



# Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Thorrington, Essex, 2006 & 2007

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## 1 Summary

*Two, two-day test pit excavations were undertaken in the village of Thorrington in southeast Essex between July 2006 and May 2007. In that time, 56 school pupils from nine local secondary schools excavated 18 1m<sup>2</sup> archaeological test pits 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 test pitting in Thorrington 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 and activity in Thorrington still exist under the present settlement, despite modern developments.*

*Evidence for later prehistoric and Romano-British activity was limited in Thorrington, but the excavations did show more extensive land use at these times, likely as a continuation inland from the extensive Iron Age and Roman occupation identified along the coast and at Colchester. No Anglo-Saxon activity was identified but a dispersed medieval settlement was recorded, as a series of probable farmsteads scattered through the landscape, interspersed with areas of heathland and woodland. The village remained small through the post medieval with only limited infilling occurring from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards.*

## **2 Introduction**

A total of 18 1m<sup>2</sup> archaeological test pits were excavated over two, two-day digging events in 2006 and 2007 in the village of Thorington in south Essex. The test pits were excavated by 56 Year 10 pupils from nine local secondary schools as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) designed to investigate currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) that was organised and supervised by Access Cambridge Archaeology, based in the Department of Archaeology, at the University of Cambridge. Funding was provided by Aim Higher Essex and the European Social Fund.

### **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. Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) has run the three-day learning-extension course since 2005, aimed at UK students in state school years 9, 10 and 12. HEFA 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 (1m<sup>2</sup>) 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 discursive 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, 2011, 2012 and 2013).

### **3 Aims, objectives and desired outcomes**

#### **3.1 Aims**

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

#### **3.2 Objectives**

The objectives of test pit excavations in Thorrington 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 Thorrington through test pitting carried out by school students in properties throughout the settlement.

#### **3.3 Outcomes**

The desired outcomes of the test pit excavations in Thorrington 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 area of Thorrington.

## 4 Methodology

The two-years of test pitting in Thorrington was organised by ACA in conjunction with local residents 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; (the school groups were split up so there was 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 1m<sup>2</sup> 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. The students record their test pit excavation used a pro-forma recording system. This comprises a 16-page 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 TTN/year, so TTN/06 for 2006 and TTN/07 for 2007.

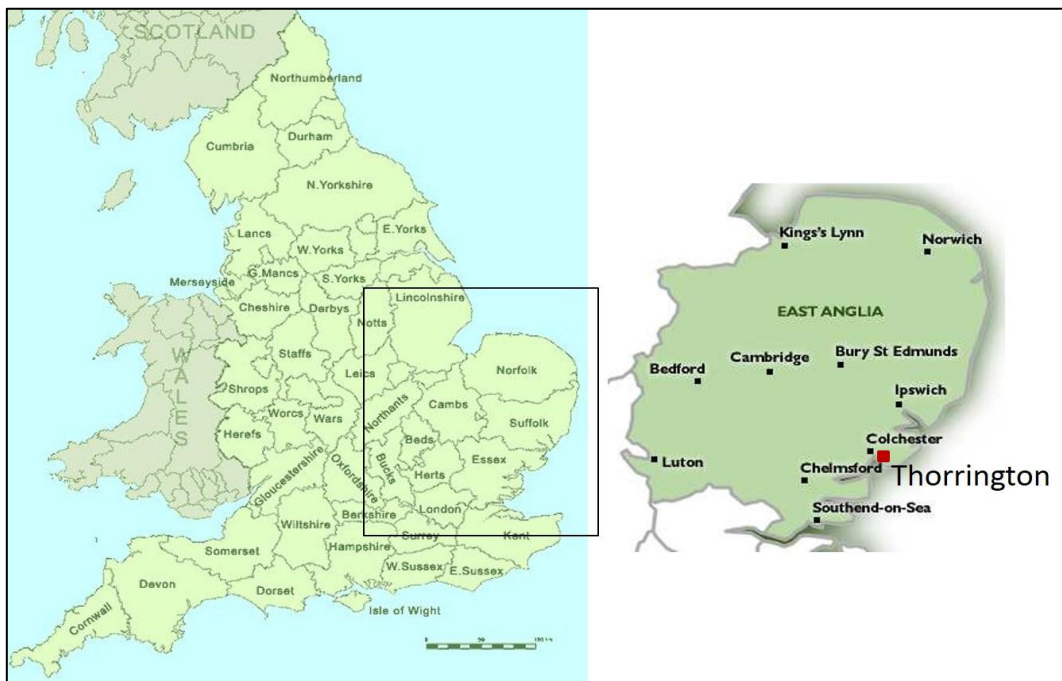
During the excavation, 100% of the spoil is sieved through a 10mm mesh (with the occasional exception of very heavy clay soils, which have to be hand-searched). All artefacts are retained, cleaned and bagged by context. Cut and built features are planned at 1:10 and excavated sequentially with latest deposits removed first. Archaeological experts 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 and identify pottery and most other finds promptly. 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 Thorrington

### 5.1 The Settlement today

Thorrington is located in southeast Essex, situated just over 10km southeast of Colchester and just under 10km northwest of Clacton-on-Sea. The extent of Thorrington parish can be seen in figure two below. The village is centred on NGR TM 0922 2048 and the village is today arranged in mostly ribbon form along three roads, which intersect to form a sinuous approximately equilateral 1km triangle (figure 3), and where the B1027 and the B1029 meet.



**Figure 1: Map of England with a close up insert of East Anglia and the approximate location of Thorrington highlighted in red**

The medieval church lies adjacent to Thorrington Hall, but these are isolated from the present village by more than 500m to the southeast. The first edition Ordnance Survey map shows much of the present settlement to be of recent origin, with Thorrington in the 19<sup>th</sup> century comprising a dozen or so scattered farms and a few small isolated clusters of cottages. Eleven listed buildings are recorded in the parish and a single listing for a gateway by Gatehouse Farmhouse, the full list of which can be found online.<sup>1</sup> Brick-built houses are characteristic in this part of Essex from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, prior to this dwellings and farm buildings were usually timber built with weatherboarding that are now mainly painted white but traditionally black or tarred, and whitewashed plaster walls.<sup>2</sup>

The village today boasts a convenience store and post office, pub, recreation ground, a scout camp, bowling green, village hall and church, with a care home and a number of businesses that include a cattery and kennel, garage and petrol station. The modern population of Thorrington was recorded at 634 in 2001 and at 773 in the 2011 census.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>2</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4721112340496384?category=587130> (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-england-eastofengland.php?cityid=E34000779> (Accessed April 2018)

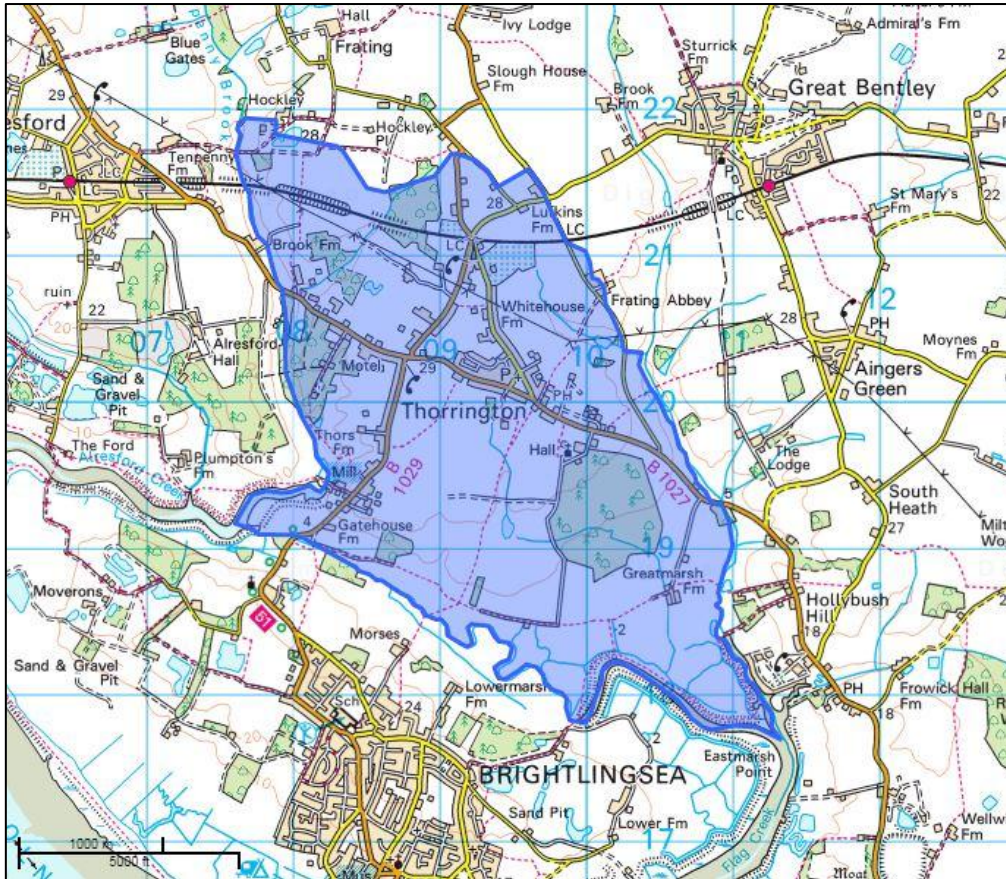


Figure 2: The extent of the parish of Thorrington © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 40,000

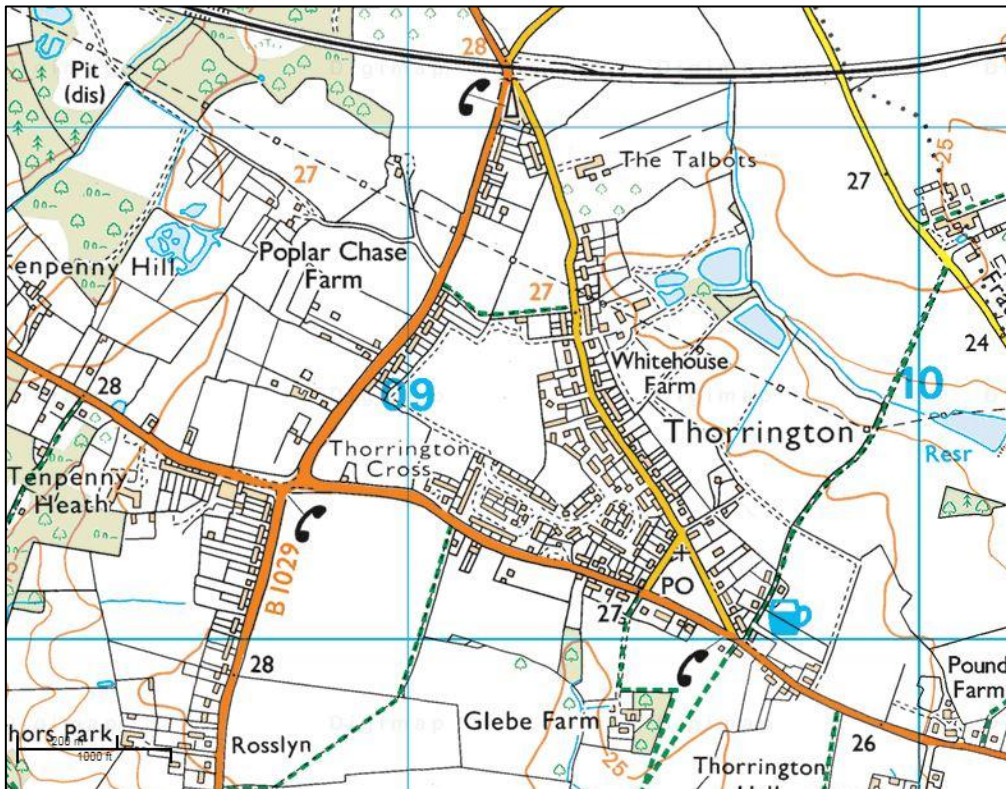


Figure 3: The village of Thorrington in the north of the parish © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

## 5.2 Geology and Topography

Essex is a coastal county in East Anglia that is bordered by Suffolk to the north, the North Sea to the east, London and Kent to the south and Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire to the west. Natural England has devised National Character Areas (NCA) for the UK, within which Thorrington sits in 'No.111: Northern Thames Basin'.<sup>4</sup> This area extends from Hertfordshire in the southwest to the Essex coast in the northeast, encompassing Colchester, Malden, Basildon, North London to St Albans and Welwyn Garden City. This landform is varied, with a wide plateau divided by river valleys that contains a thick layer of clay, producing heavy and acidic soils that result in a retention of large areas of ancient woodland, although areas that were capped by glacial sands and gravel have resulted in nutrient poor soils, which support small areas of remnant lowland heathlands.

At a county level, the Essex Landscape Characterisation Report, places Thorrington on the southern tip of the 'Tendring Plain'. This is classified as a largely broad flat farmland plateau, dominated by arable land, although some pasture and orchards are also present, over loamy, sandy and clay soils. The fields are typically large and regular with widely dispersed blocks of woodland or small copses, which gives an open character to the landscape. Small river/stream valleys cut through the broad plateau have a contrasting enclosed character. There are also areas of former heathland around Colchester that were lost due to later enclosure (Chris Blandford Associates 2003).

More locally, Thorrington is situated on the Tendring Peninsula, the easterly point in Essex and characterised by a large-scale open plain, drained by a number of brooks that flow within hidden river valleys (Tendring District Council 2001). It is categorised as part of the 'Heathland Plateau, 7a: Bromley Heaths' as recorded on the Tendring Landscape Character Assessment (Land Use Consultants 2001). Thorrington sits on the southern boundary of this area, described as a large scale flat agricultural plateau that has been intensively cultivated and typically characterised by scattered halls, churches, rural farms and village, with villages evolving from manors as well as farmsteads originally sited on the edge of greens, commons and heaths.

The village sits at 27m OD, the church is at 25m OD and the eastern Bently/Saltwater Brook) and western (Tenpenny Brook) boundaries of the parish are at c.15m OD. The parish then slopes down to 5m OD to the marshes around Flag Creek. The underlying geology of the parish mainly consists of Thames Group of clay, silt and sand, with a superficial geology of Cover Sand, containing again clay, silt and sand and skirting the core triangular section of the village, is the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup of sand and gravel.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4721112340496384?category=587130> (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>5</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>? (Accessed April 2018)



## 6 Archaeological and Historical Background

### 6.1 Historical Background

The name of Thorrington derives from Old English to likely mean a ‘thorn tree enclosure or farmstead’ and was first recorded as *Torinduna* in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Mills 2011). The settlement name has gone through a number of variations from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards and are listed here with the year in brackets: *Turituna* (1152-71), *Torritona* (1202), *Thurituna* (1237), *Turkington* (1248), *Thurinton* (1253), *Thorinton* (1255), *Tornidune* (1272), *Tyriton* (1274), *Thornton* (1285), *Thoriton* (1295), *Thoweryngton* (1476) and *Thurrington* (1594). From the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the name is recorded as Thorrington and it was only in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century that the parish council was asked to decide if the village name would have one r or two. It was only after that meeting that the current spelling of Thorrington was utilised (Sharpe 1994).

As mentioned above, the earliest written record for Thorrington is in the Domesday Book, a great survey on the land and people by the new King; William I. Information about understanding the Domesday Book is available online.<sup>6</sup> Thorrington has one mention in the book, as part of the lands owned by Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux, and half-brother to William the Conqueror, in the Hundred of Tendring and has been translated thus: *‘Æthelstan held Thorrington as one manor and as four hides. Now Ralph FitzTuold holds it of the Bishop as the same and Tuold of Rochester appropriated this land. Then as now, there were three villans, nine bordars, and five slaves. There were then two ploughs in demesne, now 1 ½, but a third could be employed. Among the men there were then 2 ½ ploughs, now 1 ½. There is woodland for 100 pigs. There is one acre of meadow, pasture for 100 sheep. There is now one mill, one salt-pan. Then as now it was worth £4’* (Williams and Martin 2003, 988).

When King William returned to Normandy during the Domesday Survey, Odo was left in charge of England, but Odo saw himself as the next Pope and wanted to acquire as much wealth as possible before he moved to Rome. He took 39 manors and estates in Essex alone and robbed the churches of their estates and revenues, including Thorrington. William returned from Normandy suddenly when he heard what Odo had been doing and arrested him immediately. He was imprisoned in Normandy and the wealth returned to the church, as William wanted to keep in good standing with the church (Watson 1877).

After Odo’s imprisonment, the manor descended, with other Essex manors that formed part of the ‘Swainscamp barony’. These consisted of a number of manors that were connected to Rochester Castle in Kent that was also held during the early 12<sup>th</sup> century by Geoffrey Talbot and by the latter part of the century by Walter de Mayenne. In 1199, Herbert de Anestie or Anstey, whose granddaughter married William de Montchesney, a baron of Swainscamp in Kent, held Thorrington Hall manor. Their daughter married Hugh de Vere, but both died without any heirs so in 1313 the manor here passed to Adomar de Valence, the Earl of Pembroke and when he died without an heir (despite three marriages), his estates were divided between his three sisters and their heirs in 1376. The manor at Thorrington was given to Isabel, who married John de Hastings, Baron Bergavenny, but after he was killed in a tournament as the tender age of 17 and without children, the manor should have

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/> (for general information and <https://opendomesday.org/place/TM0919/thorrington/> for Thorrington specifically (Accessed April 2018))

passed to his heir, Sir Richard Gilbert, a distant cousin, but Thorrington was bequeathed instead by his will to William de Beauchamp, the Earl of Pembroke with the Barony of Bergavenny and he held the manor until his death in 1411, after which he was succeeded by his son and then granddaughter, Elizabeth. She married Sir Richard Neville, whose children succeeded them for the manor until Thorrington was sold in 1521 with the manor of Ridgewell to John Fisher, the Bishop of Rochester and Hugh Aston, Archdeacon of York for the use of St John's College in Cambridge (Watson 1887). St John's College still own a lot of land in Thorrington today and remain patrons of St Mary's church in Thorrington.<sup>7</sup>

Thorrington church is dedicated to Mary Magdalene and the earliest records of a church in the village date from the start of the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the Abbot of St John's Abbey in Colchester had claimed that Thorrington church was subject to the church at Brightlingsea. A fee of three shillings a year was agreed on by then then lord of the manor, Geoffrey Talbot, which also then made the church independent from Brightlingsea (Millatt 1993). The current church structure dates from the early 14<sup>th</sup> century (SMR 34307) and originally consisted of a chancel, nave and north aisle. The south porch was added in the later 14<sup>th</sup> century and were constructed from septaria pebbles and flint and the west tower was constructed in c.1480 and faced with knapped flint and a limestone dressing and the roofs are tiled.<sup>8</sup>

The church is in an isolated position today; it is set back from the main road to the southeast of the village, accessed via a farm track that also leads to Thorrington Hall. This area however was likely the focus of the original settlement that only shifted its location due to the Black Death that swept through the village during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The villagers reportedly moved away from the 'death' around the church, to the crossroads further to the west (Millatt 1993).

Thorrington Hall (SMR 34308) was most likely built during the 16<sup>th</sup> century and around the time, that St John's College became Lords of the manor here. There are no further records of the probable manor house sites prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, although presumably, if any, they would have been on or close to this site, given its proximity to the church.

The location of Thorrington, close to the coast, would have influenced its prosperity and ability to trade, although there are no records of a market being granted. Both Brightlingsea and St Osyth developed as major trading ports, particularly during the later medieval, trading with London and as well as other places along the English coastline. Thorrington would have been situated along the likely road network to both ports and perhaps a pilgrim route to the Augustinian Prior at St Osyth that was established in the 1120's (Brown et al 2008). The Chapman and André's Map of Essex, dated to 1777 (figure 4 below) illustrates the proximity of Thorrington to Brightlingsea.

