



Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Castor, Cambridgeshire, in 2009-2011

Catherine Collins

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(Front cover image: Excavation at CTR/10/10. Copyright ACA)



Contents

1	SUMMARY	9
2	INTRODUCTION	10
2.1	ACCESS CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY	10
2.2	THE HIGHER EDUCATION FIELD ACADEMY (HEFA)	10
2.3	TEST PIT EXCAVATION AND RURAL SETTLEMENT STUDIES	11
3	AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES	12
3.1	AIMS	12
3.2	OBJECTIVES	12
3.3	OUTCOMES	12
4	METHODOLOGY	13
5	CASTOR	14
5.1	THE VILLAGE TODAY	14
5.2	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	16
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	17
6.1	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	17
6.2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	22
6.2.1	Prehistoric	22
6.2.2	Romano-British	23
6.2.3	Anglo-Saxon	27
6.2.4	Medieval	28
6.2.5	Post medieval and later	29
6.2.6	Undated	30
7	RESULTS OF THE TEST PIT EXCAVATIONS IN CASTOR	31
7.1	THE 2009 EXCAVATIONS	32
7.2	THE 2010 EXCAVATIONS	43
7.3	THE 2011 EXCAVATIONS	57
8	DISCUSSION	68
8.1	PREHISTORIC	68
8.2	ROMANO-BRITISH	70
8.3	ANGLO SAXON	72
8.4	MEDIEVAL	74
8.5	POST MEDIEVAL AND LATER	75
9	CONCLUSION	77
10	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	78
11	REFERENCES	79
12	APPENDICES	84
12.1	POTTERY REPORTS – <i>PAUL BLINKHORN</i>	84
12.1.1	2009 Pottery Results	88
12.1.2	2010 Pottery Report	91
12.1.3	2011 Pottery Report	95
12.2	OTHER FINDS – <i>CATHERINE COLLINS</i>	97
12.2.1	2009 test pit finds	97

12.2.2	2010 test pit finds.....	101
12.2.3	2011 test pit finds.....	110
12.3	MAPS.....	114

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Map of England with close up insert of East Anglia and the approximate location of the village of Castor highlighted in red.....	14
Figure 2:	The extent of the parish of Castor © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 40,000	15
Figure 3:	The extent of Castor conservation area in blue © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000	15
Figure 4:	The historic core of Castor village (© The CAMUS Project).....	18
Figure 5:	1880's OS Map of Castor © Crown Copyright and Database rights/Ordnance Survey 2018, 1: 7,500	21
Figure 6:	The landscape and Roman archaeology around Castor (© Upex et al 2011).....	24
Figure 7:	The layout of the Roman Praetorium and other buildings at Castor (© Upex et al/ 2011).....	26
Figure 8:	The locations of the three years of test pitting in Castor (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000.....	31
Figure 9:	Location map of the Castor test pits from 2009 (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 2,500.....	32
Figure 10:	Location map of CTR/09/1.....	33
Figure 11:	The Roman wall identified in CTR/09/1 (© ACA)	34
Figure 12:	Fragment of painted Roman plaster excavated from CTR/09/1 (© ACA)....	34
Figure 13:	Location map of CTR/09/2.....	35
Figure 14:	The line of stones noted in the edge of CTR/09/2 (© ACA)	36
Figure 15:	Location map of CTR/09/3.....	37
Figure 16:	Location map of CTR/09/4.....	39
Figure 17:	The floor surface identified in CTR/09/4 (© ACA)	40
Figure 18:	Location map of CTR/09/5.....	41
Figure 19:	Location map of the Castor test pits from 2010 (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000.....	43
Figure 20:	Location map of CTR/10/1.....	44
Figure 21:	Location map of CTR/10/2.....	45
Figure 22:	Location map of CTR/10/3.....	46
Figure 23:	Location map of CTR/10/4.....	47
Figure 24:	The wall recorded in CTR/10/4 (© ACA).....	48
Figure 25:	Location map of CTR/10/5.....	50
Figure 26:	Location map of CTR/10/6.....	51
Figure 27:	Location map of CTR/10/7.....	52
Figure 28:	Location map of CTR/10/8.....	53
Figure 29:	Rough cobble yard surface found from CTR/10/8 (© ACA)	54
Figure 30:	Location map of CTR/10/9.....	55
Figure 31:	Location map of CTR/10/10.....	56
Figure 32:	Location map of the Castor test pits from 2011 (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000.....	57

Figure 33: Location map of CTR/11/1.....	58
Figure 34: The multiple rounded clay objects excavated from CTR/11/1, context 1 (© ACA).....	59
Figure 35: Location map of CTR/11/2.....	60
Figure 36: Location map of CTR/11/3.....	61
Figure 37: Location map of CTR/11/4.....	62
Figure 38: Location map of CTR/11/5.....	63
Figure 39: Location map of CTR/11/6.....	64
Figure 40: Location map of CTR/11/7.....	65
Figure 41: Overhead view of the stone wall foundations within CTR/11/7 (© ACA).....	66
Figure 42: Oblique view of the stone wall foundations from CTR/11/7 (© ACA).....	66
Figure 43: Location map of CTR/11/8.....	67
Figure 44: The presence of worked flints from the Castor test pits (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000.....	69
Figure 45: The presence of burnt stone from the Castor test pits (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000.....	69
Figure 46: The distribution of Romano-British pottery from the Castor test pits 2009 (yellow), 2010 (blue) and 2011 (orange) NB: test pits are not to scale © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000.....	71
Figure 47: Location of all 23 Test Pits in relation to the extent of the Roman <i>Praetorium</i> at Castor (modified from © Artis 1828).....	72
Figure 48: Romano-British pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.....	115
Figure 49: Early-Middle Anglo Saxon pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.....	116
Figure 50: Late Anglo-Saxon pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.....	117
Figure 51: High Medieval pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.....	118
Figure 52: Late Medieval distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.....	119
Figure 53: Post Medieval distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.....	121
Figure 54: 19 th century and later distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service.....	122

List of Tables

Table 1: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/1.....	33
Table 2: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/2.....	35
Table 3: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/3.....	38
Table 4: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/4.....	39
Table 5: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/5.....	42
Table 6: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/1.....	44
Table 7: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/2.....	45
Table 8: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/3.....	46
Table 9: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/4.....	49
Table 10: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/5.....	50
Table 11: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/6.....	51



Table 12: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/7	52
Table 13: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/8.....	53
Table 14: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/9.....	55
Table 15: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/10.....	56
Table 16: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/1.....	58
Table 17: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/2.....	60
Table 18: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/3.....	61
Table 19: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/4.....	62
Table 20: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/5.....	63
Table 21: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/6.....	64
Table 22: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/7.....	65
Table 23: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/8.....	67
Table 24: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/1	97
Table 25: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/2	98
Table 26: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/3	98
Table 27: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/4	99
Table 28: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/5	100
Table 29: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/1	101
Table 30: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/2	101
Table 31: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/3	102
Table 32: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/4	103
Table 33: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/5	104
Table 34: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/6	105
Table 35: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/7	106
Table 36: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/8	107
Table 37: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/9	108
Table 38: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/10	109
Table 39: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/1	110
Table 40: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/2	110
Table 41: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/3	111
Table 42: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/4	111
Table 43: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/5	112
Table 44: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/6	112
Table 45: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/7	113
Table 46: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/8	113

1 Summary

Two-day test pit excavations were undertaken in the village of Castor on the northern banks of the River Nene, just west of Peterborough in north Cambridgeshire between April 2009 and July 2011. In that time a total of 23 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated by 87 school pupils from 10 local secondary schools as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme run by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) out of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. The excavations in Castor were aided by the Benefice of St Kyneburgha.

The test pitting in Castor revealed a range of activity dating from the later prehistoric period through to the modern day, both supporting what has already been found through the parish as well as providing new archaeological evidence. The nature of the test pits allows excavations in otherwise inaccessible places for the normal methods of commercial archaeological investigation, and it showed that some earlier phases of occupation in Castor are still present under the modern day village, despite the widespread level of disturbances.

A few lithics were excavated from a small number of test pits but it was during the Roman period and the development of the Roman town Durobrivae on the southern banks of the River Nene that created the wealth and prosperity so that the Praetorium, a huge palatial structure, was able to be constructed on the high ground overlooking the town, river and major roads of the period. Additional Roman structural remains were also recorded through a couple of the test pits that may have been part of this palatial complex. The site at Castor continued to be occupied during the Early Anglo Saxon period, the excavations supporting the location of one of the supposed Saxon and medieval manor sites at Manor Farm. The evidence suggests the development of the village as we know it today, began in the Late Anglo Saxon period and continued to expand during the high medieval, but the settlement never developed into a later medieval market town, likely due to its proximity to Peterborough as well as suffering from the various socio-economic factors of the 14th century, including the Black Death as a clear shift in settlement activity was noted.

2 Introduction

A total of 23 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated over three, two-day digging events in three years in the village of Castor just outside Peterborough in north Cambridgeshire. Yearly this breaks down as five test pits being excavated in April/May 2009, 10 test pits in September 2010 and 8 pits excavated in July 2011. All the test pits were excavated in residential gardens where local residents offered spaces to dig. The excavations were undertaken by 87 local secondary school students from 10 local schools. The excavation was funded by Aim Higher Cambridgeshire and the European Social Fund and was undertaken as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) to investigate currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) and was organised and supervised by Access Cambridge Archaeology, based in the Department of Archaeology, in the University of Cambridge.

2.1 Access Cambridge Archaeology

Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) (<http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/>) is an archaeological outreach organisation based in the Department of Archaeology in the University of Cambridge which aims to enhance economic, social and personal well-being through active engagement with archaeology. It was set up in 2004 and 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), 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 2007). 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 2005, 2006; 2007a; 2007b, 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2013).

3 Aims, objectives and desired outcomes

3.1 Aims

The aims of the test pit excavations in Castor 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 Castor and its environs.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of test pit excavations in Castor 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 Castor 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 Castor 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 Castor.

4 Methodology

The three-years of test pitting in Castor was organised by ACA in conjunction with the St Kyneburgha's benefice, with both the excavation and recording following the standard Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) instruction handbook and recording booklet.

The test pit digging takes place over two days, which begins with an initial lecture explaining the aims of the excavation, the procedures in digging and recording the test pit and the correct and safe use of equipment. Participants are then divided into teams of three or four individuals, with a mix of students from different schools. Each team is provided with a complete set of test pit excavation equipment, copies of the HEFA instruction handbook and a record booklet into which all excavation data are entered.

The test pits are all 1m² and the turf, if present, was removed in neat squares by hand. Each test pit is excavated in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The horizontal surface of each context/spit is then drawn at 1:10 scale before excavation, a photograph taken and the colour recorded with reference to a standardised colour chart, included in the written handbook. A pro-forma recording system was used by the students to record their test pit excavation. This comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with students and members of the public with no previous archaeological experience. The site code is CTR/year, so CTR/09 for 2009, CTR/10 for 2010 and CTR/11 for 2011.

During the excavation 100% of the spoil is sieved through a 10mm mesh (with the occasional exception of very heavy clay soils which have to be hand-searched). All artefacts are retained, cleaned and bagged by context. Cut and built features are planned at 1:10 and excavated sequentially with latest deposits removed first. Pottery and most other finds are identified promptly by archaeological experts who are on site for the duration of the field academy and visit the test pits regularly; and at the same time provide advice and check that the excavation is being carried out and recorded to the required standard. Test pits are excavated down to natural or the maximum safe depth of 1.2m, whichever is encountered first. A minority of test pits will stop on encountering a feature, (ancient or modern) which archaeological staff deem inadvisable or impossible to remove, and occasionally excavation may cease at a level above natural due to time constraints. On completion of each test pit excavation, all four sections are drawn at 1:10 along with the unexcavated base of the test pit prior to backfilling by hand and the turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

After the two days of excavation are completed, the archaeological records and finds (all of which are kept and cleaned on site) are retained by ACA at 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. 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). ACA retain all finds 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, but any requests to return finds to owners will be agreed.

5 Castor

5.1 The village today

The village of Castor sits on the northern banks of the River Nene in north Cambridgeshire, c.7km immediately west of Peterborough as the crow flies and 12.6km southeast of Stamford. The church of St Kyneburgha is located centrally in the village and is centred on TL 12474 98524.

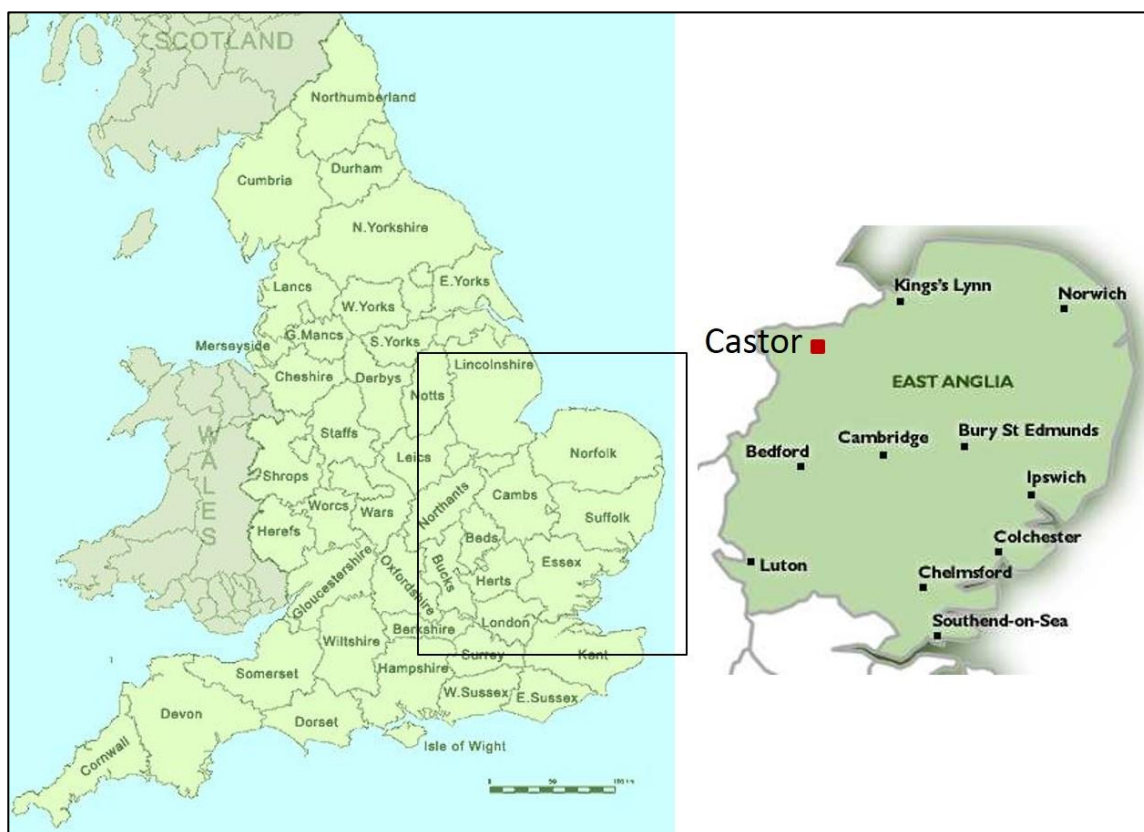


Figure 1: Map of England with close up insert of East Anglia and the approximate location of the village of Castor highlighted in red

The village envelope is bounded between the A47 bypass to the north, connecting Peterborough to Leicester and the River Nene in the south that also forms the southern parish boundary. The village today adjoins the boundary with neighbouring Ailsworth to the west, a once separate village, is today considered and functions as one community with shared facilities with combined activities. Castor benefits from a primary school, St Kyneburgha church, a village hall, two pubs, a pub-restaurant, leisure centre and recreation facilities, whilst Ailsworth has a medieval centre, dentist, a shop, coffee shop and a Methodist Chapel (Castor & Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group 2017). The village is also well served with buses into Peterborough as well as Stamford and the parish encompasses large areas of open land to the north and south of the village to include the river valley, farmland and woodlands (figure 2). The population at the last census in 2011 was at 834 (*Ibid*).

Castor today is arranged either side of two approximately parallel streets, which diverge at the eastern end, possibly originally in order to respect a precinct enclosure around the area of the present church. More recent settlement extensions lie to the north, south and

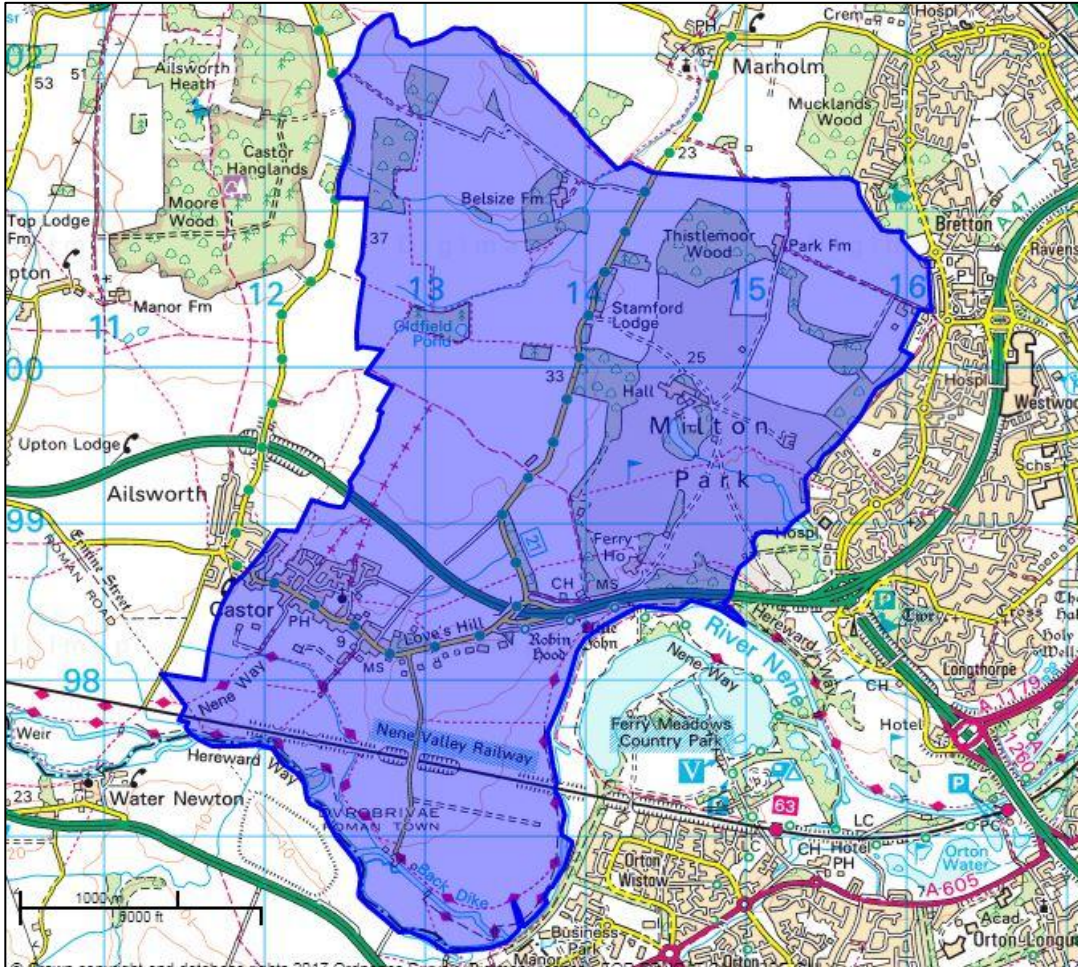


Figure 2: The extent of the parish of Castor © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 40,000

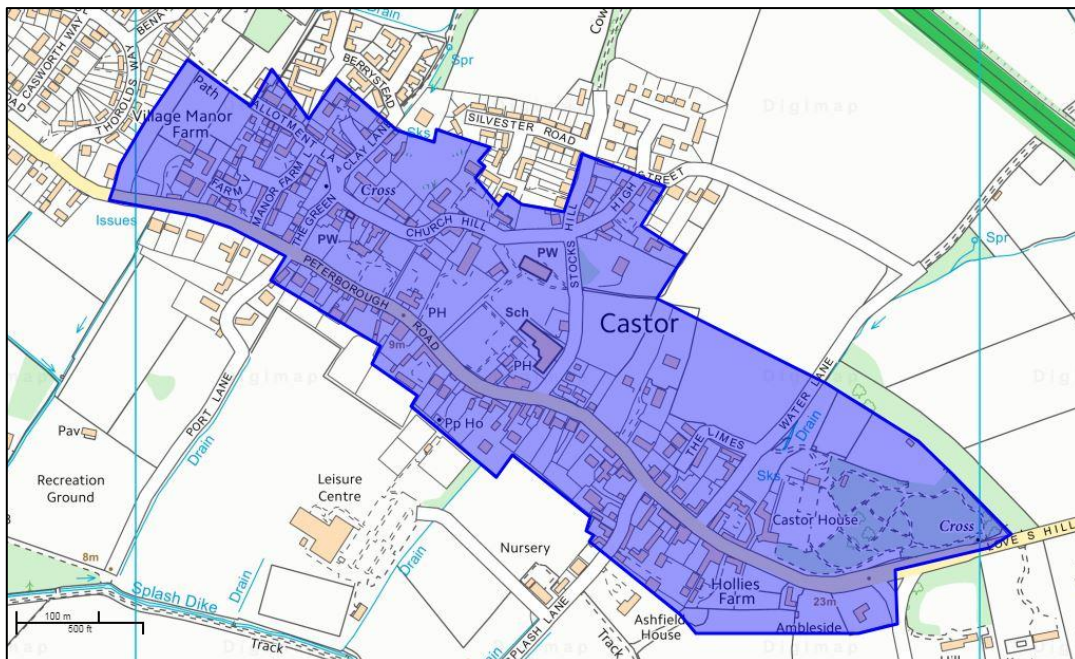


Figure 3: The extent of Castor conservation area in blue © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000

west of the earlier village core. Settlement has however always been restricted to the south due to the flood prone water meadows that exist along the northern banks of the River Nene (Castor Village Design Statement Team 2004).

The conservation area in Castor encompassed the core of the settlement along Peterborough Road (figure 3) and the roughly parallel road to the north and between the start of Ailsworth village in the west and to the eastern extent of Castor House grounds on Love's Hill. A quarter of all buildings in Castor are constructed from local limestone, the majority are along the main thoroughfare in the settlement; whilst newer constructions are set back from the main roads are made from brick. Roofing materials were originally Collyweston slates, clay pantiles and some thatch, but with the introduction of the railways during the 19th century, Welsh slate became more common (Castor Village Design Statement Team 2004). There are 43 listed buildings in the parish (excluding Milton Park), the majority are Grade II listed, but the church of St Kyneburgha is Grade I and just two buildings are Grade II* listed (Castor & Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group 2017).

5.2 Geology and Topography

Castor sits on the northern banks of the River Nene in north Cambridgeshire; the river is the sixth longest in the country and rises in the west of Northamptonshire to flow north and east past Castor and then through Peterborough and north through Wisbech to enter the North Sea at The Wash. The village sits on higher ground overlooking the river on a limestone ridge and sits within the north-eastern corner of a National Character Area Profile, 'No.92 Rockingham Forest'¹. The key characteristics of this area is the broad Jurassic limestone ridge to the west of the River Nene with a landscape of woodland and large to medium sized fields of mixed arable and some pastoral use surrounding small nucleated villages. These settlements generally lie along sheltered river valleys and are linked by narrow winding lanes, but have an open feel.

This bedrock is a mix of limestone formations consisting of Lower Lincolnshire limestone, Rutland Formation limestone and sandstone, Grantham Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone to the south with Blisworth Clay Formation of mudstone further north with Cornbrash Formation limestone in the north of the parish. Superficial deposits consist mainly of first river terrace sand and gravel deposits and alluvium in the south of the parish with small areas of Oadby Member diamicton in the north². The plateau rises to 33m OD in the north of the parish and slopes south to 30m OD along the A47 to just 15m OD at St Kyneburgha church. Land adjacent to the River Nene sits at 8m OD.

Castor parish also has two areas of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), one of which is the flood meadows alongside the River Nene and the second is the site of Castor Hanglands to the north of the village, which is also a National Nature Reserve. The reserve has four distinct habitats; grassland, wetland, woodland and scrub and covers an area c.90 hectares. The grassland, wetland and scrub areas of the reserve are part of Ailsworth Heath that was ploughed out during the medieval period, leaving area of ridge and furrow that can still be seen today³.

¹<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4716243105873920?category=587130> (Accessed November 2017)

² <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> (Accessed November 2017)

³<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140712081446/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/nnr/1006031.aspx> (Accessed November 2017)

6 Archaeological and Historical Background

6.1 Historical Background

The Roman town called *Durobrivae* (to mean “the gated enclosure at the ford or bridge’) had developed alongside a fort which controlled the crossing of the River Nene to the south of the Castor, at Water Newton. Ermine Street ran through this settlement and on the north of the river this was joined by another Roman Road, King Street that may have been built soon after Ermine Street as a more direct route as it re-joins this major north-south highway at Ancaster (Browne 1977). It is known that a probable very large Roman building, often referred to as a *Praetorium* (perhaps a villa or governor’s residence) is present under and around the current church at Castor and is discussed in greater detail in section 6.2.2 below.

Documentary evidence suggests that a nunnery was founded on the site of the *Praetorium* during the 7th century AD. It was said to be established by two sisters, Kyneburgha/Cyniburga and Cynesuitha/Kyneswitha who were daughters of the then King of Mercia, Penda. After the death of her husband in Northumbria, Kyneburgha returned south again and with the aid of their brothers, created a religious house within the ruins of the large Roman palace that was also known as *Dormundcastre* (Howorth 1917). It is believed that the convent at Castor was attacked by the Danes in the later 9th century and again during the 10th century as it was reputed in ruins by AD 1012 (Slidel 2004). There has so far been no archaeological evidence for the religious house, although Anglo Saxon occupation has been recorded within the ruins of the Roman *Praetorium* (Morris 2004, Wood 2004), so either its destruction was so complete that very little evidence remains, or that perhaps the medieval church was re-built over the same site, further removing the evidence. It has been speculated that Castor became a place of pilgrimage after the deaths of the sisters and that this has likely influenced the layout of the current church when it was re-built during the 12th century (Morris 2004). Close connections with the Benedictine Abbey at Peterborough existed, as the abbey was originally founded by Kyneburgha’s brother, Paeda and known then as *Medeshamstede* and in the very early 11th century the remains of both sisters were transferred from their resting place at Castor to Peterborough by the then Abbot *Aelfsige* (Howorth 1917). Castor also had chapels-of-ease at Ailsworth, Sutton, Upton and Milton that when Castor ceased to be a convent, it became a minster church during the later Anglo Saxon period and became responsible for the aforementioned daughter churches, often with one priest (Burke 2004a, 2004b). The extent of any settlement associated with the nunnery at Castor is not recorded in historical documents until the Domesday Book in the later 11th century.

There are two references to Castor in the Domesday Book of 1086; the translations of which can be seen below. Additional information about understanding the Domesday Book is available online.⁴

The first entry records the land as belonging to Peterborough Abbey: ‘*The church itself holds Castor. There are three hides. There is land for 12 ploughs. In demesne are two ploughs with one slave; and 13 villans and two bordars with 2 ½ ploughs. There is a mill rendering 8s and 15 acres of meadow. There is woodland six furlongs in length and four furlongs in breadth. It was worth 20s, now 50s.*’ The second entry relates to the land of the men of the same church and states ‘*In Castor five knights hold three hides of the abbot and have there five ploughs in demesne and nine villans, five bordars and three*

⁴<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/> (for general information and <http://opendomesday.org/place/TL1298/castor/> for Castor specifically (Accessed November 2017))

slaves with 2 ½ ploughs. It was worth 10s; now 40s' (Williams and Martin 2003). The total population at this time was thought to have been about 33 people, a relatively large settlement for the time.

The early names for Castor have been recorded as 'Caestre' in 948 AD and as 'Castre' in the Domesday Book of 1086. The meaning is taken from the Old English word *caester* to mean 'The Roman fort', or 'fortified town' (Mills 2011) and would refer to the Roman town of *Durobrivae* just to the south of the river.

The church in Castor was re-built in 1120 and dedicated in April 1124 by the Bishop of Lincoln to St Kyneburgha (Burke 2004b). The very prominent tower is considered to be the most spectacular feature of the church to this day and both Roman and Saxon building stone has been used in its construction (Tovey 2006), particularly in the nave.⁵ During the early 13th century the south aisle was re-built, as was the chancel and Lady Chapel in AD 1260. Throughout the 14th century the Priest's Room above the north transept was built, the north aisle was re-built and the spire was added to the tower, and in 1450 the Angel Roof was constructed. A full description of its architectural detail can be seen on the British Listed Buildings website⁶ and by Burke (2004b) in the CAMUS project publication.⁷

The curving roads of Stocks Hill and Church Lane likely follow the course of the original churchyard boundary that would have extended beyond the Primary School, south to Peterborough Road. Figure 4 is taken from the CAMUS Project publication (Burke 2004a) and shows the probable extent of the church boundary with the village green on its western side, outlined in dashed lines and the hashed buildings are from Artis' plans to show the layout of the *Praetorium* under the 19th century village. It can be clearly seen that the network of lanes today developed from these original boundaries.

