

Covington Archaeology Project

1st-28th August 2014



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Date of works: 1-31 August 2014
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Site code: COVTP14
Receiving body: Return to landowners. Particular finds retained with permission by
Covington History Group in documented reference collections.
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SECTION A - GENERAL

1. Summary

The magnetometry survey of this site (COVMDG14 – see Appendix) indicated the presence of a network of ditches, trackways and potential structures. The site measures approximately 300m N-S and 140m E-W. Nine testpits measuring 2m x 1m were placed across a range of features. A few sherds of Iron Age pottery were found. A large quantity of Roman pottery, mostly dating from the third and fourth centuries and mostly from the Durobrivae potteries, was retrieved from sealed contexts, however there is little or no stratification in any of the testpits excavated so far. It is thought that midden heaps were levelled into old ditches by people wishing to use the site for farming after it had been abandoned as a settlement. The pottery finds included both coarse, utilitarian fabrics as well as much finer wares. Other finds included bone, some daub, Roman glass, bone tools and nails including hobnails. Drainage ditches were identified. Any further purpose to the site other than being a simple rural Romano-British settlement is unclear but there appear to be anomalies to the south of the site which need further investigation. The survey of the northern part of the site indicates an access track and several round houses. Finds from testpits in the centre of the site indicate at least one dwelling of higher status. The site appears to have been in occupation prior to the Roman invasion up until the fourth century when it seems to have been abandoned. Aerial photography suggests that it is part of a pattern of similarly dated settlements within the locality.

TP4 from 2013 was continued. This pit, in a private garden on the east side of Keyston Road, contained possible arranged layers of large rounded pebbles on the natural layer with significant quantities of medieval pottery sherds dispersed amongst the stones. Two sherds of Pearlware were found in an upper context. Often the medieval sherds were found in large groups and several pieces of the same pot were found on more than one occasion. There was evidence of a cut feature (a posthole?) into which pottery, as well as pebbles, had been used as packing ballast. The Medieval pottery was mainly made in the Lyveden/Stanion area, but a further 8 pottery makers are also identifiable from a wide area local to Covington across to Buckinghamshire.

2. Introduction

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

The church is reputed to be the highest located in Cambridgeshire at 76m above sea level and dates from at least early 12th century. The village is near the top of a south facing ridge over-looking the Kym valley. The soil is boulder clay overlaying Oxford clay overlying chalk. There are a series of ponds and natural springs. The oldest artefact found in the village is a Bronze Age tanged and barbed flint arrowhead¹, although this cannot be contextually verified. Crop marks viewed on aerial photographs (although undated) suggest there may have been some Bronze Age and Iron Age habitation². Two Iron Age coins³ were found north of the village. Nearby archaeological activity has included the discovery of an Iron

¹ CAM-BA13D6

² See entries on Cambridgeshire HER database

³ CAM-E2E7F4, PAS [DENO-B7C9C2](#)

Age coin hoard ('the 'Kimbolton Hoard') now held at St. Neots museum⁴. Recent fieldwalking and magnetometry surveys (reports in preparation) and the finding of numerous Roman coins and other metalwork indicate Roman occupation to the north of the village⁵. Analysis of finds so far collected from this site would suggest this is a small farmstead. Finds collected using metal detectors support the view that people lived in the area in Roman times, particularly the third century AD⁶. There is currently no evidence of Saxon occupation with the possible exception of the village name 'Covington' and a reference in Domesday to 'Aschel who held 8 hides at the Conquest, prior to the parish being awarded to Roger d'Ivry⁷. Cambridgeshire HER has several entries, including fish ponds, moat features, ridge and furrow which begin to give clues to the medieval village⁸. Historical records such as terriers and wills are available largely from the late medieval period and very little is known about the village prior to this. Architectural examination of the church indicates several rebuildings and modifications since it was constructed in the late 12th century and there is a more or less complete list of incumbents with their patrons. Several houses dating back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries still survive (see Covington Village Trail). Much of the land was owned by the Duke of Manchester following enclosure of his estates in 1764. Further enclosure took place following the 1801 Act. The population of the village reached its peak of 240 in the early 1800s but has since declined dramatically, following national trends regarding rural populations and agricultural practices. Apart from agriculture, census records show a significant proportion of workers were involved in the Northamptonshire shoe trade until its demise in the last century. The coming of the Midland Railway in 1864 had little real effect upon life in Covington. Apart from a few wealthy tenants, most inhabitants were poor and there are many references to Covington residents in the Thrapston Workhouse registers⁹.

There are two periods of archaeological interest in the village – Roman and medieval. It is clear there is a Roman site north-east of the village itself. This site spans two fields N-S. A garden testpit adjacent to the southern end of Keyston Road in 2013 (COVTP13-1 forthcoming) had indicated the presence of a possible medieval structure.

In March 2014, Covington History Group was awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant for their project 'Looking back, moving forward: Learning and sharing through archaeology in Covington. Funds from this Award have been used to purchase equipment and professional expertise to support the project reported on here.

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

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

⁶ Portable Antiquities Scheme - Covington

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

⁸ http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Application.aspx?resourceID=1000

⁹ Northamptonshire Archives

3. Acknowledgements

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Excavators: S. Parsons, M. Parsons, R. Brown, M. Brown, I. Baker, P Sewell. The following students from Kimbolton School also took part: G. Barrett-Hague, P. Bayes, G. Hunt.

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Magnetometry survey: S. Parsons

Finds processing: R. Brown, M. Brown, I. Baker, M. Parsons, S. Mathews OBE, L. Lockhart, M. Riswick

Photography: J. Turrell, M. Parsons, S. Parsons

SECTION B - ROMAN

1. Aims and methodology

The aims of the 2014 archaeology project were:

1. Discover the extent, nature and date of the Roman Site
2. Recover artefacts for a Roman pottery reference collection

Risk assessments were completed for the magnetometry survey and for the testpitting. A magnetometry survey was carried out on this site prior to and contemporary with the start of the archaeology project. As a result of this, significant anomalies were chosen for excavation and (with one exception) 1m x 2m test pits were opened across the anomaly. The turf was lifted off and set to one side on a tarpaulin. Spoil was not sieved due to its compactness but gone through by hand. A metal detector was swept over spoil heaps and pits periodically. Finds were washed and placed in labelled bags. Pits were closed because natural geology had been reached. Before pits were closed, section drawings and plans were produced. Archaeological contexts and finds were recorded throughout.

The following system of recording was used throughout:

Site code: COVTP14 (This is for the whole site, despite pits being in two locations. This reflects the fact that excavations in 2014 were part of an HLF project to investigate the Roman and Medieval origins of the village.)

Testpit number: TP1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, etc for the testpits on the Roman site,

Context number: 101, 102, for TP1401; 201,202 for TP1402, etc.

The following documents were completed for each testpit:

Context Master List, Context Recording Sheet for a FILL/CUT (each context), Plan and Section drawings. Photographs were also taken.

2. Results and Interpretation

TP1401

Location: Roman Site South – see map Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER.

Aims: To test the accuracy of the geophysical survey at a site accessible prior to the fields themselves becoming available. To collect dating evidence for the ditch.

Results: Ditch clearly visible, running west-east. Lots of pottery finds, including handmade shellyware, Nene Valley Colour Coated, Samian, Greywares. No stratigraphy to the finds. A quantity of bone, charcoal, mortar and daub was also recovered. Metal finds included a worn coin, hobnail and possibly part of a clasp. There was a posthole, close to the hedge, which contained a fragment of a Leicestershire grit upper quernstone and large sherds of pottery and some bone. At the southern end of the trench there appeared to be holes from a picket fence or wall structure.

Interpretation: The ditch is Roman and was filled in with surface debris at some stage in the fourth century or later. No Saxon or Medieval finds were recovered so the ditch had been filled by then. An unusually high number of potsherds from C1-C2 for this part of the site were found. Finds in the posthole appear to have been used to support the pole which may have been part of a building in the vicinity. The position of the hedge makes it very difficult to locate other postholes. No postholes were found in TP1402 on the other side of the hedge to this trench. The trench has not been closed as natural has not been reached in all areas and it is still producing finds. Weather conditions meant that it could not be completed in 2014 and the intention is to continue in 2015.

TP1402

Location: Roman Site North – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER.

Aims: To provide northern extension to TP1401 on the other side of the hedge in order to see if features in TP1 continue northwards.

Results: Pottery, slag and daub were recovered. The pottery finds dated from the 1st to the 4th centuries and there was no evidence of stratification. Two and a half late roman coins were found together. There were no features apart from remnants of medieval ridge and furrow.

Interpretation: Nothing in this pit connected it with the one on the other side of the hedge, except that pottery dates were comparable. The pit appeared to contain a surface rubbish scatter that had been taken deeper by medieval ploughing. as a furrow passed through the trench. The testpit was closed.

TP1403

Location: Roman Site North – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER.

Aims: To investigate a large anomaly in what appeared to be a substantial ditch running north south. To collect dating evidence for the ditch.

Results: A 2m x 1m test pit was dug over the edge and into the ditch. It was not possible to dig across the ditch because of tractor tramlines. Once the turf was lifted and the first few centimetres of plough soil were removed, the ditch was clearly visible, as was a rough layer of stones appearing to lie along the edge of the ditch. A substantial quantity of pottery, bone, charcoal and daub were all retrieved, along with nails and hobnails and two pieces of tile. A fine bone pin and a bone pin beater were also found. All contexts were

dated C1-C4. The area immediately beneath the stones (302) contained by far the greatest number of sherds and weight of pottery. This was followed by the ditch itself. (303). When it rained, the ditch filled up with water which took more than a day to drain away. The testpit was recorded and closed without natural being reached at its deepest point due to weather change and continual flooding of the pit (even after the water being pumped out) and the depth already reached.

Interpretation: This was a substantial drainage ditch running N-S through the site and which still drains water off the field today. The current landowner states that it would be impossible to grow crops on this field without the land draining system they have in place (R. Brown pers. Comm.. Aug 2014). The ditch was open in Roman times and was filled in at a later date. The role of the stones is unclear and it is intended to open a similar testpit nearby to see if the feature is repeated. Such a layer of stone has not been seen in any of the other pits excavated on this site and is not a natural feature of the geology. It is possible that they were put there to reinforce the bank of the ditch. They were placed after the deposition of the potsherds, bone and other refuse. The lack of stratigraphy in the pottery finds would indicate that the ditch was filled with some sort of site clearance activity, however all the finds were Roman in origin. It would be interesting to use an auger to sample the depth of the ditch.

TP1404

Location: Roman Site North – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER

Aims: To investigate a rectilinear anomaly on the magnetometry survey.

Results: No significant features were found in this 1mx1m test pit placed on the corner of a potential target on the geophysics. Pottery dating from C1-C4 was found in all contexts and was equally split between coarseware and fineware. A small quantity of metal (nail), daub and bone was also retrieved. The pit was recorded and closed.

Interpretation: The pit did not contain any of the potential features as indicated on the geophysics but a similar range of finds to those from other testpits on the site was retrieved so this pit was within the area of Romano-British/Roman occupation on the site.

TP1405

Location: Roman Site North – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER

Aims: Obtain dating evidence for round house ditch visible on magnetometry survey.

Results: A shallow ditch clearly ran across the trench as indicated on the geophysics. There were few pottery finds but those that there were dated from the first half of the Roman period. There is possibly one Iron Age sherd. A small amount of daub was also retrieved. The testpit was recorded and closed.

Interpretation: This northern part of the site was occupied during the earlier centuries of Roman Britain, lacking the later and finer pottery of the testpits to the south.

TP1406

Location: Roman Site North – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER

Aims: Investigate possible trackway indicated by magnetometry survey. Obtain dating evidence.

Results: The natural geology dropped away to the west, leaving a slightly raised surface on the eastern side of the trench. The trench was nearly devoid of finds with only a handful each of pottery and bone being retrieved. The pottery gave trench a date of C1-3. The testpit was recorded and closed.

Interpretation: If the trench was accurately positioned, it would seem that the trackway had a ditch cut along its western edge. No obvious trackway surface was seen. The paucity of finds would indicate that this was not an area of habitation, as is the case elsewhere on the site. The date of the pottery finds would indicate that this (northern) part of the site was in use during the earlier period but not in use during the later years of Roman Britain.

TP1407

Location: Roman Site South – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER

Aims: To investigate a large anomaly indicated on magnetometry survey.

Results: Two ditches ran through this trench: the upper one had an E-W alignment and the lower one a NE-SW alignment. A large amount of pottery and bone was found. The pottery fell within the range C1-C4, with no apparent stratigraphy in the pit. Much of the pottery was fineware. The bone included a complete dog skull, butchered bone and even bone with cat gnaw marks. A piece from a Roman glass vessel was found. There was a significant quantity of daub (some burnt and some with impressions of plant material e.g. grass/reed type) and charcoal. A few nails and hobnails were located. The testpit was recorded and closed.

Interpretation: Revisiting the magnetometry survey, it is likely that the E-W ditch is the result of medieval ploughing. However, the lower ditch does not appear on the geophysics, possibly due to its depth. It is likely from the large number of finds that the original anomaly is a rubbish pit. The quality of the material found would indicate that there is a building in the vicinity of better status than to the north of the site. Much of the pottery originates from the Peterborough area where there was a thriving pottery industry contemporary with this site. There is nothing about the bone to suggest anything but domestic consumption.

TP1408

Location: Roman Site North – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER

Aims: To locate higher status dwelling.

Results: There was a large ditch running E-W through the trench but no evidence of a structure. Pottery dating from C1-C4 was found in all contexts. Much of the pottery was fineware and types were seen here that were not seen elsewhere on the site. Samian attributable to Cinnamus and a sherd from a colander were recovered. An abraded coin, nails, daub, bone and shell were also amongst the finds. The testpit was recorded and closed.

