the possibility that this settlement, so distinctly separate in the historic period, may have had Romano-British origins. Overall, there is not a huge volume of Romano-British pottery from the Meldreth test pits, with just 18% of pits producing more than a single sherd, this is above the regional average of around 9% (Lewis in preparation), but not present in the sort of quantities found at places like Long Melford where the present settlement clearly overlies a Roman town (Lewis and Ranson 2013). At Meldreth there is nothing to indicate the nearby presence of the sort of large and important site which might be associated with the stone coffin (see above). It seems likely that the southern part of the present village was occupied by two or three rural settlements of modest size and status, with arable fields to the north.

9.3 Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon period

No pottery whatsoever was found dating to the early or middle Anglo-Saxon period (410-850 AD). This does not necessarily indicate complete depopulation, as pottery is less widely used at this time – on average fewer than 2% of test pits in eastern England produce pottery of this date (Lewis in preparation), and so with just 32 excavated in Meldreth, it is not surprising that none has been found. It does however suggest that settlement, if present at all, was small and of limited extent and/or duration. Test pit excavations elsewhere indicate that material of early or middle Anglo-Saxon date is likely to occur close to sites producing Romano-British material (Cooper 2013), so if there was any settlement in the area now occupied by the village of Meldreth, it might be expected in the south rather than the north of the present village.

9.4 Saxo-Norman period

The picture seems to change dramatically in the later Anglo-Saxon/Saxo-Norman period, with a third of the pits producing pottery dating broadly to this period, well above the regional average of c. 11% (Lewis in preparation). However, a particularly notable feature of the assemblage of late Anglo-Saxon pottery from the Meldreth test pits is the complete absence of Thetford Ware. Made at a number of places including Thetford, Ipswich, Norwich and some rural sites, Thetford Ware is commonly found on sites in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Bedfordshire which were in use in the 9th – 11th centuries and would normally be expected in Meldreth (Blinkhorn, pers. comm.). The most plausible explanation for its absence is that the Meldreth sites are of relatively late date: Thetford Ware is no longer in use by 1100 AD, while St Neots continues in use until 1150/1200 AD and Stamford Ware until 1150 AD, possibly as late as 1200 AD. This suggests that the sites at Meldreth are unlikely to have come into existence before the late 11th century, in which case settlement at Meldreth in the later Anglo-Saxon period (ie before the Norman Conquest) may well have been minimal or non-existent. The medieval settlement at Meldreth, it seems from the archaeological evidence, probably originated early in the post- Conquest period, rather than earlier. While this seems a little surprising, especially given the importance of the church, it does correspond with the absence of any reference to Meldreth in pre-Conquest written sources, which is in contrast to Melbourn. The similarity of the place name does indicate that Meldreth and Melbourn were at an early date a single large 'Mel' estate which was gradually subdivided, a process which was still continuing in the early Norman period when new settlements were founded on land in Meldreth.

The siting of these new settlements within the landscape can be tentatively reconstructed. The distribution of pits producing St Neots ware, which dominates the Saxo-Norman assemblage, falls into three distinct areas. On the very southern margins of the present settlement, MEL/13/21 at Fieldgate Nurseries produced just two sherds of St Neots Ware dating to 900-1100 AD – this is likely to relate to non-intensive use such as arable. In the north of the present settlement, a cluster of three pits adjacent to the stream produced a large number of sherds, most notably from test pit 28, which produced more than 130 sherds of St Neots Ware along with three sherds of the higher quality Stamford Ware. The third area where pits producing St Neots Ware were located is in the centre of the present settlement, along the southern half of the High Street. Overall, the distribution of St Neots Ware strongly favours sites nearest the stream, suggesting that contemporary settlement was arranged along this watercourse.

The three pits excavated within the in-filled moated site of Flambards (MEL/13/7, MEL/13/8 and MEL/13/19) all produced small amounts of St Neots Ware (four, one and one sherd respectively) but no Stamford Ware. This suggests that while the sites near the church do seem to have been of some pre-eminence in the late 11th century, with much larger numbers of sherds including Stamford Ware, that at Flambards was not distinctively of higher status at this date, with pits to its north and south both producing larger numbers of sherds.

While it is difficult to draw firm conclusions, a reasonable interpretation of the Saxo-Norman data from the test pits is that there is clear evidence for the presence of a

site of some importance between the church and the stream, probably a manorial site, which was established in the late 11th century. Another area of settlement, established at around the same date, also west of the stream, extended for at least 300m east of the present High Street. This settlement may have constituted a series of farmsteads, or a small village. While it is tempting to suggest that findspots of Stamford Ware may correlate with manorial sites, not least because such a correlation certainly exists at Topcliffe, caution should be exercised in respect of other sites, as Stamford Ware is not exclusively found on manorial sites.

9.5 High medieval period

A total of 23 test pits in Meldreth, that is 72% of the total number excavated, produced two or more sherds of pottery of high medieval date (early 12th – mid 14th century). This is considerably higher than the regional average of around 40%, and suggests that Meldreth was a large, flourishing community during this period. Zones which appear to be newly converted to settlement at this time include the area around Chiswick Farm, North End (near College Farm) and the west side of the High Street. Given that the property boundaries west of the High Street appear to follow the curving lines of earlier open strip fields (above), it may be deduced that settlement here was laid out over pre-existing open fields in the 12th or 13th centuries.

Seven test pits produced more 50 sherds of High Medieval pottery (table 33), a much higher number than would normally be encountered in a test pit, with assemblages dominated by Hedingham Ware and Hertfordshire Greyware. Test pits seven and 19 at Flambards and 28 near Topcliffe are associated with known manorial sites in Meldreth, while others may indicate wealthier-than-average villagers - or simply be fortuitous encounters of particularly rich deposits such as rubbish pits.

Test pit	Quantity of 12 th - 14 th century sherds
7	119
12	72
18	51
19	220
25	64
28	103
29	150

Table 33 - Quantity of High Medieval pottery sherds from selected test pits

Small quantities of fine, glazed medieval wares - Mill Green Ware (TP 7 and 25) and Surrey Whiteware (TP 29) – are in Meldreth exclusively associated with the manorial moated sites at Topcliffe and Flambards. Both these wares are relatively uncommon on rural sites in Cambridgeshire, suggesting that families living at these sites had access to more restricted and expensive ceramic wares than other residents of the village.

While the finds from Flambards and Topcliffe do have a distinctive high status signature, evident in both pottery and other finds such as the medieval arrowhead from Topcliffe and the pewter mirror back from Flambards, test pit 30, excavated on the supposed site of Vesey's manor showed a very different pattern. Test pit 30 produced very small quantities of pottery, and nothing in the way of more expensive

or exotic ceramics or finds. Test pit 30 also differs from the other manorial sites in that it has evidence for late medieval and post-medieval activity, whereas Flambards and Topcliffe do not. A plausible explanation for this pattern is that this site was an ornamental or garden feature rather than a habitative moat. This may have been constructed in the medieval period, but is more likely to be a later construction.

9.6 Late medieval

15 pits produced two or more sherds of pottery of later medieval date. This represents 47% of the excavated sites, considerably fewer than the 23 (or 72%) which produced pottery of high medieval date. In this, Meldreth reflects a general trend observed in many towns and villages across East Anglia for a drop in pottery in the 15th-16th centuries when compared with the previous High Medieval period. In this we can not only see, but measure and map, the impact of the set-backs of the 14th century which included climate change, famines, economic recession and repeated outbreaks of infectious epidemic disease, most notoriously in the Black Death of 1348-9. When the pottery distribution maps for the high medieval period and the later medieval period are compared, it is clearly apparent that the volume of pottery present is much less. The pattern seems to be one of thinning out of the settlement, rather than complete abandonment of some areas. There is some indication that sites nearer the stream and at the southern end of the High Street are more badly affected, but this to some extent reflects the abandonment of Flambards. Both this and the other manorial moated site, Topcliffe see a complete cessation of the pottery sequence by the end of the 14th century, and indeed these sites are amongst the most severely impacted of all. In contrast, at Chiswick and North End, more test pits produce pottery of late medieval date than of high medieval date.

Seen within its wider context, Meldreth can in fact be seen to be affected less badly than most settlements in eastern England. While the pottery, used as a proxy for population, suggests the number of inhabitants at Meldreth drops by around a third, this compares with a regional average drop of about 50%. In fact, if the manorial sites of Flambards and Topcliffe are excluded, Meldreth can be seen to survive this difficult period really quite well. Meldreth remained a fairly substantial village settlement throughout the period, although the effect of the Black Death is still clearly visible.

9.7 Post-medieval and later

Meldreth sees no increase in the number of inhabited sites in the post-medieval period (c. 1550-1800 AD), with 15 pits (47%) producing 2 or more sherds of this date, exactly the same number as in the late medieval period. This is in stark contrast to wider regional patterns: When data from more than 1,500 pits excavated in 50 rural communities are averaged, it can be seen that just 20% of pits produce two or more sherds of late medieval pottery, but around 60% do so for post-medieval pottery (Lewis in preparation). This reflects resurgent population levels as well as the greater availability of pottery as production techniques and transportation improved in the period which encompassed the industrial revolution. Despite being less badly affected than most settlements by the set-backs of the later medieval period, Meldreth seems to struggle in later centuries. A notable feature of this period in



Meldreth is the complete absence of evidence for habitation from the southern end of the High Street, which appears from the pottery evidence to be completely deserted.

10 Conclusion

Overall, the archaeological test pit excavation programme carried out in Meldreth in 2013 fulfilled its aims of advancing understanding of the past development of the settlement and providing an opportunity for members of the public to get involved in excavating within their own community. The archaeological evidence gained from the excavations has advanced knowledge and understanding of the historic development of Meldreth, providing some evidence for the prehistoric use of the landscape, and much more for its later development, showing how the village came into being in the late Saxo-Norman period, expanded rapidly in the high medieval period and while surviving better than most in the later medieval period, struggled in the post-medieval period. Two high status medieval sites (Flambards and Topcliffe) are clearly identifiable from the finds made, confirming the evidence from earthwork remains and historic documentation, while the use of another moated site is now better understood as a probable garden feature.

In addition, we can see how the development of Meldreth compares with wider regional pattern in respect of these medieval changes. In this respect, the results from Meldreth are also contributing to advancing knowledge and understanding of the bigger picture of rural settlement development over the medieval period across the eastern region.

The evidence from the excavations also allows inferences to be drawn about the volume and extent of further evidence of archaeological value remaining buried under the streets, gardens and houses of the existing homes in the parish of Meldreth. The 2013 excavations clearly indicate there is a high probability of these being present, and that the value of such evidence for further advancing understanding of the historic development of the settlement is also likely to be high. This information should be of use in managing this resource in the future. As well as advancing knowledge and understanding of Meldreth's development, the 2013 excavations raised a number of questions, especially about its development in the first millennium AD, and showed how useful further excavation would be, were this to be possible in the future.

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13 Appendices

13.1 Pottery report (Paul Blinkhorn)

BA: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. 1200-800BC. Simple, hand-made 'bucket-shaped' pots with lots of burnt flint mixed in with the clay. Mainly used for cooking.

RB: Roman. All. 1st - 4th century.

ST: Stamford Ware. Made at several different sites in Stamford in Lincolnshire between AD850 and 1150. The earliest pots were small, simple jars with white, buff or grey fabric, or large jars with painted red stripes. By AD1000, the potters were making vessels which were quite thin-walled and smooth, with a yellow or pale green glaze on the outside, the first glazed pots in England. These were usually jugs with handles and a spout, but other sorts of vessel, such as candle-sticks, bowls and water-bottles are also known. It appears to have been much sought after because it was of such good quality, and has been found all over Britain and Ireland.

SN: St Neots Ware. Made at a number of as-yet unknown places in southern England between AD900-1100. The pots are usually a purplish-black, black or grey colour, but the clay from which they were made contains finely crushed fossil shell, giving them a white speckled appearance. Most pots were small jars or bowls.

SHC: Medieval Shelly Ware. AD1100-1400. Made a several different places in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. The clay that the potters used has a lot of small pieces of fossil shell in it, giving the pots a speckled appearance. Sometimes, in acid soils, the shell dissolves, giving the sherds a texture like cork. Mainly cooking pots, although bowls and jugs were also made.

EMW: Medieval Sandy Ware: AD1100-1400. Hard fabric with plentiful quartz sand mixed in with the clay. Manufactured at a wide range of generally unknown sites all over eastern England. Mostly cooking pots, but bowls and occasionally jugs also known.

HG: Hertfordshire Greyware, Late 12th – 14th century. Hard, grey sandy pottery found at sites all over Hertfordshire. Made at a number of different places, with the most recent and best-preserved evidence being from Hitchin. Range of simple jars, bowls and jugs.

HED: Hedingham Ware: Late 12th – 14th century. Fine orange/red glazed pottery, made at Sible Hedingham in Essex. The surfaces of the sherds have a sparkly appearance due to there being large quantities of mica, a glassy mineral, in the clay. Pots usually glazed jugs.

SWW: Surrey Whiteware, AD1230 – 1400. White or buff-coloured pottery, often with a bright green glaze. Similar to Border Ware, but with more visible sand in the clay. Made at places such as Kingston-On-Thames and Cheam. Mainly jugs and jars, but other specialist vessels for cooking and brewing beer were made in the later medieval period.

MG: Mill Green Ware. 1270 – 1350. Made near the village of Mill Green in Essex. Thin, fine, grey or red pottery, usually with a coating of white clay (slip) on the outside, over which is a glaze which appears yellow or bright green. Vessels mainly glazed jugs.

GS: German Stonewares. First made around AD1350, and some types still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.

LMT: Late medieval ware. 1400 – 1550. Hard reddish-orange pottery with sand visible in the clay body. Pale orange and dark green glazes, wide range of everyday vessel types.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Just about everywhere in Britain began to make and use this type of pottery from about AD1550 onwards, and it was still being made in the 19th century. The clay fabric is usually very smooth, and a brick red colour. Lots of different types of pots were made, particularly very large bowls, cooking pots and cauldrons. Almost all of them have shiny, good-quality orange or green glaze on the inner surface, and sometimes on the outside as well. From about AD1690, black glaze was also used.

MB: Midland Blackware. AD1550 – 1700. Similar to GRE, but has a black glaze on one or both surfaces. Vessels usually tall cups, jugs and bowls. A pottery making such wares was operating in the 'Babylon' area of Ely.

WCS: Cologne Stoneware. Hard, grey pottery made in the Rhineland region of Germany from around 1600 onwards. Usually has lots of ornate moulded decoration, often with blue and purple painted details. Still made today, mainly as tourist souvenirs.

HSW: Harlow Slipware. Similar to glazed red earthenware (GRE), but with painted designs in yellow liquid clay ('slip') under the glaze. Made at many places between 1600 and 1700, but the most famous and earliest factory was at Harlow in Essex.

SS: Staffordshire Slipware. Made between about AD1640 and 1750. This was the first pottery to be made in moulds in Britain since Roman times. The clay fabric is usually a pale buff colour, and the main product was flat dishes and plates, but cups were also made. These are usually decorated with thin brown stripes and a yellow glaze, or yellow stripes and a brown glaze.

SMW: Manganese Ware, late 17th – 18th century. Made from a fine, buff-coloured or red clay, with the pots usually covered with a mottled purple and brown glaze. A wide range of different types of pots were made, but mugs and chamber pots are particularly common.

EST: English Stoneware: Very hard, grey fabric with white and/or brown surfaces. First made in Britain at the end of the 17th century, became very common in the 18th and 19th century, particularly for mineral water or ink bottles and beer jars.



VIC. A wide range of miscellaneous mass-produced 19th century wares, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today. First made around AD1800.

RESULTS

Test Pit 1

TP	Context	GRE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1					1	1	1800-1900
1	2	1	12			7	24	1550-1900
1	3	1	5	1	7	11	33	1550-1900
1	4					2	2	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval and indicates that the site was not used before that time. It probably had a marginal use such as fields until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 2

TP	Context	RB		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1							1	42					4	12	1400-1900
2	2					3	20							2	2	1150-1900
2	3									5	52			6	13	1550-1900
2	4	1	4							2	34	1	3	6	32	100-1900
2	5			1	5			2	17	2	25			1	2	1100-1900
2	6					3	98	2	5			1	1	1	2	1150-1900

The single sherd of Roman pottery suggests that this site had a marginal use at that time, probably as fields. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period, since when it has been in continual use.

Test Pit 3

TP	Context	RB		SHC		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1					1	4					1	1	1	1	5	5	1100-1900
3	2	1	1									2	2	2	4	6	9	100-1900
3	3			1	7	2	8			2	7					2	2	1100-1900
3	4			1	1	1	11	2	2									1100-1200

The single sherd of Roman pottery suggests that this site had a marginal use at that time, probably as fields. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period, since when it has been in continual use.



Test Pit 4

TP	Context	EMW		HED		SS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1									2	15	1800-1900
4	2					1	23			17	142	1650-1900
4	3									2	63	1800-1900
4	4	1	6							6	58	1100-1900
4	5			1	2			1	5	14	96	1200-1900
4	6									19	144	1800-1900
4	7									10	127	1800-1900
4	8									2	9	1800-1900

This test-pit produced mainly Victorian pottery. The two sherds of medieval material suggests that the site may have had a marginal use in the period 1100-1400, but it then appears to have been largely abandoned until the 18th – 19th century.

Test Pit 5

TP	Context	BA		SN		STAM		EMW		HED		HG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	2															1	1	1800-1900
5	3															5	9	1800-1900
5	4	1	2			1	3	3	13	2	5	4	24					1200BC-1400
5	5			1	1							1	1	4	8			900-1550

The single sherd of prehistoric pottery shows that the site was in use at that time, perhaps as fields. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period, before once again falling from use at the end of that era until the 19th century.

Test Pit 6

TP	Context	HG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1					3	5	1800-1900
6	2	1	8	1	2	5	5	1150-1900
6	3					4	25	1800-1900
6	4					4	35	1800-1900
6	7					59	2060	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, other than two sherds of medieval material. These suggest that the site had a marginal use between the 12th and 16th centuries, and it then appears to have been abandoned until the 19th century.



Test Pit 7

TP	Context	SN		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		MG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1					1	9			4	18							1100-1200
7	2					2	6	2	6	26	199	1	1	2	22	1	1	1100-1900
7	3					3	8	2	25	17	94							1100-1400
7	4					1	16	2	2	19	94							1100-1400
7	5			4	16					6	44							1100-1200
7	6	2	7							7	21							900-1200
7	7			2	17					20	110							1100-1200
7	8	2	12															900-1100

This test-pit produced exceptionally large quantities of medieval pottery, showing that people were living here at that time. The earliest material suggests that occupation began around the time of the Norman Conquest, and perhaps even a little earlier. It seems to have been in decline by the 15th century, and was then more or less permanently abandoned.

Test Pit 8

TP	Context	SN		SHC		EMW		HG		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	3					1	29			1100-1150
8	4			1	6	3	7	1	12	1100-1200
8	5	1	6							900-1100
8	6					1	6			1100-1150

All the pottery from this test-pit was Saxo-Norman or earlier medieval, showing that people were using the site during the 11th – 14th centuries. It then seems to have been permanently abandoned after that time.

Test Pit 9

TP	Context	HG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	1	1	5	6	21	1150-1900
9	2	2	6	15	20	1150-1900
9	3			12	24	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, other than three sherds of earlier medieval material. These suggest that the site had a marginal use between the 12th and 14th centuries, and was then abandoned until the 19th century.



Test Pit 10

TP	Context	RB		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1			1	2			1	1	4	13	1	5	1	3	100-1900
10	2	3	6											4	4	100-1900
10	3	1	1			1	5	1	1	1	4					100-1400
10	4	1	8	3	12	2	10	1	3							100-1400
10	5	2	7													100-400

The small assemblage of Roman pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was in use at that time, although it probably had a marginal function. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period, and again before the 15th century. It was then largely unused until the 19th century.

Test Pit 11

TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
11	1	24	31	1800-1900
11	2	22	42	1800-1900
11	3	15	18	1800-1900
11	4	8	9	1800-1900
11	5	5	39	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, indicating that the site was never used before that time.