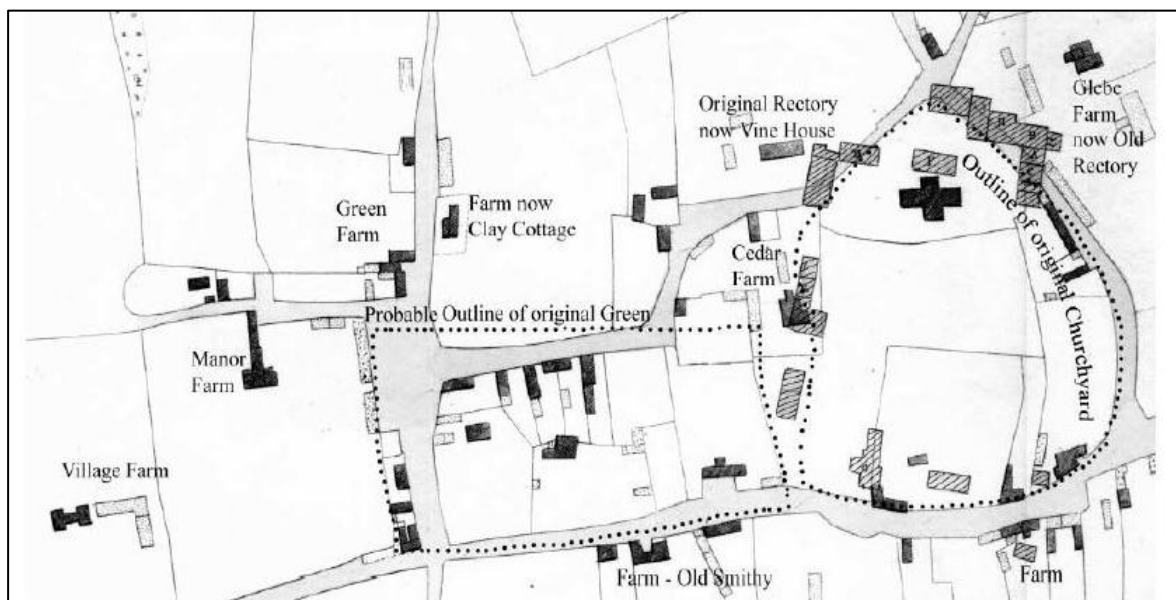


Figure 4: The historic core of Castor village (© The CAMUS Project)

⁵ <http://www.castorchurchtrust.co.uk/history/> (Accessed November 2017)

⁶ <https://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101126803-church-of-st-kyneburgha-castor#.WhweM1V1-M8> (Accessed November 2017)

⁷ <http://www.thearchive.org.uk/thebook/contents.htm>

The church in Castor was also one of the major landowners during the medieval and early post medieval period and it was the church that was granted a charter in 1340 to hold both a market and summer fair. Today the fair continues in the village, known as the 'Church Summer Festival and Fete' (Burke 2004a). In the Domesday Book the church held the greater proportion of the land in the parish and the abbots held a manor at Castor, known as Castor or Berrystead Manor and one of the first abbots to build a hall for the manor here at Castor was during the 1220's. Speculation of where this manor actually was is rife; one possibility is a scheduled moated area southwest of Village Farm and on the parish boundary with Ailsworth and the other suggested locations are either Village Farm or Manor Farm that was just west of the village green as the current buildings on both of these sites are Grade II listed and date from the 17th century (Burke 2004a). This manor remained with the abbots of Peterborough until the dissolution in 1537, then was granted to Dean and Chapter of Peterborough when the abbey there became a cathedral. It was stolen from Peterborough during the English Civil War after which it was handed back to the Dean and Chapter during the restoration of King Charles II. It was taken over by Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1836 and remained a church manor until the 20th century.⁸

The other major landowner in Castor were the Fitzwilliam family of Milton. Their manor at the time of Domesday was also held by the abbot but sub-let to five knights and was known as Thorold's or Butler's Manor. By the late 12th century this manor was in the hands of an abbot named Thorold and it was at this time that the manor was split between his two sons; one side went back to the abbot as dowry as one of the sons became a monk and the other side remained in the family until the mid-15th century. It came to Richard Fitzwilliam in 1515 and has remained with the family and now is still held by Milton (Burke 2004a). The current building at Milton Park dates from 1594 and is Grade I listed. Additional medieval remains have been recorded at Milton Park, with an entry in the Domesday Book, and in the north of the parish there would have also been a small medieval settlement around Belsize Farm, perhaps the size of a hamlet, but now just a single farmhouse that is more closely associated with Marholm to the north and is so excluded from the bulk of this report. Additional information can be found in the CAMUS Project report⁹.

What is known of the total population in Castor before the first census in 1801 is patchy. The CAMUS Project has looked at both parish registers and military service lists, from the latter of which during the 16th century and later, a picture of village life has emerged. The 1762 Militia List for example recorded a total population of 475 (251 were male and 66 of them were aged between 18 and 45 and fit for duty). The occupations of the men were also listed and include a surgeon, six farmers, three bakers, three shoemakers, one blacksmith, one miller, three carpenters, one tailor and one wheelwright with one village constable and a large number of farm labourers (Blake 2004a) and shows how diverse and self-sustainable the population of Castor was. The economy of the village has always remained rural with a heavy reliance on agriculture; the Compton census of 1676 recorded a population of 342.¹⁰

The first census in Castor records the population at 1815 individuals that continued to rise through the first half of the 19th century to 1,396 in 1851. By 1871 however the population had dropped to only 680, after which the population continued to decline but at a much slower rate with numbers at 639 in 1901 to 546 in 1951, which is when the population was at its lowest.¹¹ These lower numbers can certainly be attributed to the

⁸ <http://www.thearchive.org.uk/history/h1042.htm> (Accessed November 2017)

⁹ <http://www.thearchive.org.uk/thebook/contents.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.thearchive.org.uk/parish/p1008.htm> (Accessed November 2017)

¹¹ http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10267171/cube/TOT_POP (Accessed November 2017)

mortality rates of both World Wars (Castor and Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group 2017). Post-war development, particularly in Peterborough when it was designated a New Town in 1967, brought more people and jobs to the area and the population of Castor increased again with its own developments. In 1991 the population was 810, in 2001 it was 830 and for the last census in 2011 the population was recorded at 834 people.¹²

The economy of Castor remained rural through until the mid-19th century when a greater range of trades and occupations were starting to emerge; the numerous trade directories of the 19th and early 20th century have been investigated as part of the CAMUS project and the variety of jobs available for both men and women are discussed in Chapter 19 (Howard 2004).

The process of Enclosure in Castor was not completed until 1898. This was achieved through individual Acts of Parliament through which landowners would enclose their land or even change what land they did hold to ensure that it was all together and accessible. This often meant that any common land in the parish, such as the green may have been lost to the villagers as they would have had nowhere to graze their animals. In Castor the two major landowners agreed to divide all the land so that the Milton Estate would take everything to the north and east of the church and the church would take all the land to the south and west, so the process of Enclosure in Castor was not as problematic as it was in the majority of other villages (Burke 2004c), the shared fields gave way to tenant farmers, many of whom are in the same family to this day. The process of Enclosure did however make a provision for recreation grounds within the village as well as both field gardens and allotments and quite unusually, Castor was granted its own riverside bathing place at the end of Splash Lane footpath (Bradshaw 2004).

Prior to the introduction of the railways, the River Nene would have been most efficient way to transport goods, of which evidence has been found in the parish dating back to the Roman period, when part of a Roman wharf was found. The river would also have been the best way to transport all the stone utilised in building of not only the Roman *Praetorium* but also the Saxon and Norman churches on the same site. Records of the stone trade on the Nene continued at least until the 16th century (Blanchford 2004). It was only during the early 18th century that improvements to the navigation of the river were taken; the Nene past Castor down to Thrapston was known as the Eastern Division (the rest of the river down to Northampton was known as the Western Division) and the improvements were completed by 1737. The majority of the river traffic came to and from Northampton and with an easier range of locks compared to the Eastern Division, the tolls collected were much healthier. The western section also benefited with a later link to the Grand Union Canal, which again benefited trade directly into the Midlands. It was reported that in 1759 the navigation between Water Newton and Wansford was in a very poor state and the low amount of tolls collected at that time were not enough for the repairs. The coming of the railways soon also added to the ongoing woes of the River Nene as a faster and more efficient way of transport, although it was partly utilised in their construction and moving materials, but by the early 20th century the river was in such a poor state that navigation was deemed impossible by 1930. Throughout the rest of the 20th century, improvements and continual maintenance has ensured that access can continue along the length of the river, although today it is only recreational boats that utilise it (*Ibid*).

When the London to Birmingham Railway first opened its line in 1838, it was the nearest to the Nene valley but the area around Castor still remained un-connected. It was not

¹²<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/upload/PDFs/AboutPeterborough-Census-Parish-Castor.pdf?inline=true> (Accessed November 2017)

until 1843 that an extension to Peterborough was granted that ran from Blisworth to Oundle and then to Peterborough and was opened to passengers in June 1845. A station at Castor was opened in August 1853 at the southern end of Station Road, way out of the village and just north of the River Nene. The line was well used, transporting both people and agricultural produce, but the station was finally closed to passengers in 1953 and eventually also to goods in 1964, at which time the line was also closed.¹³ With the development and expansion of the 'New Town' at Peterborough during the 1960's, a group of volunteers proposed a light 'recreational railway' as a way to attract more people to Peterborough. This idea came to fruition in 1977 when the Nene Valley Railway opened as a 'leisure tourist train service' from Wansford to a new station at Orton Mere (Paten & Garrett 2004). Today the Nene Valley Railway is privately run and is more than just a way of travelling to a destination, it has become an attraction in its own right, offering passengers a variety of experiences.¹⁴ The Railway station can be seen in the bottom left corner of the first OS map dating from the 1880's, shown in figure 5 below.



Figure 5: 1880's OS Map of Castor © Crown Copyright and Database rights/Ordnance Survey 2018, 1: 7,500

Improvements to the road network were undertaken through Castor, the road connecting Peterborough in the east and Wansford in the west was known as the Wansford Road Turnpike Trust that was established in 1753.¹⁵ The toll house was at Ferry Bridge¹⁶, out to the east of the village and would have been part of the original course of the A47 road that continues to Leicester (the modern road bypasses both Castor and Ailsworth to the north). There were two main gates along this route and some records available of the income for this turnpike, for example in 1820 the income was recorded to be £820, however after this the lowest income was in 1850 at just £281. The trust was closed in

¹³ <http://www.disused-stations.org.uk/c/castor/> (Accessed November 2017)

¹⁴ <http://www.nvr.org.uk/> (Accessed November 2017)

¹⁵ http://www.turnpikes.org.uk/map_Northants_turnpike.jpg (Accessed November 2017)

¹⁶ http://www.turnpikes.org.uk/Tollhouses_of_Northants.htm (Accessed November 2017)

1873.¹⁷ By the 1930's, Peterborough Road was becoming very busy with traffic as it was the major east-west trunk road in north Cambridgeshire, but it was not until the 1990's when traffic was getting so bad, that the A47 bypass was created and traffic calming measure could be taken within the village (Castor & Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group 2017).

There have been a number of schools in Castor, the first of which was held in the vestry of the church during the early 19th century as a day and Sunday school. This was replaced by a specifically built school building by the local lords of the manor, the Fitzwilliam family in 1829, and was built alongside the southern side of Peterborough Road and opposite the Fitzwilliam Arms pub (Henderson 2004). Today it is Grade II listed and is utilised as the village hall. Castor Infants School was opened in 1861 and was built on the northern side of Peterborough Road and adjoining the churchyard (the site of the current primary school is today). This took children up to the age of seven, at which time they went to the Fitzwilliam School. Dwindling numbers in the first half of the 20th century with new schools in both Glinton and Peterborough, particularly for the older students, meant that in 1956 the schools were closed and combined (*ibid*). A new school, Castor Church of England Primary School was opened in the same year as additional land was made available from the church and the current school teaches children from reception to the age of 11, after which they must leave Castor to continue their education.¹⁸

A congregational chapel was built in Castor near to The Green in 1848 under the Home Missionary Station at Nassington. By the late 1850's the chapel was under the Westgate Congregational Church in Peterborough that was then later transferred to the guardianship of the Trinity Congregational Church in 1861. The chapel never did have a minister that lived in Castor and its congregation remained small until its closure in 1975 (Henderson and O'Boyle 2004).

6.2 Archaeological Background

The archaeological record is rich for the parish of Castor and the surrounding landscape and in particular from the Roman period onwards and there are a range of both finds and monuments recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Castor. The following sections are summaries of the HER results that have been identified on the Heritage Gateway website, using an administrative location search for Castor parish, through both Historic England PastScape and The Excavation Index¹⁹.

6.2.1 Prehistoric

The location of Castor, along a ridge of higher ground overlooking the River Nene to the south would have been an attractive and prosperous place to occupy during prehistory with an abundance of natural resources, fresh water and woodland on the higher clay lands.

The earliest of finds recorded on the HER date as Neolithic (4,000-2,200 BC) and include two spot finds of a Neolithic axe that was found from within the settlement (Mon.

¹⁷ http://www.turnpikes.org.uk/English_turnpike_table.htm (Accessed November 2017)

¹⁸ <http://www.castorschool.com/page/?title=Home&pid=1> (Accessed November 2017)

¹⁹ https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx (Accessed November 2017)

No.364351) and an Early Neolithic bowl that was dredged up from the River Nene (Mon. No.364329).

A small amount of material has been found in the parish to date to the Bronze Age (2,200-700 BC) and consist of a Bronze Age cinerary urn (Mon. No.364292), a Bronze Age socketed axe (Mon. No.364345) and a bronze spearhead (Mon. No.364397). An alleged Bronze Age settlement site has also been noted within a bend of the river to the south of Loves Lane (Mon. No.364493), as has a probable Bronze Age ring ditch in the far north of the parish, both of which were identified from aerial photographs (Mon. No.1613438).

Iron Age (700 BC-AD 43) finds on the HER consist of a silver coil (Mon. No.364300), brooches (Mon. No.364400) and a dense scatter of Iron Age pottery (Mon. No.364494) that is perhaps evidence for a settlement area. Additional Iron Age or later prehistoric monuments have also been recorded; a possible Iron Age square barrow was excavated in 1828 and found to contain an Iron Age Hallstatt brooch and fibulae with a 7th century BC bracelet. The precise location of the barrow is unknown as it was severely disturbed by work on the railway line. The cropmarks of two small enclosures have also been identified in the parish and are thought to be Iron Age in date (Mon. No.1073366).

A surface collection of lithics has just been dated as later prehistoric that was noted with some ditches that were sited at right angles to the river, but these remain undated (Mon. No.364490). A probable later prehistoric double ditched trackway was also identified from aerial photographs (Mon. No.1586917) extending east-west for c.250m.

Additional crop mark sites have also been noted through the parish at various locations and have an assumed date of either prehistoric or Romano-British assigned to them. These include a rectilinear enclosure with a southern entrance (Mon. No.1576217), an irregular shaped enclosure with an eastern entrance and a number of internal pits (Mon. No.1586903), and a curvilinear ditched enclosure (Mon. No.1586094). The latter two of these features were also sited within Normangate field just north of the River Nene that has been identified as a centre of occupation and industry in the Roman period that was associated with the Roman town of *Durobrivae* to the south of the river. In Milton Park the cropmarks of a prehistoric or Roman rectilinear enclosure with possible internal divisions and a southeast facing entrance were discovered on aerial photographs with also some linear features possibly associated with them (Mon. No. 'Milton Park').

An Iron Age or roman settlement has also been seen via aerial photographs as cropmarks (Mon. No.1593647) that consisted of two rectilinear enclosures and a round house as well a possible hut circle or round barrow site (Mon. No.1073367) and an Iron Age or Roman square enclosure (Mon. No.1613611).

6.2.2 *Romano-British*

Romano-British (AD 43-410) activity in and around Castor is extensive. The Roman town of *Durobrivae* was sited along the southern bank of the River Nene and controlled the river crossing. The major north-south Roman Road Ermine Street that connected London and York travelled through the town and it was met by King Street that connected to Bourn on the north of the River; both of which were also sited to the west of Castor. There may also have been a link with the Fen Causeway that extended across the wetlands to the east (Nash et al 2004). The map below illustrates how prevalent the Roman archaeology is in the landscape around Castor (figure 6).

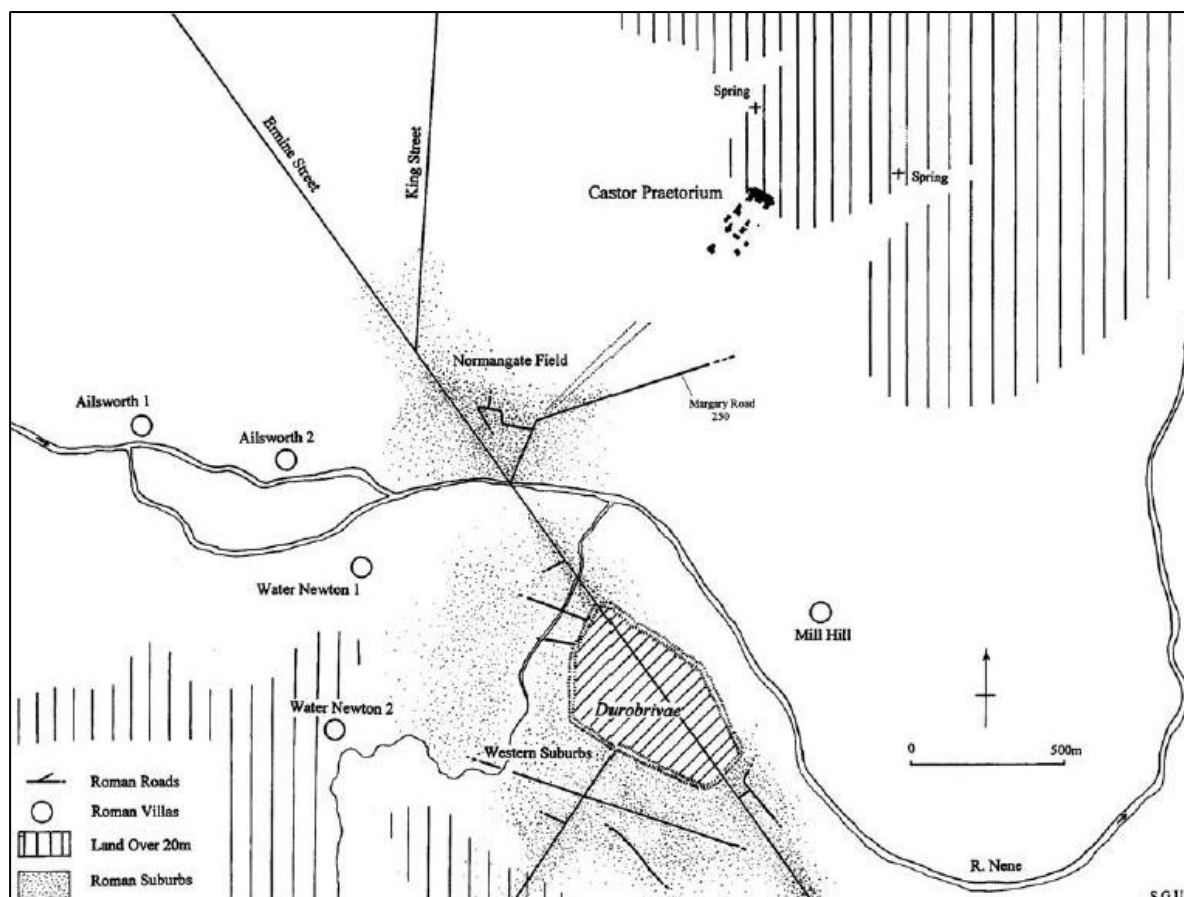


Figure 6: The landscape and Roman archaeology around Castor (© Upex et al 2011)

Excavations of the town of *Durobrivae* are well documented elsewhere so will not be discussed in detail here (for example: Hawkes 1939, Browne 1977, Mackreth 1980, 1984 and 1995, Fincham 2004, Nash et al 2004, Malim 2005, Upex *et al* 2011 and Smith *et al* 2016). The town developed alongside a 1st century AD fort that controlled the crossing of the River Nene and because the town has never been built upon its preservation is excellent. It has been suggested that *Durobrivae* could have been a regional capital and market centre, particularly given its wealth. A lot of archaeological survey and excavation work has taken place in and around *Durobrivae* as well as through its 'suburbs'. The scale of the industrial work that surrounded the town was immense; Normangate Field in the south of the parish was one of these areas of industry, where pottery had one of the largest manufacturing outputs, with its distribution evident across Roman Britain as well as to the continent (Perrin and Webster 1990, Wild and Dannell 2015). This pottery was originally known to archaeologists as Castor Ware, but its more common name today is Nene Valley colour-coated wares.²⁰ Evidence of large areas of metal working have also been identified, with workshops also for perhaps leather working, blacksmiths and other activities, all of which would have been heavily reliant of the river that would have been essential in transporting fuel for the numerous kilns, ovens and furnaces that have been excavated as well as for trade (Nash et al 2004). Some of these workshops developed haphazardly alongside Ermine Street, whilst other areas seem to have a more definite layout to suggest a certain degree of management and organisation to the 'suburbs'.

A number of Roman villas are also present in this landscape and it has been argued that the control of the industrial areas and land for resources would have been very lucrative that aided the development of a villa based economy (Upex *et al* 2011). A palatial villa at Castor was first excavated by Edmund Artis in the early 19th century and he coined the

²⁰ <http://potsherd.net/atlas/Ware/NVCC.html> (Accessed November 2017)

term of *Praetorium* for it because of its grandeur (Mon. No.364436) and although the building there is still not fully understood it is believed to have covered an area of 3.77 hectares and would have been a symbol of the huge wealth available to those in the top of society (Smith et al 2016). What is known about the *Praetorium* is that it would have been built on two distinct levels and the differences in height between the top and bottom levels of the structure would have been obvious, with a difference of 13.7m recorded (Upex et al 2011). It would have been highly visible within the landscape from its construction during the 3rd century AD, to be seen from the town of *Durobrivae*, a good stretch of both Ermine and King Street as well as from along a section of the River Nene and for this display of wealth and opulence it has generally been agreed that this was more than the average villa site, the owners benefiting from the range of agricultural and industrial productions around the Nene valley. It has been suggested that it may also have been more than just a villa site given its size and grandeur, so perhaps it was constructed for a government official, or a high ranking person involved with the administration of the area. There has also been speculation as to whether it was made for high ranking military personal or it was associated with the guild of salesmen in charge of the various manufacturing and produce areas around *Durobrivae* (*Ibid*). The most likely suggestion with more recent work suggests that the *Praetorium* at Castor was a large administrative complex that took over from Stonea in the fens during the later 3rd century AD (Malim 2005, Smith et al 2016).

The extent of the known range of buildings can be seen in figure 7 below. Excavations through the 20th century include work by Charles and Ida Green in the 1950's that were undertaken at a number of separate sites around Castor; between the Rectory and former Green Lane (though no archaeology was found here); along the western side of Stocks Hill which revealed Romano-British building remains and to the south of the church at the foot of Church Hill which recorded a Roman building, possibly a bath house with later Saxon and medieval remains (Green et al 1986-7)

An excavation at Elmlea house in Castor was undertaken in the early 1980's to help clarify the extent of the Roman Palace found by Artis that also found later Anglo Saxon remains (Youngs et al 1983). During an excavation at 29 Stocks Hill in the early 1970's, a large amount of Roman building material was recorded, again with later Anglo Saxon and medieval disturbances, although no Roman structural remains were excavated.

In 2010 Channel 4's Time Team opened trenches around St Kyneburgha's church to try and determine the layout of the *Praetorium*. The results from the excavation found that Romano-British building remains do still exist under the churchyard but within the confines of the trenches, it was not determined in these buildings were all part of the same structure or separate additions around the *Praetorium* (Wessex Archaeology 2011). A test pit was excavated prior to an extension to the Cedar Centre at St Kyneburgha's church from within which was found a Roman floor surface that has been tentatively suggested to be part of the *Praetorium*. Later medieval and post medieval build-up of soil was also noted with the presence of fragmentary human remains (Standing 2007).

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken at Castor Primary school; during an evaluation in 2000 followed a resistivity survey (Noel 2000) and uncovered building remains of the 'palace' that were robbed out during the medieval period (Hatton and Spoerry 2000). A second evaluation in 2010 found a great deal of disturbance from the original construction of the school, but some sherds of Roman pottery were found mixed through the layers that were found with an undated ditch (Thatcher 2010). Further Roman building remains were uncovered by Hatton (20010 and watching briefs also undertaken at the school have yielded additional Roman material



with some later finds mixed through the deposits (Clements 2004, Parker 2005, Carlsson 2016).

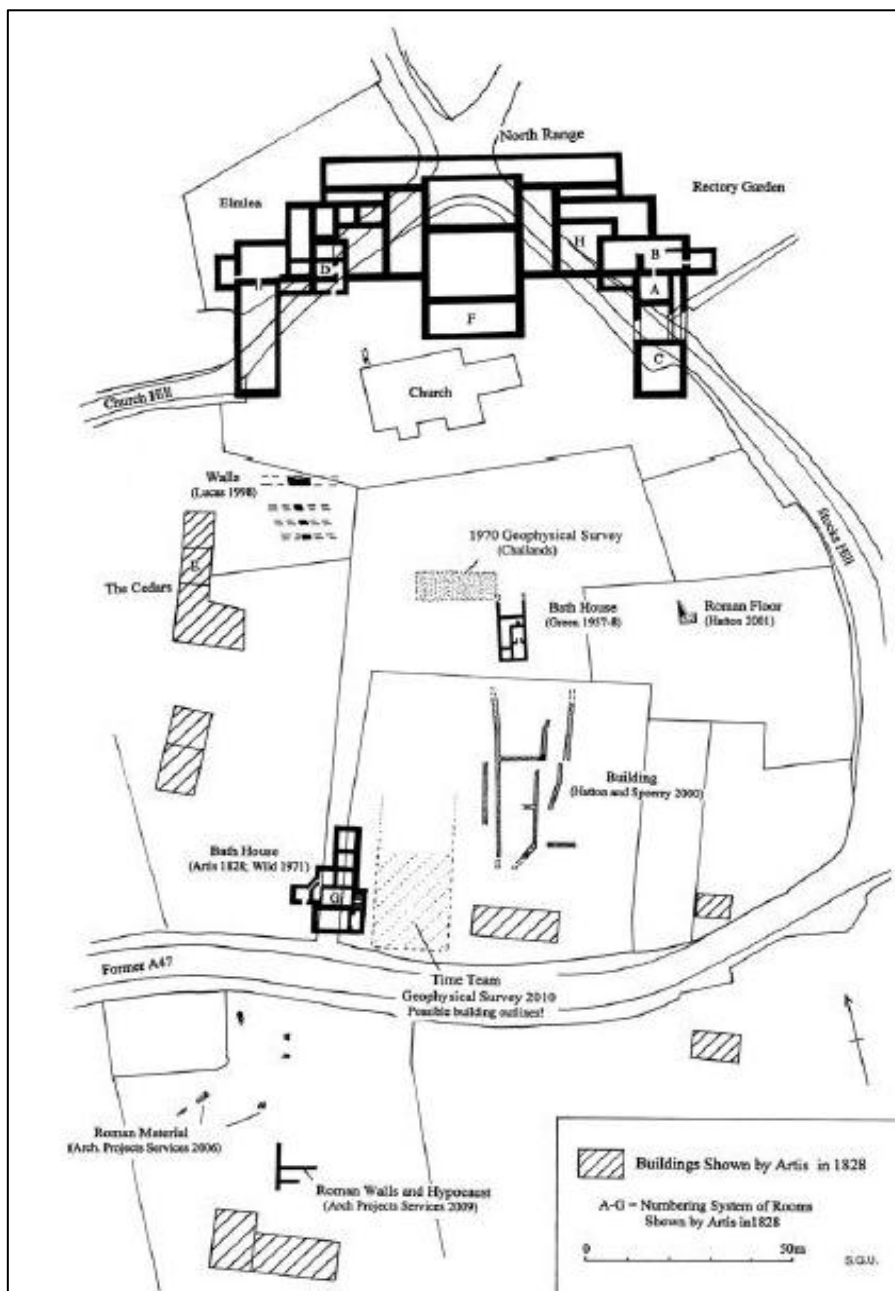


Figure 7: The layout of the Roman Praetorium and other buildings at Castor (© Upex et al 2011)

Other excavations in Castor have yielded additional Romano-British material; a watching brief undertaken at Castor Barns to the south of Peterborough Road found Roman structural remains that may have been part of the palatial complex originally identified by Artis (1828) and was accompanied by a well, ditches and three pits also of Roman date (Cope-Faulkner 2009a). An evaluation on the same site following on from the watching brief identified further Roman structural remains at the barns in the form of walls, a surface, post holes, pits (likely for quarrying) and dumped deposits with Roman plaster, pottery and tile. Additional medieval and post medieval finds were also recorded; see below (Cope-Faulkner 2010b).

An HER record that only mentions that excavations had been undertaken in Castor in 1902-3, but not exactly where, states that the site may have been a villa or a temple, so there is a possibility this may have been related to the work Artis did previously. The finds recorded here however consisted of 350 coins, pottery, tesserae, glass, beads, bronze pins, rings, a buckle and two knives (Mon. No.364477).

A number of Roman spot finds have also been found through the village that have already been recorded on the HER, to include a number of pottery sherds (Mon. No.350380), a bronze sistrum (Mon. No.364487) that would have been utilised to ward off evil spirits, and the remains of building material and further pottery to indicate occupation (Mon. No.350388). Additional structural remains and occupational evidence include the site of a Roman villa with pottery kiln (Mon. No. 364439), the site of a Roman villa with bath house (Mon. No.364463), the sites of Roman houses (Mon. No. 364465), the site of a Roman building and possible kiln (Mon. No. 364478) and an alleged Roman settlement (Mon. No.364479), the location of which has now been lost. The HER does not go into a great amount of detail for these entries so it is unknown how many of these entries are related or contemporary, but the finds do suggest that these were not just humble dwellings. Sections of some of the Roman walls, although to what structures they belonged to are still uncertain, are still visible around the village of Castor today and have been incorporated into various garden and boundary walls.

