



## Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridgeshire, 2012

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## 1 Summary

*This report presents the results of the 'Time Detectives' programme of archaeological excavation of 10 1m<sup>2</sup> 'test pits' in the Cambridgeshire village of Swaffham Bulbeck in spring 2012. The programme was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and was intended to enable schools pupils and adults affected by autism engaging with local charity Red2Green to work together to explore their local heritage. Over three days, more than 50 people took part in the excavations which provided new evidence for the development of the area now occupied by the village from the prehistoric period onwards. This appears to have been lightly used by humans in the prehistoric and Roman period until the late 9<sup>th</sup> century AD when a small settlement appears to have developed near the site of the present church. This settlement expanded north in the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, when a new planned extension, Newnham End, was founded. This period of growth ceased in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the new settlement may have been at least partly abandoned. Revival did not take hold until perhaps the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

*By successfully involving adults affected by autism, local primary and secondary school pupils and local residents in organising and undertaking the excavations, the 'Time Detectives' excavations enabled participants to find out more about autism and about their local heritage, and showed how effectively archaeological excavation can bring diverse people together.*



## 2 Introduction

In spring 2012, a three-day programme of archaeological excavations excavated ten 1m<sup>2</sup> archaeological test pits in private gardens within the village of Swaffham Bulbeck in Cambridgeshire. Excavations were undertaken by pupils at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School and Soham Village College and adults affected by autism who attend a local charity based in Swaffham Bulbeck, Red2Green. The excavations were funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund as part of their “Time Detectives” project. The excavations were undertaken under the direction of Access Cambridge Archaeology, based in the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, who provided on-site instruction and supervision and post-excavation analysis and reporting.

### 2.1 The ‘Time Detectives’ Project

The ‘Time Detectives’ was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to enable adults affected by autism and local school pupils to work together in their local community to explore their local heritage by carrying out a series of archaeological excavations. Adults affected by autism who participated were members of a group called ‘Aspirations’, an educational programme for adults with Asperger’s Syndrome, run by Red2Green.

Building on the hugely successful local history projects done by former Red2Green students, ‘Time Detectives’ aimed to conduct ten archaeological digs and use the results to build a picture of life as it was when the artefacts were last used. Hi8tus Midlands filmed the excavations and made a ten-minute film shown to local residents at a ‘celebration event’.

### 2.2 Red2Green

Red2Green is a Cambridgeshire charity providing services for people with a wide range of disabilities, including mental health problems, learning disabilities and autistic spectrum conditions. The charity provides learning, work and social experience for clients, encouraging them to maximise their potential and be welcomed into their communities. Red2Green runs 6 services, working with around 400 people.

Aspirations is a pioneering educational programme for adults with Asperger’s syndrome, run by Red2Green. Those who join the course learn skills and strategies to help them into jobs, further education, and to enhance their independent living. The programme is funded by Cambridge Regional College, clients’ personal budgets and charitable trusts.

### 2.3 Access Cambridge Archaeology

Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) (<http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/>) is an archaeological outreach organisation based in the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in the University of Cambridge which aims to enhance economic, social and personal well-being through active engagement with archaeology. It was set up by Dr Carenza Lewis 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.

## 2.4 Test pit excavation and rural settlement studies

Rural settlement has long been a crucial area of research for medieval archaeology (Gerrard 2003; Lewis et al 2001, 5-21), notably since the pioneering work of W. G. Hoskins, Maurice Beresford and John Hurst in the 1940s and 1950s (Hoskins 1955; Beresford 1955; Beresford & Hurst 1971), but until recently attention was focused largely on the minority of medieval settlements which are today deserted or extensively shrunken. Currently occupied rural settlements (CORS), overlain by domestic housing and related buildings of living secular communities – the villages, hamlets and small towns of today – were generally largely disregarded as targets for research-driven excavation. Very few regions have seen any systematic research-driven primary investigation aimed at CORS, and most of that which has taken place has not involved excavation, including those of a survey based nature (Roberts 1987; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000; Roberts and Wrathmell 2003). However, recent attempts to redress this bias in favour of the majority of medieval rural settlements which are still inhabited have opened up new areas for debate which are beginning to call into question established theories about the development of rural settlement in the historic period (Aston & Gerrard 1999; Jones & Page 2006). However, despite these recent advances, the number of CORS to have seen methodical research-orientated investigation including excavation remains very small. In order to begin to resolve this problem, Access Cambridge Archaeology, working with members of the public including school pupils, has carried out test pit excavations in more than 40 CORS, most in eastern England. This will help allow the evidence upon which knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of the medieval rural settlement pattern of eastern England is based, to be more representative of the entire range of medieval settlements, not just on the minority of sites which are currently deserted (Lewis 2006; 2007a; 2007b; 2008; 2009; 2010).

As a rural village in the Cambridgeshire countryside, test pit excavations in Swaffham Bulbeck are well-placed to contribute to advancing knowledge and understanding of this important area of study, as well as being of interest in their own right

### 3 Aims and objectives

#### 3.1 Aims

The aims of the 2012 'Time Detectives' project were to:

1) Increase understanding of and passion for local history amongst members of the 'Time Detective' group set up by Red2Green: Successful past projects have shown the students' excitement about the past is nurtured through local and family history projects which feel relevant to the young people. This project was designed in partnership with the members of the 'Time Detectives' team to be particularly evidence-based (searching for tangible clues) because this approach suits people with Asperger Syndrome who can have huge difficulty imagining things which no longer exist.

2) Improve the students' skills: This project is run with Red2Green clients with Asperger Syndrome (on the Autistic Spectrum) because the projects are fascinating in themselves and they also allow our clients to practise group work, research and IT skills. The students use their local history work towards Open College Network certificates, a permanent reminder of their heritage project.

3) Encourage the integration of people affected by Autism with their mainstream peers and improve community understanding of Asperger Syndrome: Comprising 16 young people with Asperger Syndrome from Red2Green and 16 young people from the local secondary school Soham Village College, the 'Time Detectives' project also aimed to engage with local residents and children from Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School to share their findings. The mainstream students would benefit from conducting field-work with real archaeologists and in mixing with people with disabilities would learn more about Asperger Syndrome.

4) Increase local people's understanding of local history and help them to feel connected with the past.

#### 3.2 Objectives

The objectives of test pit excavations in Swaffham Bulbeck were as follows:

- To investigate the archaeology of the environs of Swaffham Bulbeck through test-pitting carried out by young people in properties in the village.
- To provide the opportunity for a minimum of 30 volunteers to learn new practical and analytical archaeological skills.
- To support and engage with members of local communities through involvement with the project.

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Test pit excavation strategy

The test pit excavation strategy used at Swaffham Bulbeck involved members of the public excavating 1m<sup>2</sup> test pits as widely as possible within the village under the direction of experienced archaeological supervisors. This method of sampling currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) was developed during the Shapwick Project in Somerset in the 1990s (Gerrard 2010), employed effectively by the Whittlewood Project in Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire in the early 2000s (Jones and Page 2007) and has been used extensively by ACA in their Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme and in community excavations within in East Anglia since 2005 (Lewis 2005, 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2008, 2009 and forthcoming). These projects have shown that carrying out very small excavations within CORS (in gardens, playgrounds, driveways, greens etc.) can produce archaeological data which, although largely unstratified, can be mapped to reveal meaningful patterns which allowed the development of more robust hypotheses regarding the spatial development of the settlement in question. The more sites that can be excavated, the more refined, and therefore more reliable, the resulting picture is.

The completion of 1m<sup>2</sup> test pit excavations is considered ideal for the aims of this project for the following reasons:

- In most cases excavation of a 1m<sup>2</sup> test pit can be explained and completed within 2-3 days, allowing novice members of the public to participate over a weekend.
- It creates little mess, causing minimal disruption to site owners.
- It enables the character and date of the sub-surface archaeology to be assessed rapidly in a large number of locations within Swaffham Bulbeck.
- It allows participating members of the public to see the entire excavation process through from start to finish.
- It allows for team working in small groups.
- The area of excavation can be adapted easily to accommodate different-sized groups.
- Test pits are simple to excavate and process – necessary pre-excavation training can be delivered in a short session, pro-forma recording systems can be used and large areas of complex features will not be exposed - so are suitable for novices and those of widely differing abilities.

The first two of these factors are critical to being able to excavate at all within occupied settlements such as Swaffham Bulbeck, where the limited amount of land which is free of buildings is mostly divided into relatively small plots held in private ownership and is subject to intensive domestic and social use as gardens, yards, drives, playgrounds and so on. The excavation and recording methods used at Swaffham Bulbeck in 2012 for the community test pit excavations have proved effective in recording, to a high standard and in greater detail than is normally employed, in order to ensure that required data is recovered in more than 1,000 test pits excavated by members of the public over the last five years. This 'belt and braces' approach enables novices to excavate effectively.

### 4.2 Criteria for selection of test pit excavation locations

Unlike test pitting programmes which take place across uninhabited terrain, deciding where to excavate in occupied settlements cannot be based simply on a theoretical model as it is inevitably constrained by practicalities of access and consent. Test pits were sited wherever members of the public in Swaffham Bulbeck could offer sites for excavation and those excavations can be safely and effectively carried out. The aim was to excavate 10 sites in

order to ensure that as representative and unbiased a range of locations as possible are excavated across the target area.

The test pitting was organised in conjunction with Red2Green and supervised by Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) at the University of Cambridge, with both the excavation and recording following the standard procedures used by ACA for the professionally-supervised excavation of archaeological test pits by members of the public.

Each test pit was excavated over three days, beginning with a 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 were then allocated to teams of between two and six individuals, with adult supervision of children at all times. Each team is provided with a complete set of test pit excavation equipment, copies of the HEFA instruction handbook and a standard pro-forma recording booklet into which all excavation data are entered.

### 4.3 Test pit excavation methods

The test pits excavated in the course of the Swaffham Bulbeck Time Detectives Project followed the standard procedure outline below, used successfully by ACA in the excavation by members of the public of over 1,000 test pits in eastern England since 2005.

#### 4.3.1 *Excavation methods*

- A 1m<sup>2</sup> is marked out with string and nails
- Turf, if present, is removed in squares by hand.
- The test pit is excavated in a series of 10cm spits or contexts, to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Each spit is given a separate context number.
- The horizontal surface of each context/spit is drawn at 1:10 scale before excavation and the colour recorded with reference to a standardised colour chart included in the written handbook.
- Cut features, if encountered are excavated sequentially in the normal way.
- Masonry walls, if encountered, are carefully cleaned, planned and left in situ.
- In the unlikely event of in situ human remains being encountered, these are recorded and left in situ. The preservation state of human bone is recorded, so as to inform any future excavation.

#### 4.3.2 *On-site finds identification and retention*

- All spoil is screened for finds using sieves with a standard 10mm mesh, with the exception of very heavy clay soils which are hand-searched.
- All artefacts are retained. Excavators are instructed to err on the side of caution by retaining everything they think may even possibly be of interest.
- Non-metallic inorganic finds and bone (unless in very poor condition) are washed on site where possible, thoroughly dried and bagged separately for each context of a test pit. Either on site or during post excavation the animal bone, pottery, burnt clay, flint and burnt stone are bagged separately, ready to be given to specialists.

#### 4.3.3 *On-site archaeological supervision*

- Professional archaeologists from ACA are on hand for the duration of the excavations and visit all the test pits regularly. They provide advice and check that the excavation is being carried out and recorded to the required standard. Pottery and most other finds are provisionally spot-dated/identified on-site by experts.
- Most pits are excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m; beyond which shoring may be required and working space can become unfeasibly restricted.

#### 4.3.4 *Test pit closing and backfilling*

- A member of the archaeological team usually inspects each pit before it is declared finished to confirm whether or not natural has been reached. A small sondage may be excavated within the bottom of the pit to examine whether or not natural has been reached. Some test pits will stop above natural or 1.2m on encountering a feature (ancient or modern) which is deemed inadvisable or impossible to remove, or have to finish at a level above natural due to time constraints.
- Once each test pit is completed, all four vertical sections are drawn at 1:10 scale.
- Test pits are then backfilled and the turf replaced neatly to restore the site.

After the excavations are completed, the archaeological records and finds are retained by the University of Cambridge for analysis, reporting, archiving and submission to HER's, publication and on-going research into the origins and development of rural settlement. Finds are returned to owners after analysis is complete if they are requested; otherwise they are curated by the University of Cambridge.

