



Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Wisbech St Mary, Cambridgeshire, 2006-2007

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1 Summary

Two two-day test pit excavations were undertaken in the village of Wisbech St Mary in north Cambridgeshire in 2006 and 2007, as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) run by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) out of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. Local school children spent two days excavating the test pits; the third day of the HEFA programme was then spent at the University of Cambridge to experience first-hand higher education from a world leading university.

The 13 1m² test pits excavated in Wisbech St Mary over the two years yielded evidence for significant Iron Age and Roman activity, particularly in the form of salt making to the east of the current village. Low levels of both medieval and post medieval activity were also recorded, suggesting that the settlement remained small and was not greatly affected by the Black Death during the 14th century. The peak of activity in the village was noted to be during the 19th century.

2 Introduction

Two, two-day test pit excavations were undertaken in Wisbech St Mary in north Cambridgeshire in both 2006 (3rd – 4th May) and in 2007 (27th – 28th March) where a total of 13 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated in the village. The test pitting was organised by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) at the University of Cambridge in conjunction with Aimhigher, to run Higher Education Field Academies (HEFA's) across East Anglia. In 2006 17 Year 10 students from City of Ely Community College excavated 6 test pits and in 2007, five Year 10 students from Arthur Mellows Village College and 12 Year 10 students from Cromwell Community College excavated 7 test pits in the village.

2.1 Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA)

Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) (<http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/>) is an archaeological outreach organisation based in the Department for Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge which aims to enhance economic, social and personal well-being through active engagement with archaeology. It specialises in providing opportunities for members of the public to take part in purposeful, research-orientated archaeological investigations including excavation. Educational events and courses range in length from a few hours to a week or more, and involve members of the public of all ages.

Thousands of members of the public have taken part in scores of programmes run by ACA, including teenagers involved in Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) test pit excavation programmes intended since 2005 to build academic skills, confidence and aspirations. More widely, ACA has involved thousands of members of the public of all ages and backgrounds, including those with special needs, in a wide range of archaeological activities including field-walking, excavation, analysis and reporting. These have included projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and events in 2011-12 as part of the Cultural Olympiad for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

2.2 The Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA)

The Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme aims to raise the aspirations, enthusiasm and attainment of 14-17 year-olds with regard to higher education by making a valuable contribution to current academic research at the University of Cambridge. The three day learning-extension course has been run by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) since 2005, aimed at UK students in state school years 9, 10 and 12. HEFA was developed as a collaboration between ACA, Aimhigher and the Assessment Research Division at Cambridge Assessment.

On HEFA, participants spend two days running their own small (1m²) archaeological excavation within living villages, just like thousands did in TV's Big Dig in 2003 and Michael Wood's Great British Story in 2012, with the aim of applying and developing a wide range of learning skills, boosting their academic confidence and giving them a

taste of life and learning at university level. They make new discoveries for and about themselves, and in the process contribute to the university's CORS research into the development of rural communities and settlements in the past. The third day is spent in the University of Cambridge analysing the excavation results in discussive learning sessions which aim to engage and challenge participants, prepare them to produce a written analysis for assessment as well as provide an inspirational and positive experience of higher education. After the field academy, learners receive detailed individual feedback on their data collection, personal, learning and thinking skills developed during the fieldwork as well as their reporting and research skills exhibited in the written assignment, which will support applications to further and higher education.

2.3 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), but until recently attention was focused largely on the minority of medieval settlements which are today deserted or extensively shrunken. Currently occupied rural settlements (CORS), 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 research-driven excavation. Very few regions have seen any systematic research-driven primary investigation aimed at CORS, and most of that which has taken place has not involved excavation, including those of a survey based nature (Roberts 1987; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000; Roberts and Wrathmell 2003). However, recent attempts to redress this bias in favour of the majority of medieval rural settlements which are still inhabited have opened up new areas for debate which are beginning to call into question established theories about the development of rural settlement in the historic period (Aston & Gerrard 1999; Jones & Page 2006). However, despite these recent advances, the number of CORS to have seen methodical research-orientated investigation including excavation remains very small. In order to begin to resolve this problem, Access Cambridge Archaeology, working with members of the public including school pupils, has carried out test pit excavations in more than 30 CORS, most in eastern England. This will help allow the evidence upon which knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of the medieval rural settlement pattern of eastern England is based, to be more representative of the entire range of medieval settlements, not just on the minority of sites which are currently deserted (Lewis 2006; 2007a; 2007b, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014).

3 Aims, Objectives and Desired Outcomes

3.1 Aims

The aims of the test pit excavations in Wisbech St Mary were as follows:

- Raise the educational aspirations of participants by providing the opportunity to acquire, develop, refine and demonstrate new skills, experience and confidence.
- Increase learners' capacity to succeed in applying to and studying at university by providing activities which enable them to reinforce generic skills in team-working, problem solving, communication, presentation and planning.
- To engage with local communities and widen the participation of people in the heritage of the area.
- To increase knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the setting, origins and development of Wisbech St Mary and its environs.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of test pit excavations in Wisbech St Mary were as follows:

- To provide the opportunity for participants to learn and develop cognitive, practical, personal and technical skills.
- To support and engage with members of local communities through involvement with the project.
- To investigate the archaeology of the environs of Wisbech St Mary through test-pitting carried out by school students in properties throughout the village.

3.3 Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the test pit excavations in Wisbech St Mary were as follows:

- Raise the educational aspirations of participants.
- Provide an educational and vocational challenge allowing participants to develop transferable skills for life and learning in school and for higher education.
- An improved knowledge and understanding of the archaeological resource of the village of Wisbech St Mary.

4 Methodology

4.1 Excavation strategy

The test pit excavation strategy used at Wisbech St Mary involved local school children excavating 1m² test pits under the supervision of ACA. This method of sampling currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) was developed during the Shapwick Project in Somerset in the 1990s (Gerrard & Aston 2008), employed effectively by the Whittlewood Project in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire in the early 2000's (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, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014). 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 Wisbech St Mary could offer sites for excavation and were found and organised by a local coordinator in the village, Brian Payne.

4.2 Excavation methods

Digging of the test pits took place over two days. The number of participants at each test pit varied, between three and four students for each site. 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.
- 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 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 HER's, 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.

4.3 On-site archaeological supervision

- Professional archaeologists from ACA and local to the area were available for advice when needed, so the pottery and most other finds were provisionally spot-dated/identified on-site experts.

4.4 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.

4.5 Trench and test pit closing and backfilling

- A member of ACA 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.

4.6 Recording

- The test pit recording system used by 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.
- It is used in conjunction with 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 2,500 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 for 2006 is WSM/06 and for 2007 is WSM/07.

4.7 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.

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

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).
- 20th century window and vessel glass was discarded after sorting, counting and weighing.
- 19th and 20th century CBM were discarded after counting and weighing, retaining one sample of any hand-made, unusual or older type of CBM.
- Most fragments of 20th century 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.
- 20th century 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.

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.

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.

5 Location and Town Setting

The East Anglian fenland village of Wisbech St. Mary is located in the far northeast of Cambridgeshire, c.4km west of the larger town of Wisbech and just over 24km east of Peterborough. Taking the centre point as the church in the approximate centre of the village, Wisbech St. Mary is located at National Grid Reference TF 419 081. Figure 1 below shows the location of the village.

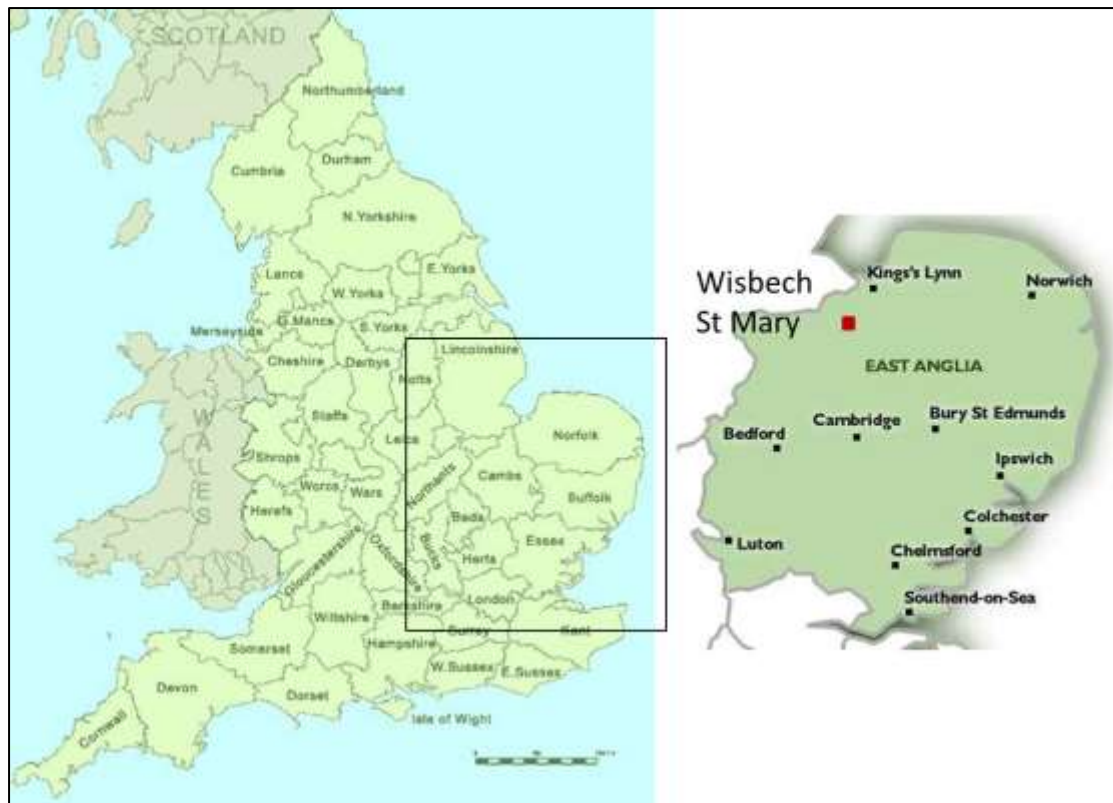


Figure 1: Map of England with a close up insert of East Anglia and the north Cambridgeshire village of Wisbech St Mary highlighted in red

The village has been described as a 'linear village extending from Station Road to Sand Bank along High Road'¹. The village sits approximately mid-way between two larger roads (A47 to the south and B1169 to the north) which keep the village free of heavy traffic. The east-west main road (High Road) B1441 was formerly the main from Peterborough and Thorney to Wisbech, these crosses with the north-south B1166 at the eastern end of the village. The village lies in within the parish of the same name. This is considered to be one of the largest parishes in the Isle of Ely area with a population of around 3090 and covering an area of 3963 hectares². However the village settlement of Wisbech St. Mary accounts for less than half of this population³. 'The southern boundary of the parish is the north bank of the tidal river Nene. The western boundary proceeds north from the river Nene at Cross Guns along the New Wryde Drain beyond Thorney Toll to the site of the dismantled M &

¹ Fenland District Wide Local Plan: Wisbech St. Mary. Fenland District Council at: [http://www.fenland.gov.uk/assets/localplan/downloads/part2/Wisbech St Mary/WisbechStMary.pdf](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/assets/localplan/downloads/part2/Wisbech_St_Mary/WisbechStMary.pdf) (accessed in December 2008)

² *Ibid*

³ Pugh, R. B. (Ed) *et al* 2002, A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely. (Victoria County History) Vol. 4 p232-238 at: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=21922>

GN Railway north of Bishop Lands. The northern boundary runs from Bishop Lands to Mill Road, Murrow and then along the southern side of Back Road, Murrow until it reaches Seadyke Road and onwards to Bellamy's Bridge. It continues along the White Engine Drain to Cheney Bridge and then to Barrett's Bridge, at the junction with Panswell Lane. The eastern boundary runs south from Barrett's Bridge along Panswell Lane and then across the fields to the eastern end of the village of Wisbech St Mary. Continuing south along the western side of Bevis Lane, the boundary meets the river Nene at Bevis Hall.⁴ The parish is bounded by Parsons Drove parish to the north, Gorefield to the northeast, Wisbech St. Peter to the east, Elm to the south and Thorney to the west⁵.

The village of Wisbech St. Mary has been designated as a 'Limited Rural Growth Settlement' as it is considered to be capable of accommodating further development without harming the village's essential character⁶. As such a Development Area Boundary encases the settlement with development not permitted outside of this.

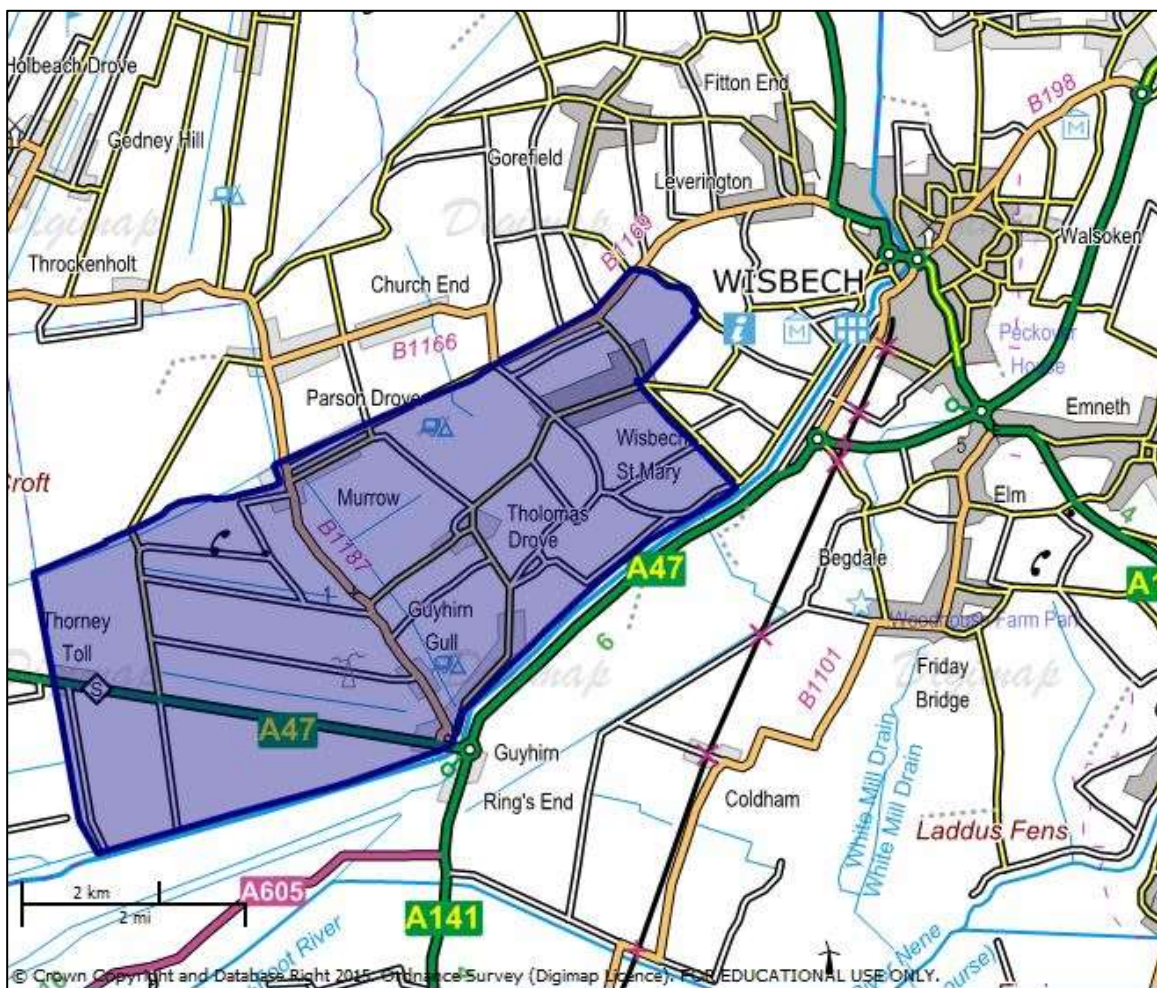


Figure 2: The extent of the large parish of Wisbech St Mary (Map copyright Edina Digimap)