During dredging of the river in the 1930's a large amount of Roman pottery was collected as well as a bronze figure of Minerva (the Roman goddess of wisdom, medicine, the arts, poetry and handicrafts and later the goddess of war²¹), a bronze pin and a Roman coin (Mon. No.364403).

Areas of cropmarks have again been noted in the parish to include three ring ditches, a settlement area and track, enclosures, three pit alignments and linear ditches (Mon. No.364369) that lead to a probable wharf site by the river. Other cropmarks have suggested further enclosures and ditches (Mon. No.364409) as well as the variety of cropmarks that were discussed in section 6.2.1 to be of either prehistoric or Roman in date.

6.2.3 Anglo-Saxon

The known Anglo Saxon (AD 410-1065) occupation in Castor is mainly focused on the religious centre that was set up during the 7th century and centred on the Roman *Praetorium*. This was known as *Dormundcastre* and it was listed as having a known minster during this time and the finds of other Anglo Saxon occupational evidence suggests that a small settlement may have been present around the focus of the church (Mon. No. 'Dormundcastre'). The current church has Anglo Saxon remains in it, such as a small Saxon sculpture in the chancel and the base of a Saxon cross in the north aisle that would have been salvaged from the ruins of the Anglo Saxon minster (Mon. No. 'Church of St Kyneburgha').

Additional evidence for Anglo Saxon occupation has been found in the form of a hut that was found with sherds of Ipswich Ware pottery and so likely dates to between AD 649-870 (Mon. No. 364314), but the HER record does not specify where this was recorded. It is possible that it refers to the work undertaken during the 1950's by Mr and Mrs Green, who while investigating the Roman *Praetorium* in Castor came across evidence for re-occupation of the site during the 8th century. To the south of the churchyard and at the house Elmlea (excavated during the 1970's) was found two sunken-featured buildings

²¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Minerva-Roman-goddess> (Accessed November 2017)

and numerous pits of a Middle Saxon date (AD 700-849), but it is not known if these are related to the nunnery of St Kyneburgha, although the abundance of female Saxon objects found from within the pit do suggest a strong female presence in the area (Green *et al* 1986-7). No Late Anglo Saxon (AD 850-1065) pottery was found from around the church but residual sherds had been recorded elsewhere in the village, suggesting a possible shift in the focus of settlement at this time, perhaps related to the Viking raids that were said to have destroyed the nunnery (Webster and Cherry 1972). An excavation to the north of the churchyard yielded further Middle Anglo Saxon occupation with the excavation of several phases of a timber building, a hut and latrine pit that was subsequently utilised for rubbish. Again it was also noted that no Later Anglo Saxon finds were recorded (Webster and Cherry 1974).

A field survey and cropmarks on aerial photographs have also identified the potential remains of Anglo Saxon settlement, but the HER records do not indicate the location of this within the parish (Mon. No. 364495 and 364500).

Manor Farm in the west of the village is thought to potentially be the site of one of the medieval manors in Castor that belonged to the church. The medieval building here is believed to have incorporated Anglo Saxon stonework into its construction that may have derived from on site, or perhaps from the church after it was heavily damaged by repeated raids from the continent (Mon. No. 'Manor Farm').

A few isolated spot finds have also been recorded on the HER to include a Saxon-Norse coin hoard (Mon. No. 364299), a DA coin (Mon. No. 364307) and a Saxon coin (Mon. No. 364388), although again the locations of both of these remain undisclosed. A bronze Viking pin was also found during the Second World War (Mon. No. 364348) that dated to the 9th century and supports the documentary evidence that Castor was raided and partially destroyed during these attacks. Two Anglo Saxon cross heads were found from within Milton Park that does have its origins during the Saxon period with settlement there. The cross heads likely date from between AD 650-1065 (Mon. No. 'Milton Park').

6.2.4 *Medieval*

There is much in the way of historical evidence for the medieval period (AD 1066-1539) in Castor and the present church of St Kyneburgha has its origins in the 12th century (Mon. No. 'Dormundcastre', 'St Kyneburgha's Church', 'The Church of St Kyneburgha'). The use of medieval stonework has also been identified at Manor Farm, one of the possible locations for the medieval manor site (Mon. No. 'Manor Farm') and another site of a medieval building has been recorded on the HER with Roman pottery and a Saxon coin but its location was not disclosed (Mon. No. 364388). The other possible location for the church manor was to the south of Peterborough Road at a possible moated site (Mon. No. 364391) that is believed to have contained a building. However, as the site has also been used for osier beds, this may be what the earthworks are showing and so a medieval or post medieval date has been assigned to these features. Another moated site was supposedly under the location of the current leisure centre (Mon. No. 364394), and again is not known if it is medieval or post medieval in date.

The base of a small wayside cross is known from its current location on The Green, but would have originally been sited elsewhere on the medieval streets of Castor during the 12th century (Mon. No. 364311). The remains of a second wayside cross, also not in its original position, has a date that is thought to be either medieval or post medieval (Mon. No. 364323). Medieval boundary markers have been identified to the east of the village that were erected to mark 'a privileged passage of stone for Bury St Edmunds Abbey

over Gunwade Ferry'. Similar standing stones are also recognised from Ailsworth parish (Mon. No.364326).

Two medieval buildings were recorded along the High Street to the north of the church, in a field named 'Potters Oven' that were found to be 11th century in date. These were sited on the high ground overlooking the village and appeared to be 'quite humble dwellings that developed into a higher status house' (Mon. No. 364492).

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 8 High Street, Castor from which evidence for medieval agricultural processing was recorded within three ditches in the form of cereal processing waste dating from the 12th-13th century. A natural hollow and later medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded on site with a single sherd of Roman pottery as well as residual sherds of post medieval pottery (Cope-Faulkner 2008).

An 11th century ditch was recorded 10 Peterborough Road during an archaeological evaluation that also appears on 19th century maps of the area. A scattering of prehistoric and 19th century and later finds were also found through the sub soil with evidence for agriculture (Cope-Faulkner 2009b). During an archaeological evaluation at Castor Barns, with a large amount of Roman structural remains (see above) was also found a single medieval post hole with a sherd of medieval roof tile, suggestive of a building in the vicinity of site (Cope-Faulkner 2010b). At 35 Peterborough Road, an evaluation found the remains of medieval pits and a ditch that were likely utilised for quarrying or rubbish and the ditch was probably utilised as a boundary marker (Prentice 2016).

The believed presence of a Roman Road had previously been recorded through Milton Park and Loves Lane to connect to *Durobrivae* in the south, but more recent assessment believes that these linear features are actually medieval in date, part of a plough headland (Mon. No. 1044932). Another road site thought to link to the Roman wharf site to the west of Mill Lane are additional linear earthworks that again are now believed to be part of a medieval plough headland (Mon. No. 1044935).

As mentioned briefly in section 6.1 above, there was assumed medieval settlement around Belsize Farm in the north of the parish which has been identified through surviving earthworks and a moated site (Mon. No. 350351) and was likely deserted during the later medieval period.

6.2.5 *Post medieval and later*

A lot of the village as it can be seen today, likely had its origins during the early post medieval period (AD 1540-1799) and the majority of the listed buildings in the parish today were built during this period. Gunwade Ferry Bridge is a crossing over the River Nene that was constructed in 1716 and paid for by the lord of the manor, the Earl Fitzwilliam (Mon. No. 'Ferry Bridge' and 'Gunwade Ferry'). It reportedly replaced a medieval ferry on the same site; the crossing of which was to the east of Castor and south of Milton Park. Also at Milton Park are the remains of a deserted settlement that had its origins during the medieval period but was deserted in c.1720 when improvements were carried out to the house and grounds (Mon. No. 'Milton'), although today there are little identifiable earthworks to determine the exact location of this settlement. This is likely due to extensive landscaping during the post medieval period, which by the 17th century had included formal gardens and a park. The present gardens and pleasure grounds are of 19th century origin (Mon. No. 'Milton Park').

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to extension work at Vine House on Church Hill and from which was found the remains of 17th century landscaping of the grounds, contemporary with house itself, although residual Romano-British, Anglo Saxon and medieval pottery were also recorded through the soil matrix (Hall 2006). During a Watching Brief at Castor Barns, a lot of the results date as Roman (discussed above); but there were also a few sherds of medieval pottery, possibly from the use of the site as fields prior to the construction of the barn. A large amount of activity on site relates to its former use as a farmyard, with two stone barns and a cobbled surface (Cope-Faulkner 2009a). An evaluation was subsequently undertaken at Castor Barns which found extensive post medieval remains of a sizable farmyard area with associated outbuildings (Cope-Faulkner 2010b).

Additional post medieval structural remains were also recorded during archaeological monitoring at 26 Peterborough Road which found a limestone wall, likely contemporary with the remaining building and of 18th century date. Residual finds of Roman roof tile and medieval pottery were also found through the soil matrix (Cope-Faulkner 2010a). An archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 12 Church Hill found 19th century and later remains of rubbish pits and use of the land as a garden. A few residual sherds of medieval and post medieval pottery were also recorded (Trimble 2015).

Modern features are rare in the parish, for example there are no recorded sites or buildings that date from either the First or Second World War. There is a monitoring post however that dates from the 1960's and belongs to the Royal Observer Corps who used this site as part of a much larger network to confirm and report hostile aircraft and nuclear attacks on the UK (Mon. No. 1412400). This was located to the north of the new A47 bypass to the west of Milton Park.

6.2.6 *Undated*

Undated features are limited on the HER for Castor, but are present mainly in the form of cropmarks. These include the site of multiple enclosures in the north of the parish that were identified from aerial photographs (Mon. No. 350387 and 1073354), and a ring ditch that was recorded to the north of the new A47 bypass around the north of Castor (Mon. No. 364412). To the south of the village, and just to the west of Mill Lane, oval enclosures with two ring ditches to the north of them have been identified (Mon. No. 364485), and also close to the river are some ditches that were seen at right angles to the Nene; these may all be of prehistoric date but without excavation that will remain unknown.

7 Results of the test pit excavations in Castor

The approximate locations of the 23 test pits excavated between April 2009 and July 2011 can be seen figure 8 below. Yearly this figure breaks down to five pits excavated in 2009, 10 in 2010 and eight pits excavated in 2011. The data from each test pit is discussed in this section and set out in numerical order and by year. Most excavation was 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 Castor and the potential of the buried heritage resource of the village is presented in the following Discussion section (Section 8). Finds from each test pit are discussed in summary in this section, and listed in detail in the relevant appendices (Section 12). Photographs of sites under excavation and of all finds are included in the archive, but not included in this report for reasons of space.

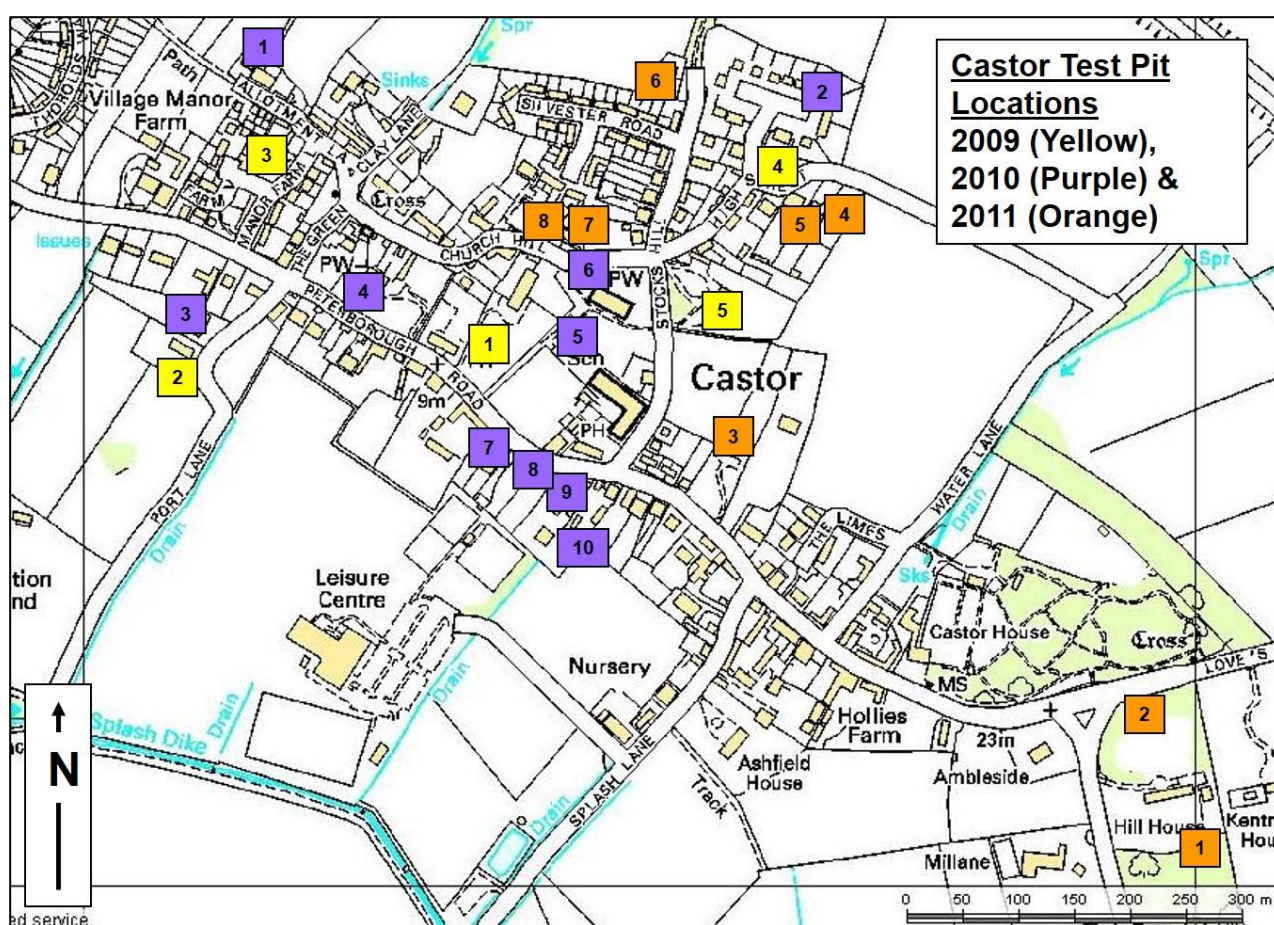


Figure 8: The locations of the three years of test pitting in Castor (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000

7.1 The 2009 excavations

The 2009 excavations in Castor took place over the 30th April and the 1st May by 18 HEFA participants from Jack Hunt School, The Voyager School, Ken Stimpson Community School and Sir Harry Smith Community College (school names correct at the time of participation) who excavated 11 test pits. The test pits were scattered around the village where residents in Castor offered their gardens.



Figure 9: Location map of the Castor test pits from 2009 (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 2,500

Test Pit one (CTR/09/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the large open front garden of a Grade II listed early 18th century detached house set immediately west of the church. The test pit was sited just down a small slope, quite central in the garden (The Cedars, Peterborough Road, Castor. TL 512380 298485).

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.66m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints and the presence of building remains, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A range of Roman pottery types were excavated from CTR/09/1, including Roman Greyware, Castor Ware and other miscellaneous Roman pottery types that were generally mixed through the lower half of the test pit. The majority of the pottery however dates to the late Saxon period with a number of Stamford Ware sherds excavated through the test pit and identified with two sherds of Medieval Shelly Ware.

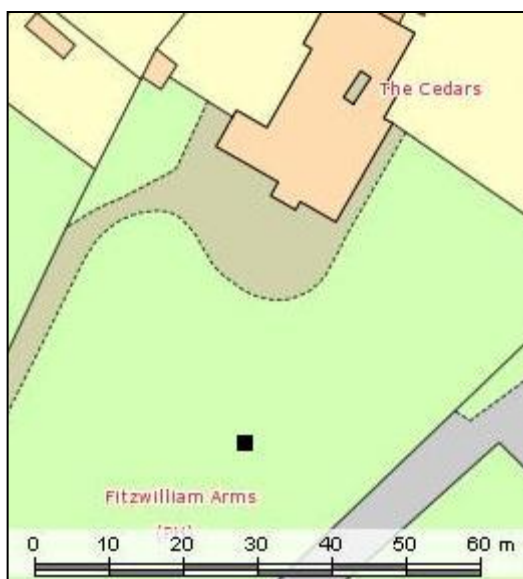


Figure 10: Location map of CTR/09/1

TP	Context	RBG		RBM		RBC		ST		MS		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			1	16			3	17			900-1100
1	2							4	13			900-1100
1	3							1	2	2	10	900-1200
1	4	1	4	1	7			1	2			900-1100
1	5			1	6	1	9					100-400
1	6	1	11					2	14			100-1100

Table 1: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/1

The end of a Roman wall (below) was identified in CTR/09/1 with large amounts of mortar, painted plaster, ceramic building material (CBM) and tile with four fragments of box-flue tiles that suggests that this was part of a large Roman building that also had an under-floor heating system. Excavations were undertaken in the late 1950's just outside the property boundary in the church and school grounds where extensive ruins from a large Roman building, supposedly a palace, were excavated. It seems likely that the wall in CTR/09/1 was related to this building as part of a large complex of Roman occupation around the church in Castor. The subsequent late Saxon and medieval pottery identified in test pit one suggests the site was still in use at that time, most probably due to its proximity to the church. The rest of the finds consist of concrete, oyster shell, part of a metal buckle and small sand stone cubes, possibly used as tessera. Three pieces of slag were also excavated that suggests metal working on or near site. Apart from the concrete excavated there seems to be very little disturbance in this part of the garden as the house was built to the north, closer to the church.



Figure 11: The Roman wall identified in CTR/09/1 (© ACA)



Figure 12: Fragment of painted Roman plaster excavated from CTR/09/1 (© ACA)

Test Pit two (CTR/09/2)

Test pit two was excavated in a small grassed area between a grass field to the south and a stable block to the north and set back from the main road in the south of the village (4 Port Lane, Castor. TL 512092 298456).

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.53m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

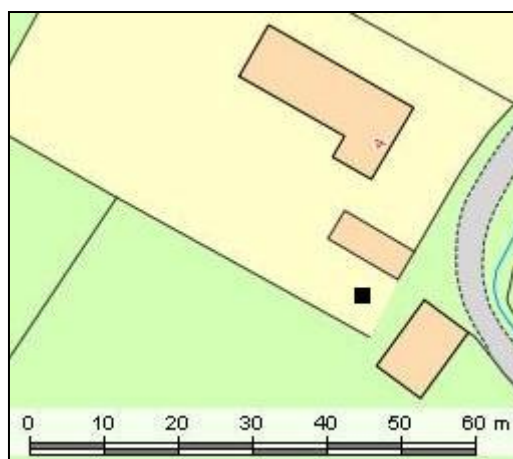


Figure 13: Location map of CTR/09/2

The vast majority of the pottery identified from CTR/09/2 dates to the medieval period and was found from every context of the test pit. These include Oxford Ware, Early Medieval Sandy Ware, Medieval Shelly Ware, Brill/Boarstall ware and Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware. Earlier sherds of both Roman Greyware and Stamford Ware were also identified in the lower and upper halves of the test pit respectively.

T P	Context	RBG		ST		OW		EMW		MS		BB		LB		Date Range
		N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	W t	
2	2									5	8			3	19	1225-1350
2	3			2	4					2	6			1	15	900-1350
2	4							1	1	6	60	1	34			1200-1225
2	5	1	5			1	19			11	49					100-1200
2	6									2	17					1100-1200

Table 2: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/2

A few loose rectangular stones (below) were identified in the base of the test pit, lined along one edge as if to be part of a wall for a small structure or part of a boundary. The large amount of medieval pottery also excavated from CTR/09/2 suggests quite intense occupation on site until the middle of the 14th century, when the area was likely hit by the Black Death. Possible medieval ridge and furrow can still be seen today in the field immediately to the south of test pit two and the area was likely farmed in the Roman and later Saxon periods given the small amount of earlier pottery also identified. The lack of post medieval and later occupational evidence for site may indicate a lack of development south of the main road through the village until more recent expansion into the 20th century. The small amount of finds recovered consist of CBM, glass, coal, snail shells, animal bone, iron nails, mortar, tile and slag may represent manuring or later disturbance when the stables were built. A possible waste flint flake was also excavated that may suggest later prehistoric activity on site, although analysis of the lithics would be needed to confirm this.



Figure 14: The line of stones noted in the edge of CTR/09/2 (© ACA)

Test Pit three (CTR/09/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the enclosed front garden of a Grade II listed 17th century house in the west of the village (Manor Farm House, Manor Farm Lane, Castor. TL 512161 298653).

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.76m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery report from CTR/09/3 can be found below. A wide range of pottery types were identified from test pit three, dating from the Roman period to the 19th century. Single sherds were mainly identified of the earliest pottery types and consisting of

Roman Greyware, Early/Middle Saxon hand-built wares, Stamford Ware, Medieval Shelly Ware and Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware. A few more sherds of the later pottery types were also recovered, which include Bourne 'D' Ware, Late Medieval Oxidised Ware, Cistercian Ware, German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware, Staffordshire Slipware, Staffordshire Manganese Ware and Creamware.

The small amount of Roman pottery excavated from CTR/09/3 may suggest, like CTR/09/2 that the area to the west of the church appears to have minimal activity in the Roman period and may well have been outlying fields at that time. The early/middle Saxon pottery also excavated from the test pit actually is the first of this date to be identified in Castor through the test pitting strategy and suggests a spread of early Saxon activity away from the church to the west, compared to more extensive later Saxon occupation. All the pottery recovered suggests continual occupation on site from the late Saxon through to the present day and there also seems to be quite a bit of disturbance with a number of tile and CBM fragments excavated with coal, mortar, iron nails, glass, a metal button, concrete, oyster shell, lots of animal bone, clay pipe and a clear glass marble.

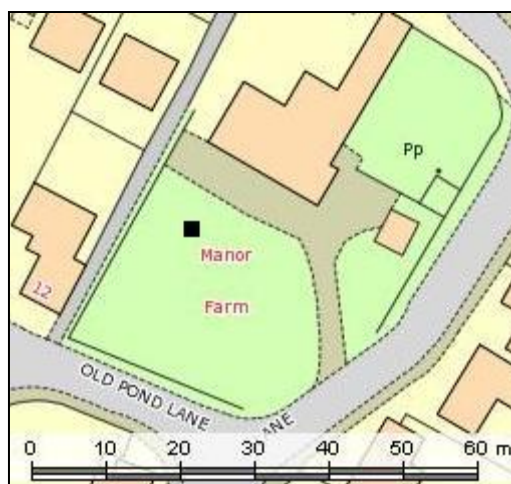


Figure 15: Location map of CTR/09/3

TP	Context	RBG		EMS		ST		MS		LB		BD		LMOx		CW		GS		GRE		DW		SS		SMW		CR		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	2																											1	3	1750-1800
3	3																											1	2	1750-1800
3	4											4	39			4	42			1	1	1	3			1	6	1	8	1470-1800
3	5	1	14	1	5	1	1	2	4	1	5	2	27					5	36	1	3			2	14					100-1700
3	6																	1	5											1500-1550
3	7													2	20	1	7													1450-1550

Table 3: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/3



Test Pit four (CTR/09/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the centre of an enclosed rear garden of a modern house set in the north west of the village (15 High Street, Castor. TL 512629 298643).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

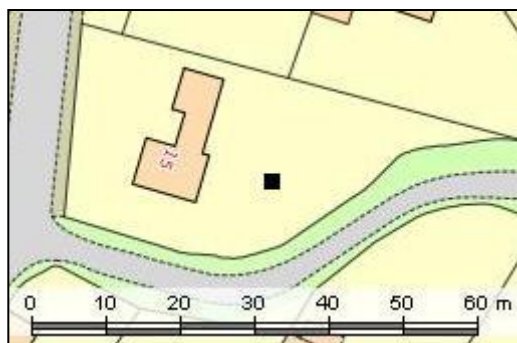


Figure 16: Location map of CTR/09/4

The earlier pottery types from CTR/09/4 were generally recovered from the lower half of the test pit, the majority of which date to the late Saxon period. These include both St Neots Ware and Stamford Ware with three sherds of Medieval Shelly Ware. A small number of Staffordshire Manganese Ware and Victorian pottery were identified from the upper three contexts of the test pit.

TP	Context	SN		ST		MS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1							1	2	2	3	1680-1900
4	2			1	2					7	9	900-1900
4	3							1	2	5	12	1680-1900
4	4			1	1							900-1100
4	5			2	6							900-1100
4	20	1	1	16	54							900-1100
4	22			1	3	3	11					900-1200

Table 4: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/4

A likely surface was identified at CTR/09/4, comprised of large stones and smaller pebbles compacted with limestone and mortar and the pottery excavated with it suggests a date of the late Saxon or high medieval. No evidence for a building was found so it is unknown if this floor was internal to a structure or external, further work would be needed here to determine this. Again from the pottery there appears to have been occupation on site between the 10th and 12th centuries, after which the land likely stayed as open fields until the current house was built in the late 20th century. A mix of finds were also excavated from test pit four and consist of CBM, slate, mortar, coal, animal bone, iron nails, glass and asbestos mixed through the upper half of the pit with also snail shells, animal bone and a possible flint flake recovered, the latter possibly indicating later prehistoric activity on site.



Figure 17: The floor surface identified in CTR/09/4 (© ACA)

Test Pit five (CTR/09/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the large enclosed rear garden of the Rectory, a Grade II listed late 17th/early 18th century house set opposite the church to the north east (The Old Rectory, Stocks Hill, Castor. TL 512594 298514).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery table for CTR/09/5 can be seen below. A wide range of pottery types were identified from the test pit, all of which date to the post medieval period and later. The

pottery was generally excavated from the lower half of the pit, with the Victorian pottery found from the upper two contexts. The pottery identified consists of Bourne 'D' Ware, Midland Purple Ware, Cistercian Ware, German Stoneware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware, Metropolitan Slipware, Staffordshire Slipware, Staffordshire Manganese Ware, Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware, and Creamware.

Despite the location of CTR/09/5 opposite the church to the east and the remains of a Roman wall incorporated into the boundary wall along Stocks Hill, there is no evidence for occupation on site until the 15th century, potentially coinciding with the construction of the house at that time. According to the pottery, the most intense period of occupation on site was between 1650 and 1720 that was most probably when this area of the garden was utilised as a midden site to dispose of all the domestic rubbish. A large amount of finds was also recovered that were also mixed through the test pit and consist of clay pipe, coal, plastic, concrete, tile and CBM, iron nails, glass, lots of animal bone, oyster and snail shells and sand stone tile fragments.

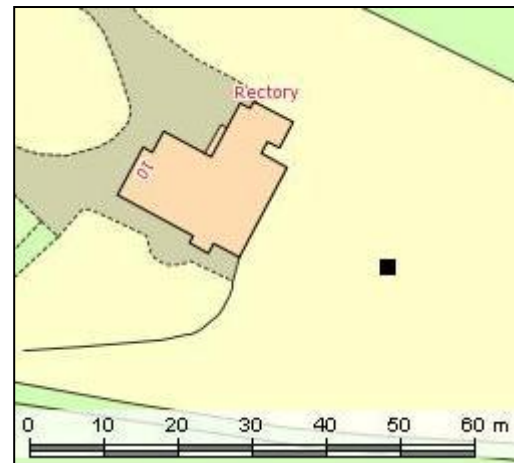


Figure 18: Location map of CTR/09/5



TP	Context	BD		MP		CW		GS		GRE		DW		MTS		SS		SMW		ES		SWSG		CR		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1																2	9			1	4			2	8	1680-1900	
5	2																								2	13	1800-1900	
5	3			1	4			1	3	2	14	1	2	1	4	5	21	5	20	1	6	4	7	1	4		1450-1800	
5	4									8	64					7	70	8	268	1	1	1	2				1550-1750	
5	5	1	15	2	28	1	2			2	15							3	73								1450-1700	
5	6			1	16					1	28																1450-1600	

Table 5: The pottery excavated from CTR/09/5

7.2 The 2010 excavations

The 2010 excavations in Castor were undertaken on the 22nd-23rd of September when 10 1m² archaeological test pits were excavated by 39 HEFA participants from Ormiston Bushfield Academy, Thomas Deacon Academy and Sharnbrook Upper School (school names correct at the time of participation). These 10 test pits brought the total so far excavated in Castor to 15 and were again sited in gardens where the residents of Castor were happy for the pits to be excavated, as well as within the churchyard of St Kyneburgha's.