Interpretation: The large ditch may have been for drainage as it certainly fulfilled that role in the field when it rained. The quality of the pottery indicates a nearby higher status (not roundhouse) dwelling but there was no evidence of the structure itself in this trench. Dating was similar to other testpits in the vicinity but there were more quality pieces in this

pit from the first half of the Roman period than in the others. Only a small amount of daub was found, which was inconsistent with the view that this pit was located nearer to a possible dwelling than TP1407 which had the most daub.

TP1409

Location: Roman Site South – see map in Appendix B

Grid Reference: On application to CHER

Aims: To investigate ditch running north from TP1407 and collect dating evidence

Results: A shallow ditch was located, running NE-SW through the trench. Pottery dating from C1-C4 was found throughout the contexts. Much of the Nene Valley Colour Coated ware was nicely decorated. Bone, daub and a nail were also found. The testpit was recorded and closed.

Interpretation: The ditch was contemporary with others in the vicinity. It did not appear to be as deep as the one in TP1407 although the geophysics indicates that they are one and the same. The range of finds was similar to that in neighbouring pits and of better quality than that in the northern part of the site, indicating a better status house nearby.

3. Conclusions

The site as a whole was occupied from the late Iron Age through to the 4th century AD. Not all the site was in equal occupation at any one time and it would appear from the pottery assemblages that the northern part of the site was occupied earlier and by poorer people than the southern part of the site. The occupation itself from the magnetometry survey seems to take the form of a ladder-type settlement with an access track running north-south along the western edge and a substantial drainage ditch running parallel. Between these two features lie at least three residential enclosures. No evidence of industry has been discovered. Animal husbandry was practiced but initial examination of the bone collected indicates that animals were kept for domestic consumption. An arrangement of paddock-like enclosures at the southern end of the site has yet to be investigated. The pottery found shows clear links with the Nene Valley and in particular the Durobrivae area to the west of Peterborough. Later in the Roman period, there appears to have been at least one 'more prosperous' house, with better quality wares, and glass. In the fourth century or early fifth century the site seems to have been abandoned and ditches filled in with surface debris including middens after that. Despite being on top of the hill, the site is even today only able to be cultivated due to the insertion of land drains (R. Brown pers. comm. 2014). The latter part of the Roman era saw a change to a wetter climate and whether this was a factor in the abandonment of the site can only be surmised. However, what is clear is that some ditches in existence during the time the site was occupied appear to have a drainage function, which they perform effectively today.

Next Steps:

- Investigate paddock-like enclosures to the south of the site.
- Locate potential targets for the better status building.
- See if the pattern of stones adjacent to the main ditch is replicated elsewhere along the ditch.
- Attempt to sequence ditches to the north of the site.

4. References

See footnotes.

SECTION C Medieval (TP1304 – The Pentelows)

Author: Ian Baker

1. Aims and Methodology

Aim: To find evidence of medieval occupation.

To collect material for a medieval reference collection

(This was excavated by the landowner.)

The distance from the edge of Keyston Road to the front edge of buildings shown on the 1891 OS Map and an earlier map from 1764 was measured. Comparison of the two plans suggested the Keyston Road had not altered its route in this time. It seemed unlikely, too, that there had been a change of the line of the road prior to 1764. Historical mapping (1801 Enclosure Map) shows tenements on the east side of Keystone Road and these would have been in place by 1300 (pers comm. David Hall). Indeed two properties immediately to the north of The Pentelows (Long Acre and Ferndale Cottage) each have an area of one acre and their present boundaries follow those shown on the earliest maps. Thus it seems entirely possible that there could be former buildings in the near vicinity of this test pit.

A geophysical survey of the site was inconclusive due to the high degree of interference from around the site. Initially a 1m x 1m pit was excavated, but due to the high level of finds from the test pit and context indicating there was a larger feature beyond the test pit, the excavation was gradually enlarged to 3 metres by 1.8 metres which ultimately covered the extent of the archaeology easily accessible and determined the edges of the feature on three sides. The fourth side (closest to the road) was not fully excavated because of the presence of established ornamental shrubs. Small slit trenches to the depth of the feature were dug away from the main area: on three sides at one metre away from the main pit, they proved the feature was not present. The main pit was left open at the end of 2014 but covered with a large tarpaulin. It remained open for viewing by visiting experts and further investigation over the winter of 2014/15. Following advice from experienced archaeologists, a small amount of additional work was carried out in April 2015 when the natural was reached. All excavated spoil was sieved and set to one side on a ground sheet. Periodically a metal detector was swept over the spoil heap. Plans of the feature were produced and a section drawing of the whole feature made before the pit was closed. Archaeological contexts and finds were recorded throughout including a complete photographic record. All finds were carefully washed and placed in labelled bags.

The following system of recording was used throughout:

Site code: COVTP14 (This is for the whole site, despite pits being in two locations. This reflects the fact that excavations in 2014 were part of an HLF project to investigate the Roman and Medieval origins of the village.)

Testpit number: TP1304

Context number: 301,302, etc.

The following documents were completed for each testpit:

Context Master List, Context Recording Sheet for a FILL/CUT (each context), Plan and Section drawings. Photographs were also taken.

2. Results and Interpretation

TP1304

Author: Ian Baker

Location: The Pentelows

Grid Reference: TL055706

Aims: To find evidence of medieval occupation.

To collect material for a medieval reference collection

Results:

The initial test pit indicated a feature of arranged river pebbles of various sizes into which were dispersed a large quantity of medieval potsherds throughout. Often the sherds were found in large groups and several pieces of the same pot were found on more than one occasion close together.

There is an unusually and unexplained wide range of different types of medieval pottery represented and Paul Blinkhorn (Medieval Pottery workshop held at Covington Village Hall 23rd March 2015) has identified potsherds from this pit as follows:

Lyveden/StanionA

Lyveden/StanionB

Brill/Boarstall

Pottersbury

Northants/Beds 330 Shellyware

Sandy coarse ware – likely to be Covington/locally made

Peterborough oolitic ware

Medieval Oxidised ware

Late Medieval Reduced ware

St Neots ware

The top of the main feature was 460mm below existing ground level and went to 700mm below ground level. The suggestion of a cut feature (a post hole?) on the edge of the initial test pit showed that pottery as well as smaller pebbles had been used to wedge a vertical post or similar. When excavated the stone feature was at least three pebbles thick and in some areas four, and averaged 260mm thick. The feature varied from one metre wide on the north-south arm (note this could be wider if it extends south-westward) and to 0.5 metres on east-west arm. It had definite edge which was observed on three sides (N, S, and E) and appeared not to extend further than the area excavated in three directions. In addition to the quantity of pottery, two large lumps of iron slag were found and these were inspected by Oxford Archaeology East and found to date from cC1-C3 AD. No later pottery or metalwork was found beyond the medieval period other than two sherds of Pearlware (same vessel) and 19/20th century stable door fastenings and wire in the upper contexts. Occasionally pieces of animal bone (pig and sheep) were also found.

Interpretation:

This appeared to be a site undisturbed by the building of the houses nearby, unlike other previous test pits in The Pentelows, (cf TP9 reported in Covington Big Dig 8-10 June 2012), but certainly no easier to interpret! The lack of cut material indicates this is not a rubbish dump. The large amount of pottery found ranging from c1100 to the early 1300s, and the lack of any later (excepting two sherds from the same pearlware vessel in an upper context), suggests that this is a medieval site. Whether the discovered feature was a floor (and possibly originally larger than found in this excavation) or an early foundation to a wattle and daub wall is speculation. It should be noted that these types of pebbles are not

typical of soils in the village and appear to be similar to those found on the bed of a large river such as The Nene or The Great Ouse.

Also, the substantial deposit of iron slag in context (402) has to be considered. This might have been a workshop/kiln site but there is an absence of unsuccessfully fired pot and the pot was well distributed throughout the site i.e. not in a discard heap. It is possible that site in the village may have been used for metal smelting in Romano British times as evidence has been found elsewhere (COVSE14 forthcoming). The evidence suggests that there was some form of industrial activity during the medieval period on the eastern side of Keyston Road and close to the probable sites of the tenements. Whether this is part of the main medieval village site is unclear.

APPENDICES

- A. Finds reports**
- B. Magnetometry plot and map showing numbered testpits**
- C. Trench descriptions and context inventory**
- D. Drawings**
- E. COVDM14 – Magnetometry report**
- F. Locality maps**

Appendix A. Finds Reports

CBM: roof tile, fired clay (daub)

Methodology

A few fragments of brick and tile were recovered from the test pits. A greater quantity of baked clay was collected. All were counted, weighed and recorded on a spreadsheet against context number. The daub was examined for impression marks.

Results

Fabric	Count	Weight kg	Context count	Comment
Roof tile	3	0.115	3	
Daub	89	0.672	10	Some burnt, some with withy or plant impressions

TILE

Context	Count	Weight Kg	Date of context
TP1403 302	1	0.065	C1-4
TP1403304	1	0.007	C1-4

DAUB

Context	Count	Weight kg	Comment	Date of context
TP1403 301	2	0.007		C1-4
TP1403 302	12	0.190		C1-4
TP1403 303	2	0.017		C1-4
TP1403 304	1	0.008		C1-4
TP1404 403	2	0.006	Burnt	C1-4
TP1405 502	13	0.132	Small weathered pieces	C1-4
TP1407 701	1	0.005		C1-4
TP1407 702	53	0.288	Impressions	C1-4
TP1407 705	2	0.011		C1-4
TP1409 902	1	0.008		C1-4

Interpretation

The amount of tile recovered does not suggest a tiled building in the vicinity. The quantity of daub recovered does suggest there is a building near to these testpits. TP1403, TP1405 and TP1407 have the greatest amount of daub. TP1405 is the roundhouse ditch so the recovery of daub is what would be expected. TP1403 and TP1407 contained large quantities of domestic refuse indicating habitations nearby. The burnt daub could be indicative of clay used to form a hearth, or of a house fire. So far, no evidence has been found of catastrophic burning.

Glass

Methodology

The glass was placed in a protective box. It was taken to Oxford Archaeology East where it was confirmed that it had come from a Roman vessel. It was weighed and recorded.

Results

CONTEXT	COUNT	WEIGHT KG	COMMENT	DATE OF CONTEXT
TP1407 702	1	0.002	Clear, shaped,glass rim	C1-4

Interpretation

The presence of Roman glass indicates a higher status or better quality dwelling within this community and this is consistent with other finds from this testpit. By the second century AD, glass had become relatively inexpensive and readily available and was even recycled. It is interesting that Durobrivae, where much of the pottery from this site originated, is also known to have had a glass making furnace

(Durham Research Online -dro.dur.ac.uk/3725/1/3725.pdf)

Metal

Methodology

Metal was recovered from the test pits either by hand or by passing a metal detector over the pit and spoilheap periodically. (Metal artefacts recovered by formal metal detecting of the site are not considered in this report.) Coins were cleaned and examined for any dating detail. Finds were counted, weighed and recorded. The knife was placed in a container with silica crystals.

Results

Metal finds by context:

TEST PIT	CONTEXT	FABRIC	BASIC FORM	ITEM COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
TP1401	101	Iron	Hobnail + 2 part nail	3	0.005	C1-4
TP1401	101	Copper alloy	Coin v. worn	1	0.001	C1-4
TP1401	104	Copper alloy	Part of clasp	1	0.001	C1-4
TP1402	200	Iron	Large nails	2	0.013	C1-4
TP1402	200	Iron	Nail parts	3	0.005	C1-4
TP1402	201	Copper alloy	Coins late grot	2.5	0.003	C1-4
TP1403	301	Lead	Mass	1	0.009	C1-4
TP1403	301	Iron	Nails	3	0.013	C1-4
TP1403	301	Iron	Mass	1	0.013	C1-4
TP1403	301	Slag	Slag	2	0.005	C1-4
TP1403	302	Iron	Large nails	8	0.105	C1-4

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TEST PIT	CONTEXT	FABRIC	BASIC FORM	ITEM COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
TP1403	302	Iron	Medium nails	9	0.044	C1-4
TP1403	302	Iron	Hobnails	10	0.015	C1-4
TP1403	302	Iron	Mass	1	0.006	C1-4
TP1403	303	Iron	Small nails	4	0.013	C1-4
TP1403	303	Iron	large nails	4	0.058	C1-4
TP1404	402	Iron	Nail	1	0.012	C1-4
TP1404	402	Slag	Slag	1	0.013	C1-4
TP1406	601	Iron	Roman knife blade	1	0.006	C1-4
TP1407	702	Iron	Nails	4	0.036	C1-4
TP1407	702	Iron	Hobnails	2	0.004	C1-4
TP1407	703	Iron	Nail	1	0.006	C1-3
TP1408	801	Iron	Nail	1	0.005	50BC-C4
TP1408	801	Lead	Molten	1	0.024	50BC-C4
TP1408	802	Iron	Nails	2	0.005	C1-4
TP1408	802	Copper alloy	Coin	1	0.001	C1-4
TP1409	903	Iron	Nail	1	0.001	C1-4

Metal finds by form:

FORM	CONTEXT COUNT	COUNT	WEIGHT KG
Nails, including hobnails	11	58	0.340
Coins – late, Gratian 375-383AD	3	4.5	0.005
Copper Alloy Clasp part	1	1	0.001
Knife blade	1	1	0.006
Slag	2	3	0.018
Lead mass	2	2	0.033
Iron Mass	2	2	0.019

Interpretation

The date of the coin is consistent with the date of the pottery in the relevant context, and there is nothing to suggest that the metal found dates from outside the Roman period.

The greatest number of metal finds were retrieved from those testpits with the greatest number of finds overall. There is no significance to the form of metal finds in particular testpits.

The forms found are consistent with domestic debris: hobnails from footwear, larger nails from wooden construction, knife blade and a clasp for clothing. Occasional slag was also found during fieldwalking (COVTD12 in preparation) but no industrial features have been found to date.

Charcoal

Methodology

Where practicable, charcoal was recovered from sealed contexts. It was weighed, bagged and labelled.