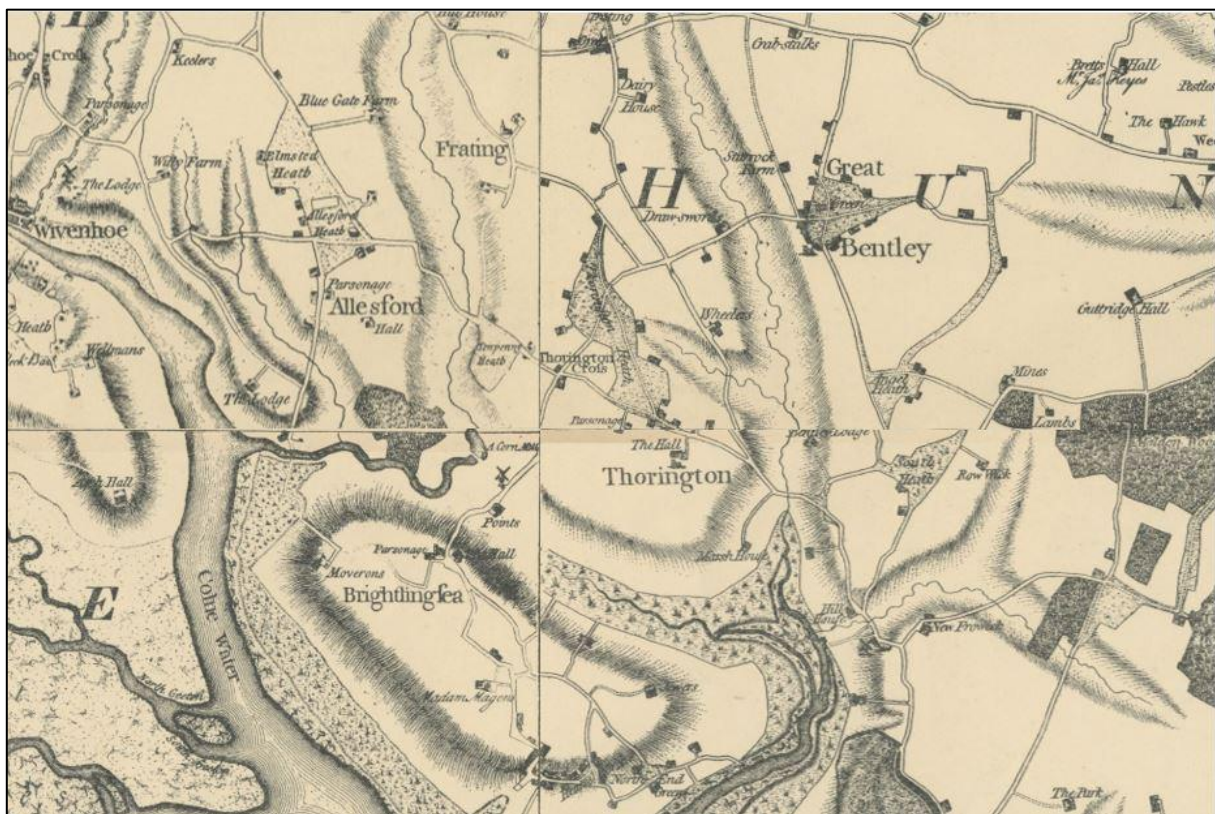
Windmills were becoming commonplace throughout Britain by the 12<sup>th</sup> century, by which time water mills were already a common sight.<sup>9</sup> The Thorrington mill was established during the Late Anglo Saxon period, as it was recorded in the Domesday Book, although its location is not known. During the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, Richard de Asketot gave St John's Abbey in Colchester 'a site for a mill in the marsh next to *'suthfield'* in Thorrington with also sufficient road from the Colchester to St Osyth

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.essexinfo.net/thorringtonparishcouncil/other-information/> (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>8</sup> 'Thorrington'. An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex, Volume 3, North East (London, 1922), pp. 214-216. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/essex/vol3/pp214-216> [accessed 10 April 2018]

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.essex.gov.uk/Activities/Heritage/Pages/Mills-in-Essex.aspx> (Accessed April 2018)

road near the land place called *Killer's Hythe*' (Sharpe 1994). This was sited in the far southeast of the parish, likely near to Marsh Farm, along Saltwater Book that leads out to Thorrington Creek. This site remained the only mill and landing place through the medieval period, until Thorrington Tidal Mill was constructed on the other side of the parish on the Tenpenny Brook, leading to Alresford Creek by the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Mill stood on a dam separating the saltwater creek from the mill pool and so on an incoming tide a sluice would have been opened in the dam allowing the mill pool to fill, then on the ebb tide the stored water would have been released by another sluice to drive the undershot water wheel. This mill probably always ground corn for flour to make bread and it had an adjacent landing place where small ships such as barges could dock, which meant that the corn could be brought in directly to the mill and then the flour shipped out to markets.<sup>10</sup> The present mill dates from 1831 and continued working until 1926. The mill records also show that it had very high quality millstones that were imported from France and would have meant the flour produced was the finest grade of white flour.<sup>11</sup>



**Figure 4: Excerpt from Chapman and André's Map of Essex 1777, digitized by © Tim Fransen. Available online at: [http://www.rochforddistricthistory.org.uk/page/chapman and andrs map of essex 1777](http://www.rochforddistricthistory.org.uk/page/chapman_and_andrs_map_of_essex_1777)**

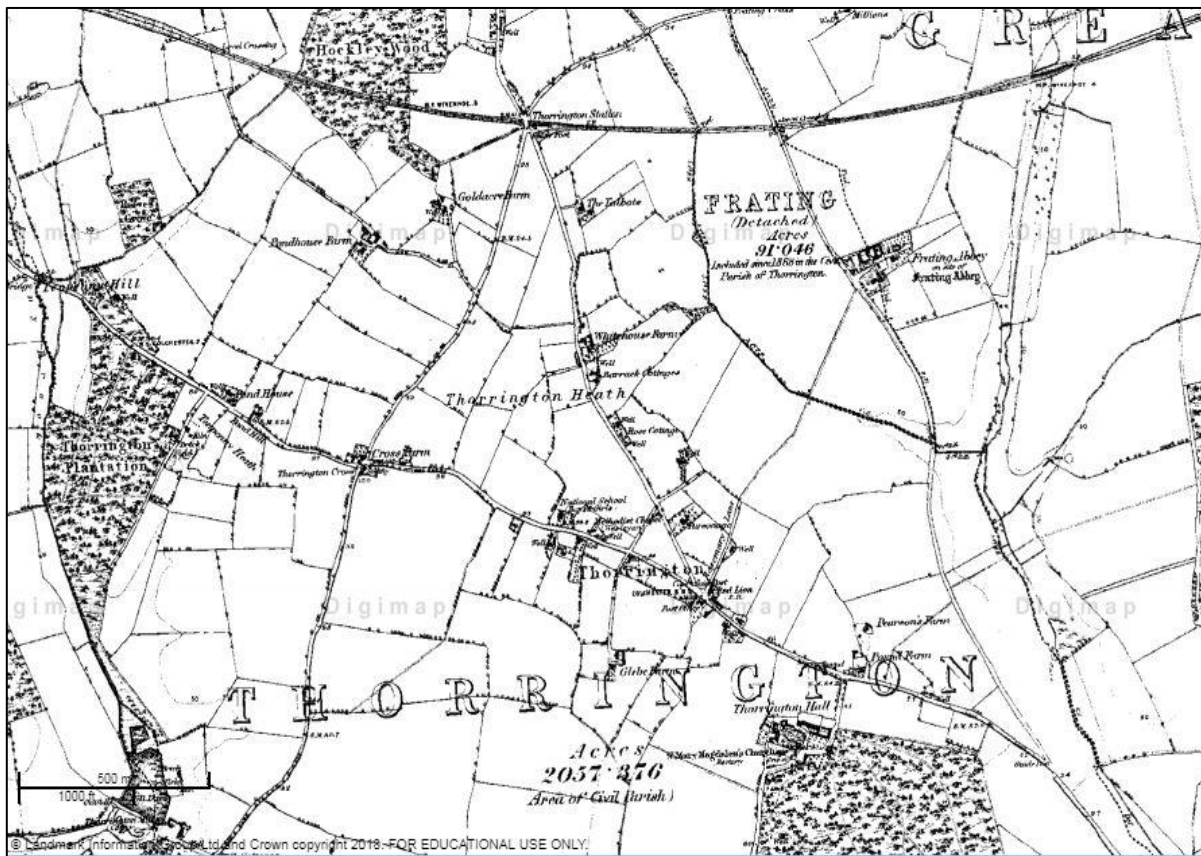
Thorrington also had sites of brickworks, one of which was immediately north of the tide mill and dated from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century (SMR 15495). It would have been a common site for the barges leaving Brightlingsea to contain 20,000 bricks and 100 sacks of flour, after first travelling down Alresford Creek from both the brickworks and mill in Thorrington.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/items/thorrington-tide-mill-0> (accessed April 2018)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.visitparks.co.uk/places/thorrington-tide-mill/> (Accessed April 2018)



The historic landscape around Thorrington comprises a pre-18<sup>th</sup> century irregular field system with scattered areas of ancient woodland. Thorrington Heath formed an extensive open area as both common land for grazing and as fuel, were enclosed during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The large areas of heath seen on the 1777 Chapman and André's Map of Essex have largely disappeared after enclosure, as seen on the first Ordnance Survey (OS) map from the 1880's (figure 5). Areas of enclosed meadow pasture survive along the streams, particularly in the west of the parish, around Tenpenny Brook; the modern village of Thorrington has developed along and around the areas of former heathland and patches of woodland still survive today, particularly around Thorrington Hall (Brown et al 2008).



**Figure 5: 1880's first Ordnance Survey (OS) map of Thorrington © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000**

The utilization of the salt marshes along the Essex coast have a long history, stretching back to prehistory. The Domesday Book made reference to 'one salt-pan' at Thorrington, most likely utilising the marshy land along the now western boundary of the parish, at the Tenpenny Brook as it joins the Alresford Creek and then onto the River Colne. Although this inland landscape around Thorrington would not have been as profitable as the coastal sites in Essex that would have been able to support extensive flocks of sheep as well as shell-fisheries (Bennett 2011b).

The National School in Thorrington was built in 1865 for 90 children, but only lasted on the site for 100 years or so. The Colchester to Clacton railway line opened in 1867, with a station at Thorrington at the northern tip of the triangle of roads that comprise the settlement (figure 5). It was run by the Eastern Counties and Eastern Union Company, which became the Great Eastern Railway and was converted to a double line in c.1900. When the railway opened a record by the company recorded a

population in Thorrington at 434 (Sharpe 1994), but during modernization in the 1950's, Thorrington station was the only station to be closed on this stretch of line, although the nearest station to the village is not too far away, being at Great Bentley. The recorded population in Thorrington has always remained relatively small, at the time of the Domesday survey, the estimated number of inhabitants was around 17.<sup>12</sup> The total population of Thorrington on the first census was recorded at 271, which continued to increase through the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to reach a peak of 531 individuals by 1841.<sup>13</sup> The population then slumped to a low of 366 in the 1881 census that was likely due to both the loss of common land after Enclosure and the rise of machine based manufacture that would have also put a lot of cottage industries, (a small business or manufacturing industry carried out in peoples own homes), out of business as they could not compete with the increased productivity of industry. Tendring was an agricultural based district, with over half the male population over 20 years of age working in agriculture (Wrigley 2007), but there was a general decline in agriculture at this time that most likely contributed to a decrease in the population of Thorrington as people moved away to find work. Population figures then generally fluctuated, with not much of a rise in total numbers until a sharp increase from 397 in 1921 census to 510 in the 1931 census. The population is slowly still rising in the village, from 689 in 1961, dropping slightly to 634 in 2001 and then rising again to 773 in the 2011 census.<sup>14</sup>

## 6.2 Archaeological Background

The following paragraphs summarise the finds and monuments listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER), accessed via the 'Unlocking Essex's Past' website and was based on a place name monument search under Thorrington.<sup>15</sup>

### 6.2.1 Prehistory

The Tendring district in early prehistory would have been much further inland than today, as illustrated in figure 6 below, with the coastline at least 30km further out from Clacton, 5,000 to 10,000 years ago. It was accessible via large river valleys, including the River Thames that flowed through north Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk to join what is now the southern North Sea as a tributary to the River Rhine.<sup>16</sup> The River Medway also flowed north to join the Thames around the area of Clacton today, until the Anglian Ice Sheet moved the rivers south to their present positions, around 450,000 years ago (Brown et al 2008).

Clacton has given its name to the 'Clactonian'<sup>17</sup> flint tools that were found in great quantities in the town and dated to the Palaeolithic period, dating between 300,000 to 200,000 years ago. No Palaeolithic finds have so far been recorded in Thorrington, although a single Mesolithic flint was found in the 1970s in the parish (SMR 2143) that adds to the wider picture of the Tendring area, where sporadic finds have been found to suggest transitional and most likely seasonal occupation in the area.

<sup>12</sup> <https://opendomesday.org/place/TM0919/thorrington/> (Accessed April 2018)

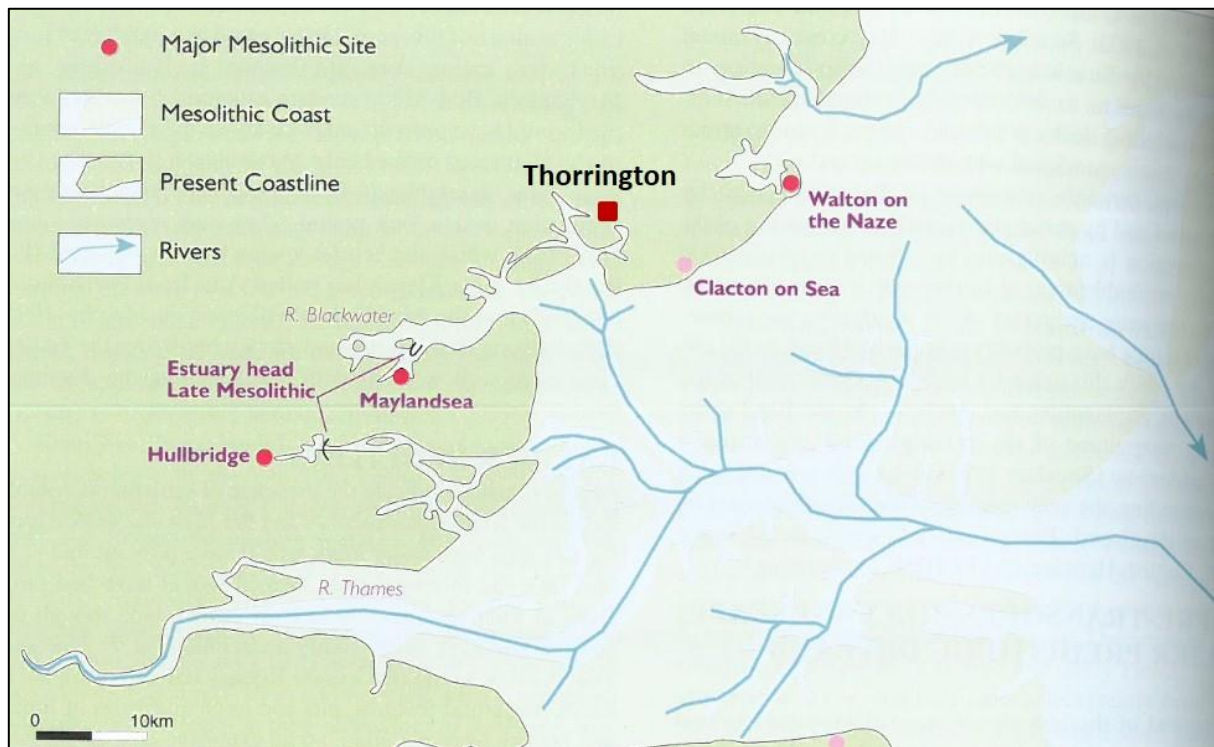
<sup>13</sup> [http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10247561/cube/TOT\\_POP](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10247561/cube/TOT_POP) (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-england-eastofengland.php?cityid=E34000779> (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>15</sup> [http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/custom\\_pages/monument\\_search.asp?content\\_page\\_id=62&content\\_parents=61](http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/custom_pages/monument_search.asp?content_page_id=62&content_parents=61) (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.geoessex.org.uk/the\\_early\\_ice\\_age.html](http://www.geoessex.org.uk/the_early_ice_age.html) (Accessed April 2018)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Clactonian-industry> (Accessed April 2018)



**Figure 6: The coastline of Essex during the Mesolithic period with the approximate location of Thorrington (adapted from © Murphy & Brown 1999)**

Two Neolithic (5,000-2,200 BC) flint tools have been found in Thorrington; a flint axe (SMR 2356) and an arrowhead (SMR 2437). The Neolithic was a time of introduction of new pottery and flint technologies, the cultivation of crops and the domestication of animals, which led to a more 'settled' society. Neolithic monuments and enclosures have been recorded at both St Osyth (a causewayed enclosure and possible cursus) and at Brightlingsea, (with a round barrow with a cremation burial). These sites contained large quantities of Neolithic pottery and indicate that this part of Essex was utilised and inhabited (Brown et al 2008), although as yet it is not known as to the extent the landscape in Thorrington was utilised at this time.

Activity from the Bronze Age (2,200-700 BC) is not yet recorded from Thorrington, but again is present in the wider landscape, with cremation cemeteries identified at Brightlingsea and St Osyth to suggest a continuation of activity in these areas in the form of barrows. Cropmark evidence for additional ring ditches have been recorded on the HER for Thorrington, but the majority remain undated, so cannot be included in this section (see section 6.2.6 below). However, close to Pound Farm, to the east of the church, were identified the cropmarks of two ring ditches which have been dated to the Bronze Age (SMR 2962), although the surrounding features, a linear feature, possibly an old drainage channel, remains undated.

During the Iron Age (700 BC-AD 43), strong regional groupings started to emerge, known as tribes. The *Trinovantes* were a tribe whose territory covered Essex and south Suffolk and had a capital that was very close to modern day Colchester,<sup>18</sup> and so would have had a great effect on the land at Thorrington and its use. Although again, no evidence for Iron Age occupation has so far been recorded from the parish, known areas of settlement were noted nearby at both Brightlingsea and St Osyth,

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk/?p=30550> (Accessed April 2018)

utilising the rich and abundant natural resources in the surrounding rivers and creeks (Brown et al 2008).

A number of finds and features have however been recorded as just 'prehistoric' on the HER. These consist of a battle-axe found from Alresford Creek (SMR 2078), another flint axe from the east of the village (SMR 2265), as well as unspecified flint tools (SMR 2088), a flint knife (SMR 2156) and a flint scraper (SMR 2264) that was found near to the church.

### 6.2.2 *Romano-British*

The proximity of the Tendring district to Colchester, or *Camulodunum* as it was known in the Roman period (AD 43-410), was initially the capital of the new Roman province of Britannia. This new capital would have greatly influenced the economy of the area; to include a market for the crops grown throughout Tendring and extensively utilising the River Colne for transport (Brown et al 2008). Connecting this mainly agricultural and part industrial landscape would also have been a network of Roman roads, extending from Colchester into Tendring. A detailed map put together by Keith Briggs can be viewed online<sup>19</sup> and it is believed that Tendring during the Roman period was a mainly rural area of small farming communities often continuing to work the land from the known Iron Age sites. Villas have been mainly found along the banks of the River Colne, including at Brightlingsea, with suggestions put forward that these may have been port sites also (*ibid*). The production of salt was also a major industry along the Essex coastline that began during the Late Iron Age, but particularly flourished during the Roman period (Bennett 2011a). These were known as 'red hill' sites, one of which has been identified in Thorrington (SMR 2241), although it has not yet been specifically dated as Romano-British.