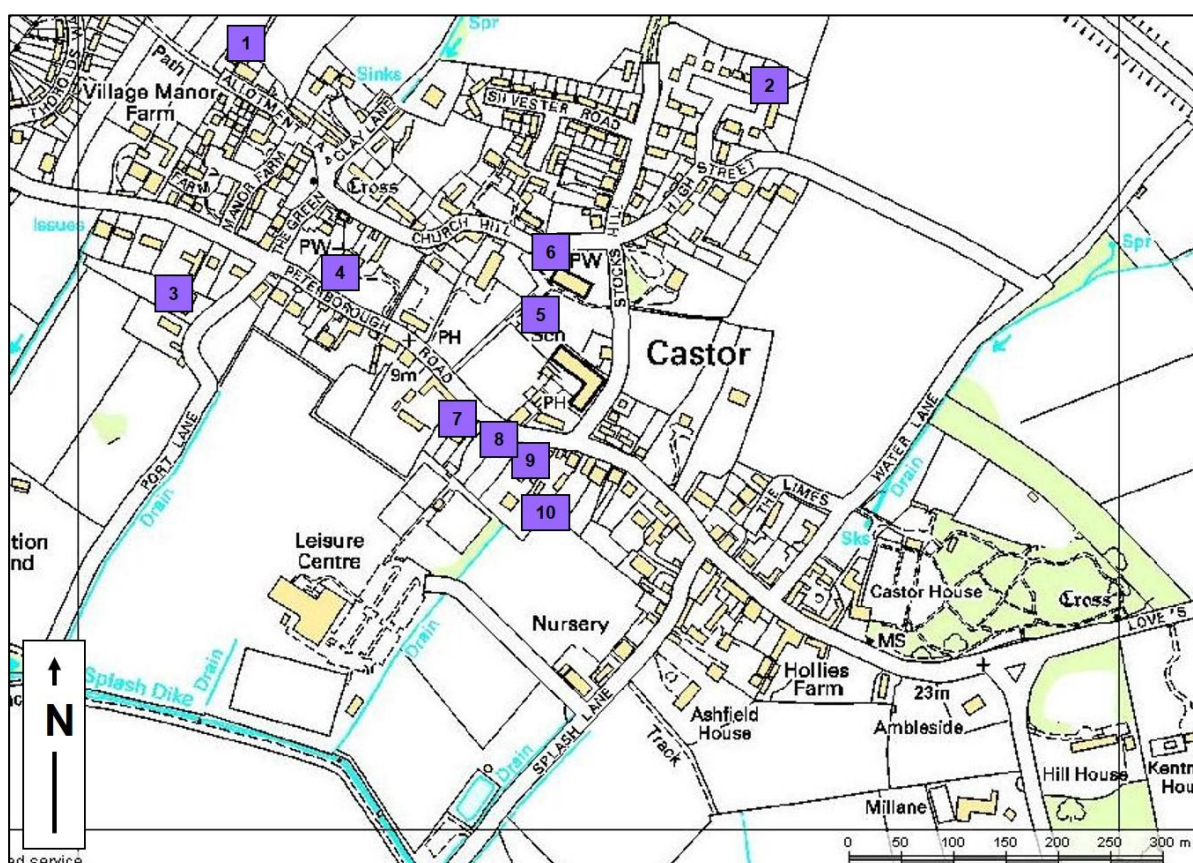


Figure 19: Location map of the Castor test pits from 2010 (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

Test Pit one (CTR/10/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house, set in the far north west of the village (16 Allotment Lane, Castor. TL 527774 303170).

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.4m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from CTR/10/1 dates to the Victorian period, but a single sherd of Staffordshire Manganese Ware was also identified from context four.

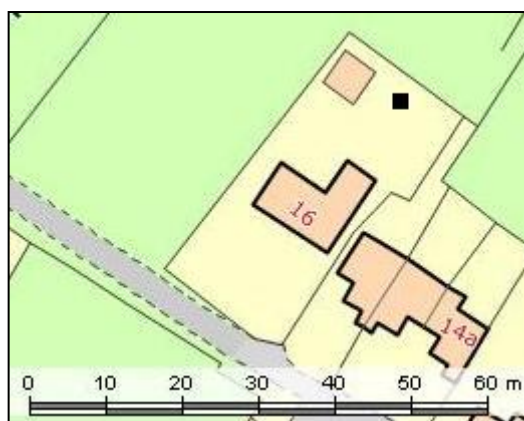


Figure 20: Location map of CTR/10/1

TP	Context	SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			11	47	1800-1900
1	2			2	2	1800-1900
1	4	1	17	3	9	1680-1900

Table 6: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/1

Although no Roman pottery was excavated from CTR/10/1, a fragment of possible Roman box flue tile was however recovered from context one and suggests that the Roman activity in Castor, as identified through test pitting, extends at least up to the north western extent of the current village. Despite the recovery of both Late Saxon and medieval occupation evidence just to the south of test pit one, there is no evidence for activity on site until the 17th century, when it was probably used as fields until the current house was built in the late 20th century. The finds also suggest that there was a lot of recent disturbance on site with asbestos, plastic, iron nails, metal wire, a clothes peg spring, modern CBM, coal, modern nails, animal bone, clay pipe and silver foil mixed through the pit with snail shells, pieces of scrap iron and a turquoise toy metal car.

Test Pit two (CTR/10/2)

Test pit one was excavated in the open front garden of a modern house set in the far north east of the village (8 Samworths Close, Castor. TL 512657 298705).

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

A number of sherds of Late Saxon Stamford Ware were excavated from the lower half of CTR/10/2, whereas Medieval Shelly Ware, Early Medieval Sandy Ware and Ely Ware were all recovered from the upper half of the test pit with four sherds of Victorian pottery.



Figure 21: Location map of CTR/10/2

TP	Context	ST		MS		EMW		EW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	2			4	11	1	2			3	9	1100-1900
2	3	3	4					1	2	1	3	950-1900
2	4	1	2									900-1000
2	5	1	11									900-1000

Table 7: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/2

Evidence for both Late Saxon and medieval occupation has been identified at CTR/10/2 that appears as a cluster of activity north of the church, so far identified through the test pitting strategy. The site was abandoned in the 13th century, potentially due to changes in settlement patterns at that time, as there is no evidence for further activity on site until the 19th century, when there was probably an increase in agricultural work, until the current house was built in the mid-20th century. The majority of the finds that were also excavated from test pit two relate to the construction of the current housing estate when there was also a lot of disturbance evident, through the depth of the pit. The finds consist of coal, animal bone, CBM, modern CBM fragments, modern nails, glass, plastic wrappers, mortar, tile and iron scraps with the top of a metal tube for glue or a similar substance and a possible piece of slag suggesting there was metal working in or close to site. A single possible piece of waste flint was also recovered from context five that may suggest later prehistoric activity was also evident on site.

Test Pit three (CTR/10/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the long enclosed rear garden of a modern house, set back from the main road in the far south west of the village (2 Port Lane, Castor. TL 512035 298528).

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

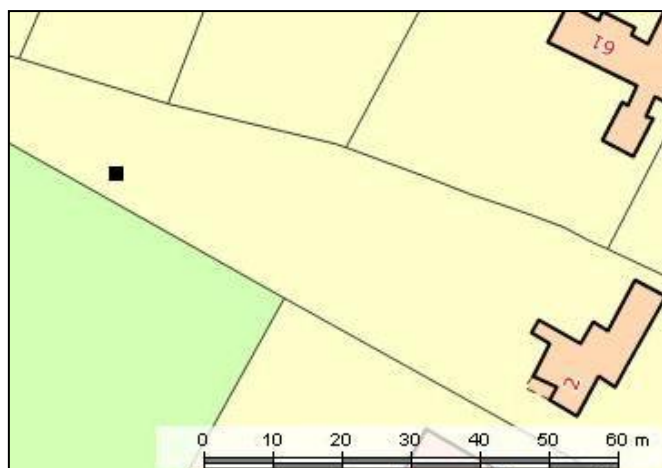


Figure 22: Location map of CTR/10/3

A number of both Late Saxon St Neots Ware and Stamford Ware sherds were identified from CTR/10/3 mixed in with sherds of Medieval Shelly Ware, Early Medieval Sandy Ware and Brill/Boarstall ware. A single sherd of Staffordshire Manganese Ware was also recovered with seven sherds of Victorian pottery.

TP	Context	ST		SN		MS		EMW		BB		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1			1	2									2	11	900-1900
3	2	1	17			4	16					1	1	3	3	1000-1900
3	3	4	7	1	3	1	8	1	8	1	4					950-1300
3	4	4	25	4	31									2	5	1000-1900

Table 8: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/3

Both Late Saxon and high medieval occupation has been identified at CTR/10/3 in the south of the village, until the 13th century when there was a potential shift in settlement patterns, most likely related to a contraction of the village at that time. From the post medieval onwards there were low levels of activity identified, as the site was most probably used as open fields until the current house was built in the later 20th century. The finds also suggest that after the 19th century there was an increase in disturbances evident with the increased activity on site at that time. They consist of glass, silver foil, melted plastic, an aluminium screw cap, modern nails and screws, concrete, iron nails, CBM, metal wire, possible fragments of tarmac, coal, animal bone, a plant tag, a tiny light bulb, sea shells and a possible waste flint flake that may indicate the presence of later prehistoric activity also on site.

Test Pit four (CTR/10/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the large enclosed front garden of a Grade II listed house dated 1769 that is set back from the main road in the centre of the village and just to the south east of the church (36 Peterborough Road, Castor. TL 512235 298541).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. Natural was not found, but due to the presence of a wall and time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

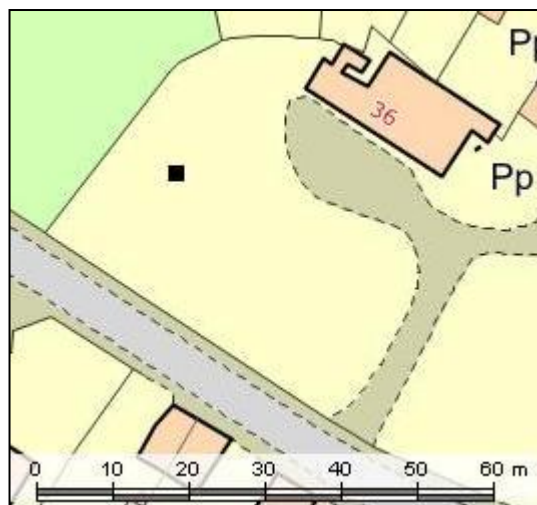


Figure 23: Location map of CTR/10/4

The pottery for test pit four can be seen below. A wide range of pottery types were identified from CTR/10/4, including Medieval Shelly Ware, Early Medieval Sandy Ware, Ely Ware, Grimston Ware, Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware and Bourne 'D' Ware that were mixed in with single post medieval wares of Delft Ware, Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware, Staffordshire Manganese Ware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. The vast majority of the pottery identified however, dates to the Victorian period, with a large number excavated from the upper half of test pit four. An additional single sherd of Roman Castor ware and 12 sherds of Late Saxon Stamford Ware were also recovered from the mid contexts of the test pit.

A wall was excavated in the north eastern corner of CTR/10/4 (below), and was visible from 0.3m in depth. It is made up of probable limestone slabs, which is the common building material in this area, but although this appears to be the outside corner of a building, the outside was not dressed, so unless this was not a high status building or perhaps some of the outer stonework was robbed away when it went out of use. As c.0.6m is visible in the test pit, it seems more likely that this was not substantially robbed of stone when the building went out of use, but a lot of top soil has since been brought in to build up the land around it. A firm date for the wall cannot be given at this stage, given the range of pottery that was identified, further excavations would be needed. The presence of Tudor Green pottery is quite a rare find and may suggest that there were wealthy inhabitants here during the 15th century and potentially related to this wall structure that may have been an associated outbuilding or cottage. The position of CTR/10/4 along the main road may be the reason for the quite intense Late Saxon and medieval occupation that has been identified on site, but with changes in settlement and potentially the construction of the current house in the early post medieval period, rubbish was subsequently deposited elsewhere across the property. It was only during the 19th century and later, when we see the build-up of top soil and a greater disturbance evident on site, especially the range of finds mixed through the test pit, and consist of coal, CBM, glass, concrete, iron nails and screws, melted glass, a metal button, iron scraps, oyster and snail shell, animal bone and clay pipe.



Figure 24: The wall recorded in CTR/10/4 (© ACA)

TP	Context	RBC		ST		MS		EMW		EW		GRIM		LB		BD		TG		GRE		SS		SMW		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1																											8	35	1800-1900
4	2																											58	375	1800-1900
4	3	1	5	5	22	2	6			4	21					1	29						1	66	1	1	47	319	250-1900	
4	4																			1	2						4	4	1800-1900	
4	5			4	12	4	14					1	5	1	16			1	8			1	15						950-1700	
4	7			3	19			1	3																				950-1200	
4	8					2	10	1	5					1	9														1100-1300	

Table 9: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/4

Test Pit five (CTR/10/5)

Test pit five was excavated on the southern edge of the churchyard to the south of St Kyneburgha's church and adjacent to the boundary wall with Castor Primary School. It was also the southern of two pits excavated in the churchyard; see also CTR/10/6 (St Kyneburgha's Churchyard, Castor. TL 512424 298479).

Test pit five 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 small amount of pottery was excavated from CTR/10/5 and includes a single sherd of Roman Greyware that was mixed in with later sherds of Medieval Shelly Ware and Victorian pottery.



Figure 25: Location map of CTR/10/5

TP	Context	RBG		MS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	3			1	13	1	1	1100-1900
5	4	1	4			1	1	100-1900
5	5			1	14			1100-1200

Table 10: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/5

There are views of the 19th century excavations of Roman buildings to the south of the church, so there is known Roman occupation at CTR/10/5 and the sherd of Roman pottery that was excavated from context four likely remained from the backfilling of all the trenches. It also seems likely that these later excavations have disturbed the medieval activity also evident on site, which probably represents activity outside the extent of the medieval churchyard. The 19th century and later disturbances are quite evident in the test pit as a mix of finds were also recovered, consisting of iron nails, a metal washer, plastic, fragments of cloth, a possible small plastic light bulb cover, plastic wrappers, asbestos, coal, glass, animal bone, CBM, tile, mortar, clay pipe, snail shells and a possible Roman box flue tile fragment.

Test Pit six (CTR/10/6)

Test pit six was excavated on the north western edge of the churchyard to the west of St Kyneburgha's church and parallel with the boundary wall with Church Hill. It was also the northern of two pits excavated in the churchyard; see also CTR/10/5 (St Kyneburgha's Churchyard, Castor. TL 512443 298555).

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.62m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Single sherds of Grimston Ware, Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware and Midland Purple Ware were excavated with a single sherd of post medieval Staffordshire Manganese Ware and three sherds of Victorian pottery.

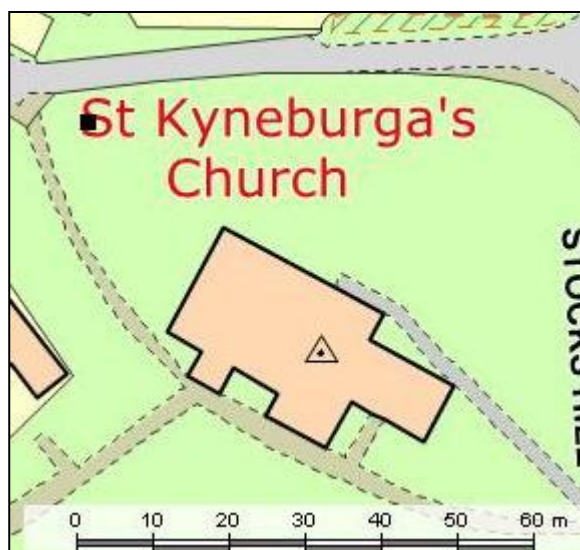


Figure 26: Location map of CTR/10/6

TP	Context	GRIM		LB		MP		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	2									2	31	1800-1900
6	3					1	15	1	7			1350-1750
6	5			1	23					1	120	1450-1900
6	6	1	14									1100-1400

Table 11: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/6

A number of disarticulated human remains were excavated from CTR/10/6, mixed through the test pit with a partial exposure of a skull at 0.61m in depth and does suggest that a number of earlier graves have been disturbed and the ground turned over during later digging. The small amounts of medieval and post medieval pottery indicate low levels of activity, most likely in relation to digging in the graveyard, with more disturbances evident also later after the 19th century. A mix of finds were also recovered and consist of concrete, CBM, glass, oyster shell, half a pair of metal scissors, iron nails, tile, animal bone, mortar and a large metal fixing.

Test Pit seven (CTR/10/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the open front garden of a modern house on the main road to the south of the church (41B Peterborough Road, Castor. TL 512364 298405).

Test pit seven was excavated to a depth of 0.53m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A small number of both Late Saxon St Neots Ware and Stamford Ware sherds were excavated from CTR/10/7 with a single sherd of Medieval Shelly Ware from the lower contexts of the test pit. Glazed Red Earthenware, English Stoneware and Staffordshire Manganese Ware were also all identified in the upper half of the pit with a large number of Victorian sherds.



Figure 27: Location map of CTR/10/7

TP	Context	ST		SN		MS		GRE		ES		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1									1	6			5	10	1800-1900
7	2							1	8			4	191	22	92	1550-1900
7	3									1	15			10	107	1680-1900
7	4					1	7							1	12	1100-1900
7	5	4	21	1	23											900-1100

Table 12: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/7

A possible limestone and mortar floor surface was excavated quite close under the surface, and in the eastern half of CTR/10/7 that may also be later in date given the large amount of 19th century pottery excavated from above and below the feature, and may have been part of a structure fronting the main road through the village. Low levels of Late Saxon, medieval and post medieval activity were also identified and despite the location of site to the south of the church there was little evidence for occupation on site after the 12th century until the 17th century. A range of finds were also excavated and consist of glass, including a complete square green glass bottle, animal bone, CBM, half a metal button, tile, iron nails and bolts, plaster, concrete and iron scraps.

Test Pit eight (CTR/10/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a probable 19th century cottage fronting the main road, just south of the church (Church View, 41 Peterborough Road, Castor. TL 512390 298369).

Test pit eight 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.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from CTR/10/8 dates to the Victorian period, but a large number of post medieval sherds were also recovered and consist of both English Stoneware and Staffordshire Manganese Ware.

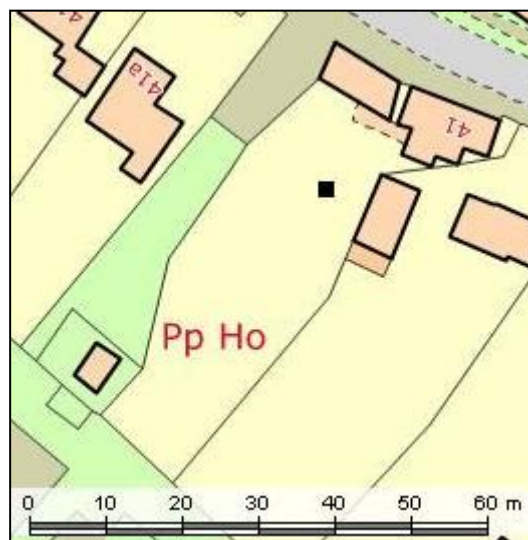


Figure 28: Location map of CTR/10/8

TP	Context	ES		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1			3	18	71	206	1680-1900
8	2			3	236	39	126	1680-1900
8	3	1	2	4	286	36	522	1680-1900
8	4	1	5	2	45	29	86	1680-1900
8	5	1	47			19	151	1680-1900
8	6					5	22	1800-1900

Table 13: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/8

A rough cobble, most likely yard surface (below) was excavated close under the turf of CTR/10/8 and was probably Victorian or later, given the large amount of 19th and 20th century material was dumped across site. The pottery suggests that there was no activity on site until the 17th century, potentially when the earliest phase of the house was built. Large deposits of domestic material were also dumped on site that caused a lot of disturbances and a charcoal layer was also identified at 0.4m where burnt material was deposited on site. A range of finds were excavated through the test pit and consist of iron nails and bolts, glass, tile, CBM, coal, glass, slate, asbestos, concrete, half a metal button, a number of iron scraps, a slate pencil, clay pipe, animal bone, the centre cores of multiple batteries and a small glass draw knob or handle.



Figure 29: Rough cobble yard surface found from CTR/10/8 (© ACA)

Test Pit nine (CTR/10/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the large enclosed rear garden of a Grade II listed early 18th century cottage on the main road to the south of the church (37 Peterborough Road, Castor. TL 512413 298342).

Test pit nine 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 small number of both Roman Grey Ware and Roman Castor ware were both excavated from the lower half of CTR/10/9 and were mixed in with both medieval and post medieval sherds. Medieval Shelly Ware, Ely Ware, Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware and Bourne 'D' Ware were all identified with sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware and Staffordshire Manganese Ware. The majority of the pottery recovered however dates to the Victorian period and was excavated through the upper four contexts of test pit nine.

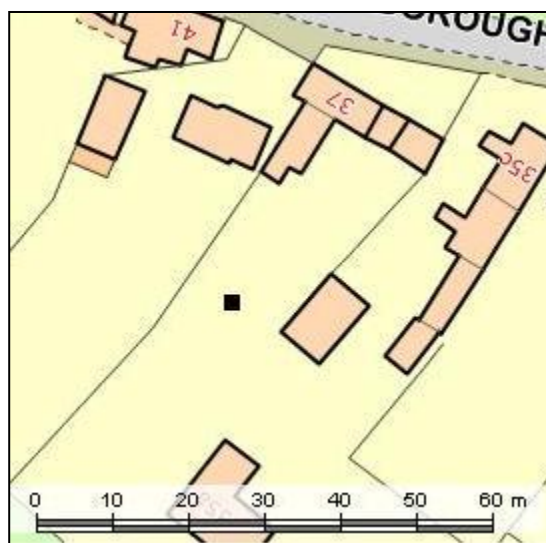


Figure 30: Location map of CTR/10/9

TP	Context	RBG		RBC		MS		EW		LB		BD		GRE		SS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	1																			2	2	1800-1900
9	2									1	7							1	23	10	47	1200-1900
9	3	1	4									2	8					7	88	7	19	100-1900
9	4			1	12	2	12	1	3					2	4	1	13	1	5	2	3	250-1900
9	5					1	4			1	5	2	31									1100-1550
9	6	2	6	3	11	2	5															100-1200

Table 14: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/9

There is evidence for Roman occupation at CTR/10/9, which is not surprising given its location to the south of known Roman buildings situated south of the church, but test pit nine is the furthest south and east that Roman activity has been identified through the test pitting strategy. Settlement was also evident in the medieval period, most probably due to its location on the main road through the village, although there is less evidence for activity into the 17th century, when the current house was built, suggesting that the majority of domestic rubbish was deposited elsewhere on the property, until the 19th century when there is more disturbance evident. A mix of finds were also recovered and consist of coal, slate, glass, CBM, whelk, iron nails, concrete and slag, indicative of metal working either on or close to site, with iron scraps, clay pipe, tile, animal bone and oyster shell. A single possible piece of burnt stone may also suggest the presence of later prehistoric activity also on site.



Test Pit 10 (CTR/10/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in the large open side garden to a modern house set back from the main road in the south of the village (35A Peterborough Road, Castor. TL 512430 298312).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Single sherds of both Staffordshire Manganese Ware and Scratch Blue Ware were both excavated from context five, but the vast majority of the pottery identified from CTR/10/10 dates to the Victorian period.

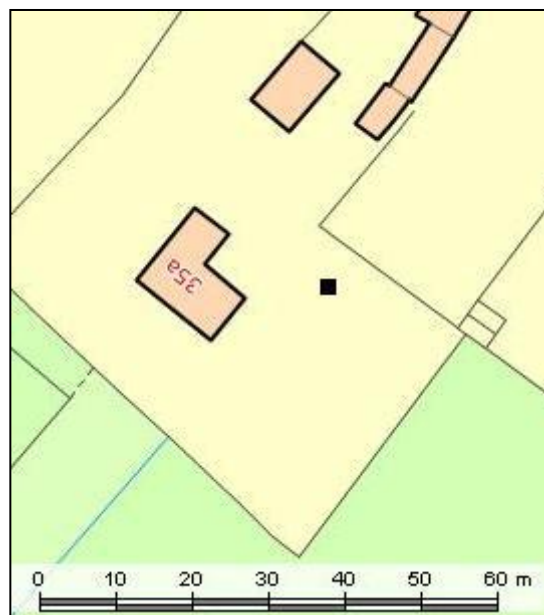


Figure 31: Location map of CTR/10/10

TP	Context	SMW		SB		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1					2	23	1800-1900
10	2					6	17	1800-1900
10	3					9	19	1800-1900
10	4					3	12	1800-1900
10	5	1	19	1	3	11	11	1680-1900

Table 15: The pottery excavated from CTR/10/10

Most probably due to its location set far back from the main road through the village, there is very little evidence for activity at CTR/10/10 before the 19th century. The finds also suggest there was a lot of disturbance evident when the current house was built in the early 1970's and consist of coal, glass, tile, asbestos, concrete, CBM, modern nails, iron nails and bolts, animal bone, mortar, barbed wire, a one penny coin dated to 1971, tarmac, a metal button, the end of a shotgun cartridge, slate and melted glass, with clay pipe and a number of pieces of slag, which suggest there was most likely metal working somewhere on site. The limited activity also identified from the 17th and 18th centuries suggests that the site was probably fields or pasture at that time, but there was also wealth in the village as the Scratch Blue Ware sherd identified was from a teapot lid that would have been very expensive in the 18th century and is so far the only sherd so far excavated from Castor and the test pitting strategy.

7.3 The 2011 excavations

The 2011 excavations in Castor were undertaken over the 13th and 14th of July when a total of eight archaeological test pits were excavated by 30 HEFA participants from Middlecott School, Thomas Cowley High School and The Peele Community College (school names correct at time of participation). The 2011 test pits sited in between previous years' excavations and where the residents of Castor were happy to have an excavation. The majority were however sited to the north of the village and brought the total excavated in Castor to 23.

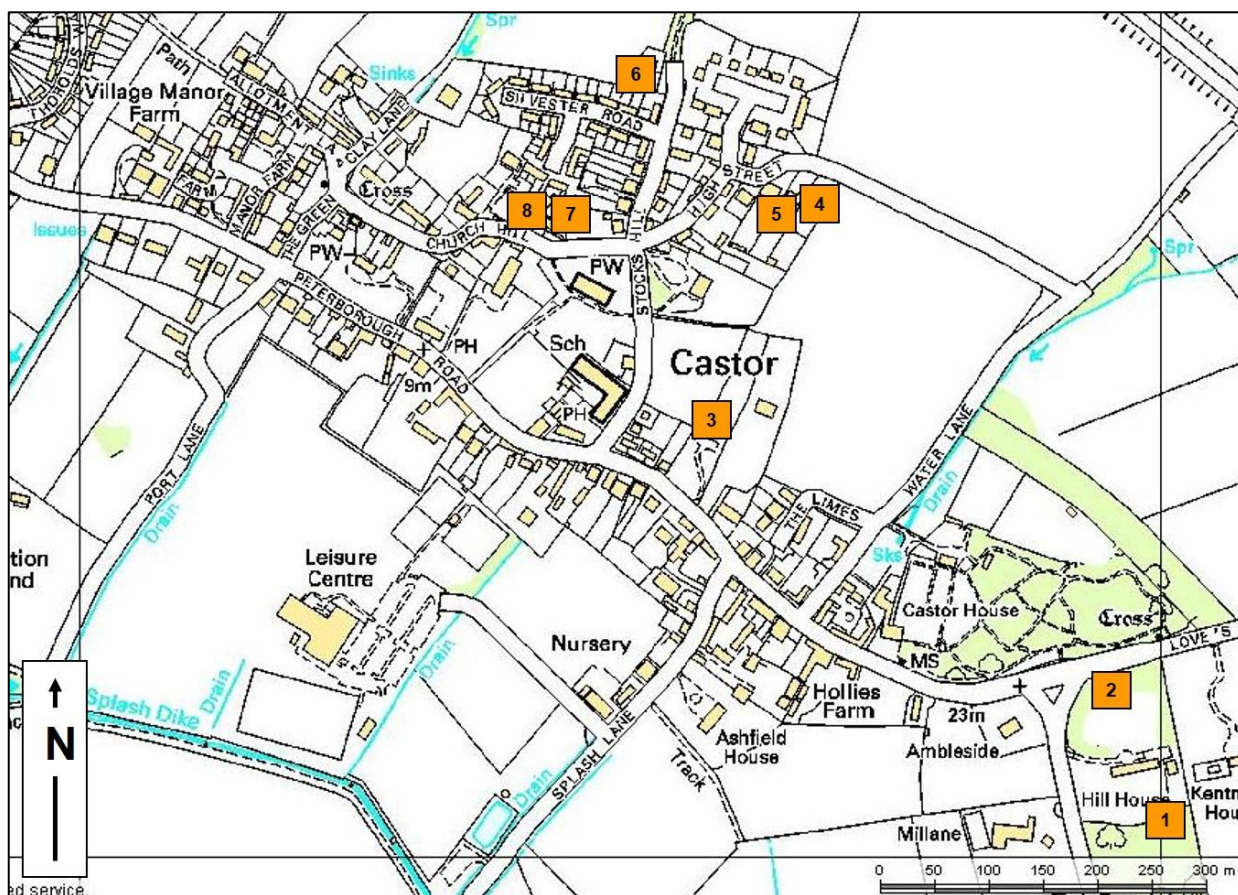


Figure 32: Location map of the Castor test pits from 2011 (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

Test Pit one (CTR/11/1)

Test pit one was excavated in a large grassed area to the south of the main (probably early 20th century) house, set on higher ground in the far south east of the village. It was also the southern of two pits excavated within the property; see also CTR/11/2 (Hill House, Love's Hill, Castor. TL 513023 297989).

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of between 0.46m and 0.63m. Natural was not found, but due to the presence of heavy clay and time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A small amount of pottery was excavated from CTR/11/1 with a single sherd of Roman Greyware identified with two sherds of later medieval Bourne 'D' Ware.

TP	Context	RBG		BD		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	2			1	5	1450-1500
1	3	1	2	1	2	100-1550

Table 16: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/1

The limited Roman activity that was identified on site suggests that this area was likely utilised as fields, perhaps given its distance from the main focus of settlement around the current church. This limited use is evident again in the later medieval period, but even after the current house was built the land has been left as open fields. The finds recovered consist of coal, CBM, glass, tile, animal bone, possible burnt CBM and small rounded clay objects (below), which are of fired clay, the slightly uneven appearance means their uses remain unknown. They could have been pot spacers for a kiln or oven or other firing 'accessories', although they do look similar in appearance to gaming pieces that have been found more recently at Vindolanda²² if they are indeed Roman in date. Slag was also identified that suggests metal working on or close to site.