### 4.4 Recording

- The recording system used by excavating members of the public to record their test pit excavation comprises a 16-page pro-forma *Test Pit Record* booklet which has been developed by ACA for use with members of the public with no previous archaeological experience.
- This pro-forma format, which includes designated spaces, prompts and pre-drawn 1:10 planning grids, is used in order to ensure that all required observations are completed and recorded.
- It is used in conjunction with the live presentation and written handbook also developed and delivered by ACA.
- This system has been used successfully by ACA to record required archaeological data from the excavation of nearly 1,000 test pits since 2005.
- The site code for the test pitting in Swaffham Bulbeck is SBU/12.

#### 4.4.1 *Recording site location*

- Details including the test pit location and names of excavators are entered where indicated on the front page of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- A hand-taped measured survey plan is made to record the location of the test pit within the plot it occupies, and drawn into the pre-drawn grid in the *Test Pit Record* booklet oriented with north to the top of the page in order to allow the site to be tied into the national grid. This is entered on the second page of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.

#### 4.4.2 *Context recording*

- Details of each excavated 10cm spit/context are recorded on a separate *context record sheet* page within the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- Each spit/context is planned before excavation at 1:10 on a pre-drawn gridded square in the *Test Pit Record* booklet and the depth of the surface at each corner recorded.
- The appearance of each spit/context is recorded by colour, with reference to a standardised colour chart included in the ACA test pit excavation instruction booklet and by soil type and inclusions, recorded by type and particle size.
- A summary list of finds from each spit/context is included on the context record sheet for each excavated context which has produced finds.
- A plan of the surface of the final (unexcavated) spit/context is made at 1:10 scale on page 12 of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.

#### 4.4.3 *Final excavation recording*

- Excavators record on the final context record sheet whether or not their test pit reached natural. This is usually counter-signed by one of the ACA team archaeologists.
- All four sections are drawn at 1:10 scale with the depth of natural (if reached) clearly indicated on pre-drawn grids on page 13 of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.
- Other observations and notes are included on the context record sheet for each context or on continuation sheets at the back of the *Test Pit Record* booklet.

### 4.5 Finds processing and recording

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

- The number and weight of all finds of different categories from each excavated context will be recorded. A digital photographic image of all finds from each context will be taken.
- Pottery, bone, worked flint and burnt flint are all separated out for dispatch to specialists for reporting.
- Some materials, such as glass, may be usefully divided into sub categories for counting and weighing. For example: clear container glass, green bottle glass and clear window glass. It is also useful to distinguish between modern and ancient glass.
- Metalwork can be subdivided into the type of metal used, for example, iron, bronze, aluminium, lead etc. and then counted and weighed.
- Small finds of pre-modern (pre-1900) date are rare from test pit excavations, but if found they will be sent to an appropriate specialist on a case-by-case basis for identification.
- Tile, brick and smaller CBM fragments will be separated and recorded as types. Colour, markings and decoration including any nail holes etc. will be described. For example: “red roof tile, no decoration but circular hole present for nail along one edge” or “yellow brick fragment, no mortar present, handmade and no other marking visible”. Larger fragments of bricks and tiles can also be measured as well as the weight recorded.

#### 4.5.1 *Legal ownership of finds*

- Ownership of objects rests in the first instance with the landowner, except where other law overrides this (e.g. Treasure Act 1996, 2006, Burials Act 1857).
- Owners of private unscheduled land where test pits have been excavated who enquire about the final destination of finds from excavation on their property will be informed that ACA prefers to retain these in the short term for analysis and ideally also in the longer term in order that the excavation archives will be as complete as possible.

- Most land-owners are not concerned about retaining ownership of the finds and are happy to donate them to ACA.
- If the landowners are unwilling, for whatever reason, to donate any or all of the finds from the excavation on their land to ACA, the requested finds are returned to them after recording and analysis is completed, safely packaged and conserved (if required), accompanied by a letter explaining how they should be cared for and asking for them to be returned to ACA/University of Cambridge if for any reason the owners no longer wish to retain them, and that if they are moved from the address to which they were returned the ACA should be informed. The location of such finds will be stated in the site archive. Requests from landowners for the return of finds may be made and will be honoured at any time.

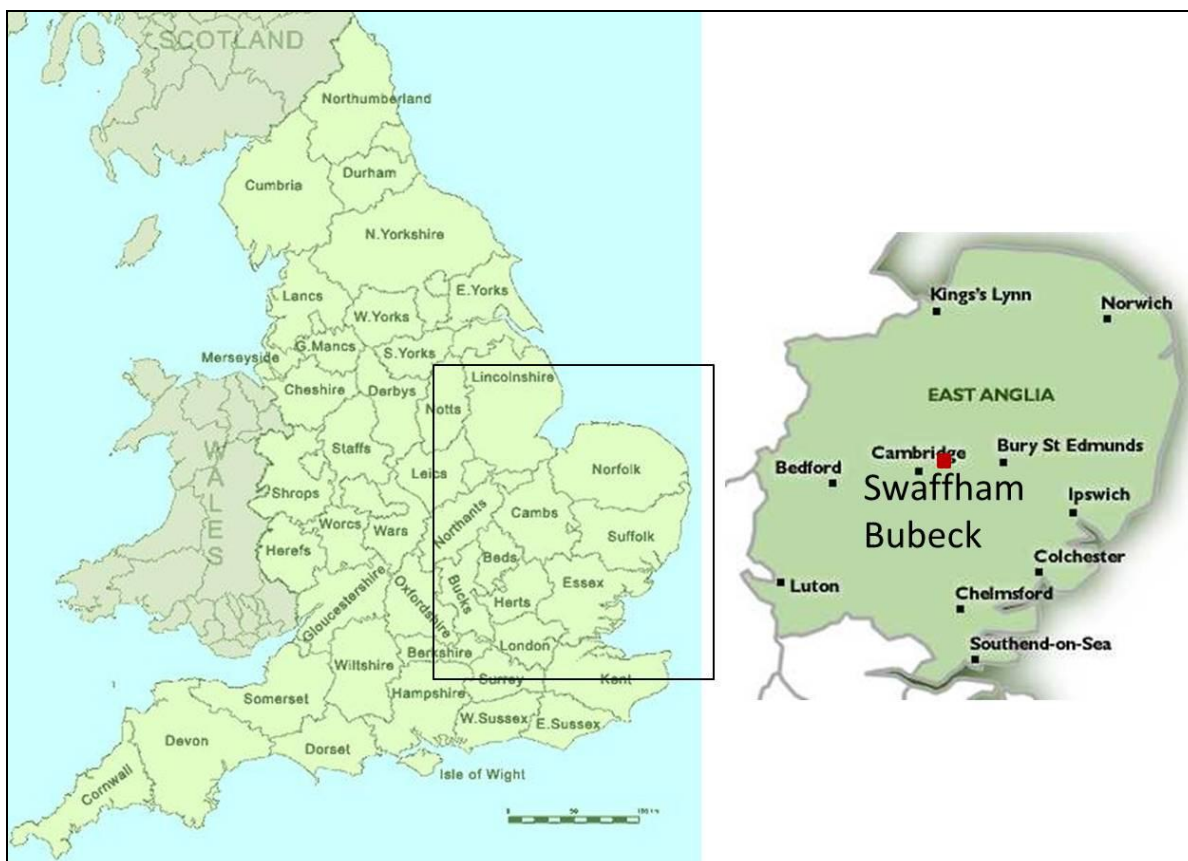
#### 4.5.2 *Curation of Archaeological Finds*

- All finds which were not discarded or returned to owners were retained and stored in conditions where they will not deteriorate. Most finds were stored in cool dry condition in sealed plastic finds bags, with small pierced holes to ventilate them. Pottery, bone and flint were bagged separately from other finds.
- Finds which are more fragile, including ancient glass or metal objects, were stored in small boxes protected by padding and where necessary, acid free paper. Metal objects were curated with silica gel packets where necessary to prevent deterioration.
- All finds bags/boxes from the same context were bagged/boxed together, and curated in a single archive containing all bags from all test pits excavated in the same settlement in the same year. All bags and boxes used for storage were clearly marked in permanent marker with the site code (which includes settlement name, site code and year of excavation), test pit number and context number.



## 5 Location

The village of Swaffham Bulbeck is situated in south-central Cambridgeshire on the fen edge, 12km NE of the city of Cambridge and 9km west of Newmarket, centred on TL 555625 (Figure 1). Swaffham Bulbeck lies on the B1102 between Stow-cum-Quy and Swaffham Prior, 3km north of the A14 road. There is one major junction in the town, where Swaffham Heath Road leads off to the SE towards Dullingham and High Street road leads south towards Bottisham.



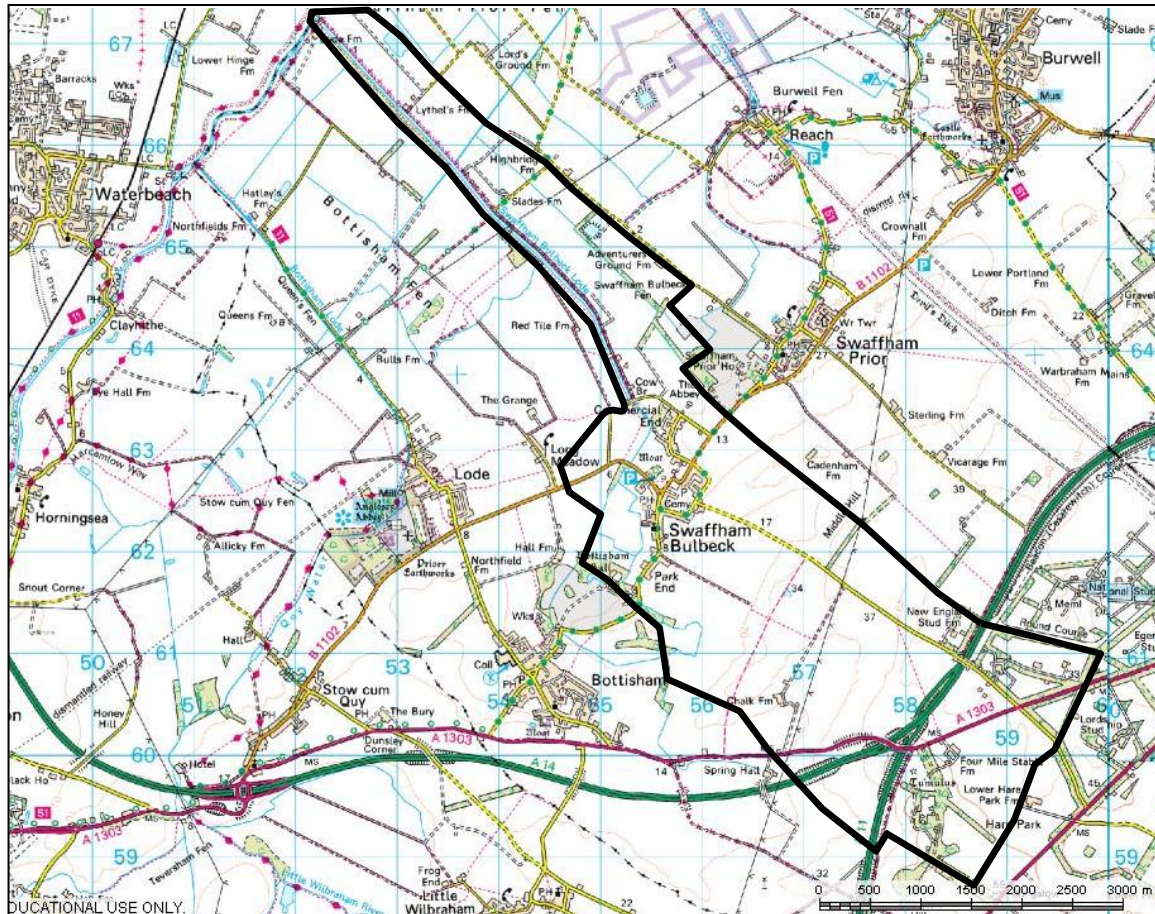
**Figure 1:** Map of England with a close up insert of East Anglia, and the village of Swaffham Bulbeck highlighted in red.