Test Pit 12

TP	Context	BA		SN		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		GRE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
12	1											1	1					1	1	1150-1900
12	2					3	17					2	7					3	3	1100-1900
12	3					1	1	1	3	2	6	4	14			1	9	2	3	1100-1900
12	4			3	12	3	20	8	21			9	49	1	1					900-1600
12	5					8	37	10	55			10	79							1100-1200
12	6			1	3	1	4			1	8									900-1400
12	7	3	7	2	5	2	2	1	12			5	8							1200BC-1200

The three sherds of prehistoric pottery shows that the site was in use at that time, perhaps as fields near a dwelling. It then appears to have been abandoned until the Saxo-Norman or early medieval period, before once again falling from use in the 14th century, and remaining largely unused until the 19th century.



Test Pit 13

TP	Context	RB		SN		STAM		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		LMT		GRE		SS		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
13	1																					1	3	23	25	1700-1900
13	2													1	22	1	8							39	165	1400-1900
13	3											1	2			3	22			1	5			5	8	1200-1900
13	4					1	1							3	5	2	6									1000-1550
13	5	2	11					1	1					11	31											100-1200
13	6			1	2			1	4	1	4	1	2	3	11									1	3	1100-1900

The two sherds of Roman pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was in use at that time, although it probably had a marginal function. It then appears to have been abandoned until the Saxo-Norman or early medieval period, and again before the end of the 16th century. It was then largely unused until the 19th century.



Test Pit 14

TP	Context	BA		RB		EMW		HG		LMT		GRE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
14	1									1	7	2	12			1	2	1400-1900
14	2											1	1			9	15	1550-1900
14	3			1	5					1	5					12	25	100-1900
14	4													1	8	2	52	1700-1900
14	5									1	22							1400-1550
14	6							8	39									1100-1150
14	7									1	1							1400-1550
14	8	1	6					1	2									1200BC-1200
14	9					1	2											1100-1150

The single sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery show that the site had a marginal use during those periods. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period, and again before the end of the 16th century. It was then largely unused until the 19th century.

Test Pit 15

TP	Context	RB		HED		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
15	1									1	1	1800-1900
15	2			1	10	1	7	1	14	3	8	1200-1900
15	3	1	1									100-400

The single sherd of Roman pottery shows that the site had a marginal use during that period. It then seems to have been abandoned until the medieval period, when it once again had a use as fields or similar, before being again largely abandoned, until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 16

TP	Context	RB		EMW		HED		HG		LMT		GRE		HSW		WCS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
16	1							3	10			4	44			1	4	19	47	1150-1900
16	2											2	14					29	74	1550-1900
16	3							2	7									1	1	1150-1900
16	4					1	2	1	3					1	11					1200-1650
16	5			1	2			4	24	1	21							1	1	1100-1900
16	6							5	24											1150-1200
16	7							2	7											1150-1200
16	8	5	16																	100-400

The small assemblage of Roman pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was in use at that time, although it probably had a marginal function. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period. Activity dropped off quite sharply during the 15th century, suggesting that the site had a largely marginal use until the 19th century.

Test Pit 17

TP	Context	HG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
17	2			2	2	1800-1900
17	3	1	8	1	3	1150-1900

This test-pit did not produce much pottery, with the scant evidence suggesting that the site had a marginal use in the earlier medieval and Victorian periods, but was otherwise not used.

Test Pit 18

TP	Context	SN		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
18	1					2	5	1	4	3	9	1	3	1	2	1100-1900
18	2					1	2			2	9			32	35	1100-1900
18	3	4	8	2	3	9	15			2	2			2	2	900-1900
18	4			7	16	3	4	1	2	2	11	3	3			1100-1600
18	5			3	13	1	2			4	27					1100-1200
18	6					4	63			4	19					1100-1200

All the pottery from this test-pit was Saxo-Norman or earlier medieval, showing that people were using the site during the 11th – 14th centuries. It then seems to have been more or less abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 19

TP	Context	RB		SN		STAM		SHC		EMW		HED		HG		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
19	1									1	6									1100-1150
19	2							2	15	4	44	11	33	32	118	3	30	2	2	1100-1900
19	3							4	10	9	53	30	96	34	229					1100-1400
19	4							7	71	23	217			14	95					1100-1200
19	5			1	3			2	10	1	11			13	119					1000-1200
19	6	1	1			1	1	24	121	1	5			2	5					100-1200
19	7							5	12					1	4					1100-1200

The single sherd of Roman pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was in use at that time, although it probably had a marginal function. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period, at which point people appear to have started living there. The site then seems to have been largely abandoned by the 15th century.



Test Pit 20

TP	Context	BA		RB		SN		EMW		HED		HG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
20	1					1	3					3	14	1	3	1000-1900
20	2					5	20	3	6			3	4	6	6	900-1900
20	3	1	5			5	32			1	1	3	15			1200BC-1400
20	4			2	2	5	15									100-1100
20	5	4	12	1	6											1200BC-400
20	6	6	28													1200-800BC

This test-pit produced a fairly large assemblage of prehistoric material, including a context with no later material, suggesting that people occupied the site at that time. It was again in use in the Roman period, probably as fields, then abandoned until the late Saxon period. People then appear to have lived at the site until the 14th century or thereabouts, after which time it was abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 21

TP	Context	RB		SN		HED		HG		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
21	1	2	4			1	1					2	26			100-1600
21	2							2	2							1150-1200
21	3	5	11													100-400
21	4			1	3			3	10	2	8			2	3	900-1900
21	5					2	3	3	7							1150-1400
21	6			1	4			1	1							1000-1200
21	8							1	2							1150-1200

The small assemblage of Roman pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was in use at that time, although it probably had a marginal function. It then appears to have been abandoned until the Saxo-Norman or early medieval period. Activity dropped off quite sharply during the 15th century, after which time it was abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 22

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
22	2			3	12	1800-1900
22	3	1	31	6	13	1550-1900
22	4	1	7	20	67	1550-1900
22	5			7	56	1800-1900
22	6			4	9	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval and indicates that the site was not used before that time. It probably had a marginal use such as fields until the Victorian era.



Test Pit 23

TP	Context	BA		RB		SN		HED		HG		LMT		MB		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
23	1			1	2											1	1	100-1900
23	2			1	1			1	5			1	4			6	7	100-1900
23	3			3	11					1	2	1	5	1	2			100-1600
23	4									1	12							1150-1200
23	5					1	5											900-1100
23	6	9	25															1200-800BC
23	7	2	5															1200-800BC

This test-pit produced a fairly large assemblage of prehistoric material, including a two contexts with no later material, suggesting that people occupied the site at that time. It was again in use in the Roman period, probably as fields, then abandoned until the late Saxon period. People then appear to have lived at the site until the 15th century or thereabouts, after which time it was largely abandoned until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 24

TP	Context	LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
24	1					3	8	1800-1900
24	2			1	9	4	5	1550-1900
24	3	1	5	1	2	3	25	1400-1900
24	4					3	7	1800-1900
24	5			1	21	5	8	1550-1900
24	6					10	44	1800-1900
24	8					2	12	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval, other than a single sherd of late medieval material. It appears that the site probably had a marginal use such as fields until the Victorian era.

Test Pit 25

TP	Context	SHC		EMW		HED		HG		MG		LMT		GRE		HSW		SS		EST		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
25	1							1	3													1	1	15	19	1150-1900
25	2											1	1	1	19					1	5			41	71	1400-1900
25	3													2	5	2	24							28	93	1550-1900
25	4	2	4	1	3	2	8	7	22	1	9	11	65	6	17	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	50	227	1000-1900
25	5			3	12	1	1	12	46					2	149									6	24	1100-1900
25	6			3	20	4	8	9	29	1	2	1	4													1100-1550
25	7							17	48			2	2													1150-1550

This test-pit produced a large quantity of pottery, and it suggests that people first settled the site in the Saxon-Norman period, and it has been in use ever since.

Test Pit 26

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
26	1			2	18	1800-1900
26	3	11	241			1550-1600

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval and indicates that the site was not used before that time. It probably had a largely marginal use.

Test Pit 27

TP	Context	BA		SN		EMW		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
27	1											1	1	1800-1900
27	2									1	1	1	6	1550-1900
27	3			2	9			1	5			1	1	1100-1900
27	4			3	13	2	4							900-1150
27	5	1	3	1	2									1200BC-1100

The single sherd of prehistoric pottery shows that the site had a marginal use during that period. It then appears to have been abandoned until the Saxo-Norman or early medieval period, and again before the end of the 16th century. It was then largely unused until the 19th century.

Test Pit 28

TP	Context	BA		RB		SN		STAM		SHC		EMW		HG		VIC		Date Range	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
28	1					1	3										1	1	900-1900
28	2	1	2			1	4												1200BC-1100
28	3					1	1	1	1			1	5	4	16				900-1200
28	4					4	38							2	9				900-1200
28	5					2	3			1	3	3	30	2	9				900-1200
28	6	2	4			2	6							3	14				1200BC-1200
28	7	2	8			3	8			1	5	2	14	5	14				1200BC-1200
28	8	1	1			9	22			3	5			14	71				1200BC-1200
28	9	4	8			13	24			5	28	7	18	9	64				1200BC-1200
28	10	3	9	1	17	13	21	2	5	7	39	3	7	14	48				1200BC-1200
28	11	2	5			29	94					2	22	6	31				1200BC-1200
28	12	4	8			22	36			2	10			7	85				1200BC-1200
28	13					18	51												900-1100
28	14	4	18			14	82												900-1100

This test-pit produced exceptionally large quantities of pottery. The group of prehistoric pottery is very large, and fragments of burnt bone were also noted, suggesting that there was once an urned cremation on the site, although it was probably disturbed and is now dispersed. The Late Saxon assemblage is also very large, and contexts 13 and 14 produced no later pottery, showing that people were living at the site before the Norman Conquest. Occupation continued into the medieval period, but the site then seems to have been deserted before the end of the 12th century, and never occupied again.



Test Pit 29

TP	Context	BA		SN		STAM		EMW		HED		HG		SWW		LMT		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
29	1									1	1	3	18	1	3	4	11	1150-1550
29	2							3	13	3	4	25	129	6	27			1100-1400
29	3							10	60	11	30	26	137					1100-1400
29	4					1	2	10	76	4	16	13	117					1000-1400
29	5							4	28	3	12	7	26					1100-1400
29	6							3	14	2	3	8	48					1100-1400
29	7							2	20			3	18					1100-1200
29	8							1	9			1	5					1100-1200
29	9	4	13	2	7													1200BC-1100
29	10	1	4															1200-800BC

This test-pit produced exceptionally large quantities of pottery. The prehistoric pottery includes a group from context 10 with no later pottery, showing that people occupied the site at that time. The site was then abandoned until the Saxo-Norman or medieval period, but the site then seems to have been deserted before the end of the 15th century, and never occupied again. The sherds of Surrey White Ware are worthy of comment, as such material is a very rare find in the area, and this is the only test-pit which produced it, suggesting that the occupants of the site had trade contacts which were not exploited by other occupants of the settlement.

Test Pit 30

TP	Context	HG		LMT		GRE		GS		SS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
30	1	1	5			1	6			1	2	6	9	1150-1900
30	2	1	1	1	8	6	66	1	20	1	2	2	5	1150-1900
30	3			1	5	1	1							1400-1600

This test-pit produced a fairly small quantity of pottery, but it shows that the site was in use from the medieval period onwards, albeit on the margins of the settlement.

Test Pit 31

TP	Context	LMT		GRE		SS		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
31	2			1	4					5	16	1550-1900
31	3					2	6			23	74	1650-1900
31	4			2	5			1	2	72	140	1550-1900
31	5			1	2			1	2	114	316	1550-1900
31	6	6	44	5	162	4	47	1	5	62	181	1400-1900

The range of pottery types from this test-pit show that activity at the site did not begin until the 15th century, but it also appears to have been more or less continuously occupied since that time.

Test Pit 32

TP	Context	RB		SHC		HED		HG		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
32	1	1	1	1	8			2	4	2	7					100-1550
32	2							1	3					3	23	1150-1900
32	3													5	8	1800-1900
32	4											5	46			1550-1600
32	5									3	7			2	2	1400-1900
32	6					1	7									1200-1400

The single sherd of Roman pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was in use at that time, although it probably had a marginal function. It then appears to have been abandoned until the early medieval period, and seems to have had a largely marginal use throughout the medieval period. The site then seems to have been largely abandoned from the later 16th century until the Victorian era.

13.2 Faunal report (Vida Rajkovača)

A relatively substantial assemblage of faunal remains came from a series of test pits excavated across the village. Of 879 assessable specimens, only 287 (32.6%) were identified to species or family level (Table 1). This is quite low, a reflection of poor preservation.

Ovicapra outrank cattle regardless of which quantifying method is taken into account (Table 1), although this prevalence is more evident when MNI is considered. A full range of domesticates and a relatively varied list of wild species were recorded. Smaller mammals and herpetofauna are most likely to represent chance incorporations in the archaeological record, as opposed to cultural accumulation of exploited species.

Taxon	NISP	%NISP	MNI
Cow	61	21.4	2
Sheep/ goat	103	36.1	4
Pig	70	24.6	2
Horse	8	2.8	1
Dog	4	1.4	1
Cat	3	1.1	1
Red deer	1	0.35	1
Rabbit	6	2.1	1
Fox	1	0.35	1
Chicken	16	5.6	2
Domestic goose	1	0.35	1
Crow	2	0.7	1
Wood pigeon	1	0.35	1
Teal	1	0.35	1
Wader	2	0.7	1
<i>Galliformes</i>	1	0.35	1
Squirrel	1	0.35	1
Hedgehog	1	0.35	1
Field or water vole	1	0.35	1
Frog/ toad	1	0.35	1
Sub-total to species or family	285	100	.
Cattle-sized	108	.	.
Sheep-sized	449	.	.
Rodent-sized	1	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	8	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	27	.	.
Fish n.f.i.	1	.	.
Total	879	.	.

Table 1. Number of Identified Specimens and Minimum Number of Individuals for all species from all test pits from Meldreth; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Methods:

Identification, quantification and ageing

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 Schmid (1972), and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Undiagnostic fragments were assigned to a size category. A small number of bones were retrieved from sieving of the environmental bulk soil samples. Small taxa were not particularly abundant, however, and the sieved bones did not provide a great deal of additional data on the main domestic species.

Preservation, fragmentation and taphonomy

Surface condition was variable, but it was mostly recorded as quite poor (Behrensmeier 1978). Some 69 specimens were recorded with surface erosion and signs of weathering (7.8%). Burnt bone formed a small part of the assemblage with five specimens showing signs of charring and four being recorded as calcined.

Just over one percent of the bone was recorded as gnawed (N=10), with larger domesticates being equally as affected as medium-sized domesticates. This suggests that dogs had access to a proportion of bones prior to their final deposition.

Butchery

Butchery marks were recorded on 18 specimens (2%). Rough and crude chop marks and sawing were the most dominant actions performed on carcasses. Vertebra of all sizes being chopped or sawn down the sagittal plane, representing carcasses intended to be split into left and right portions, were especially common.

Pathologies

There were only two abnormal bones in the assemblage. Abnormal bone growth was noted on the proximal articulation of cow metatarsus from test pit 13. The other instance was a case of osteochondritis dissecans noted on joint surface of proximal metacarpal of cattle from test pit 7. This appears as lesions, resulting from the herniation of small portions of the joint cartilage through the articular surface of the bone, tend to be linked to the sudden physical stress or trauma to the joint.

Test pits

The majority of pits generated small quantities of faunal remains, showing an impoverished range of species. With an exception of test pits 28 and 29, as the only ones that stood out, both in terms of the quantity of recovered bone and the range of identified species (Tables 2-13), the material was dominated by the remains of livestock species and an occasional find of chicken. Test pits 28 and 29 generated a combined total of 337 specimens, or 38.3% of the assemblage. Although dominated by ovicapra, cattle and pig cohorts appeared substantial enough implying beef and pork were also commonly eaten. Poultry also played part in their diet. A sporadic crow or fox specimen came from other pits with very little other material.

Taxon	Test pit 2					Test pit 3				
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[5]	[6]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
Cow	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Sheep/ goat	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Pig	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Chicken	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.
Sub-total to species	4	1	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.
Cattle- sized	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep- sized	.	2	1	1	2	2	1	.	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Total	4	3	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	3

Table 2. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 2 and 3; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 4					Test pit 5			Test pit 6	
	[2]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[8]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[2]	[3]
Cow	1	3	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep/ goat	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pig	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.
Horse	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Cat	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wood pigeon	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Sub-total to species	1	4	3	1	3	.	.	1	1	.
Cattle- sized	.	1	2	1	1	1	.	1	.	.
Sheep- sized	.	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	2
Rodent- sized	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Total	1	7	6	3	5	3	1	5	2	3

Table 3. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 4 - 6



Taxon	Test pit 7								Test pit 8				Test pit 9		
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[1]	[2]	[3]
Cow	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep/ goat	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pig	1	.	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Horse	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rabbit	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Chicken	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
?Wader	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	2	2	1	3	2	1	3	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	.
Cattle- sized	.	4	3	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sheep- sized	1	2	3	2	4	2	8	3	1	2	5	2	2	.	1
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	3	8	7	6	6	7	14	3	1	3	5	3	2	1	2

Table 4. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 7 -9; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 10		Test pit 11				Test pit 12					
	[2]	[3]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[5]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
Cow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
Sheep/ goat	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Pig	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Sub-total to species	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	1	1
Cattle- sized	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.
Sheep- sized	2	1	2	2	3	4	2	.	1	.	.	1
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	2	1	3	2	3	4	2	3	2	2	1	2

Table 5. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 10 - 12; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 13						Test pit 14					Test pit 15
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[6]	[9]	[3]
Cow	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep/ goat	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pig	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Horse	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cat	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fox	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chicken	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	1	1	3	1	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cattle- sized	.	.	4	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep- sized	2	4	4	2	2	3	1	3	1	3	1	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Total	3	7	11	6	7	4	1	4	1	3	1	1

Table 6. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 13 - 15; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 16									Test pit 17			
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Cow	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	1	2	.	.	.	.
Sheep/ goat	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pig	1	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dog	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Cat	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Rabbit	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Crow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Frog/ toad	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Sub-total to species	3	.	1	1	.	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1
Cattle- sized	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	.
Sheep- sized	3	3	3	1	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	3
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.
Total	7	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	5	4

Table 7. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 16 - 17; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 19							Test pit 20					
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
Cow	.	3	2	2	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	.
Sheep/ goat	.	3	3	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.
Pig	1	6	8	5	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Red deer	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Chicken	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wader	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	1	12	14	12	2	.	.	.	2	1	1	1	.
Cattle- sized	.	3	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep- sized	.	6	26	15	3	3	3	.	.	.	.	.	1
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	4	3	2	3	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	1	22	44	29	6	6	3	2	6	4	3	4	1

Table 8. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 19 - 20; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 21		Test pit 22			Test pit 23		Test pit 24				
	[1]	[6]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
Sheep/ goat	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sub-total to species	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cattle- sized	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	1	.
Sheep- sized	2	4	.	2	.	2	.	2	1	.	1	1
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2

Table 9. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 21 - 24; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 25							Test pit 26	Test pit 27						
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[1]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
Cow	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.
Sheep/ goat	1	1	4	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.
Pig	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	3	1	2	.	1	1	.
Rabbit	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	2	2	4	3	4	2	.	.	3	2	3	1	4	1	.
Cattle-sized	.	.	.	1	3	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	.
Sheep-sized	2	2	3	11	4	1	2	.	.	2	4	5	2	.	1
Total	5	4	7	15	11	3	2	1	4	5	7	7	6	1	1

Table 10. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 25 – 27

Taxon	Test pit 28													
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]
Cow	1	.	2	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	1
Sheep/ goat	.	2	3	2	.	2	.	3	3	4	5	5	4	2
Pig	.	.	1	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	3	2
Horse	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dog	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Rabbit	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Chicken	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
<i>Galliformes</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Domestic goose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Squirrel	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hedgehog	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Vole sp.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	2	3	8	3	.	2	3	4	6	7	6	5	7	11
Cattle-sized	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	1	1	2	1	1	5	8
Sheep-sized	.	10	6	6	4	11	8	7	13	12	16	8	5	7
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.
Total	2	13	16	10	7	13	11	13	20	21	24	14	17	26

Table 11. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 28; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 29										
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]
Cow	.	.	4	5	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
Sheep/ goat	1	3	3	5	11	3	1	.	1	.	.
Pig	.	1	2	1	2	.	.	1	.	.	.
Horse	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Chicken	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
Teal	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	1	5	9	12	14	5	1	1	2	.	.
Cattle- sized	.	3	.	2	.	3	2	2	.	.	.
Sheep- sized	1	6	13	4	11	2	5	7	5	4	.
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bird n.f.i.	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
Fish n.f.i.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Total	3	15	23	20	26	12	9	10	7	4	1

Table 12. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 29; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Taxon	Test pit 30				Test pit 31					Test pit 32		
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[2]	[4]	[5]
Cow	.	2	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sheep/ goat	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	1
Pig	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
Horse	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rabbit	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Chicken	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
?Wader	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sub-total to species	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	.	1
Cattle- sized	.	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	2	.
Sheep- sized	4	13	2	1	1	2	4	2	.	.	.	3
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	5	22	7	2	2	3	5	4	7	1	2	4

Table 13. Number of Identified Specimens from TP 30 - 32; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Discussion

The overwhelming majority of the material is made up of remains of livestock species, especially sheep/ goat. Unfortunately, only a small part of the assemblage was identifiable to species level, mainly owing to the poor preservation, but also to the degree of processing that the material suffered. Of 879 specimens, some 437 were recorded as sheep-sized limb bone splinters, resulting from axial splitting of long bones. This is quite substantial, amounting to almost half of the assemblage, and illustrates the assemblage's domestic character. Lack of any big bone deposits or 'dumps', however, implies the area must have been the periphery of activities. Large bone sub-sets from test pits 28 and 29 were found alongside great quantities of pottery of various dates from these two pits, both indicating the area was in use over a long period of time. It was hard to record any economic patterns related to any particular period, although the heavy reliance on sheep/ goat, and livestock in general, as well as the style of butchery actions, are all characteristic of the Medieval and later periods.