The find of a Roman iron ploughshare (SMR 2322) in Thorrington supports the notion of an agricultural landscape at Thorrington during the Roman period. The find of a Roman site during the laying of a pipeline in the early 1990's, recorded a Roman metal working site alongside the Bentley Brook (SMR 17707), with a scatter of pits and finds of both pottery and tile, the latter perhaps indicating the presence of a nearby building. Two probable roads have been identified as cropmarks in Thorrington parish; one as a double ditched trackway (SMR 2627) to the northeast of the village and may well connect with other known roads and the road into St Osyth. A further continuation of this probable line of road was noted close to Frating Abbey (SMR 3170) although excavation would be needed on both sites to give a definitive date as Romano-British.

### 6.2.3 *Anglo-Saxon*

The Anglo Saxon period in Britain is traditionally divided into three phases; the Early Anglo Saxon period (AD 410-699), immediately after the Roman administration withdraws from Britain is also at a time when the population was mainly pagan. The Middle Anglo Saxon (AD 700-849), where the first evidence for Christianity can be found and the Late Anglo Saxon period (AD 850-1066), when the majority of our present day villages were founded. The county name of Essex is derived from the East Saxon kingdom that developed in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, as larger territories became established from the Saxon seizing of land (Bennett 2011a).

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<sup>19</sup> [http://keithbriggs.info/Roman\\_road\\_maps.html](http://keithbriggs.info/Roman_road_maps.html) (Accessed April 2018)

Evidence for Anglo Saxon occupation in Tendring is sparse, although occupation in the Early Anglo Saxon has been found on excavations at Roman villa sites, hinting a continuation of activity initially in these areas. Middle Anglo Saxon occupation was recorded in Clacton, and a 7<sup>th</sup> century minster church is known from St Osyth and Brightlingsea was a royal Saxon manor (Brown et al 2008).

No evidence for any Anglo Saxon activity has so far been recorded in Thorrington. However, the fact that a settlement here was recorded in the Domesday Book means it was in existence by the Late Anglo Saxon period (perhaps the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> centuries). Additional excavation would be needed to establish when Thorrington as a village was first founded.

#### 6.2.4 *Medieval*

The medieval period is also classified as two distinct phases, to include the high medieval from the Norman Conquest (AD 1066-1399) as a period of strong demographic and economic growth with the population also rapidly increasing, and the late medieval (AD 1400-1539). This time saw a variety of environmental, economic and social crises, including the Black Death that swept the country and was then followed by a sustained period when the population stagnated at much lower levels than had been seen before (Nightingale 2005).

The Tendring peninsula at this time was an area of dispersed settlements and individual farms, linked by an extensive network of lanes and focused around either churches and manorial halls, greens or commons (Brown et al 2008). As stated in section 6.1 above, Thorrington developed around extensive areas of heath, with a focus of settlement around the 14<sup>th</sup> century church (SMR 34307 and 17820), which was moved to the present site of the crossroads around the time of the Black Death, due to the high mortality rate and sheer number of people being buried in the church.

Evidence for medieval activity is however scarce on the HER, with only a small number of sherds of medieval pottery being recorded during a pipeline excavation in the early 1990's to the northeast of the church. The site was between Frating Abbey Farm Road and the Bentley Brook (SMR 17708), and as only sherds of medieval pottery were only found, it is not known if these relate directly to occupation here, perhaps as an isolated farmstead, or are the result of manuring. Further excavations in this area are needed.

#### 6.2.5 *Post Medieval and later*

The post medieval period (AD 1540-1799) is classified to start at the end of the dissolution of the monasteries, when the power, wealth and land of the church was seized by King Henry VIII and this period ends with the start of the Industrial Revolution during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The post-medieval tide mill (SMR 8494) was likely constructed in the 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, although the current building dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is recorded as the only surviving mill of its kind in Essex. The associated dam wall (constructed of red brick) and pond have also all been dated as post medieval (SMR 34312). When the Alresford Creek (where the mill was situated, in the salt-mashes around Brightlingsea) flooded twice every 24 hours, the dam and sluice were utilised to trap the tidal water and then the water released to power the water wheel. A watching brief carried out at the mill during renovation work in the early 1980's recorded a



likely 19<sup>th</sup> century or later soakaway/drainage feature on the site of the then new access road (SMR 8493 and 18669).

Tenpenny Heath brickworks (SMR 15494) were operating between c.1860 and 1906, and although as yet no excavations have taken place on the site, there is a high probability in the survival of associated former structures and buildings. The second brickworks in the parish was the Thorrington Mill Brickworks (SMR 15495) and as stated in section 6.1 were located immediately north of the tide mill to utilise the Alresford Creek for the transport of bricks.

The only features dated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Thorrington include a cast iron signpost (SMR 40803), dated to the 1920's or 1930's and World War II defences. These were sited on Brightlingsea Road, at the bottom of two hills where the road also takes a double bend, and consisted of a road barrier that ran between a stream on the southern side and a drainage ditch on the north (SMR 21332). A pillbox (SMR 21333) also stood next to the barrier, on the southern side of the road.

#### 6.2.6 *Undated*

A large number of records on the HER for Thorrington remain undated. These consist of areas of activity in the form of both cropmarks and earthworks with a small number of undated finds.

The few finds recorded in the parish include ploughed up pottery found in 1963 (SMR 2192) and pieces of slag that were all found in 1934, both to the east of the village (SMR 2393) and near to Frating Abbey (SMR 3064).

Various cropmark features have been identified in the parish; a possible long barrow and round barrow were recorded along the western parish boundary at Alresford Creek (SMR 2211) that also has several pits recorded within it. In the same field, to the west of Gatehouse Farm, was also seen an oval double ditched enclosure with an eastern entrance (SMR 2211) and a ring ditch with various other features have also been recorded (SMR 17038), although no location was given. At Gatehouse Farm, the cropmarks of likely former field boundaries and a possible enclosure were also recorded (SMR 46065).

A large area of cropmarks was recorded to the southwest of Thorrington Hall with a trackway and field boundaries running up to the hall (SMR 2263), to the west of these were a cluster of ring ditches and a few isolated ones and two double ring ditches. Further west again were recorded more linear features and a further loosely nucleated group of ring ditches. To the north of the hall was also found numerous irregular linear features (SMR 16933). Close to Pound Farm, to the north of Thorrington Hall were recorded the cropmarks of a ring ditch with enclosures and trackways (SMR 2954), as well as additional linears, though the majority of which are believed to be glacial, some may also represent field boundaries and tracks (SMR 2997). To the west of church around Glebe Farm were identified a number of irregular features or likely extraction pits and field boundaries (SMR 16934).

To the northeast of Thorrington, cropmarks of a number of ring ditches, pits and linear features were recorded with a circular enclosure and a straight trackway (SMR 2394), possibly related to or contemporary with the Roman road (SMR 3170). Just outside the village were found a number of linear features, including a possible trackway and a possible ring ditch site with a likely windmill site situated to the south of Thorrington Cross (SMR 2438).

Near to Marsh Farm in the far southeast of the parish was identified two enclosures and at least 13 complete ring ditches and one partial one (SMR 2961). To the west of Crocky Grove in the far south of the parish, cropmarks of a rectilinear pit (possibly utilised for extraction), a linear feature and various pits were all recorded (SMR 16937). At Abbey Wood, multiple cropmarks were recorded of possible pits, an enclosure as well as other linear ditches that maybe field boundaries (SMR 47374).

## 7 Results of the test pit excavations in Thorrington

The approximate locations of the 18 1m<sup>2</sup> test pits that were excavated in Thorrington over a two-year period between July 2006 and May 2007 can be seen in figure 7 below. By year, this breaks down as eight test pits excavated in July 2006 and 10 test pits excavated in May 2007. The data from each test pit is discussed in this section and set out in numerical order. Most excavations were undertaken in spits measuring 10cm in depth, but in cases when a change in the character of deposits indicated a change in context, a new spit was started before 10cm.

An assessment of the overall results, synthesizing the data from all the pits, including deductions about the historic development of Thorrington 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.

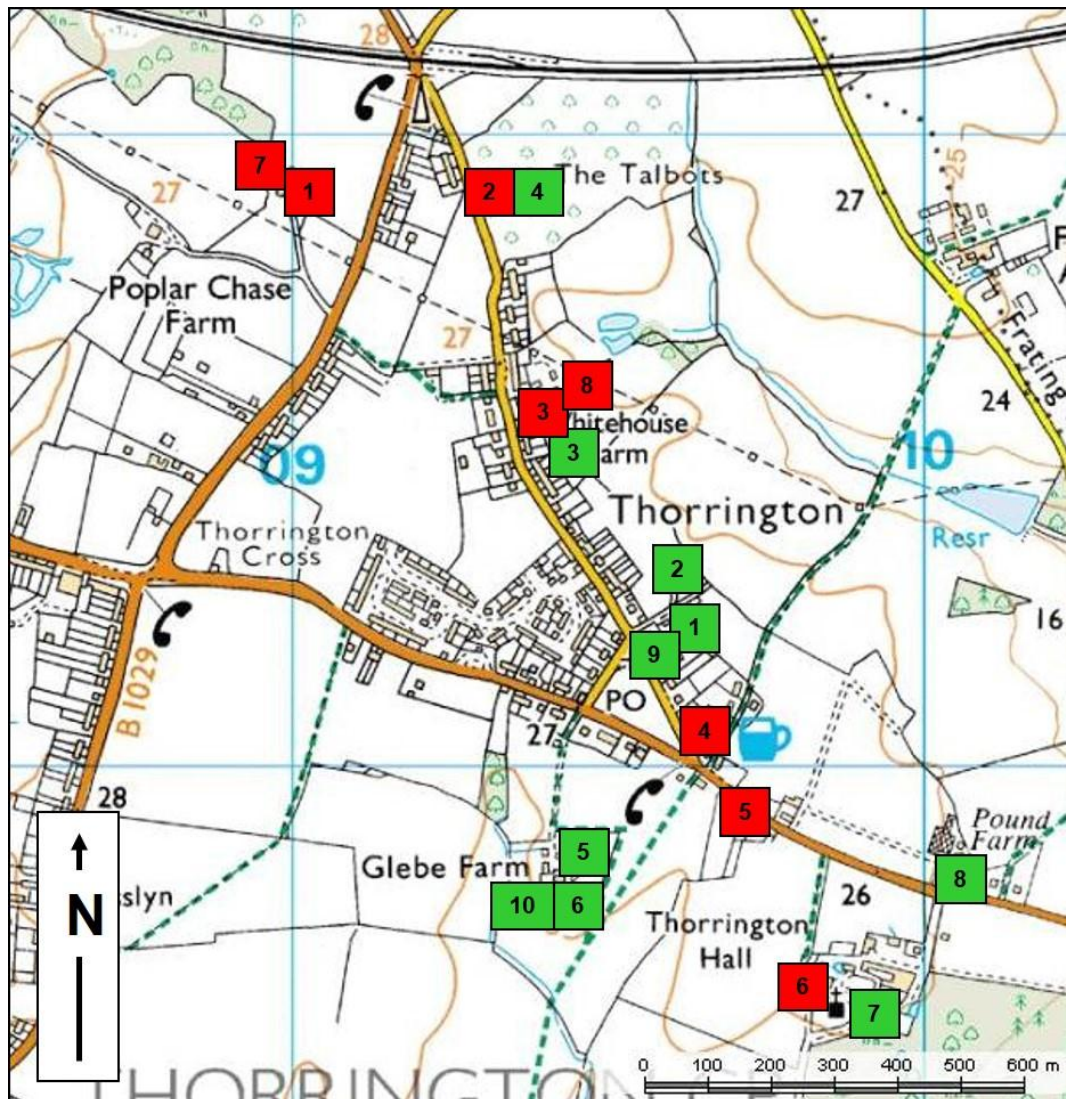


Figure 7: The approximate locations of all 18 test pits excavated in Thorrington (NB: Test pits not shown to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 15,000

## 7.1 The 2006 Test Pit Results

A total of eight 1m<sup>2</sup> archaeological test pits were excavated over the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of July by a total of 24 HEFA participants from Stewards School, Thomas Lord Audley School and The Plume School (school names correct at time of participation). The test pits were scattered across the village but focused around the main triangle of settlement that is Thorrington as well as by the church to the southeast. The pits were sited where local residents offered their gardens.

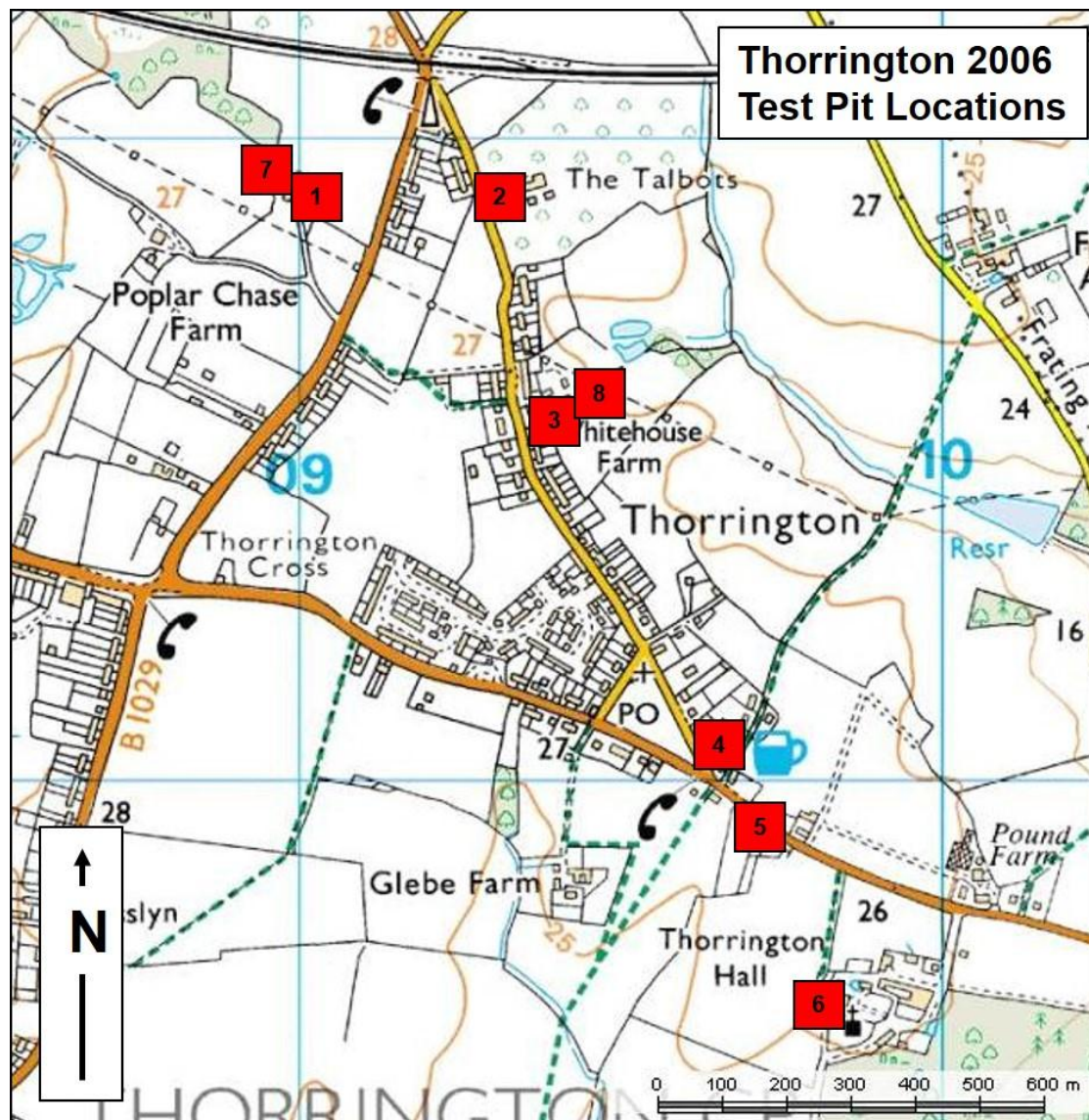


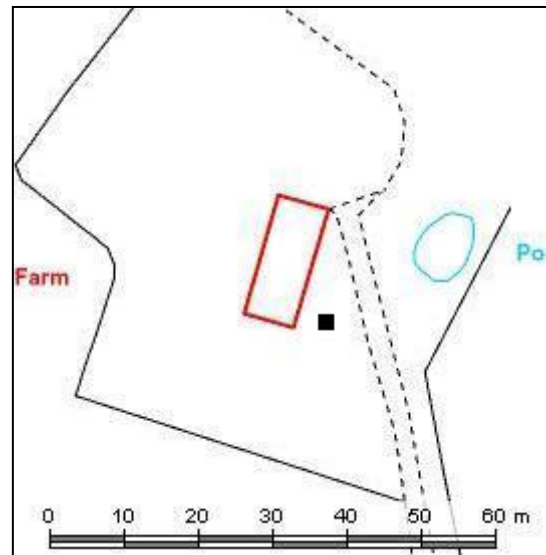
Figure 8: The approximate locations of the 2006 test pits in Thorrington (NB: Test pits not shown to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

### Test Pit one (TTN/06/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the front garden of a Grade II listed 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier property set back from the main road in the north west of the village. It was also the eastern of two test pits excavated here; see also TTN/06/7 (Gold Acre, Station Road, Thorrington. TM 608990 220913).

Test pit one 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.

Small numbers of pottery sherds dating to the medieval, later medieval and post medieval were excavated from test pit one. These include Essex Grey Ware, Late medieval Colchester ware and Blackware. The majority of the pottery recovered dates to the Victorian period and was identified from the middle contexts of TTN/06/1.



**Figure 9: Location map of TTN/06/1**

TP	Context	Grey		LMT		Blackware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			1	5					1400-1500
1	2	1	1					7	24	1200-1900
1	3							7	22	1800-1900
1	4					1	3	2	3	1580-1900
1	5			1	4					1400-1500

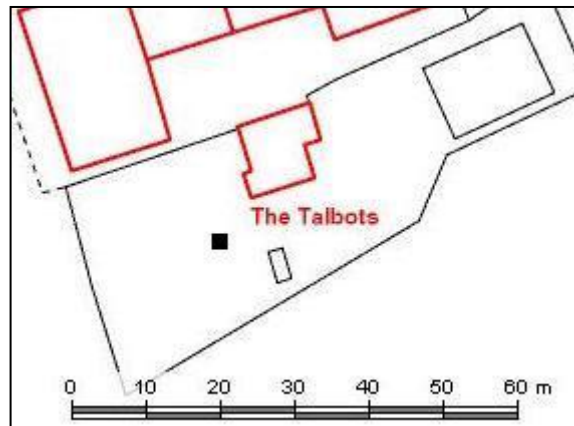
**Table 1: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/1**

The medieval activity identified from test pit one was most probably from an isolated farmstead, which have been identified scattered throughout Thorrington. Occupation continued through the later medieval and post medieval periods, but the peak of activity appears to have been during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has caused a deal of disturbance to 0.4m in depth. The majority of the finds are more recent in date and consist of concrete, coal, iron nails, glass and CBM, but animal bone, slag and clay pipe were also excavated, all of which derived from the upper four contexts of test pit one and suggests that context five may be an undisturbed later medieval layer.

### Test Pit two (TTN/06/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the open front garden of a probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse set back from the road in the north east of the village (The Talbots, Church Road, Thorrington. TM 609352 220902).

Test pit two 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.



**Figure 10: Location map of TTN/06/2**

A range of post medieval pottery types were excavated from test pit two and consist of Glazed Red Earthenware, Blackware, Staffordshire Slipware and White Salt-glazed Stoneware, all of which were recovered mixed through contexts one and three. Victorian pottery dominated the assemblage that was also found through the upper three contexts of TTN/06/2.