Results

TEST PIT	CONTEXT	WEIGHT KG
TP1	101	0.010
TP1	102	0.001
TP1	104	0.001
TP3	303	0.036
TP3	304	0.011
TP7	702	0.075
TP8	802	0.042

Interpretation

Charcoal was not evenly distributed throughout the sites and only two of the testpits contained any (relatively) significant quantity. The small amount of charcoal retrieved would indicate domestic activity only. The largest quantities of charcoal were retrieved from the testpits producing the largest amounts of pottery and bone.

Bone

Methodology

Due to the relatively small assemblage of bone and teeth, only a superficial analysis was carried out. Fragments less than 25% of the complete bone were amassed, counted and weighed. Fragments greater than 25% were individually counted, weighed, identified where possible and recorded. Any particular features such as cut marks were noted.

Results

See next page.

Interpretation

The bone, teeth and shell fragments were found within sealed contexts with datable pottery and so it can be considered that they are contemporary. In general, the species represented are what would be expected in a rural community and the quantity of bone found does not indicate any large-scale animal processing. Many of the bones were from young animals and there was evidence of butchery. There was also evidence of cats and dogs feeding off the bones. The dog skull is too large to have been from a lap-dog type pet sometimes kept by people at this time and is more likely to have been a dog to work with the farm animals.

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TP	CONTEXT	BONE KG	NISP COUNT	NISP KG	TEETH KG	TEETH COUNT	COMMENT BONE/TEETH	SHELL KG	SHELL COUNT	COMMENT SHELL
1401	101	0.001			0.009	2	One possibly erupting			
	102	0.096								
	103	0.427	7	0.227	0.021	4	Horse fibula?	0.001	1	
	104	0.035	1	0.015						
	105	0.001	1	0.001	0.004	1	Sheep, small domestic animal			
1402	201	0.027			0.005	1				
	202	0.891	10	0.298	0.01	2	Sheep, pig jaw, cow metacarpal. Butchered bone.			
1403	301	0.300	2	0.046	0.046	9	Sheep teeth, some burnt bone			
	302	1.100	18	0.535			Cattle, sheep/pig, bird. Some burnt bone. Young animals.			
	303	0.756	5	0.466	192	20	Sheep and pig teeth. Scapula and upper limb. Dog jaw plus loose teeth.			
1304	403	0.005			0.007	2	Sheep?	0.023	2	Oyster
	402	0.013			0.008	2				
1404	403	0.122	2	0.052	0.005	1	Including burnt, sheep lower limbs and tusk			
1405	502	0.165								
1406	602	0.049								
1407	701	0.210	6	0.059						
	702	0.143	4	0.134	0.014	1	Pig tusk RC, Bone with cut marks RC, Dog chewed bone RC, Cat gnawed bone RC	0.083	9	Oyster
	702	3.588	48	2.729			Butchery. Cattle, horse, sheep, pig, dog, small mammal. Young animals. Vertebrae,			

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							jaw, ribs, long bones. Horse fibula RC. 2 x cow metacarpals RC. Some burnt bone.			
	702	0.166	1	0.166			Nearly complete dog skull.			
	703	0.075	7	0.013			Vertebra, knuckles. Very young or still born calf unfused bones RC			
	705	0.246	5	0.198			Sheep	0.016	1	Oyster
140 9	902	0.633	3	0.029			Some burnt			
	903	0.005					Burnt	0.018	2	Oyster

Artefacts

Methodology

Artefacts recovered from testpits were cleaned and placed in protective containers. Research was undertaken as to their form and function.

Results

TEST PIT	CONTEXT	FABRIC	Form & function	No.	WEIGHT KG	DATE
TP1	104	Leicestershire Coarse Grit	Top of Quern Stone	1	0.351	C3 - 4
TP1	103	Stone	I ? Tooled, 1 ? A weight	2	0.041	
TP3	302	Bone	Pin beater - 2 pieces	1	0.016	
TP3	302	Bone	Pin - carved top, missing finial	1	0.001	
TP9	902	Micaceous	For crushing and using to temper pottery	1	0.008	

Interpretation

Few artefacts were recovered. These all represented normal household activities such as grinding grain, weaving and perhaps pot-making. All these activities are consistent with everyday life in a small rural community. There is no evidence of industry. With the exception of the quernstone and potentially the micaceous stone, the materials found would have been available locally.





Pottery

Methodology

Pottery was washed and rebagged by context. The pottery for each context was sorted by type, weighed, counted and recorded onto data sheets. Unknown types were described. TP1304 was recorded and considered separately.

The following sources were used to aid identification:

Workshop on Roman Pottery, Nov 2014, Covington, by Dr. Stephen Upex

Workshop on Medieval Pottery, March 2015, Covington, by Paul Blinkhorn

Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Best Practice User's Guides: An Introduction to Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Prehistoric Pottery of Cambridgeshire, Roman Pottery Identification, Medieval Pottery Identification

Access Cambridge Archaeology Pottery Identification Guide

Potsherd.net

Leicestershire Fieldworkers Pottery Identification Sheets

(<http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/resources/fieldwalking/pottery-identification/>)

No comment can be made about potential number of vessels.

No comment can be made about different forms represented.

Results

ROMAN SITE:

The following types were identified:

Iron Age

Roman Calcite Gritted Ware (RSGW)

Lower Nene Valley Greyware (LNVGW)

Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware (LNVCCW)

Lower Nene Valley Cream/White Ware (LNVCCW)

Black Burnished Ware

Samian

Oxford Mortaria

Oxford Red Ware

Grog Tempered Ware

Godmanchester Ware

Local Greywares

Huntingdon/Cambridge Whitewares

Harrold

Stanground



COVTP14 -1

Tables to show pottery finds by context.

<i>TP1401</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
101	LNVCW	Body Sherd, rouletted	1	0.004	C1-4
	Greyware	Body Sherd, burnt	1	0.008	
	LNVCWW	Body Sherd	4	0.015	
	LNVCW	Body Sherd	3	0.016	
	RSGW	Body Sherd , rim	11	0.036	
	Unknown White/pink	Body Sherd	1	0.003	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
102	LNVCW	Base + side shallow dish, body	11	0.064	C1-4
	LNVCW	Body Sherd	4	0.013	
	LNVCW	Body Sherd burnt on outside	1	0.009	
	RSGW	Body Sherd burnt on outside, base, rim	38	0.158	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
103	Harrold	Body Sherd	1	0.011	C1-4
	Iron Age	Body Sherd Same pot	2	0.069	
	LNVCW	Dog bowl sherd, body	12	0.069	
	LNVCW	Body Sherd	6	0.019	
	Oxford Mortaria	Mortarium	1	0.027	
	RSGW	Rims, rim of large jar, body, handle, cooking pot	34	0.523	
	Samian	Body Sherd	2	0.002	
	Unknown grey fabric poss. burnished in & out	Body Sherd	1	0.001	
	Unknown LNVCWW	Body Sherd	1	0.002	
	Unknown Local Black Fumed	Body Sherd	1	0.004	
	Unknown Sandy , grey with pink outer	Body Sherd	1	0.009	
	Unknown fine black	Body Sherd	2	0.008	
	Unknown white ware	Body Sherd	4	0.019	

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CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
104	Harold/Lakenheath	Body Sherd	1	0.033	C1-4
	LNVCW	Rim	1	0.002	
	LNVGW	Body Sherd	1	0.005	
	RSGW	Dog bowl rim, base, body	9	0.025	
	Unknown Pink outer black core	Body Sherd	2	0.028	

<i>TP1402</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
200	LNVCW	Body Sherd	19	0.070	C1-4
	LNVGW	Base, body	22	0.084	
	RSGW	Body, rim	20	0.108	
	Samian	Body Sherd	3	0.003	
	Unknown coarse gritted	Body Sherd chunks	14	0.052	
	Unknown red fine ware	Body Sherd	8	0.028	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
201	Iron Age	Girth Beaker Sherd, body	2	0.070	C1-4
	LNVCW	Body Sherd	4	0.023	
	LNVGW	Body Sherd, incised decoration	10	0.043	
	RSGW	Body Sherd below rim, body	7	0.041	
	Samian	Body Sherd	1	0.001	
	Unknown coarse gritted pale brown	Body Sherd	2	0.008	
	Unknown coarse shell ware	Body Sherd	4	0.018	
	Unknown fine	Body Sherd	1	0.001	

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CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
202	LVNCCW	Body Sherd Round Bowl	13	0.046	C1-4
	LVNGW	Body Sherd	2	0.003	
	RSGW	rim of large vessel, rims, body	46	0.332	
	Unknown Grey Ware	Body Sherd	3	0.013	

<i>TP1403</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
301	LVNCCW	Body Sherd 1 patterned, part rim	10	0.060	C1-4
	LVNGW	Body Sherd	4	0.012	
	RSGW	Base, rim, body	47	0.172	
	Unknown	Body sherds inc part base	4	0.012	
	Unknown Local	Rim, base	5	0.019	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
302	BB1	Body Sherd	1	0.006	C1-4
	LVNCCW	Body, rims, various decorated, plain rimmed beaker decorated	95	1.636	
	LVNCWW	Body Sherd ? Pots	13	0.037	
	LVNGW	Flat base with circular striations, rims, bases, body	52	0.621	
	Oxford Mortaria	Mortarium	1	0.009	
	Oxford Ware	Body Sherd	3	0.008	
	OXRW	Body Sherd	1	0.013	
	RSGW	Rim from flanged bowl, rim of huge storage jar, body, rims, base, colander	123	1.118	
	Samian	Body Sherd	4	0.024	
	Unknown	Body Sherd	2	0.004	
	Unknown Local	Body Sherd	1	0.007	
	Unknown Local Black fumed	Jar rim	1	0.032	

COVTP14 -1

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
303	BB1	Straight sided dish	1	0.027	C1-4
	Fen Edge ? Stilton	Beaker Rim, body	3	0.024	
	Late Black Ware	Rim	1	0.027	
	LNVCW	Beaker Foot + finger print, rim of lid seated jar, decorated base, body	34	0.352	
	LNVGW	Rim of large vessel, rims, lid, body, pot bottom, base and side of small jar, rouletting	27	0.544	
	RSGW	Shallow Bowl base, storage jar body, rim, body, rilling	40	0.466	
	Samian	Platter Base, rouletting	1	0.097	
	Unknown pink	Body Sherd	2	0.027	
	Unknown red	Body Sherd	1	0.005	
	Unknown red coarse	Body Sherd	1	0.011	
	Unknown red fine ware	Body Sherd	1	0.008	
	Unknown red, fine texture burnt one side	Rim	1	0.015	
	Unknown fawn, some inclusions	Body Sherd	14	0.299	
	Unknown Grey / Black	Body Sherd	3	0.008	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
304	Cambridge Ware ?	Mortarium Rim	1	0.019	C1-4
	LNVCW	Body Sherd	6	0.010	
	LNVGW	Body Sherd , base	16	0.096	
	RSGW	Body Sherd, rim	4	0.047	
	Samian	Large platter sherd	1	0.022	
	Unknown	Rim	1	0.006	
	Unknown Black core, red shiny surface	Body Sherd	2	0.012	

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<i>TP1404</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
401	LVNCCW	Body Sherd	9	0.034	C1-4
	RSGW	Rim, body	8	0.060	
	Samian	Body Sherd	2	0.004	
	Unknown Red with grey core	Body Sherd	1	0.001	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
402	LVNCCW	Body Sherd, rim	3	0.034	C1-4
	OXRW	Body Sherd	1	0.001	
	RSGW	Body Sherd, rim	6	0.058	
	Unknown smooth cream outer, grey core	Body Sherd	1	0.002	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
403	RSGW	Body Sherd	9	0.032	C1-4
	LVNCCW	Body Sherd	2	0.004	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
404	LVNGW	Body Sherd	1	0.007	C1-3
	RSGW	Body Sherd	3	0.004	

<i>TP1405</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
501	Grog tempered	Body Sherd	2	0.007	50BC - C4
	LVNGW	Body Sherd, rim	5	0.019	
	RSGW	Body Sherd, rim	5	0.018	
	Unknown Sandy, Grey with pink outer	Body Sherd	4	0.023	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
502	LVNGW	Body Sherd	1	0.001	C1-4
	RSGW	Body	10	0.041	

COVTP14 -1

<i>TP1406</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
602	BB1	Body Sherd, horizontal incised decoration	1	0.008	C1-3
	RSGW	Dog bowl rim, body	5	0.027	
	Unknown Sandy, Grey with pink outer	Body Sherd	1	0.006	

<i>TP1407</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
701	LNVCCW	Rim, base, body	5	0.052	C1-4
	LNVCWW	Body, rouletted	3	0.008	
	LNVGW	Body Sherd	1	0.008	
	OXRW	Body	8	0.133	
	RSGW	Body, rim	31	0.181	
	Samian	Rim decorated	1	0.005	
	Unknown Grey / Black	Body Sherd	2	0.011	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
702	Godmanchester ware	Body Sherd burnt on outside	1	0.003	C1-4
	LNVCCW	Rims, body, body with slip decoration	39	0.315	
	LNVCWW	Flagon Sherd sharp rim	2	0.055	
	LNVGW	Rimmed base, body	7	0.091	
	OXRW	Body Sherd	2	0.004	
	RSGW	line & incised decoration, rim of large jar, rims, base, body	88	0.962	
	Unknown	Body Sherd	2	0.006	
	Unknown pink, sandy, red core	Vessel bottom now spindle	1	0.032	
	Unknown dark grey inner red outer	Body Sherd	1	0.002	

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CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
703	RSGW	Body Sherd	2	0.006	C1 - 3

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
705	Cambridge Ware	Body Sherd	1	0.014	C1-4
	LVNCCW	Flagon neck w. handle fixing, body	4	0.043	
	LVNGW	Body Sherd	2	0.009	
	RSGW	Ribbed Sherd, rim, body	13	0.125	
	Stanground Grey Ware	Body Sherd	1	0.029	