Swaffham Bulbeck is located on a gravel ridge<sup>1</sup> at the end of Swaffham Bulbeck lode, a canal-like man-made waterway c.5.5km long that connects the village with the River Cam. This waterway was probably excavated during the Roman period to serve a local Roman villa, and was thus subsequently seen as a suitable place for settlement in the area. The lode terminates at Mill Cottage in Mill Lane, but becomes very narrow above Slade Farm where it is no longer navigable. Below this point and until it joins the River Cam, the waterway is wider and still navigable today.

The parish of Swaffham Bulbeck lies within the Diocese of Ely, and is an elongated parish encompassing an area of farmland lying across a low rise to the SE of the village, and a thin narrow strip alongside Swaffham Bulbeck Lode that maintains a contact for the parish with the River Cam, an important navigation and trade route (Figure 2). This geographic arrangement is replicated in parishes all along this stretch of the river Cam, where a series of lodes have been dug at right-angles to the Cam, running eastwards from the river for a distance of a few miles, with a small village located around the end where each terminates.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk/history.php> (Date accessed: 29 November 2012)

After the River Cam leaves Cambridge running downriver, this series of villages comprise Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck, Reach, Burwell, Wicken and Soham. In each case, the parish borders incorporate the respective lode and provide access to the River Cam for each parish, incorporating some fenland grazing near the river Cam, and some dryer heathland or arable pastures to the east. Lying in between Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach, Swaffham Prior does not have its own dedicated lode but lies within easy reach of those to either side.



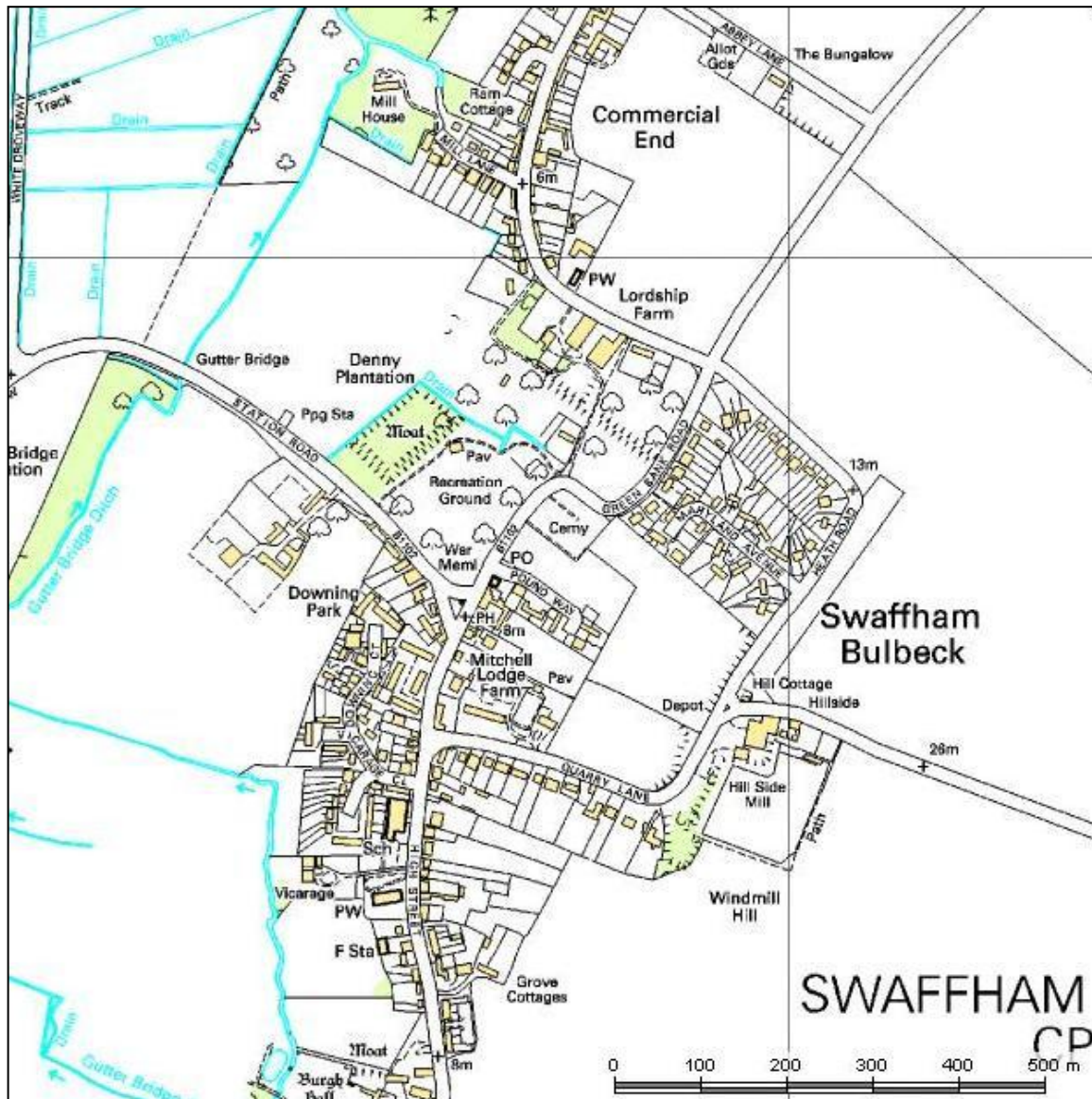
**Figure 2:** The Parish of Swaffham Bulbeck, showing an elongated area that includes farmland to the south and a border with the river Cam in the north.

Swaffham Bulbeck today is comprised of two main housing settlement clusters, a larger of which is centred around the 13<sup>th</sup> century church dedicated to St Mary the Virgin where older, timber-framed buildings still survive, with a smaller more dispersed group of more recent houses to the north known locally as *Commercial End*. The two areas are separated by a stretch of c.300m covered by farmed fields. The southernmost cluster around the parish church comprises a linear row of settlement, primarily arranged either side of the north-south orientated High Street, with Quarry Road running east from this and, a little to the north, Station Road running north-west towards the fen edge (Figure 3). The High Street runs approximately parallel with the Gutter Bridge Water, a stream or lode thought to have been first cut in the Roman period (Wareham and Wright 2002), which would have provided water-borne access to the settlement from the River Cam across the Fens. At its northern end beyond Station Road, the High Street (at this point called Green Bank Road) forms a dog-leg around an area of earthworks including at least one moated settlement site: the street appears to be avoiding this complex by diverting at this point.

The second northerly part of Swaffham Bulbeck (*Commercial End*) was established as a residential area probably sometime in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, when it was known as Newham End up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Wareham and Wright 2002). This part of the settlement lies closer to the Gutter Bridge Water, which would have facilitated trade. The medieval

settlement was surrounded by open arable fields to the south and east, and by fenland mostly given over to rough grazing to the north and west (Wareham and Wright 2002), where the land drops sharply in level. A small number of outlying farms and cottages seem never to have accommodated more than a very small percentage of the population of the parish (Wareham and Wright 2002).

Today, Swaffham Bulbeck is comprised almost entirely of residential housing (762 residents in 1991), in addition to a village shop, post office, one public house, and a commercial park where the Red2Green centre is based.



**Figure 3:** Street map of Swaffham Bulbeck.

The nearest railway station currently in use is 6km to the NW in Waterbeach, over the River Cam; however an old now-disused railway previously connected Cambridge to nearby Lode, 2.5km to the west. Local landmarks include the remains of an Abbey and a priory of Benedictine Nuns lies just to the north of Commercial End, and Lordship Farm and Lordship House lying in the fields between the two main residential clusters. Devils Dyke, the Anglo Saxon ditch-and-bank earthwork passes just over 3km to the NE of the village, where it terminates at Reach.

## 6 Geology and Topography

Cambridgeshire is an inland county in East Anglia, and is bordered by Lincolnshire to the north, Norfolk to the northeast, Suffolk to the east, Essex and Hertfordshire to the south and Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire to the west.

Swaffham Bulbeck is situated in the overwhelmingly flat fenland landscape at 10-15m OD. The parish land to the NW of the village remains at 5m OD or lower, with some areas falling below sea level. Across the parish land to the SE of the village, there are low hills rising to 35-40m OD, leading on to small areas of high ground rising above 100m OD. The surrounding landscape is broadly composed of flat open farmland with drainage ditches, water courses and fragmented hedgerows forming field boundaries. The bedrock in this area is chalk, dating from the Cretaceous Period<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=swaffham%20bulbeck> (Date accessed: 29 November 2012)

## 7 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest documentary references to Swaffham Bulbeck refer to the land or estate rather than settlement *per se*, but nonetheless provide hints as to the early history of settlement in the area of the present village, despite the absence of early forms of the name. The name Swaffham is conventionally interpreted as 'home of the Swaefe' (Wareham and Wright 2002; Mills 2003), or 'farm or settlement of the Swabians'. The 'Swaff' element is usually interpreted as referring to the Swabian tribe from SW Germany, members of which may have been among those who migrated to eastern England in the Anglo-Saxon period. Alternatively, however, this element may derive from the personal name 'Swaefe' (Mills 2003, 448). The 'ham' element is of Old English (5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) origin, and is mostly likely to derive from the OE habitative place name element 'hām' meaning 'homestead', indicating the presence of a settlement of some sort present on the estate. Alternatively, however, it may derive from the topographical word 'hamm' meaning meadow, in which case it may be very early, as it has been suggested that topographical places names may predate habitative ones, possibly belonging to the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century rather than later (Gelling 2011). The suffix Bulbeck is of much later origin, in use since the 1220s (Wareham and Wright 2002), and comes from the Bolebec family, based originally near Rouen in Normandy, who came into possession of land around the village of Swaffham in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, soon after the Norman Conquest. The name Swaffham Bulbeck thus distinguishes the settlement from Swaffham Prior, whose land was held in Norman times by the priors of Ely cathedral; from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries Swaffham Bulbeck was also referred to as Earl's or Nuns Swaffham, after later lordships (Wareham and Wright 2002).

The habitative 'ham' element indicates that one or more settlements were present by the later Anglo-Saxon period, and possibly earlier. Nothing is known from documentary sources of the form or location of such settlement. The earliest reference dates to the late 10<sup>th</sup> century when the manor was given to the Abbey of Ramsey (Wareham and Wright 2002). Ownership of the estate was subsequently disputed and it was temporarily seized by force by an individual called Aelfnoth (Wareham and Wright 2002). Swaffham Bulbeck is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, being subsumed within the returns of nearby Bottisham to the SW; however the manorial lord for the area is recorded as Ramsey Abbey, indicating that land ownership had by this time been reclaimed by the abbey.

By 1086, 20 peasants and 5 servi are thought to have been living on the manor (Wareham and Wright 2002). The only landowner mentioned in the Domesday Book is Ramsey Abbey although there are mentions made elsewhere that over half of the land that was to become Swaffham Bulbeck was administered at this time by the abbey of Ely. Following the Norman reorganization of land ownership, however, at least part of the land was given to an earl named Walter Gifford. Following this the Bolebec's arrived sometime in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, establishing a manor house on present-day High Street in the vicinity of the Lordship Cottage (located at 2 High Street); remains of clunch walls from a 13<sup>th</sup> century chapel attached to the manor house still survive as part of the present structure of Lordship Cottage<sup>3</sup>. Isabel de Bolebec founded a Benedictine Priory for nuns c.1150-1200 AD in the area subsequently known as Commercial End. The only surviving part of this priory is a vaulted undercroft with 5 bays and a central row of columns (possibly once used as a store room) that now lies beneath a large 18<sup>th</sup> century house (The Abbey, Abbey Lane. CHER: 06559) (Wareham and Wright 2002).

By 1279 the population of Swaffham had grown to include almost 70 tenants (Wareham and Wright 2002). Three manors are recorded during the High to Late Medieval period, each controlling fluctuating areas of land around the village: Bolebec manor which seems to have been quite large, and those of Michell Hall and Burgh Hall each of around 300 acres

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-49430-lordship-cottage-swaffham-bulbeck-cambrid> (Date accessed: 29 November 2012)

in 1279 (Wareham and Wright 2002). Additionally, the land held by the priory in 1279 is recorded as 165 acres and their jurisdiction included the village church of St Marys (CHER: 00324), the earliest part of the fabric of which dates to around this time in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when the west tower was added to an existing aisle less church using the Early English style<sup>4</sup>. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century an aisled nave and a large chancel were then added (consecrated in 1346), while the wooden pew benches date to about 1500. After the Reformation, responsibility for the church passed to the Bishop of Ely. The six existing church bells are well tuned, and were recast in 1820.