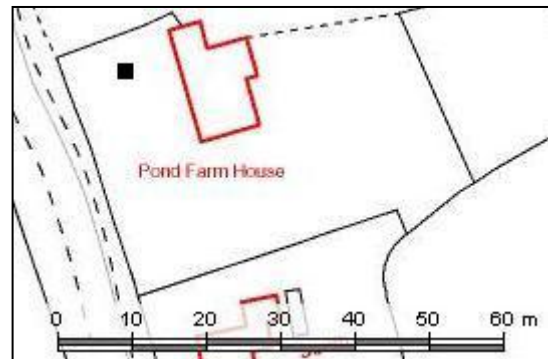
TP	Context	GRE		Blackware		Staffs Slip		White SGS		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1	1	1					1	3	4	8	1550-1900
2	2									8	21	1800-1900
2	3	2	28	1	3	1	1	1	2	4	9	1550-1900

**Table 2: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/2**

All the activity identified from UFF/06/2, suggests there was no occupation on site prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the peak of activity appears to have been during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, potentially when the house was built, which had also disturbed the archaeology and to which the majority of the finds date. These consist of slate, coal, glass, CBM, concrete, iron nails, animal bone and a milk bottle top with metal buttons, a shotgun cartridge and clay pipe, all of which were found mixed through the four contexts excavated.

### Test Pit three (TTN/06/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the enclosed front garden of a Grade II listed 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier cottage set back slightly from the main road in the east of the village. It was also the northern of two test pits excavated here; see also TTN/06/8 (Pond Farmhouse, Church Road, Thorrington. TM 609346 220587).



**Figure 11: Location map of TTN/06/3**

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

The majority of the pottery excavated from UFF/06/3 dates to the Victorian period and was recovered through the four contexts excavated. A range of post medieval pottery types were also identified and consist of Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware and Creamware and were generally found in the bottom half of the test pit.

TP	Context	GRE		Delft		Creamware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1							1	1	1800-1900
3	2			1	1	3	5	21	80	1600-1900
3	3	3	7					2	2	1550-1900
3	4	1	8					7	18	1550-1900

**Table 3: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/3**

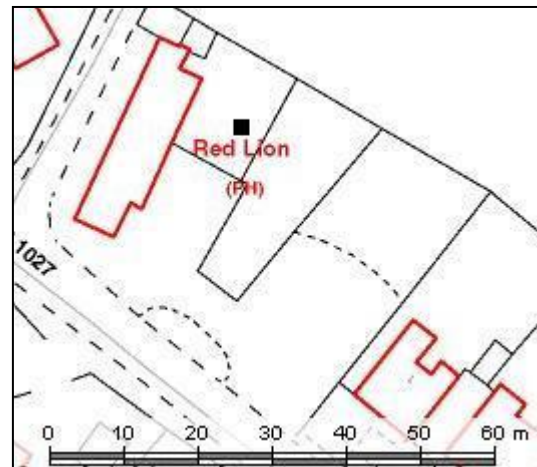
The presence of metallised surface identified at 0.4m in depth expanded beyond the dimensions of the test pit and most probably represents either a road or yard surface that runs parallel to the present road. As only post medieval and Victorian pottery was excavated from test pit three, the surface probably dates to before the 16<sup>th</sup> century and went out of use during the post medieval and rubbish was deposited on it. All the earlier activity has been disturbed by the digging during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in which Victorian pottery and finds were deposited. The finds consist of CBM, glass, iron nails, coal and animal bone, some of which was burnt and were all recovered from the four contexts excavated.

### Test Pit four (TTN/06/4)

Test pit four was excavated on wasteland behind the Red Lion pub, a likely 17th century building set back from the road in the south east of the village (The Red Lion Public House, Clacton Road, Thorrington. TM 609697 220021).

Test pit four 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 dates to the Victorian period and found through all four contexts of TTN/06/4. An additional three sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware, post medieval pottery was also excavated from the upper two contexts.



**Figure 12: Location map of TTN/06/4**

TP	Context	GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1	1	1	13	37	1550-1900
4	2	2	6	38	77	1550-1900
4	3			10	17	1800-1900
4	4			2	14	1800-1900

**Table 4: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/4**

The small amounts of post medieval pottery that were excavated from TTN/06/4 suggest that the site was most probably open fields until more intense occupation during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, most likely from when the pub was built. It is more than likely that the site has been greatly disturbed and was used to dump rubbish, as a lot of finds were also found on the surface and consist of large amounts of bottle glass, slate, coal, iron nails, CBM, a bed spring and scrap metal which were recovered through the upper three contexts and clay pipe that was identified from contexts one and two. A single small piece of burnt stone was also recorded from context three that may be later prehistoric in date, although analysis of the lithics would be needed to prove this.

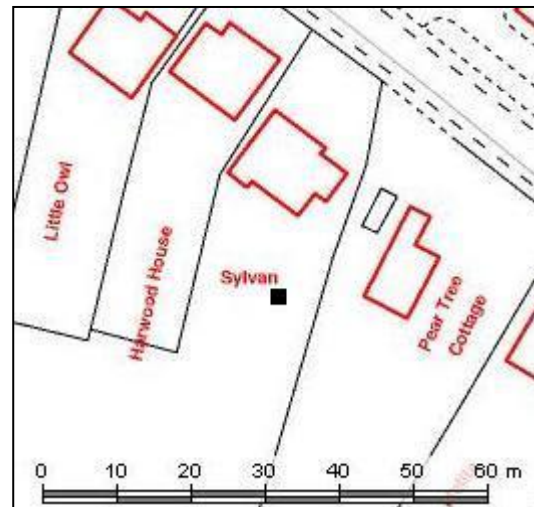


### Test Pit five (TTN/06/5)

Test pit five was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a modern house, set back slightly from the road in the south east of the village (Sylvan, Clacton Road, Thorrington. TM 609696 219920).

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.

Small amounts of pottery were recovered from TTN/06/5, the majority of which dates to the Victorian period. An additional four sherds of medieval Essex Grey ware were also recovered from the same contexts two and five.



**Figure 13: Location map of TTN/06/5**

TP	Context	Grey		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	2	1	1	5	34	1200-1900
5	5	3	19	1	11	1200-1900

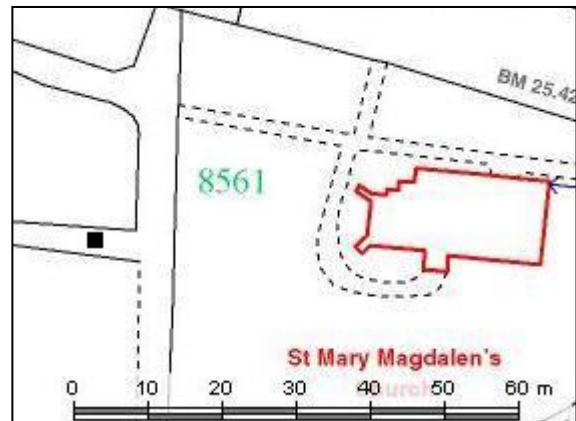
**Table 5: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/5**

The medieval activity identified from TTN/06/5 was probably the site of open fields as part of scattered medieval occupation throughout Thorrington. The site most probably remained open fields through the post medieval period, as clay pipe was also excavated from contexts one and four, until activity increased into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the current house was built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The finds consist of CBM, slate, glass, coal, iron nails, scrap iron with animal bone and oyster shell, which were excavated from contexts two, four, five and six, most of which probably relate to the construction of the house, although some may relate to its prior use as open fields.

### Test Pit six (TTN/06/6)

Test pit six was excavated adjacent to the new graveyard, situated to the west of St Mary's Church and outside the church boundary (St Mary Magdalen's Church, Clacton Road, Thorrington. TM 609811 219615).

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



Two sherds of Roman pottery were excavated from the lower contexts of test pit one and consist of Grog-Tempered ware and Roman Greyware. An additional two sherds of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware were also recovered from the upper half of the test pit, but the majority of the pottery excavated dates to the Victorian period and was found through the upper five contexts of TTN/06/6.

**Figure 14: Location map of TTN/06/6**

TP	Context	Grog		Roman Grey		GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1					1	5	6	74	1550-1900
6	2							3	24	1800-1900
6	3							3	9	1800-1900
6	4					1	1	6	23	1550-1900
6	5			1	5			3	10	50-1900
6	6	1	27							50BC-100AD

**Table 6: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/6**

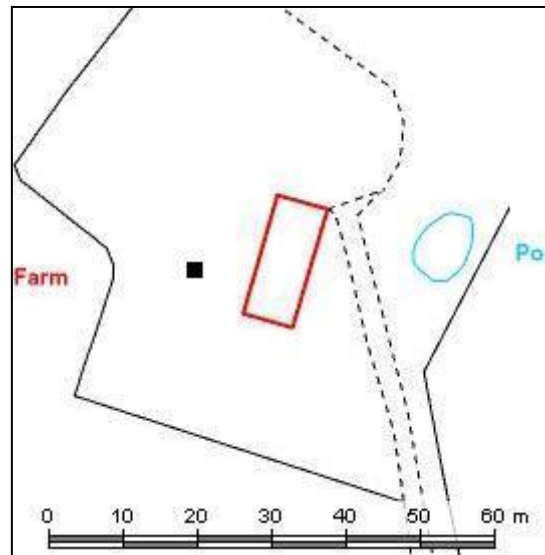
The presence of potential very Late Iron Age and Roman pottery in the base of test pit six probably suggests that this site was part of a Roman-British settlement in the far south east of the village. The lower four contexts of TTN/06/6 were also probable undisturbed late prehistoric or Roman ground surfaces, although the site was also probably fields during that time. There is no evidence for any further activity until the post medieval, when the site was potentially still used as fields, until an increase of occupation into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This more recent disturbance also relates to most of the finds, which consist of CBM, slate, coal, glass and concrete excavated from contexts two, three and four.

### Test Pit seven (TTN/06/7)

Test pit seven was excavated in the rear garden of a Grade II listed 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier property set back from the road in the far north west of the village. It was also the western of two pits excavated here; see also TTN/06/1 (Gold Acre, Station Road, Thorington. TM 608973 220919).

Test pit seven 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 dates to the Victorian period and was found in all four contexts. Small numbers of Late medieval Colchester ware and post-medieval Delft Ware and White Salt-glazed Stoneware were also recovered from the upper two contexts of TTN/06/7.



**Figure 15: Location map of TTN/06/7**

TP	Context	LMT		Delft		White SGS		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1			4	10			4	8	1600-1900
7	2	1	2			1	2	3	5	1400-1900
7	3							9	10	1800-1900
7	4							1	5	1800-1900

**Table 7: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/7**

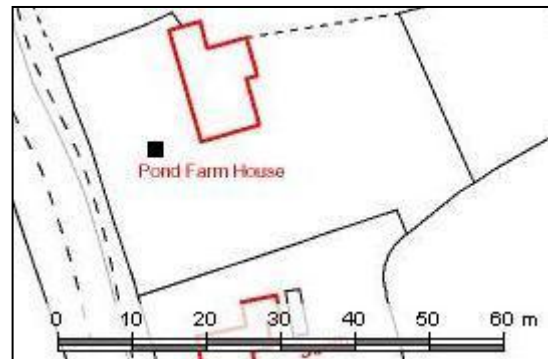
Unlike TTN/06/1, the results from TTN/06/7 yielded only later medieval pottery, but do suggest that the site most probably remained an isolated farmstead throughout the medieval period that continued to the present day. Again, like TTN/06/1 the peak of disturbance on site was during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later, with finds consisting of iron nails and scrap iron, glass, coal, tile with fragments of plastic, an empty silver locket (eight) and clay pipe, all of which was recovered from the upper three contexts of the test pit.



**Figure 16: The locket excavated from TTN/06/7, context 1. Scale in cm. © ACA**

### Test Pit eight (TTN/06/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the enclosed front garden of a Grade II listed 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier cottage just set back from the road in the north east of the village. It was the southern of two pits excavated here; see also TTN/06/3 (Pond Farmhouse, Church Road, Thorrington. TM 609350 220576).



**Figure 17: Location map of TTN/06/8**

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

Six sherds of Essex Grey ware were excavated from contexts two and five of TTN/06/8, with a later medieval sherd of German Stoneware. A single sherd of post medieval Creamware was also recovered from context one, but the majority of the pottery excavated from test pit eight, dates to the Victorian period and was recovered from contexts two and five.

TP	Context	Grey		GS		Creamware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1					1	5			1760-1850
8	2	2	10					6	17	1200-1900
8	5	4	32	1	7			2	4	1200-1900

**Table 8: The pottery excavated from TTN/06/8**

The metallised surface identified in TTN/06/3 was also recorded to the south in this test pit at 0.5m in depth. However, unlike TTN/06/3, medieval pottery was excavated from this test pit, which suggests that the road or yard surface was most probably in use around the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century, as the 19<sup>th</sup> century disturbance could not have penetrated the surface due to the compactness of its construction. Generally, fewer finds were also recovered and include tile, oyster shell and coal, although a large amount of slag was excavated, all of which were either from context two or five and the presence of the large amounts of slag could represent industrial waste from on-site works.



### 7.2 The 2007 Test Pit Results

The 2007 excavations in Thorrington were undertaken over the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, when a total of 10 archaeological test pits were excavated by a total of 32 HEFA participants from Woodlands School, Hassenbrook School, Gable Hall School, Alderman Blaxill School, Tendring Technology College and Sir Charles Lucas School (school names correct at time of participation). The test pits were sited in-between the 2006 test pit sites, with a concentration focused along the eastern side of the ‘triangle’ of roads as well as new sites along Clacton Road, bringing the total excavated in Thorrington to 18.

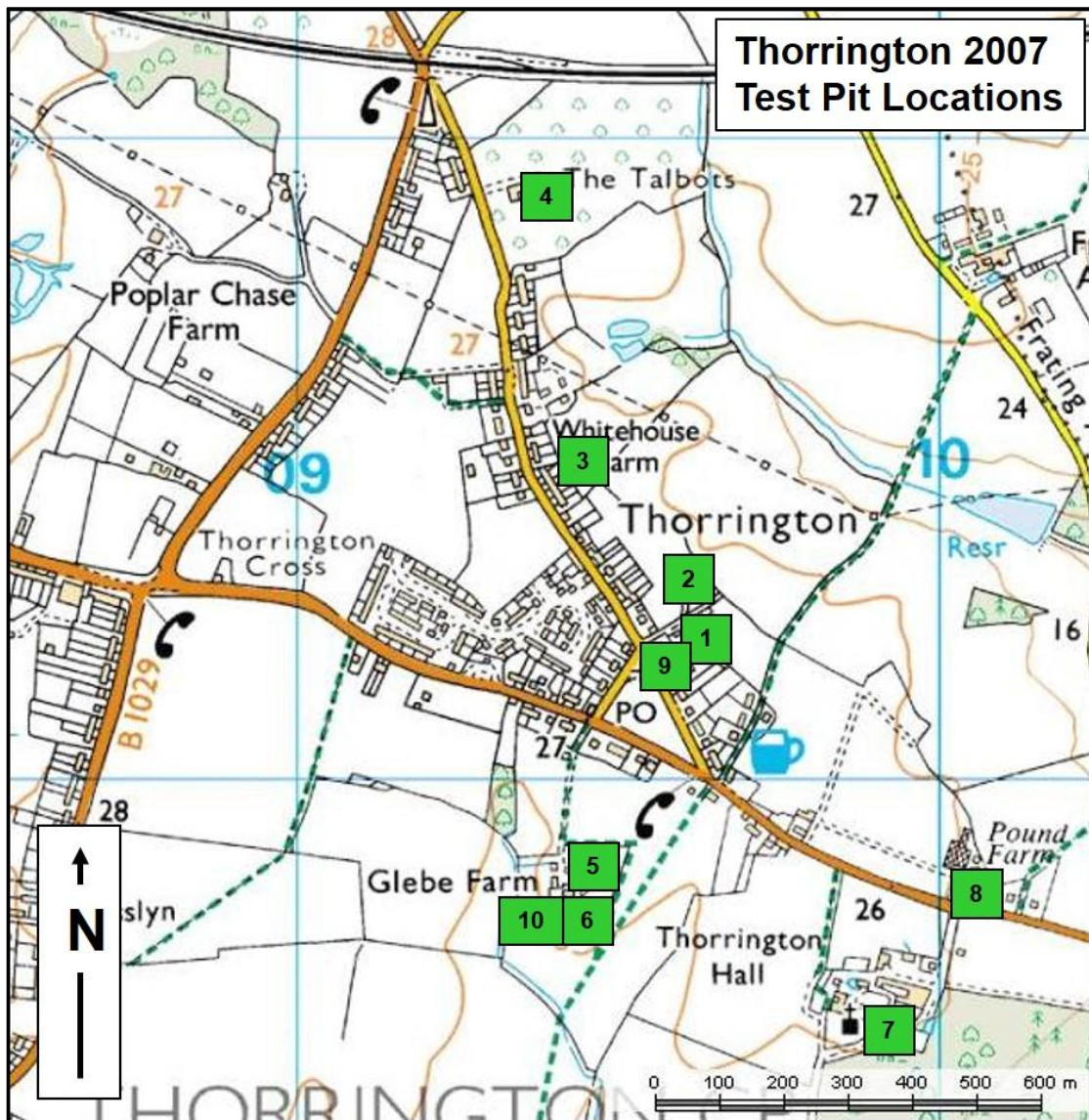


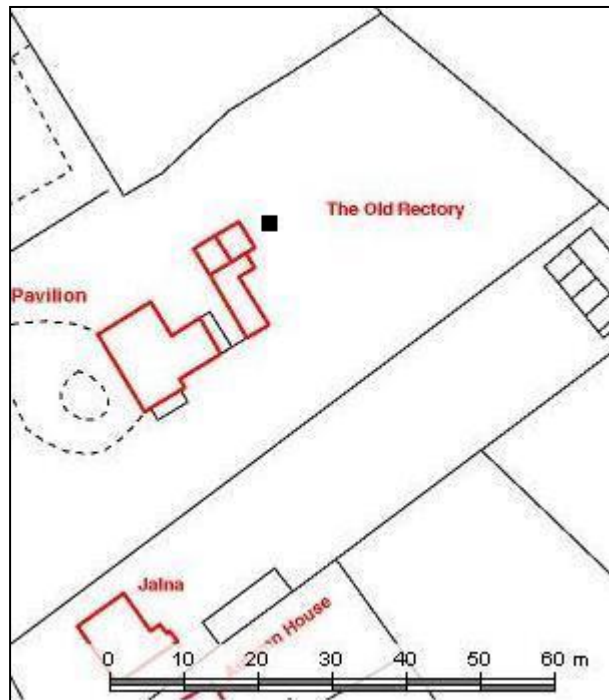
Table 9: The approximate locations of the 2007 test pits in Thorrington (NB: Test pits not shown to scale) © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

### Test Pit one (TTTN/07/1)

Test pit one was excavated in the large rear garden of the Old Rectory built in 1867. The test pit was sited close to the back of the house and was also the northern of two pits excavated here; see also TTN/07/9 (The Old Rectory, Church Road, Thorrington. TM 609618 220192).

Test pit one 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.

One sherd of Roman Greyware pottery was excavated from context one, but the assemblage was dominated by Victorian pottery found from the upper three contexts of TTN/07/1.