13.3 Lithics report (Lawrence Billington)

Quantification

Of the 345 pieces of flint submitted for analysis 246 (71%) were natural, unmodified pieces and are not discussed further in this report. The total 88 of worked flints recovered from the investigations together with 140.8g of unworked burnt flint (11 pieces). The assemblage is quantified by test pit and context in table 1. The flint was recovered from 22 test pits with numbers of worked pieces varying from 1 to 21 in individual test pits.

TP	Context	chip	irregular waste	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	retouched flake	total worked	unworked burnt flint no.	unworked burnt flint weight (g)
1	1				1				1		
1	2				1				1		
2	1					1			1		
3	4	2							2		
3	5				1	1			2		
4	8				1				1		
5	5				1				1		
8	5					1			1		
11	2	1							1		
12	1				1				1		
12	2								0	1	1.9
15	2					1			1		
15	4				1				1		
16	2				1				1		
16	4				1				1		
16	5	1		1					2	1	1
17	1	2							2		
18	2				1				1		
20	1				1				1		
20	3				5	1			6	1	8
20	4					2			2		
20	5	1		1	2	4			8		
20	6				3	1			4		
21	1				1				1		
21	3	2			1	2			5		
21	4	1							1		
23	1				1				1		
23	2			1					1		
23	3				1				1		
23	4				1				1		
23	5				1	1			2		
23	6				1				1		
23	7				2				2		
23	8					1			1		
24	1				1				1		
24	2				1			1	2		
24	4				1				1		
24	5				1				1		
25	2			1	2				3	1	14.5
25	3		1						1		
25	3				1				1		
25	4		1		1				2	1	35.7

TP	Context	chip	irregular waste	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	retouched flake	total worked	unworked burnt flint no.	unworked burnt flint weight (g)
27	1								0	1	2.4
27	2		2						2		
27	3				1				1	1	63.9
28	1				1				1		
28	2				1				1		
28	3				1				1		
28	9					1			1		
29	2				1				1		
29	4				2				2		
29	6						1		1	2	9.2
29	7								0	1	3.3
29	8				2	1			3		
31	6								0	1	0.9
32	1				1				1		
32	5		1		1				2		
		10	5	4	49	18	1	1	88	11	140.8

Table 1. Quantification of the flint assemblage.

Condition

The condition of the assemblage is varied but is generally poor with a high percentage of broken pieces and with frequent edge damage and abrasion which in some instances will have been severe enough to have obscured traces of light retouch and utilisation. 31 pieces display surface alteration in the form of cortication ('patination'), varying from a light blue speckling to heavy white colour. This cortication probably has a degree of chronological significance, with earlier pieces displaying corticated surfaces and it is notable that among the uncorticated pieces are several which may have been accidentally (plough?) struck in relatively recent times.

Raw Materials

The assemblage is made up entirely of fine grained flint. There is considerable variety in the character of surviving cortical surfaces, most, however, point towards secondary sources of flint from superficial geological deposits such as fluvial/glacial gravels or glacial till. There are a few pieces which have a thick cortex more suggestive of a source from primary chalk deposits. Flint bearing chalk (the upper chalk) outcrops some 6 or 7 kilometres to the south of the modern village whilst river terrace gravels associated with the Cam/Rhee river system can be found a few kilometres to the north east (BGS 1974).

Composition and dating

The worked flint assemblage is made up almost exclusively of unretouched flakes. Unusually there are no cores and only a single retouched piece is present. The technological traits of the flakes vary considerably. Particularly notable is the poor quality of flaking associated with much of the uncorticated material. Many of these pieces are irregular and squat in morphology cortical striking platforms and hinged terminations are also common. It is likely that some of this material relates to later prehistoric (post Early Bronze Age) activity and represents the expedient use of flint resources by communities for whom metal tools had assumed a greater utility than their flint counterparts (Ford et al 1984). More carefully worked material is more common amongst the corticated flintwork and includes relatively systematically produced pieces with trimmed striking platforms and some with evidence for soft hammer percussion. This material is likely to be somewhat earlier in date although blade based forms of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date is very rare in the assemblage suggesting a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date is probably more likely

for the bulk of this material. This material includes a flake possibly struck from a late Neolithic levallois-like core (Ballin 2011). A notable concentration of these more systematically worked flints were recovered from test pit 20, which contained 21 struck flints in total and which may indicate the presence of a relatively dense lithic scatter.

The only definitely retouched piece in the assemblage is a secondary flake with bold, somewhat crude dorsal retouch from test pit 24. A late prehistoric (Later Bronze Age to Iron Age) date is most likely for this piece, which probably functioned as a cutting tool or scraper.

Only small quantities of burnt flint were recovered from the site. These need represent no more than pieces inadvertently caught up in hearths etc and may relate as much to later, historic, activity than to prehistory.

Summary

Characterisation of the assemblage from Meldreth is hampered by a lack of technologically and typologically diagnostic pieces but appears to reflect prehistoric activity from the Neolithic well into later prehistory. The relatively large assemblage from test pit 20 indicates some potential for substantial lithic scatters to be located in the area.



13.4 Finds from Meldreth test pits

(Finds logged by Meldreth Local History Group and compiled by Alex Pryor)

Test pit 1

Test pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1			{Metal handle x1, modern metal button x1, modern metal nail x1, metal scraps x4} =87g	stone =74g	bone shirt button x1 =0.5g	
C. 2			{metal nails x2, metal fragments x2} =40g	charcoal x2 =1g	mortar x15 =262g	
C. 3	brick x4 =46g, clay pipe stem =0.5g	glass x1 =0.5g	metal nails x9 =67g	stone x3 =153g	shell x2 =2g	
C. 4	tile =7g		metal scraps x6 =14g			

Test Pit 2

Test pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	{yellow brick x2, red brick x5} =74g	light blue glass =1g	{metal nails x3, straight metal pieces x2} =20g	coal x10 =21g		
C. 2	brick, stone and tile x15 =278g	glass =4g	metal tacks and nails x7 =15g	charcoal x8 =18g		
C. 3		glass (1 milk bottle bottom, 1 frosted piece, 1 small brown piece) =13g	{metal nails x4, top of metal tube x1, lead soldier x1} =29g	burnt material (clinker) x21 =70g	oyster shell x2 =10g, building rubble x33 =203g	
C. 4		glass x5 =103g	metal fragments x3 =165g	charcoal x15 =99g	shell =<1g, mortar and stone x6 =66g	
C. 5	clay pipe =2g		metal =0.5g		oyster and snail shell x2 =8g, stone and brick x3 =24g	
C. 6		glass x3 =3g		stone x3 =9g	{oyster shell x2, shell x2} =19g	
Spoil heap			{1957 coin, insulator, metal lump} =26g			



Test pit 3

Test pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	clay pipe stem =2g, brick and tile x11 =35g	clear modern glass =0.5g		slate x3 =5g, coal and charcoal x10 =12g, cinder x2 =9g	plastic x3 =0.5g, plaster =1g	
C. 2	brick and tile x34 =25g	glass =3g	{metal button x1, metal scraps x4} =6g	coal x19 =15g		
C. 3	brick and tile x4 =11g		nails x2 =7g	coal =0.5g	natural coprolite x2 =0.5g, battery core =1g, chalk =0.5g	
C. 4	clay pipe =<1g, brick =3g			charcoal =1g		
C. 5				{coal x1, stone x1} =4g		

Test pit 4

Test pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	bricks x26 =252g	glass x2 =14g	metal scraps x44 =1505g	coal x11 =70g	oyster =3g, wood =?	
C. 2		glass Cinzano bottle =500g	metal x11 =110g	coal x2 =17g		
C. 3		{green glass x3, opalescent glass x3} =135g		coal x5 =73g, slate x2 =27g	{concrete tile x1, breeze block x1, tile x1, stone x1} =194g	
C. 4	tile x2 =153g	{broken base of wine glass, broken glass bottle, assorted modern glass} x22 =250g	{bottom of light bulb, nails x12, metal washer x1, bolts x2, aluminium pieces x2, iron frags x11} x30 =238g		plastic screw top =5g, wooden cork =5g, cement and breeze block x18 =482g	
C. 5	clay pipe stems x3 =5g	assorted glass x20 =82g		coal =3g, charcoal x1 =?, clinker x2 =10g	plastic =1g	
C. 6	tile x2 =10g	glass x14 =?g		coal x5 =25g		
C. 7	tile x3 =15g	glass =7g		slate =11g, clinker =3g		
C. 8	clay pipe stem =0.5g, tile x6 =409g	modern glass x2 =6g	{thick metal nails, battery terminal, metal rings x2} x20 =336g			



Test pit 5

Test pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1				stone x2 =143g		
C. 2	clay insulator x2 =7g	glass (dark green, and mother of pearl) x2 =9g	metal x9 =70g		rubble x20 =800g	
C. 3	brick and tile x6 =34g		metal nails x3 =10g	slate x4 =5g, charcoal x3 =5g		
C. 4	brick x3 =32g		metal nails x2 =18g	coal x5 =3g	{mussel shell x4, oyster shell x1} =14g, chalk =39g	
C. 5	tile =29g			mixed stone x11 =89g	shell x21 =4g	

Test pit 6

Test pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1		glass =1g			wood x2 =4g, red plastic bead =4g, plastic = <1g, shell = <1g, rubble x53 =593g	
C. 2		{clear glass x1, brown glass x1} =5g	metal nail =2g		{brick, masonry, asbestos} x77 =631g	
C. 3		glass x14 =204g	metal tacks, nails, and a piece of wire x11 =90g, flowery metal object c2 =11g	charcoal x5 =6g	slate, tile, brick and asbestos x20 =492g	
C. 4			nails and a metal bracket x7 =?		rubble x20 =284g	
C. 5			metal nails x13 =98g	rock x5 =55g		
C. 6		glass =2g	metal nails x4 =10g		tile, stone, daub x14 =190g	
C. 7		{modern glass bottles x2, green glass x1, white glass x1} x12 =119g	{metal nails, metal door parts} x31 =619g, 1920 penny coin =9g		worked modern plaster x3 =71g, slate, wood, asbestos x7 =168g	



Test pit 7

Test pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	sewer pipe =106g, brick,mortar, tile, concrete x16 =372g	modern clear glass bottle =6g	metal mincer part =31g			
C. 2	clay =8g		Mirror case; metal nails x3 =20g		oyster shell x20 =75g, rubble =1050g	
C. 3				coal =0.5g	shell x3 =9g	
C. 4			metal nail =9g	charcoal x4 =1g	shell x3 =2g, daub x6 =16g, mortar x2 =16g	
C. 5				coal x6 =<1g	amber bead =?, daub x25 =79g	
C. 6				coal x3 =0.5g, stone and clinker x29 =85g	daub x4 =18g	
C. 7				charcoal x9 =<1g, stone x3 =172g, clinker x2 =7g	daub x10 =30g, mussel shell =<1g	
C. 8					mussel shell =2g, cement x3 =11g	

Test pit 8

Test pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	white glazed wall tile =<1g			coal=<1g		
C. 3					shell x3 =4g, daub x64 =689g	
C. 4			metal nail =4g	large pebbles x2 =1142g	metal nail =4g	
C. 5					daub =5g	
C. 6			coin? =?			



Test pit 9

Test pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	clay pipe stem =0.5g	glass x7 =5g	metal x9 =57g	brick and stone x27 =139g, coal and charcoal x10 =16g, slate x6 =10g	button =0.5g	
C. 2	clay pipe =<1g	glass x9 =18g	metal x8 =34g	slate x4 =9g	button =<1g, shell x5 =14g, battery core =1g, miscellaneous rubble x36 =72g	
C. 3		glass {8 clear pieces, 1 small green piece, 1 small multi-colour, 1 small pale green piece} x11 =26g	metal {1 large flat piece, 3 rusted nails/screws, 1 metal fragment} x5 =83g	clinker x6 =16g, stone x13 =86g	concrete and brick building rubble x11 =48g	

Test pit 10

Test pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1			metal tacks x4 =13g		burnt material x3 =14g, brick, tile, stone x50 =281g	
C. 2			large square handmade nail =17g		tile, shell, stone x40 =187g	
C. 3					rubble x30 =65g	
C. 5				stone x2 =2g	natural material (pipe shaped) x4 =6g, shell =<1g	



Test pit 11

Test pit 11	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	clay pipe =<1g	glass x8 =14g	metal x9 =86g	stone and brick x8 =27g, coal and charcoal x10 =24g	plastic x2 =23g, shell x2 =1g	
C. 2	brick x6 =75g	glass x14 =31g	metal (1 large tack, 2 nails) x3 =35g, foil milk bottle top =<1g,	coal x2 =3g	mortar and asbestos x6 =76g, plastic x2 =<1g, shell x2 =<1g	
C. 3	china dolls head =2g	glass {4 bottle and window glass, 1 red bead)	metal x6 =22g	coal x5 =27g	clay (piece with makers name, 1881 date) x3 =3g, rubble x3 =104g	
C. 4	brick x2 =8g	glass x2 =5g	metal (LNER button, 2 nails, part of latch and small) x5 =16g	cinder =3g, slate x3 =8g	lead for pencil =?, battery core =3g	
C. 5	brick and tile x3 =8g	clear glass =4g		slate x3 =12g, charcoal and coal x4 =4g		

Test pit 12

Test pit 12	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1				coal x3 =9g	masonry =28g	
C. 2	brick x8 =80g	glass =<1g	metal {2 nails, 1 George II farthing coin, buckle piece) x4 =8g	coal =2g	mortar =1g	
C. 3	brick x4 =5g		metal =4g		oyster shell x2 =3g, mortar x2 =3g	
C. 4					shell and stone x3 =3g	
C. 5			metal nail =5g	pumice stone x3 =660g	shell and stone x3 =2g	
C. 6			metal =5g			



Test pit 13

Test pit 13	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	tile and brick x21 =200g	glass {9 clear, 1 green} x10 =29g	metal {1 large piece, 2 nails, 2 flakes} x5 =193g	coal and charcoal x28 =38g	battery and core =16g, plastic =<1g	
C. 2	clay pipe stems x2 =4g	glass x8 =19g	metal {Chinese coin, 1 old hinge, 1 button, 1 decorative item, and other fragments} x16 =137g	stone and brick x21 =137g, coal and charcoal x27 =28g	small snail shells x5 =8g	
C. 3	clay pipes x2 =21g	glass x3 =90g	metal x2 =61g	charcoal x13 =11g	shell x3 =8g	
C. 4	brick, tile and stone x8 =1,489g		metal nail =1g	charcoal x6 =4g	shell x4 =4g	
C. 5				coal x9 =7g, stone x17 =30g	shell x2 =0.5g	
C. 6					shell x4 =2g	

Test pit 14

Test pit 14	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1		glass x2 =1g	metal bracket =36g	brick and stone x4 =5g	miscellaneous red fragment =4g	
C. 2	modern glazed tile x3 =8g, brick and mortar x5 =83g	glass x2 =2g	metal {screw and nail} x2 =7g	slate x3 =8g, coal =4g	daub =2g	
C. 3	brick and tile x5 =33g	glass x5 =15g	metal x2 =13g		burnt material x3 =11g	
C. 4	brick x2 =28g	glass {2 green pieces, 1 blue, 1 white} x4 =83g	metal nail =7g	charcoal =7g		
C. 5	brick x2 =1g			charcoal x2 =1g		
C. 6				charcoal x2 =<1g	shell x2 =9g	
C. 7				shell =12g		



Test pit 15

Test pit 15	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1			metal nail =7g			
C. 2	brick and tile x4 =64g				oyster shell =1g	
C. 3	stone and tile x3 =?					
C. 4	brick and tile x3 =75g					

Test pit 16

Test pit 16	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	clay pipe stem x2 =6g, brick, tile and plaster x15 =213g	glass =4g	metal nail and lump x2 =17g	charcoal x4 =5g	shell {2 whelk and 3 oyster} x5 =2g	
C. 2	clay pipe =2g, brick and stone x16 =167g	modern glass =1g	metal {1 coin, 1 nut} x2 =16g		oyster shell x4 =8g	
C. 3	clay pipe =2g, stone and brick x9 =48g	glass =2g	metal button =<1g		oyster shell =<1g	
C. 4	clay pipe =4g		metal nail =7g		shell =1g	
C. 5			metal nail =8g		oyster shell x2 =3g, mussel shell =1g, mortar =2g	
C. 6	brick x2 =9g				shell =15g	
C. 7			metal ring =<1g	stone x3 =<1g		
C. 8				charcoal =<1g, stone x40 =79g	shell x6 =2g	

Test pit 17

Test pit 17	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C.1	brick =4g			cinder =5g	coprolite =13g	
C.2			metal =8g	coal and charcoal x7 =16g, stone x28 =75g	oyster shell x2 =<1g	
C.3	stone/brick x17 =70g	glass =1g	metal, including possible musket ball x3 =120g	coal and charcoal x3 =2g		
C.4/5	assorted stones/brick x25 =69g		metal tack =5g	charcoal/coal x10 =13g	snail and oyster shell x8 =?, wood =<1g	



Test pit 18

Test pit 18	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1				stone x11 =32g	burnt daub x4 =4g	
C. 2	masonry, brick and slate x14 =74g, clay pipe x2 =2g	glass x2 =7g	metal =1g	coal x77 =70g, stone =2g		
C. 3				coal x14 =8g	rubble x5 =9g	
C. 4				stone and charcoal x13 =25g		
C. 5	brick and tile =3g			coal x15 =13g		
C. 6				charcoal x5 =5g		

Test pit 19

Test pit 19	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C.1	brick and mortar x7 =174g		metal screw =9g	charcoal x2 =<1g	oyster shell =<1g	
C. 2				charcoal x2 =<1g, stone and slate x3 =10g	oyster shell x6 =16g	
C. 3	brick and other building material x13 =140g, clay pipe stem =?		various metal including nails x5 =26g		shell {7 oyster, 1 whelk} x8 =27g	
C. 4			metal nails x4 =24g	stone x8 =18g, chalk spindle =10g		
C. 5			metal tack =4g	charcoal =<1g, stone =24g	oyster shell x2 =<1g	
C. 6			metal nail =3g	stone x3 =4g	shell x3 =1g	
C. 7				charcoal x2 =<1g, stone x4 =9g	oyster shell =<1g	
C. 8				charcoal x2 =<1g	snail shell x3 =6g	



Test pit 20

Test pit 20	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	brick x2 =22g	glass =?	metal nail =5g		plastic containers for fireworks x6 =17g	
C. 2	brick and stone x28 =132g				burnt material x5 =12g, shell x7 =2g	
C. 3				stone rubble x32 =300g	shellx3 =5g	
C. 4				stone rubble x6 =43g		
C. 5					building material =8g	
C. 6	modern brick x6 =74g	glass =<1g		charcoal =<1g, large quantity of flint =?	oyster shell =?	