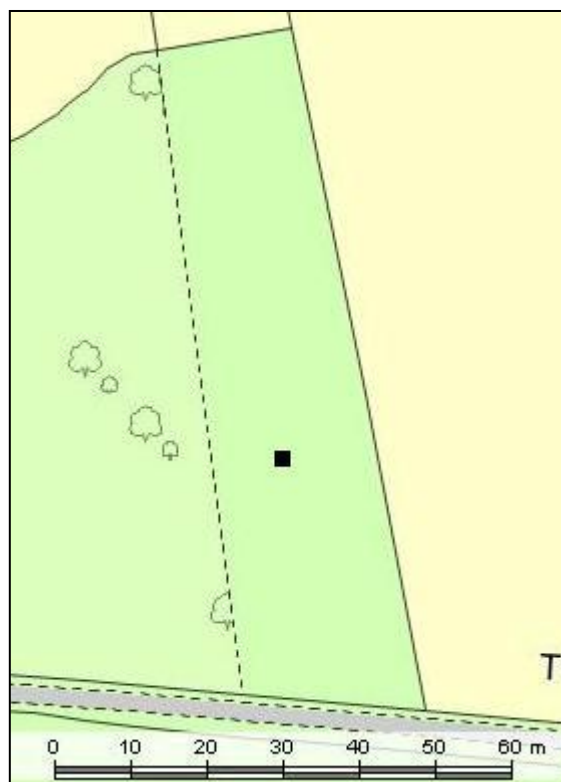


Figure 33: Location map of CTR/11/1

²² <http://www.vindolanda.com/blog/thevindolandablog/post/little-soldiers-gaming-at-vindolanda/>
(Accessed November 2018)



Figure 34: The multiple rounded clay objects excavated from CTR/11/1, context 1 (© ACA)

Test Pit two (CTR/11/2)

Test pit two was excavated in a large front garden to the north of the main (likely early 20th century) house, which is set on higher ground in the far south east of the village. It was also the northern of two pits excavated within the property; see also CTR/11/1. (Hill House, Love's Hill, Castor. TL 512945 298131).

Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.68m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

A single sherd of Medieval Shelly Ware was excavated from context four of CTR/11/2. An additional three sherds of Victorian pot were found in the upper three contexts.

TP	Context	MS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	2			2	4	1800-1900
2	3			1	1	1800-1900
2	4	1	4			1100-1200

Table 17: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/2

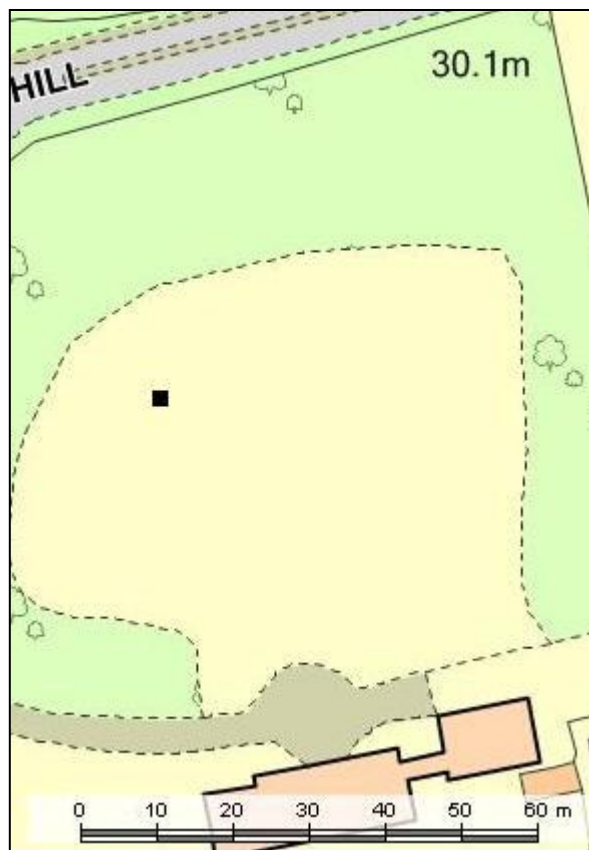


Figure 35: Location map of CTR/11/2

The medieval pottery identified from CTR/11/2 is the furthest east recorded through the test pitting strategy at Castor and the higher ground around Hill House, was probably utilised as fields, given its position away from the main focus of settlement of the village. It is also apparent that the site remained largely unused until the 19th century, potentially around the time that the house was built. A small amount of finds were also recovered, consisting of coal, glass, CBM, tile and slag suggestive of metal working on or close to site.

Test Pit three (CTR/11/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the rear garden of a modern house, set on a hill, just south east of the church (Evergreen House, Peterborough Road, Castor. TL 512630 298446).

Test pit three was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, at which natural was found. Excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Single sherds of both Medieval Shelly Ware and post medieval Staffordshire Manganese Ware were both excavated from the upper contexts of CTR/11/3, with three sherds of Victorian pottery.

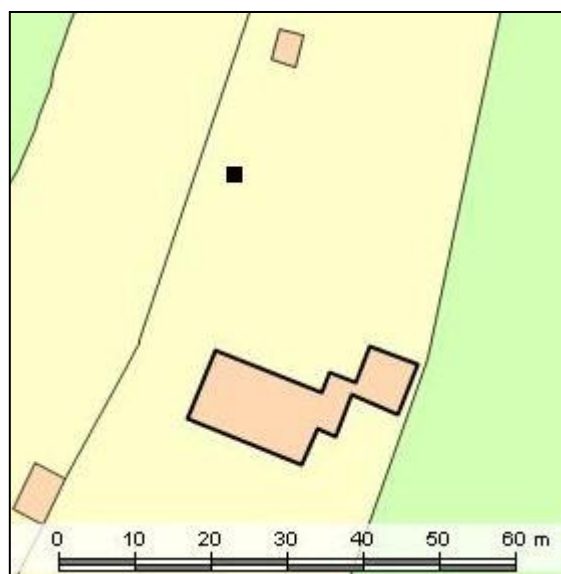


Figure 36: Location map of CTR/11/3

TP	Context	MS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1			1	19			1700-1750
3	2					3	11	1800-1900
3	3	1	2					1100-1900

Table 18: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/3

The pottery and finds that were excavated from CTR/11/3 suggest that there was minimal activity on site until the current house was built, with periods of limited use during the 12th century and after the 18th century. The site was likely kept as open fields most likely due to its position on a hill. The finds excavated consist of small amounts of CBM, mortar, clay pipe, coal, animal bone, snail shells and yellow sandstone.



Test Pit four (CTR/11/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the long enclosed rear garden of a modern house set in the north east of the village (22 High Street, Castor. TL 512659 298572).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. 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 Victorian pottery were only excavated from CTR/11/4.

TP	Context	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
4	2	1	44	1800-1900
4	4	1	2	1800-1900

Table 19: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/4

The more recent finds and pottery that were all excavated from CTR/11/4 suggest that the site has been left unused until probable farming in the 19th century, perhaps due to the presence of heavy clays, which continued until the current houses were built. The finds consist of coal, pieces of plastic, modern blue tile, modern CBM, slate, iron nails, a small metal key (garage door size), a gold milk bottle lid, snail shell, modern nails and pieces of scrap metal. A number of burnt stone were also recorded with flint flakes that may all be later prehistoric in date.

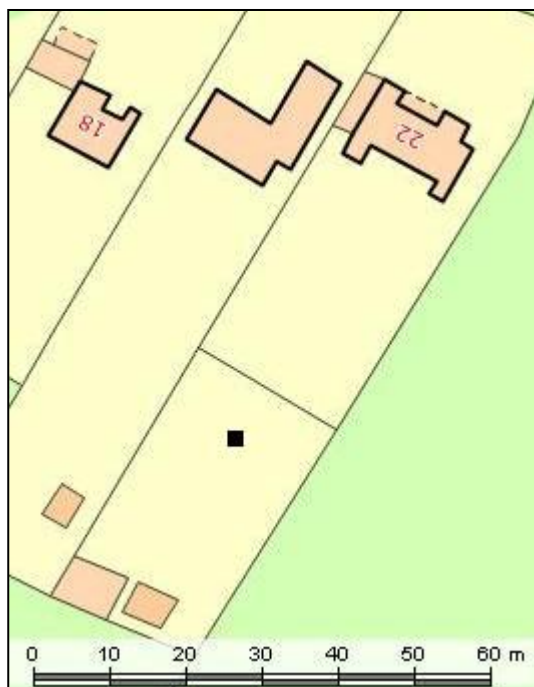


Figure 37: Location map of CTR/11/4

Test Pit five (CTR/11/5)

Test pit five was excavated towards the rear boundary of a long enclosed rear garden of a modern house, set in the northeast of the village (20 High Street, Castor. TL 512630 298562).

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

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from CTR/11/5 dates to the Victorian period. Single sherds of both Late Saxon Stamford Ware and post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware were also both recovered from the lower contexts.

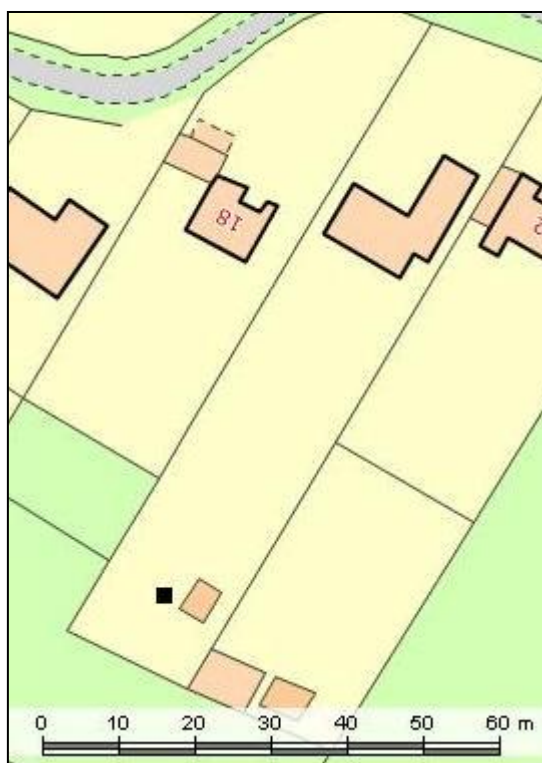


Figure 38: Location map of CTR/11/5

TP	Context	ST		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1					15	140	1800-1900
5	2					15	88	1800-1900
5	3					2	2	1800-1900
5	4	1	6			3	8	1000-1900
5	5			1	1	4	4	1550-1900

Table 20: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/5

Unlike the test pit next door to the east (CTR/11/4), the excavations at CTR/11/5 suggest there was limited Late Saxon activity in the north east of the village, as seen in previous test pits also excavated to the north east of the church. Further activity prior to the 19th century is minimal, potentially due to the heavy clay soils of this part of the village. A mix of more recent finds were also excavated through the test pit and consist of glass, CBM, tile, coal, slate, a U shaped metal tack, silver foil, a plant tag, concrete, pieces of scrap metal, oyster shell, mortar and two pieces of slag, suggestive of metal working on or close to site. Two pieces of possible burnt stone were also found and may be later prehistoric in date.

Test Pit six (CTR/11/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the open front garden of a modern house in the far north of the village (29 Stocks Hill, Castor. TL 512539 298713).

Test pit six 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.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from CTR/11/6 dates to the Victorian period, but a number of sherds of Medieval Shelly Ware were also recorded through the lower contexts of the test pit.

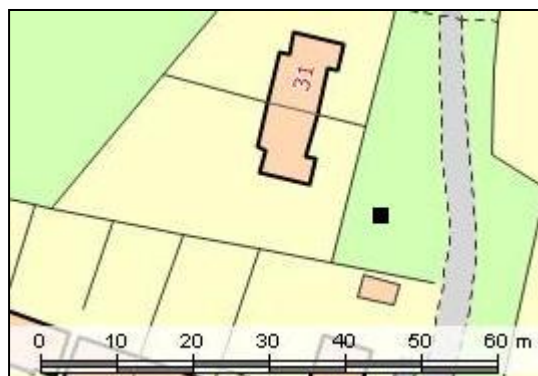


Figure 39: Location map of CTR/11/6

TP	Context	MS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1			1	1	1800-1900
6	2	1	1	11	35	1100-1900
6	3	2	4	20	209	1100-1900
6	4	4	39	15	59	1100-1900

Table 21: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/6

The pottery excavated from CTR/11/6 suggests that there was occupation on site during the high medieval period, perhaps until the 13th century, after which the site was abandoned until 19th century. The finds are mostly post 19th century in date and consist of glass, a blue plastic handle from a baby's toy, coal, iron nails, a corroded metal screw plug with a ceramic handle, metal wire, pieces of scrap metal, clay pipe, a metal tie hook, pieces of plastic, animal bone, CBM and a plastic screw bottle cap. A single piece of slag was also recovered, suggesting metal working on or close to site.

Test Pit seven (CTR/11/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the small enclosed front garden of a Grade II listed 17th century cottage set opposite the church to the north west. It was also the eastern of two pits excavated within the property; see also CTR/11/8 (Vine House, 25 Church Hill, Castor. TL 512432 298571).

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

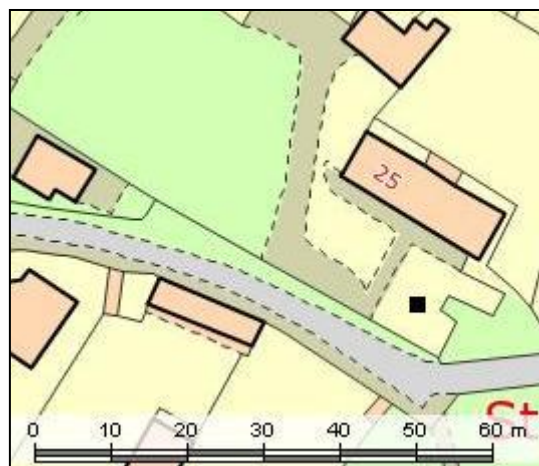


Figure 40: Location map of CTR/11/7

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from CTR/11/7 dates to the Victorian period. Single sherds of Roman Castor Ware, Roman Greyware, Late Saxon Stamford Ware and post medieval Chinese Porcelain were also all identified.

TP	Context	RBC		RBG		ST		CP		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1									32	63	1800-1900
7	2							1	1	32	58	1750-1900
7	3									10	10	1800-1900
7	4	1	14	1	15	1	3			2	5	100-1900

Table 22: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/7

Probable stone wall foundations were recorded at 0.4m in CTR/11/7, which may be related to the Roman Palace that was situated about where the current church stands, although Roman stonework can also be seen in a wall along the road just outside the property to the east. These all may be contemporary, but further excavations are needed to determine its function. One course of the stonework remains, which were laid directly onto the clay subsoil and herringbone stones were also laid on their sides in the south east corner of the test pit.

Post Roman activity is limited, with some use during the Late Saxon period, most likely due to the proximity of the church, but the amount of disturbances have been limited due to the presence of the stonework. The peak of activity is evident into the 19th century after the current house was built. The finds consist of clay pipe, glass, iron nails, CBM, oyster, cockle and snail shell, animal bone, coal, green foil, pieces of scrap metal, a metal button, tile, a metal hoop, slate, a grey square tessera shaped object and potentially a piece of box flue tile. A single small piece of slag was also identified, suggesting metal working on or close to site.



Figure 41: Overhead view of the stone wall foundations within CTR/11/7 (© ACA)



Figure 42: Oblique view of the stone wall foundations from CTR/11/7 (© ACA)

Test Pit eight (CTR/11/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the large side garden of a Grade II listed 17th century cottage set opposite the church to the northwest. It was also the western of two pits excavated within the property; see also CTR/11/7. (Vine House, 25 Church Hill, Castor. TL 512394 298595).

Test pit eight was excavated to a depth of 0.26m. Natural was not found, but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

Single sherds of both Late Saxon Stamford Ware and Medieval Shelly Ware were excavated from context three of CTR/11/8. An additional three sherds of post medieval Staffordshire Manganese Ware were also recorded with a large amount of Victorian pot.

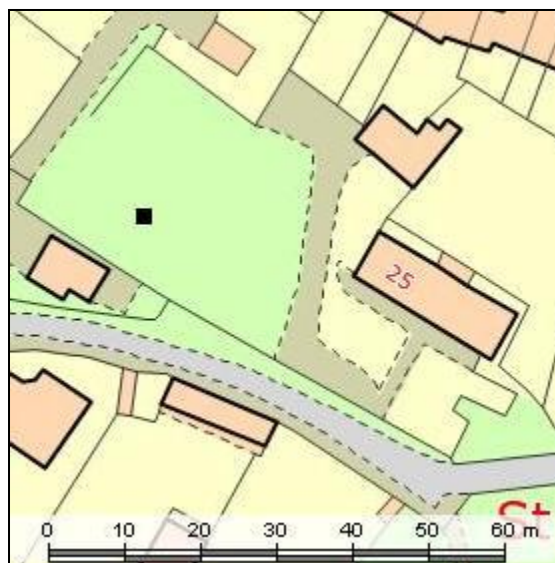


Figure 43: Location map of CTR/11/8

TP	Context	ST		MS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1							3	10	1800-1900
8	2					3	7	14	18	1700-1900
8	3	1	4	1	3			2	3	1000-1900

Table 23: The pottery excavated from CTR/11/8

Given the proximity of the test pit to the church immediately to the south, it is not surprising that both Late Saxon and high medieval have been noted on site, albeit in a limited capacity. The site then however appears to have been abandoned until after the current house was built, when there is greater evidence for more recent disturbances. The finds consist of coal, glass, partially melted plastic, modern CBM, clay pipe, tile, mortar, CBM, pieces of scrap metal, asbestos, a metal button, white modern tile, a small metal valve and pie, iron nails, slate, a plastic button, oyster shell, animal bone and possible fragments of the local building limestone. The presence of burnt stone may also indicate later prehistoric activity on site.

8 Discussion

The test pitting in Castor has contributed greatly to the wider understanding of the history and archaeology of the parish as well as within the broader context of the Nene valley and north Cambridgeshire. The results from the three years of test pitting in the village are included in the analysis below. The pottery has been utilised as the main source of dating in this report, as pottery can be the most accurately dated, often within a hundred years of so and it is one of the most frequent finds recovered from the test pitting strategy. The results will be discussed in historical order below.

8.1 Prehistoric

Although no prehistoric features or pottery were excavated from any of the 23 archaeological test pits in Castor, a small amount of lithics were however recorded. Pieces of worked flint were found from only five of the test pits and burnt stone was only recorded from four of the pits. The distribution of these can be seen in figures 44 and 45 below. As the format of this writing is at the grey report stage a full analysis of the lithics has not been undertaken and only the presence of any worked flint or burnt stone has been recorded here. Because of this a definitive date cannot be assigned to the test pit lithics at the time of writing, but a later prehistoric date, such as Neolithic or Bronze Age is most likely, particularly given that this is the date of the majority of the finds already recorded on the HER.

Although only a small number of test pits were excavated from Castor, a pattern of the lithic distribution is starting to emerge with two distinct areas identified. One of these is in the southwest of the village, alongside Port Lane, whilst the other is on the high ground at the top end of the High Street, where it meets Samworths Close. This is echoed by the distribution of burnt stone through the test pits, again focused around the High Street but also extending west onto Church Hill and south to Peterborough Road. Only one test pit site yielded both worked flint and burnt stone and that was CTR/11/4, although additional lithics were recovered from neighbouring properties, but it is possible that a cluster of activity at this time was focused on this area of the High Street.

A proximity to river valleys are widely known to be favoured locations for settlement in prehistory, and settlements, either permanent or seasonal have already been recorded along the length of the Nene valley dating from the Palaeolithic through to the Iron Age (Boismier 2009 and Chapman 2009). The gravel terraces along the river provide fertile soils for arable farming and a wide range of natural resources are prevalent from the river, with also extensive areas of woodland present on the higher clay-lands. The earliest prehistoric activity in Castor relates to the more permanent occupation of the river valley from the Neolithic period onwards and a supposed Bronze Age settlement site has been noted as cropmarks adjacent to the river on the northern bank. The presence of a small number of lithics through the test pits does suggest that this activity was not only focused along the river but may have extended north to the valley slopes, perhaps as camps or as additional settlement areas.

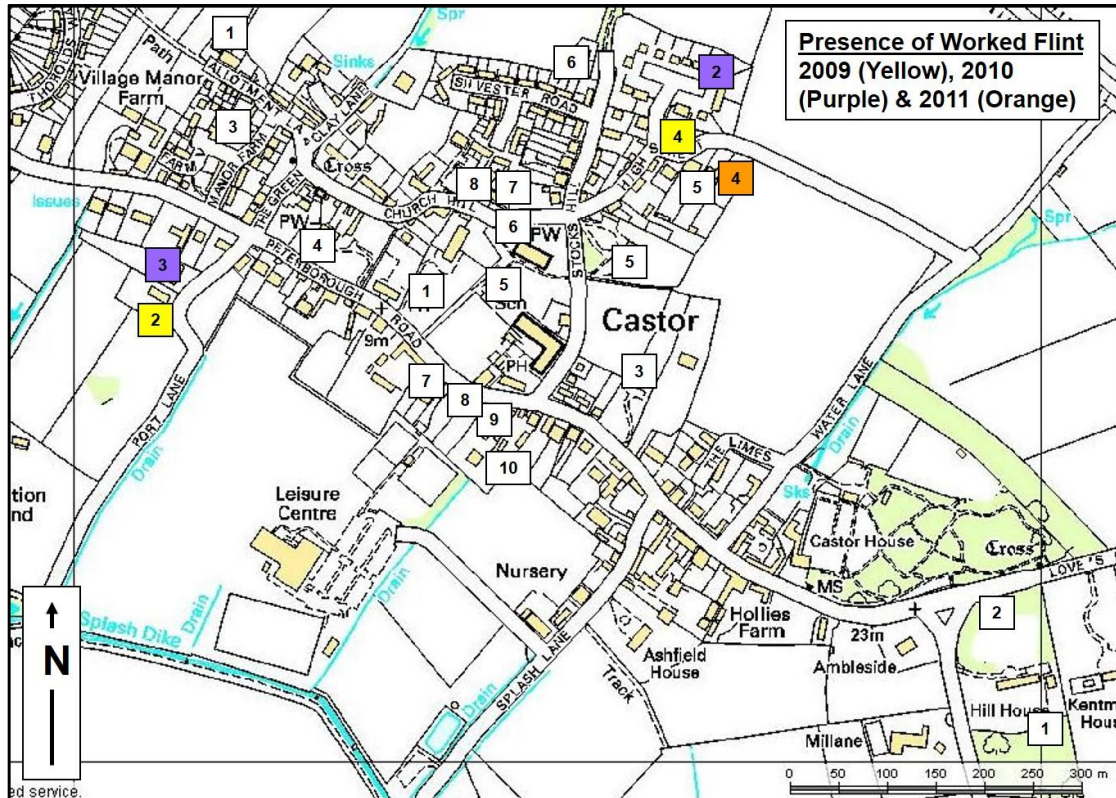


Figure 44: The presence of worked flints from the Castor test pits (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000

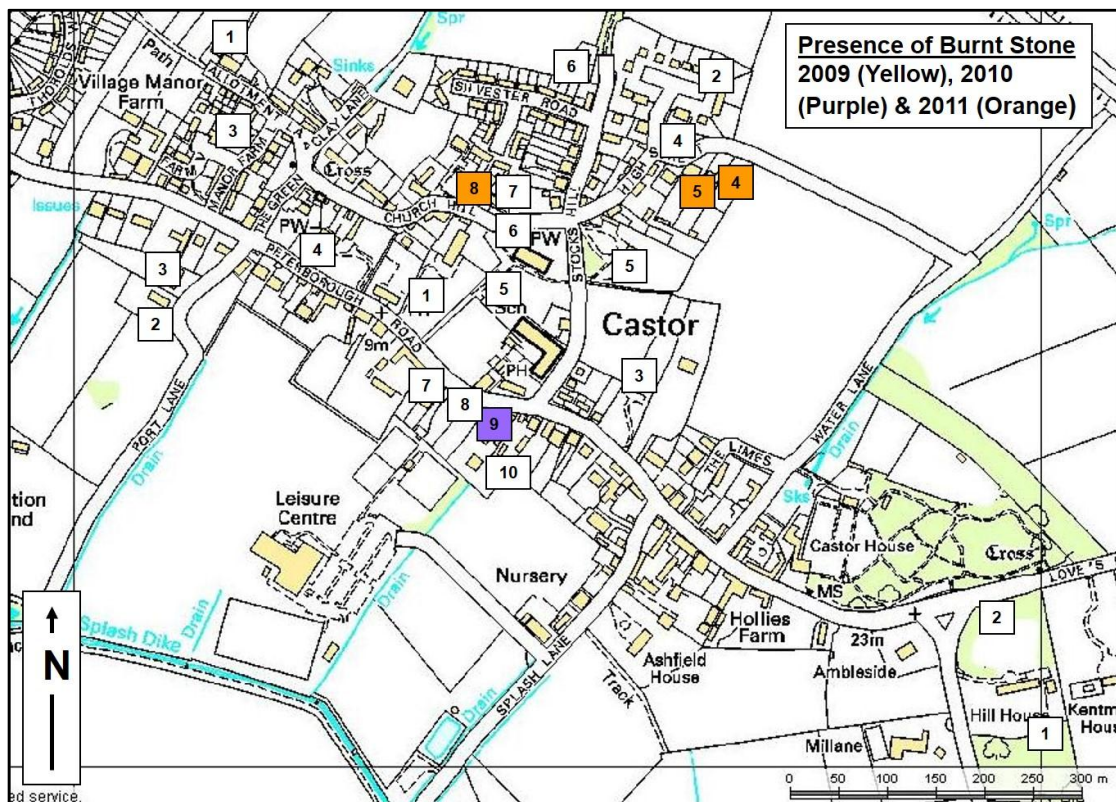


Figure 45: The presence of burnt stone from the Castor test pits (NB test pits not to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000

It is probable that this part of the Nene valley would have been a significant east-west routeway through the landscape in prehistory, a ridge of high ground connecting different landscapes and communities, such as those in the fens as well as in the midlands, and perhaps linking up with the Jurassic Way that was particularly in use from the Bronze Age onwards,²³ and so it is perhaps surprising that additional lithics were not found from the test pitting. This may be due to the nature of the test pitting strategy and the fact that only eight of the 23 test pits were able to be excavated to natural, so additional prehistoric remains may still be evident under the current village, although of course large amounts of settlement activity may have also been destroyed by the later Roman *Praetorium* on site and then the development of the current village from the Anglo Saxon period onwards.

No Iron Age activity was recorded from any of the test pits, which is again perhaps surprising as evidence for Iron Age occupation has previously been found in the parish and this area around Peterborough is believed to have been on the borders of three Iron Age tribal territories, the *Iceni* to the east, the *Catuvellauni* to the south and the *Corieltauvi* to the north and west (Nash *et al* 2004). The communities along the Nene Valley were also well placed for trade with the continent and excavations elsewhere along the Nene have found Roman objects from Iron Age sites which shows that there was trade with the Roman Empire and its people long before the invasion of AD43 (Meadows 2009a).

8.2 Romano-British

Despite the extensive known Roman archaeological remains from this landscape, a total of only 20 sherds of Romano-British pottery were excavated from eight of the 23 test pits, and accounting for only 2% of all the pottery found. Of these 20 sherds however, 35% of them were identified as Castor or Nene Valley Ware that would have been made just down the valley at *Durobrivae*. Although the pottery for this report was analysed by a post-Roman specialist (appendix 12.1), it was assessed that all the Roman pot found was made in Britain with no imports. Supplementary analysis on the pottery would be needed to further identify where the pots were made and to more specifically date the specimens.

The distribution of the Romano-British pottery from the test pits can be seen in figure 46 below and is quite widespread through the test pits in the western half of the village. Perhaps surprisingly, not all the test pits closest to the *Praetorium* yielded pottery of a Roman date, although three of those test pits, CTR/09/1, CTR/10/5 and CTR/11/7 did produce structural evidence, likely related to the palace and one test pit (CTR/10/1 at the north end of Allotment Lane) also had Roman box flue tile but no pottery, and so was not recorded on the figure below. The pottery and flue tile from these western most test pits likely derived from later Anglo Saxon and medieval manuring, particularly as only single sherds of Roman pot were found from CTR/09/2, CTR/09/3 and CTR/10/4.

The structural evidence found from three of the test pits to the *Praetorium* include additional box flue tile from CTR/10/5 and then wall foundations from both CTR/09/1 and CTR/11/7. CTR/09/1 was excavated within the garden of The Cedars, immediately west of the church and from which previous excavations on site recorded floor surfaces and substantial wall foundations that were found to originally have had

²³<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/Documents/PDF/Documents/Jurassic-North.pdf> (Accessed November 2017)

very elaborate decoration and so would have come from a high status building, either part of the *Praetorium* complex, originally discovered by Artis or an earlier bath house (Lucas 1998). The excavations at CTR/09/1, although on a much smaller scale, was also able to find evidence for a high status building on site, with painted plaster, box flue tile fragments and a possible piece of tessera. Lots of mortar was also found from when the wall was robbed away as well as other CBM and tile fragments and supports what was found by Lucas that land at The Cedars once housed a high status Roman building.