**Figure 18: Location map of TTN/07/1**

TP	Context	Roman Greyware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1	1	3	8	25	AD100-1900
1	2			10	18	1800-1900
1	3			3	7	1800-1900

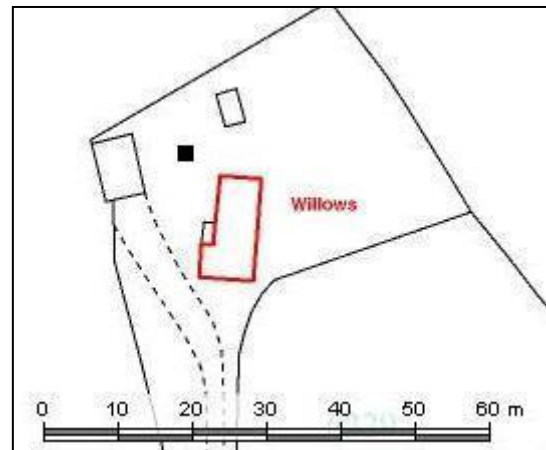
**Table 10: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/1**

The single small sherd of Roman pottery suggests that this site was most probably open fields during that time, as scattered evidence for Roman occupation has been identified through test pitting in the south east of Thorrington. The site continued as open fields until the current house was built in the 1860's, the finds and the majority of the pottery relate to the occupation on site during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The finds include animal bone, slate, coal, window and bottle glass, tile, CBM, oyster shell, iron nails, fragments of drain and a button and were mixed through all five of the contexts excavated.

### Test Pit two (TTN/07/2)

Test pit two was excavated in the rear garden of a Grade II listed 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier cottage. The test pit was sited northwest of the cottage, between the house and the garage (The Willows, Church Road, Thorington. TM 609603 220328).

Test pit two 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 19: Location map of TTN/07/2**

A single sherd of Late Medieval Colchester ware was excavated from context four, whereas a range of post medieval wares were recovered from the upper two contexts of the test pit. Single sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware, Staffordshire Slipware, English Stoneware and Staffordshire Manganese Ware were all identified. The majority of the pottery dates to the Victorian period that was also recovered from the upper four contexts of TTN/07/2.

TP	Context	LMT		GRE		Staffs Slip		ES		SMW		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1			1	3							12	28	1550-1900
2	2					1	6	1	2	1	9	12	55	1650-1900
2	3											7	38	1800-1900
2	4	1	3									1	2	1400-1900

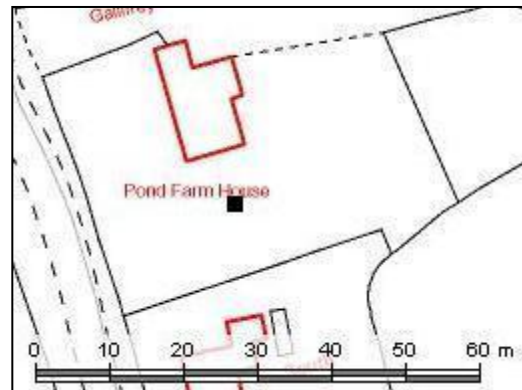
**Table 11: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/2**

The later medieval activity has been identified as part of sites along Clacton Road, Station Road and Church Road, in properties set back from the road, which suggests dispersed settlement in Thorington at that time. The activity continued on site through the post medieval, including when the house was built, and appeared to peak into the Victorian period, from which most of the finds also date. These consist of coal, iron nails, animal bone, CBM, slate, mortar, window and bottle glass with oyster shell, slag and clay pipe and were found mixed through the upper four contexts excavated.

### Test Pit three (TTN/07/3)

Test pit three was excavated close to the side of a Grade II listed 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier cottage set back from the main road in the east of the village (Pond Farmhouse, Church Road, Thorrington. TM 609363 220571).

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



**Figure 20: Location map of TTN/07/3**

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from TTN/07/3 dates to the Victorian period that was also recovered from the upper five contexts. A single sherd of German Stoneware and three sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware were also identified from contexts three and four.

TP	Context	GS		GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1					5	11	1800-1900
3	2					20	58	1800-1900
3	3			1	2	5	23	1550-1900
3	4	1	3	2	5	2	5	1500-1900
3	5					2	7	1800-1900

**Table 12: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/3**

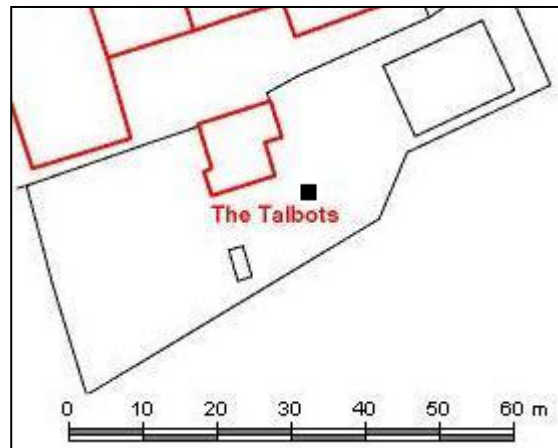
The presence of activity on site potentially correlates to the construction of the cottage, most likely during the 16<sup>th</sup> century; the finds and pottery suggest that there was continuous activity to the present day. The peak of activity on site was during the Victorian period, although the site has quite a lot of modern disturbance based on the concrete and modern CBM excavated from the lower half of the test pit. The rest of the finds include oyster shell, slate, CBM, iron nails, coal, window and bottle glass with clay pipe and burnt stone, which were mixed through the upper half of the test pit.



### Test Pit four (TTN/07/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the large open rear garden of a probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse set back from the road in the north east of the village (The Talbots, Church Road, Thorrington. TM 609367 220907).

Test pit four 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.



**Figure 21: Location map of TTN/07/4**

Two sherds of pottery were excavated to date to the medieval period; the Essex Redware and Late Medieval Colchester ware were both identified from context five. An additional sherd of German Stoneware dating to the very end of the medieval period was also recovered from context four. A range of post medieval wares were recovered and include Glazed Red Earthenware, Delft Ware, Staffordshire Slipware and Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware which were excavated through the test pit, but especially towards the base. The vast majority of the pottery however dates to the Victorian period and was recovered from the upper five contexts of TTN/07/4.

TP	Context	Essex Red		LMT		GS		GRE		Delft		Staff Slip		SWSG		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1							1	4							12	25	1550-1900
4	2							1	10							26	51	1550-1900
4	3							1	4	1	1					13	74	1550-1900
4	4					1	7	7	46							28	86	1500-1900
4	5	1	11	1	1			3	18					1	1	14	31	1200-1900
4	6							3	48			1	22	1	6			1550-1750

**Table 13: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/4**

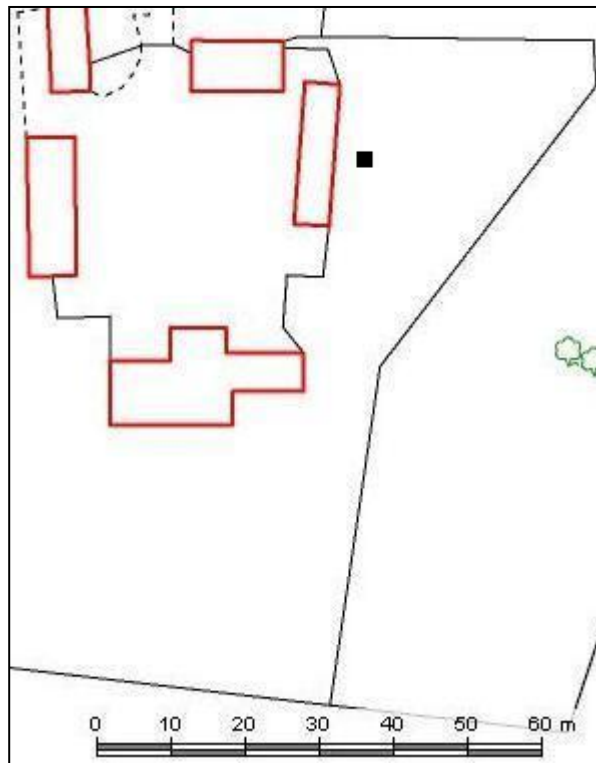
The medieval activity in Thorrington identified from test pitting appears to be quite scattered through the village and represented as probable isolated farmsteads that are also all set back from the current road. The amount of activity then increases into the post medieval, potentially relating to the construction of the house, as the village grows and peaks into the Victorian period. The finds recovered include CBM, iron nails, coal, plastic and rubber, window and bottle glass, modern tile and scrap metal with animal bone, oyster shell, clay pipe, slate, a shotgun cartridge and potential burnt stone (that may be later prehistoric in date) and mixed through the six excavated contexts.

### Test Pit five (TTN/07/5)

Test pit five was excavated on open lawn immediately east of a barn that fronts the driveway in front of the probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse. It was the northern of three test pits excavated here; see also TTN/07/6 and TTN/07/10 (Glebe Barn, Clacton Road, Thorrington. TM 609439 219852).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.38m. Natural was not found but due to the presence of concrete and asbestos in the test pit, excavations were halted at this level and the pit was recorded and backfilled.

Only two sherds of pottery were excavated from TTN/07/5. A small sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware was recovered from context one, while a sherd of Victorian pottery was identified from context three.



**Figure 22: Location map of TTN/07/5**

TP	Context	GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1	1	5			1550-1750
5	3			1	5	1800-1900

**Table 14: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/5**

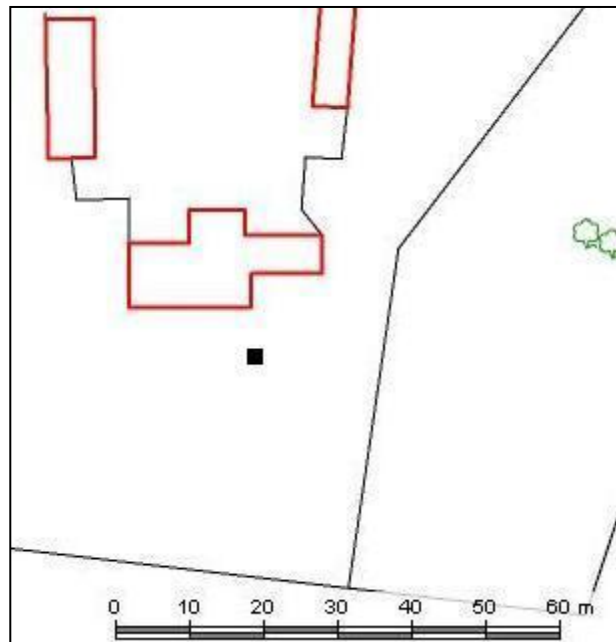
The presence of concrete in the base of the test pit suggests that the land behind the barn had been greatly disturbed in recent times. The majority of the finds can also be dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and include CBM, asbestos, fragments of drain, modern tile, coal, bottle glass and a small square metal plate and were found from the three contexts of TTN/07/5. The presence of slag and post-medieval activity suggest that there was activity on site during that time, but most of the finds date to after the current house was built. A possible waste was flint was also excavated from context two that may be later prehistoric in date, although analysis of the lithics would be needed to confirm this.

### Test Pit six (TTN/07/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the large rear garden of a probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse set back from the main road in the south of the village. It was the south-eastern of three test pits excavated here; see also TTN/07/5 and TTN/07/10 (Glebe Barn, Clacton Road, Thorrington. TM 609422 219813).

Test pit six was excavated to a depth of 0.55m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the pit was recorded and backfilled.

Two sherds of Roman Grog-Tempered ware were excavated from the basal contexts of the test pit that were also found with medieval pottery of Essex Grey Ware and Essex Red Ware. A single sherd of Late medieval Colchester ware was also recovered from context one and was mixed with the post medieval wares of Glazed Red Earthenware and English Stoneware, which were all identified from the upper contexts of the test pit. The majority of the pottery however dates to the Victorian period and was excavated from the upper half of TTN/07/6.



**Figure 23: Location map of TTN/07/6**

TP	Context	Grog		Essex Grey		Essex Red		LMT		GRE		ES		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1							1	5	3	12	1	3	16	29	1400-1900
6	2											1	1	18	48	1680-1900
6	3									1	13			9	24	1550-1900
6	4	1	18	2	6	1	2			1	47			1	3	AD100-1900
6	5	1	28													AD100-200

**Table 15: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/6**

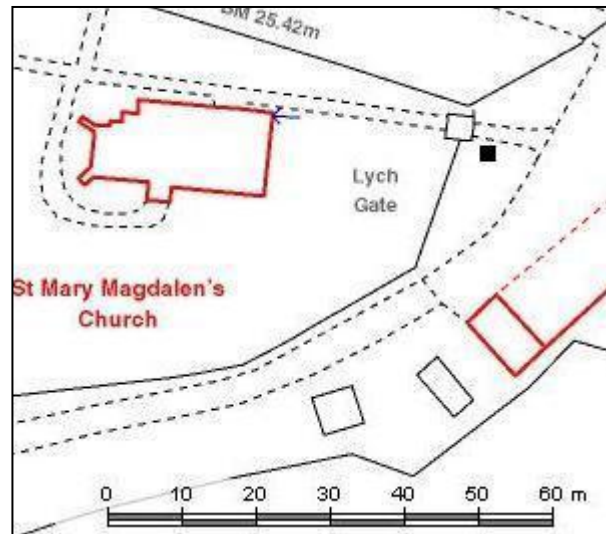
The evidence for Roman occupation in test pit six has been identified in two other test pit locations in the south and east of Thorrington. The lack of associated finds may suggest that the land was only utilised as open fields during that time with the focus of Roman occupation elsewhere in the village. The medieval occupation of Thorrington is also quite scattered with isolated farmsteads set back from the road and this site in the far south of the village has been utilised more or less continuously since then, and there is an increase in activity into the post medieval. The finds excavated include tile, CBM, slate, coal, iron nails and Perspex that were found with oyster shell, animal bone and clay pipe, all of which relate to the increase in occupational activity from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. All the finds were mixed through the test pit with fragments of CBM and coal also found in context six with the Roman pottery.

### Test Pit seven (TTN/07/7)

Test pit seven was excavated on an open area of grass immediately outside the church boundary to the east and next to the Lynch Gate (St Mary Magdalen Church, Thorrington. TM 609899 219816).

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

Test pit seven did not produce any pottery.



**Figure 24: Location map of TTN/07/7**

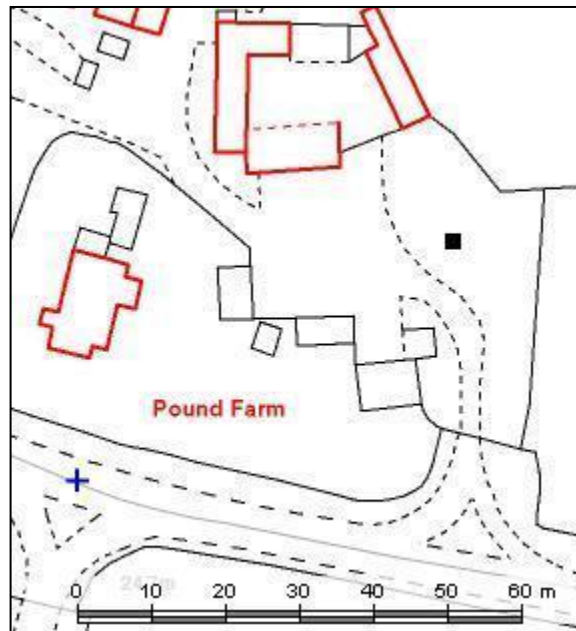
The location of TTN/07/7 close to the entrance of the 14<sup>th</sup> century church could potentially yield both finds and pottery dating from the construction of the church. The presence of slag and clay pipe does suggest activity on site most probably during the post medieval period. The slate, coal, CBM, scrap iron and iron nails with bottle glass, slag and animal bone that were mixed through the eight contexts are potentially related to activity on the nearby farm, although it is possible that they were also related to activities in and around the church. The presence of a possible small cobbled surface was also excavated at c.0.2m in depth and may have been part of a path or road leading to the church. A potential worked flint flake was also excavated from context six and may indicate later prehistoric activity on site, although analysis of the lithics would be needed to confirm this.

### Test Pit eight (TTN/07/8)

Test pit eight was excavated in the open front grassed area outside the property boundary, next to driveway and set back from the main road in the far south east of the village (Pound Farm, Clacton Road, Thorrington. TM 610076 219832).

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

Two sherds of post medieval pottery were excavated from TTN/07/8, a sherd of Cologne Stoneware from context five and a large sherd of Staffordshire Slipware from context one. The majority of the pottery recovered dates to the Victorian period that was also found through the test pit.



**Figure 25: Location map of TTN/07/8**

TP	Context	WCS		Staff Slip		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1			1	39	4	16	1650-1900
8	4					3	39	1800-1900
8	5	1	17					1600-1750
8	7					5	18	1800-1900

**Table 16: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/8**

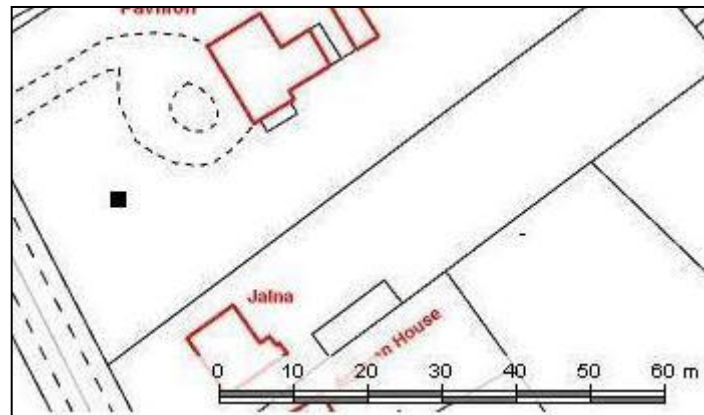
The presence of post medieval activity on site was part of the expansion of occupation in Thorrington during that time into previously unoccupied land in the far south east of the village. This area, outside the current property boundary was sparsely utilised during the post medieval and may have been open fields during that time and was not intensively used until Pound Farm was built, perhaps during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Large amounts of flowerpot were excavated, with the presence of burnt brick potentially suggests a kiln was located on site for the firing of the modern pots. The rest of the finds excavated include slate, window glass, iron nails, coal, CBM, animal bone, tile and concrete with fragments of drain found through the upper six contexts and are most probably related to the modern improvements made to the property during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Figure 26: Possible burnt bricks from TTN/07/8, context three © ACA**

### Test Pit nine (TTN/07/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the open front garden of the Old Rectory (built in 1867) and was sited opposite the house in the centre of the lawn. It was also the southern of two test pits excavated here; see also TTN/07/1 (The Old Rectory, Church Road, Thorrington. TM 609583 220159).



**Figure 27: Location map of TTN/07/9**

Test pit nine was excavated to a depth of 0.2m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the pit was recorded and backfilled.

Five sherds of Victorian pottery were only recovered from context two of TTN/07/9.

TP	Context	Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	
9	2	5	10	1800-1900

**Table 17: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/9**

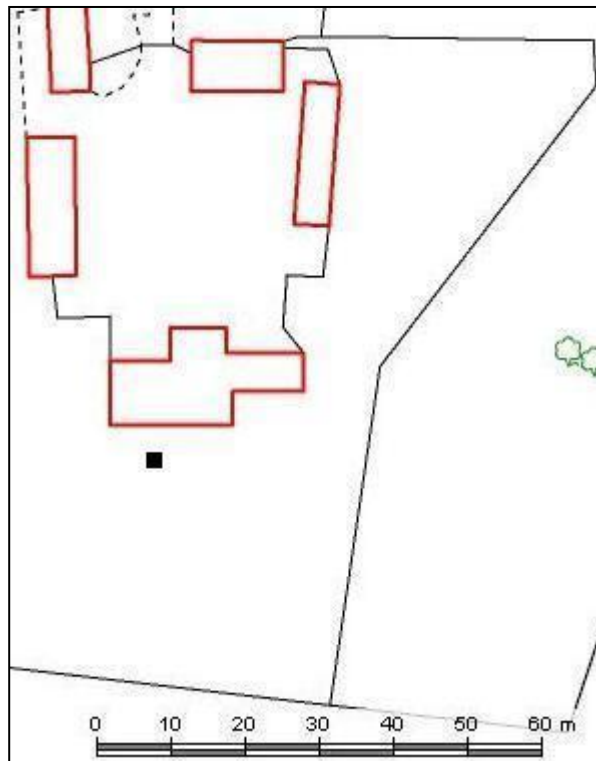
Although not much of the test pit was actually excavated, the finds and pottery recovered suggest a similar story of land use to those found from TTN/07/1 located to the rear of the property. Prior to the construction of the house in the 1860's there appears to be little to no earlier activity on site; the slate, modern bottle glass, coal and CBM are all more recent finds relating to the occupation post 1860 and were excavated with the pottery from context two.