The nuns' priory at Swaffham was originally founded in an area of secluded fields away from the main village settlement, but by 1395 there were dwellings recorded near this, probably representing development connected with Swaffham Bulbeck Lode and burgeoning trade (Wareham and Wright 2002). The village subsequently underwent another period of growth and re-development during the Tudor period when new housing was built along the main street (including four houses that are still standing), spilling out into further growth around what was now a new wing of the village around the Monastery at Newnham (the present Commercial End) around the end of Swaffham Bulbeck Lode. Several families of merchants operated here successfully between 1650-1850<sup>5</sup>, and the trade reached a peak in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is epitomised by the actions of merchant Thomas Bowyer who significantly expanded Commercial End as a fen port in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, building a complex of store houses, granaries and stables around the end of an existing waterway, soon replaced by the New Cut in 1821<sup>6</sup>. However this river-based trade was severely undermined by the arrival of the railways in 1884 and the slow development of the roads, and river trade went into decline with commercial activities in the village virtually ceasing entirely, with residents instead driving to work elsewhere. These changes are reflected in the population history of the village, which by 1801 had reached c.540 people and it continued to rise steadily by c.80 people per decade to c.900 people in 190 households by the 1850s (Wareham and Wright 2002). This peak in population was then followed by a series of sharp fluctuations over the subsequent 150 years between around 800 residents in the 1980s and as low as 600 between the 1930s-1950s. By 1991 this had stabilized at 762 (Wareham and Wright 2002).

In 1987 Burgh Hall Farm converted its medieval barns in the south of the village for business use, one of which was subsequently taken over by the charity Red2Green involved in the test pit excavations.

## 7.1 Prehistoric Period

Several Palaeolithic (CHER: 06658), Neolithic, and Bronze Age tools and pot sherds (CHER: 06633, 06640, 06658) have been found on the former heath SE of the village. Crop marks suggestive of a possible Neolithic cursus (CHER: 06605), and a ploughed out Bronze Age round barrow with ring ditch are located to the west of the village, just over the parish boundary into Bottisham parish (CHER: 06609).

## 7.2 Roman Period

The Romano-British period was one of considerable activity in this region, and it is to this time that several of the canals and lodes are thought to date, constructed to facilitate trade and transport of goods to and from villa settlements and estates. An example of this is a

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk/html/st\\_mary\\_s\\_swaffham\\_bulbeck.html](http://www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk/html/st_mary_s_swaffham_bulbeck.html) (Date accessed: 29 November 2012)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk/history.php> (Date accessed: 29 November 2012)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Single.aspx?uid=MCB7694&resourceID=1000](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MCB7694&resourceID=1000) (Date accessed: 29 November 2012)

precursor to the present Gutter Bridge Ditch just to the west of the town, which was likely dug by the Romans to facilitate trading (Wareham and Wright 2002). Evidence for a Roman villa or farmstead has also been unearthed in advance of building works in the vicinity of Downing Court, close to Mill Stream which drains into Gutter Bridge Ditch, including building remains, rubbish pits, post holes and a coin (CHER: MCB17347). Intriguingly no evidence for medieval settlement was found here, which seems odd given the close proximity of the village church and village core settlement area. Finds of Roman tile and pot-sherds have also been made in the fields SE of the village (CHER: 06634), and there are mentions of numerous fragments of Roman pottery and tiling ploughed up north-east of the site of Swaffham Priory in Commercial End (Lordship House), that have been interpreted as deriving from a settlement near the south end of Swaffham Lode (Wareham and Wright 2002).

Quarrying activities for clunch for building materials in the vicinity of Swaffham Bulbeck are mentioned in several documentary sources (Wareham and Wright 2002), and firm archaeological evidence for quarry pits associated with finds dating to the Roman and Medieval periods has been found at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School (CHER: 13039).

### 7.3 Anglo Saxon Period

In spite of having a place name derived from Old English, no finds from the Anglo Saxon period have previously been recorded within 1km of the present village of Swaffham Bulbeck.

### 7.4 High and later Medieval Period

It is during the early part of this period that the Bolebec family came into possession of land around Swaffham Bulbeck, building a manor house and founding the priory in Commercial End (CHER: 06559). Archaeological finds from this period include three moated earthwork sites known from the village, all probably dating to various times during the Medieval period and believed to represent manorial homestead sites. The first lies in the south of the village with the remains of a dry moat surrounding the Grade II listed 16<sup>th</sup> century Burgh Hall (CHER: 01127a, 01127d). The second moated site stands in the fields between the main village core and Commercial End, NE of Downing Park Farm (CHER: 01130). The enclosed area is 110m x 60m, and the ditches are c.3.5m wide and c.1.5m deep; the central area is uneven and no trace of former internal structures have been discovered to date the site. Historical maps and a small area of surviving earthworks show that a third moated earthwork site stood just to the NE around Lordship Farm, where the Bolebec manor house is thought to have been located (CHER: 01128b).

Further finds of building rubble, bones and pottery dating from the 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries made in the fields immediately north of Burgh Hall suggest other possible buildings in the vicinity of Burgh Hall during the Medieval and post-medieval period, in the area now covered by fields (CHER: 06601). Other Medieval finds include a seal from the Vicarage Road area (CHER: 06565).

### 7.5 Post-Medieval Period

Trade activities around Commercial End expanded significantly during the post-medieval period, as testified by structures such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed Merchants House at the far northern end of Commercial Road (06336), and the actions of Thomas Bowyer who subsequently purchased this house in 1805. Other remains related to this trade activity include a post-medieval wharf and watercourses (CHER: 06645, 06818), and alterations to

Swaffham Lode which was straightened in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Further developments saw the founding of the village school in 1721, connected with activities at the church, while the heath upland SE of the village saw an increase in horse rearing in stud farms, supplying horses for racing at Newmarket<sup>7</sup>.

A large number of 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century houses still survive in the village dating to this time, including some timber-framed and some brick-built houses (see Appendix 1). Structures no longer standing include a smock mill formerly located on the bend of Quarry Lane (CHER 06644), and a windmill that is shown on the Enclosure Map of 1800 in the fields east of the village (CHER: 06659). Some images of Swaffham Bulbeck in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century may be found at <http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/cambscoll/history.pl?term=Swaffham%20Bulbeck&category=village&exact=exact>



**Figure 4:** *Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck c.1900 AD.* Image copied from <http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/cambscoll/history.pl?id=290;action=display>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk/history.php> (Date accessed: 29 November 2012)



## 8 Results of test pit excavations in Swaffham Bulbeck in 2012

The approximate locations of the 10 test pits that were excavated over the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 are shown below (Figure 5). The data from each test pit are discussed in this section, set out in numerical order. Most excavation was in spits measuring 10cm in depth, but in cases when a change in the character of deposits indicated a change in context, a new spit was started before 10cm. Finds from each test pit are discussed in summary in this section, and listed in detail in the relevant appendices. Photographs of sites under excavation and of all finds are included in the archive, but not included in this report for reasons of space. An assessment of the overall results, synthesizing the data from all the pits, including deductions about the historic development of Swaffham Bulbeck is presented in the following Discussion section.

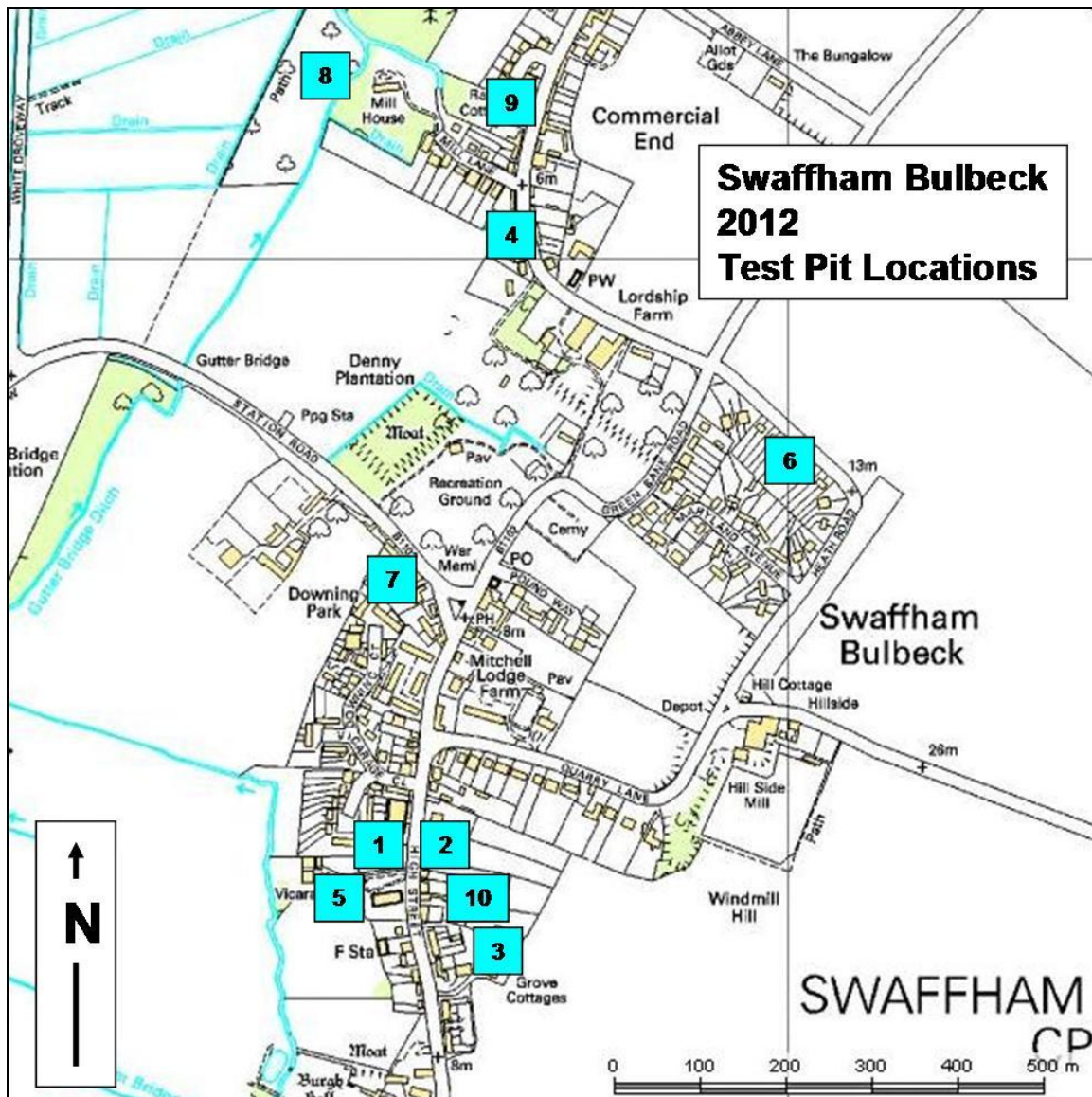


Figure 5: Map showing the location of the test pitting sites at Swaffham Bulbeck.

### Test Pit One (SBU/12/1)

Test pit one was excavated on a small patch of grass running alongside the west side the playground in Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School (High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 OH9. TL 555521 262285).

Test pit one was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, uncovering a mortared clunch wall at c.0.3m depth running down the western side of the test pit and the natural geological chalk base across the remaining area. The clunch wall continued into chalk natural, however the excavation was halted at this stage and the test pit was recorded and backfilled, leaving the wall remains in place.

SBU/12/1 produced several sherds dating to the Late Anglo Saxon period including one sherd of Stamford Ware and some Thetford Ware. The remaining sherds date from the Late Medieval period or later, and include Late Medieval Ware, Glazed Red Earthenwares, Delft Ware, Staffordshire Slipware, White Salt-Glazed Stoneware and some Victorian-era sherds.