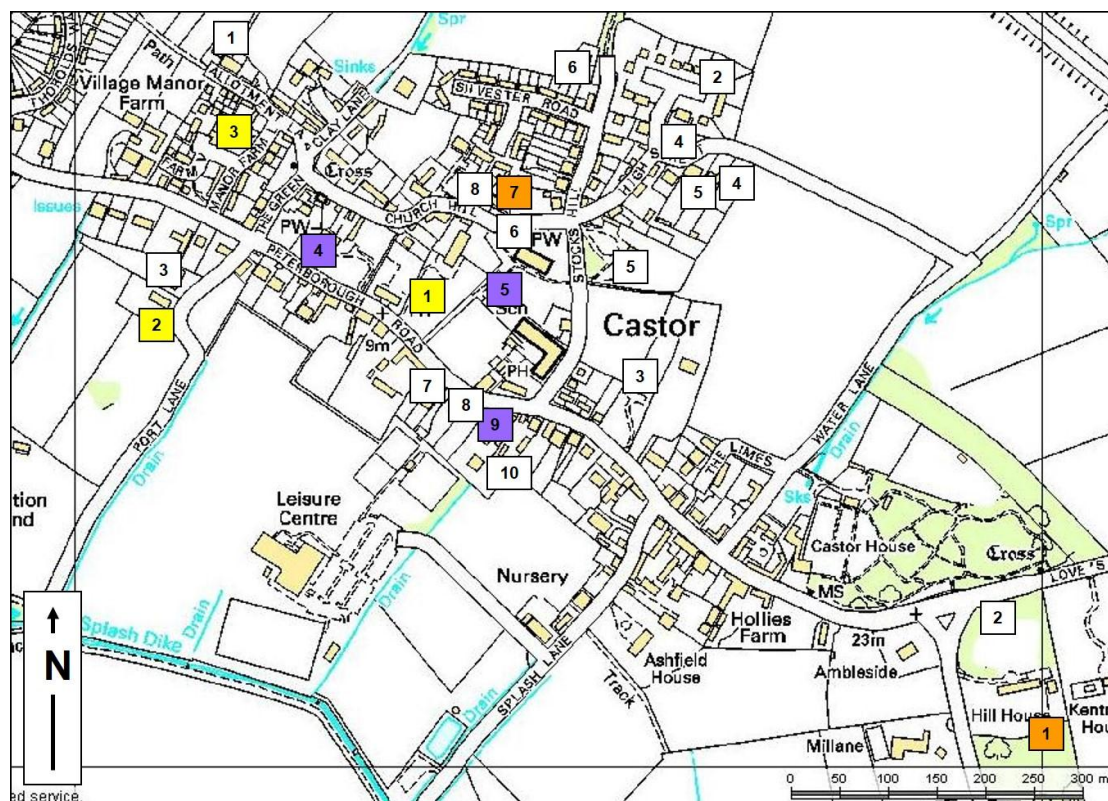


Figure 46: The distribution of Romano-British pottery from the Castor test pits 2009 (yellow), 2010 (blue) and 2011 (orange) NB: test pits are not to scale © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 5,000

Additional stone wall foundations were recorded at CTR/11/7 immediately north of the church at Vine House, but these were found to have been extensively robbed away with only one course of stonework remaining. Given the proximity of this site to the recorded extent of the *Praetorium* complex by Artis and later archaeologists (figure 47), it is possible that the foundations found here were originally part of the palatial structure that occupied this site. Fragments of box flue tile were again also recorded with possible tesserae fragments, but like the other sites with Romano-British pottery found from the test pitting, it is not possible at this stage of writing to determine which century the Roman activity dates from without further analysis of both the pot and tile.

More accurately dating the Romano-British pottery found during the test pitting will also help tie the phases of activity here at Castor to the town of *Durobrivae*, just over 1km to the south, as it has been recorded that *Durobrivae* was still growing and expanding through the 2nd and 3rd centuries (Malim 2005), so any further work here would need to see how the activity at Castor ties in with the wider landscape, perhaps around the time of the expansion or is it of a later date and related to the *Praetorium*. This palatial structure was able to be constructed at the size it was because of this prosperity in the early 3rd century, from the various industrial centres including pottery making, iron



working and stone quarrying, which was aided by the strategic location of the town, with proximity to both road and water networks as well as being on the frontier of the various Iron Age tribal territories mentioned above.

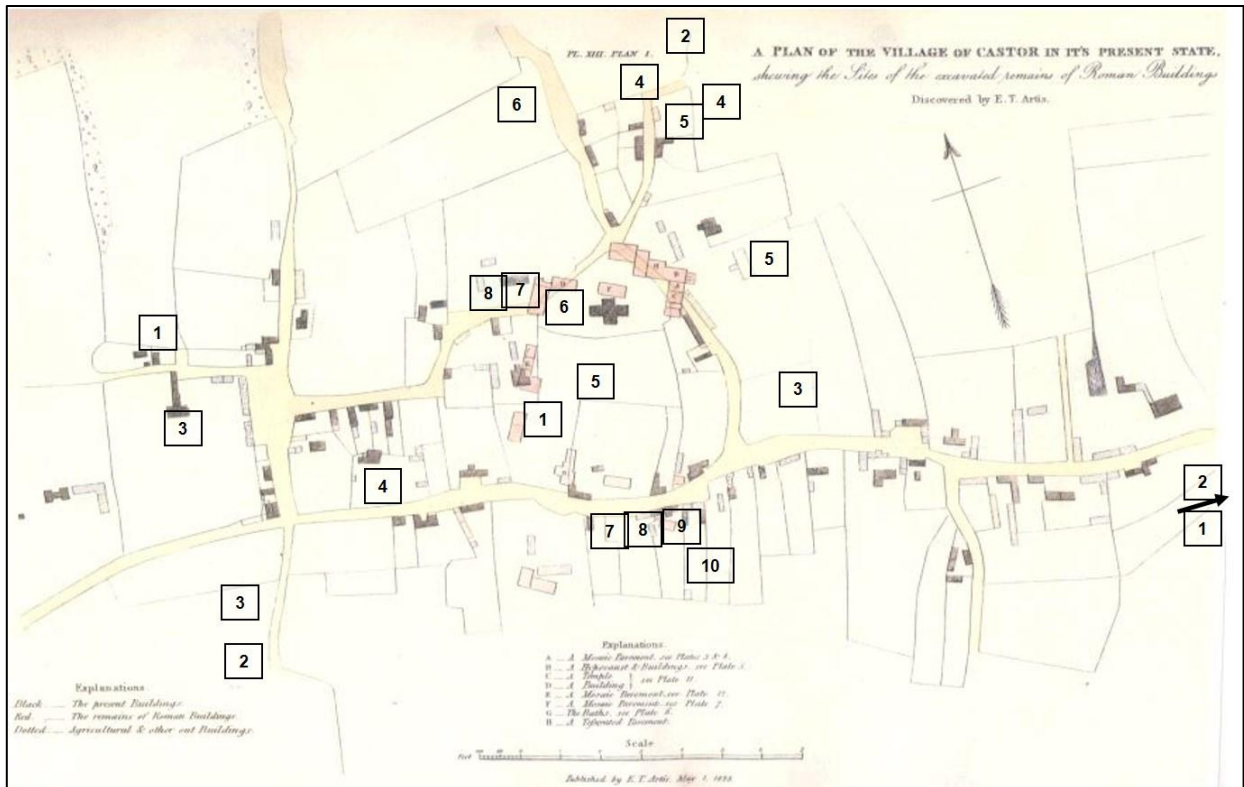


Figure 47: Location of all 23 Test Pits in relation to the extent of the Roman *Praetorium* at Castor (modified from © Artis 1828)

The archaeological work undertaken in the Normangate field area in the south of the parish has been able to show various roads and tracks as well as the activities that were taken place on the roadside, one of which would also have likely continued towards the *Praetorium* at Castor, although no road yet as been found at the Castor end (Upex 2011). The presence of a road does illustrate the accessibility of the Roman site at Castor and its connectivity to the flourishing landscape around the Nene valley, thus also suggesting that more in the way of Roman archaeology perhaps should have been encountered through the test pits or that also there is a good chance that additional Roman finds still remain under the present village.

8.3 Anglo Saxon

A single sherd of Early-Middle Anglo Saxon pottery (AD 450-650) was found from CTR/09/3 that was excavated within the garden of Manor Farm in the west of the village. This site has been one of two put forward to be the location of the medieval manor owned by the church here in Castor. It was recorded that the church was a major landowner in the Domesday Book so it is feasible to say that the site of the original Saxon manor was probably in the same location as they were after the Norman Conquest. What the sherd of Early to Middle Saxon pottery does signify here however, is that there may have been occupation here soon after the Roman withdrawal from Britain, a continuation of the land being occupied after the *Praetorium* went out of use

and that there was also a continuation of this site being utilised into the Late Anglo Saxon period, potentially as a manor.

Within the archaeological record for Castor there is little in way of Early Anglo Saxon activity recorded, the majority so far identified dates to the Middle and Late Saxon periods (Malim 2005). One particular fine discovery was along the route of the new A47 by-pass to the north of the village when a probable burial site was uncovered (although no human remains were recorded). The presence of a very ornate belt buckle and a hanging bowl are very much typical of grave goods of this date and they found on prominent high ground, so that if the burial was originally covered by a barrow, it would have been seen from some distance away, much as the *Praetorium* was at its height (Meadows 2009b) and could have perhaps been utilised as a boundary or territory marker. It has been speculated that as this grave would have been of such high status, Castor may have been an early Royal Anglo Saxon Mercian Estate, capitalising on its evidently strategic location for the newly emerging Anglo Saxon kingdoms. And this may also be why the Middle Saxon nunnery was also established here, when many were converting to Christianity, within the ruins of an important Roman building.

Middle Anglo Saxon activity is known from Castor, particularly from previous excavations around the church and primary school, where there is also evidence for the Roman structures being incorporated into Saxon buildings, but the two test pits that were excavated in the church yard (CTR/10/5 and CTR/10/6) yielded no Anglo Saxon pottery at all. This may have however been due to the fact that neither test pit was able to be excavated to natural in the time available, as well as the fact that there has been continuous occupation on site from the Roman period and with the more recent disturbances of the site for burials has meant a greater build-up of soil and debris, so Anglo Saxon remains may still be present in this area, but at a much greater depth.

A much larger amount of Late Anglo Saxon pottery was recorded from the test pitting, with a total of 75 sherds of St Neots Ware and Stamford Ware from 11 of the test pits and accounting for 7.5% of all the pottery excavated from the Castor test pitting strategy. The spread of this pottery can be seen in appendix 12.3 and appears in two clusters, on to the northeast of the church along the High Street and the other to the southwest of the church along Peterborough Road to Port Lane. This does fit in with what has already been found in Castor, in that no Late Anglo Saxon pottery was found around the Saxon church (as was the focus of settlement during the Middle Saxon period), but it had begun to spread out as the beginning of the village as we know it today. This may have been due to raids from the continent that were said to have destroyed the religious house here and may have forced a change in the settlement and it was decided that rebuilding would take place away from the church. No evidence for these raids were recorded through the test pitting, but they do seem the most probable cause for this change in layout in the village, as well as because of an expanding population. The current road layout, particularly around the church along Stocks Hill and Church Hill as well as Peterborough Road is also believed to have its origins in the Saxon period and probably originally encircled the religious house set up here in the 7th century.

A compact floor surface was found at CTR/09/4 at the top of the High Street that was likely internal to a structure, but as no structural remains were found within the 1m², its exact use cannot be determined at this stage of writing. The vast majority of the pottery excavated from this test pit however dates to the Late Anglo Saxon so it seems likely that the floor is also of this date, perhaps a house overlooking the church to the north. Of course, further excavation would be needed on site to confirm this.

8.4 Medieval

The pottery dating to the medieval period is split between that of the high medieval, dating to AD 1066-1399 and the later medieval, dating between AD 1400-1539. There was a total of 97 sherds of high medieval pottery excavated from 15 of the 23 test pits in Castor (appendix 12.3), although that was still only just 9.8% of all the pottery found. This pottery was manufactured at sites across England, with specific locations identified at Grimston (Norfolk), Ely (Cambridgeshire), Lyveden (Northamptonshire), on the Oxford/Buckingham border and on the Surrey/Hampshire border. A single sherd of Oxford Ware pottery was found from CTR/09/2 along Port Lane. This pottery was made in Oxford; it was one of the first types of pottery with glaze to be manufactured after the Norman Conquest and is also quite a rare find for this part of the country (appendix 12.1). This test pit was sited not far to the east of a possible moated site and one of the suggested locations for the medieval manor belonging to the church, so if the manor was located nearby it may explain why the Oxford Ware was found here. This new style of glazed pottery may have been more expensive when it was first introduced, therefore not widely available to all and with the fact that it is a rare find here, may indicate that the people who used this pottery had above average wealth, particularly as it would have arrived here before the market was established in 1340.

The distribution of the high medieval pottery shows an expansion of the settlement, following on from the patterns identified dating to the Late Anglo Saxon period that was also noted to spread further east for the first time, towards Love's Lane, although this was likely for agricultural use rather than settlement. Historical documents suggest that Castor was at its peak during the medieval period, it was a big enough settlement to have been granted both a market and fair during the 14th century, but it never developed into a later medieval market town. This may have been both due to its proximity to Peterborough and the various socio-economic upheavals of the 14th century that would have affected the population of the settlement.

A total of only 30 sherds of later medieval pottery were subsequently found from only six test pits, a total of 3% of all the pottery recorded. The pottery was all mostly British made from sites across the Midlands and East Anglia with also specifically from Bourne (Lincolnshire). A small amount of imported wares was also found; German Stoneware, that was made at various places along the Rhine Valley in Germany from the mid-15th century onwards but is known to continue through the post medieval period. Because of this crossover, the German Stoneware is not included in the later medieval discussion as it cannot be specifically dated to this period.

The difference in the amount of pottery found dating to the high and late medieval periods is only of about 60 sherds of pottery less dating to the later medieval, but that decrease is significant and shows that there was quite a change in the settlement at this time. There were a lot of external factors that may have contributed to a change and decline in the settlement during the 14th century, a century which initially began with a population boom, which unfortunately led to over population in some areas as well as land shortages and depleted soils. This was not helped by a series of both poor harvests and bad winters, famine and then of course the Black Death which swept through the country (Lewis 2016). Although the amount of pottery found from the test pits cannot be equated to population figures at that time, the quite substantial decline in the amount of pottery recovered from the test pits likely does reflect a severe population decline due to the Black Death. There may also have been small shifts in the settlement which would affect where the pottery was deposited, but the pottery distribution maps (appendix 12.3) show a definite contraction of the settlement back to

focus around the church more, although activity was found to continue out to the east along Love's Lane at Hill House.

Some additional archaeology was recorded on site that may date to the medieval period. A line of loose, un-mortared stones were recorded on the edge of CTR/09/2 along Port Lane, but within the confines of the test pit it was able to be determined in this feature was a wall or part of a floor surface. The peak of activity on site however was during the 13th and 14th centuries, after which the site seems to have been abandoned so it is probable that the stones relate to this medieval activity, although further work would be needed to determine its full use and extent.

The corner of a limestone wall was recorded in CTR/10/4 that was excavated just to the north of Peterborough Road, likely on the original site of the village green that extended west from the church. It was noted during the excavation that the outside of the wall was not dressed, so it was concluded that the structure here was either not of a high status or perhaps more likely the stone had since been robbed away for use elsewhere. An accurate date was not able to be determined in the time available but a medieval date does seem likely and the fact that one sherd of 15th century Tudor Green Ware pottery was found here also further suggests that people of above average wealth lived here. The location of this test pit is not too far away from Manor Farm, the likely site of one of the manors here during the medieval period, so it is feasible that the sherd derived from there and is unrelated to the structure identified. Again, additional excavations here would be useful to determine a more accurate date and use of the structure here.

8.5 Post Medieval and later

Pottery dating to the post medieval (AD 1540-1799) consists of 121 sherds of mainly British made wares, from various sites across East Anglia as well as Staffordshire. They were recorded from 15 of the 23 test pits and account for 12.2% of all the pottery found from the test pitting strategy. As stated above, a small number of wares were imported; seven sherds of German Stoneware were excavated mainly from CTR/09/3 at the site of Manor Farm, with one additional sherd found at CTR/09/5, to the east of Stocks Hill. The fact that a lot of this imported pottery was found from Manor Farm does suggest that this site was more likely the location of the original Anglo Saxon and medieval manor belonging to the church as not every person in Castor at this time would have had the money or ability to acquire imported pottery, particularly as no other imports were found from the test pitting.

One other imported sherd of pottery was also excavated from CTR/11/7 was a sherd of Chinese Porcelain that was likely imported during the 17th century and ties in with when the house at CTR/11/7 was initially constructed. The occupants were likely trying to express their level of wealth as again no other later post medieval pottery sherds were recorded. Another example of wealth in the village was seen from CTR/10/10, along the southern side of Peterborough Road that contained a single sherd of Scratch Blue Ware pottery. The sherd was part of a teapot lid and would have been a very expensive item during the 18th century (appendix 12.1), and although a modern house now sits on the site, this land may have once belonged to the 18th century house set immediately to the north (37 Peterborough Road).

The distribution of all the post medieval pottery found does expand again to show that Castor probably recovered relatively quickly after the upheavals of the 14th century,

including the Black Death, but as already stated it did not develop into a market town, but rather stayed as a small rural village, with farming the dominant occupation.

The population of Castor was at its peak during the 19th century, and it is from this time that the vast majority of the pottery recorded from the test pitting dates to. A total of 645 sherds of 19th century and later pottery were found from 19 of the test pits and accounting for just over 65% of all the pottery found. The process of Enclosure and the introduction of the railways all contributed to the development and changes of the settlement, the layout of the settlement was well established by the 19th century and it was only from the second half of the 20th century that has seen many more houses and infilling.

At CTR/10/7, a limestone and mortar floor surface was recorded not too deeply under the turf and with the presence of 19th century pottery both above and below the floor, a 19th century date for a structure here seems highly probable that would have likely fronted Peterborough Road before the two modern houses were built in its place. Another surface was found a couple of doors down Peterborough Road at CTR/10/8, this consisted of a rough cobble likely yard surface that was present immediately under the turf. This may also be of 19th or even perhaps early 20th century in date and shows that a cobbled yard extended through what is now garden.

9 Conclusion

The 23 archaeological test pits that were excavated in the village of Castor, as part of the University of Cambridge's Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) with the help of the Benefice of St Kyneburgha, have yielded archaeological evidence for settlement in the parish dating from the later prehistoric period through to the modern day. All the test pit results have also added to the 'bigger picture' of Castor to add to both previous archaeology and historical references to the settlement as well as also providing a new insight into the level of archaeological remains that are still present under the current village and within this part of the Nene valley.

The test pitting in Castor excavated only limited evidence for later prehistoric activity through the village, likely as supplementary to Bronze and Iron Age settlement areas previously recorded through the parish. The first major occupation in Castor was during the Roman period, when the *Praetorium* was built during the early 3rd century AD and a number of test pits in Castor yielded evidence for Roman structural remains, potentially part of this palatial complex. It seems that Castor remained an important site during the Anglo Saxon period, because of its position overlooking the River Nene and may have acted as a boundary marker for the emerging Anglo Saxon kingdoms, although evidence for Early Anglo Saxon activity was only derived from a single test pit. The village as we know it today was established by the Late Anglo Saxon period that was found to continue and grow through the high medieval period and supporting evidence was found that one of the original manor sites in Castor was at Manor Farm. It seems that Castor was affected by the various social and economic factors of the 14th century that caused the settlement to shrink, likely including the Black Death, but was able to recover, just not to its hey-day in the high medieval. Probably due to its proximity to Peterborough the village remained small, relying heavily on agriculture through the post medieval, but did see changes during the 19th century with improvements to agriculture and the introduction of the railways, there was a boom in population at this time, which was also reflected by the test pit finds.

There is plenty of scope for further archaeological work in Castor. It is recommended that all the lithics from the test pits are analysed by a lithic expert, which will more accurately pin point the date and spread of the prehistoric activity in Castor. It would also be useful to have the Romano-British pottery analysed by a Roman pottery expert to better determine their date to see if the structural evidence found from the test pits is contemporary with the *Praetorium* first recorded by Artis. The test pitting strategy is heavily reliant on people volunteering gardens and open spaces for the excavations so there is also scope for additional excavations in the village to 'fill in the gaps'. Re-examining some of the test pits that did not reach natural (15 of the 23 were not able to excavated to natural in the time available) would also add to the picture of the archaeology in Castor. Although a lot of the archaeology in the village has been greatly disturbed by later developments, there is still plenty of evidence still present under the settlement.

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12 Appendices

12.1 Pottery Reports – *Paul Blinkhorn*

All Pottery Types (in chronological order)

RBG: Roman Greyware. 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.

RBM: Miscellaneous Romano-British. Lots of different types of sandy and shelly pottery which was made at a local level, and used for simple cooking and storage pottery. Common throughout the Roman period.

RBC: Castor ware. 3rd – 4th century AD. High-quality pottery made in vast quantities at the Roman pottery factories near Castor. Called 'colour-coated' wares as they were often dipped in fine liquid clays to give the pots an orange, purple or blue-grey colour.

EMS: Early/Middle Saxon hand-built wares. Range of simple and somewhat crude pottery made without the use of a wheel. AD450 – 650.

SN: St Neots Ware. Made at a number of as-yet unknown places in southern England between AD900-1200. The early pots are usually a purplish-black, black or grey colour, the later ones brown or reddish. All the sherds from this site date to AD1000 or later. The clay from which they were made contains finely crushed fossil shell, giving them a white speckled appearance. Most pots were small jars or bowls.

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

OW: Oxford ware. 1075 – 1350. Hard, sandy fabric made near Oxford. Mainly simply cooking pots, but also made some of the first glazed jugs to be manufactured after the Norman Conquest. Very rare in this area.

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.

MS: Medieval Shelly Ware. AD1100-1400. Made at 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.

GRIM: Grimston Ware. Made at Grimston, near King's Lynn. It was made from a sandy clay similar with a slight 'sandpaper' texture. The clay 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.

EW: Ely Ware. 1150 – 1400. Dark grey pottery with lighter surfaces, with a few small white pieces of shell in the clay. Some pots have a dull green glaze on the outer surface.

BB: Brill/Boarstall ware. 1200 – 1600. Made at a number of villages on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border. Very well, glazed jugs, often with lots of decoration in different-coloured clays. Rare in this area after 1250, when the Stanion industry flooded the local glazed pottery market.

LB: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware. c. AD1225-?1400. Made at Lyveden in Northamptonshire between AD1225 and 1400. The clay used for this pottery is very easy to recognise as it contains small, egg-shaped fossils known as Ooliths. The earlier pots are quite crude, as the potters did not throw them on a wheel, but built them by coiling. The clay fabric is usually grey with buff or orange surfaces. The main types of pot are jars, but also jugs with a poor-quality green glaze on the outer surface, and vertical stripes and dots painted with white clay. Around AD1300, the potters changed to wheel-throwing their pots, resulting in better-quality vessels, but stopped decorating them with slip designs. Lyveden ware is found all over the east midlands and East Anglia, and some pots have been found in Norway. They were probably shipped there from King's Lynn, along with Grimston ware.

TG: 'Tudor Green' ware. 1380 – 1600. Fine, thin-walled pots, white clay with a bright green glaze, made near London, in Surrey and North Hampshire. Usually bowls or cups.

BD: Bourne 'D' Ware: 1450-1637. Made in the village of Bourne in 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.

MP: Midland Purple ware. Made and used between AD1450-1600. Very hard, red to dark purplish-grey in colour, usually with a dark purple to black glaze. Wide range of different pots made such as jars, bowls and jugs.

LMOx: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware: Hard, red pottery with lots of sand mixed in with the clay. Made from about 1450 – 1500 in lots of different sites in the south-east midlands and western East Anglia. Used for everyday pottery such as jugs and large bowls, and also large pots ('cisterns') for brewing beer.

CW: Cistercian Ware: Made between AD1475 and 1700. So-called because it was first found during the excavation of Cistercian monasteries, but not made by monks. A number of different places are known to have been making this pottery, particularly in the north of England and the midlands. The pots are very thin and hard, as they were

made in the first coal-fired pottery kilns, which reached much higher temperatures than the wood-fired types of the medieval period. The clay fabric is usually brick red or purple, and the pots covered with a dark brown- or purplish-black glaze on both surfaces. The main type of pot was small drinking cups with up to six handles, known as 'tygs'. They were sometimes decorated with painted dots and other designs in yellow clay. Cistercian ware was very popular, and is found all over England.

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

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

DW: Delft Ware. The first white glazed pottery to be made in Britain. Called Delft ware because of the fame of the potteries at Delft in Holland which first made it in Europe, although it was invented in the Middle East. Soft, cream coloured fabric with a thick white glaze, often with painted designs in blue, purple and yellow. First made in Britain in Norwich around AD1600, and continued in use until the 19th century. The 17th century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19th century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was considered very cheap and the main types of pot were such as chamber pots and ointment jars.

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

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

SMW: Staffordshire Manganese Ware, 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.

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



SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. Hard, white pottery with a white glaze with a texture like orange peel. Made between 1720 and 1780, pots usually table wares such as tea bowls, tankards and plates.

SB: Scratch Blue Ware. Very similar to SWSG, and the same date. Has blue decoration inlaid in lines 'scratched' into the surface of the pot.

CP: Chinese Porcelain. Very hard, thin and light white pottery, usually with blue painted decoration. First imported from China around AD1650, and still is nowadays.

CR: 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.

VIC: '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

12.1.1 2009 Pottery Results

No = number of sherds
Wt = weight of sherds in grams

Test Pit 1

TP	Cntxt	RBG		RBM		RBC		ST		MS		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			1	16			3	17			900-1100
1	2							4	13			900-1100
1	3							1	2	2	10	900-1200
1	4	1	4	1	7			1	2			900-1100
1	5			1	6	1	9					100-400
1	6	1	11					2	14			100-1100

All the pottery from this test-pit is Roman or dates to about 50 years after the Norman Conquest of 1066. The fact that the later pottery is all mixed in with lots of Roman building material indicates that it is very likely that people were taking away the stone from the Roman building at that time, to build another building, most probably Castor church. The site appears to have been abandoned after that time.

Test Pit 2

TP	Cntxt	RBG		ST		OW		EMW		MS		BB		LB		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	2									5	8			3	19	1225-1350
2	3			2	4					5	11			1	15	900-1350
2	4							1	1	6	60	1	34			1200-1225
2	5	1	5			1	19			12	51					100-1200
2	6									2	17					1100-1200

This test-pit produced a range of pottery which shows that the site was used a little in Roman times, but was then abandoned until after the Norman Conquest. All the contexts are medieval, and show that the site was continually in used from around 1100-1350, after which it was abandoned, and has been fields from then until the present day.

Test Pit 3 – see below



Test Pit 4

TP	Cntxt	SN		ST		MS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1							1	2	2	3	1680-1900
4	2			1	2					7	9	900-1900
4	3							1	2	5	12	1680-1900
4	4			1	1							900-1100
4	5			2	6							900-1100
4	20	1	1	16	54							900-1100
4	22			1	3	3	11					900-1200

The pottery from this test –pit shows that people were living at the site from the late Saxon period until after the Norman Conquest. It appears to have been abandoned sometime between 1100 and 1200, and then never really used other than as fields or gardens until the 18th century.

Test Pit 5 – see below

Test Pit 3

TP	Cntxt	RBG		EMS		ST		MS		LB		BD		LMOx		CW		GS		GRE		DW		SS		SMW		CR		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
3	2																															1750-1800
3	3																															1750-1800
3	4											4	39			4	42			1	1	1	3			1	6	1	8			1470-1800
3	5	1	14	1	5	1	1	2	4	1	5	2	27					5	36	1	3			2	14						100-1700	
3	6																	1	5												1500-1550	
3	7													2	20	1	7														1450-1550	

This test-pit produced lots of different pottery types, from the Roman period onwards. It shows that the site was in use at various times in the Roman, Early Saxon, late Saxon and early medieval period, and then seems to have been continuously occupied from around 1500 to the present day.

Test Pit 5

TP	Cntxt	BD		MP		CW		GS		GRE		DW		MTS		SS		SMW		ES		SWSG		CR		VIC		Date Range		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
5	1																	2	9			1	4			2	8			1680-1900
5	2																									2	13			1800-1900
5	3			1	4			1	3	2	14	1	2	1	4	5	21	5	20	1	6	4	7	1	4					1450-1800
5	4									8	64					7	70	8	268	1	1	1	2							1550-1750
5	5	1	15	2	28	1	2			2	15							3	73											1450-1700
5	6			1	16					1	28																			1450-1600

This test-pit produced a lot of pottery, most of which dates to after the end of the medieval period. The site seems to have been first occupied around 1500, with the most intense period of activity being between 1650 and 1720. The pottery of that date was mixed in with lots of other types of finds typical of the households of the period, and the contexts which produced it seem to be a domestic midden, the rubbish dump for the house at the time.

12.1.2 2010 Pottery Report

No = number of sherds
Wt = weight of sherds in grams

Test Pit 1

TP	Context	SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			11	47	1800-1900
1	2			2	2	1800-1900
1	4	1	17	3	9	1680-1900

Nearly all the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, suggesting that the site was not really used by people before that time, although a piece of Roman tile was also found, showing that there was a building of that date nearby.

Test Pit 2

TP	Context	ST		MS		EMW		EW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	2			4	11	1	2			3	9	1100-1900
2	3	3	4					1	2	1	3	950-1900
2	4	1	2									900-1000
2	5	1	11									900-1000

The pottery from this test-pit shows that people were living at the site from the 10th – 13th centuries, but it was then abandoned until Victorian times.

Test Pit 3

TP	Context	ST		SN		MS		EMW		BB		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1			1	2									2	11	900-1900
3	2	1	17			4	16					1	1	3	3	1000-1900
3	3	4	7	1	3	1	8	1	8	1	4					950-1300
3	4	4	25	4	31									2	5	1000-1900

The pottery from this test-pit shows that people were living at the site from the 10th – 13th centuries, but it was then more or less abandoned until Victorian times.

Test Pit 4 – see below

Test Pit 5

TP	Context	RBG		MS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	3			1	13	1	1	1100-1900
5	4	1	4			1	1	100-1900
5	5			1	14			1100-1200

This test-pit only produced a small amount of pottery, but it shows that people were using the site in Roman times, in the 12th century and again in the Victorian era.

Test Pit 6

TP	Context	GRIM		LB		MP		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	2									2	31	1800-1900
6	3					1	15	1	7			1350-1750
6	5			1	23					1	120	1450-1900
6	6	1	14									1100-1400

This test-pit only produced a small amount of pottery, but it shows that people were using the site between the 12th and 15th centuries, and then that it was abandoned until Victorian times.