⁴ Village Website: www.wisbechstmary.org.uk (accessed December 2008)

⁵ *Ibid*

⁶ *Op cit* 1 Fenland District Wide Local Plan: Wisbech St. Mary

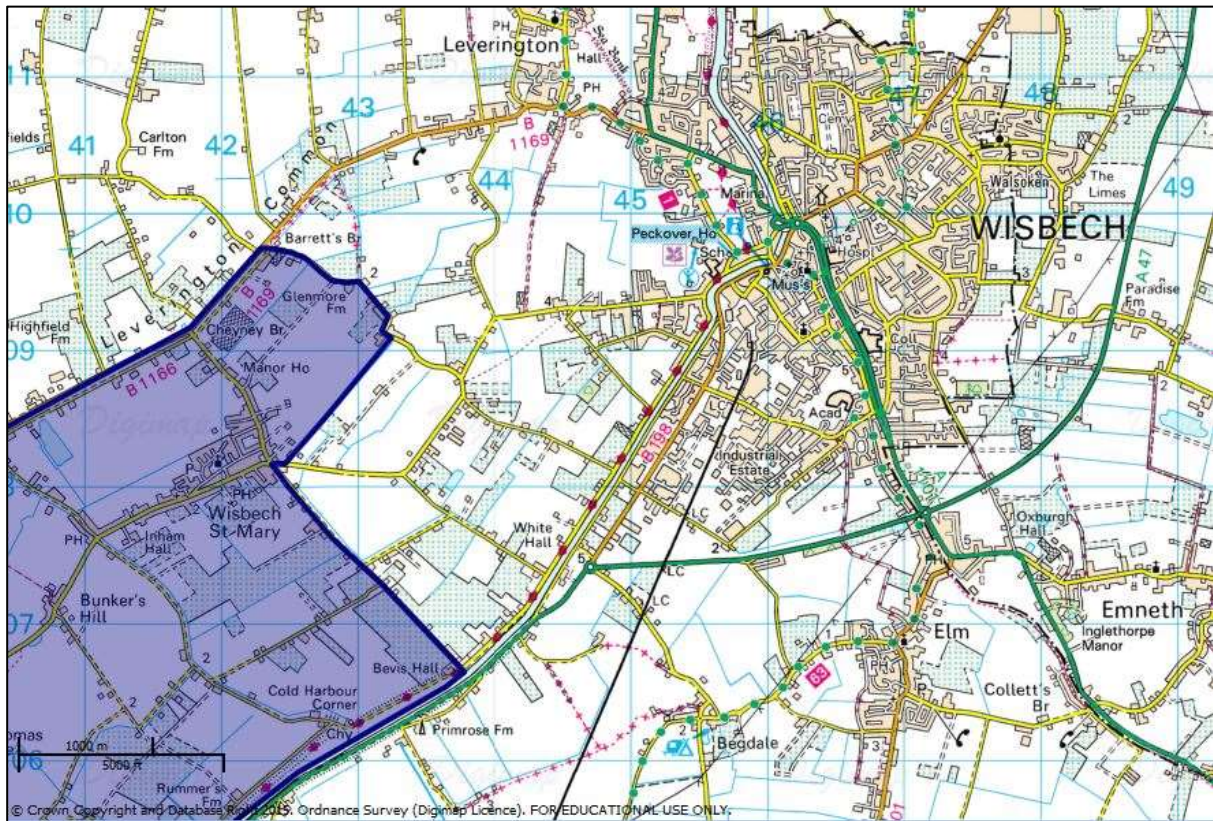


Figure 3: The northeastern extent of the parish of Wisbech St Mary and its proximity to the town of Wisbech (Map copyright Edina Digimap)

6 Geology and Topography

The Terrington Beds and Barroway Drove Beds cover most of the Wisbech St. Mary parish. These beds both represent salt marsh and tidal creek deposits of silty clay and sandy silt, the former being the younger deposit. These reflect the position of Wisbech St. Mary north of the tidal River Nene, and in the only relatively recently artificially drained fenland. The Terrington Beds overlie Amphthill Clay of Oxfordian Jurassic date. The area is also characterised by its general flat low level, with the entire village being no more than 4m above sea level. High Road has a fairly constant level at 1.9m OD, rising only slightly to 2.5m at the eastern junction with the B1166. To the north, Station Road rises to 2.4m OD near Sayer's House. The church lies on the highest ground in the parish at 3.64m OD but it remains unclear if this area has been raised artificially or if it was sited here because of the slightly higher position.

7 Archaeological and Historical Background

7.1 Historical Background

There is no record of the village of Wisbech St Mary in the Domesday Book of 1086, due to the fact that the parish had not separated from the town of Wisbech at that time. Wisbech itself is however recorded in the Domesday as a 'reasonably large village along the banks of the River Nene'. The land at Wisbech in 1086 was held by the Abbot of Ely, who had '*land for 10 ploughs, 15 villans, each with 10 acres and 13 sokemen with 2 ½ hides. There were also 17 cottages and two slaves. From the fisheries there were 1500 eels, meadow for 10 ploughs and pasture for the livestock of the vill*' (Williams and Martin 2003). Additional fishermen were recorded in the village, eight belonging to the Church of Ramsey, rendering 5260 eels and 6 fishermen belonging to William de Warenne, rendering 3500 eels and 5s (*Ibid*).

The name Wisbech likely means a 'marshy meadow valley or ridge' and derives from the Old English words of *wisc* and *bece* (Mills 2003). The St Mary was added after the church was constructed from the 14th century by the monks of Ely Abbey and a separate ecclesiastical parish was created, although this was not until the mid-19th century. The church of St Mary (CB 14829) was also built on the location of an earlier chapel of Kilhus dating from the 12th century (Coombs 1993).

Wisbech developed into an important medieval town in the fens and a motte and bailey castle was already being rebuilt in stone by the end of the 11th century⁷. By the start of the 12th century (1109) Wisbech had been taken over by the newly formed diocese of Ely and the lands divided between the Bishop and the convent. The manor later known as Wisbech Barton was kept as part of the endowment of the Bishop and the second manor, later known as Wisbech Murrow was retained by the convent⁸. The land of Wisbech Murrow manor roughly equates to the land of Wisbech St Mary parish today and remained in the hands of the prior and the convent until in 1541 it was formally transferred to the newly formed Dean and Chapter at Ely. The church today is still part of the diocese of Ely.

A number of subsidiary manors emerged around Wisbech from the 14th century, four of these were known to be within the boundary of St Mary's parish; Hiptofts (located a mile west of Wisbech St Mary from the late 14th century), Jacketts (sited to the north side of the village street by the very late 15th century), Tuddenham Hall (in use by the 17th century) and Bevis Hall (sited to the southeast corner of the parish from the early 17th century)⁹.

The ever expanding railway network of the 19th century in England enabled more direct access to parts of the fens that were either only accessible by water or had long access via not very well maintained road networks. A station was opened just north of Wisbech St Mary in the summer of 1886 and was known as the Peterborough, Wisbech and Sutton Bridge Branch connecting Peterborough with Kings Lynn. The railway was closed on the 2nd March 1959.¹⁰

⁷ <http://wisbechcastle.ccceducation.org/norman.php> (Accessed July 2015)

⁸ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol4/pp243-245> (Access July 2015)

⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁰ *Ibid*

The Kelly's Directory for Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk in 1883 summed up the village quite succinctly stating the parish covered an area of 9720 acres with a rateable value of £15,642; the primary crops that were grown were wheat, oats, peas, potatoes and root crops. The population was recorded at 2124 in 1881, a peak that was not seen again until the 1930's.¹¹

7.2 Archaeological Background

The following paragraphs summarise the finds and monuments listed on the Historic Environment Record, accessed via the Heritage Gateway website that was based on a search for Wisbech St Mary, Cambridgeshire¹².

7.2.1 Prehistoric

There is very little recorded on the HER for Wisbech St Mary dating to the prehistoric period, most likely due to rising and high water levels through the fens. This notion is supported by the presence of a peaty layer that was recorded during an evaluation on Church Street, which demonstrated the presence of fresh water inundation and marsh formation and thought to date from the mid to late Iron Age (MCB 16311).

Sporadic spot finds have also been recorded from the parish and include an Icenian Iron Age gold coin (CHER 03896) and a few sherds of Iron Age pottery were recorded during a 1976 watching brief for a gas pipeline at a couple of sites along its route (CHER 01999a and 00264a).

7.2.2 Roman

Large areas of settlement, industrial works, mainly in the form of salt workings and associated finds have been widely identified through the parish Wisbech St Mary to date to the Roman period.

There are repeated cropmark enclosure records on the HER representing salt workings, often with associated surface finds of pottery and briquetage (CHER 03872A, 00264, 02001 and MCB 16985). Four possible salt pans have also been identified to the west of the village (MCB 16986).

Cropmark remains are also visible of likely Roman field systems and trackways (CHER 03804 and 09682), ditched enclosures (CHER 03806, 03900, 09427, 09436 and 09688) and roddons (MCB 16984, CHER 10932 and 10931); again many associated with 1st to 4th century pottery. Records of soil marks are also evident in the village as both lane and field boundaries (CHER 13873). A slight mound was recorded to the east of Station Road from which both Roman and medieval pottery were found with a few pieces of possible human bone, but no further work has been undertaken on this site (CHER 10930).

¹¹ <http://apling.freesevers.com/Villages/Wisbech.htm> (Accessed July 2015)

¹² http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Application.aspx?resourceID=1000 (Accessed March 2015 and updated summer 2016)

Aerial photographs have also provided further evidence for Romano-British settlement activity in the parish, again consisting of enclosures (CHER 04065, 09680, 09590 and 09441) and associated trackways (CHER 09437), droves (CHER 03828) and linear features (CHER 09685).

Many of the records on the HER were recorded during a watching brief along the British Gas Cooperation pipeline in the late 1970's and mostly consist of finds of both Roman pottery and briquetage (CHER 01999, 07916, 07915, 07917, 01999a, 03814, 03815 and 03813).

Fieldwalking and trial trenching were both undertaken prior to development on land to the east of Chapelfield Road, during which 24 sherds of Roman pottery were found during the fieldwalking and the trenches confirmed the presence of a Roman field system and likely contemporary with the known Roman farmstead immediately north of the site (CHER 09218).

Individual find spots of Roman finds have also been recorded through the parish with both coins and pottery recovered from Calves Field (CHER 03807), pottery from Inham Field (CHER 03903) and Roman pottery has been found in a field to the east of the known Roman settlement and salterns (CHER 03944). Further Roman pottery finds have been recorded through the village (MCB 16987, CHER 03816 and 03902) and at Guyhirn Gull (CHER 03791); including Samian ware (CHER 03790). Additional Roman pottery has been found from Primrose Field (CHER 03874), Roman urns have also been recorded (CHER 03945) as was a bronze coin of Antoninus Pius dating to the mid-1st century AD that was found during the cleaning of a ditch in the centre of the village (CHER 03843). A fragment of an enamelled Roman copper alloy bowl was found in a field to the south of the village and likely dates to the 2nd century AD (MCB 16730).

7.2.3 *Anglo-Saxon*

Evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation in Wisbech St Mary and recorded on the HER is minimal. Trial trenching along Kirkgate Street revealed a host of both medieval and post medieval features, but also a probable Late Saxon sea bank that comprised of a single mound with evidence of remodelling on the landward side with also evident deliberate dumping of material that had then been cut through during the later medieval period (MCB 19599).

An archaeological assessment carried out in 2011 on land proposed for housing just north of Chapelfield Road also revealed Anglo-Saxon pottery, a more specific date within this period was not recorded on the HER (CHER 10082A).

7.2.4 *High and Later Medieval*

A scatter of medieval spot finds have been recorded on the HER, as well as from a small number of previous excavations.

Surface finds of medieval pottery have been found on cropmark enclosures representing the salt working to the west of the village (CHER 03872A, 03872 and 07888) as well as elsewhere through the parish (MCB 16987 and CHER 038049).

A medieval moated site has also been recorded to the west of the village (CHER 03872) and a slight mound was noted just north of the village from which a few sherds of both medieval and Roman pottery were found, with potential human bone (CHER 10930A). Guyhirn Farm windmill was recorded on the 1835 OS Map but may well have medieval origins (CHER 03831) as well as a second windmill to the far south west of the village that was also illustrated on the Enclosure Map of the same year (CHER 03819).

Trial trenching at Kirkgate Street in 2011 revealed both medieval and post medieval deposits, with also the presence of a Late Anglo Saxon sea bank through which a late medieval channel and pit had been cut (MCB 19599).

A watching brief that was undertaken along the British Gas Corporation Pipeline in the late 1970's noted both 13th and 14th century pottery sherds which were attributed to medieval ploughing on the edge of the solid silt lands (CHER 00264b). Fieldwalking undertaken in advance of the pipeline also found scatters of medieval pottery along some of the route (CHER 03816A, 03814A and 03815A).

During an evaluation at Hollycroft Farmhouse at least two phases of substantial medieval to early post medieval boundary ditches and a possible medieval pond were identified and although no direct evidence for settlement was recorded, the presence of medieval domestic waste in the ditches suggests that there was settlement nearby (MCB 16313).

Both fieldwalking and an evaluation were undertaken at Ivy Lodge Farm on Front Road in Morrow that revealed evidence for land use during the 13th to 15th centuries with trackways found with medieval domestic debris (CB 14659).

Aerial photography has also been utilised to track the medieval settlement of the village as extensive field systems have been identified between Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary with also evidence for strip fields (MCB 17859).

7.2.5 Post-Medieval and later

Much like the evidence for the medieval occupation of Wisbech St Mary, the evidence for post medieval finds and features on the HER for the parish are either structural or from a small amount of archaeological work that has so far been undertaken.

Guyhirn Church, also known as the Chapel of Ease (CHER 03830) was built partly in brick and partly in Barnack Stone in 1660. The chapel was declared redundant in 1968. Corpus Christi Church in Murrow was built in 1857 (CB 14894).