Test pit 21

Test pit 21	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	stone and brick x15 =38g		metal =6g		shell x3 =3g	
C. 2	tile x31 =180g, clay pipe =1g	glass =3g				
C. 3	clay pipe stem =1g, tile and brick x60 =328g		metal nails x2 =3g	charcoal =<1g		
C. 4	clay pipe =4g, brick and stone x30 =224g		metal nail =3g			
C. 5	brick x5 =7g			stone =18g	shell x6 =1g	
C. 6					oyster shell =?	

Test pit 22

Test pit 22	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1			metal =?			
C. 2	clay pipe stem =2g, tile x2 =164g		metal nail =4g	coal x3 =4g	daub =14g	
C. 3	modern tile =25g, clay pipe stem =<1g	glass {3 clear, 2 green} x5 =9g	metal {2 iron nails, 1 small iron bar} x3 =22g	coal and clinker x4 =4g	wall plaster =1g,	
C. 4		glass (1 green, 1 blue, 1 black and green, 4 clear) x7 =15g	metal nails and one fragment x10 =135g	slate x6 =20g	shell x4 =18g, mortar =47g	
C. 5		glass (19 green bottle, 2 small brown) x21 =358g	metal {5 nails, 1 button?} x9 =16g			
C. 6	brick =12g	clear glass x5 =53g	metal nails x5 =17g	charcoal =8g	plaster =16g, fossil =8g	



Test pit 23

Test pit 23	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1		glass x3 =5g	metal x5 =82g	charcoal x3 =4g, stone and mortar x19 =274g	shell x2 =3g	
C. 2	clay pipe bowl =2g	glass x3 =3g	metal {lead pipe x1, nail x1, piece of bronze x1} x3 =52g	clinker x16 =100g, coal x5 =25g, rubble x2 =27g, stone x3 =45g	oyster shell =<1g, lino =<1g	
C. 3			metal {1 key, 1 staple, 1 nail} x3 =?	coal x25 =250g		
C. 4					shell =?	
C. 6	brick x3 =11g			stone with one flat surface =80g		
C. 7	brick and tile x5 =6g					

Test pit 24

Test pit 24	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1		glass x6 =30g	metal x6 =73g	stone and brick x23 =266g, charcoal x4 =10g	shell x3 =14g	
C. 2	brick x26 =209g	glass x8 =44g	metal x3 =46g	charcoal x7 =6g, coal x3 =56g		
C. 3	clay pipe stem =1g, brick x10 =191g	glass x9 =27g	metal {7 nails and one flat piece} x8 =46g	coal x2 =16g, slate x2 =5g, charcoal x5 =5g		
C. 4		green glass x2 =5g	long thin metal wire x4 =28g		building rubble x17 =800g	
C. 5		glass x6 =13g	metal {nails x7, staple x1, 1 end of bolt} x9 =67g	slate x5 =14g, clinker x2 =37g, coal x3 =48g,	bottle stopper =29g	
C. 6	clay pipe stem =2g	glass x6 =15g	metal {5 nails, 2 cylindrical lumps, 1 long piece with holes} x9 =383g	slate x3 =24g, clinker x5 =23g	building rubble =207g, shell x2 =1g	
C. 7	brick x2 =8g	glass {4 brown and 1 clear} x5 =26g	metal x4 =194g	slate x2 =4g	mortar x3 =110g, shell =1g	

Test pit 25

Test pit 25	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	three clay pipe pieces and one decorated bowl =5g	glass x7 =12g	metal nails x3 =10g	coal x17 =19g, stone and slate rubble =46g		
C. 2	clay pipe {10 stems, 3 bowl fragments} x13 =16g, tile and brick x20 =128g	glass {5 clear, 2 green, 3 blue, 1 pink/white} x11 =92g	metal {1 large piece, 5 nails} x7 =140g	coal x16 =19g, slate =3g	oyster shell =9g	
C. 3	clay pipe =1g, brick x27 =90g	glass x2 =1g	metal x9 =104g	charcoal x10 =14g, slate x3 =3g		
C. 4	clay pipe x3 =4g, brick and tile x11 =51g	modern green glass x18 =80g	metal {1 piece slag, 1 button} x3 =61g	coal =22g	oyster and mussel shell x6 =14g	
C. 5	clay pipe bowl =1g			charcoal =2g	shell x3 =4g	
C. 6					shell {1 oyster, 1 mussel, 2 garden snails} x5 =?	
C. 7	brick =26g			clinker =10g	shell {2 garden snails, 1 mussel} x3 =?	

Test pit 26

Test pit 26	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	brick and tile x3 =8g		metal {2 lumps, 1 nail head} x3 =51g	coal x12 =39g, clinker x4 =161g	plastic =?	
C. 2	brick =12g		small square lined piece of metal (lead?) =7g	coal x4 =9g, clinker x2 =9g		
C. 3	brick and tile x6 =16g			worked stone? =198g, coal =?g, clinker =27g		
C. 5				clinker =49g, stone =26g		

Test pit 27

Test pit 27	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1				stone etc. x14 =45g	shell =<1g	
C. 2	brick x9 =65g	glass =1g	metal x2 =22g, 1807 penny coin =8g	coal x2 =2g	brick, chalk and stone x35 =150g	
C. 3	brick, mortar and tile x7 =106g			coal x2 =13g	shell =<1g	
C. 4					stone and tile x12 =49g	
C. 5				stone =7g		
C. 7				stone x3 =9g		



Test pit 28

Test pit 28	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 2			small metal tack =3g	stone x9 =25g		
C. 3					brick and stone x23 =182g, shell x2 =<1g	
C. 4	brick x2 =97g		metal tack =6g	stone x4 =50g	shell x2 =5g, burnt material =3g	
C. 5			old metal nail =16g		masonry x12 =252g	
C. 6				stone x2 =5g	shell {oyster shellx1 and snail shell x8} x9 =19g	
C. 7				stone x3 =63g	shell {14 snail, 1 mussel} x15 =43g, building material x4 =74g, mortar x5 =11g	
C. 8	brick x3 =10g		slag =5g		mortar x3 =13g, shell x29 =60g	
C. 9				stone x5 =10g, charcoal x3 =5g	shell {2 oyster, 9 snail} x11 =27g	
C. 10			slag =8g	clinker =4g	shell x6 =9g	
C. 11				charcoal =<1g	shell {2 mussel, 2 oyster, 6 snail} x10 =19g	
C. 12				charcoal x15 =5g	shell {2 snail, 1 mussel, 1 oyster, 1 ammonite} x5 =6g	
C. 13				charcoal x14 =11g	flat spiral tiny shells x82 =22g	
C. 14				charcoal x16 =5g	shell {3 oyster, 7 flat snails, 1 land snail} x11 =16g	

Test pit 29

Test pit 29	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C.1	brick =6g, brick (ancient?) =257g				shell x5 =9g	
C. 2			metal x2 =13g	charcoal =<1g	shell (mainly oyster) x28 =88g, daub =14g	
C. 3			metal arrow head =24g, nail =2g		shell {1 whelk, rest oyster} x56 =290g	
C. 4					shell {12 mussel, 16 oyster} x28 =64g	
C. 5				charcoal =<1g	shellx6 =8g, flint aggregate =176g	
C. 6			slag =23g	burnt stone and burnt daub x2 =30g	burnt wattle and daub x9 =92g, shell {7 snail and 1 oyster} x8 =25g	
C. 7				stones x8 =47g	shell {oyster and garden} x? =7g	
C. 8			metal =30g	coal x4 =6g	shell x5 =3g	
C. 9				clinker x2 =10g, charcoal =<1g		
C. 10				charcoal x4 =?	shell =?	
C. 11					shell =?	



Test pit 30

Test pit 30	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	clay x4 =7g, brick and tile x9 =158g	glass x3 =4g	metal {4 nails, 1 bullet} x5 =10g	coal x5 =7g	mortar x7 =27g	
C. 2	brick, tile and mortar x221 =1341g	glass {1 thick Georgian? piece of glass, 3 small thinner pieces} x5 =42g	metal {7 assorted nails, 1 door boss, 1 flat piece, 3 small lead strips} x12 =127g	charcoal x2 =2g	daub x4 =82g, shell {assorted oyster and mussel} x12 =49g	
C. 3	tile x38 =790g		iron lump =13g		oyster shell x14 =28g	
C. 4	tile and brick x16 =278g				shell {4oyster, 1 mussel} x5 =9g, burnt material =<1g	

Test pit 31

Test pit 31	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 2	tile x13 =140g	glass x3 =11g				
C. 3		glass x6 =5g	metal {part of a fen boot, piece of a horseshoe, top of bold and one unknown} x4 =114g	charcoal x6 =1g	flint belomnite x3 =17g, modern grey concrete roof tile x3 =165g, brick, masonry, ballast etc. x30 =326g	
C. 4	clay pipe stem and bowl x2 =4g, white and red brick x30 =153g, tile x2 =152g	glass x28 =68g	metal including 7 nails x20 =108g, slag x8 =19g	slate, chalk and natural stone x7 =18g, coal x8 =14g	shell =<1g	
C. 5		glass x62 =300g	metal button x17 =87g		shell =8g, three battery cores and three clay insulators x6 =10g, rubble x80 =400g	
C. 6	brick and tile x6 =251g	glass {2 brown, 7 clear, 1 green} x10 =59g	metal {14 nails, 1 lump} x18 =140g	slate x3 =4g, coal x13 =47g	shell {1 oyster, 2 mussel} x3 =3g	

Test pit 32

Test pit 32	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1			metal nails x3 =10g	slate, plaster, coal and stone x40 =393g	wood x3 =1g	
C. 2		curved green glass (base of 18th century wine bottle?) =21g	nail =5g, slag x17 =44g	slate x13 =291g, charcoal x6 =<1g	concrete x8 =431g, building rubble x48 =433g	
C. 3	brick, masonry and tile x44 =620g	glass {one piece with 'DON' on it} x2 =3g	clinker/slag x4 =40g	charcoal x3 =4g	oyster shell x2 =4g	
C. 4				coal x2 =1g	masonry x10 =8g	
C. 5				coal x3 =5g	rubble x? =35g	
C. 6	brick x2 =<1g			coal/charcoal x2 =?g	shell =?g	

13.5 Lead-alloy openwork mirror case from Meldreth, Cambridgeshire by Helen Geake

Description: One half of a lead-alloy circular openwork hinged mirror case, now incomplete and in two joining pieces was found in test pit seven, context 2 (MEL/13/7/2). It originally depicted a crucifixion scene within a circular frame. At the top is a narrow projecting stub and at the base is a double projection; all three projections are now broken. The surviving parts of the object are in fairly good condition, although the metal is clearly brittle and fragile, and is cracked in places.

The edge of the broad circular frame is bevelled and undecorated. The flat top bears an incomplete inscription in relief reading + IES... The S lies tilted to the right on its side, and the top of its upper loop, and the rest of the inscription and/or decoration on this half of the frame, is lost to corrosion. The other half of the frame does not bear an inscription, but instead has relief plant ornament of a wavy relief line from which tendrils emerge to end in leaves filling the spaces above and below the waves. It is entirely possible that the curved line of the T is the start of this wavy plant ornament and that the inscription is still readable in its entirety.

The surviving parts of the relief crucifixion scene consist of a figure of Christ nimbed on the cross, with one surviving arm (his right) at a steep angle adjacent to the edge of the face. The long face survives, tilted slightly to the right; it is simply drawn, with ridges for the brow and nose. Above the head of Christ is what appears to be a sun, consisting of a central pellet with radiating relief rays. According to Spencer (1998, 167) the sun is a common symbol in crucifixion scenes, signifying the sorrow of creation at Christ's death. To one side of the sun an upright line survives, probably the upper arm of the cross.

The torso of Christ tapers towards the waist. The two legs are parallel and together, bent at the knee to the figure's right, and are small in size. The feet are missing, together with Christ's left arm and this arm of the cross, and any figure to the left of Christ (on the right of the object).

Part of a second figure, Mary the mother of Christ, survives to Christ's right (on the better-preserved left of the object). The head of this figure survives, but the face is largely obscured by corrosion. There is a ridge around the face, perhaps a hood; this continues onto the chest, forming the neckline of a gown, with a pair of vertical relief lines below on the chest providing more detail of the clothing. Most of the body is then lost, but there is a small projection from the detached part of the frame which may represent Mary's feet.

The undecorated reverse is hollowed behind the frame, but modelled in relief on the reverse of the figure of the crucified Christ. Mary has a simple rounded reverse.

Dimensions: Diameter of frame 36.3mm, length including stubs of loops c. 48mm, maximum thickness of frame 5.6mm. Weight 9.4g.

Discussion: A similar but complete lead-alloy openwork mirror case was found during a watching brief at Billingsgate, London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 360-1, no. 1712) and thought to be late 14th century. The two halves of this case are suggested as mould-identical and they are both very similar, possibly again mould-identical, to the Meldreth example. The inscription on the Billingsgate example can be read as + IESVS, with both Ss similarly on their sides and the V inverted. From this complete example it can also be

seen that all three of the projecting stubs would originally have been loops, at one end for the hinge between the two halves and at the other end for closing the two halves together to protect the glass.

A second incomplete example, this time from a different mould, was also found during the Billingsgate watching brief, and there is another known from excavations in Bergen, Norway (cited in Egan and Pritchard 1991, 361). There are no examples yet recorded on the PAS database.

Glass mirrors appear to have become available in England during the 13th century and are mentioned in historical sources fairly often by the end of this century (Bayley et al 1984, 401). During the 14th century there are many depictions of figures in manuscript margins who are examining themselves in mirrors. The mirror itself would have been made from thin blown convex glass backed with a thin layer of lead; the convex shape ensured the widest possible angle of reflection, although such small mirrors would always have been useful to check hair and face rather than to look at a full-length image. Some at least appear to have been worn as hat ornaments (Bayley et al 1984, 410, fn 148), and a mirror with a devotional image would have been also able to function as an amulet or pilgrim souvenir.

These mirrors do not appear to have been restricted in use to either men or women. It is difficult to work out the precise social status of the owner of a mirror of this kind; it is not made from an expensive material, but some care has been taken over its design and manufacture. Perhaps it is a middle-class mirror – not aristocratic, and not the cheapest of trinkets.

Date: Late 13th or 14th century.

NB There are good images (photo and drawing) in here of the Billingsgate example, and also a frontispiece of a drawing from a manuscript showing a hinged mirror in use.

13.6 An Iron Arrowhead from Meldreth, Cambridgeshire by Helen Geake

Description: An incomplete forged iron arrowhead, probably medieval in date was found in test pit 29, context 3 (MEL/13/29/3) at Topcliffe Mill. It is symmetrical and broadly triangular in shape, with a projecting socket at the base. The socket tapers to form a vestigial midrib between the wings. In cross-section, the socket and midrib are circular and the wings are broadly flat. The arrowhead has an uneven, heavily corroded, brown surface and the socket has recently been broken.

Dimensions: The arrowhead measures 65mm long to the end of its broken socket. The maximum width is 34mm, and the socket has a maximum diameter of 12mm externally and 4mm internally. The maximum length of the triangular head, without the socket, is 45mm. The arrowhead has a mass of 26g.

Discussion: The arrowhead is similar to item WMID-175AD1 on the PAS database and to object A.2462 illustrated as item 2 in Plate XV of the London Museum Medieval Catalogue (Ward Perkins, 1940). This is from Bridge Street, London, SW1, but undated. The general form of the arrowhead is also similar to 'early multi-purpose forms' illustrated in "Medieval Arrowheads" by Jessop (1997, Finds Research Group 700-1700, Datasheet 22). Based on the parallels, the arrowhead recorded here is likely to date from the 11th to the 14th centuries. It is likely that these were used throughout the medieval period for a variety of uses, both warfare and hunting.

13.7 Maps

Much of the value of test pit data from currently occupied rural settlements is derived from a holistic consideration across the entire settlement. Maps showing a range of the data from the test pit excavations in Meldreth in 2013 are included below. These may be read in conjunction with relevant sections of the main report. Some of these maps are available online at <http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/reports/cambridgeshire/meldreth> and these can be used, if wished, to prepare maps showing the distribution of other classes of data not depicted in this appendix.