Test Pit 7

TP	Context	ST		SN		MS		GRE		ES		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1									1	6			5	10	1800-1900
7	2							1	8			4	191	22	92	1550-1900
7	3									1	15			10	107	1680-1900
7	4					1	7							1	12	1100-1900
7	5	4	21	1	23											900-1100

The pottery from this test-pit shows that people were living at the site from the 10th – 12th centuries, but it was then more or less abandoned until the 17th or 18th century.

Test Pit 8

TP	Context	ES		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1			3	18	71	206	1680-1900
8	2			3	236	39	126	1680-1900
8	3	1	2	4	286	36	522	1680-1900
8	4	1	5	2	45	29	86	1680-1900
8	5	1	47			19	151	1680-1900
8	6					5	22	1800-1900

All the pottery from this site dates to the late 17th century or later, showing that it is unlikely that people used the site before that time.



Test Pit 9

TP	Context	RBG		RBC		MS		EW		LB		BD		GRE		SS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	1																			2	2	1800-1900
9	2									1	7							1	23	10	47	1200-1900
9	3	1	4									2	8					7	88	7	19	100-1900
9	4			1	12	2	12	1	3					2	4	1	13	1	5	2	3	250-1900
9	5					1	4			1	5	2	31									1100-1550
9	6	2	6	3	11	2	5															100-1200

This test-pit produced a lot of different types of pottery. It shows that people were living here in Roman times, and then that it was abandoned until the 12th century. It then appears that the site was in use from then until the present.

Test Pit 10

TP	Context	SMW		SB		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1					2	23	1800-1900
10	2					6	17	1800-1900
10	3					9	19	1800-1900
10	4					3	12	1800-1900
10	5	1	19	1	3	11	11	1680-1900

All the pottery from this site dates to the late 17th century or later, showing that it is unlikely that people used the site before that time. The Scratch Blue sherd was unusual in that it was from the lid of a tea-pot, and suggests that the people who lived here in the 18th century were quite wealthy, as it was an expensive type of pottery at the time.

Test Pit 4

TP	Context	RBC		ST		MS		EMW		EW		GRIM		LB		BD		TG		GRE		SS		SMW		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1																											8	35	1800-1900
4	2																											58	375	1800-1900
4	3	1	5	5	22	2	6			4	21					1	29							1	66	1	1	47	319	250-1900
4	4																			1	2							4	4	1800-1900
4	5			4	12	4	14					1	5	1	16			1	8			1	15							950-1700
4	7			3	19			1	3																					950-1200
4	8					2	10	1	5					1	9															1100-1300

This test-pit produced a lot of different types of pottery. It shows that people were living here in Roman times, and then that it was abandoned until the 10th century. It then appears that the site was in use from then until the present. The 'Tudor Green' sherd is a very unusual find in Castor, and suggests that the people who lived here in the 15th century may have been quite wealthy.

12.1.3 2011 Pottery Report

No = number of sherds

Wt = weight of sherds in grams

Test Pit 1

TP	Cntxt	RBG		BD		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	2			1	5	1450-1500
1	3	1	2	1	2	100-1550

The single sherd of Roman apart, all the pottery from this test-pit date to the late medieval or early post-medieval era. This suggests there was little activity at the site other than at those times.

Test Pit 2

TP	Cntxt	MS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	2			2	4	1800-1900
2	3			1	1	1800-1900
2	4	1	4			1100-1200

This test-pit did not produce much pottery, but that which is here shows that the site was used in early medieval times, probably the 12th century, but was then abandoned until the 19th century.

Test Pit 3

TP	Cntxt	MS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1			1	19			1700-1750
3	2					3	11	1800-1900
3	3	1	2					1800-1900

The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site has not been much-used by people in the past. There is a single sherd of early medieval pottery, probably 12th century, but it seems the site was not really used before the 18th century.

Test Pit 4

TP	Cntxt	VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	
4	2	1	44	1800-1900
4	4	1	2	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, so it would appear the site was not used by people before that time.

Test Pit 5

TP	Cntxt	ST		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1					15	140	1800-1900
5	2					15	88	1800-1900
5	3					2	2	1800-1900
5	4	1	6			3	8	1000-1900
5	5			1	1	4	4	1550-1900

Nearly all the pottery from this test-pit is Victorian, although there is also a single piece of Stamford Ware, which shows people were using the site in the 11th century, and another of GRE, which suggests there was activity in the late 16th or 17th century.

Test Pit 6

TP	Cntxt	MS		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1			1	1	1800-1900
6	2	1	1	11	35	1100-1900
6	3	2	4	20	209	1100-1900
6	4	4	39	15	59	1100-1900

The pottery from this test-pit shows that people were living at the site in the early medieval period, probably the 12th or 13th centuries, but then it was abandoned until Victorian times.

Test Pit 7

TP	Cntxt	RBC		RBG		ST		CP		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1									32	63	1800-1900
7	2							1	1	32	58	1750-1900
7	3									10	10	1800-1900
7	4	1	14	1	15	1	3			2	5	100-1900

The sherds of Roman pottery show that people were probably living at this site in the 3rd – 4th centuries, but it then appears to have been abandoned until the 11th century. After that time, there appears to have been no activity until the 19th century.

Test Pit 8

TP	Cntxt	ST		MS		SMW		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1							3	10	1800-1900
8	2					3	7	14	18	1700-1900
8	3	1	4	1	3			2	3	1000-1900

The pottery from this test-pit shows that people were using the site in the 11th – 12th century, but then it was abandoned until the 18th – 19th century, when people were once again living there.

12.2 Other Finds – Catherine Collins

12.2.1 2009 test pit finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x8 = 414g, curved red tile fragments x5 = 242g, red CBM fragments x30 = 651g			flat yellow sandstone tile? = 17g, sand stone x4 = 60g, large stone x1 = 329g	
C. 2	red CBM fragments x22 = 217g, flat red tile fragments x9 = 174g		part of metal buckle = 5g, slag 89g	cubes of sand stone? used as tile (tessera?) x7 = 201g, coal x1 = <1g, sand stone x6 = 61g	concrete x1 = 17g, oyster shell x2 = 2g, mortar x3 = 54g
C.3	modern red CBM fragments x5 = 718g, Roman box-flue tile fragment x1 = 67g, red CBM fragments x41 = 786g, flat red tile fragments x12 = 434g		slag x2 = 7g	cube of sand stone? used as tile (tessera?) x1 = 29g	mortar x13 = 199g
C.4	flat red tile fragments x2 = 48g, flat red tile fragments with hole x1 = 44g, Roman red box-flue tile fragment x1 = 87g, red CBM fragments x15 = 244g				mortar x1 = 10g
C.5	flat red tile fragments x8 = 836g, curved red tile fragments x4 = 322g, red CBM fragments x101 = 1606g			sand stone cube used as tile (tessera?) x1 = 60g, sandstone x6 = 180g	red painted plaster x 4 = 223g, yellow painted plaster x3 = 472g, mortar x6 = 38g, concrete x3 = 53g
C.6	flat red tile fragments x8 = 483g, curved red tile fragments x2 = 242g, Roman red box flue tile fragments x2 = 52g, red CBM fragments x24 = 335g			sand stone x8 = 543g	red painted plaster x2 = 26g, mortar x15 = 674g
C.7	red CBM fragments x22 = 868g, flat red tile fragments x1 = 85g, curved red tile fragments x2 = 147g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x3 = 188g			sand stone x4 = 292g	plaster x1 = 62g, mortar x16 = 148g

Table 24: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/1



Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1			Z shaped flat iron object with small round hole at top (use unknown) =24g		
C. 2	red CBM fragments x4 = 7g	green bottle glass x1 = <1g, clear window glass x1 = <1g	slag? x1 = 1g	flint? x1 = 2g, coal x1 =2g	
C.3	red CBM fragment x1 = 1g		round head iron nails = 8g		snail shell x4 = <1g
C.4	red CBM fragment x1 = <1g		round head iron nails = 9g	sand stone x1 =10g	mortar x1 = <1g
C.5	red CBM fragments x3 = 20g, flat red tile fragments x1 = 13g			coal x1 = <1g	shell x2 = 0g
C.6				flat stone tile? = 19g	shell x4 = <1g

Table 25: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/2

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1					mortar x6 = 3g
C. 2		clear glass marble x1 = 10g, black glass x1 =2g	modern screw x1 =2g	coal x2 = 1g, flat grey stone tile = 486g	
C.3	flat red tile fragments x x1 =31g		metal button = 4g	grey/yellow sand stone tile? =25g	concrete x2 = 21g
C.4	dark yellow CBM fragments x1 =16g, red CBM fragments x1 = 30g	clear window glass x1 = <1g	iron nails x7 = 33g	coal x1 = 5g, slightly red sand stone (burnt?) = 249g	
C.5	thin red brick fragment = 1088g (155x105x50mm), dark yellow CBM fragments x3 = 307g, red CBM fragments x2 =120g, curved tile fragment x1 =222g, clay pipe stem x1 =1g	degraded green bottle glass x1 =5g	lump metal = 24g, coal x2 =8g, iron nails x1 =6g	flat sand stone tiles x3 = 162g (1 with hole)	oyster shell fragment x1 =1g
C.6	red CBM fragments x4 = 100g, flat red tile fragments x1 = 74g, dark yellow CBM fragments x4 =3g	degraded glass x1 = <1g		grey/yellow flat sand stone tile fragments x4 = 150g, lump of sand stone x170g	
C.7	red CBM fragment x1 =24g			grey/yellow flat sand stone tiles x5 = 111g	mortar x3 = 11g

Table 26: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/3



Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x3 =4g		flat metal washer? = 5g	slate x1 =2g, coal x4 =3g	mortar x2 =2g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x1 = 3g	clear window glass x1 = 1g, clear container glass x1 =7g, green bottle glass x2 =8g	iron nails x2 = 10g	flint flake? = <1g	
C.3		clear window glass x1 = <1g	iron nails x1 =5g		asbestos x1 =6g
C.4					snail shell x5 =4g
C.5	red CBM fragments x1 = 11g			flint flake? x1 = 2g	animal bone x1 = <1g
C.20	red CBM fragments x1 = 5g				tiny snail shell =<1g
Garden Finds	curved thin red pot/tile x4 = 66g, stoneware pot x1 = 17g, pinky yellow curved tile fragment =11g, red CBM fragments x6 = 96g	green bottle glass x2 = 8g, clear window glass x1 =2g		slate x1 =8g, pot x2 =5g	

Table 27: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/4



Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe bowl fragments x2 = 1g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g			coal x1 = 1g	plastic x1 = 1g, concrete x1 = 16g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x2 = 4g, flat red tile fragment x1 = 16g			coal x1 = 3g, yellow/grey flat sand stone tile fragments x4 = 34g	
C.3	clay pipe stem x19 = 43g, red CBM fragments x5 = 14g, clay pipe bowl fragments x7 = 14g, dark yellow CBM fragments x3 = 3g, flat grey/yellow tile fragments x8 = 60g	degraded green bottle glass x1 = 10g, clear container glass x1 = <1g, clear window glass x3 = 3g	iron nails x1 = 5g	coal x3 = 7g	animal bone x1 = 2g, oyster shell x2 = <1g, mortar x2 = 4g
C.4	clay pipe stem x27 = 93g, dirty yellow brick fragment = 557g (85x100x43mm), dark yellow CBM fragments x4 = 24g, clay pipe bowl fragments x2 = 15g	old glass x1 = 6g, green bottle glass x3 = 8g, clear window glass x1 = <1g	iron nail x1 = 4g, metal rod = 63g	coal x7 = 29g, flat grey sand stone tile x10 = 78g	oyster shell fragments x6 = 22g
C.5	clay pipe bowl = 16g, flat red tile fragments x1 = 14g, clay pipe stem x4 = 15g, red CBM fragments x1 = 2g, dark yellow CBM fragments x1 = 2g	clear window glass x3 = 11g, green bottle glass x3 = 13g	iron nails x1 = 4g	yellow/grey sand stone tile fragments x3 = 106g	oyster shell x6 = 37g, snail shell x1 = 4g
C.6	clay pipe stem x3 = 6g, dark yellow CBM fragments x3 = 65g		large iron nails x1 = 34g	yellow/grey flat sand stone tile with hole = 183g, flint? x1 = 13g	
C.7				grey/yellow flat sand stone tile fragments x1 = 20g	

Table 28: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/09/5

12.2.2 2010 test pit finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red and grey flat 'sandwich' tile/pot with corrugated effect on one side =25g, modern red CBM fragments x1 =8g		corroded iron nails x1 =3g, corroded iron clothes peg spring =2g, metal wire =<1g		asbestos x1 =3g, grey plastic x1 =3g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x1 =3g,		metal wire =<1g, long corroded iron nails x1 =15g, corroded long iron nail with hoop on one end =12g, modern nails x1 =<1g	coal x4 =16g, sandstone x1 =17g	red plastic (wire covering?) =<1g
C.3	modern red CBM fragments x1 =32g	green bottle glass x1 =<1g	silver foil x1 =0g, corroded iron nails x2 =3g	coal x2=4g	tiny snail shell x1 =<1g
C.4	, modern red CBM fragments x2 =31g		corroded flat plate of iron =18g, turquoise metal? toy car (missing front wheels) =16g, circular flat plate of corroded iron =4g	coal x4 =<1g, sand stone x1 =36g	concrete? x1 =30g, snail shell fragments x1 =<1g

Table 29: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x1 =<1g		slag? x1 =3g	coal x2 = 10g	mortar? =<1g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x3 =9g, modern pink/yellow CBM fragments x2 =14g	clear container glass x1 =3g	long corroded iron modern nail x1 =13g, unidentified metal tubing with screw like head on one end =76g	coal x 11 =17g	
C.3	red CBM fragments x1 =2g				plastic wrappers x2 =<1g, pink mortar? x3 =1g
C.4	partially glazed red floor tile = 45g, flat red tile fragments x1 =102g, modern red CBM fragments x2 =25g, red and black 'sandwich' tile fragments x1 =243g, red and black CBM fragments x6 =41g, red CBM fragments x6 =62g		corroded iron scraps x1 =6g		
C.5	red CBM fragments x2 =7g			sandstone? x3 =98g, waste flint? x1 =3g	

Table 30: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/2



Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x4 =47g	green bottle glass x5 =16g, clear flat glass x3 =24g	silver foil x3 =2g, aluminium? screw cap =1g, modern nails x1 =11g, corroded iron nails x4 =26g, metal wire x2 =2g	coal x4 =7g	melted plastic x2 =1g, concrete x1 =8g, tarmac? x6 =12g
C. 2	red/yellow CBM fragments x2 =8g	clear container glass x1 =<1g	aluminium? plant tag =1g, corroded metal wire x4 =18g, folded sheet of aluminium? =6g, tiny fairy light bulb? =<1g, rim and neck of metal tube? =2g, silver foil x5 =<1g, corroded iron nails x6 =52g	coal x7 =3g	sea shell x1 =2g, melted plastic x2 =7g
C.3	red CBM fragments x2 =<1g		corroded modern nail with washer round middle =26g, modern screw x1 =3g, silver foil x2= 0g, corroded iron scraps x1 =7g	coal x3 =1g	
C.4	red CBM fragments x4 =1g	green bottle glass x2 =8g, clear flat glass x1 =<1g, clear container glass x2 =1g	silver foil x1 =<1g, corroded iron nails x1 =2g		
C.5				coal x2 =<1g, waste flint? x1 =7g	

Table 31: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/3



Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x3 =20g	clear flat glass x10 = 28g		coal x5 =113g	concrete x1 =7g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x2 =1g	green bottle glass x1 =<1g, melted glass blob =4g, clear flat glass x16 =29g, clear container glass x1 =<1g	corroded metal screw =2g, corroded iron nails x2 =14g	metal button =3g	
C.3	red CBM fragments x3 =11g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x2 =<1g	clear flat glass x3 =5g	corroded iron scraps x2 =25g		concrete? x1 =2g
C.4	dirty yellow CBM fragments x1 =107g, red CBM fragments x1 =5g	clear flat glass x3 =4g		coal x2 =5g	
C.5	yellow/orange CBM fragments x1 =6g, red and black 'sandwich' CBM fragments x1 =10g, red CBM fragments x1 =17g	degraded glass x1 =1g	corroded iron nails x3 =14g	coal x1 =<1g, sand stone x1 =2g	oyster shell fragments x4 =1g
C.7	red CBM fragments x2 =5g, yellow/orange CBM fragments x1 = 27g				snail shell fragments x6 =0g
C.8	clay pipe stem x2 =2g				
C.9	red and black CBM fragment x1 =5g			sand stone x1 =10g	
Unknown context	red flat tile fragments x1 =8g, red CBM fragments x1 =23g		corroded iron scraps x1 =1g	coal x5 =8g	oyster shell x1= 15g

Table 32: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/4



Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x1 =2g		corroded modern long nails x2 =27g, metal washer? =3g		blue plastic x4 =<1g, fragment of cloth =<1g, clear plastic 'dome' shaped object =<1g (bulb cover?), asbestos x1 =6g, plastic wrapper =<1g
C. 2		clear flat glass x1 =1g, clear container glass x1 =<1g	two corroded iron nails held together with metal washer =16g	coal x1 =<1g	
C.3	modern? red CBM with purplish outer edge x4 = 250g, red CBM fragments x5 =304g, red brick fragment with mortar x1 =80g			sand stone x1 =5g	
C.4	clay pipe stem x2 =5g, red and black 'sandwich' brick fragment = 246g, red and black 'sandwich' CBM fragment – corrugated on one side (flue tile?) =25g, flat red tile fragmets x3 =241g	very degraded flat glass x1 =2g		coal x1=3g, sand stone x1 =17g	
C.5	clay pipe stem x1 =2g, red CBM fragments x5 =172g	green bottle glass x2 =7g, clear flat glass x1 =2g		coal x1 =1g, sand stone x2 =78g	
C.6	tessera? x1 =5g, red CBM fragments x4 =41g, grey CBM fragments x2 =21g		corroded flat iron plate =9g, corroded round flat iron disc =3g, corroded iron nails x1 =2g	coal x1 =<1g	snail shell x1 =2g

Table 33: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/5



Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	, red and black 'sandwich' CBM fragment x1 =86g,		part of a metal building fixing? (has a notch taken out of it) =111g		concrete x1 =19g
C. 2	red and greyish/black CBM fragments x3 =77g			chalk x3 =23g, sand stone? x1 =19g	concrete x1 =21g
C.3	red and black 'sandwich' CBM fragments x2 =178g	clear container glass x1 =17g, green bottle glass x2 =11g, clear flat glass x1 =10g			oyster shell x1 =2g
C.5	flat red tile fragments x1 =21g, red and black 'sandwich' flat tile fragments x3 =145g, red CBM fragments x6 =44g		half of pair of metal scissors =17g, corroded iron nails x1 =<1g		mortar? x1 =15g, concrete? x5 =92g
C.6	red CBM fragments x8 = 65g, red and grey CBM fragment x1 =20g			sand stone x5 =113g	oyster shell x1 =21g, mortar? x10 = 51g

Table 34: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/6



Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1		degraded clear flat glass x1 =1g			
C. 2	red CBM fragments x17 =44g, curved red tile fragments x3 =124g, modern red/yellow and black 'sandwich' CBM fragments x1 =41g	small square complete green glass bottle (full of mud) = 117g, clear container glass x7 = 31g, green bottle glass x8 = 52g, clear flat glass x5 =9g, corroded iron nails x3 =33g	half a metal button =<1g, large corroded iron bolt = 405g	coal x1 =3g	plaster? x4 =10g
C.3	curved red roof tile x1 =399g, curved red tile fragments x2 =69g, red CBM fragments x16 =75g, red and black CBM fragments x6 =63g, dirty yellow CBM fragments x9 =87g, red brick fragment x1 =173g	green bottle glass x2 =32g, clear container glass x1 =7g, clear flat glass x1 =4g, degraded flat glass x1 =3g	corroded iron bolts x3=153g, corroded iron nails x3 =24g		plaster? x30 =80g
C.4	red brick fragments x2 =392g, red and greyish 'sandwich' brick fragment x1 = 99g		corroded iron nails x2 =7g, corroded iron bolts x2 =46g, corroded iron scraps x2 =35g		concrete x1 =56g
C.5	curved red tile fragments x1 =164g, red and black 'sandwich' brick fragments x2 =393g, red CBM fragments x1 =88g, red flat tile fragments x1 =147g		lump of corroded iron = 133g		

Table 35: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/7



Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	glazed tile fragment x1 =62g, red CBM fragments x3 = 36g, flower pot? fragment x1 =10g	clear glass marble =8g, clear flat glass x2 =3g, green bottle glass x3 =23g, clear container glass x5 =52g, half a metal button? =<1g	corroded iron bolts x6 = 323g, corroded iron nails x23 = 216g, small metal round object (like a wheel – has spokes) =2g, corroded iron scraps x6 = 81g	coal x11 =40g, slate x2 =10g	asbestos x1 =20g, concrete x1 =9g,
C. 2	dark yellow CBM fragments x1 =227g, clay pipe stem x1 =2g, red CBM fragments x24 = 157g	clear container glass x5 =71g, green bottle glass x7 = 25g	corroded iron bolts x2 =109g, long corroded iron nails x3 =58g, corroded iron nails x3 =16g	slate pencil =1g, coal x9 =10g	centre part of a battery =3g
C.3	clay pipe stem x2 =5g, red CBM fragments x11 =70g	clear flat glass x1 =20g, clear container glass x1 =5g	corroded iron nails x7 = 73g, long flat rectangular plate of corroded metal =340g, small metal decorative object? =<1g, slightly curved plate iron =93g, corroded iron bolts x4 =212g, corroded iron scraps x2 =13g		
C.4	curved red tile fragments x1 =31g	blue bottle glass x1 =20g	curved large plate corroded iron = 346g, corroded iron bolts x3 =115g, corroded iron nails x12 =127g, corroded iron scraps x2 =96g	coal x6 = 5g	
C.5	red CBM fragments x4 =12g, curved dirty yellow tile fragment =395g, flat red tile fragments x1 =142g	rounded oblong glass object (probable handle/draw knob) = 15g, green glass bottle base = 289g, green bottle glass x2 =9g			
C.6		clear container glass x1 =2g	corroded iron nails x1 =13g, corroded iron bolt x1 =61g		

Table 36: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/8



Test Pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM fragments x3 =13g	clear flat glass x5 =8g, green bottle glass x1 =8g		coal x5 =16g, slate x1 =5g	
C. 2	red CBM fragments x10 = 27g	clear flat glass x13 =17g, clear container glass x5 =16g	corroded iron nails x4 =16g, slag x1 =22g, CBM and slag? x1 =8g, corroded iron scraps x2 =5g, large flat plate of metal with handle? and metal bolt running horizontal across it (use unknown) = 131g	coal x24 =81g	sea shell (whelk?) = 12g, concrete x3 = 24g
C.3	red CBM fragments x15 = 199g, clay pipe stem? x1 =<1g	clear flat glass x1 =5g	corroded iron nails x1 =2g	coal x10 =14g, burnt stone? x1 =6g	concrete x3 =14g
C.4	flat red tile fragments x3 =46g, red CBM fragments x16 = 82g	clear flat glass x1 =<1g	corroded iron nails x1 =2g	half a red (burnt?) and yellow building stone? =205g, coal x7 = 13g	
C.5	red and grey 'sandwich' tile x1 =42g, flat red tile fragments x2 =57g, red CBM fragments x10 =75g			coal x3 =11g	
C.6	flat red tile fragments x4 = 275g, curved red tile fragments x3 =159g, red CBM fragments x21 = 218g	clear flat glass x1 =<1g	slag x1 =18g	coal x1 =<1g, grey stone x2 =51g, dirty yellow sandstone x2 =25g, reddish grey stone x1 =35g	oyster shell x1 =13g

Table 37: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/9



Test Pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	flat red tile fragments x1 =32g, black CBM fragments x1 =27g, red CBM fragments x6 = 53g, dark yellow CBM fragment x3 =16g	clear container glass x6 =32g, clear window glass x2 =1g, green bottle glass x1 =12g	modern nails x1 =1g, long iron bolt =29g	coal x2 = 43g	asbestos x1 =9g, concrete x1 =2g, mortar? x1 =3g
C. 2	red CBM fragments x2 =78g	clear flat glass x1 =2g, clear container glass x2 =9g	barbed wire x2 =7g, one penny coin dated 1971 =4g, corroded iron lump =26g, metal button? x1 =1g	coal x9 = 19g, building stone x1 =29g	asbestos x3 =88g, tarmac x1 =43g
C.3	red CBM fragments x6 =25g, flat red tile fragments x1 =29g, dark yellow/red CBM fragments x4 =125g	melted glass blob x1 =13g, clear flat glass x5 =3g, green bottle glass x2 =8g	end of a shotgun cartridge? =4g, slag x5 =61g, corroded iron nails x2 =18g, modern nails x3 =4g, corroded iron scraps x9 =46g, small bent plate of copper? =<1g	coal x37 = 66g, slate x1 =3g	asbestos x3 =29g, concrete x2 =8g
C.4	red CBM fragments x2 =22g, dark yellow CBM fragments x5 =27g	clear flat glass x2 =3g, clear container glass x1 =5g	corroded iron nails x3 =17g, corroded iron scraps x2 =13g	coal x15 = 39g	concrete x3 =33g
C.5	red CBM fragments x9 =52g, clay pipe stem x1 =2g	clear container glass x2 =9g, clear flat glass x1 =3g	slag? x3 =11g, corroded iron nails x3 =22g, corroded iron scraps x4 =19g	coal x36 = 45g, slate x1 =9g	mortar? x1 =2g
C.6	red CBM fragments x2 = 9g	clear container glass x1 =1g	slag x3 =10g	coal x20 = 18g	mortar? x2 =4g

Table 38: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/10/10

12.2.3 2011 test pit finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM x4 =18g, modern pink/red CBM x2= 26g, grey CBM? =13g, small rounded red clay objects – varying in thickness x27 =28g	green bottle glass =3g	slag x3 =18g	coal x4 =12g	
C. 2	modern yellow/red CBM x5 =20g, pink/yellow CBM x2 =13g, red/orange CBM x2 =5g	clear container glass =8g	corroded iron nail =6g	coal x9 =14g	
C.3	small rounded red clay object =1g, pink/yellow CBM =5g		slag? =6g	coal x4 =4g	
C.4	red/orange and grey 'sandwich' tile =40g, pink/orange CBM =2g, red/orange CBM x2 =13g			coal x2 =3g	
C.5	burnt CBM? =1g				

Table 39: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1			slag =<1g		
C. 2	red/orange CBM x2 =12g	clear flat glass =<1g, clear container glass x2 =17g	slag =8g	coal x4 =2g	
C.3	dark yellow curved drain/tile x2 =213g, red/orange CBM x2 =17g			'granite' like stone x2 =17g, dark yellow sandstone x7 =103g	
C.4				dirty yellow sandstone x2 =95g, chalk? x4 =87g	
C.5				chalk? =54g	
C.6				yellow sandstone? =30g	

Table 40: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/2

Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red CBM x2 =14g			dirty yellow sandstone? x5 =296g	mortar? x3 =23g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x3 =4g, red/orange CBM x5 =13g			coal x6 =3g, dark yellow sandstone? x6 =76g	tiny snail shell x2 =<1g
C.3	clay pipe bowl fragment =<1g			dirty yellow sandstone? x3 =53g	snail shell =<1g
C.4	red CBM =4g			dirty yellow sandstone? =<1g	
C.5	red/orange CBM =4g				fossil/shell =<1g
C.6					fossil/shell =2g
C.7					yellow limestone/mortar? x2 =94g

Table 41: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	pink/red modern CBM =13g		iron nails x6 =28g, corroded iron scrap =8g	coal x6 =15g, slate x5 =15g, chalk? =11g, burnt stone x2 =7g	red plastic x3 =1g, 6 sided blue tile =6g
C. 2		clear flat glass =<1g	small metal key (size for garage door) =4g, gold milk bottle lid =<1g, modern nail =4g	slate x6 =24g, coal x6 =2g, dirty yellow sandstone x2 =35g, burnt stone =15g, waste flint flake? =2g	
C.3			corroded iron scrap =6g, tiny two handle metal? toy cup =2g	slate x2 =6g, coal x2 =2g	
C.4			bent corroded iron nail =13g	coal =1g, slate =1g, burnt stone? =4g	
C.5				coal =<1g	shell =<1g
C.6			corroded iron nail? =6g	slate =5g, coal =<1g, burnt stone? =3g	snail shell =2g

Table 42: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/4

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red/orange CBM x5 =4g, modern red/orange tile x2 =17g	orange bottle glass x2 =15g, clear container glass =4g	slag x2 =10g, U shaped metal tack =1g, silver foil =<1g	coal 4 =9g, slate =1g	
C. 2	red/orange CBM x8 =38g, red/orange flat tile =40g, modern red/orange CBM x2 =9g, red/yellow CBM =66g	clear flat glass x2 =4g, clear container glass =4g, green bottle glass x2 =4g	aluminium? plant tag =3g, corroded iron scrap =8g	coal x14 =17g, dirty yellow sandstone? x2 =38g	concrete =37g
C.3		clear container glass =7g		dirty yellow sandstone tile? =34g, slate x2 =<1g	
C.4		clear container glass =2g		coal x2 =2g, chalk =4g, marble like stone? x2 =56g, dirty yellow sandstone? =26g, burnt stone? =15g	oyster shell =<1g
C.5			corroded iron scrap =5g	coal x2 =2g, burnt stone? =163g	mortar? x3 =9g

Table 43: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/5

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1		green bottle glass x2 =5g	slag =39g		
C. 2	pink/red CBM =15g	green bottle glass x3 =9g, clear container glass x5 =19g,	corroded iron nail =8g, corroded metal screw plug with white ceramic handle part? (missing knob) =96g	coal =<1g	triangular blue plastic handle (for baby's toy?) =9g
C.3	clay pipe stem x2 =1g, red/orange CBM =6g	green bottle glass x15 =203g, clear glass bottle neck with bluish plastic? like screw cap =64g, clear container glass x7 =16g	metal wire =6g, corroded iron scraps x4 =27g	coal x4 =15g	
C.4	modern red/yellow brick fragment =751g, bright red CBM and metal x5 =61g, red/brown CBM? =5g	clear container glass x6 =51g, green bottle glass x3 =17g	long corroded iron nails x2 =35g, green metal tie hook =<1g, corroded iron scraps x3 =17g		white plastic =<1g

Table 44: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/6

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x3 =4g, red CBM =2g, grey square tessera like object=31g, red and grey CBM x3 =27g, dark yellow CBM x2=2g	green bottle glass x4 =18g, clear container glass x7 =23g, clear flat glass =1g	corroded iron nails x2 =9g, corroded iron scraps x2 =10g, green foil =<1g	coal =3g	oyster shell x3 =4g
C. 2	clay pipe stem =1g,	green bottle glass x2 =6g, clear glass blob =4g, clear container glass x2 =3g	metal button =1g, corroded iron scraps x4 =67g, slag =2g	dirty yellow sandstone tile? =35g	
C.3	clay pipe stem x3 =4g	green bottle glass =2g, clear flat glass x3 =3g	metal hoop =2g		cockle shell =<1g
C.4	red and grey 'sandwich' flat tile x31 = 493g (1 has 'corrugated' appearance on one side), red flat tile x2 =44g, red CBM x82 =378g, red/orange CBM x7 =232g, dirty yellow CBM x4 =197g, red/dark grey CBM x2 =203g	clear flat glass =<1g	corroded iron nail =3g	coal x4 =3g, slate x3 =4g	snail shell =3g
C.5	red CBM x23 =106g				

Table 45: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/7

Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	modern pink/red CBM =22g, clay pipe bowl fragment =1g, clay pipe stem =1g, curved red/orange tile x2 =67g, red CBM x5 =21g	clear container glass x3 =7g, clear flat glass x5 =32g, green bottle glass x3 =9g	corroded iron scrap =8g	coal x26 =44g, grey flat sandstone? tile =23g	burnt wood x5 =11g, partially melted red plastic =<1g, mortar x2 =28g, pink mortar? =1g
C. 2	white glazed modern flat tile =5g, dark yellow curved tile =6g, red CBM x10 =98g, clay pipe bowl fragment =1g, modern yellow/red CBM x2 =34g	green bottle glass x4 =14g, clear flat glass x4 =29g, clear container glass x8 =10g, blue container glass x2 =3g	metal button =1g, small metal valve and pipe? =6g, corroded iron nails x2=6g	coal x12 =10g, slate x3 =7g, burnt stone? x2 =7g	asbestos x4 =23g, burnt wood x2 =20g, brown plastic button =1g
C.3	pink CBM? =47g, red/orange CBM =19g		corroded iron nail =2g	fragment of building limestone? x2 =864g, slate =1g	oyster shell =1g

Table 46: The non-pottery finds excavated from CTR/11/8

12.3 Maps

Much of the value of the test pit data from currently occupied rural settlements are derived from a holistic consideration across the entire settlement. Maps showing a range of the data from the test pit excavations in Castor between 2009 and 2011 are included below. These may be read in conjunction with relevant sections of the main report. Some of these maps are available online at: <http://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/reports/cambridgeshire/castor> maps showing the distribution of other classes of data not depicted in this appendix.