### Test Pit 10 (TTN/07/10)

Test pit 10 was excavated in the large rear garden of a probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse set back from the main road in the south of the village. It was also the south-western of three test pits excavated here; see also TTN/07/5 and TTN/07/6 (Glebe Farm, Clacton Road, Thorrington. TM 609412 219813).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. Natural was not found but due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the pit was recorded and backfilled.

Four sherds of Glazed Red Earthenware were excavated from context one of TTN/07/10, but the most of the pottery recovered dates to the Victorian period and found from the upper three contexts.



**Figure 28: Location map of TTN/07/10**

TP	Context	GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1	4	20	7	16	1550-1900
10	3			1	3	1800-1900

**Table 18: The pottery excavated from TTN/07/10**

Similar to the results excavated from TTN/07/6, an increase of activity was noted on site into the post medieval period and with the general expansion of occupation in Thorrington. The finds recovered include slate, coal, CBM, animal bone and clay pipe with modern window and bottle glass that were found with the pottery from contexts one and three and probably mostly relate to the modern expansion and renovations of the property during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.





## 8 Discussion

The test pitting in Thorrington has contributed greatly to the wider understanding of the history and archaeology of the parish and the results from the two years of test pitting in the settlement 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 Prehistory

Although no prehistoric features were excavated from any of the 18 test pits in Thorrington, a small amount of probable burnt stone and worked flint were identified. Three pieces of burnt stone were recorded from three of the test pits; TTN/06/4, TTN/07/3 and TTN/07/4 and two potential worked flakes were found from TTN/07/5 and TTN/07/7. Interestingly, all the burnt stone was found to the north and east of both Clacton Road and Church Road and the flint flakes were excavated from the south of Clacton Road and may hint at potential different areas of activity during later prehistory (c.4000-700BC). 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 is recorded here. Because of this, a definitive date cannot be assigned to the test pit lithics, but a later prehistoric date, such as the Neolithic (or perhaps even the Bronze Age) is most likely, particularly given that a date of the Neolithic has been attributed to the lithics already recorded on the HER from the parish and a number of Bronze Age burial mounds have been identified along the coast and estuaries.

Three sherds of Late Iron Age (50BC – AD50) ‘Grog-tempered ware’ were identified from two of the test pits, (TTN/06/6 and TTN/07/6), both of which were sited to the south of Clacton Road, at the church and Glebe Farm respectively. The Iron Age pottery accounted for just 0.5% of all the pot found through the test pitting strategy in Thorrington and were likely made locally, utilising the London Clays that run under this corner of Essex. The location of these two test pits are on the ridge of higher ground, overlooking the marshes and estuaries to the south and where previous Iron Age settlements of the Trinovantes tribe have been recorded. The sherds found were also quite large and derived from the base of the test pits, hinting at an undisturbed later Iron Age and early Roman ground surface here. The Late Iron Age pottery was also the first of this date to be found in the parish and although further archaeology is needed in Thorrington to fully determine the extent and date of the settlement here in prehistory, the parish does sit within a landscape rich with prehistoric remains.

### 8.2 Romano-British

Only two sherds of Roman Greyware pottery were excavated from two test pits in Thorrington, accounting for 0.3% of all the pot found and were identified from TTN/06/6 and TTN/07/1. TTN/06/6 was also a continuation of the Late Iron Age activity identified, although given that only a single sherd of both Iron Age and Romano-British (AD 43-410) pottery were recorded from this test pit, it was much smaller in size and therefore possibly a result of agricultural activities on this area of higher ground. Both of the test pits yielding Roman pottery were sited in the east of the current village and relatively close to the route of a probable Roman road,

connecting the Roman settlement at St Osyth and the first Roman town in Britain at Colchester. In Thorrington parish, the road reportedly runs past Frating Abbey and on a relatively similar alignment to the modern road today and would have provided essential access to the fertile lands and abundant natural resources prevalent in the Tendring district of Essex and in particular, the salt making sites along the coastline. The land at Thorrington would have mainly been utilised as open fields, with perhaps some of the undated field boundaries and enclosure ditches identified on the HER dating to the prehistoric as well as the Roman period.

### 8.3 Anglo-Saxon

No Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066) finds were excavated from the test pitting strategy in Thorrington. This supports the results of previous and any excavations since, which have shown a significant absence in finds of this date, despite the presence of a settlement here from the Late Anglo-Saxon period at least, as recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

### 8.4 Medieval

The pottery dating to the high medieval (AD 1066-1399) consists of just 15 sherds (2.8% of all the pottery found) and was recorded from five of the 18 test pits. The pottery was made locally, and identified as Essex Grey Ware and Essex Red Ware; the majority coming from pottery kiln sites at Colchester. The distribution of the pottery (appendix 12.3) is shown as a scatter of activity across the modern village; probably the result of separate nodes of settlement, and likely farmsteads, particularly as four out of five of the sites are farms today. One of these sites yielded five sherds or more of pot, which is generally considered indicative of settlement present on site at that time (Lewis 2014). This test pit was TTN/06/8 at Pond Farmhouse along Church Road, but the presence of four sherds at TTN/06/5 along Clacton Road and to a lesser extent, with three sherds found at TTN/07/6, Glebe Farm, both may also hint at occupation on or close to site. The two pits that yielded just single sherds of high medieval pottery may be likely to indicate agricultural activities, such as manuring (*Ibid*). These are TTN/06/1 and TTN/07/4, both of which were situated in the north of the village, on the edge of a plateau of slightly higher ground away from the estuary.

There is a decrease in the number of later medieval (AD 1400-1539) pottery recorded from the test pits, with only nine sherds (1.7%) of mainly late medieval Colchester Ware excavated from seven of the test pits. Three of these nine sherds were identified as German Stoneware (appendix 12.1) and were made at a variety of sites along the Rhine Valley. It has a production start date in the later medieval, but the production continues through the post medieval period. However, as the exact date of these sherds are not known, they are included in this section with an assumed 'start date' of late medieval. Single sherds were excavated from TTN/06/8, TTN/07/3 and TTN/07/4, all sited in the north of the village. Single sherds of the late medieval Colchester Ware were also only recorded from four of the five main sites identified by the high medieval pottery (appendix 12.3). This does show a continuation of activity at these probable farmsteads through the medieval, although it may have been thinly occupied.

The decrease in pottery between the high and later medieval could be due to a number of issues and events that took place during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The century began with a population boom, which then subsequently 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, subsequent widespread crop failure and famine and then the Black Death that swept through the country. Although the amount of pottery found from the test pits cannot be equated to population figures at that time, it seems likely that there was some contraction of the settlement after the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This is supported by the historical sources, which say the focus of occupation around Thorrington moved away from the church during the Black Death (Millatt 1993), due to the high number of fatalities and subsequent burials to where these isolated farmsteads were located that led to a continuous ribbon of settlement that is seen today.

A metalled surface was identified through two test pits at the front of Pond Farmhouse on Church Road, TTN/06/3 and TTN/06/8. The surface runs parallel to the Church Road and may have been either an earlier road or perhaps a yard, and potentially predating the current house, which is 16<sup>th</sup> century. This surface may be perhaps 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century in date, although the compactness of the construction made it hard to penetrate and determine a date, so additional (and larger) excavations are needed to determine its full extent and date.

## 8.5 Post-medieval and later

The post medieval pottery (AD 1540-1799) that was excavated from the Thorrington test pits consisted of a total of 68 sherds (12.9% of the pot found) that were excavated from 14 of the 18 test pits (appendix 12.3). Pottery during the post medieval started to become more sophisticated and was able to be mass-produced for the first time. The post medieval pottery excavated here was manufactured at multiple sites across England, with specific examples identified locally from both Colchester and Chelmsford, as well as further afield from Norwich and Staffordshire. One sherd of definite post medieval imported pottery was recorded from TTN/07/8, (the three sherds of German Stoneware that may have dated to the post medieval, were included in section 8.4), and has been identified as Cologne Stoneware (appendix 12.1). This was made in the Rhineland area of Germany from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards and was found in Thorrington at the opposite end of the village from the finds of the German Stoneware and close to the church at Pound Farm.

The vast majority of the pottery excavated from the Thorrington test pits dated as 19<sup>th</sup> century 'Victorian' wares, with 428 sherds recorded from all but one test pit (TTN/07/7), and accounts for 81% of all the pottery excavated. Both the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century maps of Thorrington illustrate a very sparsely occupied settlement, the road network likely based on the original medieval and post medieval routeway through the heathland, as well as leading to the various farmsteads that have likely been in existence from at least the medieval.

A possible, partial cobbled surface was identified at TTN/07/7 immediately east of the church and as it was found at quite a shallow depth (0.2m), it may relate to a post medieval or later surface or path next to the Lynch Gate. The presence of a number of likely burnt bricks also recorded at TTN/07/8 at Pound Farm close to the church, suggest that there may have been a kiln on or close to site, or that an earlier structure here may have been in a fire. Again further archaeological investigation at both sites would be needed to confirm this.



## 9 Conclusion

The 18 archaeological test pits that were excavated in Thorrington, as part of the University of Cambridge's Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA), with the help of local residents, have yielded archaeological evidence for settlement and activity in the parish dating from the later prehistoric period through to the modern day. The test pit results have also added to the 'bigger picture' of the development of Thorrington within the Tendring district of Essex, adding to both the 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 village.

Evidence for later prehistoric activity was recorded in the form of limited scatters of lithics, most likely dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age that hint at a more extensive land use than has previously been identified and mainly closer to the coast. This is supported by the presence of three sherds of Late Iron Age pot found on the crest of the high ground overlooking the estuary to the south. As only very limited Romano-British pottery was also found, it is likely that that Thorrington parish may have been utilised for agriculture or pasture on the heathland, but if the course of a Roman road does transect the parish to the east, there may be evidence for additional nearby settlement or industrial activities. Although the village was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, no evidence for any Late Anglo Saxon occupation was identified with the first evidence of a settlement at Thorrington only identified into the high medieval, as a highly dispersed hamlet with a scatter of isolated farmsteads around the heathland. A shift in the settlement, known from historical documents, state how the villagers moved away from the 'death' around the church during the 14<sup>th</sup> century because of the Black Death, which is also hinted at from the later medieval pottery found. It is likely that the settlement remained small through the post medieval, consisting of mainly dispersed farms through the landscape, connected by a network of lanes, with later infilling only really apparent from the 1930's onwards.

There is plenty of scope for further archaeological work in Thorrington. It is recommended that all the lithics from the test pits be analysed by a lithic expert. This will more accurately pin point the date and spread of the prehistoric activity in the parish, and the Iron Age and Romano-British pottery should also be re-analysed by an Iron Age and Roman pottery expert respectively, as all the pottery from the Thorrington test pits was examined by a post-Roman pottery expert. 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 (12 of the 18 were not able to excavated to natural in the time available) would also add to the picture of the archaeology in Thorrington. Further excavations at both TTN/06/3 and TTN/06/8 would also be relevant to determine the extent and date of the surface identified there. Although some of the archaeology in the parish has been disturbed by later developments, there is still plenty of archaeological evidence surviving under the extent of the current settlement.



## 10 Acknowledgements

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## 12 Appendices

### 12.1 Pottery reports - *Paul Blinkhorn*

#### All pottery types (in chronological order)

**Grog-Tempered ware.** So-called because it has crushed-up pieces of tile or pot, known as 'grog', mixed in with the clay. First made at the end of the Iron Age, and carried on into the earlier part of the Roman period, from around 50BC to 100AD.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD, but in some places, continued in use until the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

**Grey: Essex Grey ware.** 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Seven kilns, which were making this pottery type, were sited just outside the north gate of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was made at other places in Essex, such as Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

**Essex Red Ware.** 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. Reddish pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Made at lots of different sites around Essex. Most of the pots were glazed jugs.

**GS: German Stonewares.** First made around AD1450, and 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.

**LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware.** C 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay ('slip'). Evidence of their manufacture has been found near Colchester Castle, and in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> century, and in some places continued in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

**Blackware:** Made between AD1580 and 1700. The clay is very similar to that of the LMT and GRE wares, but the vessels have a black glaze, coloured by the additional

of iron. Usually drinking vessels such as mugs, but also tall, narrow cups with up to 8 handles, known as 'tygs'.

**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 were amongst the first to make it. 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 soon after in London. Continued in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 17<sup>th</sup> century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Staffordshire Slipware.** AD1640-1750. Fine cream fabric with white slip and pale yellow lead glaze, commonest decoration is dark brown trails which were sometimes brushed with a feather while wet. Chiefly made 'flat wares' such as plates and dishes, although small bowls and mugs etc. are known.

**SMW: Staffordshire Manganese Ware,** late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. Made from a fine, buff-coloured clay, with the pots usually covered with a mottled purple and brown glaze, which was coloured by the addition of powdered manganese. 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 17<sup>th</sup> century, became very common in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, particularly for mineral water or ink bottles and beer jars.

**SGS/SWGS: White Salt-Glazed Stoneware.** Delicate white pottery made between 1720 and 1780, usually for teacups and mugs. Has a finely dimpled surface, like orange peel.

**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: tea-cups, saucers, plates, soup bowls etc. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was considered to be quite cheap as better types of pottery were being made, so it was often painted with multi-coloured designs to try and make it more popular.

**'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 2006 Pottery Results

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

#### Test Pit 1

TP	Context	Grey		LMT		Blackware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1			1	5					1400-1500
1	2	1	1					7	24	1200-1900
1	3							7	22	1800-1900
1	4					1	3	2	3	1580-1900
1	5			1	4					1400-1500

Most of the pottery was of Victorian date, but a few sherds of earlier wares were found. These suggest that there was some human activity at the site between 1200 – 1600, but that the area where the test-pit was dug was probably fields or gardens.

#### Test Pit 2

TP	Context	GRE		Blackware		Staffs Slip		White SGS		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1	1	1					1	3	4	8	1550-1900
2	2									8	21	1800-1900
2	3	2	28	1	3	1	1	1	2	4	9	1550-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit dated to after the medieval period. A lot of the common types of pottery from 1550 onwards were found, so it is probable that people have been living at the site from that time. All the pottery was found mixed up with Victorian material, so it would seem that 19<sup>th</sup> century digging has destroyed most of the earlier archaeology

#### Test Pit 3

TP	Context	GRE		Delft		Creamware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1							1	1	1800-1900
3	2			1	1	3	5	21	80	1600-1900
3	3	3	7					2	2	1550-1900
3	4	1	8					7	18	1550-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit dated to after the medieval period. A lot of the common types of pottery from 1550 onwards were found, so it is probable that people have been living at the site from that time. All the pottery was found mixed up with Victorian material, so it would seem that 19<sup>th</sup> century digging has destroyed most of the earlier archaeology

### Test Pit 4

TP	Context	GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1	1	1	13	37	1550-1900
4	2	2	6	38	77	1550-1900
4	3			10	17	1800-1900
4	4			2	14	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit dated to after the medieval period. All but three pieces were Victorian, so it seems that there was very little human activity at the site before then. It is most likely that the area was fields or gardens until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Test Pit 5

TP	Context	Grey		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	2	1	1	5	34	1200-1900
5	5	3	19	1	11	1200-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit was either medieval or Victorian. It shows that there were people living here in the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, but also that the site was then deserted until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Test Pit 6

TP	Context	Grog		Roman Grey		GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1					1	5	6	74	1550-1900
6	2							3	24	1800-1900
6	3							3	9	1800-1900
6	4					1	1	6	23	1550-1900
6	5			1	5			3	10	50-1900
6	6	1	27							50BC-100AD

This test-pit produced the earliest finds, in the form of two sherds of roman pottery. One of them, the Grog-tempered sherd, could possibly even date to 100 years before the Romans arrived, i.e. about 50BC. The deepest context did not produce any pottery other than the Grog-tempered sherd, so it is likely that the soils at that depth are the undisturbed Roman or late prehistoric ground surface.

After the Romans, there appears to have been no human activity at the site for over 1000 years, and even then, very little pottery was deposited until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It would seem that the area was probably gardens or fields during all that time.



### Test Pit 7

TP	Context	LMT		Delft		White SGS		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1			4	10			4	8	1600-1900
7	2	1	2			1	2	3	5	1400-1900
7	3							9	10	1800-1900
7	4							1	5	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit dated to after the medieval period. A lot of the common types of pottery from 1550 onwards were found, so it is probable that people have been living at the site from that time. All the pottery was found mixed up with Victorian material, so it would seem that 19<sup>th</sup> century digging has destroyed most of the earlier archaeology.

### Test Pit 8

TP	Context	Grey		GS		Creamware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1					1	5			1760-1850
8	2	2	10					6	17	1200-1900
8	5	4	32	1	7			2	4	1200-1900

The pottery from this test pit shows that there have been people living at the site since around 1200. The deepest context, the hard metalised surface, produced medieval and later pottery, which it shows that the layer must date to around the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century, and was in use for a long time. The medieval pottery cannot have been brought up by later digging, as the surface was simply too hard, and has not been disturbed.

### 12.1.2 2007 Pottery Results

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

#### Test Pit 1

TP	Context	Roman Greyware		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1	1	3	8	25	AD100-1900
1	2			10	18	1800-1900
1	3			3	7	1800-1900

Apart from the one piece of Roman Greyware, all the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian. It seems most likely that the area was fields in Roman times, and then not really used by people until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Test Pit 2

TP	Context	LMT		GRE		Staffs Slip		ES		SMW		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1			1	3							12	28	1550-1900
2	2					1	6	1	2	1	9	12	55	1650-1900
2	3											7	38	1800-1900
2	4	1	3									1	2	1400-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit dates to the very end of the medieval period or later. The range of types shows that people have been using the site from the 15<sup>th</sup> century until the present day.

#### Test Pit 3

TP	Context	GS		GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1					5	11	1800-1900
3	2					20	58	1800-1900
3	3			1	2	5	23	1550-1900
3	4	1	3	2	5	2	5	1500-1900
3	5					2	7	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test pit is Victorian, but there are a few earlier sherds, showing that people have been at the site from around 1500 to the present day.





### Test Pit 4

TP	Context	Essex Red		LMT		GS		GRE		Delft		Staff Slip		SWSG		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1							1	4							12	25	1550-1900
4	2							1	10							26	51	1550-1900
4	3							1	4	1	1					13	74	1550-1900
4	4					1	7	7	46							28	86	1500-1900
4	5	1	11	1	1			3	18					1	1	14	31	1200-1900
4	6							3	48			1	22	1	6			1550-1750

This test-pit produced a lot of different types, with the earliest dating to the medieval period. Most of the pottery dates to after the medieval period, and suggests that the area may have been fields until around 1500, after which people have probably lived here.

### Test Pit 5

TP	Context	GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1	1	5			1550-1750
5	3			1	5	1800-1900

This test-pit produced only two sherds of pottery, and shows that the site has been used since around 1550, but was probably fields during most of that time.