**Figure 6:** Location map of SBU/12/1



TP	Context	STAM		THT		LMT		GRE		TGE		SS		SWSG		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1									1	2			1	1			1600-1800
1	2			3	3	1	1									10	27	850-1900
1	3							1	1			1	7			5	20	1550-1900
1	4					1	6	1	2							1	1	1400-1900
1	5	1	1	1	10													850-1100
1	7					1	1											1400-1550

**Table 1 – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/1**

Test pit 1 is one of five test pits excavated near the church of St Mary's, four of which have pottery assemblages indicating human activity in the area during the Late Anglo-Saxon period. Interestingly SBU/12/1 shows no sign of further activity until the end of the medieval period, during which time this area may have reverted to open ground. From the Late Medieval period onwards the site then seems to have remained in constant use, with increased activity in the Victorian era. Other finds from the site included glass, corroded metal finds, tile, slate, coal, oyster and mussel shell. Cow bone was also positively identified with a number of bones only tentatively identified to species as cattle sized and sheep sized. Two human first and second phalanges were also excavated from contexts two and four, suggesting that the churchyard may have expanded to include this part of the current school field.

## Test Pit two (SBU/12/2)

**Figure 7:** Location map of SBU/12/2

Test pit two was excavated in the middle of a sloping back garden of a Grade II listed house dating to the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century located a few yards NE of the church of St Mary (Pyracantha Cottage, 89 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 0LX. TL 555606 262304).



Test pit two was excavated to a depth of 0.6m without finding natural sediments. Due to time constraints excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The pottery assemblage from SBU/12/2 included Thetford Ware dating to the late Anglo Saxon period, and a range of High Medieval wares including St Neots Ware (all sherds dating to 1000AD or later), Medieval Sandy Ware, Medieval Shelly Ware, Hertfordshire Greyware, Hedingham Ware and Grimston Ware. The remaining pottery assemblage comprised sherds of Late Medieval Ware and some Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	THT		SN		EMW		SHW		HG		HED		GRIM		LMT		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1									1	5					1	1	2	6	1150-1900
2	2	1	4			3	8			1	2					2	9	2	17	850-1900
2	3	2	20	5	25			3	8			1	2			3	11	1	4	850-1900
2	4					3	9					2	4	1	2					1100-1350
2	5	1	7			2	6	1	3											850-1200

**Table 2 – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/2**

SBU/12/2 is one of five test pits excavated near the church of St Mary's, four of which have pottery assemblages indicating human activity in the area during the Late Anglo-Saxon period. The pottery from test pit 2 suggests activity at the site continued throughout the Medieval period to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, with relatively high quantities of sherds implying residential settlement in the vicinity of the pit. The site then appears to have been abandoned for a period of time until the Victorian era, when deposition of pot began again. This phase of abandonment correlates with the building of the current house at the site, which thus seems to have led to a change of land-use in the area enclosed as the back garden for this property, apparently keeping it cleaner than before. Other finds from the test pit included modern plastic, tile, CBM, glass, nails, slate, coal, fragments of oyster shell and large quantities of slag indicative of metal-working in the vicinity of the site. A single piece of primary working waste flint was recorded from context two with a piece of burnt stone and the animal bone species recorded from the pit consist of cow, sheep/goat, pig, horse, domestic goose and a weasel. Other bones have only been able to be tentatively identified as cattle sized and sheep sized.

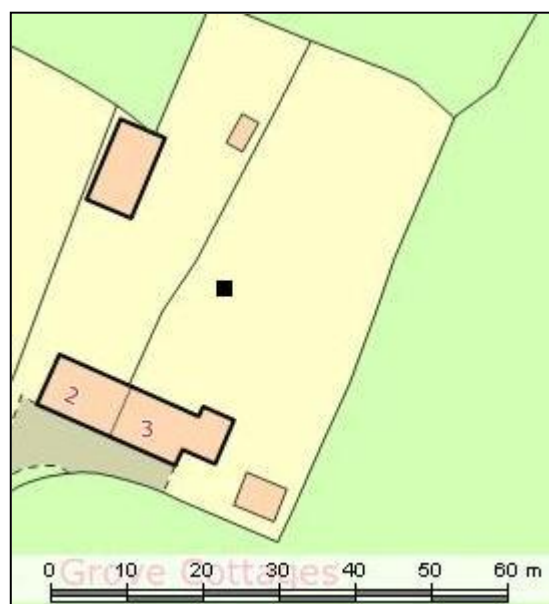
### Test Pit three (SBU/12/3)

Test pit three was excavated in the rear garden of a probably 20<sup>th</sup> century semi-detached property at the southern end of the main area of settlement in the village (3 Grove Cottages, High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck. TL 555657 262179).

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

The pottery assemblage from SBU/12/3 included a wide range of different wares including a single sherd of Anglo Saxon Stamford Ware, some High Medieval pot including St Neots Ware (later than 1000 AD), Medieval Shelly Ware, Hertfordshire Greyware, Grimston Ware and Heddingham Ware, 11 sherds of Late Medieval Ware, and some post-medieval wares including Bourne 'D' ware, Glazed Red Earthenwares, Harlow Slipware, Staffordshire Slipware, Cologne Stoneware and a very large assemblage of Victorian-era sherds.

**Figure 8:** Location map of SBU/12/3



TP	Context	STAM		SN		SHW		HG		GRIM		HED		LMT	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
3	2					1	13	1	4					1	8
3	3					1	3								
3	4							1	4	1	4	1	4	9	54
3	5							1	21						
3	6							2	6					1	9
3	7	1	3	1	2										

BD		GRE		HSW		SS		WCS		VIC		Date
No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
										9	22	1100-1900
		4	32							9	9	1100-1900
1	10	12	116			2	4	1	2	64	120	1150-1900
		4	105	1	3					27	57	1150-1900
		11	122							36	203	1150-1900
		2	45							7	19	850-1900

**Table 3** – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/3

SBU/12/3 is one of five test pits excavated near the church of St Mary's, four of which have pottery assemblages indicating human activity in the area during the Late Anglo-Saxon period. In test pit 3 this early period is represented by just one sherd, suggesting the area may have been used as fields at this time. Activity clearly then continued, with a gradually increasing intensity of deposition at the site. The barns slightly SW of the test pit site are Grade II listed buildings dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century indicating other building activity in the area at this time, coinciding with a large increase in deposition during the post-medieval period; glazed red earthenwares are a common pottery type for this era, represented in particularly large numbers at this site. Collectively, the pottery indicates a pattern of persistent dumping in the vicinity of the site through time. Finds included complete glass

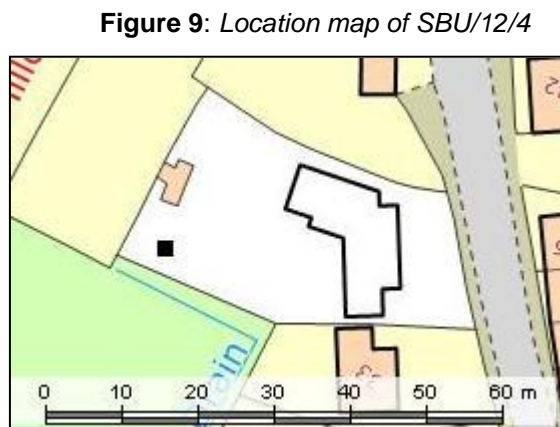
bottles, glass fragments, coal, tile, CBM, nails, the end of a shotgun cartridge, pieces of clay pipe, and fragments of oyster and mussel shell. A single piece of burnt stone was also recorded from context four with a range of animal species consisting of cow, sheep/goat, pig and rabbit. Other species have only been able to be tentatively dated as cattle sized, sheep sized and as bird.

### Test Pit four (SBU/12/4)

Test pit four was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a large detached house located slightly NW of Lordship Farm in Commercial End (37 Commercial Road, Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 0ND. TL 555646 263037).

Test pit four was excavated to a depth of 0.7m without finding natural sediments. Due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

The vast majority of the pottery from SBU/12/4 is Victorian, but there are also sherds of Medieval Sandy Ware, Hertfordshire Greyware, Grimston Ware and Hedingham Ware dating to the High Medieval period, and two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenwares from the Post-Medieval period.



TP	Cntxt	EMW		HG		GRIM		HED		GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1											3	28	1800-1900
4	2											12	26	1800-1900
4	3									1	25	13	74	1550-1900
4	4			1	3							17	65	1150-1900
4	5							2	24	1	5	4	9	1200-1900
4	6			1	7									1550-1200
4	7	1	8			1	3	1	3			3	35	1100-1900

**Table 4** – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/4

The pottery from SBU/12/4 shows that the site was first occupied and used for human activity during the High Medieval period, probably sometime during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This coincides with the date when the Bolebec family first settled in Swaffham Bulbeck, establishing their manorial home at or near Lordship Cottage less than 250 metres from where SBU/12/4 was dug. The low quantities of pottery fragments recovered suggest that this area may have been used as fields at this time, but certainly fell within the area of land that was used during this settlement event. These activities remained relatively non-invasive until the Victorian period, when deposition increased significantly possibly associated with the building of the house. Finds from the test pit included modern and ancient glass, nails, coal, tile, CBM and pieces of clay pipe. A range of animals were also recorded through the animal bone assemblages and consist of cow, sheep/goat, pig, rabbit and chicken. Other species were only tentatively identified as cattle sized, sheep sized and as bird.

### Test Pit five (SBU/12/5)

Test pit five was excavated on a strip of grass under trees between the church and The Old Rectory, a grade II listed detached house built in 1818 (The Old Rectory, High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck. TL 555496 262265).

Test pit five was excavated to a depth of 0.9m without encountering natural sediments. Due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

**Figure 10:** Location map of SBU/12/5



The pottery assemblage from CBU/12/5 includes sherds of Medieval Sandy Ware, Medieval Shelly Ware, Hertfordshire Greyware and Hedingham Ware all dating to the High Medieval period. The remaining pottery is Post-Medieval in date, and includes 15 sherds of Glazed Red Earthenwares, Bourne 'D' Ware, White Salt-Glazed Stoneware and 25 sherds of Victorian-era pot.

TP	Context	EMW		SHW		HG		HED		GRE		BD		SWSG		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1									1	6					1	2	1550-1900
5	2					1	4			2	60					2	9	1100-1900
5	3									3	31					17	63	1550-1900
5	4									6	23	1	7	3	7	1	1	1550-1900
5	5	1	2							3	224					3	3	1100-1900
5	7	1	1					1	1							1	1	1100-1900
5	8	5	35															1100-1200
5	9	6	19	1	26			2	26									1100-1350

**Table 5 – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/5**

Test pit five was the only one of the pits dug close to the church that didn't produce pottery from the Anglo Saxon period, possibly because this pit was located behind the church and away from the main road where housing was more likely to have been situated. The 15 sherds from the High Medieval period certainly attest to activity in this area during this period, however, possibly relating to an expansion of housing in the area around the church. There then seems to be a break in activity after the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, before resuming again in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with a relatively high quantity of Glazed Red Earthenwares recorded in this pit, similar to test pit 3; activity clearly then increased further during the Victorian period, probably associated with the building of The Old Rectory. Finds included fragments of a corroded metal bike chain, modern and ancient glass, tile, slate, concrete, clay pipe fragments, coal, oyster and mussel shell. Two pieces of burnt stone were also recorded from context five and the animal species identified consist of sheep/goat, pig and horse with bone also only identified as cattle sized, sheep sized, mammals and birds.

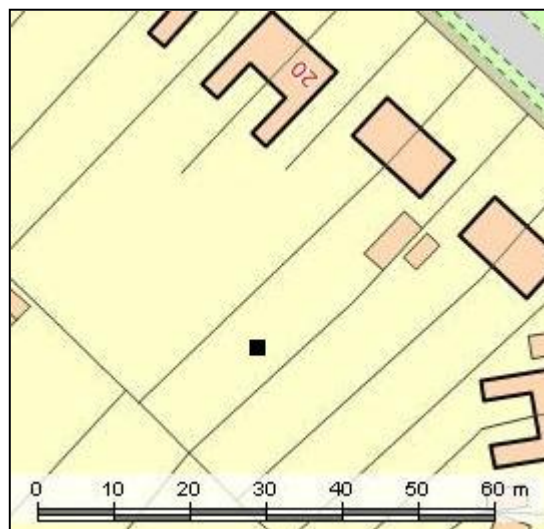
### Test Pit six (SBU/12/6)

Test pit six was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a post-1920s semi-detached house built on a housing estate SE of Commercial end (22 Heath Road, Swaffham Bulbeck. TL 556002 262722).

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

The small pottery assemblage included one sherd of Hertfordshire Greyware and five sherds of Late Medieval Ware, six sherds of Glazed Red Earthenwares and five Victorian-era pieces.