Figure 38: Bronze Age pottery from Meldreth

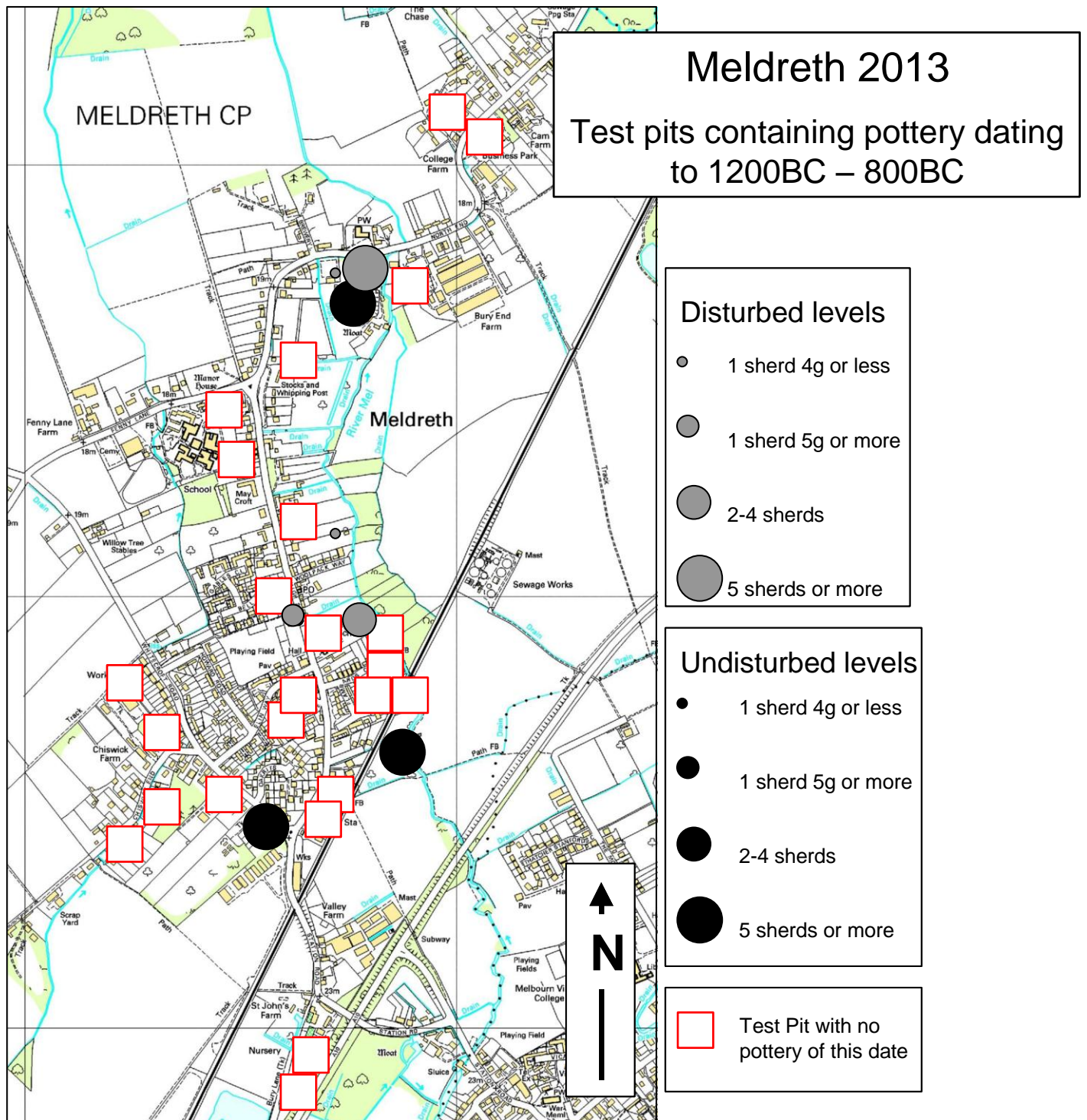


Figure 39: Roman pottery from Meldreth

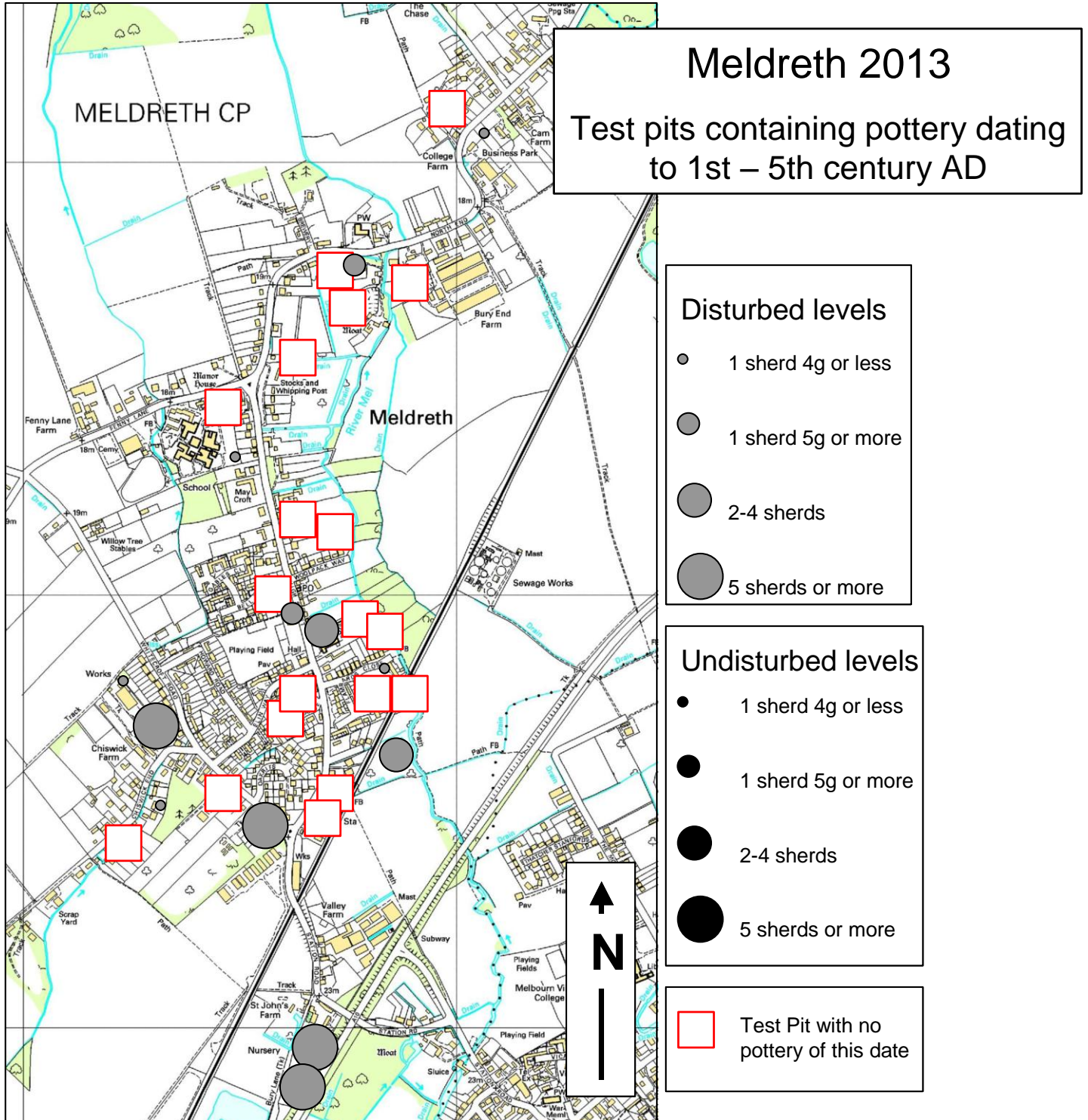


Figure 43: Post-medieval pottery from Meldreth

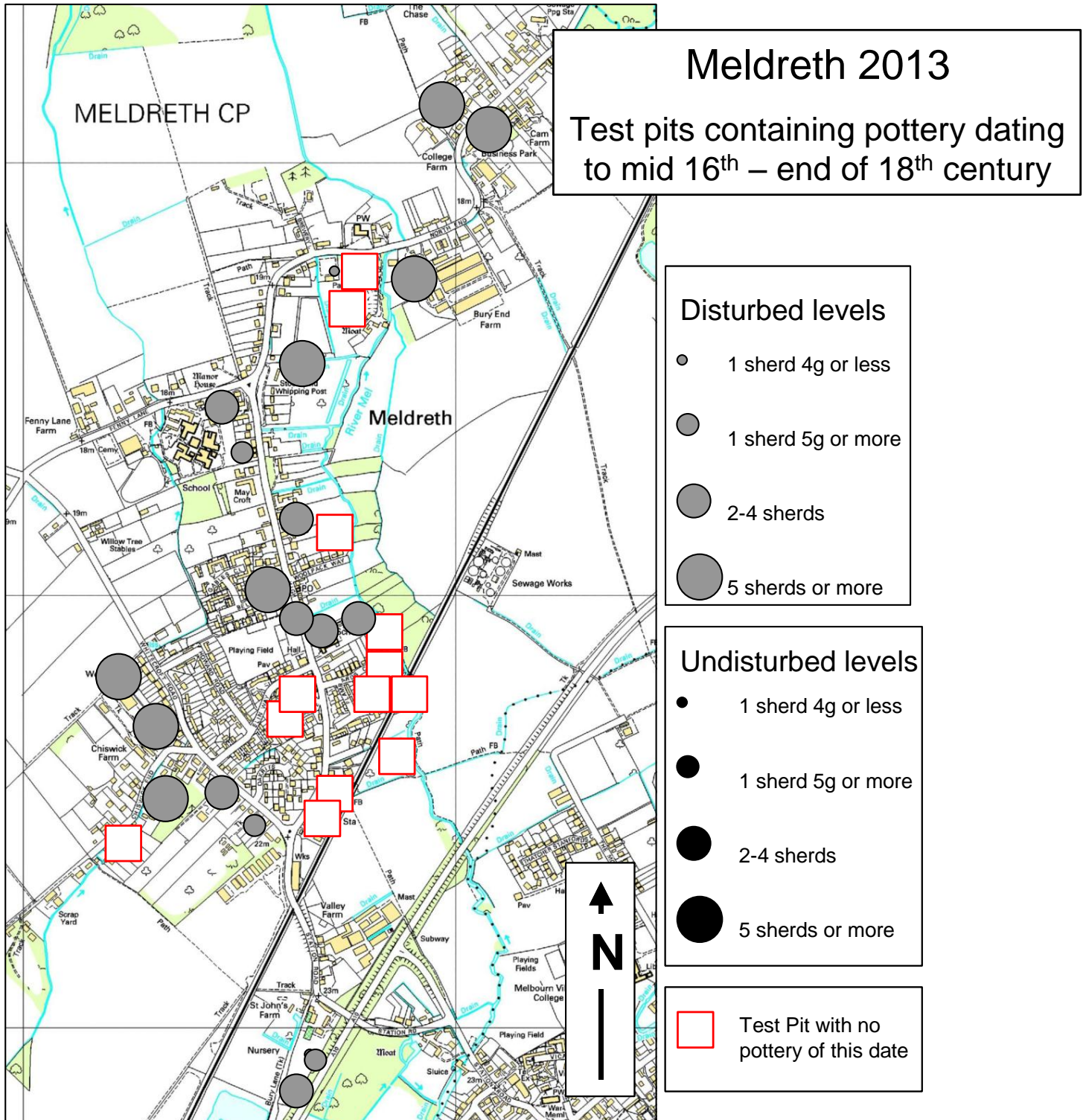


Figure 44: Victorian pottery from Meldreth

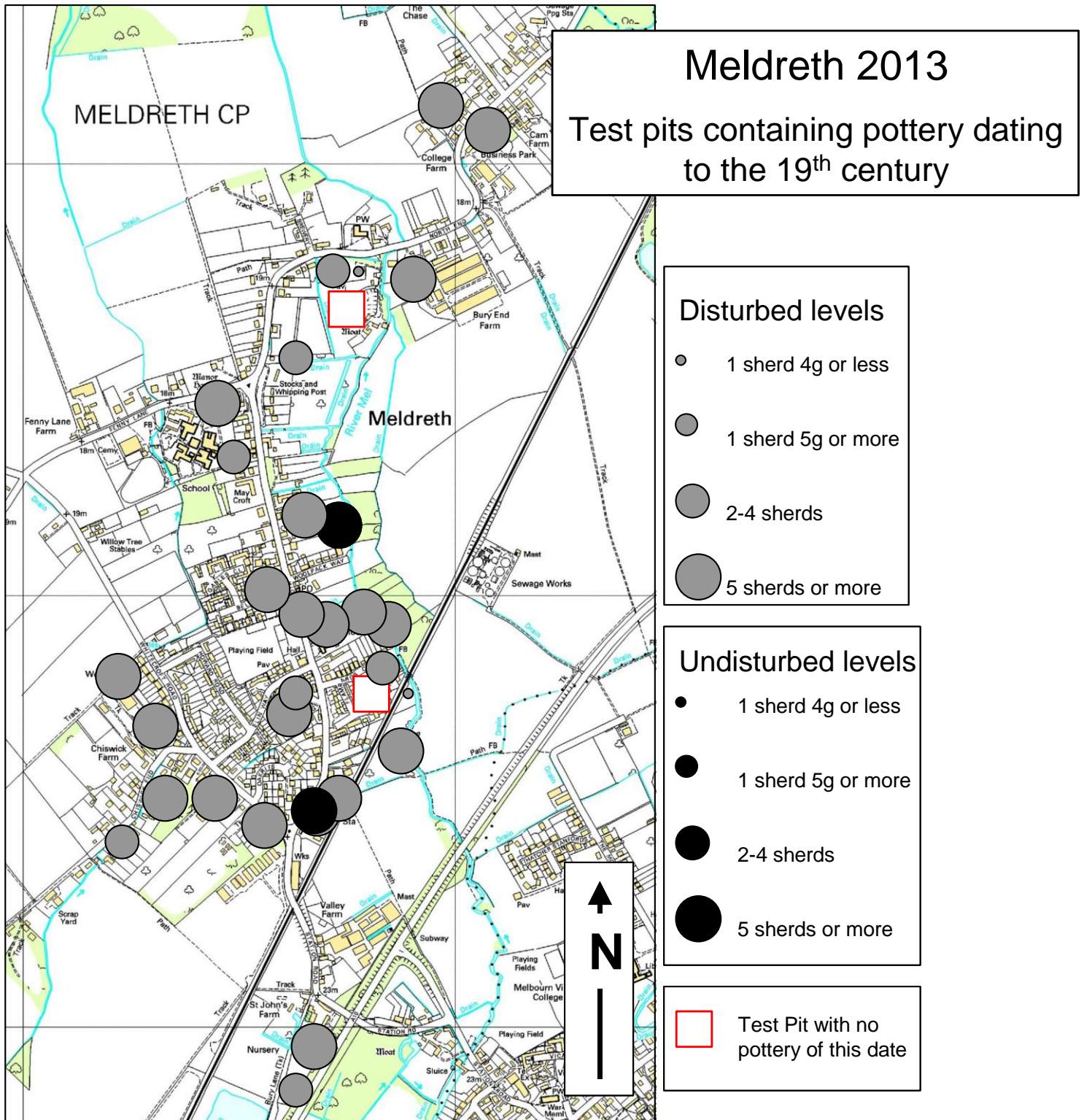


Figure 45: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: cow

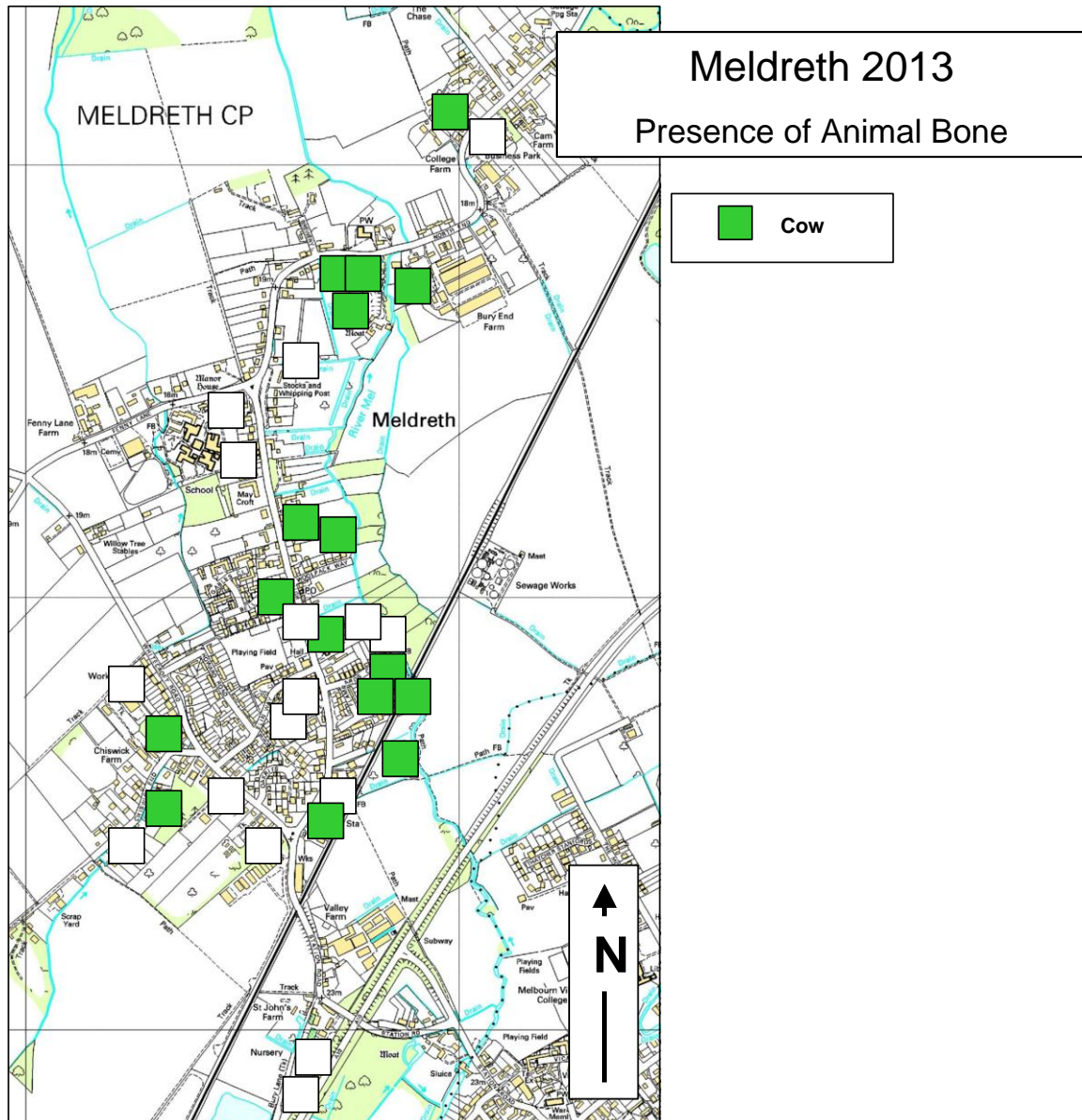


Figure 46: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: sheep/goat

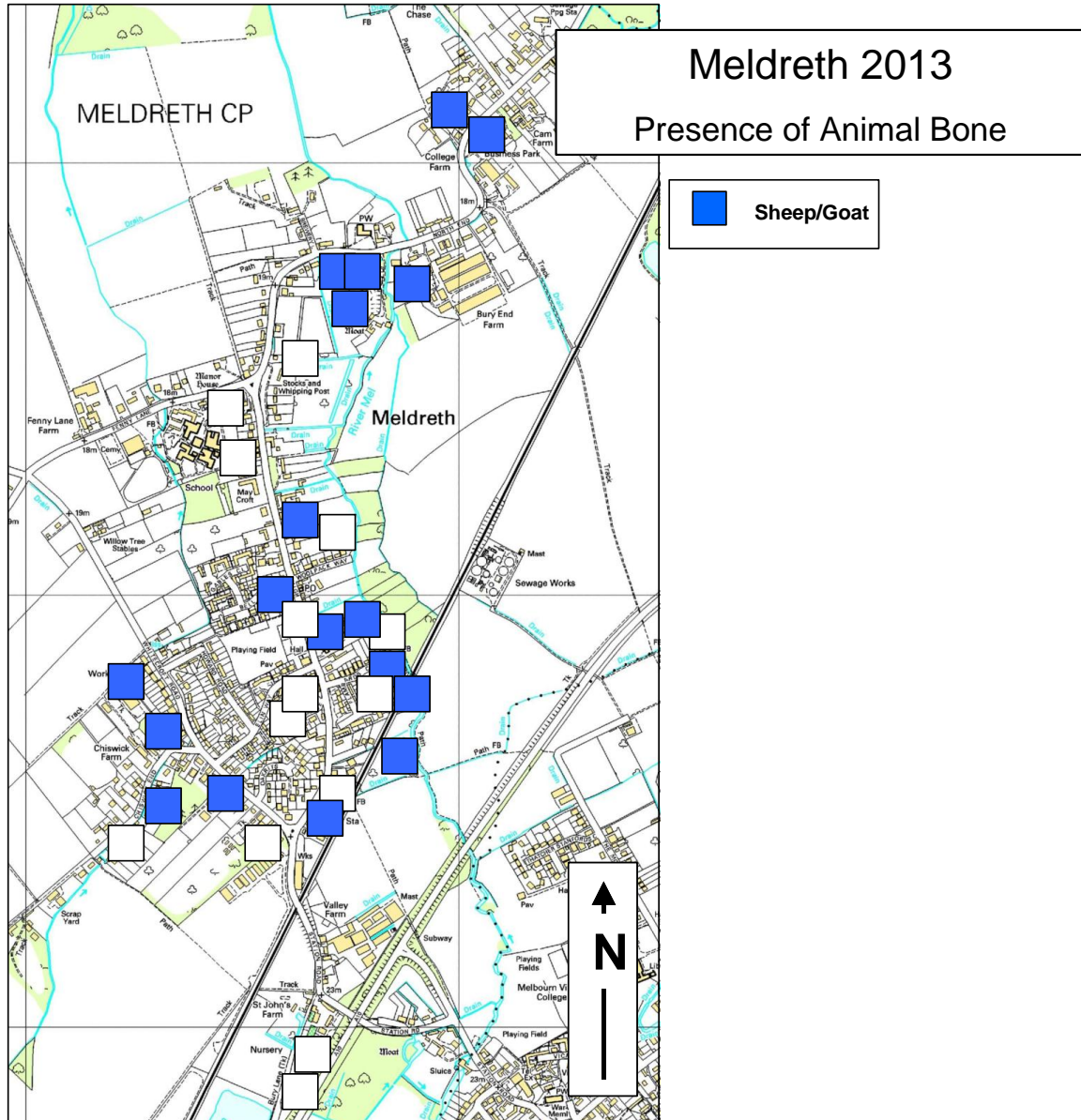