<i>TP1408</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
801	Grog tempered	Rims, body	3	0.058	50BC - C4
	LVNCCW	Rims 2, 10 body, 1 base	13	0.071	
	LVNGW	Rims 2, rim (incised), 19 body	22	0.074	
	RSGW	Rim, body	48	0.165	
	Samian	Body Sherd	1	0.003	
	Unknown Sandy, pink	Rim 1, body 2	3	0.006	
	Unknown White fabric, pink surface	Rims 2, 4 body	6	0.035	

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CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
802	Godmanchester	Body Sherd decorated with circles	5	0.032	C1-4
	Grog tempered	Rim 1 , 3 body	4	0.095	
	LNVCW	Rims, body	6	0.033	
	LNVCW	Drinking flagon w. pinched top, body, rim, platter rims	21	0.236	
	Oxford Mortaria	3 Rims, 1 Sherd	4	0.174	
	RSGW	Rim decorated, body	44	0.498	
	Samian	Decorated sherds (Cinnamus ii) , rims	8	0.057	
	Unknown Local Black fumed	Body Sherd	1	0.019	
	Unknown Sandy , grey fabric	Body Sherd	1	0.001	
	Unknown Sandy, pink fabric	Body Sherd	2	0.005	

<i>TP1409</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
901	LNVCW	Shoulder 1, base 1, body, pedestal style base 2	5	0.051	C1-4
	LNVCW	base 2, rim 1, body 4, colander sherd	8	0.032	
	RSGW	Body Sherd	16	0.045	
	Samian	Body Sherd	2	0.001	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
902	Grog tempered	Body Sherd	1	0.006	C1-4
	LNVCW	Dog bowl sherd, body, inscribed decoration	15	0.102	
	LNVCW	Body Sherd	4	0.007	
	RSGW	Base, rim, body	54	0.272	

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CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
903	LVNCCW	Rim, body, part base	11	0.056	C1-4
	RSGW	Rim of dog bowl, rims, body	21	0.182	
	Samian	Body Sherd	2	0.008	

Table to show percentages of the different fabrics represented:

FABRIC	COUNT OF CONTEXT	SUM OF WEIGHT KG	SUM OF SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT AS % OF TOTAL	SHERDS AS % OF TOTAL
BB1	3	0.041	3	0.31%	0.19%
Cambridge Ware	2	0.033	2	0.25%	0.13%
Fen Edge ? Stilton	2	0.024	3	0.18%	0.19%
Godmanches ter ware	1	0.003	1	0.02%	0.06%
Greyware	1	0.008	1	0.06%	0.06%
Grog tempered	5	0.166	10	1.27%	0.65%
Harold	1	0.011	1	0.08%	0.06%
Harold/Laken heath	1	0.033	1	0.25%	0.06%
Iron Age	3	0.139	4	1.06%	0.26%
Late Black Ware	1	0.027	1	0.21%	0.06%
LVNCCW	79	3.21	333	24.55%	21.53%
LVNCWW	7	0.126	24	0.96%	1.55%
LVNGW	64	1.953	223	14.94%	14.41%
LVNWW	1	0.009	1	0.07%	0.06%
Oxford Mortaria	3	0.21	6	1.61%	0.39%
Oxford Ware	2	0.008	3	0.06%	0.19%
OXRW	5	0.151	12	1.15%	0.78%
RSGW	118	5.86	780	44.82%	50.42%
Samian	16	0.227	28	1.74%	1.81%
Stanground Grey Ware	1	0.029	1	0.22%	0.06%
Unknown	44	0.806	109	6.16%	7.05%
Grand Total	360	13.074	1547	100.00%	100.00%

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Table to show the percentage of the most represented fabrics:

FABRIC	COUNT OF CONTEXT	SUM OF WEIGHT KG	SUM OF SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT AS % OF TOTAL	SHERDS AS % OF TOTAL
RSGW	118	5.86	780	44.82%	50.42%
LNVCC W	79	3.21	333	24.55%	21.53%
LNVGW	64	1.953	223	14.94%	14.41%
TOTAL	261	11.023	1336	84.31%	86.36%

Interpretation

Pottery throughout the site dated from C1-C4. Local potteries were most widely represented although there was some evidence of wares having being imported from a little further afield e.g. Oxford. 86% of all sherds recorded were from three fabrics with over half being shellywares. This is indicative of a community using very basic pots for everyday activities with some tableware and best 'heirloom' additions. Pottery of higher quality was found in a cluster of testpits in the centre of the site – TP1403, 1407, 1408, 1409. Forms of vessel cannot be evaluated in this report.

Not one testpit showed any conclusive stratigraphy in the pottery finds. As all pits, excluding TP1406, were over ditches, it has to be assumed that these were filled in at some point with surface debris or midden heaps.

The latest pottery found was 4th century. Fieldwalking on this site in 2013 produced Roman, potentially Saxon, Medieval and Post Medieval finds. As no pottery from the latter three periods was found in the sealed contexts, it would appear that the ditches were filled in or by the 5th century.





COVTP14 -1

MEDIEVAL SITE

The following fabrics were identified:

Brill
 Brill / Boarstall
 Higham Ferrers Reduced Ware
 Late Med Oxidised Ware
 Late Med Reduced Ware
 Lyveden A (319)
 Lyveden Stanion B
 Med Shelly Coarse Ware
 Northants/Bedford Med Shelly Coarse Ware
 Nth Beds. Med Shelly Coarse Ware
 Pearlware
 Peterborough Late Saxon with oolitic inclusions
 Potterspury
 Sandy Coarse Ware (360)
 St Neots Ware
 Stanion D

TP1304

Table to show pottery finds by context.

<i>TP1304</i>					
CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
401	Lyveden A (319)	Body Sherd	2	0.018	1100 - 1350

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
402	Brill	Rim, body, green glaze	17	0.058	850-1600
	Lyveden A (319)	Rim, body, green glaze, base, metatarsal indentation	17	0.058	
	Lyveden Stanion B	Body Sherd, Glazed	2	0.020	
	Med Shelly Coarse Ware	Body Sherd	1	0.001	
	Pearlware	Rims	2	0.001	
	Potterspury	Body Sherd	2	0.008	
	St. Neots Ware	Body Sherd	1	0.005	

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CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
403	Northants/Bedford Med Shelly Coarse Ware	Body Sherd + 1 rim	10	0.047	1100-1600
	Brill	Body Sherd Some glazed	40	0.117	
	Higham Ferrers Reduced Ware	Base or Rim	1	0.003	
	Late Med Oxidised Ware	Body Sherd	2	0.050	
	Lyveden A (319)	Rims, bases, body	140	0.801	
	Lyveden Stanion B	Rims, body	22	0.215	
	Med Shelly Coarse Ware	Rim	1	0.072	
	Nth Beds. Med Shelly Coarse Ware	Rim of Jug	1	0.008	
	Potterspury	Body	8	0.037	
	Sandy Coarse Ware (360)	Body Sherd	2	0.009	
	St. Neots Ware	Bowl Rim, body	4	0.064	
	Stanion D	Body Sherd Shaped	1	0.009	

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT KG	CONTEXT DATE
404	Brill / Boarstall	Jug handle, jug rim, body	21	0.159	900-1600
	Late Med Oxidised Ware	Body Sherd	1	0.014	
	Late Med Reduced Ware	Body Sherd	2	0.033	
	Lyveden A (319)	Rims, body, base	53	0.454	
	Lyveden Stanion B	Body Sherd	4	0.062	
	Med. Shelly Coarseware	Body Sherd + 1 rim	10	0.080	
	Peterborough Late Saxon with oolitic inclusions	Rim	1	0.008	
	Potterspury	Body Sherd	5	0.019	
	Sandy Coarse Ware (360)	Base	2	0.033	
	St. Neots Ware	Body Sherd	2	0.007	

COVTP14 -1

Table to show percentages of the different fabrics represented:

POTTERY TYPE	COUNT OF CONTEXT	SUM OF WEIGHT KG	SUM OF SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT AS % OF TOTAL	SHERDS AS % OF TOTAL
Brill	12	0.26	75	8.93%	18.16%
Brill / Boarstall	2	0.074	3	2.54%	0.73%
Higham Ferrers Reduced Ware	1	0.003	1	0.10%	0.24%
Late Med Oxidised Ware	2	0.064	3	2.20%	0.73%
Late Med Reduced Ware	1	0.033	2	1.13%	0.48%
Lyveden A (319)	22	1.774	248	60.90%	60.05%
Lyveden Stanion B	8	0.297	28	10.20%	6.78%
Med Shelly Coarse Ware	4	0.153	12	5.25%	2.91%
Northants/Bedford Med Shelly Coarse Ware	1	0.047	10	1.61%	2.42%
Nth Beds. Med Shelly Coarse Ware	1	0.008	1	0.27%	0.24%
Pearlware	1	0.001	2	0.03%	0.48%
Peterborough Late Saxon with oolitic inclusions	1	0.008	1	0.27%	0.24%
Potterspury	7	0.064	15	2.20%	3.63%
Sandy Coarse Ware (360)	2	0.042	4	1.44%	0.97%
St Neots Ware	4	0.076	7	2.61%	1.69%
Stanion D	1	0.009	1	0.31%	0.24%
Total	70	2.913	413	100.00%	100.00%

Table to show the percentages of the types most represented:

POTTERY TYPE	COUNT OF CONTEXT	SUM OF WEIGHT KG	SUM OF SHERD COUNT	WEIGHT AS % OF TOTAL	SHERDS AS % OF TOTAL
Lyveden A (319)	22	1.774	248	60.90%	60.05%
Brill	12	0.26	75	8.93%	18.16%
Lyveden Stanion B	8	0.297	28	10.20%	6.78%
Potterspury	7	0.064	15	2.20%	3.63%
TOTAL	49	2.395	366	82.22%	88.62%

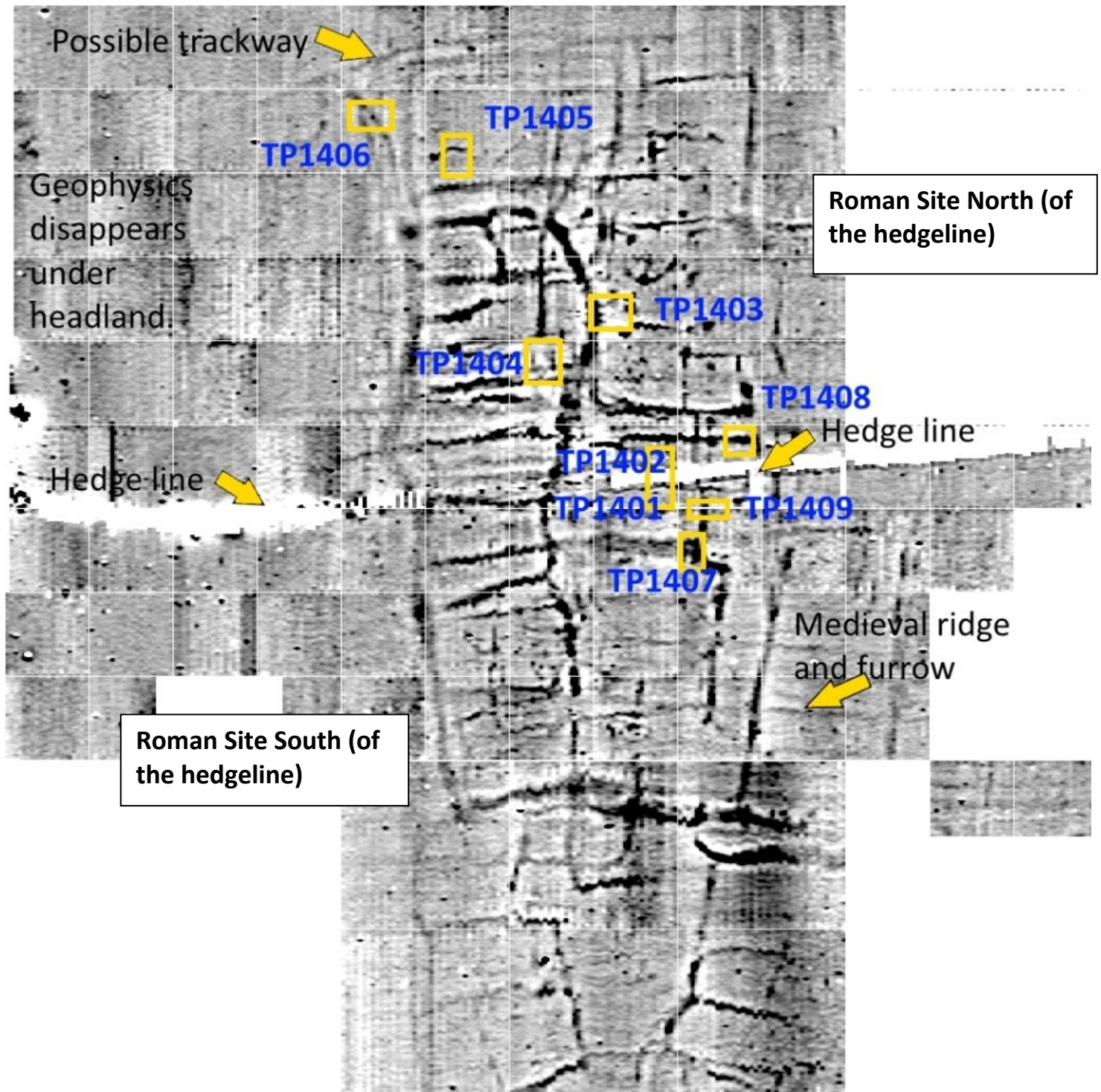
Interpretation

A wide range of pottery types are represented but the overwhelming bulk (89%) came from just three potteries. Lyveden is only 27 miles away, Potterspury 34 miles and Brill 63 miles so most of the pottery represented was of local origin. Pottery was found dating from throughout the medieval period with 60% being Lyveden A – 1100-1350. This quantity of domestic pottery suggests nearby occupation in the medieval period, particularly when results from testpits in previous seasons (COVTP13 (forthcoming) and COVTP12) are taken into account. On several occasions, sherds from the same pot were collected in the same location or very close by. This would indicate that the pots were broken in situ rather than collected from a wider area into a rubbish dump. However, the upper context did contain a small amount of more modern material e.g. pearlware, which would suggest clearing of the area had taken place subsequent to the medieval period. A map dated 1764 (Covington Estate Map 1764 KDMC/318 available at Huntingdonshire Archive) shows no houses on this site and that has remained the case since. Other areas in the village, including cultivated, have produced quantities of post medieval pottery – lacking here. Further excavations in the area will need to take place in order to fully understand the significance of these pottery finds.