**Figure 11:** Location map of SBU/12/6



TP	Context	HG		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	2					1	4	2	7	1550-1900
6	3							1	1	1800-1900
6	4			1	1	1	5	2	2	1400-1900
6	6	1	3	4	7	2	5			1150-1600

**Table 6** – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/6

Test pit six shows evidence for ephemeral activity in this area such as use for fields, possibly from the late 12th century onwards. The first cultivation of this area, lying at the base of a low hill, probably occurred with the founding of Swaffham Priory at the present site of Lordship House, located c.300m to the west of the test pitting site, and contemporaneously with the slow expansion of the village during the High Medieval period. Later, the ordinance survey maps show that Heath Road had been built by 1887, but that no housing was present in this area. Rather, at this time settlement was instead focused around Commercial End and to either side of High Street, near the church. This would explain the relatively low levels of Victorian-era pot recovered from this site, as the area was still used as fields at this time. Finds from the pit included metal nails, clay pipe, glass, tile, CBM, coal and fragments of oyster shell. Animal bone species have been identified to sheep/goat, pig, rabbit and chicken with cattle sized, sheep sized and bird bones also tentatively identified.

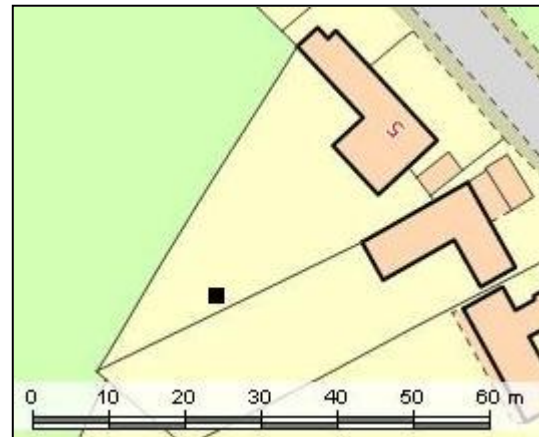


### Test Pit seven (SBU/12/7)

**Figure 12:** Location map of SBU/12/7

Test pit seven was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a probably 19<sup>th</sup> century semi-detached building that has been converted into a single residential property (Shoe Cottage, 5 Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck. TL 555514 262630).

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



The pottery finds included small numbers of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century medieval pottery including Medieval Sandy Ware and Hedingham Ware, two sherds of Glazed Red Earthenwares and nine Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	EMW		HED		GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1	1	4			1	27	4	4	1100-1900
7	2	1	1	1	2			4	4	1100-1900
7	3	4	21			1	21	1	3	1100-1900

**Table 7 – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/7**

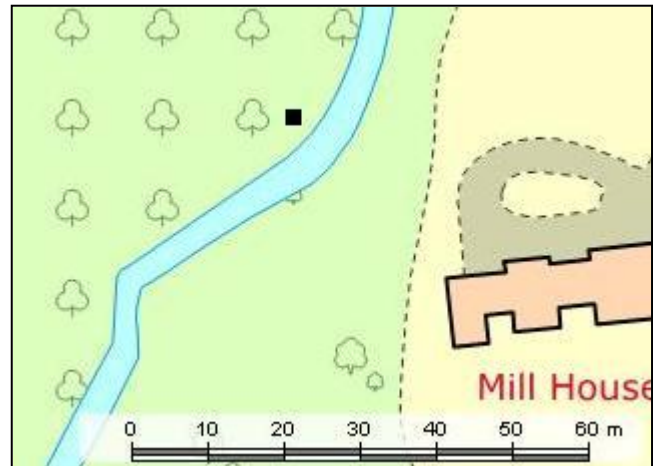
Although this test pit did not produce very much pottery, the Medieval wares suggest the first episode of human disturbance at the site occurred during the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, roughly contemporary with the arrival in Swaffham Bulbeck of the Bolebec family, who established their manorial house roughly 250m NE of SBU/12/7. Located roughly half way between the settlements around the church of St Marys and those at Commercial End, it appears unlikely that settlement had spread at this time to this area, but was instead being used as fields. Activity then increased in the Victorian era after the house was built (which is present on the ordinance survey map of 1887). Finds from this test pit included tile, CBM, ancient and modern glass, a corroded metal nail and a fragment of clay pipe. An additional three primary working waste flint flakes were also recorded from context one. The animal bone remains consist of cow, sheep/goat and pig with also cattle sized and sheep sized species also identified.

### Test Pit eight (SBU/12/8)

Figure 13: Location map of SBU/12/8

Test pit eight was excavated in a field beside Gutter Bridge Ditch, behind a large detached house located to the far west of Commercial End (The Mill House, Mill Lane, Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck. Approximate location TL 555492 263225).

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



No pottery finds were recorded from this test pit.

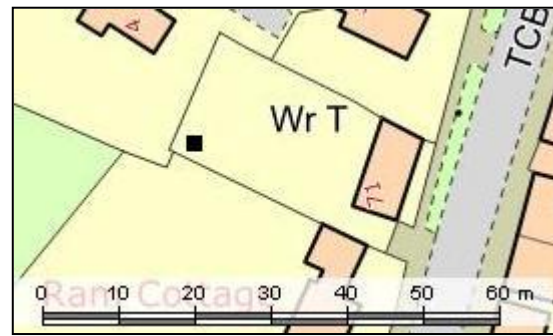
The absence of pottery from this test pit suggests occupation and human disturbance in this area has remained minimal. This is consistent with the limited finds excavated from the pit, which included a handmade nail and small quantities of tile, CBM, charcoal and glass. Two primary and two secondary working waste flint flakes were also recorded from contexts four and five with a single piece of burnt stone. Animal species were only able to be tentatively identified from SBU/12/8, with cattle sized and sheep sized animals recorded with mammals and birds. Gutter Bridge Ditch is thought to have been first excavated in Roman times for transporting riverine trade goods; given the location of Mill House set back from the main street and other housing at Commercial End, it thus seems likely that the area has remained undeveloped throughout the period since it was dug, implying the stream was crossing open ground until the building of Mill House (date unknown).

### Test Pit nine (SBU/12/9)

Test pit nine was excavated in the enclosed rear garden of a probably 19<sup>th</sup> century semi-detached house converted into a single property located in the heart of Commercial End (71 Commercial Road, Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck. TL 555671 263193).

Test pit nine was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, without finding natural. Due to time constraints, excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

**Figure 14:** Location map of SBU/12/9



The pottery finds included a single sherd of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware and a large assemblage of 69 Victorian-era sherds.

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	1			21	59	1800-1900
9	2	1	11	8	12	1550-1900
9	3			11	226	1800-1900
9	4			3	170	1800-1900
9	5			26	458	1800-1900

**Table 8** – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/9

The pottery assemblage indicates minimal activity took place at this site until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after which fairly substantial dumping occurred. Commercial End and the area around where this test pit was dug was first developed as a trading centre in the 17<sup>th</sup> century but did not reach its peak until the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. Located in the middle of Commercial End road, this test pit thus appears to reflect the main changes that took place in this area at this time, including the first major settlement event. Prior to this time the area was most likely unused, or used as fields leaving no archaeological traces. A relatively large quantity of finds were excavated from this pit consistent with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century dumping, including fragments of clay pipe, four complete glass bottles, glass fragments, a plastic button, slate, metal fragments, nails, CBM, tile, charcoal, a plastic wrapper and felt. A single primary working waste flint flake was also recorded from context one and species specific bones were able to be identified as cow, sheep/goat, horse and a considerable number of hedgehog bones. Cattle sized and sheep sized animals were also recorded along with bird bones that can all only be tentatively dated.

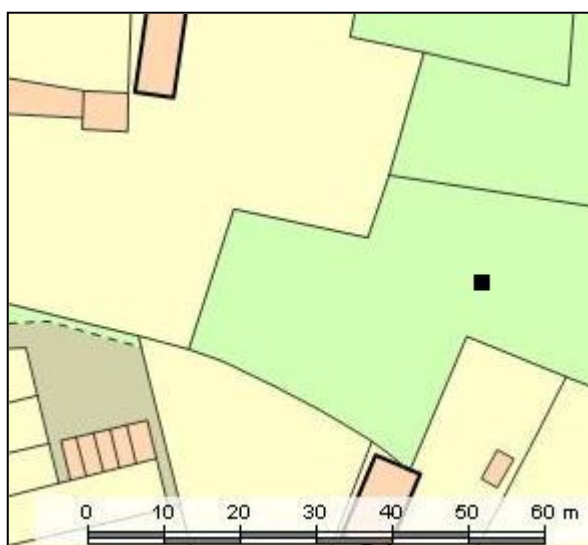
### Test Pit 10 (SBU/12/10)

**Figure 15:** Location map of SBU/12/10

Test pit 10 was excavated in the middle of a large sloping grassy area behind an early 15<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building opposite the church of St Mary (The priests House, High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck. Approximate location TL 555658 262224).

Test pit 10 was excavated to a depth of 0.6m without encountering natural deposits. Due to time constraints excavations were halted at this level and the test pit was recorded and backfilled.

SBU/12/10 produced a range of pottery, including one sherd of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date, one Romano-British sherd, some Anglo Saxon Thetford Ware, some St Neots Ware (1000-1200 AD), some High Medieval Shelly Ware and some Late Medieval Ware. The post-medieval wares included Glazed Red Earthenwares, Staffordshire Slipware and some Victorian-era sherds.



TP	Context	LBA/EIA		RB		THT		SN		SHW		LMT		GRE		SS		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1															1	4	2	9	1650-1900
10	2													1	11			4	4	1550-1900
10	3					3	7							1	1			5	7	850-1900
10	4			1	2	7	18	1	2	1	5	1	4	1	6			1	5	100-1900
10	5					5	14	8	31											850-1100
10	6	1	5			3	10	5	44											800BC-1100

**Table 9 – Pottery excavated from SBU/12/10**

Test Pit 10 produced the oldest pottery from the 2012 excavations in Swaffham Bulbeck, suggesting human activity in the area during the late prehistoric period and again during the Roman era. There are canals near Swaffham Bulbeck that were supposedly dug during the Roman era (e.g. Gutter Bridge Ditch; Wareham and Wright 2002), and evidence for Roman settlement has also been found in nearby Downing Close, and alongside evidence for clunch mining near the village school. The single Roman sherd from SBU/12/10 therefore implies that activity during this time also spread to this area opposite the present main road as well; subsequently, settlement during the Anglo Saxon period thus appears to have concentrated on top of the area previously occupied in the Roman period, as testified by all the test pits excavated near the church (other than test pit 5), and SBU/12/10 produced the greatest number of Anglo-Saxon sherds of all these pits implying concentrated settlement activity at this site. Very little Medieval pottery was found dating later than 1200AD; however, suggesting that land use had changed during this period, perhaps to open fields. Disturbance at the site has apparently remained minimal until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when small-scale dumping resumed. Finds included CBM, tile, glass, oyster and mollusc shell, metal fragments and slag implying metal-working activities in the vicinity of the site. A single secondary working waste flint flake was also recorded from context four as well as cow, sheep/goat, pig, and dog bones. Other animal bone has only been tentatively identified by species as cattle sized and sheep sized.

## 9 Discussion

The results from the ten test pits excavated in Swaffham Bulbeck in 2012 were extremely interesting, and despite the small number of pits excavated to date, some significant observations can be made. The earliest datable finds was a sherd of flint-tempered pottery of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date (800-500BC), from SBU/12/10, c. 100m east of the present church. Although the flints have not been specifically dated, a broad date range to prehistoric can be assigned to both the primary and secondary working waste flint flakes. These were quite widely distributed through the current village layout with SBU/12/8 particularly yielding a number of flakes as well as flints evident SBU/12/2, SBU/12/7, SBU/12/9 and SBU/12/10. Again the fire-cracked flint has not been specifically dated as prehistoric although this is the most likely date for such material and there are two distinct clusters, one again at SBU/12/8 and the other around the church at SBU/12/2, SBU/12/3 and SBU/12/5. All of this does suggest the presence of limited, episodic prehistoric activity in the area at that time.

The only material of Roman date recovered from the 2012 excavations was also from SBU/12/10, a small sherd weighing just 2g, recovered from a spit which also included more than 30 sherds of late Anglo-Saxon pottery but little of later date. While this adds to the existing evidence for activity in the area in the Roman period, at present there is no evidence sufficient to indicate settlement or other intensive activity in the area at this time.