The Manor House in Wisbech St Mary dates to 1791 (MCB 19357) and the record includes reference to the park and gardens associated with the Manor, including a glasshouse, topiary garden and the garden wall. The name of Park House, also in the village, suggests that the land with the property during the post medieval period may have had additional grounds, such as a park, on land that today is utilised as arable (CHER 12254).

An Engine House was built in 1884 for an Easton and Anderson 25hp vertical steam engine to drive a pump that was situated just north of the River Nene and to the south of the village. It was recorded to be in use until 1935, after which it was eventually converted into a house (MCB 16633).

Two windmills and two wind pumps are recorded on 1835 maps, although the windmills may have had origins in the medieval period; Guyhirn windmill (CHER 03831) and an unnamed windmill to the south west of the village (CHER 03819). Rummer's Mill wind pump was depicted on the 1826 map (CHER 03863) with a second wind pump depicted on the 1835 Enclosure Map (CHER 03840).

During a trial trench excavation on Kirkgate Street in 2011 a number of both post medieval and medieval deposits, the post medieval features identified were both pits and a ditch that were recorded close to the street frontage (MCB 19599). In 2009 a watching brief at the High Street in Guyhirn a post medieval ditch was recorded with pottery, clay pipe and animal bone (MCB 18449). A post medieval pit was found during the monitoring of footing trenches along Front Row, Murrow, although limited finds were recorded (MCB 17693) and during an evaluation conducted in 2013 at Murrow Bank, Murrow evidence for post medieval farming activity was identified, including ditches and animal burial and relating to the farm that was north of the development area in question (House 2013).

An evaluation at Hollycroft Farmhouse found medieval to early post medieval boundary ditches, although the exact date of which has not yet been confirmed (MCB 16313) and a further evaluation was undertaken in Church Street in the village in advance of a small archaeological excavation, within which a possible post medieval road side ditch was found with a large rectangular pit (MCB 16311). 19th century ditches/field boundaries were only found from both fieldwalking and an evaluation at Waverley Close, Guyhirn (MCB 15869)

A small number of modern features are also recorded on the HER. An evaluation at Hollycroft Farmhouse revealed a modern post hole with both medieval and post medieval features (MCB 16313). A single World War II feature has also been recorded in the parish; a spigot mortar pedestal emplacement along the River Nene to the east of Guyhirn (CB 15219).

7.2.6 *Undated*

A small quantity of undated cropmarks and features have been recorded on the HER, either through aerial photography or through archaeological field work.

An archaeological assessment was carried out on land proposed for housing development immediately to the north of Chapelfield Road in Guyhirn, within which linear features showed up in each of the three trenches, as well as a shallow pond area (CHER 10082). During an evaluation on land fronting Back Road in Murrow, an undated pit was recorded, although it was thought to be modern in date (MCB 19675).

An evaluation along a pipeline route between Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary recorded fired clay, briquetage, charcoal, burnt flint and faunal remains from a layer of naturally formed silt, as well as an east-west aligned naturally formed channel (MCB 19319). Undated horseshoes were also found from a field to the north of Wisbech St Mary (CHER 04065A). A substantial pottery scatter was recorded just south of the village, but no date has been assigned to the group (MCB 16777).

An aerial photography assessment of pipelines to the west of Wisbech in 2008 noted an enclosure and drove system that may actually be associated with near-by, already known, settlement (CHER 10660). Further aerial photography has found additional remains in the village, including cropmarks of a ditched field system with apparent nodes of settlement between them, close to Ferry Farm, Guyhirn (MCB 17863). Three sides of a possible rectangular enclosure have also been mapped to the west of the village (MCB 17860), although the ditches match adjacent modern boundaries with which it may have been associated in more recent times. Ditched boundaries were recorded to the west of Wisbech St Mary that may also be a continuation of a known archaeological site (CHER 10656) and cropmarks of linears were noted on aerial photography in 2009 to the far south west of the village (MCB 19698).

Cropmarks of possible linear features have been noted, some of which also seem to extend beyond the site area, while the rest have been interpreted as modern field boundaries (CHER 10655). Further linear ditches, with angled turns were thought to have been an extension to an original site nearby, although the axis was noted to vary slightly (CHER 10652). Cropmarks of droves and possible fields were noted to the south of Wisbech St Mary (CHER 10661) and double ditched features were noted also to the southwest (CHER 10657). Cropmarks of ditches were found during an aerial photography assessment to the east of Wisbech St Mary along a pipeline route, although it was noted that they had also been cut by the modern road (MCB 17861 and MCB 17862).

An extension to a roddon-based system, in the form of cropmarks was noted to the south west of the village, although unexcavated, may be Roman in date (CHER 10650). Droves of a trackway to a probable settlement and salterns were noted in a well recorded area of likely Roman activity (CHER 10658) and a double ditched track, following the Roddon was noted to the south west of the village (CHER 10659). A possible moated site was noted on the 1958 OS Map just north of the River Nene, but was not named that which today is part filled with rubbish (CHER 05569).

8 Results of the test pit excavations in Wisbech St Mary

The approximate locations of the 13 1m² test pits excavated over two two-day excavations in May 2006 and March 2007 can be seen in figure 4. The data from each test pit is discussed in this section and set out in numerical order by year. The 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 Wisbech St Mary 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 13). Photographs of sites under excavation and of all finds are included in the archive, but not included in this report for reasons of space.

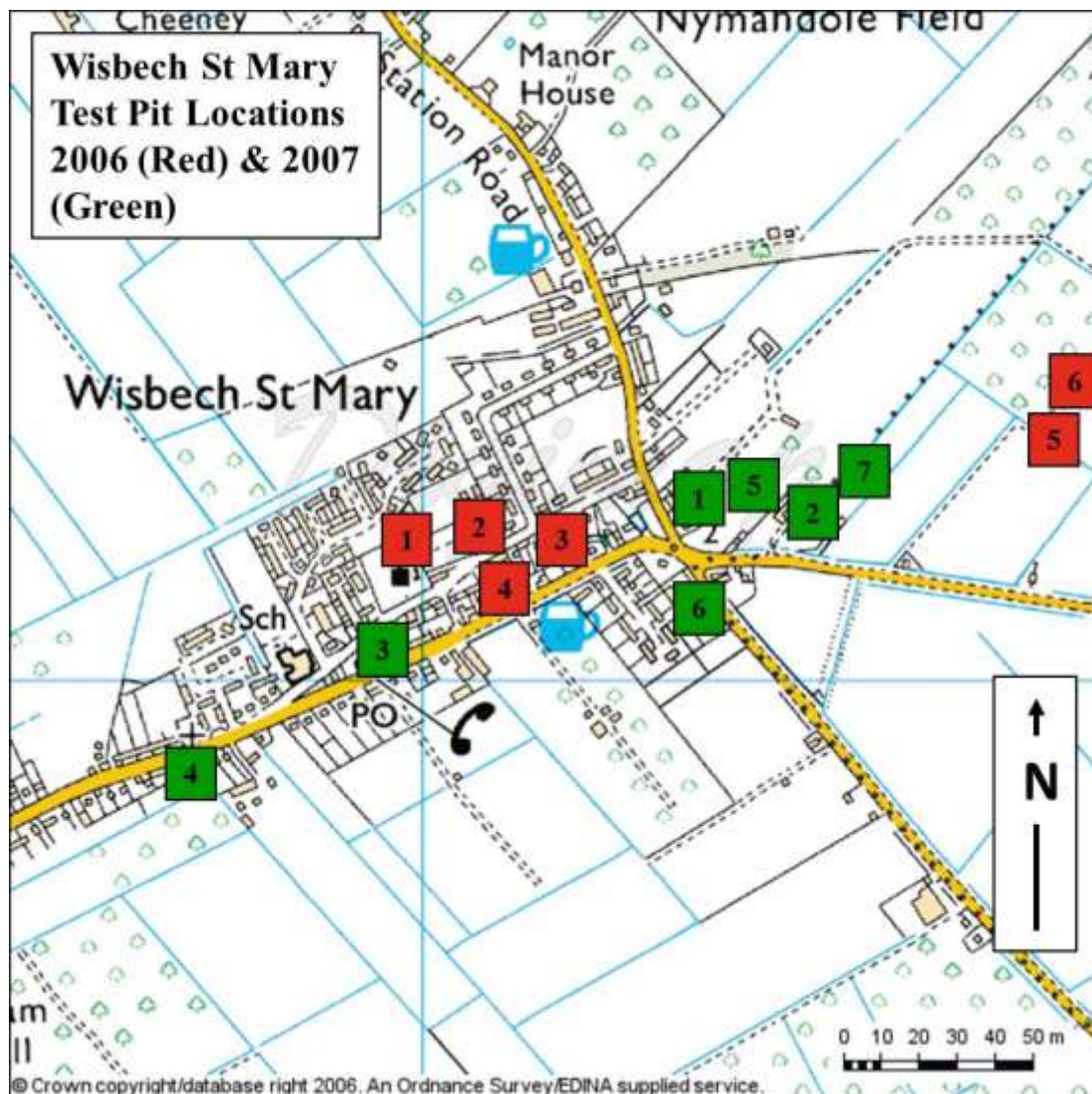


Figure 4: Wisbech St Mary test pit locations by year (not to scale). (Map copyright Edina Digimap)

8.1 2006 Results

Test Pit one (WSM/06/1)

Test pit one was excavated in an allotment immediately east of the church that is set to become part of the graveyard. It was also the western of two test pits excavated here; see also WSM/06/2. (St Mary's Church, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542032 308189).

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of Roman Grey ware was excavated from context four of WSM/06/1. Three sherds of later medieval Bourne 'D' ware and Cambridgeshire Sgraffito Ware were also recovered with six sherds of post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware, all of which were found from contexts two and three. An additional three sherds of Victorian pottery were also found in the upper two contexts of the test pit.

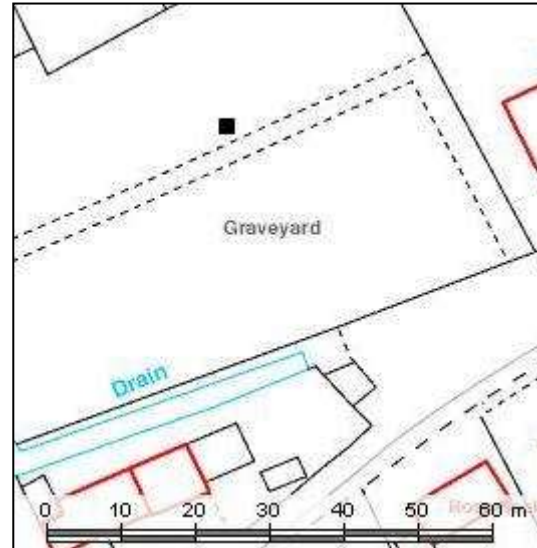


Figure 5: Location map of WSM/06/1

TP	Context	Grey ware		Bourne 'D'		CSW		GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1									1	4	1800-1900
1	2					1	3	5	49	2	2	1400-1900
1	3			2	10			1	11			1450-1700
1	4	1	12									100-300

Table 1: The pottery excavated from WSM/06/1

Evidence of Roman occupation in Wisbech St Mary has been identified quite widespread over the village through the test pit excavations, although only a single sherd of pottery was recovered, this site may have been open fields during that time. Activity on site increased again into the later medieval period, but given its location immediately to the east of the church, the site potentially remained open fields with activity only increasing as its use changed into allotments in more recent times. A small number of finds were also recovered and consist of animal bone, iron nails, CBM, coal, plastic and clay pipe which were all excavated from the upper three contexts and suggests that context four is a potentially undisturbed Roman occupation layer.

Test Pit two (WSM/06/2)

Test pit two was excavated in an allotment immediately east of the church that is set to become part of the grave yard. It was also the eastern of two test pits excavated here; see also WSM/06/1. (St Mary's Church, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542053 308199).

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.6m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of Roman Grey ware was excavated from context two of WSM/06/2. A range of later and post medieval pottery types were also recovered that consist of Bourne 'D' Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and Stoneware, most of which were excavated from contexts two to five. An additional nine sherds of Victorian pottery were also identified from the upper half of the test pit.

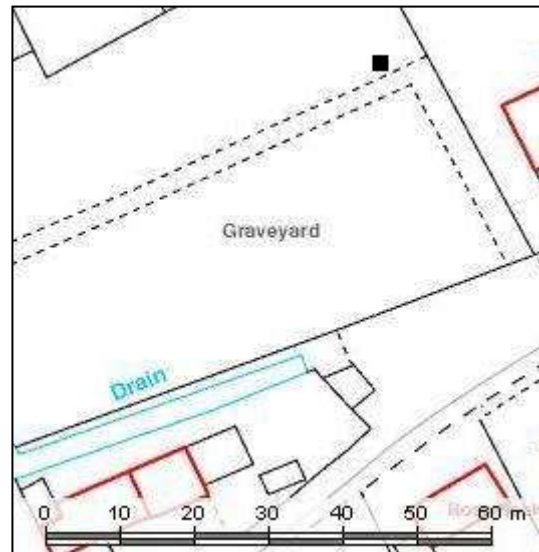


Figure 6: Location map of WSM/06/2

TP	Context	Grey ware		Bourne 'D'		GRE		Staff Slip		Stoneware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1									1	73	2	31	1700-1900
2	2	1	2	1	3	1	6							100-1700
2	3			2	9	1	8					7	23	1450-1900
2	4					4	13							1550-1700
2	5			1	18	3	30	1	7					1450-1700

Table 2: The pottery excavated from WSM/06/2

Much like the results from WSM/06/1, a single sherd of Roman pottery was excavated from this test pit and indicates that this site was potentially fields during the Roman period, but part of wider Romano-British occupation in the village. The rest of the pottery results appear to mirror the results obtained from the nearby test pit of WSM/06/1 and suggest that the site was most probably open fields from the later medieval period with more recent disturbance as the site was used as an allotment. The 19th century activity certainly disturbed the ground to at least context three with tile, slate, scrap metal, plastic, glass, coal, iron nails, slag and clay pipe all recovered from the upper four contexts. The lower half of the test pit contained animal bone, CBM fragments and half a brick and may potentially be undisturbed post medieval archaeological deposits.

Test Pit three (WSM/06/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of the vicarage on land that was previously the village green. (The Vicarage, Church Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542182 308180).

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.8m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

All the pottery excavated from test pit three dates to the Victorian period, apart from a single sherd of Black-glazed Earthenware that was recovered from context three.