Figure 47: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: pig

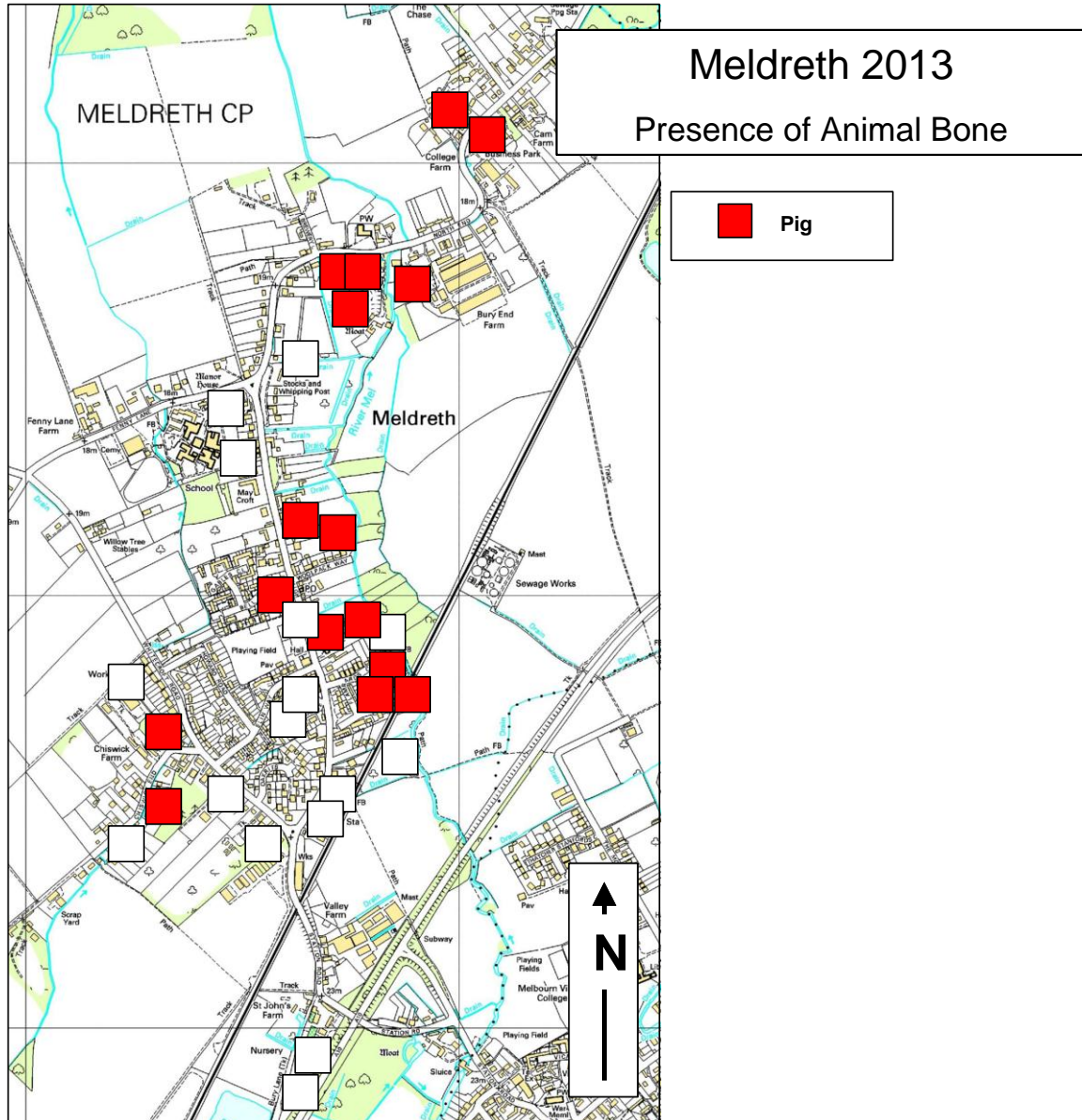


Figure 48: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: red deer

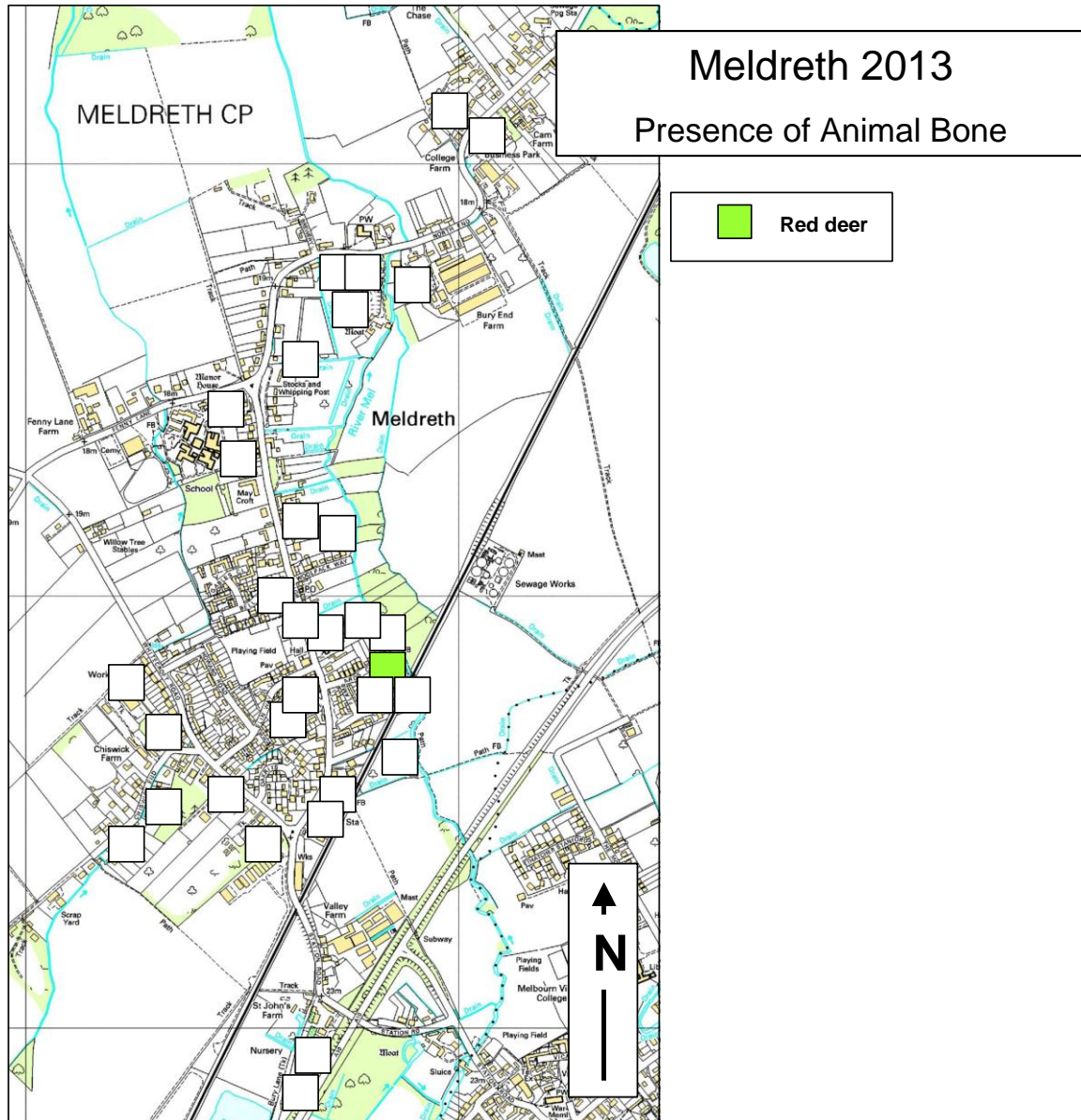


Figure 49: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: horse

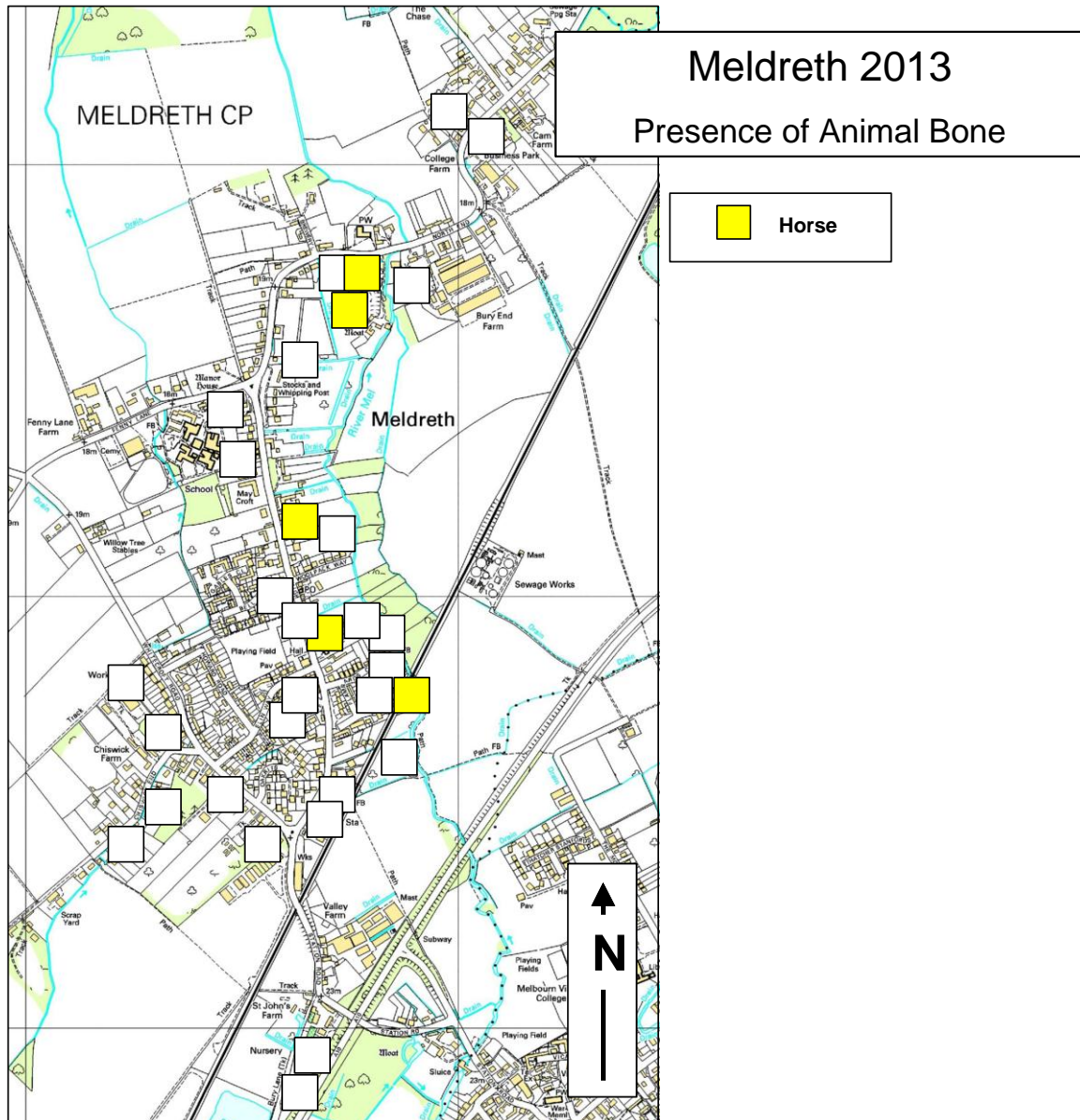


Figure 50: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: rabbit

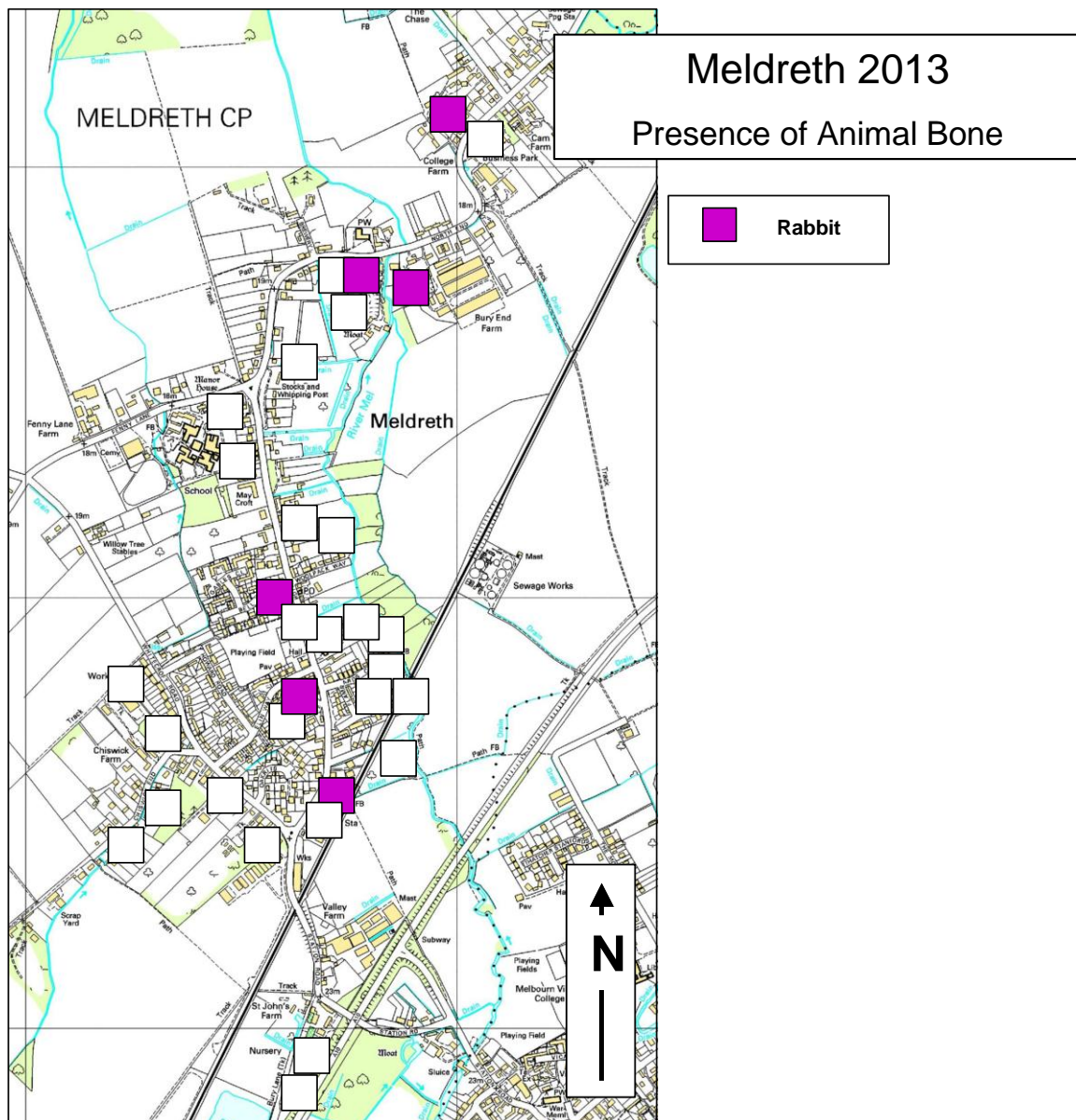


Figure 51: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: bird

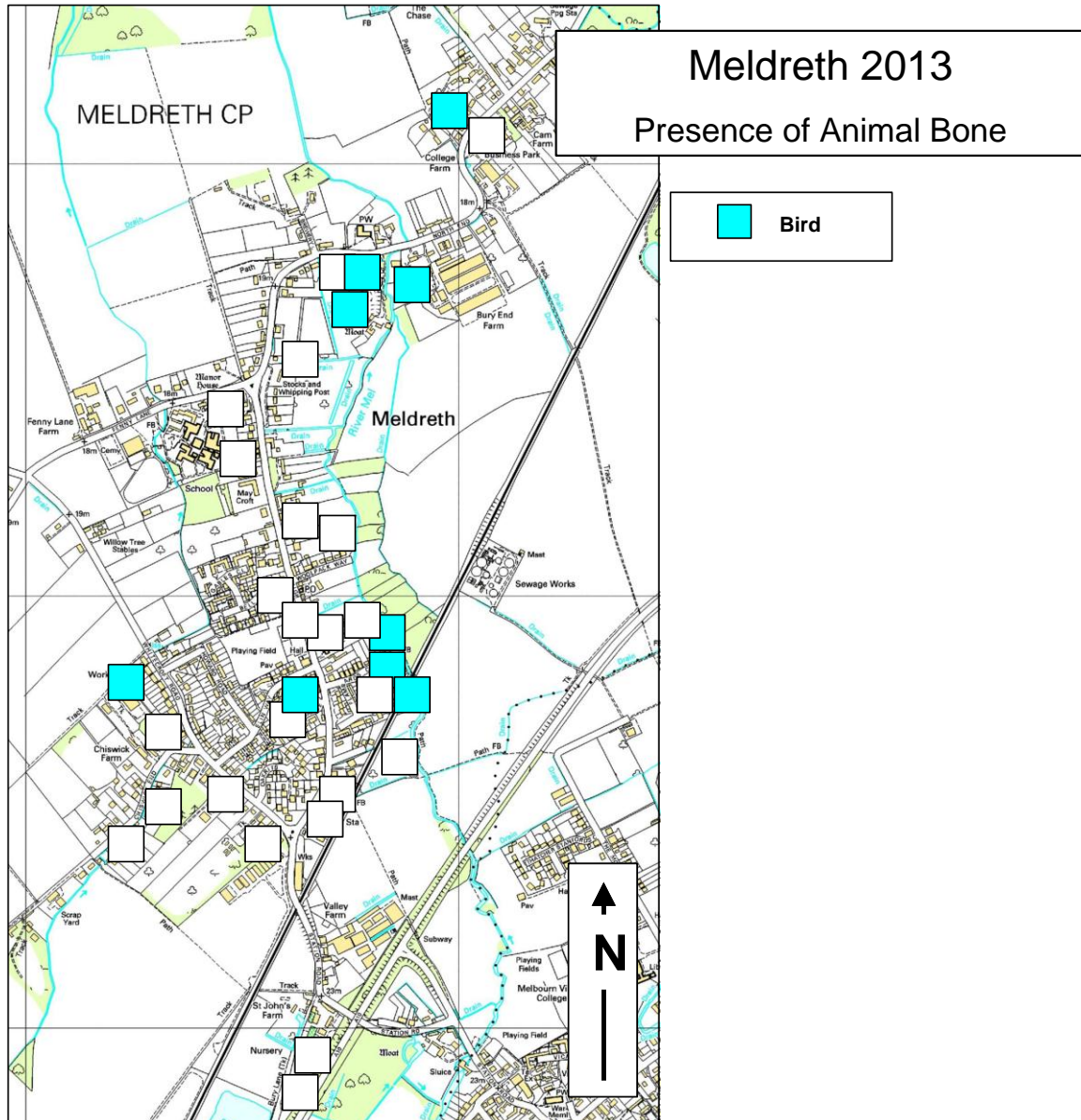


Figure 52: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: cat