APPENDIX B: Geophysics plot and map showing numbered testpits

Roman Site (see Appendix E for full geophysics report):



Medieval Site:



APPENDIX C: Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1304 (Pentelows)						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Silty brown clay with some inclusions. Front garden currently laid to lawn and ornamental shrubbery abutting Keystone Road. This pit went down to Oxford clay natural. Pit area undisturbed and not contaminated with material from nearby building of houses in 1970s.					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	1.4
					Length (m)	3.0
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Fill	1	0.1	Turf layer and topsoil	-	
401	Fill	1	0.15	Clay layer with flint and chalk pieces	Metal Bone, pottery	19-20 th century 12-14 th century
402	Fill	1	0.3	Round pebbles with infill of clay & chalk	Bone, pottery	12-14 th century
403	Fill	1	0.7	Rounded pebbles to natural	Pottery iron slag	12-14 th century C1-C2 AD
404	Cut	0.3	0.7	Round pebbles with infill of clay & chalk	Pottery & small pebbles	12-14 th century
400 extension	Fill	To 3.0	0.1	Turf layer and topsoil	-	
401 extension	Fill	To 3.0	0.15	Clay layer with flint and chalk pieces	Bone, pottery	12-14 th century
402 extension	Fill	To 3.0	0.3	Round pebbles with infill of clay & chalk	Bone, pottery	12-14 th century
403 extension	Fill	To 3.0	0.7	Rounded pebbles to natural	Pottery	12-14 th century

COVTP14 -1

Trench 1401 (Roman site)						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
				Avg. depth (m)		0.44
				Width (m)		1.1
				Length (m)		2.37
Dark brown / yellow hard silty clay. Ditch crossing trench E-W. Post hole in NE corner with quernstone fragment, pottery and bone. Line of small depressions at the southern end – possibly picket or base of wattle wall. Unstratified Roman domestic debris – significant quantities of pottery and bone.						
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
101	fill	1m	0.21	Plough soil	Tile/brick, charcoal, hobnail, nail, coin, teeth, Roman pottery	Modern
102	fill	1m	0.20	Topsoil	Pottery, bone, charcoal and mortar	C1-C4
103	fill	1m	0.16	Ditch fill	Pottery, bone, shell, mortar	C1-C4
104	fill		0.22	Post hole fill	Pottery, bone, part of metal clasp, fragment of Leicestershire quernstone	C1-C4
105	fill		0.10	Depressions fill	Bone, teeth	-

Trench 1402						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Dark brown / yellow hard silty clay. Extension to TP 1401, but with hedge separating it. Many of the finds were close to the hedge. There was a ditch running E-W. Unstratified Roman domestic debris.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.4
					Length (m)	2.4
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	fill	1.4m	.38	Plough soil	Pottery Nails	C1-4
201	fill	1.4m	.45	Ditch fill	Pottery Coins	C1-4
202	fill	1.4m	.73	Ditch fill	Pottery Slag	C1-4

COVTP14 -1

Trench 1403						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Dark grey brown hard silty clay, ditch fill soft and friable. Edge of large ditch and ditch fill. Layer of stones on brink of ditch under the ploughsoil. Roman pottery sherd within stone layer. (Stone layer not considered a separate context due to advice received at the time.) Unstratified pottery finds throughout dating from C1-C4. Bone pin and pin beater found. Also patch of hobnails. Ditch filled in with Roman domestic debris.				Avg. Depth (m)		.8
				Width (m)		1
				Length (m)		1
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
301	fill	1	.29	Ploughsoil including layer of stones	Stones,sheep teeth, burnt bone, roof tile, daub, lead, nails, iron, slag, pottery	C1-C4
302	fill	1		Ditch fill (beneath stones)	Pottery, bone, tile, daub, nails	C1-C4
303	fill	1		Ditch fill buried soil	Pottery, nails, bone, daub, charcoal	C1-C4-
304	fill	1		Yellow subsoil	Pottery, daub, charcoal	C1-C4

Trench 1404						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Dark grey brown hard silty clay. Potential ditch in one corner. Finds consistent with this area of the site. Roman domestic debris. Pit closed without conclusion due to flooding and lack of time.				Avg. Depth (m)		.4
				Width (m)		1.1
				Length (m)		1.0
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
401	Fill	1	0.3	Ploughsoil	Pottery	C1-C4
402	Fill	1	0.1	Topsoil	Pottery, nail	C1-C4
403	Fill	0.31	0.17+	Potential ditchfill	Pottery, daub, teeth, bone	C1-C4
404	Cut	0.31	0.27+	Cut		

COVTP14 -1

Trench 1405						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
This 1m x 2m trench was located over what appeared to be a roundhouse ditch on the geophysics. A shallow ditch crossing the pit E-W was found. The ditch was clearly defined with a gentle slope, and a gradual break of the slope at the base. Mid brown firm clay/silt with moderate inclusions. No early dating evidence was retrieved and finds were consistent with the general domestic debris found elsewhere.				Avg. Depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		1.0
				Length (m)		2.0
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
501	fill	1	.30	Plough soil	Pottery, bone, teeth, daub	C1-C4
502	fill	1	.25	Ditch fill	Pottery Bone Daub	C1-4
503	cut	.6	.25	Cut		

Trench 1406						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Dark brown firm silty clay with some inclusions becoming yellow chalky boulder clay as the natural geology was reached. It was hoped to find the surface of a trackway, but, with the exception of a layer of very fine charcoal, no evidence of any variation in the soil was detected. Finds, in comparison with the rest of the site, were very sparse but of a slightly earlier date range.				Avg. depth (m)		0.68
				Width (m)		1.0
				Length (m)		2.0
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
601	fill	1	.25	Plough soil	Iron knifeblade	Inconclusive
602	fill	1	.38	Topsoil	Pottery, bone, charcoal (too fine to collect)	C1-C3

COVTP14 -1

Trench 1407						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Mid greyish brown silty clay in stubble field. Trench over large anomaly at the end of a ditch shown on magnetometry survey. Ditch running E-W through trench with another ditch below it running NE-SW across the NW corner of the trench. Frequent pottery and bone throughout ditchfill. Dog skull, sherds of Roman glass.					Avg. depth (m)	1.25
					Width (m)	1
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
701	fill	1	.33	Plough soil	Pottery, bone	C1-4
702	fill	1	1.02	Fill	Pottery, bone, nails, hobnails, daub, charcoal, roof tile, Roman glass	C1-4
703			1.	Fill	Pottery	C1-3
704	fill	1	.17	Main ditch fill		
705	fill	.30	.14	Ditch fill	Pottery, daub, oyster shell	C1-4
706	cut			Cut of main ditch		
707	cut	1	.17	Cut of earlier ditch		

Trench 1408						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Dark brown/yellow hard silty clay. Shallow ditch running north south. Significant quantities of pot, bone and charcoal. Better status pottery – Samian, Oxford mortaria, Godmanchester London style.					Avg. Depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	1.0
					Length (m)	2.0
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
801	fill	1	.30	Plough soil	Pottery	C1-4
802	fill	.4	.8	Ditch fill	Pottery, bone, charcoal	C2-4

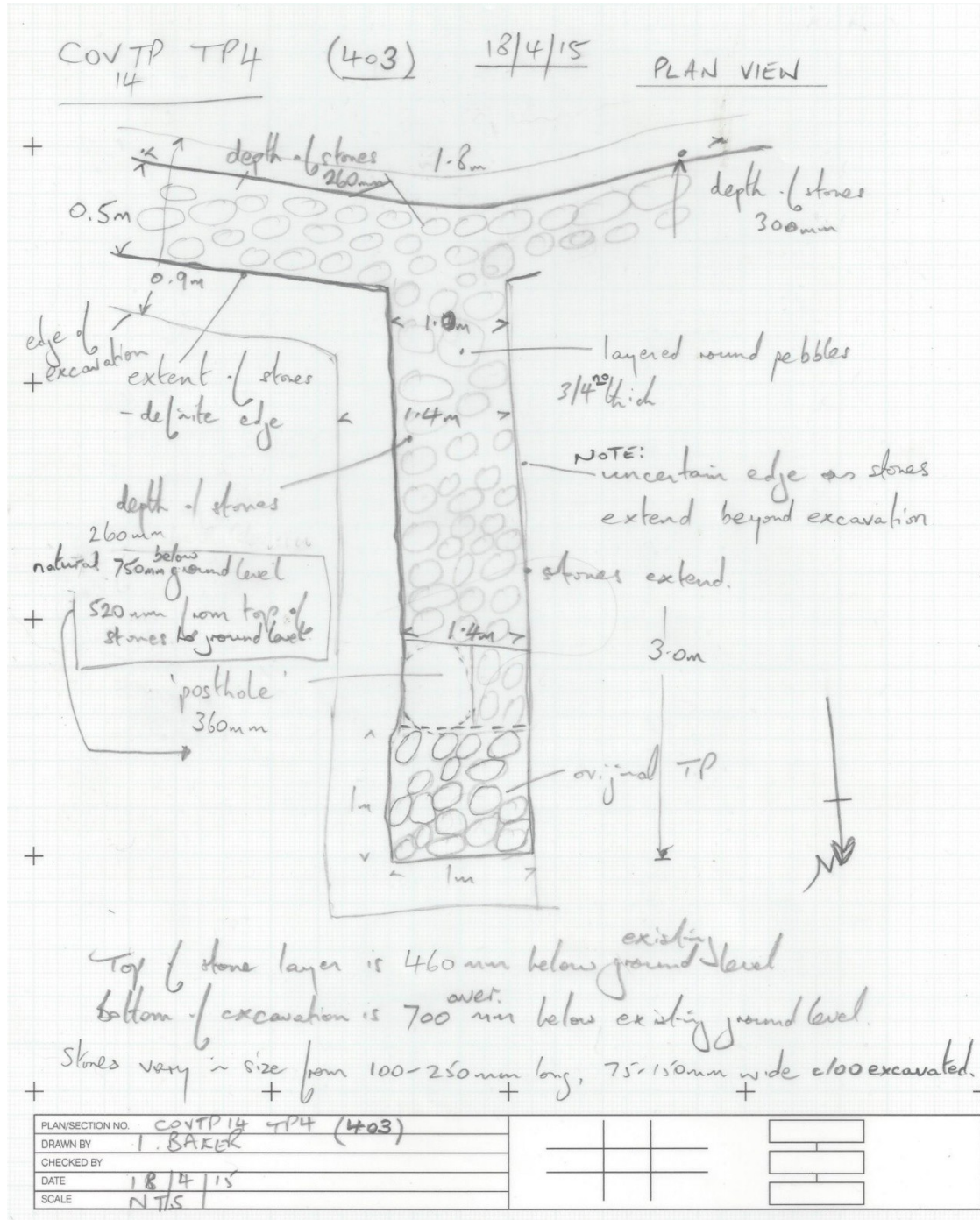
COVTP14 -1

Trench 1409						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Silty grey brown clay in stubble field. Situated over shallow ditch feature running NE-SW. Recent and old mole drains cut the trench along its length. Unstratified Roman pottery C1-C4, utilitarian and decorative. One nail, daub, bone.				Avg. Depth (m)		.54
				Width (m)		2.0
				Length (m)		1.0
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
901	fill	1	.26	Plough soil	Greyware colander sherd	C1-4
902	fill	1	.23	Grey/brown below plough pan. Charcoal.	Pottery Daub	C1-4
903	fill	1	.54	Ditch fill. Brown with yellow (natural) tinge. Charcoal	Pottery Bone Oyster shell Iron Nail	C1-4
904	fill	1	.32	Natural – bright yellow with numerous chalk inclusions. No charcoal.	Bone	No datable evidence.