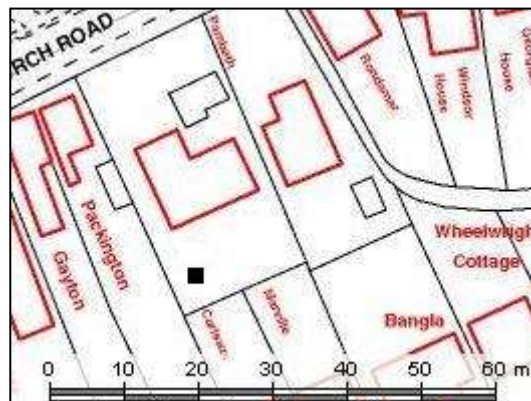


Figure 7: Location map of WSM/06/3

TP	Context	Black glaze		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1			3	7	1800-1900
3	2			7	21	1800-1900
3	3	1	6	16	55	1700-1900
3	4			37	89	1800-1900
3	5			37	133	1800-1900
3	6			45	130	1800-1900
3	8			24	54	1800-1900

Table 3: The pottery excavated from WSM/06/3

The fact that this site was the location of the village green during the medieval and post medieval periods, accounts for the fact there is little evidence for any occupation prior to the 18th century. There are records of a structure on site during the 19th century, before the modern property boundaries had been defined, its destruction and the subsequent building of the more recent properties are from which the majority of the finds and pottery appear to date. These finds consist of coal, lots of iron nails, tile and brick fragments, glass, slate, animal bone, cockle shell, concrete, a shotgun cartridge and clay pipe and were found mixed through all eight contexts of WSM/06/3.

Test Pit four (WSM/06/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the beer garden immediately to the east of the pub and parallel with the main road close to the centre of the village. (The Wheel Inn Public House, High Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542173 308141).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, with a sondage in the north western corner of the test pit to 0.8m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

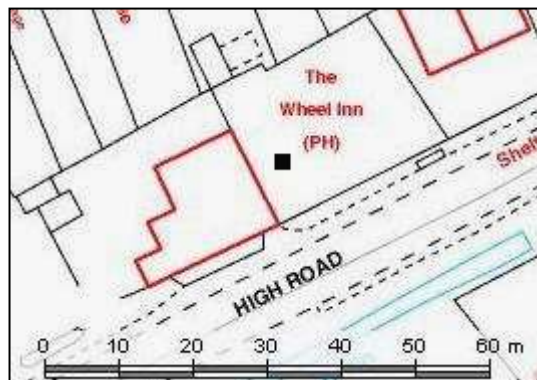


Figure 8: Location map of WSM/06/4

Two sherds of Roman Grey ware were excavated from the middle contexts of WSM/06/4, and were mixed with the post medieval wares of Staffordshire Manganese Ware, Black-glazed Earthenware and Stoneware, all of which were excavated from the upper half of the test pit. The majority of the pottery however, dates to the Victorian period with large numbers recovered from the upper five contexts of WSM/06/4.

TP	Context	Grey ware		Staffs Mang		Black glaze		Stoneware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1			1	12	5	44			11	25	1700-1900
4	2					11	139	4	73	25	62	1700-1900
4	3	1	8			1	8	3	28	20	44	100-1900
4	4	1	1	1	8					9	13	100-1900
4	5									4	12	1800-1900

Table 4: The pottery excavated from WSM/06/4

The presence of Roman activity in WSM/06/4 is potentially related to the Roman occupation identified just to the north at WSM/06/1 and WSM/06/2 next to the church that could be part of a larger site or fields in the Roman period in the centre of Wisbech St Mary. This site may also have been on the village green and like WSM/06/3 has yielded evidence for occupation from the 18th century onwards. The peak of activity was during the 19th century which has caused a great deal of disturbance through the five contexts excavated, the small sondage in corner one yielded no additional finds or pottery. The finds from the five contexts consist of a toy eye, iron nails, glass, slate, CBM and roof tile, slag, concrete, coal, animal bone, cockle shell, a button and clay pipe.

Test Pit five (WSM/06/5)

Test pit five was excavated in a large crop field to the east of the village and was the southern of two test pits that were excavated here; see also WSM/06/6. (Field to the east of Wisbech St Mary. TF 542952 308378).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.9m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Large amounts of Iron Age and Roman pottery were only excavated from WSM/06/5 and consist of Briquetage and Middle Iron Age pottery generally excavated from the lower half of the test pit although there is overlap with the Roman pottery that was generally found in the upper half of the test pit. These include Roman Grey ware, Samian Ware and Nene Valley Colour-coat Wares.

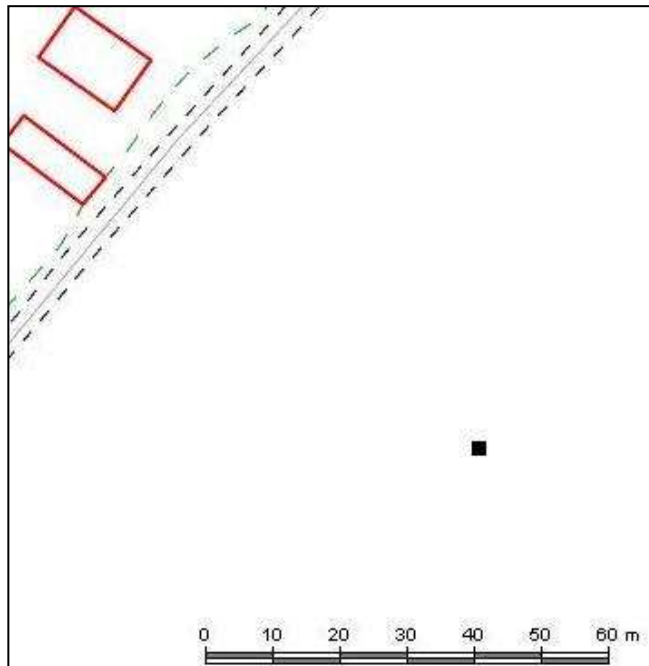


Figure 9: Location map of WSM/06/5

TP	Context	Briquetage		MIA		Grey ware		Samian		NVCC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1			5	26	6	61	2	2			400BC-AD200
5	2			4	18	6	18			2	10	400BC-AD400
5	3			9	77	7	33	1	1	3	11	400BC-AD400
5	4	10	39	3	34	16	34	2	1	1	10	400BC-AD400
5	5	9	30	3	18	3	23					400BC - AD200
5	6			2	3							400-100BC
5	7	2	4	1	17							400-100BC

Table 5: The pottery excavated from WSM/06/5

The presence of large quantities of both Iron Age and Roman pottery suggests that this site was quite important and certainly more substantial than the Roman activity identified in the centre of the village. The presence of Briquetage indicates that salt making was established on this site from the Iron Age due to the periodic flooding of sea water into the fens around The Wash and this particular site may have close to the sea or a tidal creek. This process of salt making continued through the Roman period, after which there is very little evidence of occupation, but the modern ploughing has greatly disturbed all the earlier archaeology on site. The finds consist of CBM fragments, animal bone, oyster and cockle shell, coal and iron nails. The lower contexts of six to nine contained only CBM, animal bone, oyster shell and iron nails and may be undisturbed prehistoric layers.

Test Pit six (WSM/06/6)

Test pit six was excavated in a large crop field to the east of the village and was the northern of two test pits excavated here; see also WSM/06/5. (Field to the east of Wisbech St Mary. TF 542956 308385).

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Iron Age and Roman pottery was only excavated from WSM/06/6, most of which were all found mixed in the upper five contexts of the test pit. The bottom two contexts may contain undisturbed layers. The Iron Age pottery consists of Iron Age Shelly Ware and Middle Iron Age wares and the Roman pottery recovered consists of Roman Shelly Ware, Roman Grey ware and Nene Valley Colour-coat Ware.

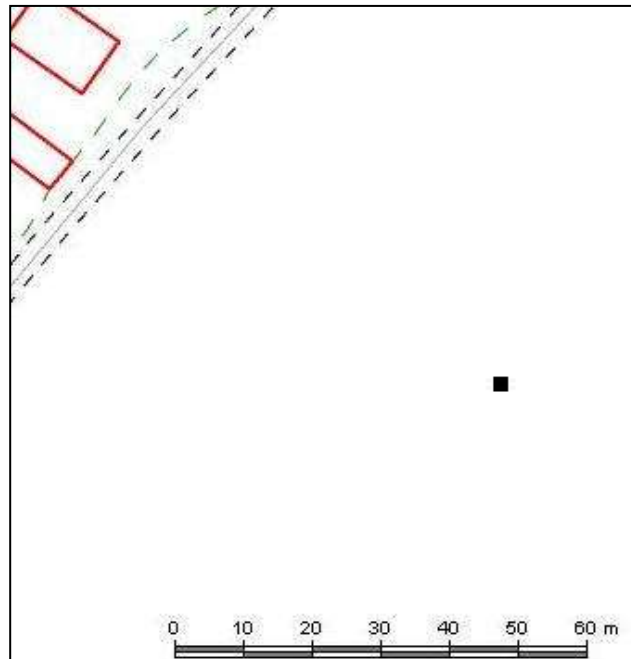


Figure 10: Location map of WSM/06/6

TP	Context	IA Shelly		MIA		RB Shelly		Grey ware		NVCC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1			7	31			7	29	1	2	400BC-AD400
6	2			2	3			10	53	2	5	400BC-AD400
6	3			2	18			3	16	7	14	400BC-AD400
6	4			4	11			6	23	1	3	400BC-AD400
6	5							1	7			100-200AD
6	6					2	20					200-400AD
6	7	2	22									200BC-AD43

Table 6: The pottery excavated from WSM/06/6

The pottery and finds are very similar to the results from WSM/06/5 and although the two test pits were very close to each other, the large amounts of pottery indicate that the occupation on site is quite substantial and most probably related to the industry of salt making that was identified in test pit five. The activity continued into the Roman period, after which there is very little evidence for further occupation and the site likely remained open fields. Animal bone and concrete were excavated from context one but fragments of CBM were only recovered down to context seven.

8.2 2007 Results

Test Pit one (WSM/07/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the south western corner of a crop field immediately behind the house and set back slightly from the centre crossroads in the village. It was also the southern of two test pits excavated in this field; see also WSM/07/5. (Trafford Farm, Station Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542372 308231).

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 1.18m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

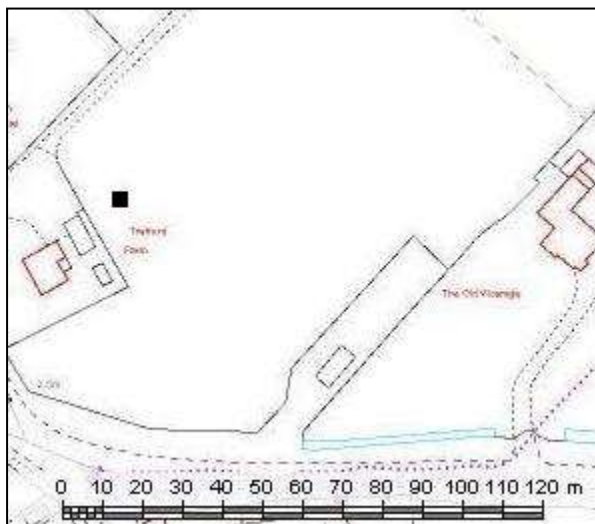


Figure 11: Location map of WSM/07/1

Six sherds of Roman pottery, Roman Shelly Ware and Nene Valley Colour-coat Wares were excavated through the upper eight contexts of the test pit. These were mixed with small sherds of Early Medieval Sandy Ware, Ely Ware and Grimston Ware, plus a single sherd of later medieval Bourne 'D' Ware identified from context five. An additional eight sherds of Victorian pottery were excavated from the upper four contexts of WSM/07/1.

TP	Context	Roman Shelly		NVCC		EMW		Ely		Grimston		Bourne D		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			2	28									1	1	175-1900
1	2			1	1			1	9					3	8	175-1900
1	3					1	2	1	8					1	1	1100-1900
1	4					1	2							3	11	1100-1900
1	5			1	2							1	3			175-1650
1	6					1	2			1	8					1100-1400
1	7			1	7											175-350
1	8	1	59													100-200

Table 7: The pottery excavated from WSM/07/1

Evidence for Roman activity has been identified by test pitting throughout Wisbech St Mary but especially in greater concentrations to the eastern end of the village and suggests that there was a Romano-British settlement here, although actual occupation evidence has yet to be identified. There is a gap in occupation in Wisbech St Mary until the early medieval period and the construction of the church, although evidence for occupation has been sparsely identified through test pitting along High Road. On site this activity continued until the early post medieval, when the site was most certainly used as open fields, although an increase of occupation was noted into the Victorian period, most probably in relation to the construction of the house. The lower contexts of the test pit could represent medieval and Roman ground surfaces as animal bone, some burnt and CBM fragments were recovered. The

upper contexts have been greatly disturbed and finds include sweet wrappers, coal, clay pipe, animal bone, CBM and iron nails.

Test Pit two (WSM/07/2)

Test pit two was excavated in a grassed field in the far east of the village, opposite the scout hut and set back from the main road. It was also the southern of two test pits excavated in this field; see also WSM/07/7. (Scout Hut, Barton Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542546 308236).

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, with a sondage in the northern corner to 0.6m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

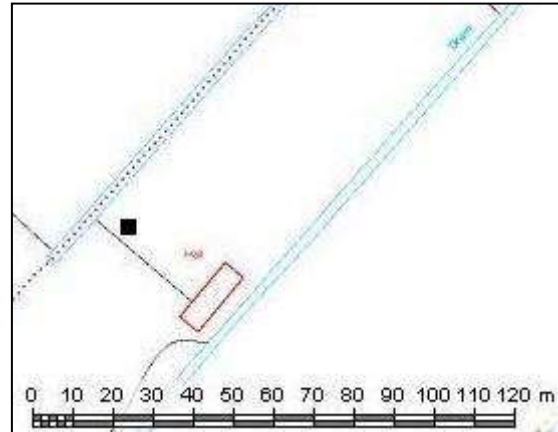


Figure 12: Location map of WSM/07/2

Most of the pottery excavated from WSM/07/2 dates to the Victorian period although a single sherd of post medieval Staffordshire Manganese Ware was also recovered.

TP	Context	SMW		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	2	1	7	2	4	1690-1900
2	3			2	9	1800-1900

Table 8: The pottery excavated from WSM/07/2

There appears to be no activity before the 17th century on this part of site, which correlates to the general expansion of the village during the post medieval period. The site has likely remained an open field through the Victorian period with domestic rubbish dumped on the field and includes CBM, coal, slate, glass, plastic, iron nails and animal bone that were found through the upper four contexts of the WSM/07/2.

Test Pit three (WSM/07/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the enclosed front garden of a modern house and close to the main road, quite central in the village. (Treedown Lodge, High Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 541933 308024).

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.57m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

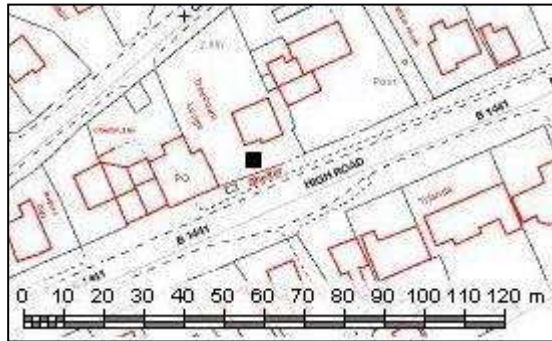


Figure 13: Location map of WSM/07/3

The vast majority of the pottery excavated dates to the Victorian period. The rest of the pottery identified dates to the post medieval with Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Manganese Ware and Creamware recovered mixed through the upper and lower contexts of WSM/07/3.