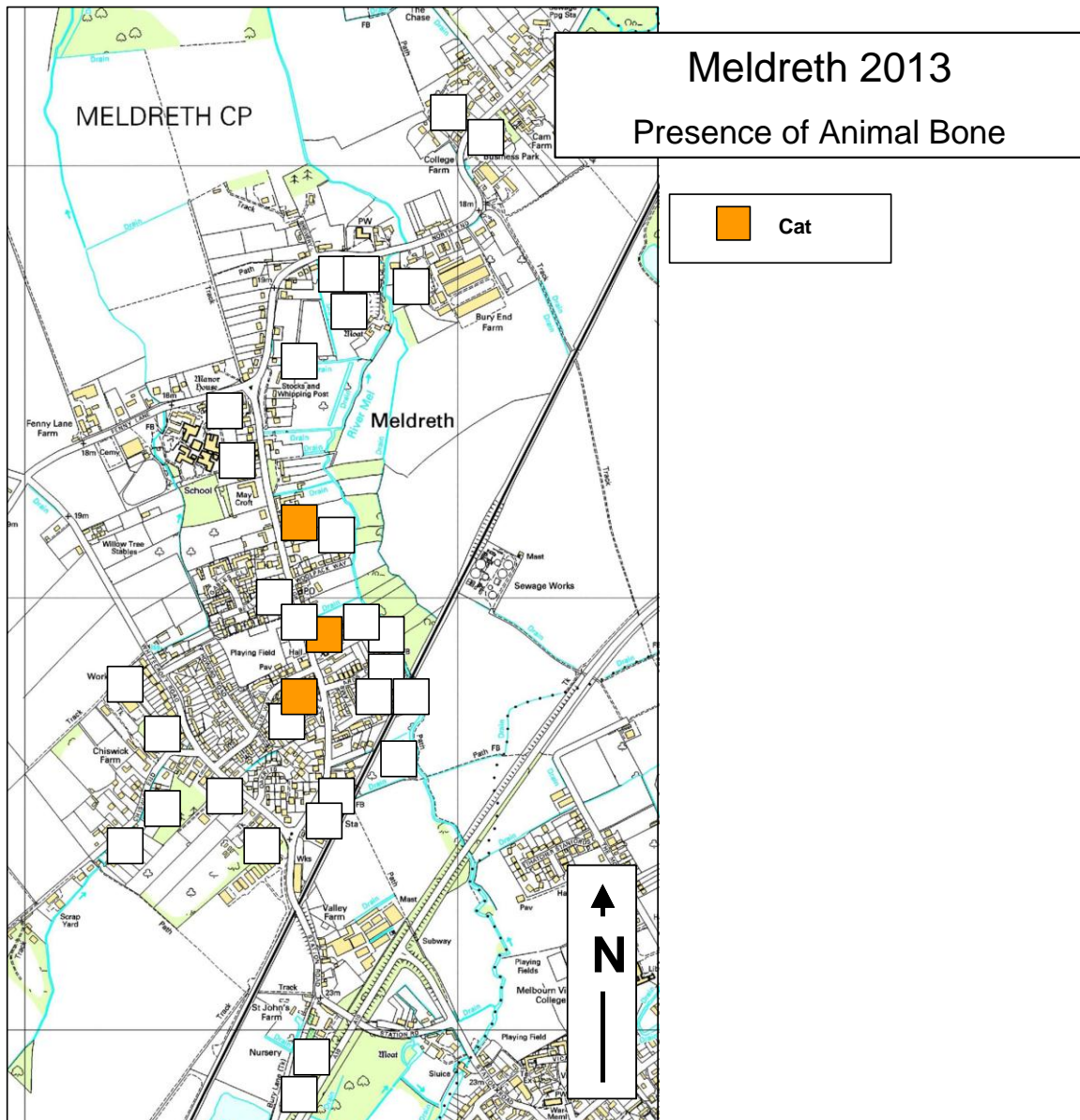


Figure 53: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: dog

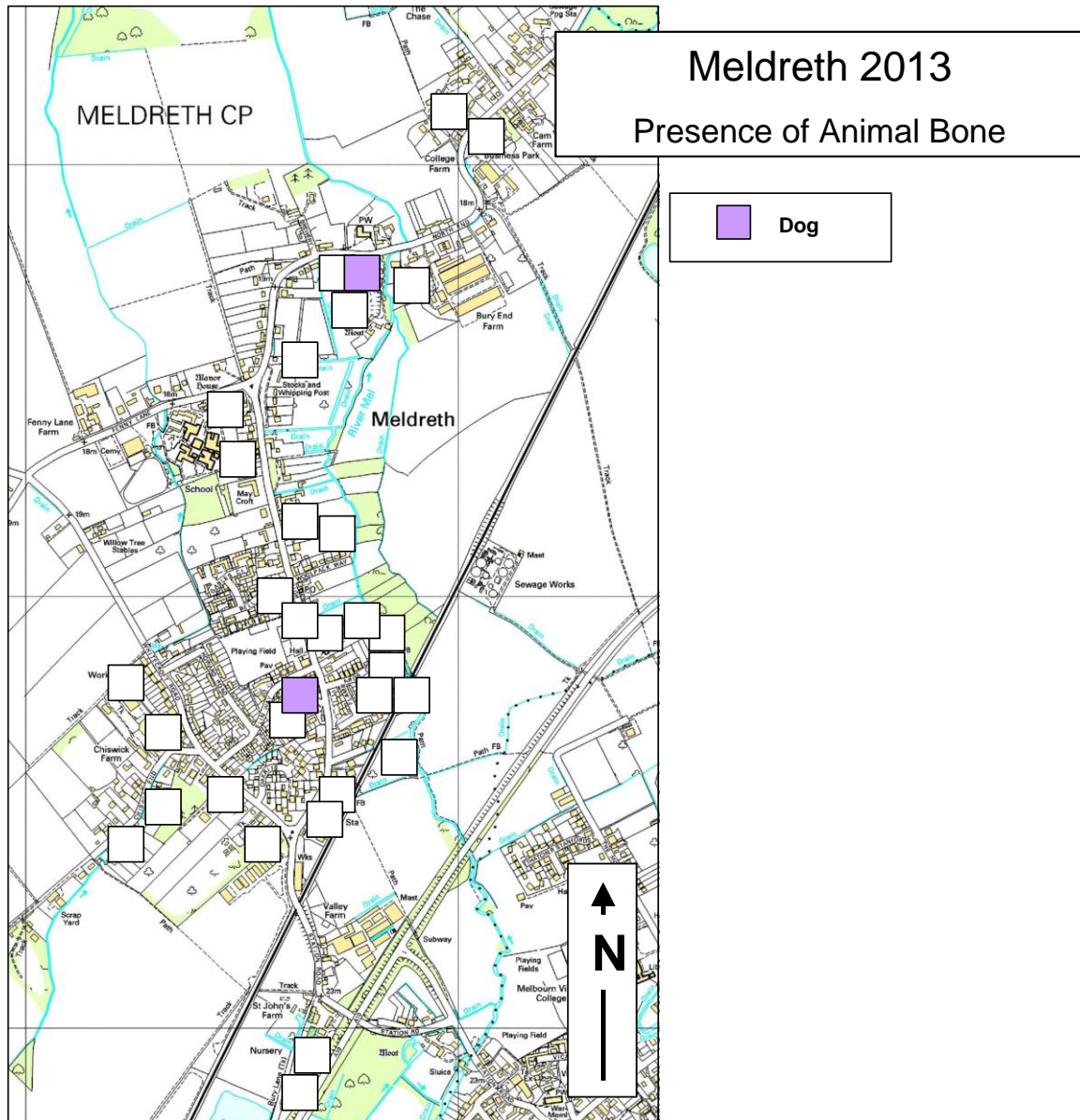


Figure 54: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: fox

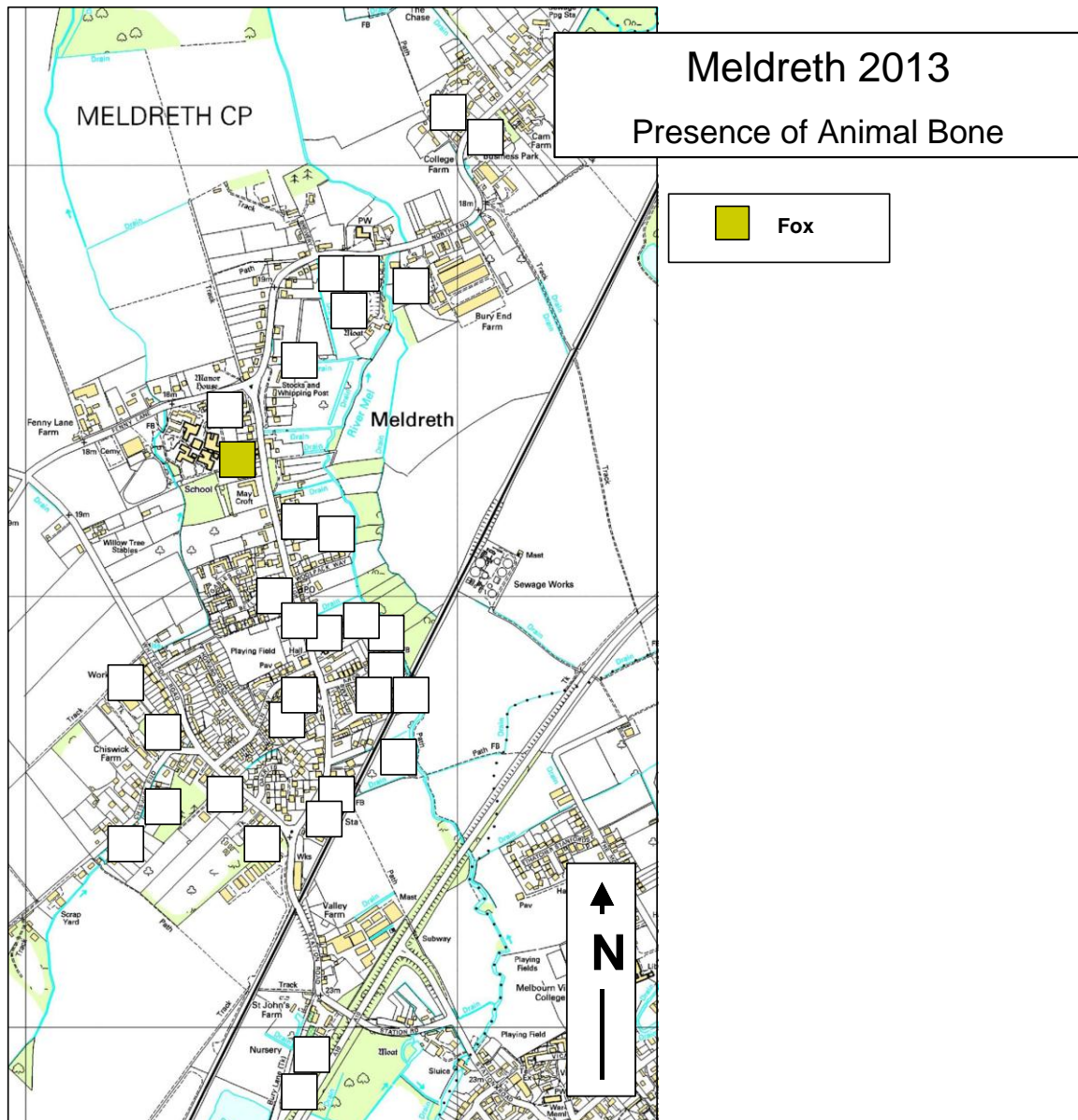


Figure 55: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: squirrel

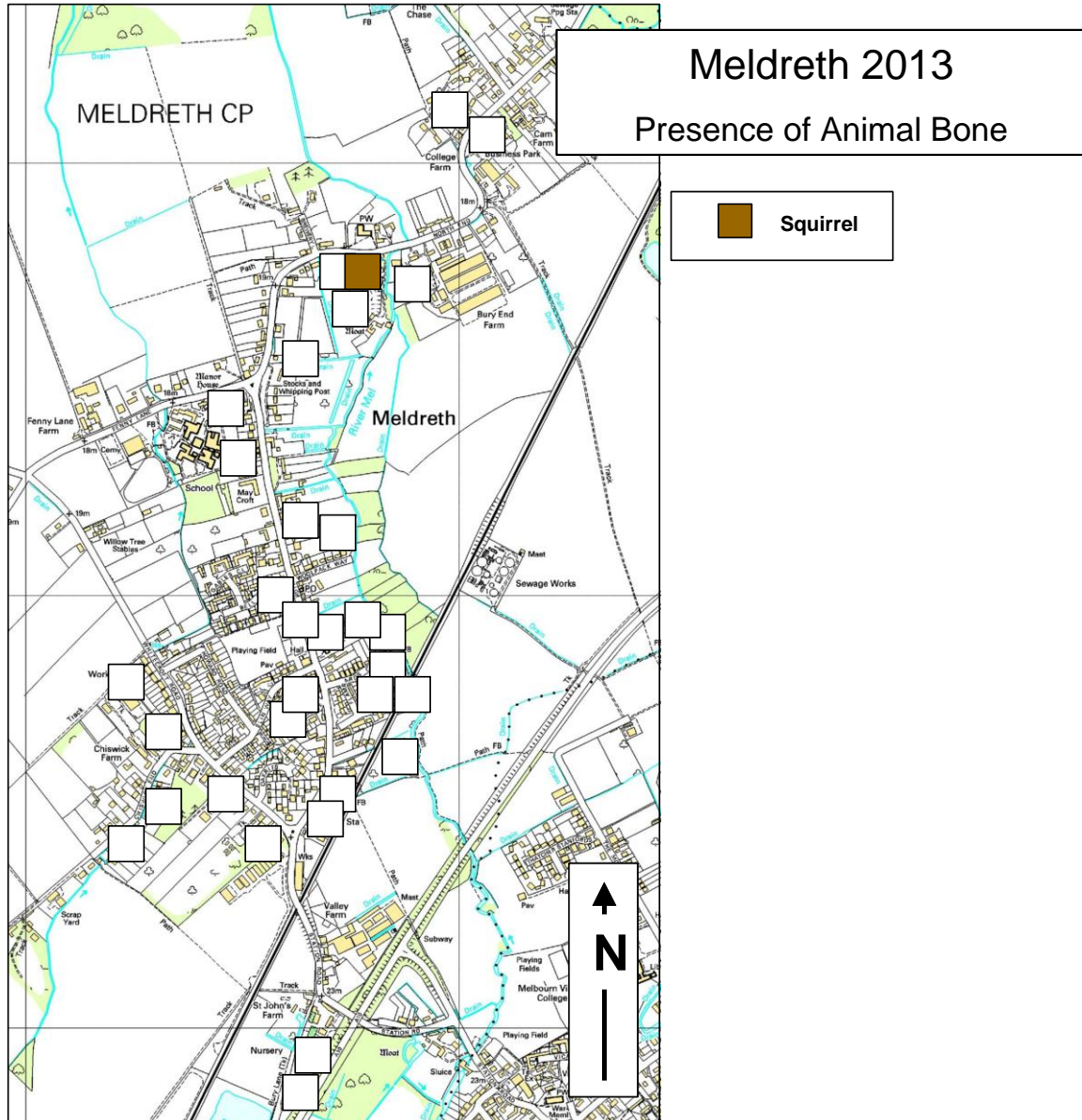


Figure 56: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: hedgehog

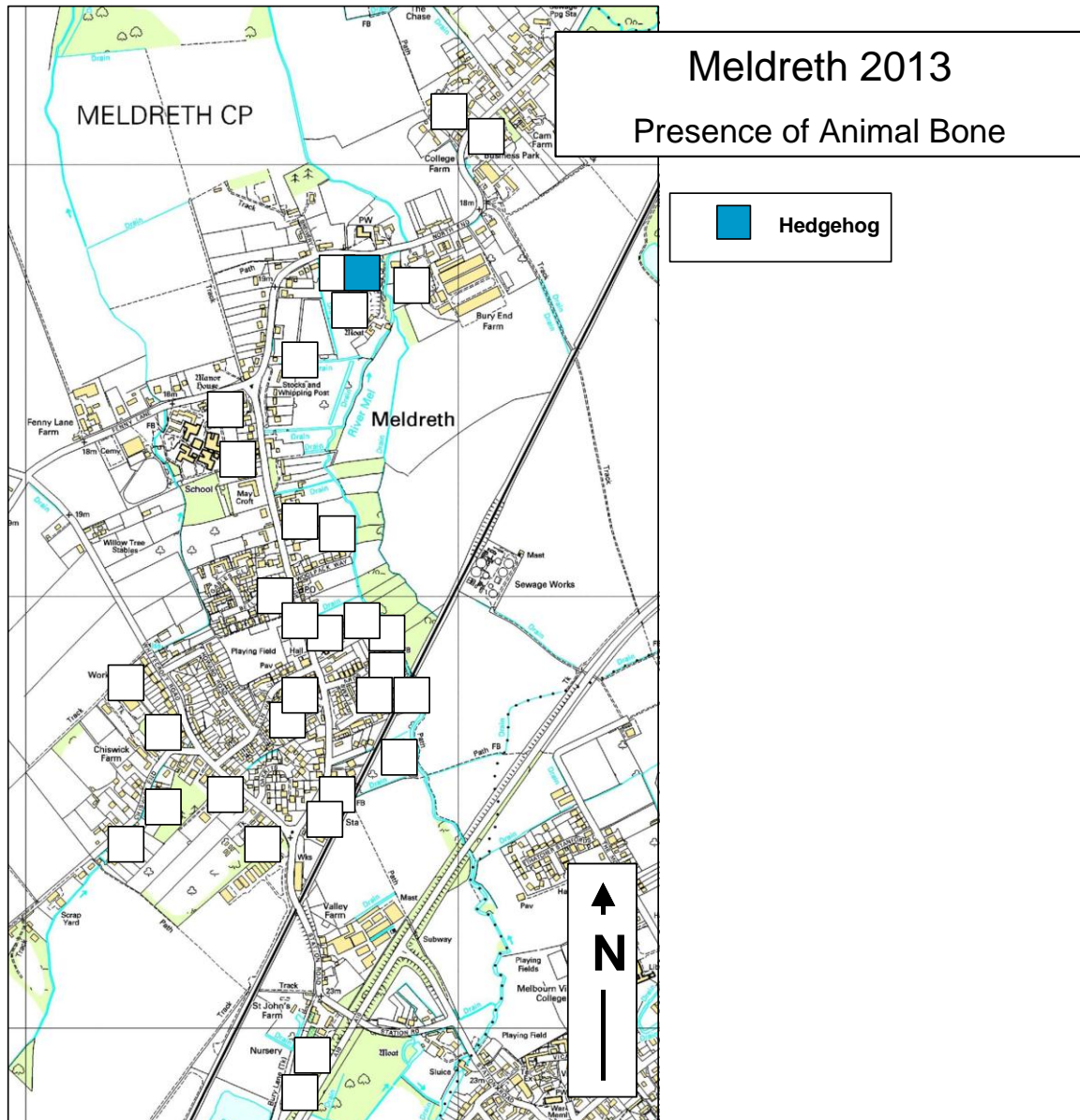


Figure 57: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: vole sp.