### Test Pit 6

TP	Context	Grog		Essex Grey		Essex Red		LMT		GRE		ES		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1							1	5	3	12	1	3	16	29	1400-1900
6	2											1	1	18	48	1680-1900
6	3									1	13			9	24	1550-1900
6	4	1	18	2	6	1	2			1	47			1	3	AD100-1900
6	5	1	28													AD100-200

The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site has a long history of use by humans. The lowest context, 5, produced only Roman pottery, and is probably the ground surface around 2000 years ago. After that, the site was not used until around 1100, and people appears to have been there ever since.

### Test Pit 7

This test-pit did not produce any pottery.

### Test Pit 8

TP	Context	WCS		Staff Slip		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1			1	39	4	16	1650-1900
8	4					3	39	1800-1900
8	5	1	17					1600-1750
8	7					5	18	1800-1900

The pottery from this test pit shows that the site was not really used by people until about 1600, and then not very much until Victorian times.

### Test Pit 9

TP	Context	Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	
9	2	5	10	1800-1900

The pottery from this test pit shows that the site was not really used by people until Victorian times.

### Test Pit 10

TP	Context	GRE		Victorian		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1	4	20	7	16	1550-1900
10	3			1	3	1800-1900

The pottery from this test pit shows that the site was not really used by people until about 1550, and then not very much until Victorian times.

## 12.2 Other Finds - Catherine Collins

### 12.2.1 2006 non-pottery finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM fragments x7 = 30g	clear container glass x1 = 1g		coal x1 = 2g	animal bone x2 = 2g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x 4 = 10g, tile/brick x10 = 54g	green bottle glass x2 = 9g, one green glass marble = 6g	iron nails x6 = 95g, slag x1 = 10g	coal x4 = 6g, slate x1 = 2g	one brown plastic button = <1g
C.3	brick/tile x9 = 93g		iron nails x3 = 22g	coal x2 = 1g	concrete x1 = 22g
C.4	brick/tile x20 = 259g, clay pipe stem x 2 = 4g	clear flat glass x1 = <1g, green bottle glass x1 = 2g	iron nail x2 = 4g, slag x2 = 9g		

**Table 19: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/1**

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	tile x5 = 97g	green bottle glass x1 = <1g		slate x1 = 16g, coal x22 = 59g	thin plastic part of a bag = <1g
C. 2	CBM fragments x22 = 179g, clay pipe stem x 1 = 1g, clay pipe bowl fragment = <1g	clear container glass x3 = 2g, green bottle glass x1 = 3g	iron nail x1 = 8g	coal x31 = 59g, slate pencil x1 = 2g	concrete x9 = 75g
C.3	tile x25 = 164g	clear container glass x3 = 3g	iron nail x1 = 7g, metal button = 1g, end of shotgun cartridge = 5g, milk bottle top = 4g	coal x19 = 26g	animal bone x6 = 20g
C.4	CBM fragments x6 = 12g	green bottle glass x1 = 4g, clear container glass x1 = 1g	metal button = <1g	coal x1 = <1g	

**Table 20: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/2**



Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	tile/brick (CBM) x8 = 70g	clear flat glass x1 = 2g			burnt bone x2 = 1g
C. 2	tile/brick (CBM) x5 = 30g	clear flat glass x1 = <1g	iron nails x2 = 13g	coal x2 = 1g	
C.3	brick/tile x22 = 329g		iron nail x1 = 6g	coal x2 = 2g	animal bone x1 = 1g
C.4	tile/brick x26 = 196g		iron nail x1 = 30g		

Table 21: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red tile x7 = 79g, yellow tile x3 = 35g, clay pipe stem x 1 = 4g	green bottle glass x25 = 106g, orange bottle glass x2 = 10g, clear bottle glass x12 = 64g	iron nail x2 = 5g, bed spring = 10g, iron ring = 5g	coal x2 = 18g	
C. 2	brick/tile x26 = 125g, clay pipe x 3 = 3g	green bottle glass x15 = 32g, clear bottle glass x13 = 22g	slag x6 = 55g, scrap metal fragments x2 = <1g	slate x2 = 12g, coal x3 = 5g	
C.3	tile/brick x6 = 111g	green bottle glass x3 = 6g, clear bottle glass x5 = 18g		coal x1 = 2g	oyster shell x1 = 2g

Table 22: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/4

Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x 3 = 4g				
C. 2	CBM fragments x4 = 37g			coal x3 = 5g	
C.4	brick/tile x11 = 101g, clay pipe stem x 1 = <1g	clear flat glass x7 = 8g	iron nails x6 = 18g	coal x13 = 26g, slate x4 = 9g	animal bone x1 = 9g
C.5	tile/brick x8 = 53g	clear glass bottle stopper? = 10g, green bottle glass x2 = 67g	iron nails x3 = 24g, scrap iron x2 = 48g	coal x24 = 50g	animal bone x7 = 25g, oyster shell x1 = 2g, mortar x1 = 12g
C.6	tile x2 = 10g			coal x2 = 2g	

Table 23: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/5



Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C.2	brick/tile x3 = 68g	clear bottle glass x1 = 23g		slate x2 = 28g, coal x1 = 1g	concrete x4 = 50g
C.3	tile x1 = 4g	clear bottle glass x4 = 12g, green bottle glass x1 = 2g		coal x5 = 2g	
C.4	brick/tile x10 = 48g	clear container glass x1 = <1g	iron nails x3 = 7g	coal x7 = 4g	
C.5		clear window glass x2 = 7g			

Table 24: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/6

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	orange sprayed clay x4 = 14g, tile x6 = 106g	green bottle glass x1 = 1g, clear bottle glass x2 = 46g, clear flat glass x3 = 3g	iron nails x42 = 293g, scrap iron x2 = 37g, silver locket (empty) = 3g	coal x6 = 24g	small plastic silver ball bearing = <1g, concrete x2 = 23g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x1 = 2g, tile x9 = 63g	green bottle glass x1 = 1g, clear flat glass x1 = <1g	iron nails x9 = 52g		small piece of green plastic x1 = <1g
C.3	tile x6 = 144g	clear flat glass x2 = 2g	iron nail x1 = 3g	coal x4 = 4g	battery casing? = 36g

Table 25: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/7

Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C.2	tile x16 = 83g		slag x20 = 255g	coal x2 = 9g	oyster shell x1 = 3g
C.5	tile x13 = 142g		slag x109 = 2747g	coal x2 = 4g	

Table 26: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/06/8



12.2.2 2007 non-pottery finds

Test Pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1		clear container glass x3 = 7g		slate x7 = 49g, coal x8 = 13g	animal bone x2 = 5g
C. 2	CBM x8 = 50g, fragment of drain x1 = 10g, tile x1 = 58g	clear container glass x8 = 82g, clear window glass x11 = 26g, dark green bottle glass x3 = 21g		coal x25 = 49g, slate x12 = 29g	animal bone x5 = 5g
C.3	CBM x11 = 65g	clear container glass x5 = 42g, clear window glass x5 = 8g	iron nail x1 = 6g, unidentified metal x1 = 6g	coal x10 = 53g, slate x5 = 9g	oyster shell x4 = 4g
C.4	CBM x3 = 7g			coal x2 = 8g	button = <1g
C.5	CBM x5 = 57g			coal x2 = 3g	oyster shell x1 = 4g

Table 27: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/1

Test Pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x16 = 141g	clear container glass x2 = 8g	iron nail x1 = 14g	coal x13 = 38g	
C. 2	CBM x42 = 456g, clay pipe stem x3 = 5g, modern CBM x2 = 54g	clear container glass x6 = 25g, clear window glass x2 = 4g	iron nails x2 = 17g	slate x3 = 25g, coal x39 = 129g	animal bone x2 = 2g, mortar x6 = 22g
C.3	CBM x24 = 240g, clay pipe stem x1 = <1g	clear window glass x2 = 2g, dark green bottle glass x1 = 1g	slag x1 = 59g, iron nails x3 = 36g, unidentified metal fragments x1 = 13g, metal ring x1 = 3g	slate x3 = 12g, coal x25 = 57g	animal bone x3 = 3g, mortar x3 = 18g, oyster shell x1 = 10g
C.4	CBM x11 = 147g, clay pipe stem x1 = 2g	light green bottle glass x1 = 14g	iron nail x1 = 6g	coal x15 = 32g, slate x2 = 7g	

Table 28: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/2



Test Pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x3 = 35g	clear window glass x1 = 2g, clear container glass x1 = 7g			oyster shell x1 = 9g
C. 2	CBM fragments x21 = 368g		iron nails x3 = 22g	coal x3 = 29g, burnt stone? =17g	oyster shell x1 = <1g
C.3	CBM x21 = 240g, clay pipe stem x1 = 3g	clear window glass x1 = 3g, clear container glass x1 = <1g	iron nail x1 = 8g	coal x2 = 8g	snail shell x3 = 3g, oyster shell x2 = 2g, concrete x2 = 20g
C.4	CBM x23 = 231g			slate x1 = 9g	oyster shell x1 = 1g, concrete x3 = 90g
C.5	CBM x1 = 25g				concrete x3 = 237g
C.6					concrete x8 = 769g
C.7	CBM x1 = 12g				concrete x2 = 46g
C.8	modern CBM x2 = 4g				
C.9					concrete x3 = 36g

Table 29: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/3

Test Pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C.1	CBM x12 = 147g, yellow brick fragments x2 = 5g	clear window glass x2 = 1g	iron nails x2 = 12g	coal x3 = 5g	plastic x2 = <1g, rubber x2 = 2g, melted plastic x1 = 5g, animal bone x2 = 5g
C.2	clay pipe stem x2 = 5g, CBM x14 = 120g, clay pipe bowl fragments x1 = 1g, modern tile x1 = 12g	clear window glass x3 = 6g, clear container glass x4 = 12g, blue bottle glass x1 = <1g	unidentified metal fragment = 1g	coal x20 = 25g, burnt stone? x2 = 3g	"St Michael Green Plant" plastic tag = <1g, blue plastic 'ribbon' = 1g, oyster shell x2 = 11g, animal bone x5 = 4g, snail shell x1 = <1g
C.3	CBM x8 = 97g, modern tile x1 = 19g	clear window glass x2 = 2g	iron nails x4 = 41g	coal x4 = 2g	animal bone x2 = 11g, clear plastic x1 = <1g
C.4	clay pipe bowl fragment x3 = 5g, CBM x32 = 374g	clear container glass x4 = 25g, green bottle glass x2 = 5g	iron nails x11 = 100g, shotgun cartridge x1 = 6g	coal x8 = 15g	oyster shell x2 = 15g, animal bone x27 = 63g, a small piece of sponge = <1g, clear plastic = <1g
C.5	CBM x43 = 698g, clay pipe stem x1 = 1g	green bottle glass x1 = 3g	iron nails x3 = 75g, unidentified metal fragments x7 = 81g	coal x9 = 33g, slate x1 = 3g	oyster shell x3 = 27g, animal bone x10 = 57g
C.6	CBM x17 = 402g, brick fragments x4 = 940g, tile x1 = 142g, a brick = 992g, clay pipe stem & bowl = 11g, clay pipe bowl fragments x1 = 6g		iron nails x1 = 25g	coal x3 = 39g	oyster shell x7 = 215g, animal bone x16 = 95g

Table 30: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/4



Test Pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C.2	CBM x4 = 57g, fragments of drain x2 = 113g			worked flint?? = 6g	
C.3	CBM x27 = 130g, modern tile x5 = 43g, yellow brick fragments x1 = 9g	clear container glass x2 = 5g	slag x1 = 77g, small square metal plate = 16g	coal x4 = 8g	

Table 31: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/5

Test Pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	tile x7 = 260g, CBM x9 = 18g			coal x38 = 41g	oyster shell x2 = <1g, animal bone x1 = 3g
C. 2	CBM x31 = 294g, yellow brick fragments x2 = 762g	clear container glass x2 =5g	iron nails x3 = 29g	slate x2 = 11g, coal x 37 = 50g	oyster shell x5 =4g
C.3	CBM x15 = 207g, clay pipe stem x1 = 2g	clear container glass x4 = 39g	iron nails x1 = 6g, metal hoop x1 = 3g	coal x22 = 78g, slate x1 = 5g	oyster shell x2 = 7g, mortar x1 = 5g, animal bone x1 =<1g
C.4	CBM x12 = 112g			coal x4 =4g	white Perspex flower =3g
C.5	CBM x9 =211g			coal x3 =9g	

Table 32: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/6

Test Pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal- working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x1 = 5g				yellow plastic tube = 3g
C. 2	clay pipe stem x1 = 2g, CBM x5 = 73g		small fragments of scrap iron x5 = 6g		
C.3	CBM x7 = 28g		iron nail x1 = 38g, slag x1 = 24g, large iron fixing = 520g		
C.4	CBM x8 = 107g	clear window glass x2 = 3g, clear container glass x1 = 3g	iron nails x4 = 24g, metal ring x1 = 16g, slag x5 = 66g	coal x7 = 21g	valve for pump = 2g, animal bone x1 = 2g
C.5	CBM x48 = 290g, brick fragments x3 = 61g		iron nails x3 = 27g		
C.6	CBM x7 = 65g			worked flint flake = 7g	
C.8	CBM x1 = 1g				

Table 33: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/7





Test Pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	CBM x14 = 162g, tile x5 = 53g	clear window glass x1 = 4g, clear container glass x1 = 5g	iron nails x1 = 9g	slate x6 = 68g, coal x3 = 1g	concrete x1 = 5g, animal bone x5 = 6g
C. 2	flowerpot fragments x7 = 282g (only very small sample was kept), fragment of drain = 137g, brick fragments x3 = 44g			slate x1 = 68g, coal x6 = 78g	animal bone x2 = <1g
C.3	brick fragments x3 = 594g				
C.5			nail x1 = 5g, twisted wire x2 = 158g		
C.6		dark green bottle glass x1 = 9g, clear container glass x2 = 8g			

Table 34: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/8

Test Pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C.2	CBM x3 = 13g	dark green bottle glass x1 = 6g		slate x1 = 7g, coal x2 = 2g	

Table 35: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/9

Test Pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	clay pipe stem x1 = 1g, CBM x12 = 140g	dark green bottle glass x2 = 10g, clear container glass x1 = 4g	unidentified metal object = 59g	slate x1 = 2g, coal x2 = 2g	
C.3	CBM x2 = 25g	dark green bottle glass x1 = 4g			animal bone x1 = 3g

Table 36: The non-pottery finds excavated from TTN/07/10

### 12.3 Maps

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

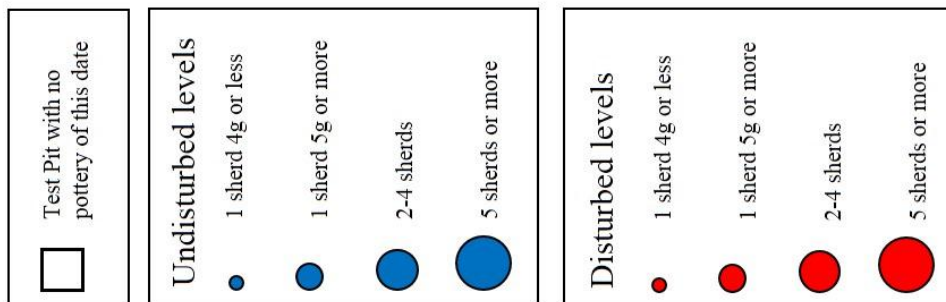
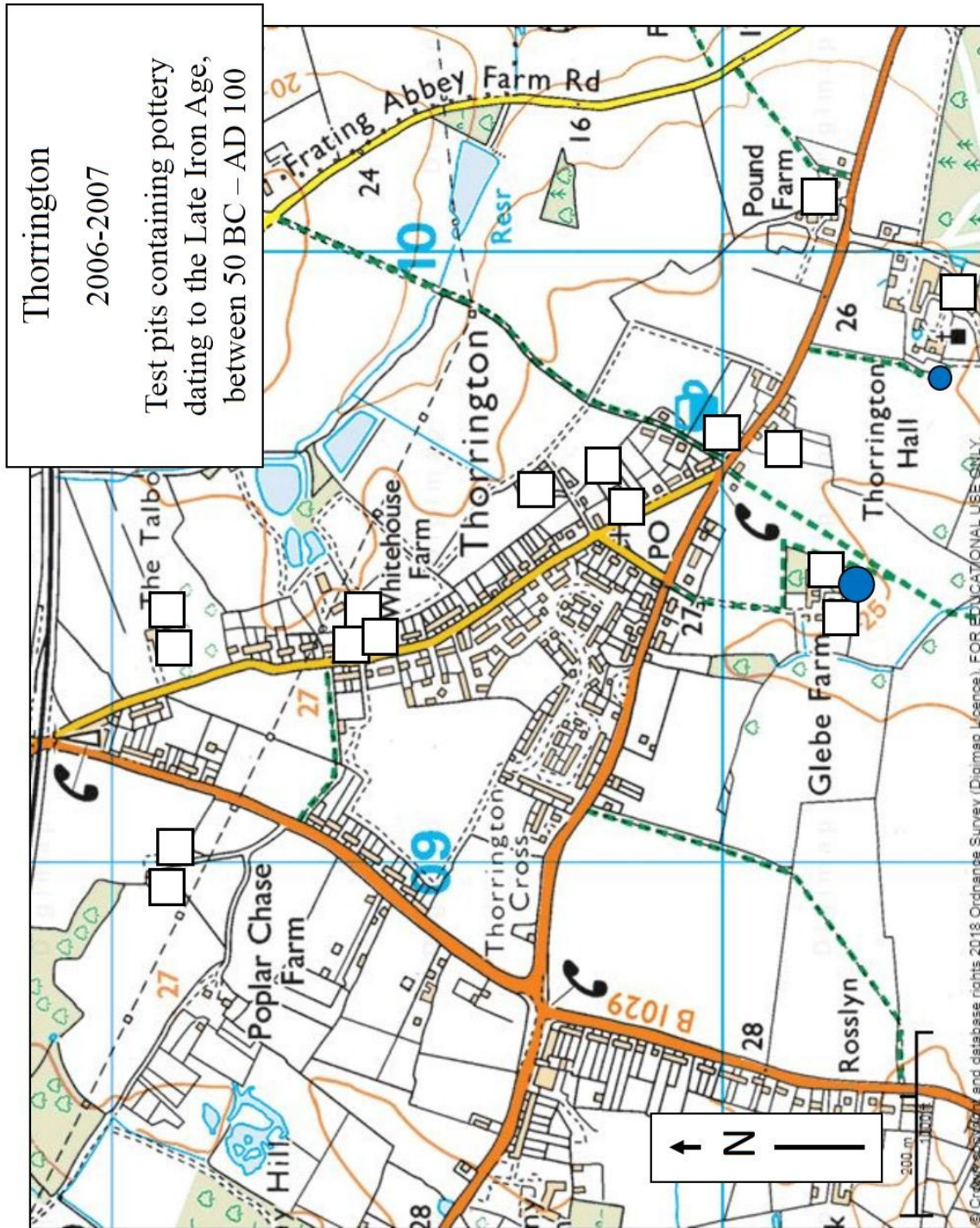


Figure 29: The distribution of the Late Iron Age pottery excavated from the Thorrington test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