TP	Context	GRE		SMW		Creamware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1	1	15					3	11	1550-1900
3	2							5	5	1800-1900
3	3							16	27	1800-1900
3	4							14	32	1800-1900
3	5			1	4	10	61			1690-1800
3	6							1	4	1800-1900

Table 9: The pottery excavated from WSM/07/3

The site is located directly south of the church but there is no evidence for activity prior to the 16th century and suggests that even then the site continued to be open fields through the post medieval period. There was no occupation until the Victorian period, from which most of the pottery and finds appear to date. The activity identified also probably relates to the demolition of the Victorian properties and the construction of the modern house. The finds excavated consist of coal, slate, iron nails, CBM, glass, modern materials such as concrete, a tin can lid, fabric, tile, plastic and painted wood with cockle shells, animal bone (some burnt), slag and clay pipe and were found mixed through the six contexts of the test pit. One of the clay pipe bowls also contained carbonised tobacco. A possible waste flint core was also excavated from context four and may indicate prehistoric activity on site.

Test Pit four (WSM/07/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the large back garden of a converted chapel that was built in 1891 and fronts the main road through the village. (Chapel Lodge, High Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 541691 307864).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. Natural was not found but due to the presence of heavy fen clays, the test pit was abandoned and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

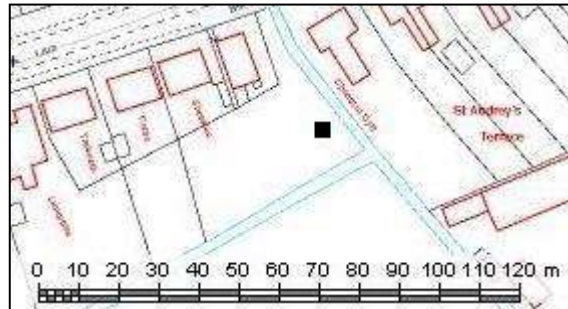


Figure 14: Location map of WSM/07/4

All the pottery excavated from WSM/07/4 dates to the Victorian period.

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1	2	2	1800-1900
4	2	12	12	1800-1900

Table 10: The pottery excavated from WSM/07/4

Although the test pit was abandoned, the finds and pottery that were excavated from the upper two contexts suggest that there was no activity prior to the construction of the chapel in the late 19th century, most probably due to the wet clayey nature of the soil. There were also a few more modern finds also recovered and these all include modern mortar, CBM, slate, coal, cockle shell and slag.

Test Pit five (WSM/07/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the north eastern corner of a crop field, set back slightly from the centre crossroads in the village. It was also the northern of two test pits excavated in this field; see also WSM/07/1. (Trafford Farm, Station Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542460 308243).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

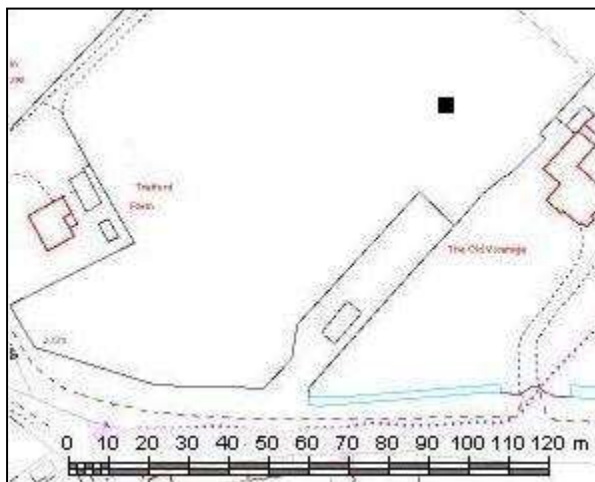


Figure 15: Location map of WSM/07/5

Two sherds of Roman Grey Ware and Nene Valley Colour-coat Wares were excavated from the upper contexts of WSM/07/5. A small number of medieval and later medieval pottery sherds were also identified through the middle contexts of the test pit – Medieval Shelly Ware, Grimston Ware and Cambridgeshire Sgraffito Ware. Two types of post medieval pottery were also recovered and include Glazed Red Earthenware and Staffordshire Manganese Ware that were found through the test pit.

TP	Context	Grey ware		NVCC		Med Shelly		Grimston		CSW		GRE		SMW		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1	1	1									1	16	1	3	100 - 1800
5	2									1	2					1400-1500
5	3			1	2			1	5	1	8	1	7	1	2	250-1800
5	4					2	17									1100-1400
5	6									1	3	4	10			1400-1600

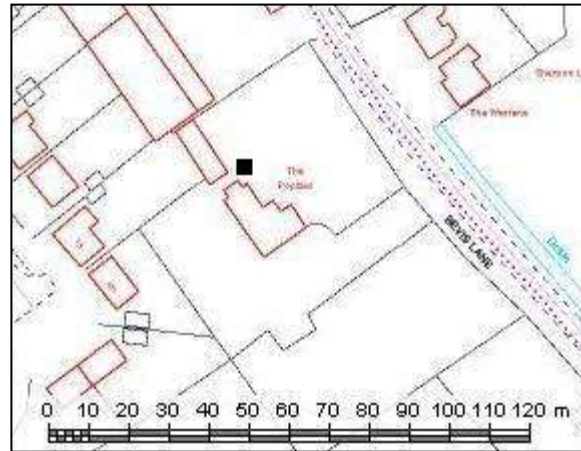
Table 11: The pottery excavated from WSM/07/5

The greater concentrations of Roman activity appears to be in the east of the village, which suggests that there was most probably a Romano-British settlement somewhere in Wisbech St Mary. There is a gap in occupation until the medieval period, where the site was most probably used as open fields that also continued through the post medieval period. There were very few finds excavated from here, compared to WSM/07/1, where a lot rubbish was found with Victorian pottery. This may be due to its location away from the house, but the majority of the finds that were found consist of CBM fragments with a single piece of animal bone, a fragment of bottle glass and snail shells and were mixed through the upper four contexts with CBM found through all seven contexts of WSM/07/5.

Test Pit six (WSM/07/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the front walled garden of a Georgian house set back from the road, sited just south of the crossroads in the village. (Poplars, Bevis Lane, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542372 308085).

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints and the presence of a brick path, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.



Large amounts of pottery were excavated from WSM/07/6, all of which date to the Victorian period.

Figure 16: Location map of WSM/07/6

TP	Context	Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	
6	1	13	49	1800-1900
6	2	23	32	1800-1900
6	3	19	47	1800-1900
6	4	7	13	1800-1900
6	5	1	3	1800-1900

Table 12: The pottery excavated from WSM/07/6

The main period of occupation on site appears to be from the 19th century onwards, which also includes CBM and tile fragments, slate, coal, glass, concrete, animal bone and a fragment of drain that were mixed through the five contexts of the test pit. However, a fragment of Roman box-flue tile was excavated from context three and suggests the presence of a high status Roman building with a central heating system located close to the crossroads. A small piece of painted window glass was also recovered from context two that indicates the presence of a potentially higher status building close to the site during that time. The presence of clay pipe suggests that the site was most probably open fields until the current house was built. The brick path excavated in the base of the test pit was potentially also utilised as a drainage cover during the 19th century.

Test Pit seven (WSM/07/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the northern corner of a grassed field in the far east of the village and set back from the main road. It was also the northern of two test pits excavated in this field; see also WSM/07/2. (Scout Hut, Barton Road, Wisbech St Mary. TF 542618 308283).

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Two sherds of post medieval pottery were excavated from the upper contexts of WSM/07/7 and include Glazed Red Earthenware and Staffordshire Manganese Ware. Three

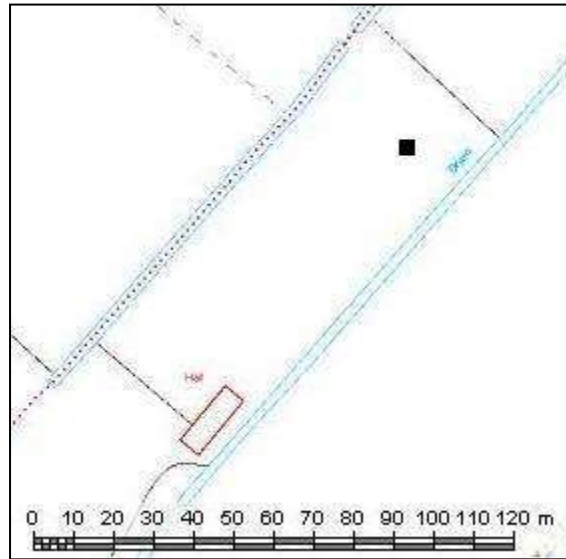


Figure 17: Location map of WSM/07/7

sherds of Victorian pottery were also recovered from the same contexts.

TP	Context	GRE		SMW		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	2	1	21			1	1	1550-1900
7	3			1	25	2	1	1690-1900

Table 13: The pottery excavated from WSM/07/7

The field had little activity prior to the 16th century and was potentially only utilised during the expansion of the village at that time. The few finds and pottery that were recovered from the upper three contexts suggest that the site most probably was always open fields; these finds consist of CBM fragments, coal, slate, slag and modern building material.

9 Discussion

Even though only a small number of test pits were excavated over the two years in Wisbech St Mary, a number of inferences can be made about the history and development of the settlement and its relationship to the wider landscape with its position in the fens.

This village position in the far north of Cambridgeshire and close to The Wash has meant there is evidence for activity within the parish from the Iron Age period onwards, although this early industry likely focused on industrial activities rather than a settlement, in the form of salt making. This would have likely been prevalent all along the east coast of England prior to the Iron Age but it is only from about 700BC that evidence for salt making was recorded through the test pit excavations. This was especially prevalent to the east of the current village and where two test pits were excavated in 2006 (WSM/06/5 and WSM/06/6) from which only Briquetage (the course material utilised in salt making), Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were recovered. From just this 2m² it is evident that there was salt production in this field, suggesting that this area must have been much closer to tidal estuaries than its location today. It was likely to have been these fluctuating water levels this close to the Wash that led to the decline of salt production in the parish by the end of the Roman period, from where it was also at its peak from the 2nd century AD onwards and likely also a much more industrious scale than previously seen in the region, given its importance.

Although no evidence for settlement in either the Iron Age or Roman periods were identified through the test pitting it is highly probable that there would have been a small settlement or a few dwellings scattered through the landscape here, particularly as a number of Romano-British pottery sherds were found 'inland' where the centre of the village is focused today suggesting some stability of the land, even during the Roman period. Settlement in the parish during the Roman period would also have been possible as it was Roman technology that was utilised to drain the fens for the first time and sea defences were also built that meant that previously un-occupiable land was now able to be utilised.

The lack of any Anglo Saxon finds is perhaps not surprising given that Wisbech St Mary was not recorded in the Domesday Book and only formed after a division of the lands in Wisbech town itself into the medieval period. It seems that through the high medieval period however, there was still very little in the way of settlement in Wisbech St Mary, likely due to the fact that the church dedicated to St Mary was not constructed until the 14th century, much of the land was probably agricultural or pastoral for income to the various manors. Slightly more unusually however is that there was slightly more late medieval pottery excavated from the test pit (11 sherds) than were found dating to the high medieval period (9 sherds). It is possible that given the very small nature of the settlement the effects of the Black Death were not as greatly felt here, but test pitting by ACA in the nearby fen village of Thorney¹³ found that there was actually an increase of pottery dating to the later medieval period and likely grew as a village around the time of Black Death and later. One of the most likely reasons for this is due to its quite isolated position in the fens, the same of which can be seen in Wisbech St Mary, although on a much smaller scale.

¹³ <http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/reports/cambridgeshire/thorney>

The village was then found to expand through the post medieval, although again perhaps not as quickly or to any great extent as noted in other villages excavated by ACA, for example Terrington St Clement¹⁴. The fens as a whole were still being drained at this time and it seems that it was only during the 19th century, when also the village was recognised officially as a separate ecclesiastical parish that there seems to have been a peak of occupation in the village, as represented by the 381 sherds of Victorian pottery that were excavated from the test pits and equating to just over 60% of all the pottery recorded from both digs. This would have also corresponded with the coming of the railways that would have made the transportation of both commodities and people a much easier task, particularly for the previously 'hard to reach' communities like those in the deepest fens.

10 Conclusion

Although only a small number of test pits were able to be excavated by local school children in 2006 and 2007, the results have yielded evidence of late prehistoric and Roman salt making suggesting that the fenland around Wisbech St Mary was very lucrative for industry and then transport for sale given that the village sits just south of the Wash, just east of the River Welland and west of the River Nene, all of which would have been navigable by boat. Settlement in Wisbech St Mary remained small until the 19th century, when industry and the railways were at their post prevalent.

¹⁴ <http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/reports/norfolk/terrington-st-clement>

11 Acknowledgements

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Thanks must go to Brian Payne of Wisbech St Mary who was our local coordinator in the village and found the test pit sites prior to excavation and special thanks to all the garden or field owners who kindly let the students dig on their property. Thank you also to all the students and staff who took part in the excavations, including City of Ely Community College in 2006 and Arthur Mellows Village College and Cromwell Community College who dug in 2007.

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13 Appendices

13.1 Pottery report (Paul Blinkhorn)

Pottery Types

Briquetage: Extremely crude, coarse pottery used to make large pans for boiling sea water during the manufacture of salt in the Iron Age. Sherds sometimes have a thick white deposit left by the salt on the surface.

MIA: Middle Iron Age. Soft, grey-brown ware, usually with fairly large pieces of shell visible in the clay. Outside of vessels sometimes covered in vertical cut lines, giving it the named 'Scored Ware'. Found all over the East Midlands and western East Anglia between the 5th and 2nd centuries BC.

Roman Shelly Ware. So-called because the clay contains fossil shell which occurs naturally in it. This type of pottery was first made around the time of the Roman invasion, and carried on in use for a hundred years or so afterwards, i.e. AD50 - AD150.

Roman Grey Ware. This was one of the most common types of Roman pottery, and was made in many different places in Britain. Many different types of vessels were made, especially cooking pots. It was most common in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, but in some places, continued in use until the 4th century. The pottery from here was probably made at Castor near Peterborough, where there was a large and important Roman pottery industry.

Roman: Samian Ware. Hard, shiny red pottery, often with moulded relief decoration. Made in various parts of France in the first and second century, and imported all over Europe and North Africa. Used to make bowls, cups and other forms of relatively expensive table ware.

Roman: Nene Valley Colour-coat Wares (NVCC). This was first made around AD175, and became extremely common during the 3rd and 4th centuries. It gets its name from the fact that vessels were coated with liquid clay (slip) in colours such as red, blue and black. Cups, beakers and bowls were some of the most common types made. It was made at Castor near Peterborough.

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

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.

Ely Ware: 12th – 15th century. Hard fabric with plentiful quartz sand mixed in with the clay, along with some small fragments of fossil shell. Wide range of vessel types known, glazed and unglazed. Made in the Forehill area of Ely in Cambridgeshire, where kilns have been excavated.