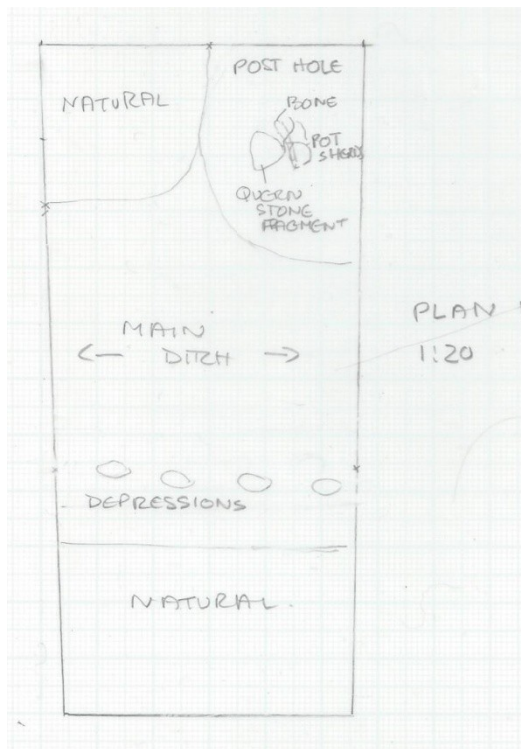
APPENDIX D

Plan Drawings

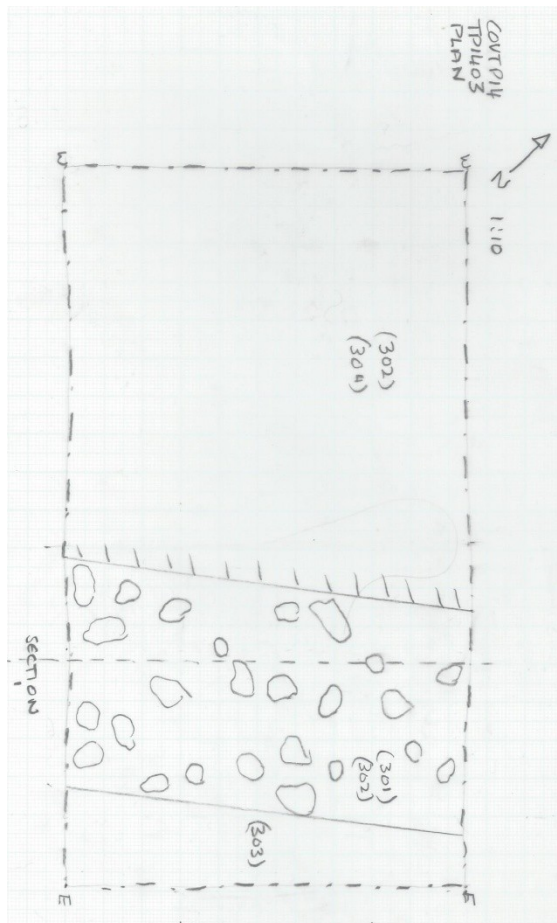
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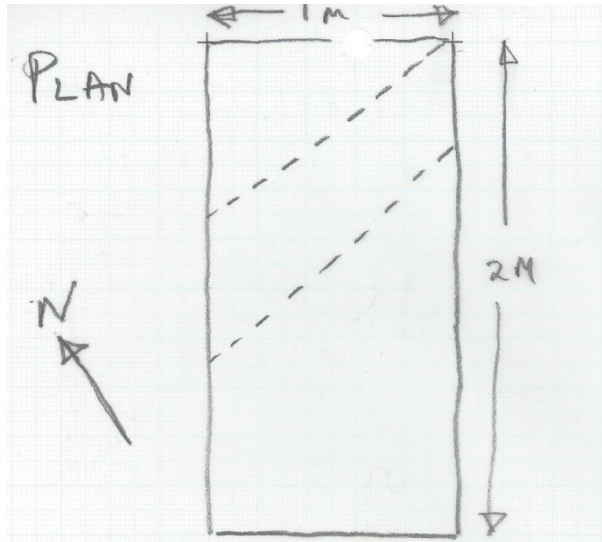
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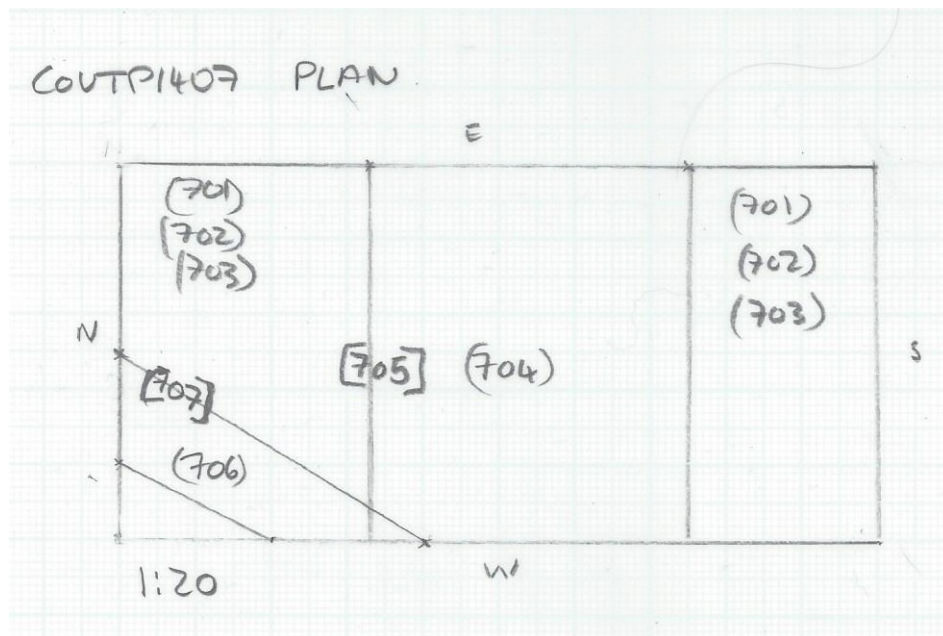
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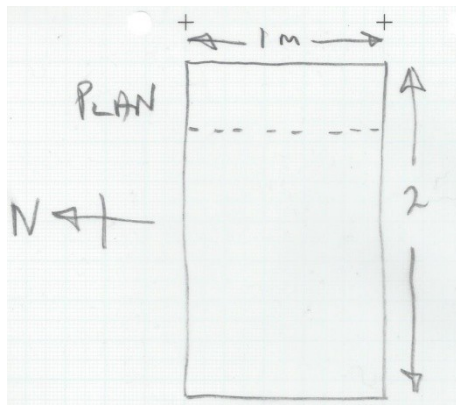
TP1405



TP1407

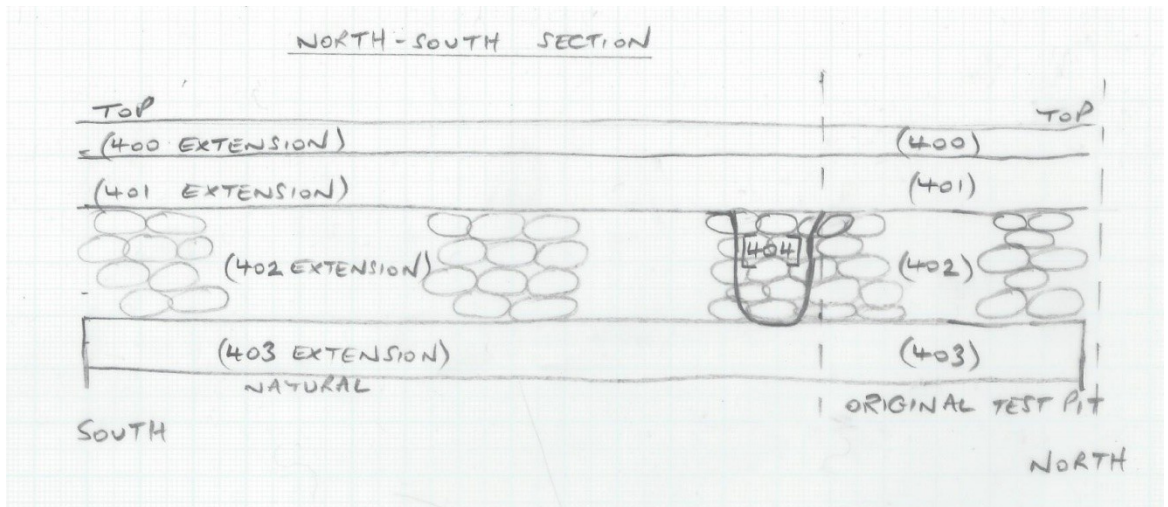


TP1408

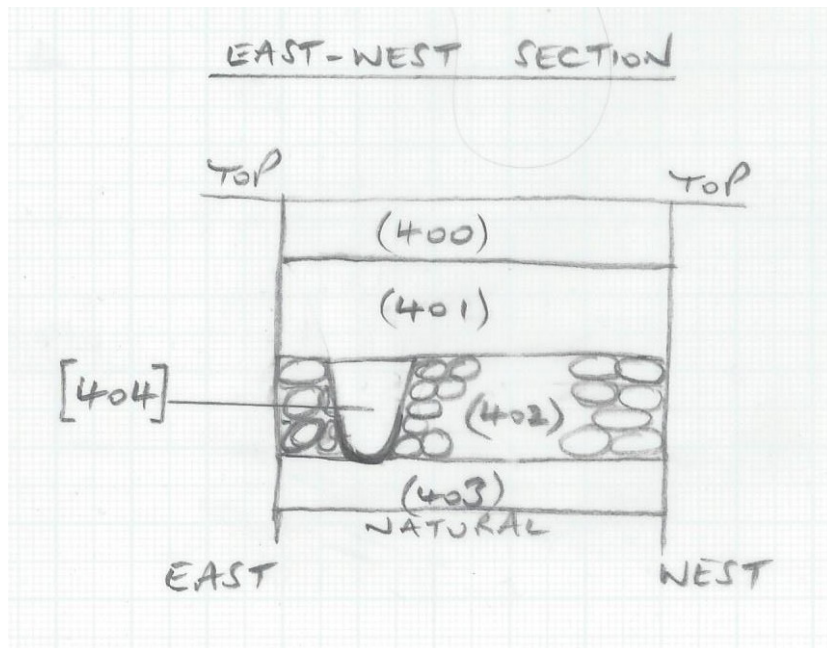


Section Drawings

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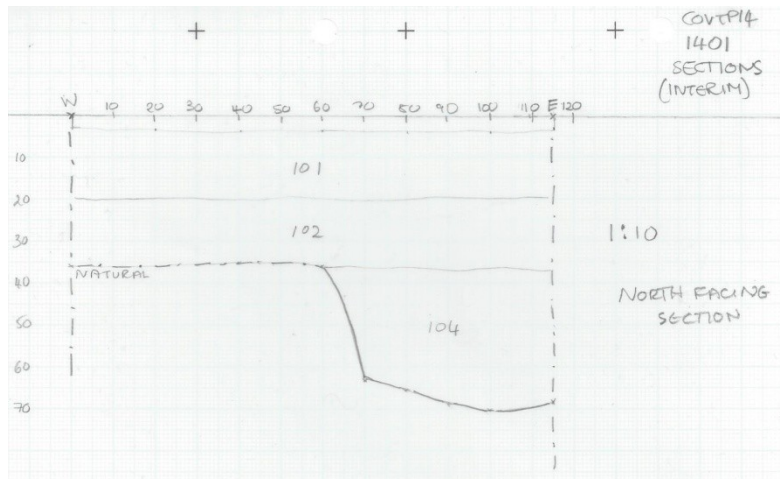


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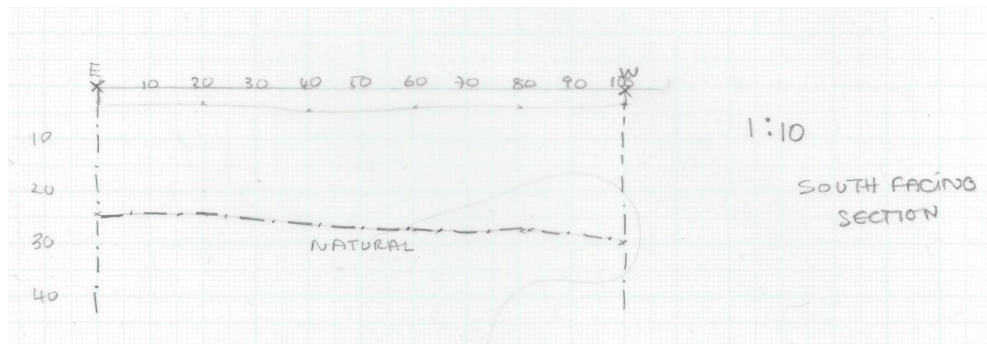


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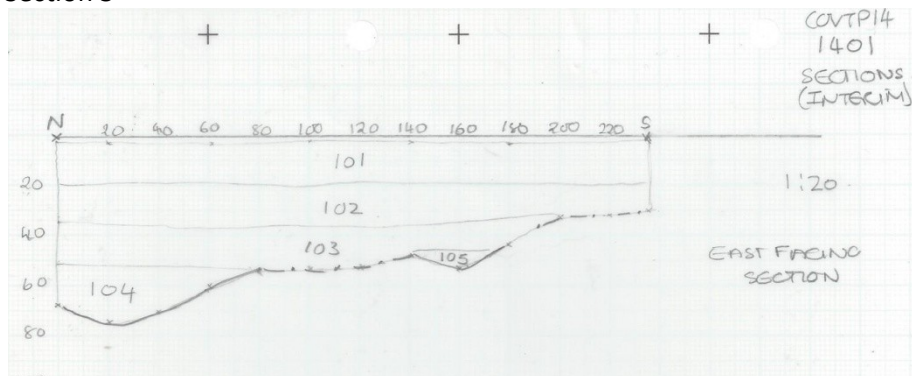
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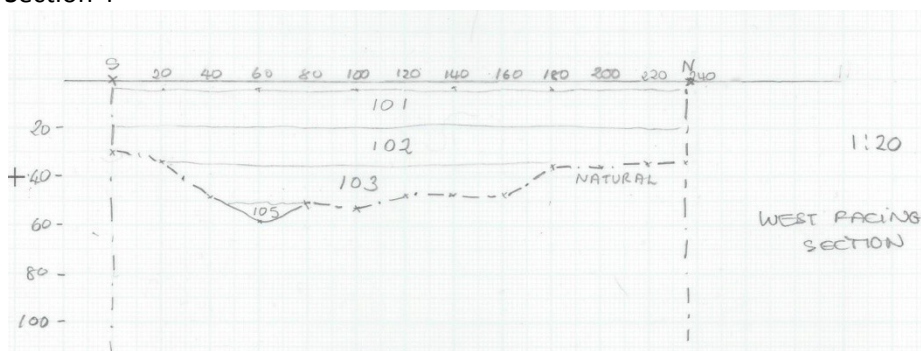
Section 2