No evidence dating to the early or middle Anglo-Saxon period (5<sup>th</sup> – mid-9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) was found in the 2012 test pits, which contrasts with the later Anglo-Saxon period (mid-9<sup>th</sup> – mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries), as the test pit excavation results do seem to clearly indicate that a settlement was in existence around the site of the present church at this time, as four of the five pits in this area (SBU/12/01, SBU/12/02, SBU/12/03 and SBU/12/10) produced significant numbers of sherds of Thetford Ware (850-1100 AD) and Saint Neots Ware (900-1200 AD). No material of this date was found in any of the other pits excavated in 2012. It is likely that the late Anglo-Saxon settlement near the church took the form of a nucleated village, probably arranged as a row or a cluster around the church, although little can be said about the size of this settlement from the limited number of test pits dug to date.

Settlement activity around the church continues into the high medieval period, supplemented by evidence of a northerly expansion of the settlement, provided by pottery from SBU/12/07 (on Station Road) and SBU/12/04 (at the south end of Commercial End). Both of these pits produced six sherds from a range of vessels dating to 1100-1400 AD. The excavated evidence shows the community at Swaffham Bulbeck was growing at this time, and the settlement was expanding in size with new areas being taken over by housing: the presence of pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> century date in SBU/12/07 and SBU/12/04, along with the absence of earlier material, does seem to provide tentative corroborative evidence for the suggestion that Newnham End was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. However, this is a heavy inferential load to place on such a small number of test pits, and additional pits in this area would be needed to be confident of this inference. A single small (3g) sherd of Hertfordshire Greyware from SBU/12/06 (east of Green Bank Road) is probably most convincingly interpreted as deriving from manuring of arable field, probably one of the medieval open fields, rather than settlement in this part of the present village.

The results of the animal bone analysis have suggested that during the medieval period there was a heavy reliance on domestic livestock, with sheep/goat, pig and cattle the most prevalent. Butchery was in evidence, with the larger carcasses being hung and smaller animals, such as rabbit, have fine knife marks, suggestive of both skinning and meat removal. Sheep dominated pig in a faunal assemblage typical of a rural settlement, with wild faunal remains mostly absent. Generally it has been noted that livestock was an important economic asset in the village, not only for food but for secondary products such

as wool, milk and traction. The same trends in species and uses have been noted as the settlement expanded into Commercial End.

It is interesting to note that SBU/12/07 did not produce any pottery of later medieval date, hinting tentatively at some degree of contraction here in this period: indeed none of the pits in Commercial End produced any material dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is possible that this part of the village suffered a significant degree of contraction from in the later medieval period (mid-14<sup>th</sup> – mid-16<sup>th</sup> century), which has been noted widely in other settlements where test pitting has been carried out (Lewis, in preparation). A pattern in which contraction particularly affects areas of settlement newly founded in the high medieval period as extensions to existing villages was also noted at Great Shelford, just a few miles south of Swaffham Bulbeck (<http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/greatshelford.html>). At Swaffham Bulbeck, the level of settlement activity around the church, in contrast with that at Commercial End, does not seem to decline in the late medieval period. It is notable that SBU/12/06 actually produced more pottery of late medieval date than at any earlier period, a total of five sherds of late medieval transitional wares. This number would normally be enough to infer settlement is likely to have been present in the vicinity at this date, and if so may indicate an outlying cottage or farmstead nearby, possibly newly-built at this time.

All the excavated pits produced pottery of post-medieval date, including local glazed red earthen-wares as well as more exotic fine-wares from Norwich/London, Staffordshire and Germany. Interestingly, the fine-wares came exclusively from the pits around the church, with none of these more expensive wares found in Commercial End, along Station Road or east of Green Bank Road.

## 10 Conclusion

Overall, the archaeological test pit excavation programme carried out in Swaffham Bulbeck in 2012 was very successful. It fulfilled its primary aims of providing an opportunity for members of the public, including school children and adults affected by autism, to get involved in excavating within their own community, with dozens of people engaging in the project and gaining new archaeological skills and a new appreciation of the heritage under their feet. Feedback from those involved was immensely positive (see appendix 13.6): the project increased participants' understanding of, and passion for, archaeology/local history, and increased the likelihood of them getting involved in related activities in the future. It has also demonstrated that the project developed useful skills for the participants, including teamwork, communication and dedication to a task. It also demonstrated the positive impact the project had on improving community integration for people with autistic spectrum conditions: raising awareness and understanding for participants, volunteers and individuals in the wider Swaffham Bulbeck community.

The archaeological evidence gained from the excavations (presented in the main body of this report and detailed in appendices 13.1-13.5), has also advanced knowledge and understanding of the historic development of Swaffham Bulbeck, particularly for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods when so little documentary evidence or upstanding structural remains survive when compared with later periods. As a result, we have a better idea as to how and when the settlement came into being; how and when it grew; and how and when it declined. The excavations have also provided new evidence about the likely extent of surviving archaeological evidence underlying the streets, gardens and houses of the existing historic village of Swaffham Bulbeck, which should be of use in managing this resource in the future. The results are also contributing to advancing knowledge and understanding of the bigger picture of rural settlement development over the medieval period across the eastern region.

## 11 Acknowledgements

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## 13 Appendices

### 13.1 Pottery Report – *Paul Blinkhorn*

**LBA/EAI: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.** Crude, hand-built pottery with lots of pieces of white flint in the clay. 800-500BC

**RB: Roman.** This was one of the most common types of Roman pottery, and was made in many different places in Britain. Lots of 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.

**THT: Thetford ware.** So-called because archaeologists first found it in Thetford, but the first place to make it was Ipswich, around AD850. Potters first began to make it in Thetford sometime around AD925, and carried on until around AD1100. Many kilns are known from the town. It was made in Norwich from about AD1000. The pots are usually grey, and the clay has lots of tiny grains of sand in it, making the surface feel a little like fine sandpaper. Most pots were simple jars, but very large storage pots over 1m high were also made, along with jugs, bowls and lamps. It is found all over East Anglia and eastern England as far north as Lincoln and as far south as London.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GRIM: Grimston Ware.** Made at Grimston, near King's Lynn. It was made from a sandy clay similar with a slight 'sandpaper' texture. The clay is usually a dark bluish-grey colour, sometimes with a light-coloured buff or orange inner surface. It was made between about AD1080 and 1400. All sorts of different pots were made, but the most common finds are jugs, which usually have a slightly dull green glaze on the outer surface. Between AD1300 and 1400, the potters made very ornate jugs, with painted designs in a reddish brown clay, and sometimes attached models of knights in armour or grotesque faces to the outside of the pots. It is found all over East Anglia and eastern England.

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

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

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

**TGE: 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 this type of pottery in Europe. 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 plain white, and humble vessels such as chamber pots and ointment jars.

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

**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.

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

**SWSG: White Salt-Glazed Stoneware.** Delicate white pottery made between 1720 and 1780, usually for tea cups and mugs. Has a finely pimpled surface, like orange peel.

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

### Test Pit 1

TP	Context	STAM		THT		LMT		GRE		TGE		SS		SWSG		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1									1	2			1	1			1600-1800
1	2			3	3	1	1									10	27	850-1900
1	3							1	1			1	7			5	20	1550-1900
1	4					1	6	1	2							1	1	1400-1900
1	5	1	1	1	10													850-1100
1	7					1	1											1400-1550

This test-pit produced pottery which indicates that there was activity in the late Saxon period, but then the site seems to have been abandoned until the end of the medieval period, after which time it seems to have been in constant use.

### Test Pit 2

TP	Context	THT		SN		EMW		SHW		HG		HED		GRIM		LMT		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1									1	5					1	1	2	6	1150-1900
2	2	1	4			3	8			1	2					2	9	2	17	850-1900
2	3	2	20	5	25			3	8			1	2			3	11	1	4	850-1900
2	4					3	9					2	4	1	2					1100-1350
2	5	1	7			2	6	1	3											850-1200

The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was in constant used from the late Saxon period through to the late medieval era. It appears to have then been abandoned in the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century, and not used again until Victorian times.

### Test Pit 3

TP	Context	STAM		SN		SHW		HG		GRIM		HED		LMT		BD		GRE		HSW		SS		WCS		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	2					1	13	1	4					1	8											9	22	1100-1900
3	3					1	3											4	32							9	9	1100-1900
3	4							1	4	1	4	1	4	9	54	1	10	12	116			2	4	1	2	64	120	1150-1900
3	5							1	21									4	105	1	3					27	57	1150-1900
3	6							2	6					1	9			11	122							36	203	1150-1900
3	7	1	3	1	2													2	45							7	19	850-1900

The range of pottery from this test-pit suggests that this site has been in used continually since the late Saxon period.

### Test Pit 4

TP	Context	EMW		HG		GRIM		HED		GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1											3	28	1800-1900
4	2											12	26	1800-1900
4	3									1	25	13	74	1550-1900
4	4			1	3							17	65	1150-1900
4	5							2	24	1	5	4	9	1200-1900
4	6			1	7									1550-1200
4	7	1	8			1	3	1	3			3	35	1100-1900

This site appears to have been in use throughout the early medieval period, but it then seems to have been abandoned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was then little-used until Victorian times.

### Test Pit 5

TP	Context	EMW		SHW		HG		HED		GRE		BD		SWSG		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1									1	6					1	2	1550-1900
5	2					1	4			2	60					2	9	1100-1900
5	3									3	31					17	63	1550-1900
5	4									6	23	1	7	3	7	1	1	1550-1900
5	5	1	2							3	224					3	3	1100-1900
5	7	1	1					1	1							1	1	1100-1900
5	8	5	35															1100-1200
5	9	6	19	1	26			2	26									1100-1350

This site appears to have been in use throughout the early medieval period, but it then seems to have been abandoned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was then re-occupied in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and has probably been more or less in constant use ever since.

### Test Pit 6

TP	Context	HG		LMT		GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	2					1	4	2	7	1550-1900
6	3							1	1	1800-1900
6	4			1	1	1	5	2	2	1400-1900
6	6	1	3	4	7	2	5			1150-1600

This test-pit did not produce much pottery, suggesting the site always had a somewhat marginal use, perhaps as fields, in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

### Test Pit 7

TP	Context	EMW		HED		GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1	1	4			1	27	4	4	1100-1900
7	2	1	1	1	2			4	4	1100-1900
7	3	4	21			1	21	1	3	1100-1900

This site appears to have been used in the early medieval period, perhaps only the 12<sup>th</sup> century, after which time it saw little use.

### Test Pit 8

No pottery excavated from this test pit.

### Test Pit 9

TP	Context	GRE		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	1			21	59	1800-1900
9	2	1	11	8	12	1550-1900
9	3			11	226	1800-1900
9	4			3	170	1800-1900
9	5			26	458	1800-1900

Nearly all the pottery from this test-pit was Victorian, indicating that the site was not used before that time, or if it was, it was used in a manner which left no archaeological traces.

### Test Pit 10

TP	Context	BA/EIA		RB		THT		SN		SHW		LMT		GRE		SS		VIC		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
10	1															1	4	2	9	1650-1900
10	2													1	11			4	4	1550-1900
10	3					3	7							1	1			5	7	850-1900
10	4			1	2	7	18	1	2	1	5	1	4	1	6			1	5	100-1900
10	5					5	14	8	31											850-1100
10	6	1	5			3	10	5	44											800BC-1100

This test-pit produced evidence of the site being used in the late Bronze/Early Iron Age, and again in Roman times. It then seems to have been disused until the late Saxon period, at which time people were almost certainly living here, but produced very little medieval pottery, indicating it may have reverted to fields or similar. It appears to have had a similar use right through the post-medieval period.

## 13.2 Animal Bone – *Vida Rajkovaca*

The faunal material recovered from ten test pits excavated in Swaffham Bulbeck totalled some 222 assessable specimens, only of which 77 were identified to species level (34.7% of the assemblage). The assessment considers the material by their location within the village, and, where possible, by period.

### *Methods: Identification, quantification and ageing*

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and Grahame Clark Zooarchaeology Laboratory, University of Cambridge. Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded when evident.