Grimston Ware. Made at Grimston, near King's Lynn. It was made from a sandy clay which is usually a dark bluish-grey colour, sometimes with a light-coloured buff or orange inner surface. It was made between about AD1080 and 1400. All sorts of different pots were made, but the most common finds are jugs, which usually have a slightly dull green glaze on the outer surface. Between AD1300 and 1400, the potters made very ornate jugs, with painted designs in a reddish brown clay, and sometimes attached models of knights in armour or grotesque faces to the outside of the pots. It is found all over East Anglia and eastern England. A lot of Grimston ware has been found in Norway, as there is very little clay in that country, and they had to import their pottery. Nearly half the medieval pottery found in Norway was made at Grimston, and was shipped there from King's Lynn.

CSW: Cambridgeshire Sgraffito Ware. Made between 1400-1500. Vessels usually jugs made from a clay which fired to a red colour. The outer surface was covered with white liquid clay ('slip') and designs scratched through the slip to reveal the body clay underneath. The whole was then covered in a pale yellow glaze, with the scratched patterns appearing red.

Bourne 'D' Ware: 1450-1637. Made in the village of Bourne in South Lincolnshire, until the place was destroyed by a great fire in 1637. Fairly hard, smooth, brick-red clay body, often with a grey core. Some vessels have sparse white flecks of shell and chalk in the clay. Vessel forms usually jugs, large bowls and cisterns, for brewing beer. Vessels often painted with thin, patchy white liquid clay ('slip'), over which a clear glaze was applied.

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.

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.

Black-glazed Earthenwares. Late 17th century +. Basically a development of Red Earthenwares, with a similar range of forms, although with a black glaze which was coloured by the addition of iron filings.

Staffordshire Manganese Ware (SMW), late 17th – 18th century. Made from a fine, buff-coloured 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.

Creamware. This was the first pottery to be made which resembles modern 'china'. It was invented by Wedgwood, who made it famous by making dinner surfaces for some of the royal families of Europe. Made between 1740 and 1880, it was a pale cream-coloured ware with a clear glaze, and softer than bone china. There were lots of different types of pots which we would still recognise today: cups, saucers, plates,

soup bowls etc. In the 19th century, it was considered to be poor quality as better types of pottery were being made, so it was often painted with multi-coloured designs to try and make it more popular.

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

'Victorian'. A wide range of different types of pottery, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today. First made around AD1800.

13.1.1 2006 Results

Test Pit 1

TP	Context	Grey ware		Bourne 'D'		CSW		GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1									1	4	1800-1900
1	2					1	3	5	49	2	2	1400-1900
1	3			2	10			1	11			1450-1700
1	4	1	12									100-300

The pottery from this test-pit shows that there were people here in Roman times, but then the place was abandoned until around the beginning of the 15th century.

Test Pit 2

TP	Context	Grey ware		Bourne 'D'		GRE		Staff Slip		Stoneware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1									1	73	2	31	1700-1900
2	2	1	2	1	3	1	6							100-1700
2	3			2	9	1	8					7	23	1450-1900
2	4					4	13							1550-1700
2	5			1	18	3	30	1	7					1450-1700

The pottery from this test-pit shows that there were people here in Roman times, but then the place was abandoned until around the middle of the 15th century.

Test Pit 3

TP	Context	Black glaze		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1			3	7	1800-1900
3	2			7	21	1800-1900
3	3	1	6	16	55	1700-1900
3	4			37	89	1800-1900
3	5			37	133	1800-1900
3	6			45	130	1800-1900
3	8			24	54	1800-1900

This test pit shows that the site was not occupied before the 18th century, and probably not before Victorian times

Test Pit 4

TP	Context	Grey ware		Staffs Mang		Black glaze		Stoneware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1			1	12	5	44			11	25	1700-1900
4	2					11	139	4	73	25	62	1700-1900
4	3	1	8			1	8	3	28	20	44	100-1900
4	4	1	1	1	8					9	13	100-1900
4	5									4	12	1800-1900

The pottery from here shows that there were people here in Roman times, but then that the site was abandoned until around AD1700.

Test Pit 5

TP	Context	Briquetage		MIA		Grey ware		Samian		NVCC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1			5	26	6	61	2	2			400BC-AD200
5	2			4	18	6	18			2	10	400BC-AD400
5	3			9	77	7	33	1	1	3	11	400BC-AD400
5	4	10	39	3	34	16	34	2	1	1	10	400BC-AD400
5	5	9	30	3	18	3	23					400BC - AD200
5	6			2	3							400-100BC
5	7	2	4	1	17							400-100BC

The range of pottery from this test-pit shows that there were people at the site in the Iron Age, and throughout the Roman period. The presence of the Briquetage shows that the prehistoric people were making salt, and that the sea, or a tidal creek, must have been very close by. No-one has lived at the site since Roman times.

Test Pit 6

TP	Context	IA Shelly		MIA		RB Shelly		Grey ware		NVCC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1			7	31			7	29	1	2	400BC-AD400
6	2			2	3			10	53	2	5	400BC-AD400
6	3			2	18			3	16	7	14	400BC-AD400
6	4			4	11			6	23	1	3	400BC-AD400
6	5							1	7			100-200AD
6	6					2	20					200-400AD
6	7	2	22									200BC-AD43

The range of pottery from this test-pit shows that there were people at the site in the Iron Age, and throughout the Roman period. No-one has lived at the site since Roman times



Test Pit 1

TP	Context	Roman Shelly		NVCC		EMW		Ely		Grimston		Bourne D		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			2	28									1	1	175-1900
1	2			1	1			1	9					3	8	175-1900
1	3					1	2	1	8					1	1	1100-1900
1	4					1	2							3	11	1100-1900
1	5			1	2							1	3			175-1650
1	6					1	2			1	8					1100-1400
1	7			1	7											175-350
1	8	1	59													100-200

This test pit produced a wide range of pottery and shows that there have been people at the site since the beginning of the Roman period. The first five contexts produced a mixture of pottery which shows that recent ploughing has destroyed some of the archaeology, but context 6 only had medieval sherds in it. This level is likely to be the medieval ground surface, or perhaps the soil where people grew their crops at that time. Below that, in contexts 7 and 8, all the pottery is Roman, so the soil in which these were found is likely to be the Roman ground surface or the buried soils from the fields of the time.

Test Pit 2

TP	Context	SMW		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1					
2	2	1	7	2	4	1690-1900
2	3			2	9	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test pit was Victorian, apart from one piece of SMW. This shows that people did not live or work here before the end of the 17th century, and that the land was not greatly used until the 19th century.

Test Pit 3

TP	Context	GRE		SMW		Creamware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1	1	15					3	11	1550-1900
3	2							5	5	1800-1900
3	3							16	27	1800-1900
3	4							14	32	1800-1900
3	5			1	4	10	61			1690-1800
3	6							1	4	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit dates to after the medieval period, and shows that people did not use this site until at least AD1550. Most of it was Victorian, which suggests that the site was probably fields until that time.

Test Pit 4

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1	2	2	1800-1900
4	2	12	12	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, which shows that nobody used the site before then.

Test Pit 5

		Grey ware		NVCC		Med Shelly		Grimston		CSW		GRE		SMW		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1	1	1									1	16	1	3	100 - 1800
5	2									1	2					1400-1500
5	3			1	2			1	5	1	8	1	7	1	2	250-1800
5	4					2	17									1100-1400
5	6									1	3	4	10			1400-1600

This test pit produced a wide range of pottery, and shows that people have been using the site for a long time. It was very mixed up, showing that modern ploughing has disturbed the older soils, but the Roman pottery shows that there were people here at that time. After the end of the Roman period, around AD410, no-one lived or worked here until after the Norman Conquest of 1066. After that, the range of medieval pottery shows that people have been here ever since, probably using the area as fields for growing crops.

Test Pit 6

		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	Date Range
6	1	13	49	1800-1900
6	2	23	32	1800-1900
6	3	19	47	1800-1900
6	4	7	13	1800-1900
6	5	1	3	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, which shows that nobody used the site before then.

Test Pit 7

		GRE		SMW		Victorian		
TP	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
7	2	1	21			1	1	1550-1900
7	3			1	25	2	1	1690-1900

The pottery from this test-pit shows that there have been people here from at least the end of the medieval period until the present day. The pit was not fully excavated, so it is possible that there may have been older pottery at a greater depth.

13.2 Finds from the Wisbech St Mary test pits

13.2.1 2006 Finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe bowl fragment x 1 = 2g, CBM fragments x 2 = 16g		iron nail x 1 = 5g		animal bone x 1 = 27g
C. 2	CBM fragments x 6 = 48g		iron nail x 1 = 2g	coal x 1 = 3g	green plastic x 1 = <1g
C.3	CBM fragments x 4 = 22g				animal bone x 4 = 12g

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x 5 = 19g, clay pipe stem x 2 = 6g	clear container glass including a base x 2 = 21g	metal hinge x 1 = 17g, metal wiring x 1 = 3g	coal x 1 = 3g, slate x 2 = 15g	plastic tube x 1 = 7g, concrete x 1 = 12g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x 2 = 2g, CBM fragments x 1 = <1g	clear container glass x 3 = 13g	iron nails x 3 = 13g	coal x 1 = 2g	
C.3	clay pipe stem x 2 = 4g, CBM fragments x 3 = 6g		iron nails x 2 = 13g, slag x 2 = 76g, lump of iron x 1 = 23g	coal x 2 = 6g	
C.4	CBM fragments x 4 = 27g, clay pipe stem x 3 = 5g		iron ring x 1 = 19g	coal x 2 = 4g	cow tooth and jaw x 1 = 21g, mortar x 1 = 6g
C.5	CBM x 3 = 45g			coal x 1 = <1g	animal bone x 4 = 8g
C.6	half a brick = 571g, CBM fragments x 5 = 47g				animal bone x 2 = 60g

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x 7 = 22g	clear window and container glass x 2 = 22g, blue bottle glass x 1 = 1g		coal x 8 = 14g, slate x 1 = 3g	
C. 2		clear bottle glass x 11 = 34g, orange bottle glass x 1 = 11g, lump of clear melted glass x 1 = 6g	iron nails x 3 = 15g	slate x 1 = 10g, coal x 2 = 2g	animal bone x 1 = 2g



C.3	clay pipe stem x 4 = 8g, red CBM fragments x 12 = 221g, grey CBM fragments x 11 = 62g	lead window and container glass x 10 = 27g, green glass x 1 = 4g, glass bead x 1 = 2g, lump of glass x 1 = 2g	iron nails x 22 = 100g, lumps of scrap iron x 3 = 36g, scrap metal x 4 = 7g	slate x 1 = 2g, coal x 10 = 41g	animal bone x 2 = 12g
C.4	red tile x 3 = 269g, grey/black tile x 2 = 178g, clay pipe bowl fragments x 3 = 1g	clear window and container glass x 3 = 19g	iron nails x 8 = 66g	coal x 2 = 8g	concrete x 1 = 126g
C.5	red tile x 3 = 142g, CBM fragments x 2 = 9g	clear window glass x 4 = 22g, green glass x 1 = 2g	iron nails x 4 = 28g		animal bone x 1 = 4g
C.6	CBM fragments x 7 = 233g	clear container and window glass x 10 = 66g	iron nails x 2 = 57g, shotgun cartridge = 10g	slate x 2 = 45g, coal x 1 = <1g	animal bone, snail shell
C.8	CBM fragments x 3 = 49g, clay pipe stem x 1 = 0g, clay pipe bowl fragment x 1 = 1g	clear window glass, clear window, container and a lump of glass x 12 = 50g, green bottle glass x 1 = 6g	iron nails x 4 = 127g	slate x 2 = 9g, coal x 1 = 1g	cockle shell x 1 = 4g

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x 3 = 6g, CBM fragments x 44 = 312g	clear container and window glass x 6 = 11g, green glass x 1 = 9g	iron nails x 7 = 21g, slag x 19 = 247g	slate x 12 = 24g, coal x 13 = 20g, burnt bone x 1 = 9g	toy eye = 4g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x 7 = 12g, CBM fragments x 51 = 355g	dark green bottle glass x 4 = 16g, light green bottle glass x 1 = 2g, clear container glass x 2 = 17g	slag x 32 = 504g, iron nails x 6 = 27g	slate x 12 = 52g, coal x 13 = 28g, flint x 3 = 22g	animal bone x 3 = 14g, shell x 1 = 3g
C.3	clay pipe stem x 13 = 20g, clay pipe bowl fragment x 1 = <1g, CBM fragments x 43 = 332g	green glass x 2 = 7g, clear flat glass x 1 = 2g	iron nails x 11 = 54g, lumps of iron x 2 = 13g, slag x 24 = 433g	coal x 16 = 57g, slate x 14 = 72g, round stone ball = 7g	cockle shell x 1 = 2g, animal bone x 2 = 4g, button x 1 = <1g
C.4	clay pipe stem x 4 = 4g, CBM fragment x 33 = 135g	clear flat glass x 2 = 1g	iron nails x 6 = 58g, slag x 1 = 11g, small metal object x 1 = 1g	slate x 12 = 36g, coal x 10 = 13g	animal bone x 4 = 5g
C.5	CBM fragments x 2 = 6g		iron nail x 1 = 8g	slate x 3 = 6g, coal x 1 = 1g	

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x 23 = 49g			coal x 2 = 6g	animal bone x 3 = 2g
C. 2	CBM fragments x 5 = 14g			coal x 3 = 5g	cockle shell x 1 = 0g, animal bone x 3 = 6g
C.3	CBM fragments x 34 = 101g			coal x 1 = 4g	oyster shell x 1 = 3g, animal bone x 8 = 10g
C.4	CBM fragments x 24 = 119g			coal x 5 = 6g	animal bone x 7 = 31g, cockle shell x 5 = 2g

C.5	CBM fragments x 2 = 18g				cockle shell x 2 = 4g, animal bone x 2 = 18g
C.6	CBM fragments x 5 = 6g		iron nails x 3 = 10g		animal bone x 1 = <1g
C.7	CBM fragments x 2 = 2g				animal bone x 1 = 2g
C.8	CBM fragments x 3 = 1		scrap iron x 2 = 3g	coal x 1 = 1g	
C.9	CBM fragments x 5 = 19g				

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x 6 = 25g				animal bone x 3 = 3g, concrete x 1 = 69g
C. 2	CBM fragments x 5 = 16g			coal x 2 = 1g	
C.3	CBM fragments x 4 = 19g		iron x 1 = <1g	coal x 2 = 4g	
C.4	CBM fragments x 7 = 21g				
C.5	CBM fragments x 4 = 48g				
C.7	CBM fragments x 7 = 40g				