Section 3

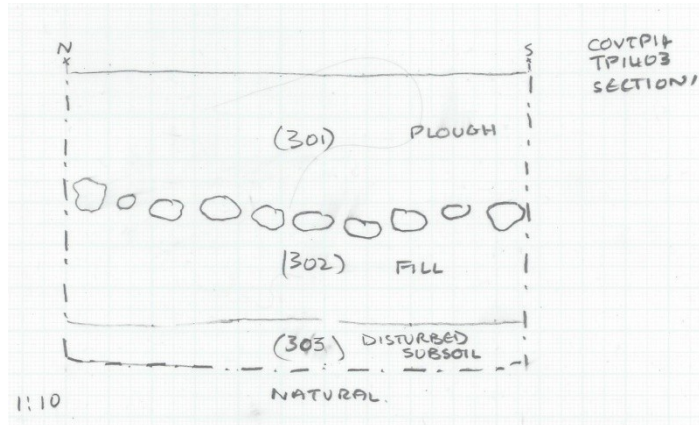


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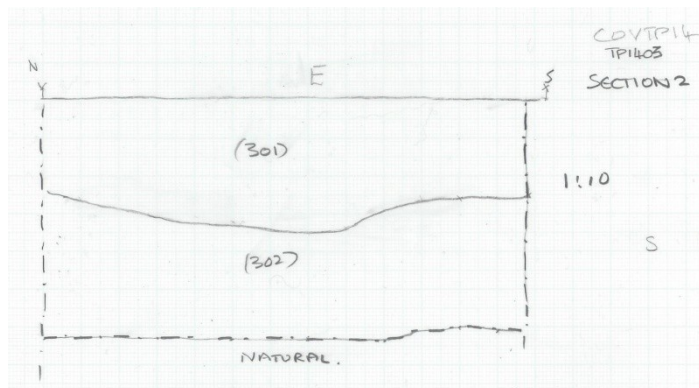


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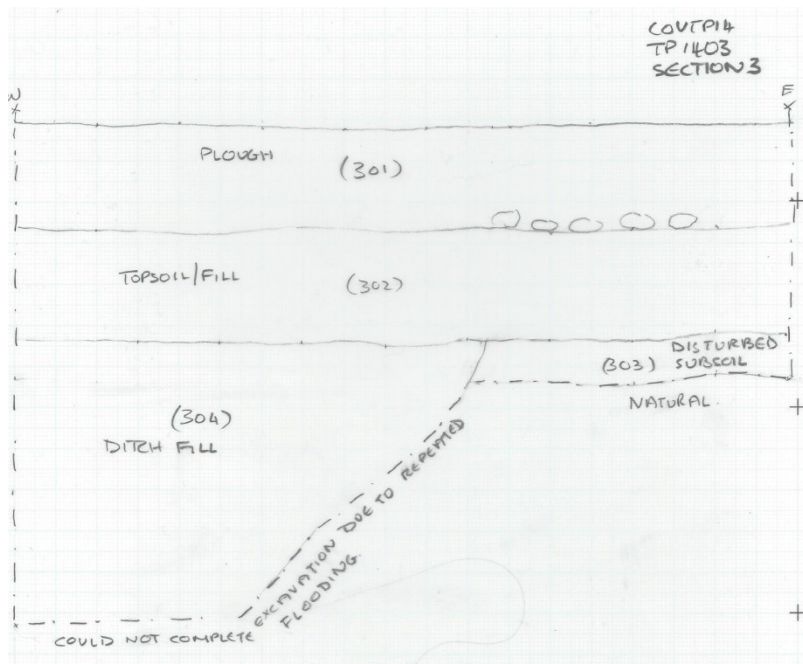
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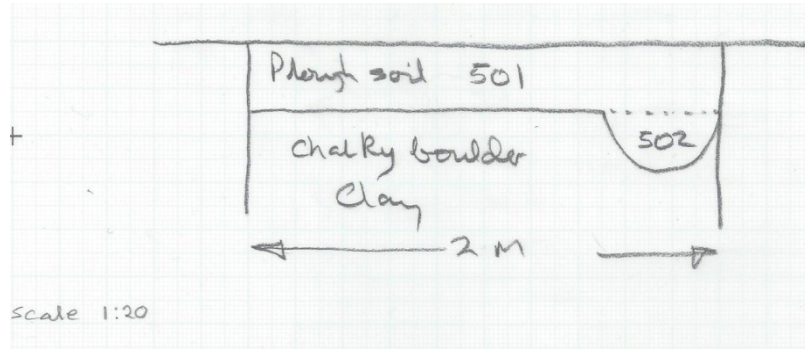


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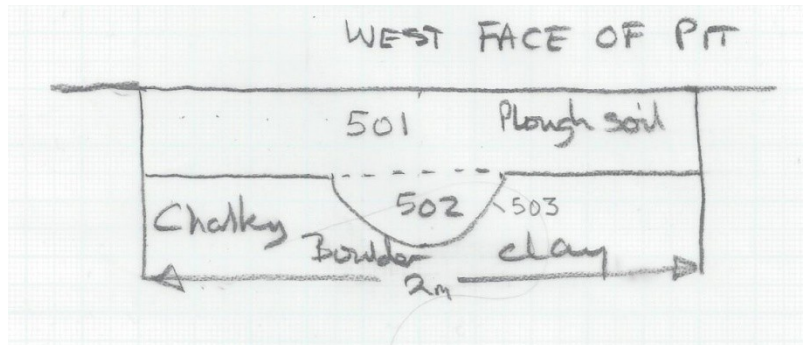


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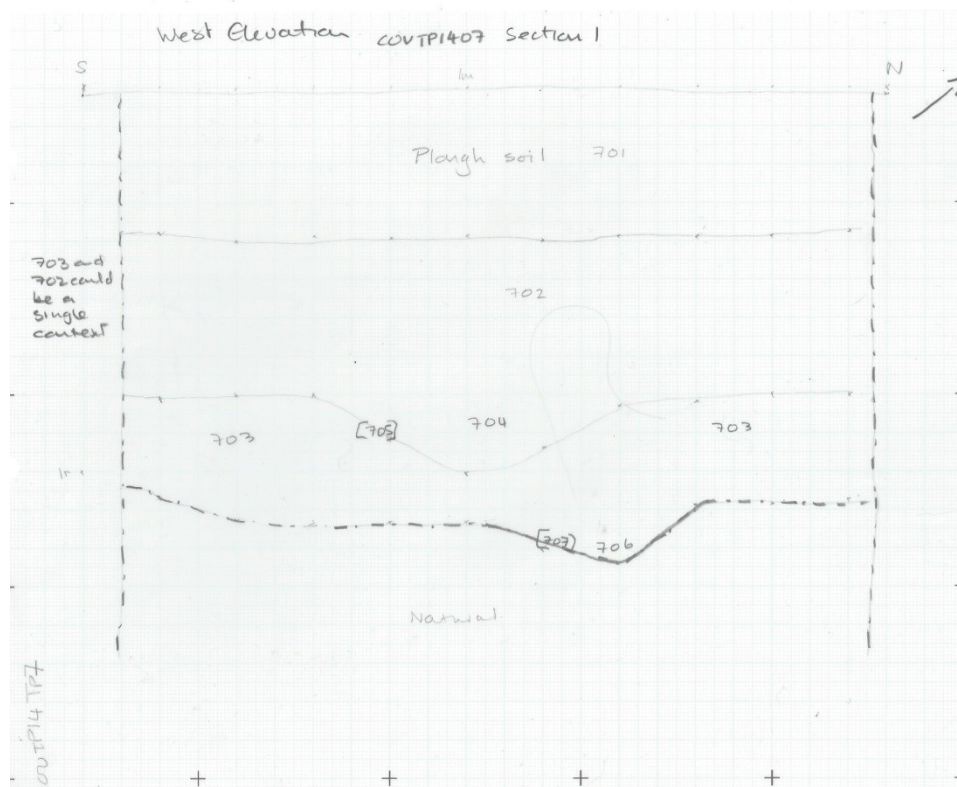
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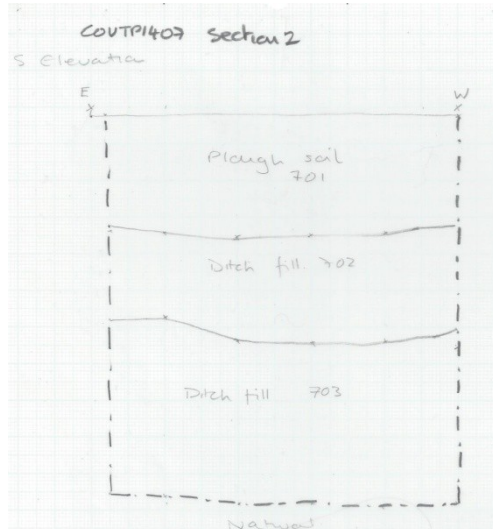
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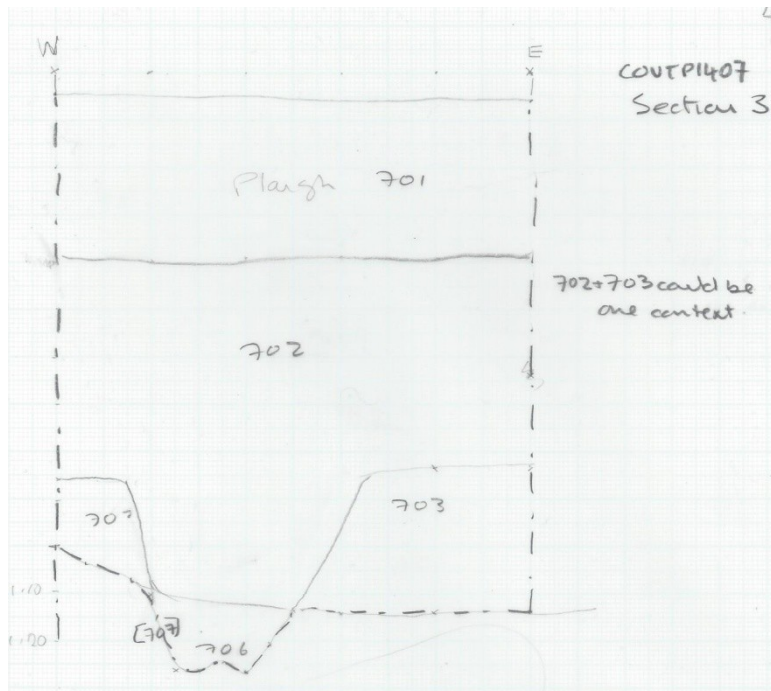
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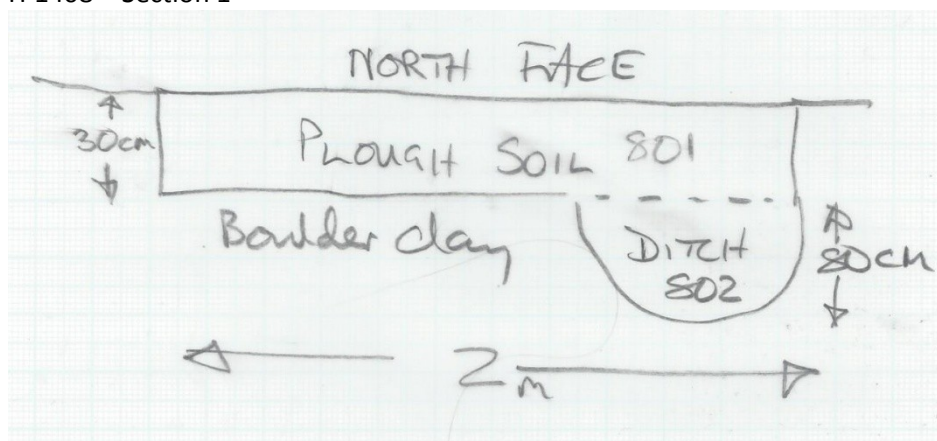
Section 2



Section 3



TP1408 – Section 1



APPENDIX E – Magnetometry Report



Covington Archaeology Project

1st – 28th August, 2014

Geophysical Survey Report

“Roman Site”

Author: Simon Parsons

<i>Summary Information:</i>	Report no:	COVMDG14-1
	Site name:	Covington
	ECB ref:	ECB4378
	Associated excavation:	COVTP14-1
	Date of works:	1-31 August 2014
	Grid reference:	On application to CHER
	Site code:	COVMDG14
	Group contact:	Mary-Ann Parsons Chairman, Covington History Group history@covington.org.uk www.covington.org.uk

Change History

Issue	Date	Change History	Authority
1.0	20.6.2015	First Issue	CHG

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1 Introduction

This is one of a series of reports of geophysical surveys undertaken in the village of Covington in advance of and during the 2014 Excavation campaign. This Interim Report covers surveys undertaken at the site, which is an area of crop marks and IA/Roman era pottery scatter covering an area of approximately 250m x 500m to the north of the village of Covington. It has been known for some considerable time, pottery having been reported from it in the mid 1950s, and it has been a known productive metal detecting site for perhaps 20 years. Some authorised metal detecting has been undertaken in recent years, latterly by members of Covington History Group, and quantities of small late Roman copper alloy coins, a small number of brooches and other less common finds have been retrieved. The inference is that if there was ever anything saleable to be found in the plough soil, it has been found.

As there was a known Roman site, and that initial field walking had recovered various forms of mid to late roman pottery, it was believed that a settlement of some sort, perhaps agricultural in nature, existed on the site. A geophysical survey was proposed and Covington History Group embarked on a series of surveys that eventually characterised most of the site. This is an amalgamation of those surveys.

2 Method

2.1 Initial Survey (2012)

The initial survey was undertaken using a Geoscan RM15 resistivity meter.

The survey used a 20m grid expanded from a previous field walking exercise. This grid did not use GPS references, but used a footpath post in the hedge running through the site as the origin on the middle of one side of a survey square resulting in the field walking starting 10m out into the field with the other axis following the line of the modern hedge running through the site. This post was used as a reference for all subsequent surveys, and was subsequently fixed using a Leica survey-grade differential GPS unit. The orientation of the grid changed for 2013/2014 and has now been fixed using marker posts and calculated grid points (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

Visible features are mostly the east-west lines of mediaeval ploughing and the hedge, but the first indications of a ditch are showing in the SW of the plot. The resistivity from 2013 and 2014 expanded and improved greatly on these results (see below).