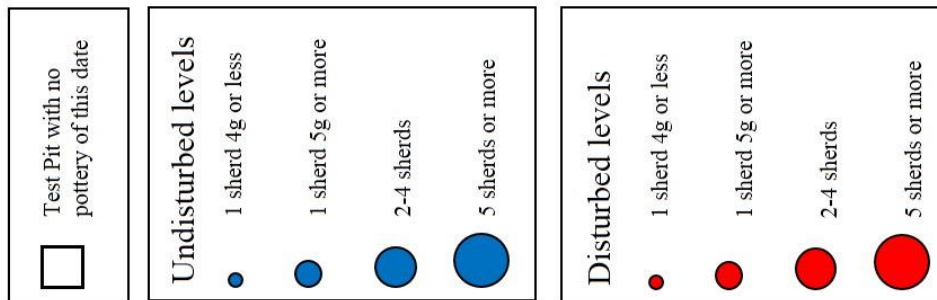
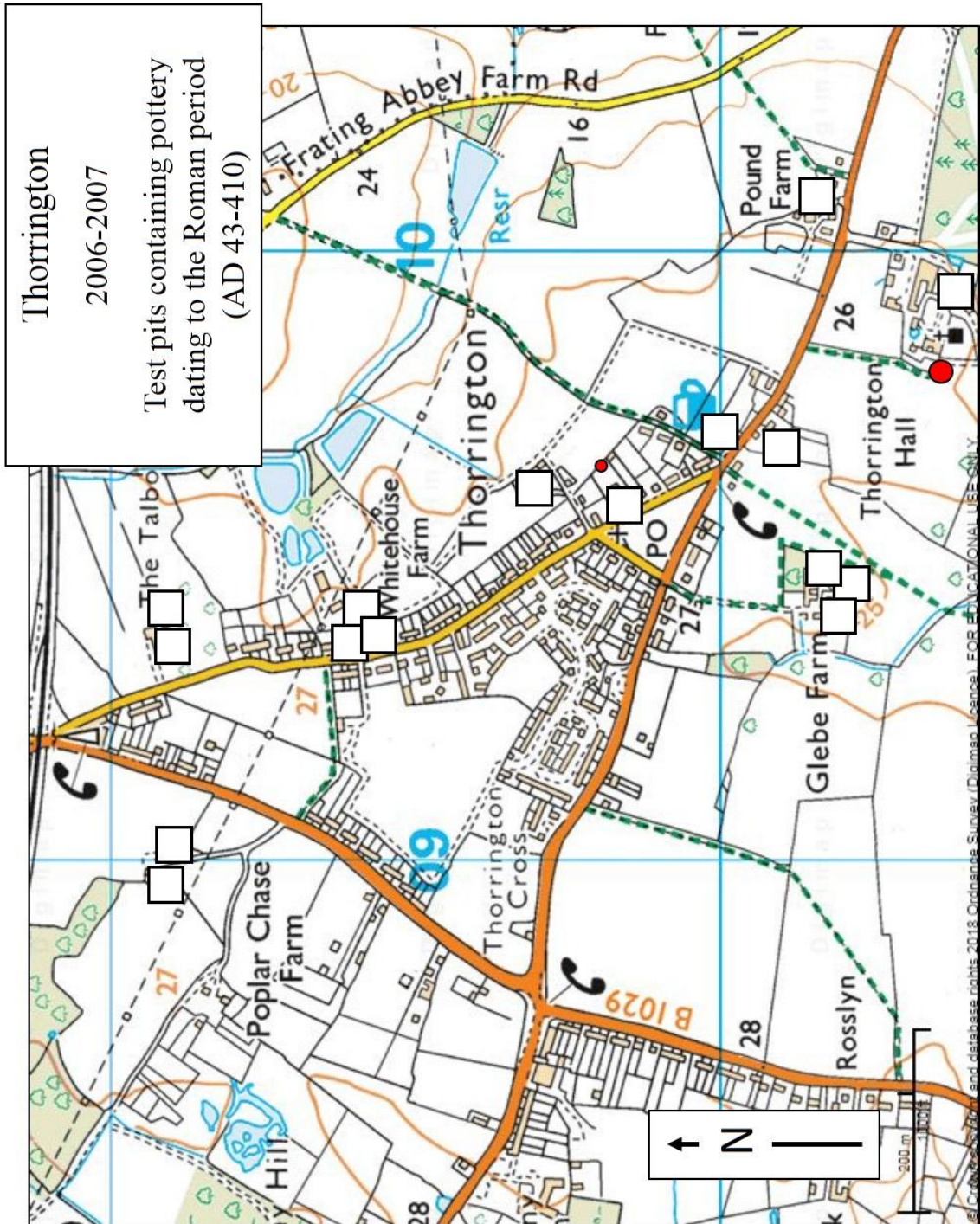


Figure 30: The distribution of the Romano-British pottery excavated from the Thorrington test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

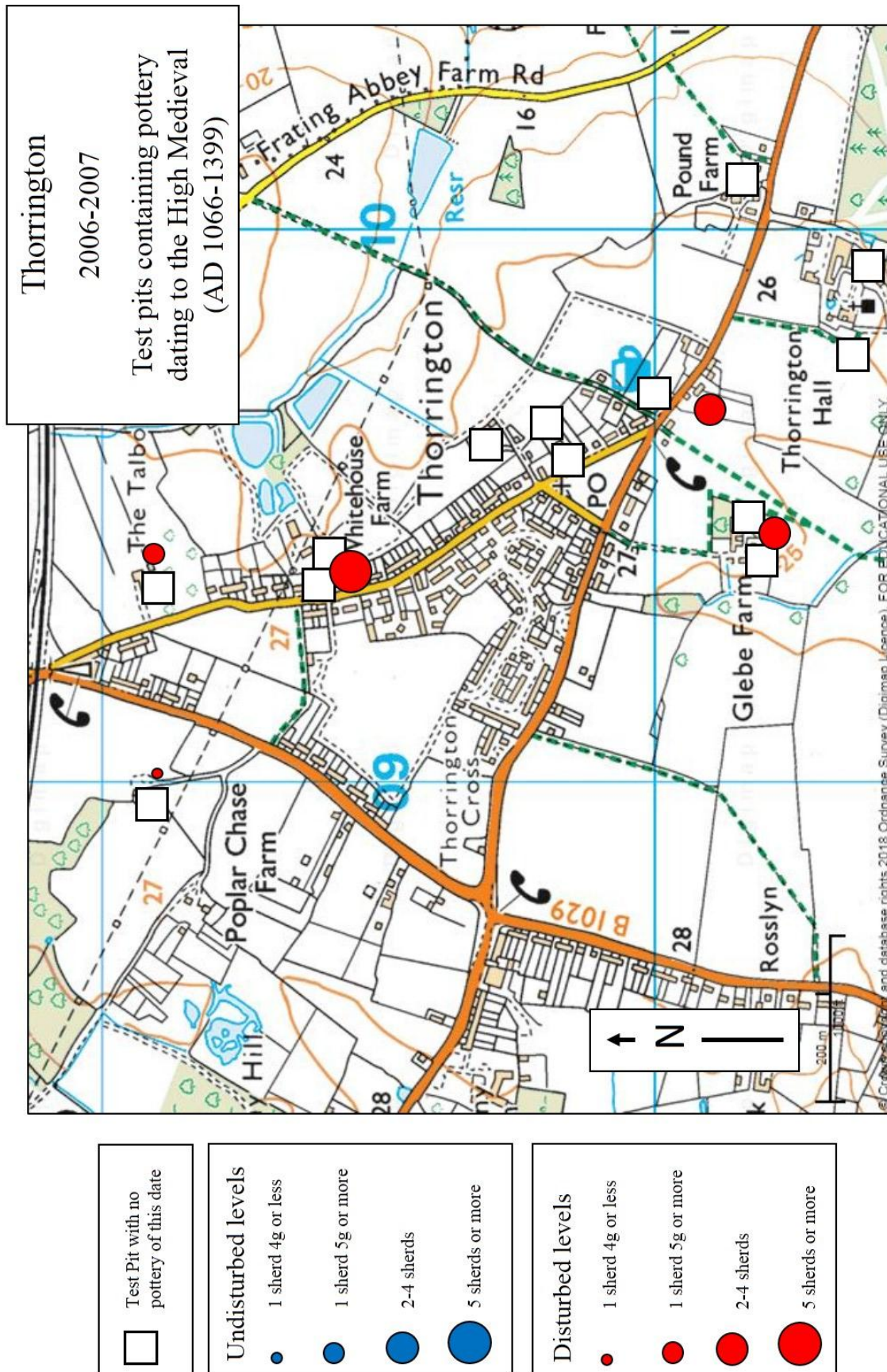


Figure 31: The distribution of the high medieval pottery excavated from the Thorrington test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

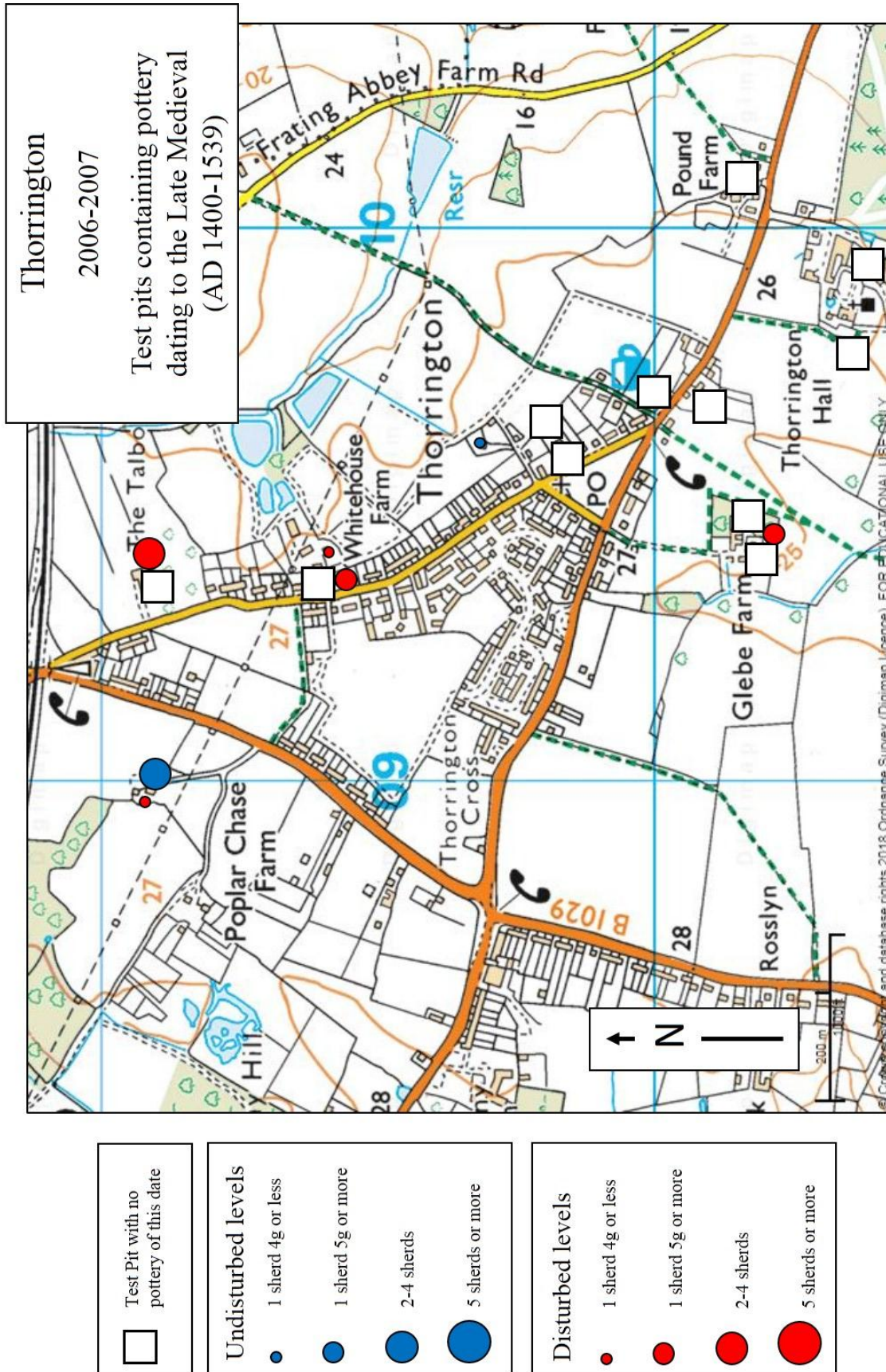


Figure 32: The distribution of the late medieval pottery excavated from the Thorrington test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

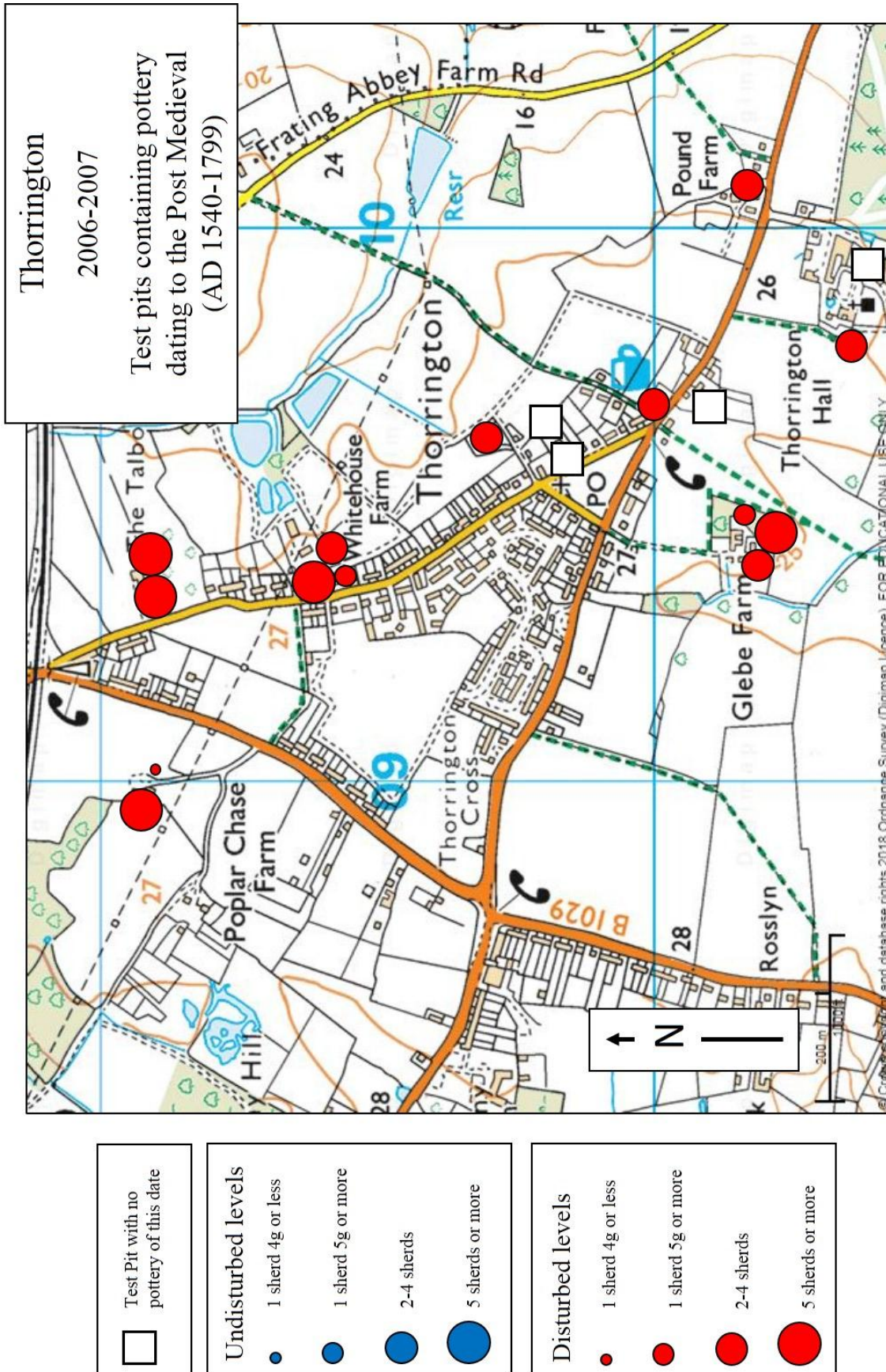


Figure 33: The distribution of the post medieval pottery excavated from the Thorrington test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000

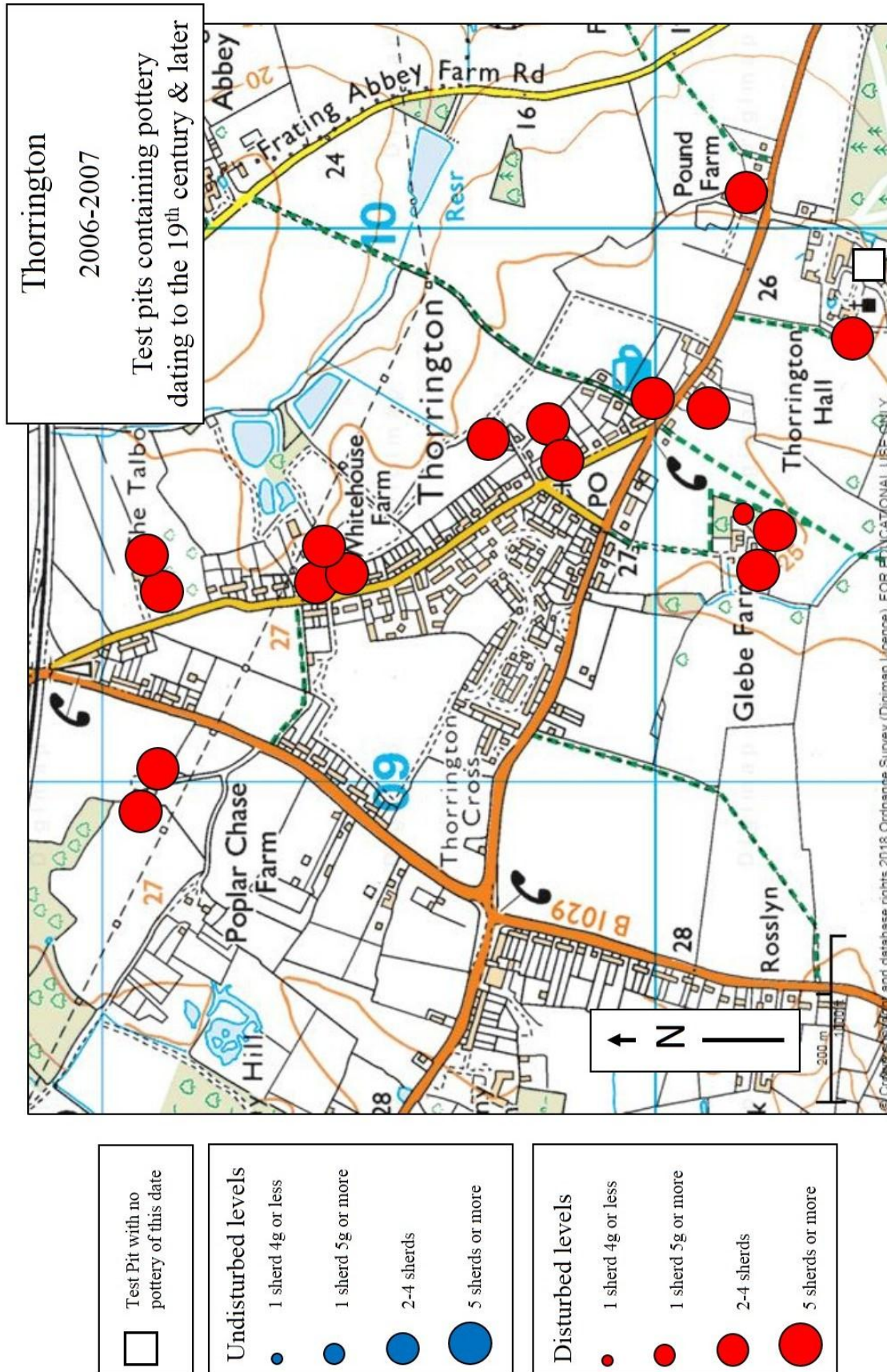


Figure 34: The distribution of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later pottery excavated from the Thorrington test pits © Crown Copyright/database right 2018. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service, 1: 10,000