13.2.2 2007 Finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x16 = 129g			coal x4 = 1g	animal bone x2 = 6g, sweet wrappers x2 = <1g
C. 2	CBM fragments x23 = 123g, clay pipe stem x1 = <1g			coal 2 = <1g	animal bone x2 = 1g
C.3	CBM fragments x22 = 26g, clay pipe stem x2 = 9g			coal x1 = 3g	sheep's wool fragment = <1g, animal bone x7 = 16g
C.4	CBM fragments x14 = 38g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g			coal x2 = <1g	animal bone x8 = 26g
C.5	CBM fragments x3 = 5g		iron nail x1 = 8g		animal bone x2 = 2g, sweet wrapper x1 = <1g
C.7	CBM fragments x2 = 36g				animal bone x1 = 92g
C.8	CBM fragments x2 = 8g				
C.9					burnt bone x1 = 4g



Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x3 = 27g			coal x4 = 5g	
C. 2	CBM fragments x2 = 27g	clear window glass x3 = 6g		slate x1 = 16g, coal x5 = 9g	orange plastic x1 = <1g
C.3	CBM fragments x26 = 154g	clear container glass x4 = 6g, clear window glass x5 = 4g, purple container glass x1 = 5g, orange bottle glass x1 = 2g	iron nail x3 = 12g	coal x10 = 28g	animal bone x3 = 15g, plastic x1 = <1g
C.4					animal bone x1 = 5g

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x1 = 2g, CBM fragments x6 = 125g, modern CBM x3 = 67g, modern tile x3 = 11g	clear window glass x2 = 4g	tin lid from can = 4g, iron nail x1 = 4g, slag x1 = 36g	coal x2 = 13g, slate x1 = 1g	modern fabric = 4g, concrete x4 = 23g, cockle shell x1 = <1g, burnt bone x1 = <1g
C. 2	CBM fragments x6 = 254g, modern CBM x3 = 130g, modern tile x17 = 192g, clay pipe stem x3 = 3g	clear window glass x3 = 8g	iron nail x1 = 7g, scrap iron x1 = 49g	slate x9 = 82g, coal x2 = 3g	stalk from a fake flower = <1g, concrete x2 = 23g, piece of blue plastic = <1g
C.3	CBM fragments x11 = 135g, modern tile x17 = 363g, clay pipe stem x11 = 23g, clay pipe bowl fragments x2 = 2g, modern CBM x5 = 26g	clear window glass x4 = 11g	iron nail x1 = 8g	coal x3 = 8g, slate x2 = 7g	animal bone x1 = <1g, Smarties lid = <1g, painted wood x1 = 1g
C.4	carbonised tobacco in clay pipe bowl = 9g, clay pipe stem x11 = 17g, clay pipe bowl fragments x4 = 10g	green bottle glass x1 = 21g	iron nail x1 = 2g	waste flint core? = 51g, coal x1 = 2g	cockle shell x2 = 4g, animal bone x10 = 15g, concrete x1 = 3g
C.5	clay pipe stem x2 = 2g		slag x3 = 70g		animal bone x2 = 1g
C.6	clay pipe stem x1 = 3g			coal x2 = 4g	cockle shell x1 = <1g

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x6 = 53g		slag x1 = 38g, heavy metal round container with hole in base = 129g	slate x1 = 4g, coal x7 = 8g	
C. 2	CBM fragments x8 = 15g		slag x1 = 57g	slate x1 = 14g, coal x10 = 16g	cockle shell x2 = 1g, modern mortar x2 = 3g

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x6 = 5g				animal bone x1 = <1g
C. 2	CBM fragments x6 = 15g				



C.3	CBM fragments x7 = 22g	green bottle glass x1 = 2g			
C.4	CBM fragments x9 = 7g				snail shell fragment x2 = <1g
C.5	CBM fragment x4 = 2g				
C.6	CBM fragment x3 = 21g				
C.7	CBM fragment x1 = 4g				

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x9 = 76g	clear container glass x1 = 29g		slate x1 = 7g, coal x2 = 21g	
C. 2	CBM fragments x11 = 116g, modern CBM x4 = 62g, clay pipe stem x1 = 2g	painted window glass = 4g, green container glass x3 = 8g, clear container glass x 6 = 22g		slate x9 = 43g, coal x4 = 8g	animal bone x1 = 4g
C.3	clay pipe stem x2 = 7g, modern CBM x4 = 41g, yellow tile x8 = 217g, CBM fragments x22 = 114g, piece of drain x1 = 57g, fragment of Roman box-flue tile = 23g	clear window glass x3 = 6g, blue container glass x2 = 1g, clear container glass x3 = 24g, green bottle glass x1 = <1g		coal x9 = 22g, slate x5 = 21g	animal bone x1 = 1g
C.4	large piece of tile = 406g, tile fragments x2 = 95g, CBM fragments x21 = 254g	clear window glass x3 = 2g		slate x2 = 12g, coal x1 = 1g	
C.5	large piece of tile = 540g, CBM fragments x28 = 75g	clear window glass x1 = 1g			concrete x3 = 23g

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x 2 = 52g, modern CBM x7 = 11g		slag x1 = 4g		
C. 2	modern CBM x3 = 26g, CBM fragments x7 = 10g			coal x1 = 0g	
C.3	CBM fragments x11 = 25g			slate x1 = 4g	

13.3 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 Wisbech St Mary in 2006 and 2007 are included below. These may be read in conjunction with relevant sections of the main report. Some of these maps are available at: <http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/reports/cambridgeshire/wisbech-st-mary> and these can be used, if wished, to prepare maps showing the distribution of other classes of data not depicted in this appendix.

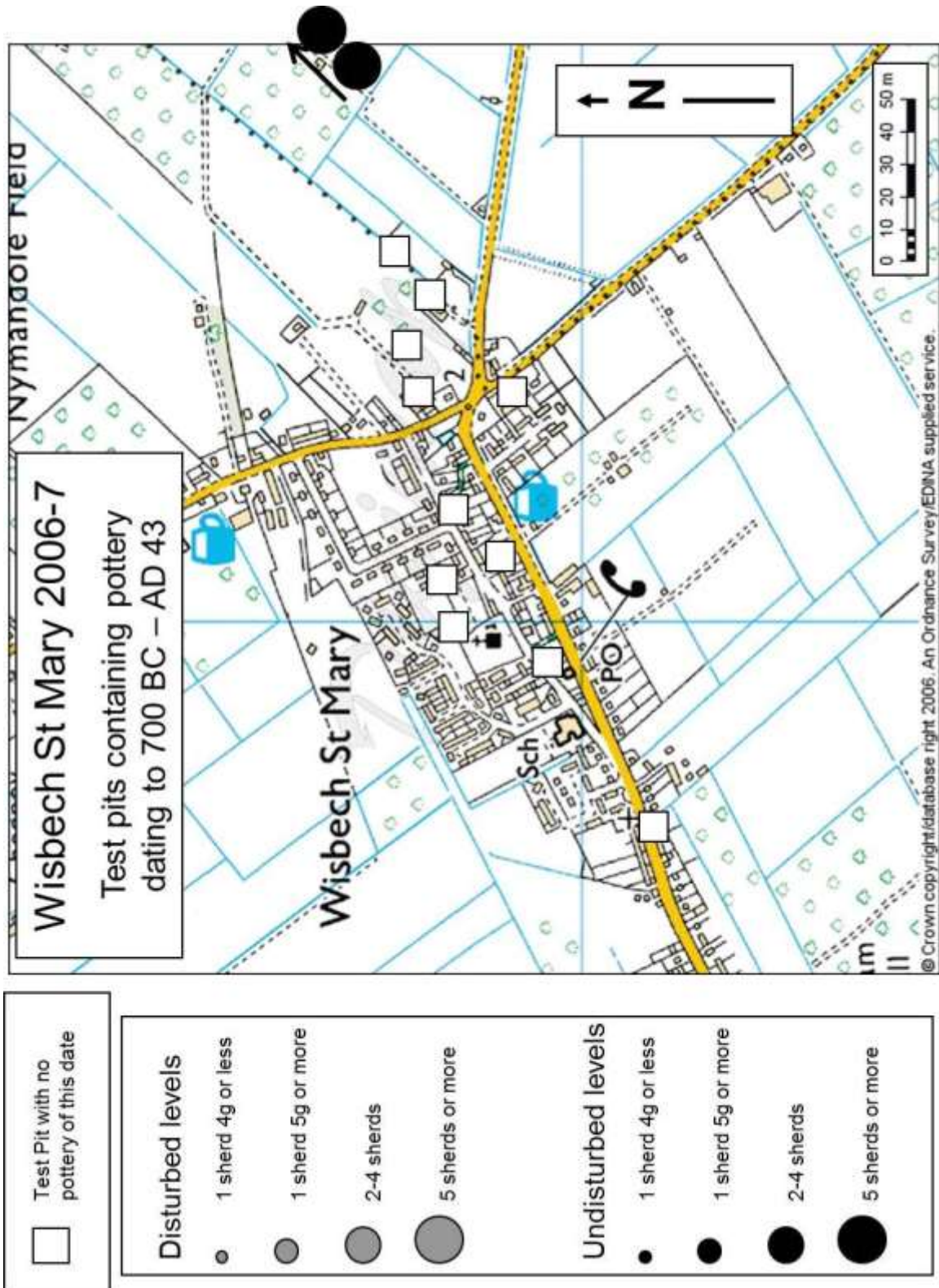


Figure 18: Iron Age pottery distribution map from the Wisbech St Mary test pits

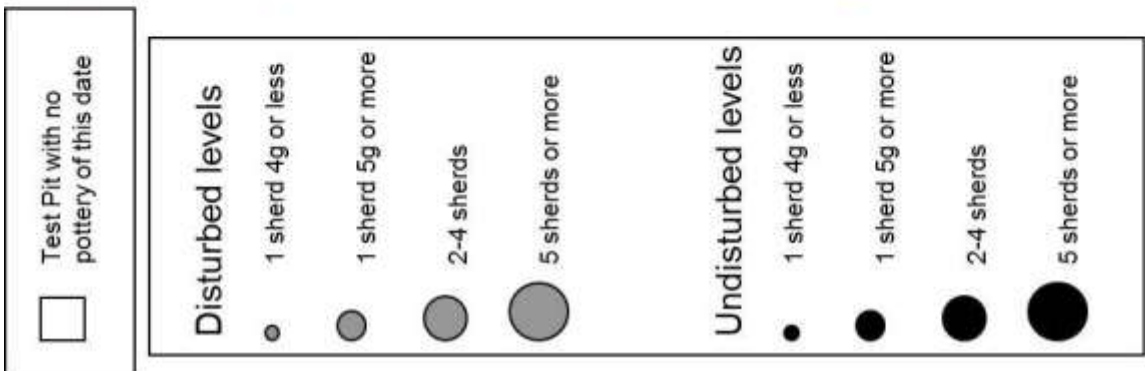
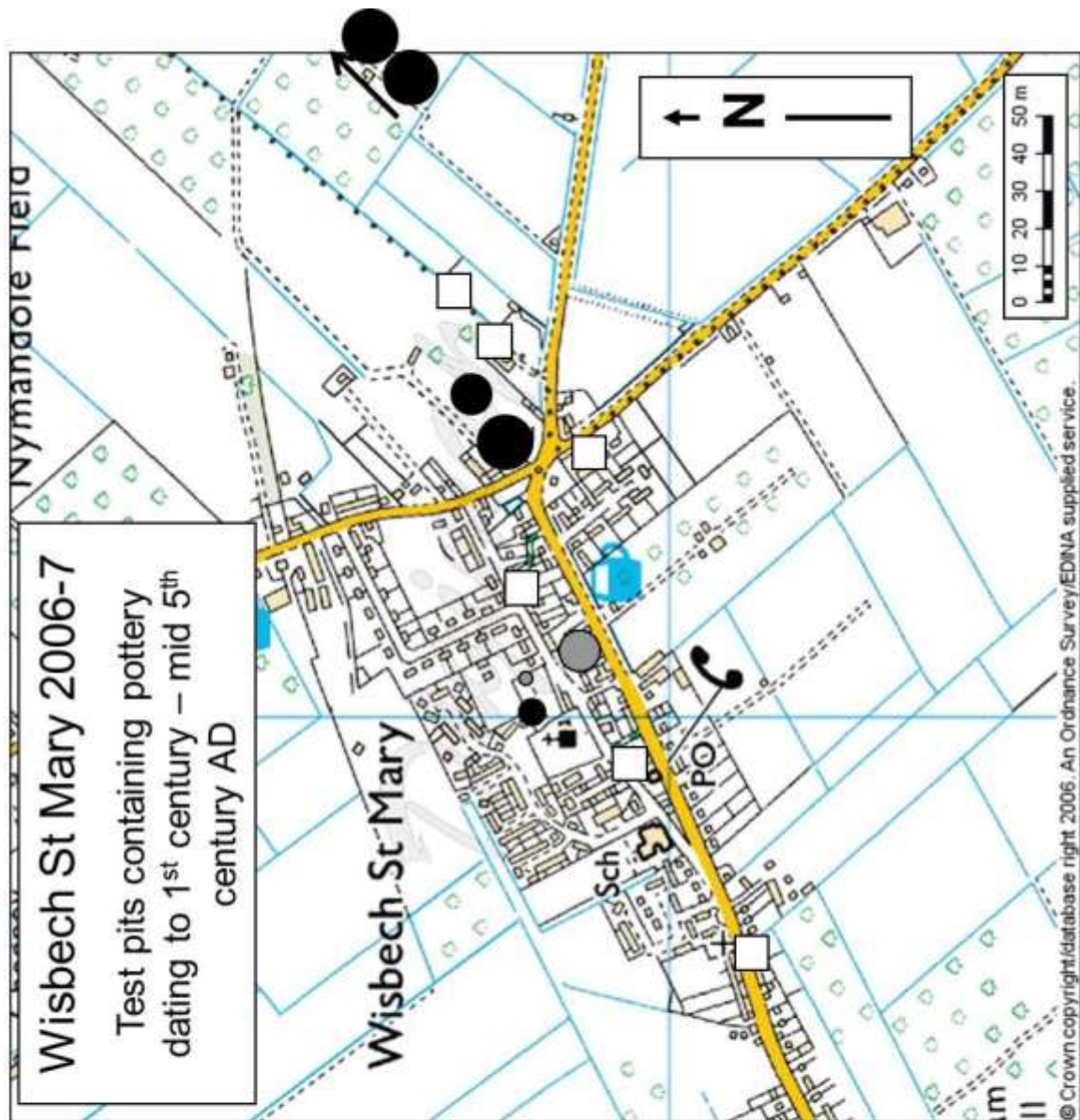