Only a few squares were surveyed using the RM15 and the results were not particularly informative (See Figure 3.1).

2.2 Magnetometry Surveys (2013 and 2014)

Using the same reference post as 2012, but at a slightly different orientation to allow surveying along the existing crop lines, a Geoscan FM256 magnetometer was tried in 2013 with some success, although the overburden to the west of the footpath post appeared to be too thick for any linear features to be discerned using this device.

A subsequent survey on the east side of the footpath post where there was less overburden revealed features such as ditches and evidence of mediaeval ploughing. The Iron Age and Roman ditches were full of charcoal rich material, which later ploughing, primarily Ridge and Furrow had disturbed and smeared out and along these later features. This made interpretation of the site less easy, but there was evidence of a late Iron Age linear “Ladder Settlement”, or Roman Roadside settlement with several tenements; field boundaries; several potential round house circles; what appear to be a semi-circle of small paddocks to the south; and what may be a trackway entering from the north then running down the west side of the settlement.

In 2014, the survey was extended to the area south of the 2013 survey, revealing a semicircle of small enclosures in an area almost devoid of surface finds. The assumption is that these are small fields or, more likely, paddocks or holding pens as the magnetic signature of the ditches is less intense than the areas of occupation, probably due to it being mostly up wind of the area of human occupation, so less charcoal got into the ditches. Due to existing cropping it will not be possible to section any of these ditches until late 2015, or 2016 at the earliest.

3 Results and Interpretation

3.1 Geology

The topsoil is worked (ploughed) boulder clay up to 30cm deep, with a clay plough pan beneath. This material is Light brown, with a grey tinge and dries to a soft granular top surface with hard, unyielding lower layers. Below plough depth the natural is mainly yellow, hard clay. Drainage is a problem, resulting in regular mole drainage episodes, and by the depth of the ditches in the settlement, has always been a problem. In 2002/2003, field drains were inserted into the site, but have not, as yet, been found by excavation and show on the geophysics mostly as a slight smearing of the ancient ditch layout. The drainage plan (not available for publication, but visible on the 2003 Google Earth imagery) shows the drains fanning out in a south west to north east direction across the site.

3.2 Modern

Apart from a row of metal stakes used to support a long-gone fence along the hedge line, there is almost no evidence of modern activity. Field walking turned up very little in the way of modern finds. Several field drains were cut through the site in the early 2000s, and can be seen on Google Earth imagery dating from that time. So far, none of the test pits have come across these drains, although TP1403 missed one by a very small margin. The drains have not affected the magnetic survey results very much, if at all.

3.3 Mediaeval

There is ample evidence of Ridge and Furrow ploughing running east-west all through the site. The furrows have cut into many of the Roman era features and smeared their contents along the line of the furrows. This makes them show up strongly on the geophysics as regular horizontal lines. There is no evidence of domestic activity. This appears to have been a field, nothing more.

3.4 Early Mediaeval

A handful of undecorated Early/Mid Saxon ware sherds have been found whilst fieldwalking. This may be associated with a known, relatively extensive, settlement in the vicinity. Any linkage between that settlement and the site being surveyed has not yet been assessed.

3.5 Roman and Iron Age

The site appears to be based on an Iron Age “Ladder Settlement”, with a north-south trackway forming the western border of the primary enclosures immediately abutting it. This trackway appears to be on a junction of an east-west trackway passing immediately north of the site. If the n/s trackway continues south, and there is every chance that it did so, then it probably followed the existing road through Covington, southwards towards Bedford. The enclosing ditches of the ladder settlement show up strongly, and were deep and wide, as evidenced by later excavation. Full of charcoal-rich backfill containing pottery and bone dating from late Iron Age to Late Roman, with a peak in the 3rd-4th Century, which accounts for the strong magnetometry results.

Evidence of a potential IA beginning to the site is most evident at the north end, with less obvious circular features and ditches. Dating is mainly based on the lack of Roman era pottery in their fill and surroundings, rather than by IA finds. IA pottery is found all over the site mixed with later Roman. The implication is that the site was levelled at some time and the ditches filled in with what surface detritus there was.

There are a semi-circle of enclosures at the southern end of the site enclosing an open area. There is a potential that these are paddocks or enclosures for other animals, as the poor response of the magnetometer implies that there was less charcoal, and therefore less human occupation on that part of the site.

3.6 Earlier

There is no geophysical evidence of earlier occupation of the site and lack of earlier finds seem to support this.

Figure 3.1: The 2013 magnetometry results overlaid with the 2012 resistivity.

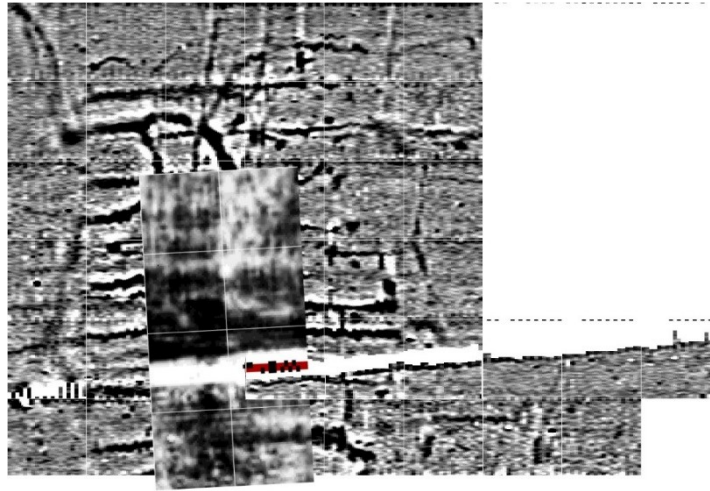


Figure 3.2: The 2013 site map with magnetometry overlay



Figure 3.3: Completed Geophysics map of the site

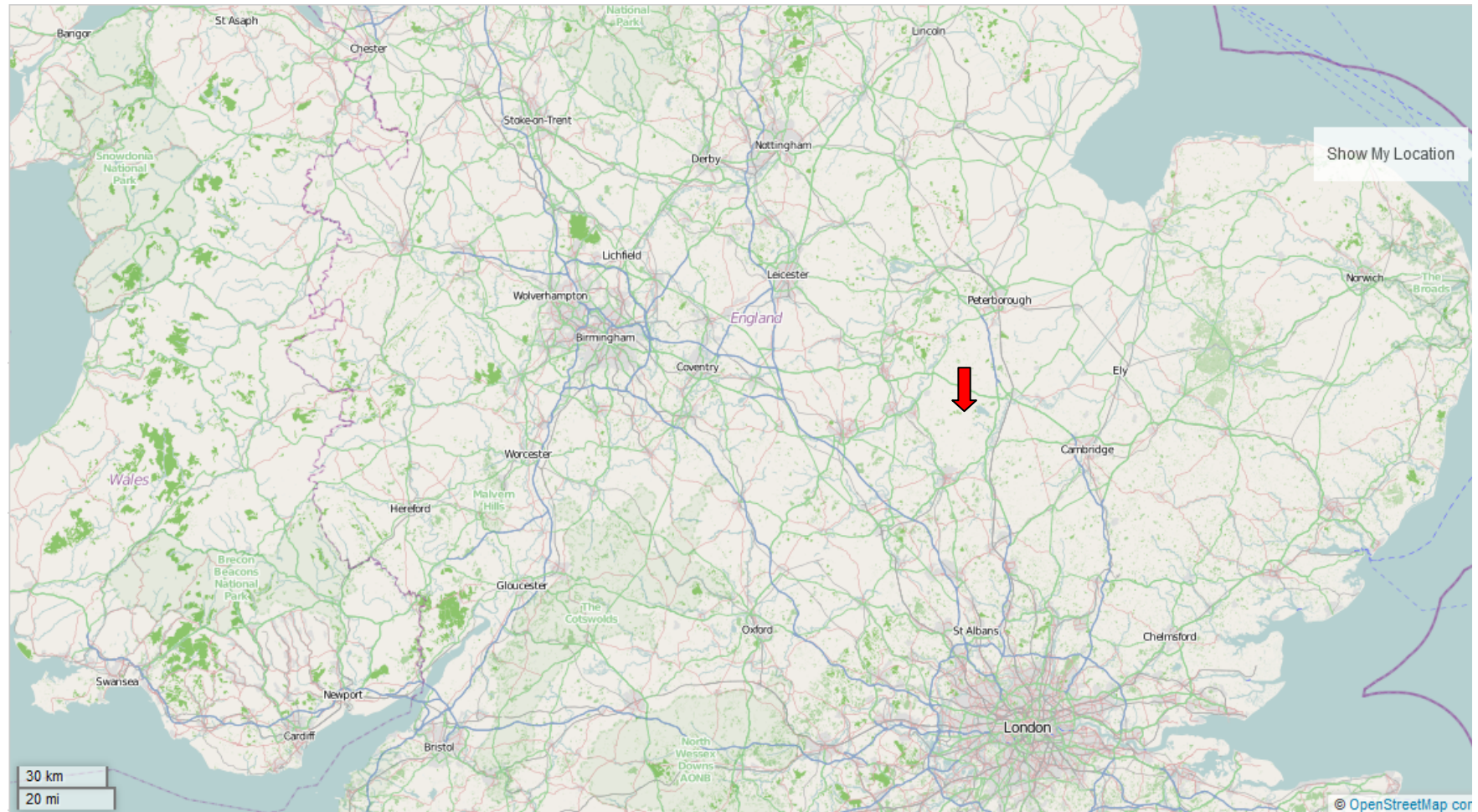
The survey squares are primarily 20m, with 40m squares over the southern section. The lowest area of the site is 50m up



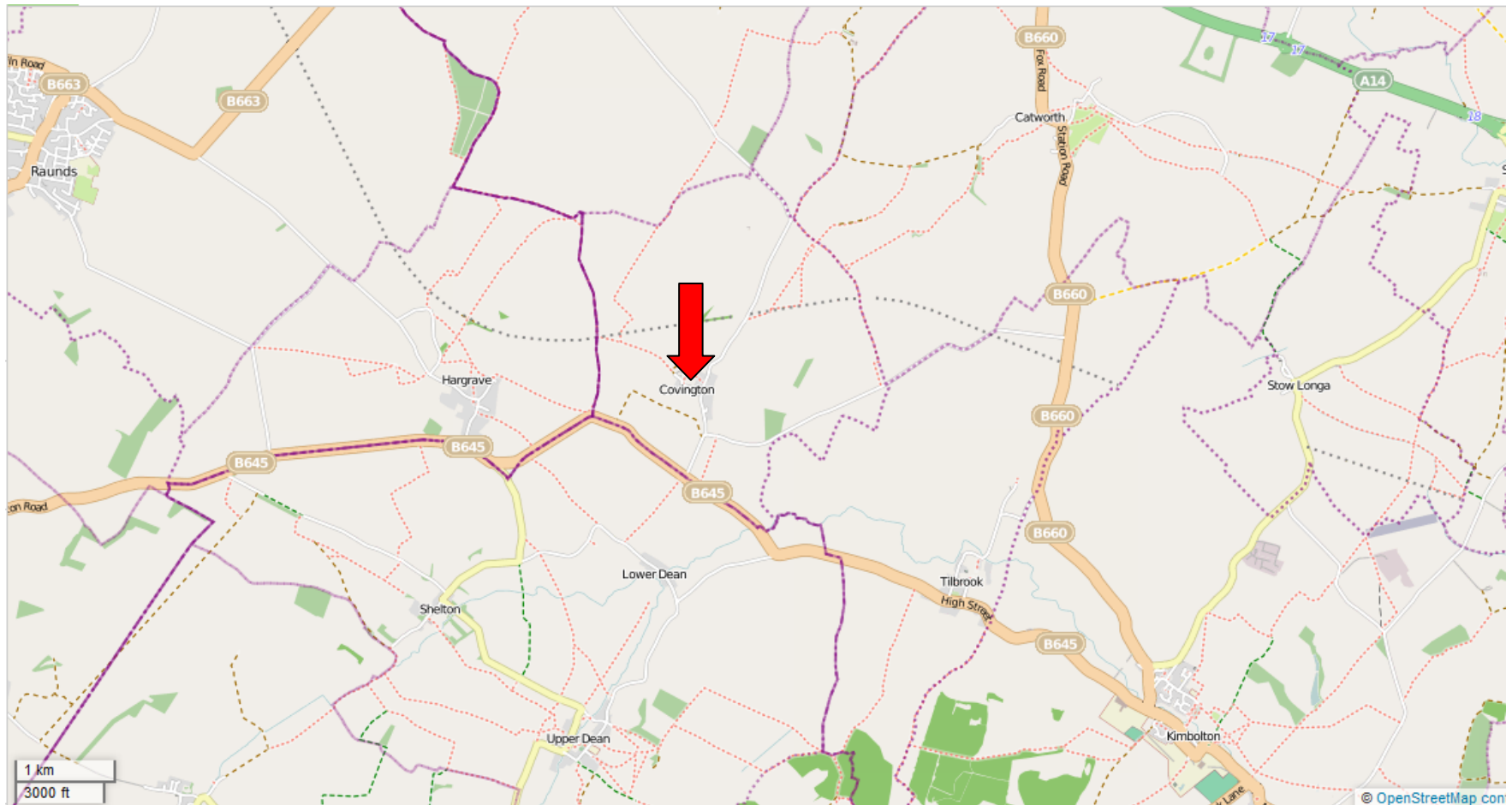
The reference point (FP0) was accurately surveyed using a D-GPS equipped Leica Total Station for the previous resistivity survey, which was on a different grid to the later surveys, however, the Footpath Post reference point was retained. The grid angles had been measured with a surveying compass and the “FP-x” grid points were calculated using that data.

APPENDIX F: Locality maps

F.i Central and Eastern England



F.ii Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire border



F.iii Covington Village