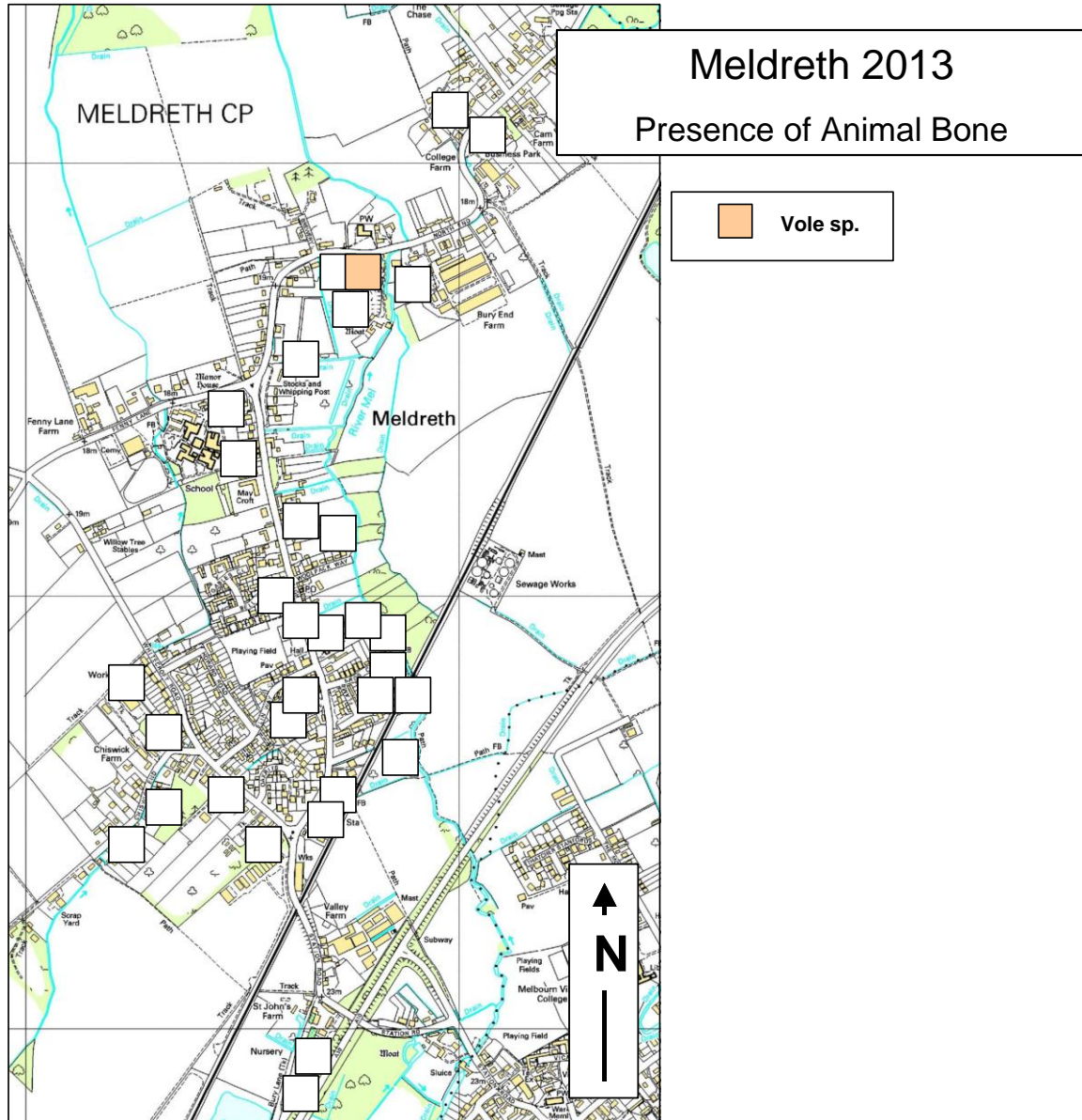


Figure 58: Faunal distribution across Meldreth: frog/toad

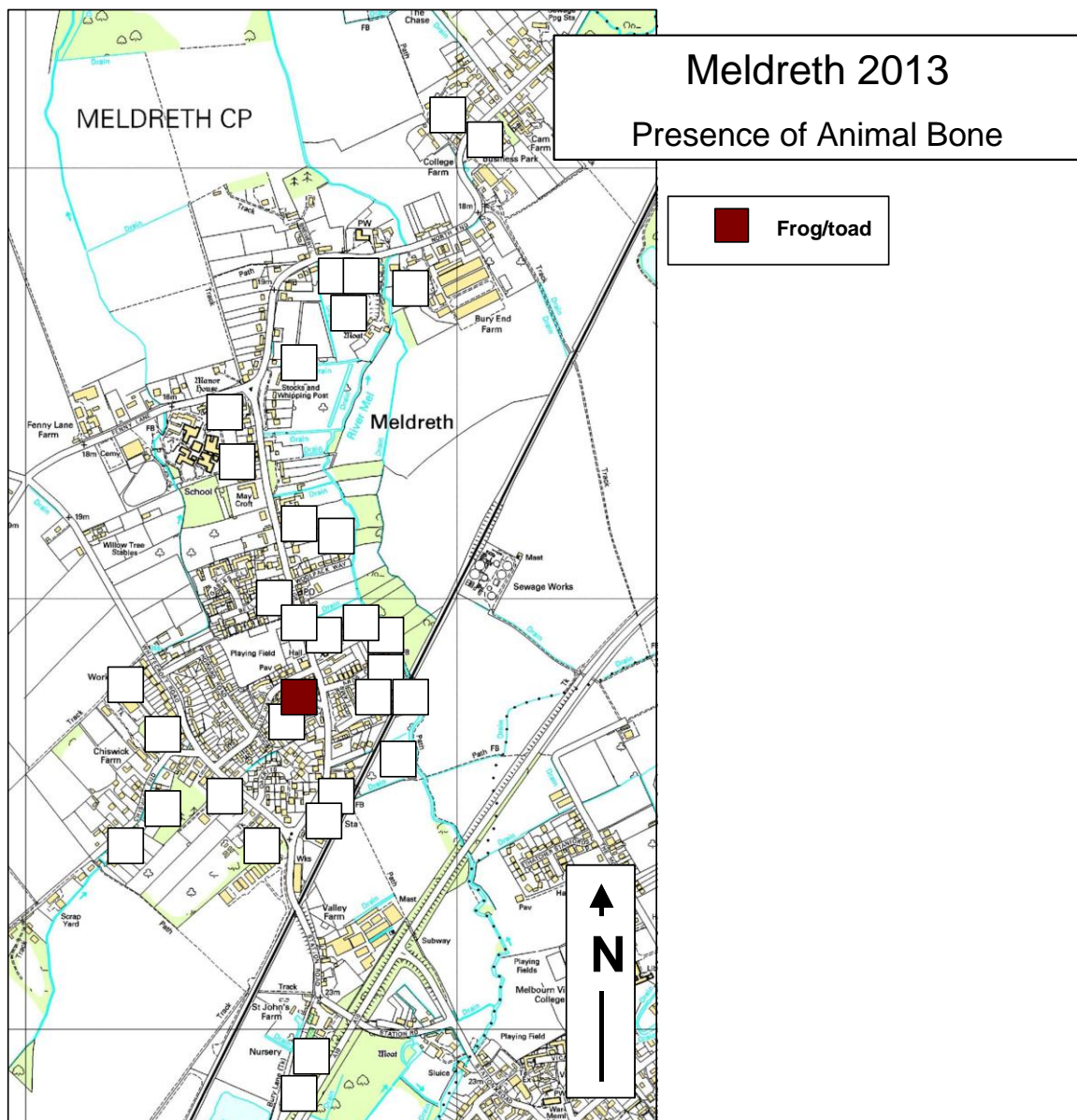


Figure 59: Flint and burnt stone from Meldreth test pits

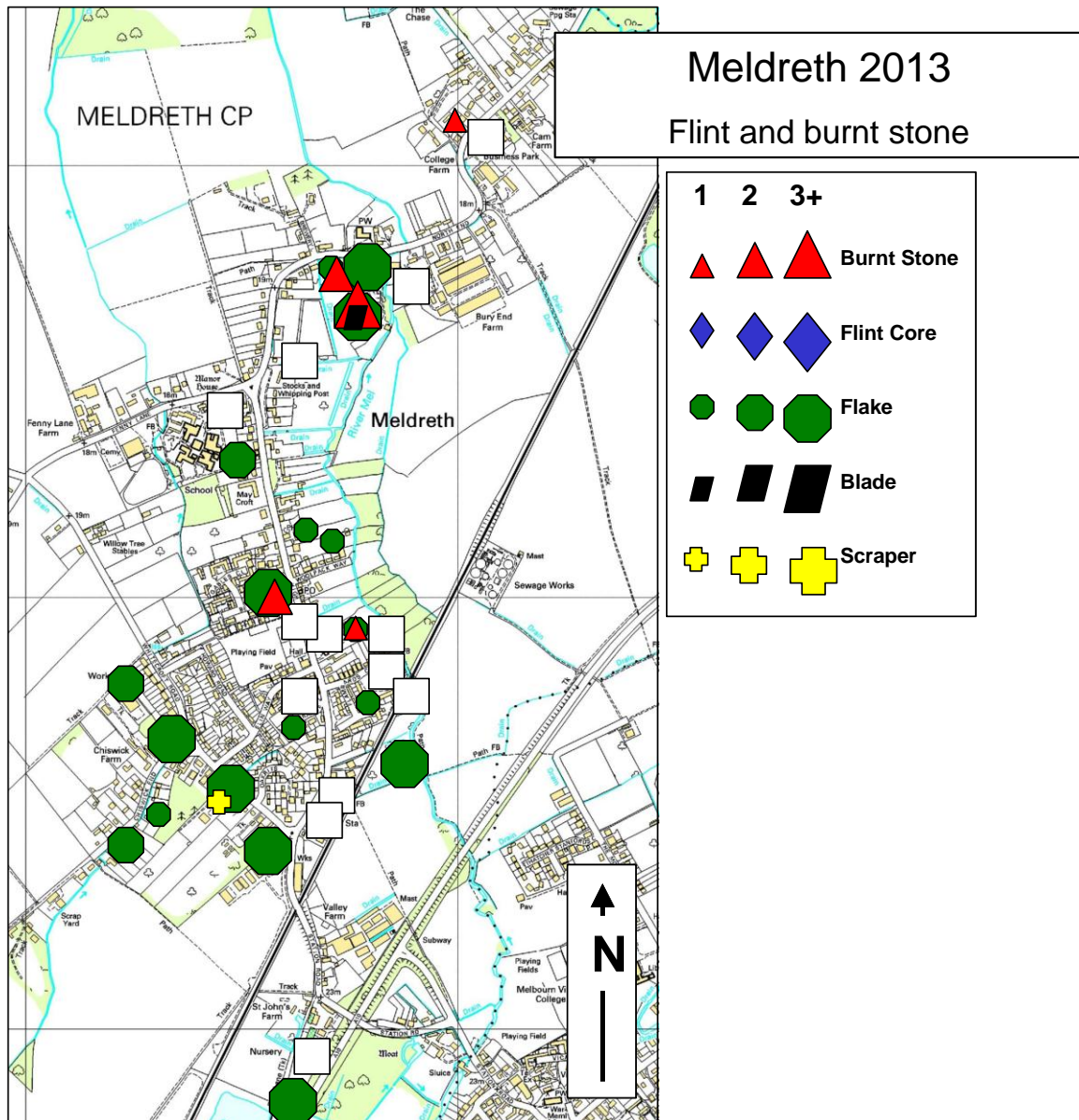


Figure 60: Burnt stone from Meldreth test pits

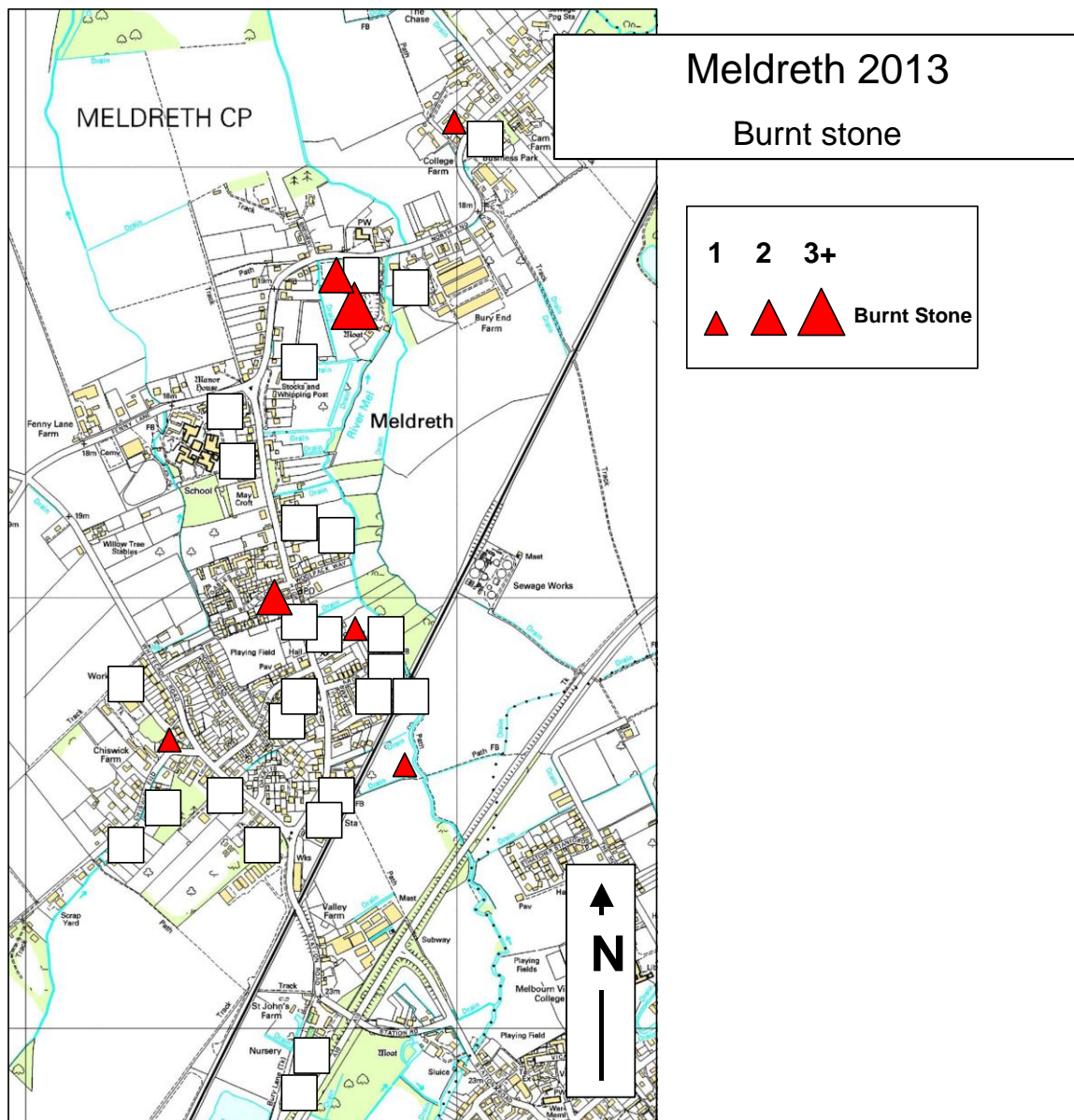


Figure 61: Flint flakes from Meldreth test pits

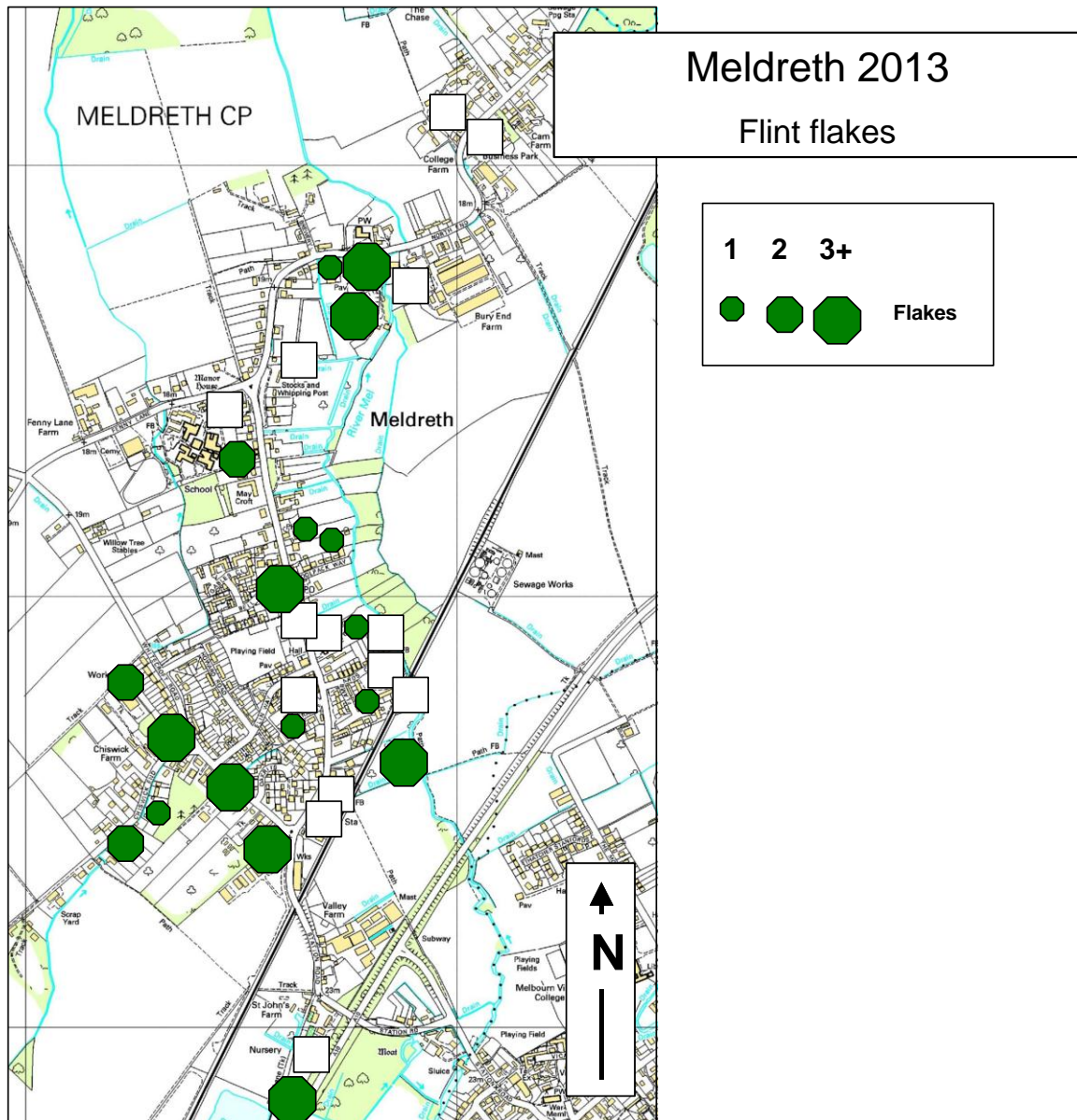


Figure 62: Flint blades from Meldreth test pits

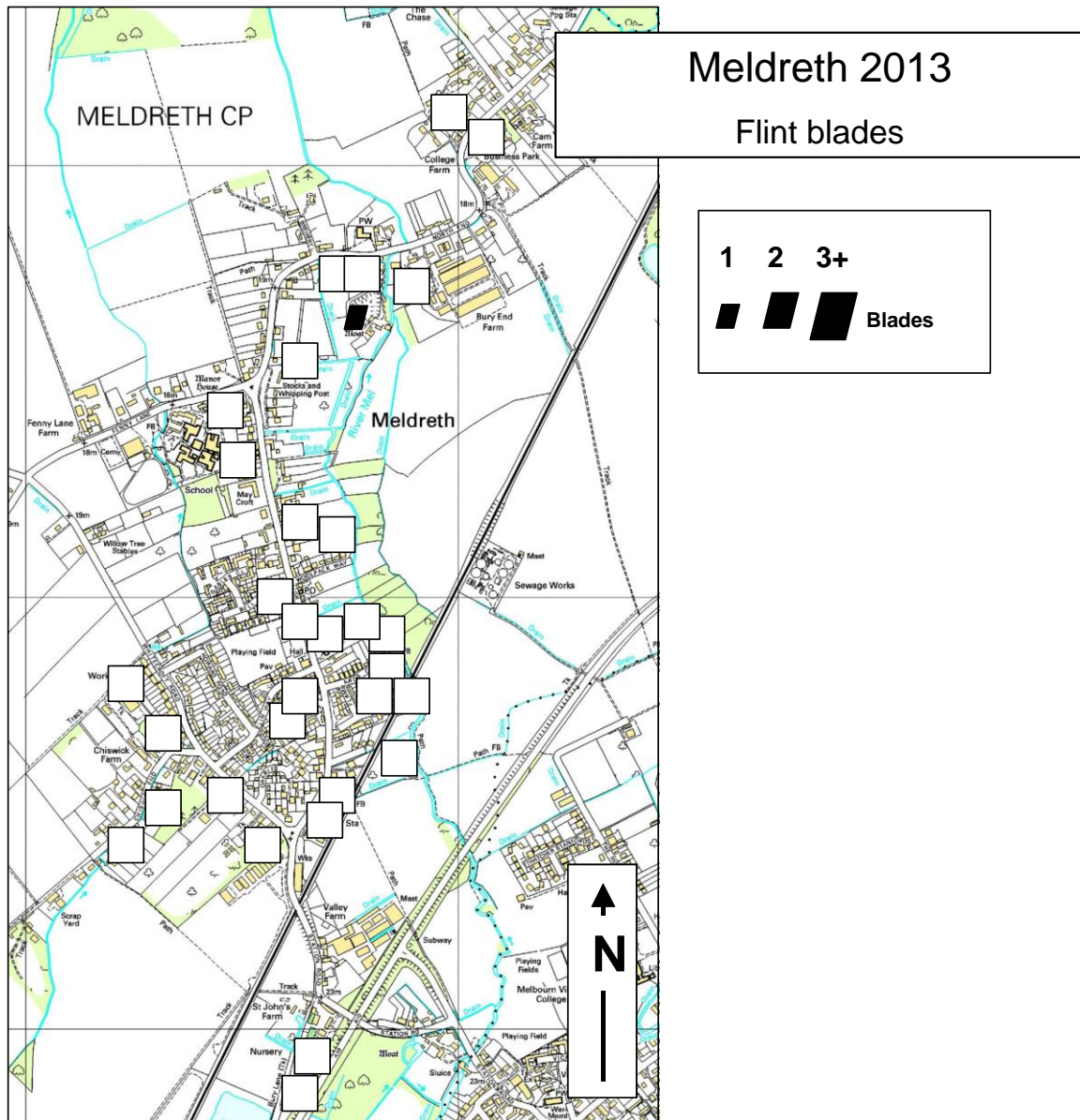


Figure 63: Retouched flints from Meldreth test pits