Figure 19: Roman pottery distribution map from the Wisbech St Mary test pits

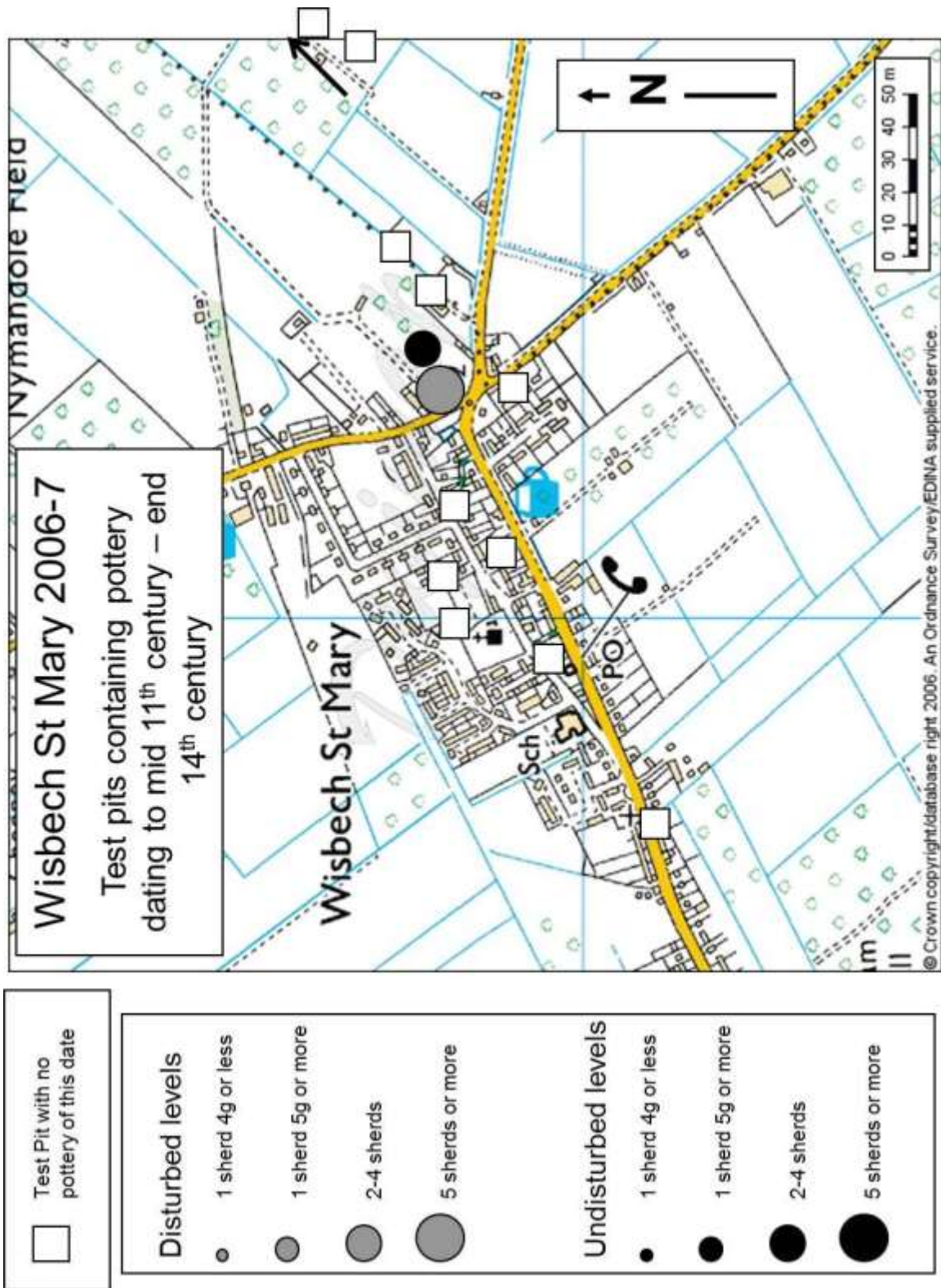


Figure 20: High medieval pottery distribution map from the Wisbech St Mary test pits

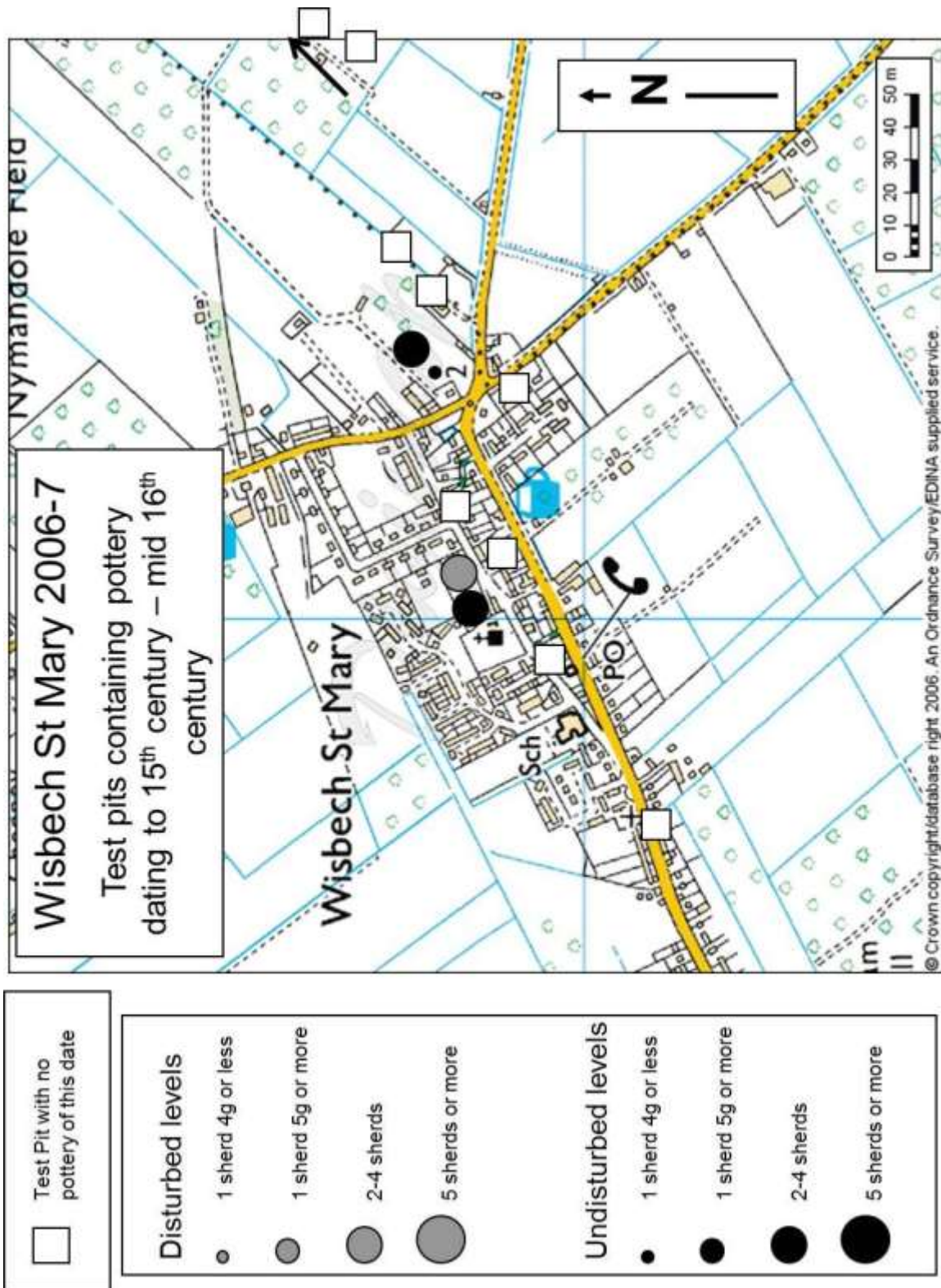


Figure 21: Late medieval pottery distribution map from the Wisbech St Mary test pits

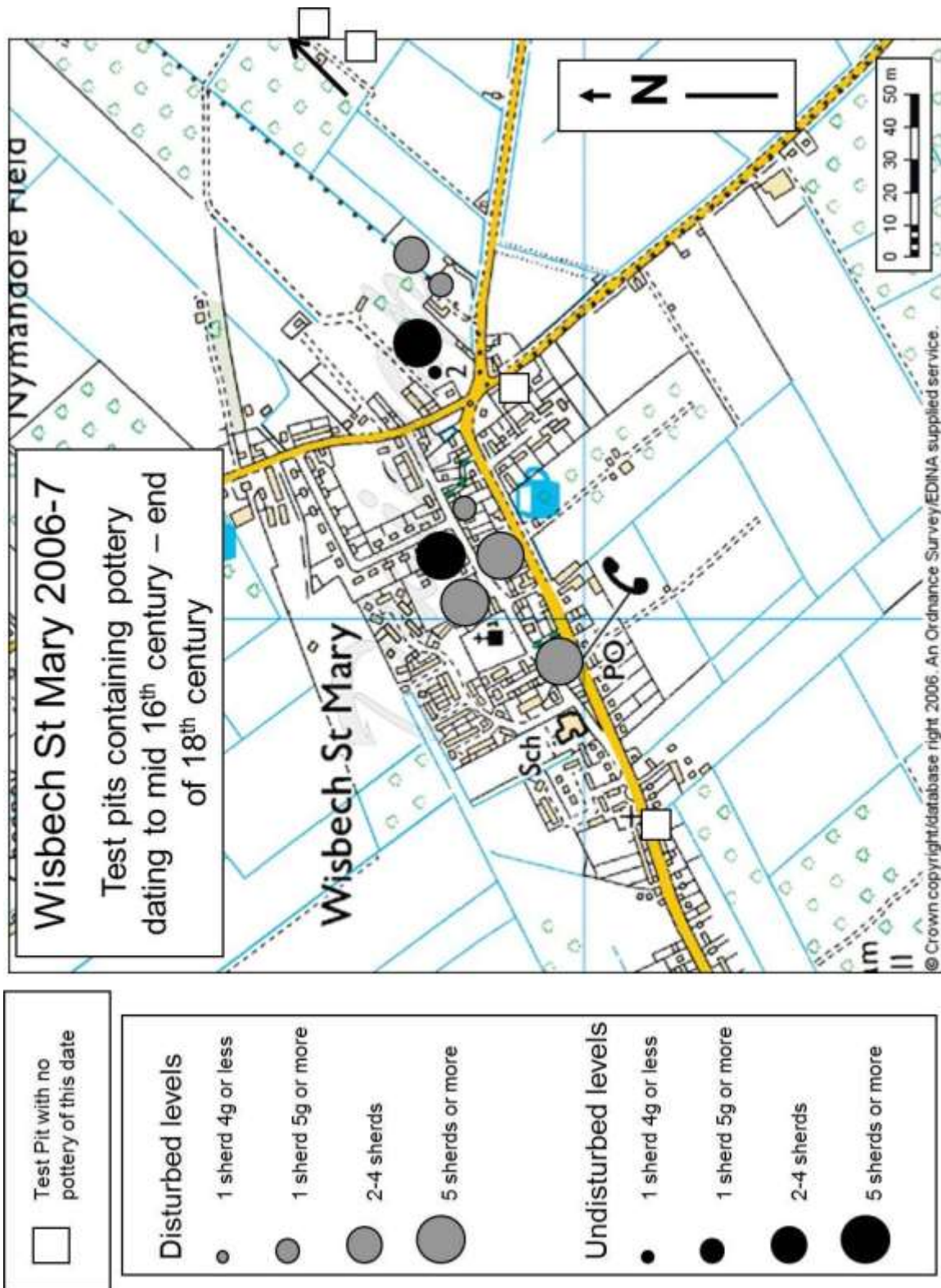


Figure 22: Post medieval pottery distribution map from the Wisbech St Mary test pits

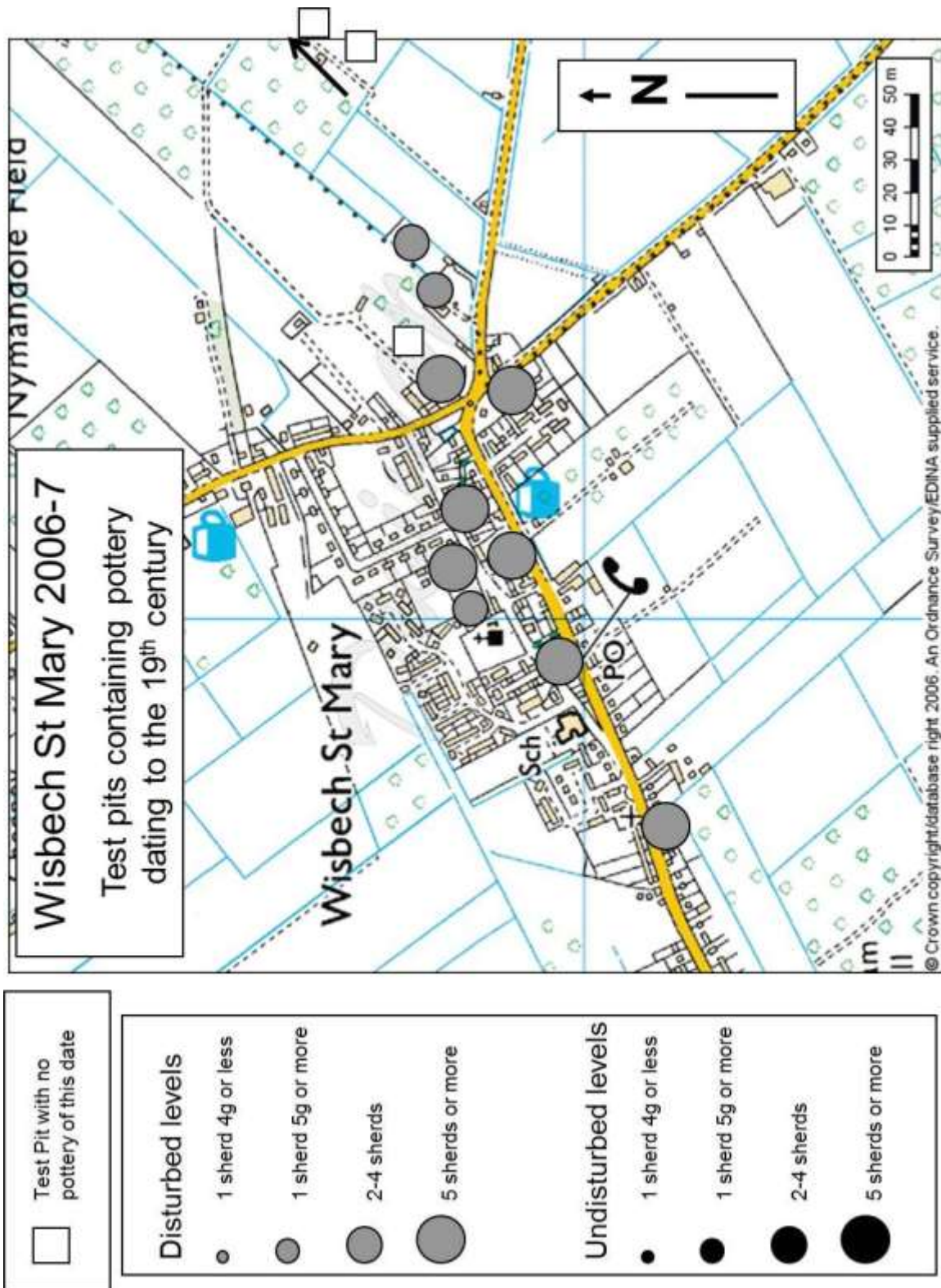


Figure 23: 19th century pottery distribution map from the Wisbech St Mary test pits