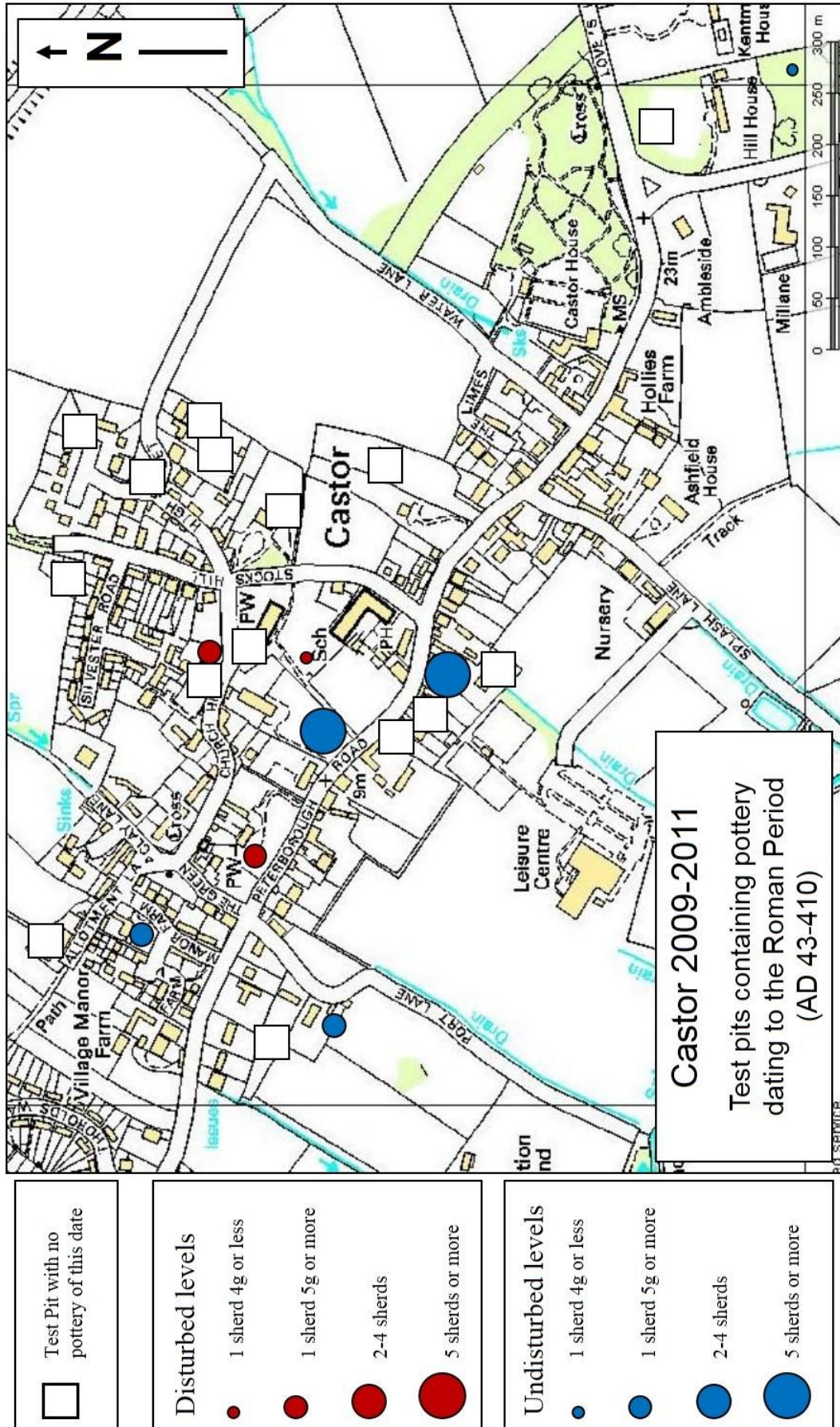


Figure 48: Romano-British pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

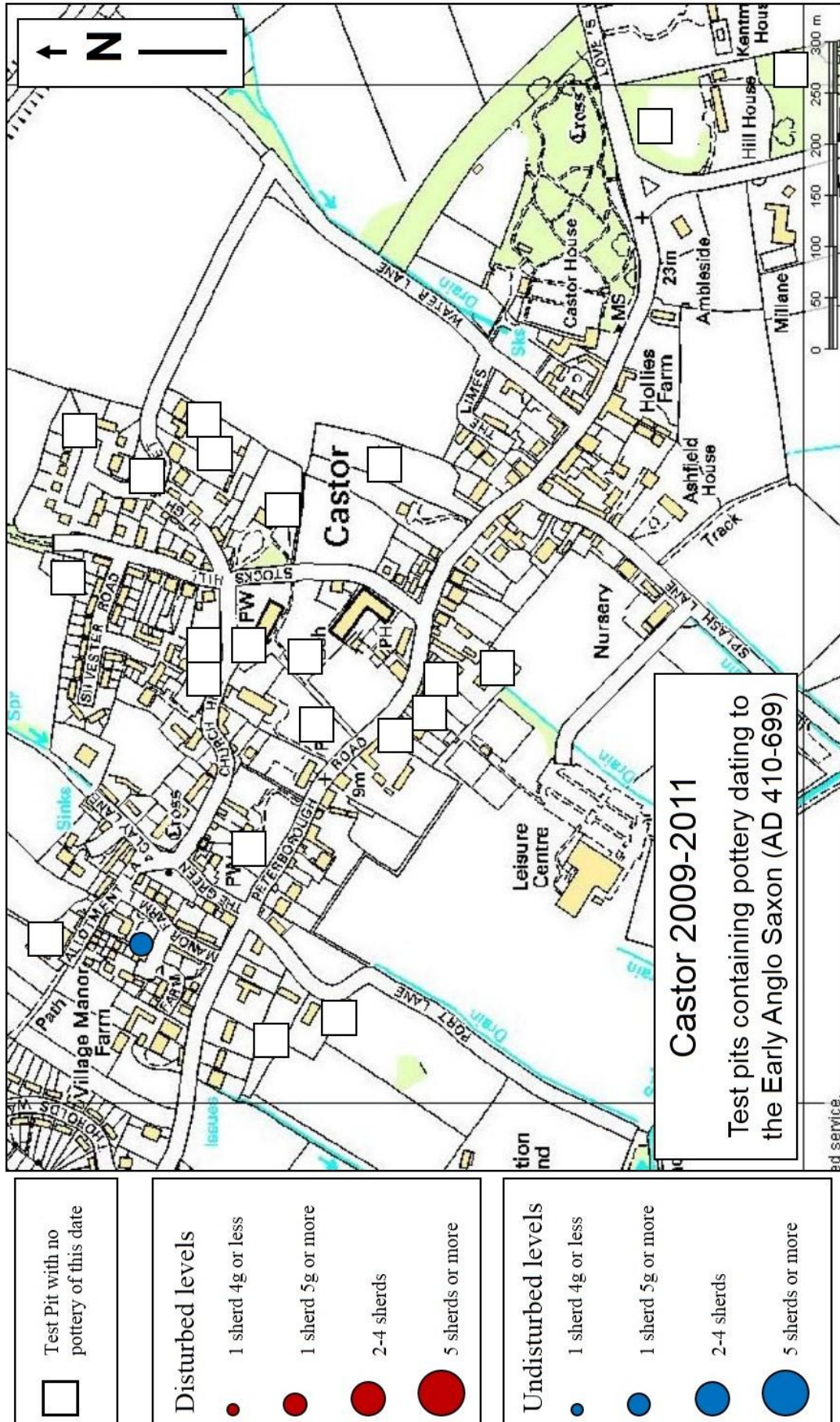


Figure 49: Early-Middle Anglo Saxon pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

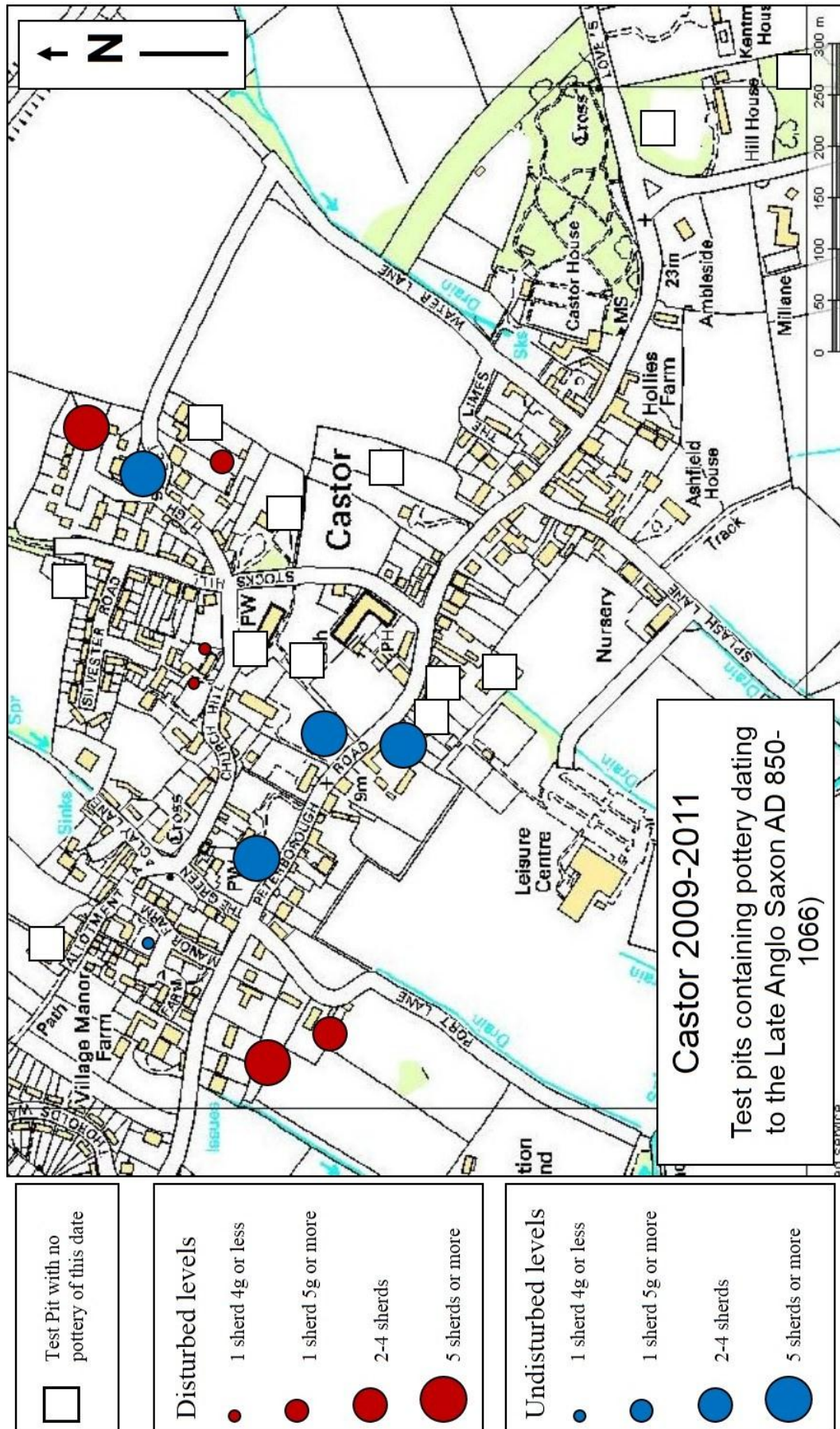


Figure 50: Late Anglo-Saxon pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

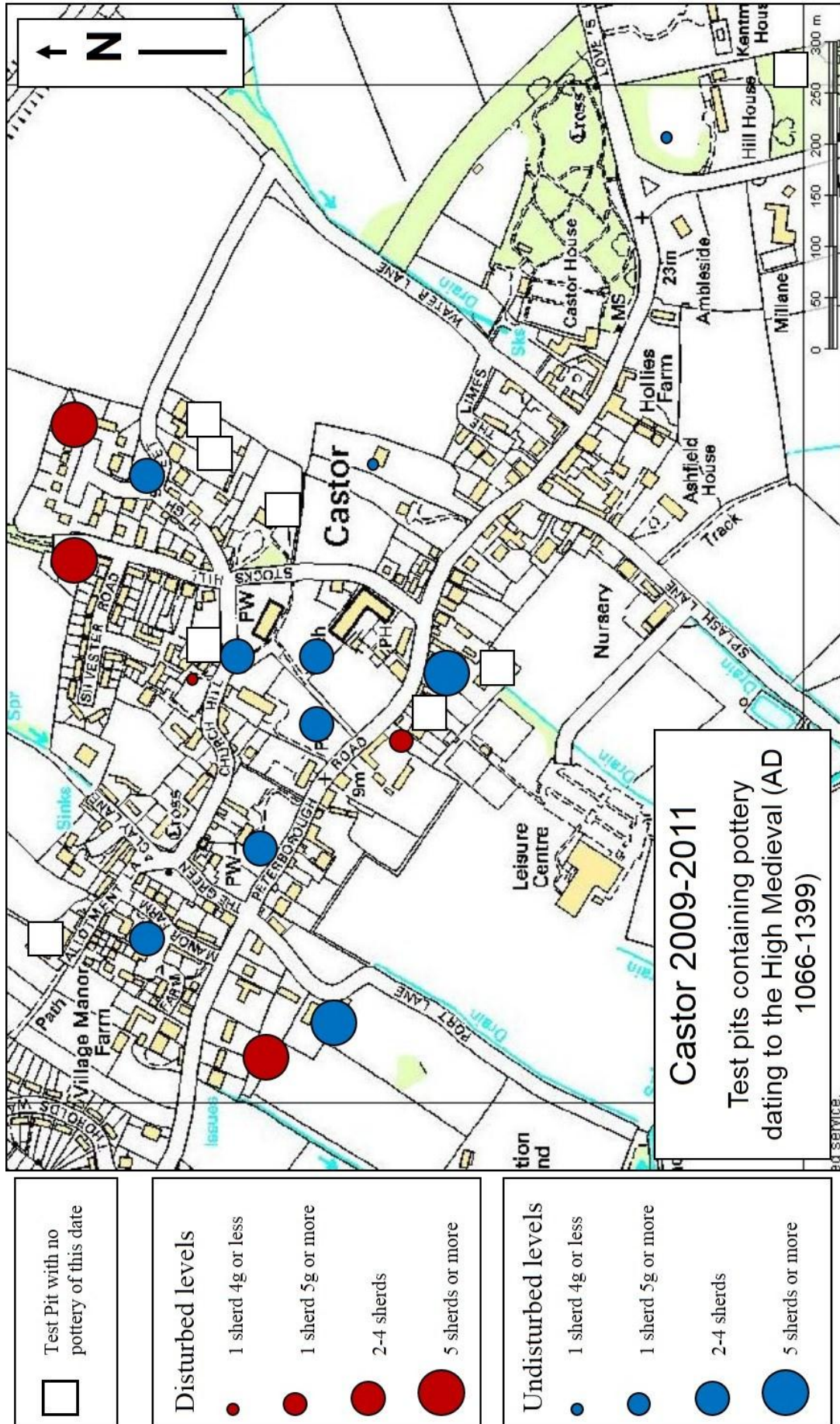


Figure 51: High Medieval pottery distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

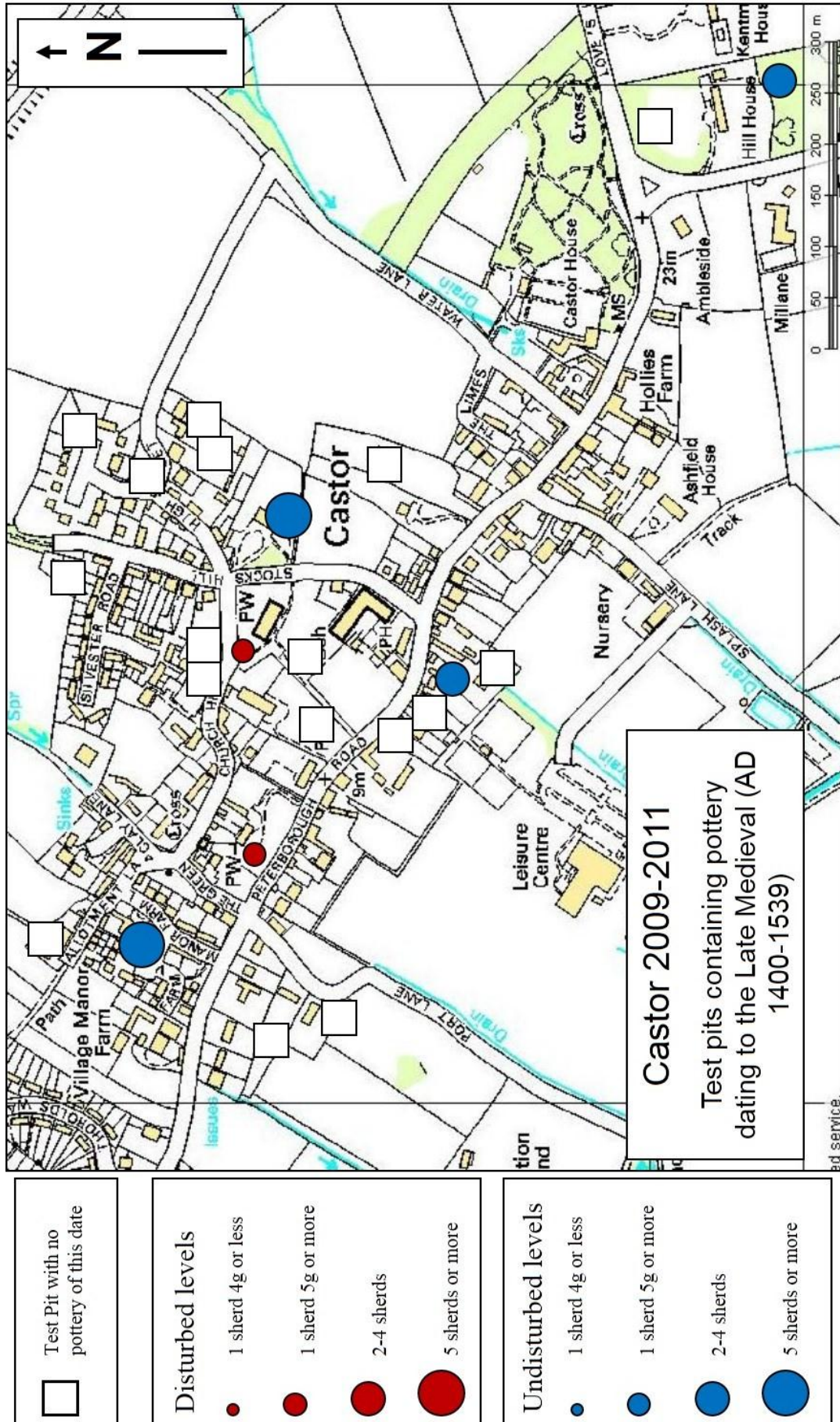


Figure 52: Late Medieval distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

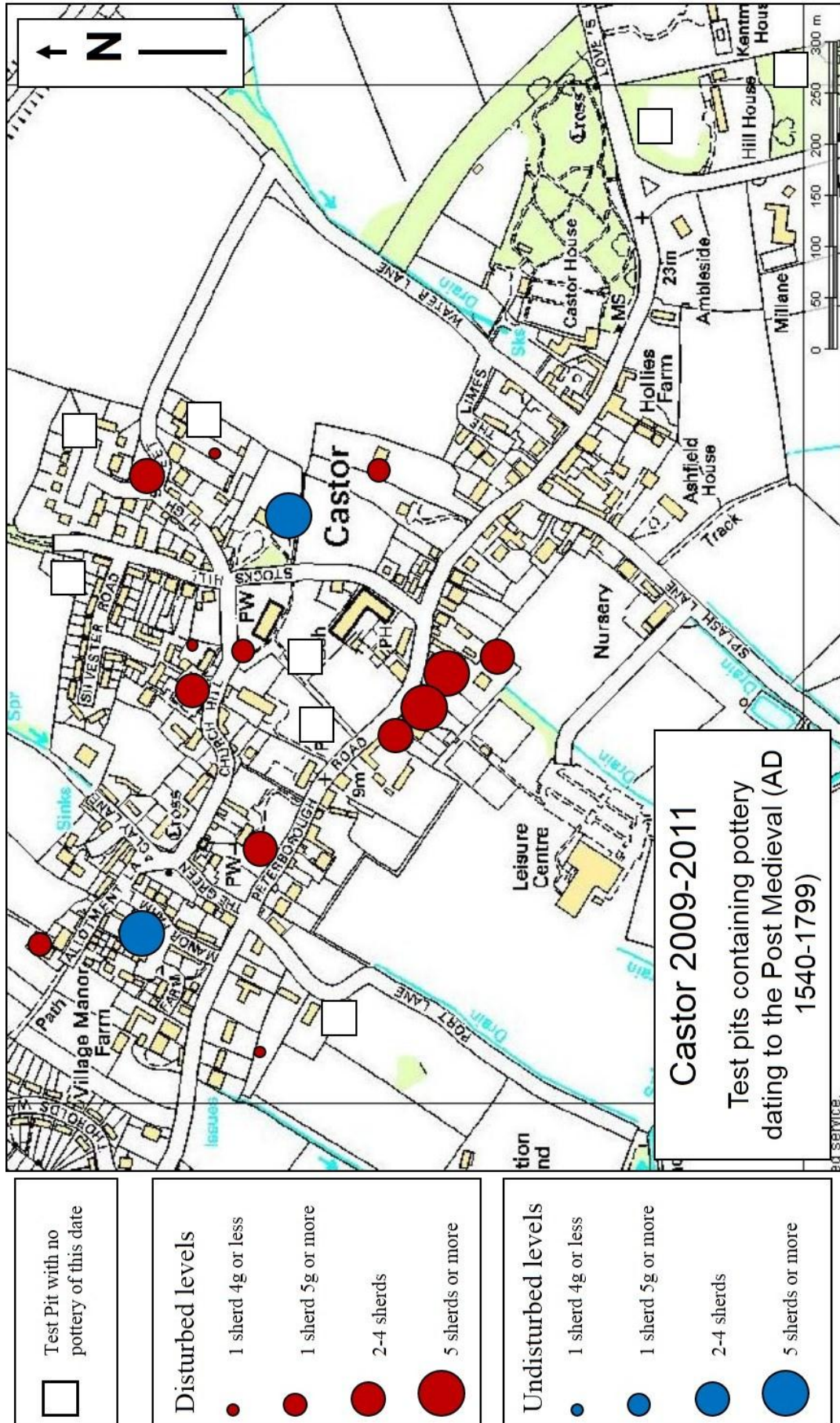


Figure 53: Post Medieval distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service

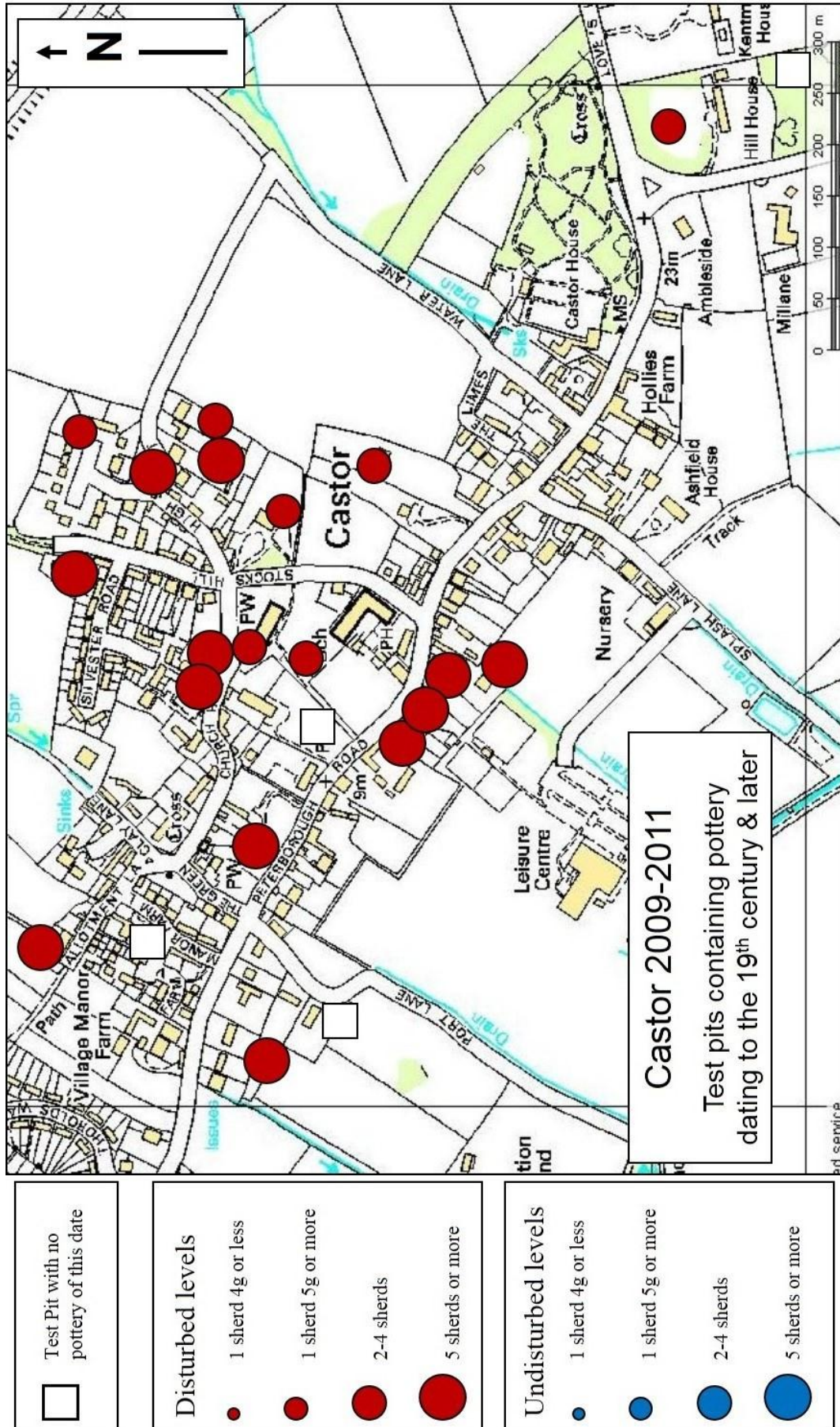


Figure 54: 19th century and later distribution map from the Castor test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service