### *Test pits 1-3, 5 and 10*

Just under half of the assemblage (109 specimens/ 49%) came from five test pits situated close to



village church (Test pits 1-3, 5 and 10), and it is likely the faunal remains were generated by a nucleated settlement, in use from the Anglo-Saxon and through to the Victorian times, albeit, as suggested by pottery evidence, with a possible hiatus in occupation during the Medieval period. The material was scarce, poorly preserved and highly fragmented, and this is reflected in a high proportion of elements assigned to a size-category. The sub-set shows a heavy reliance on domestic sources of food (Table 10), in keeping with the majority of contemporaneous assemblages from the country (e.g. Albarella and Davis 1994). Medium-sized livestock species, such as sheep/ goat and pigs seemed to have been the three prevalent species, followed by cattle. With such a small sample, it was not possible to observe any patterns between different deposits corresponding to different periods of site occupation.

Mainly owing to the overall high fragmentation of the assemblage, it was not possible to obtain ageable or biometrical data. Skeletal element count for sheep/ goat, pigs and rabbits showed these were identified based on mandibular, skull and meat-bearing elements, suggestive of on site or local rearing and utilisation of complete carcasses. This was not the case for cattle which were recorded based on loose teeth, phalanges and vertebrae.

A total of ten specimens were recorded as butchered. Marks were recorded on cattle humeri and sheep vertebrae, but also on rabbit elements. Larger cattle elements were treated crudely, mainly with heavy blades or cleavers, with elements chopped midshaft for marrow removal. Butchery marks recorded on vertebrae, be it cattle or sheep, all demonstrated signs of carcasses being hung and chopped axially, down the sagittal plane – an action which would split the carcass into left and right portion. Occasionally, it was noted that blades were not heavy, nor sharp, in which case the chop mark was recorded slightly off-centre, and the blades were often ‘stuck’. During the period, saw became the universal tool, so it is not surprising that saw marks were particularly common, especially on vertebrae. These are characterised by regular delineations on the surface of the cut itself and a saw will not fracture the bone as the ‘cutting’ (sawing in this case) is completed, and the surface will demonstrate the striations through to completion. Smaller species such as rabbit showed fine knife marks, some indicative of skinning and others of meat removal, depending on their location. The overall appearance of the bone, the severe weathering and gnawing, all seem to imply that the faunal material represents food debris incorporated into occupation layers over time.

Taxon	Test pit 1	Test pit 2	Test pit 3	Test pit 5	Test pit 10	Total NISP	% NISP	MNI
	NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP	NISP			
Cow	1	1	2	.	1	5	12.8	1
Ovicaprid	.	4	5	3	2	14	35.9	1
Pig	.	3	2	5	2	12	30.7	1
Horse	.	1	.	1	.	2	5.1	1
Dog	.	.	.	.	1	1	2.6	1
Rabbit	.	.	3	.	.	3	7.7	1
Domestic goose	.	1	.	.	.	1	2.6	1
Mustelid*	.	1	.	.	.	1	2.6	1
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>.</b>
Cattle-sized	2	3	4	11	3	23	.	.
Sheep-sized	3	9	11	10	8	41	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	.	4	.	4	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	.	.	1	1	.	2	.	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>.</b>

**Table 10:** Number of Identified Specimens and the Minimum Number of Individuals for all species;

*the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.*

#### *Test pits 6 and 7*

The small quantity of faunal remains from test pits 6 and 7, which is also mirrored in the small amount of pottery, is a clear testimony to a peripheral location of the settlement during the medieval period. The range of species broadly reflects findings from the rest of the village.

Taxon	Test pit 6	Test pit 7
	<i>NISP</i>	<i>NISP</i>
Cow	.	1
Ovicaprid	3	2
Pig	5	1
Rabbit	1	.
Chicken	1	.
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>
Cattle-sized	1	1
Sheep-sized	9	3
Bird n.f.i.	1	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>

**Table 11:** *Number of Identified Specimens for all species from test pits 6 and 7; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.*

#### *Commercial end*

Although not as abundant as that recorded around the site of the village church, the bone material excavated from the Commercial end (Test pits 4, 8 and 9) is broadly similar in terms of the species ratio (Table 12). Remains of hedgehog are not anthropogenic in character and represent part of the background fauna, as could be the case with a small number of fragmented and unidentifiable avian remains. The remainder of the bone clearly showed the meat was utilised, as some ten specimens were recorded as butchered. The marks and the actions were identical to those observed in the material recovered from the settlement situated close to church, implying the Commercial end's test pits are clearly a northern expansion of the same settlement.

Taxon	Test pit 4	Test pit 8	Test pit 9	Total NISP	% NISP	MNI
	<i>NISP</i>	<i>NISP</i>	<i>NISP</i>			
Cow	2	.	1	3	10.7	1
Ovicaprid	3	.	2	5	17.8	1
Pig	2	.	.	2	7.1	1
Horse	.	.	1	1	3.6	1
Rabbit	1	.	.	1	3.6	1
Chicken	1	.	.	1	3.6	1
Hedgehog	.	.	15	15	53.6	3
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>.</b>
Cattle-sized	4	1	3	8	.	.
Sheep-sized	3	1	5	9	.	.
Mammal n.f.i.	.	1	.	1	.	.
Bird n.f.i.	7	3	8	18	.	.

<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>92</b>	.	.
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**Table 12:** Number of Identified Specimens and the Minimum Number of Individuals for all species from the Commercial end, test pits 4, 8 and 9; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

With the faunal record being quantitatively ‘thin’, it is not possible to study site’s status and its economic transformations through time, although it is possible to make a few observations. In the Medieval Swaffham Bulbeck, animals were an important economic asset, being used for food and secondary products (hide, wool, traction etc.) and undoubtedly live animals and excess products were part of the local trade and exchange network. The overall prevalence of sheep is probably associated with the increasing importance of wool. Moreover, the high sheep count combined with low numbers for pigs is typical for a rural medieval settlement. The absence of wild remains is another indication of a rural character.

#### *Human bone*

In addition to the faunal material, two fragments of human bone were also identified from the assemblage. These were identified as first and second phalanges, excavated from test pit 1 and contexts [2] and [4]. The occurrence of disarticulated human remains in the assemblage is unsurprising, given the proximity of village church.

### 13.3 Worked Flint – *David McOmish*

Flint artefacts from the Swaffham Bulbeck test pitting included struck flints and fire-cracked flint. These were identified to type and date if possible, with retouching and other distinguishing characteristics noted if present. In most instances a date could not be established. Flint artefacts are listed here by test pit and context with particular points of interest discussed in sections 8 and 9.

SBU/12	Unworked Flint Nodule	Primary Working Waste flakes	Secondary Working Waste flakes	Fire-cracked Flint	Blades	Flakes	Tools	Comments
Context 1 TP7		3						
Context 5 TP5				2				
Context 4 TP3				1				
Context 2 TP2		1		1				
Context 1 TP9		1						
Context 4 TP10			1					
Context 5 TP8		1	2	1				
Context 4 TP8		1						

**Table 13:** All the worked flint and burnt stone excavated from the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

### 13.4 Other finds from Swaffham Bulbeck – *Roberta Fulton*

Test pit 1	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1				slate x2 =24g, coal x7 =9g	

C. 2	red flat tile x2 =24g, red CBM x4 =8g	green bottle glass x2 =4g, clear container glass =1g, clear flat glass =2g, degraded green bottle glass =4g	corroded metal nails x2 =4g, corroded metal strip =15g	slate x8 =26g, coal x5 =10g	
C. 3	red flat tile x3 =264g, red CBM x6 = 19g	clear flat glass =<1g	corroded metal nail =7g, corroded metal scraps =5g	slate =<1g, coal x8 =20g	oyster shell =1g
C. 4	red flat tile =89g, red CBM x3 =12g	degraded green bottle glass x4 =96g, clear container glass x2 =14g		coal x5 =10g, slate x2 =2g	oyster shell =1g, snail shell =<1g
C. 5	red CBM =2g	degraded green bottle glass x7 =11g		coal x3 =1g	muscle shell x3 =2g
C. 7		degraded green bottle glass x2 =6g, clear flat glass =2g		coal x3 =3g	

**Table 14:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/1*

Test pit 2	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other
C. 1	red flat tile x2 =18g, red CBM x2 =13g, flat yellow tile x2 =74g	curved clear glass =4g, flat clear glass x3 =5g	corroded metal nails x2 =25g, slag x2 =16g, handmade nails x2 =12g	slate x1 =5g, charcoal x3 =6g	shell =<1g, plastic fragment =<1g
C. 2	red flat tile x3 =107g	clear flat glass x18 =32g, curved green glass x2 =11g	slag x20 =175g, corroded metal nails x4 =24g, handmade nails x2 =7g	charcoal x24 =27g	oyster shell x8 =22g, chalk x2 =4g, brown plastic fragments x2 =<1g
C. 3	flat red tile x2 =19g		slag x26 =252g, corroded metal nails x3 =20g, corroded metal fragment =21g, handmade nails x3 =14g	charcoal x21 =40g	oyster shell x6 =23g, shell x4 =2g
C. 4	red CBM x2 =17g		corroded metal nail =2g, slag x5 =95g, corroded metal nails x3 =18g		charcoal x10 =15g, oyster shell x1 =3g, mollusc shell =1g, chalk x4 =23g
C. 5			corroded nail =5g, slag x9 =86g	charcoal x18 =20g	oyster shell =3g, chalk x8 =17g

**Table 15:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/2*

Test pit 3	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range

C. 2	red CBM x5 =16g	clear container glass x2 =3g, yellow container glass x5 =22g		coal x12 =28g	end of a shotgun cartridge =4g	
C. 3	red/orange CBM x5 =26g, red/yellow CBM x4 =30g, dark yellow CBM x2 =14g	complete rounded clear glass bottle = 478g ("Baldry", "The Sole Property of Jack N. Baldry", "The Cambridge Soda Water Works"), degraded glass =1g, clear container glass =8g	corroded iron nail =3g	coal x24 =71g	chalk =3g	
C. 4	dark yellow CBM x11 =186g, red CBM x29 =286g, clay pipe stem =<1g, clay pipe bowl fragment =<1g	clear container glass x22 =137g, green bottle glass x3 =17g, orange bottle glass =7g, small blue plastic bead =<1g, small clear round glass ink bottle? (with cork stuck inside) =63g	corroded metal nails x10 =81g, corroded metal lumps x5 =120g	coal x35 =66g	yellow mortar x2 =5g, snail shell x3 =<1g, oyster shell =<1g	
C. 5	red CBM x5 =186g, red/orange CBM x6 =105g, pink/yellow CBM x8 =156g, clay pipe stem =3g	clear flat glass x2 =2g, clear container glass =4g, green bottle glass =2g	corroded metal nails x5 =81g	coal =<1g	oyster shell =3g, grey mortar/plaster =3g, mussel shell =1g	
C. 6	pink/yellow CBM x15 =484g, dark yellow CBM x2 =152g, clay pipe stem x2 =2g, red CBM x10 =114g	green bottle glass =4g, degraded green bottle glass =3g, clear container glass =3g	corroded metal nails x3 =43g, corroded metal scrap =7g	coal x5 =12g	mussel shell x2 =2g	
C. 7	pink/red CBM x4 =36g, yellow CBM =1g	clear flat glass =<1g			slate pencil =1g, mussel shell =<1g	

**Table 16:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/3*

Test pit 4	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red CBM x3 =25g	curved clear glass x2= 7g	nail =13g	charcoal x6 =1g	snail shell =<1g	
C. 2	clay pipe =3g, red flat tile =23g	ancient glass =8g, curved clear glass =6g, curved green glass =<1g		burnt coal =2g, charcoal x4 =38g	snail shell x2 =5g	
C. 3	red CBM x5 =29g	flat clear glass =1g		charcoal long thin rod =3g, charcoal x11 =20g, slate =6g	oyster shell =<1g	
C. 4	flat red tile =357g, red CBM x14 =33g, clay pipe =<1g	flat green glass =10g, curved green glass =5g, flat clear glass =<1g	corroded handmade nail =5g	charcoal x11 =80g	mollusc shell =<1g, chalk x2 =4g	
C. 5	red flat tile x2 =32g, red CBM x2 =<1g		corroded metal nail =12g	charcoal x2 =3g	mollusc shell x2 = <1g	
C. 6	flat red tile =66g	curved clear glass =1g		charcoal x6 =14g	chalk x2 =3g, mollusc shell =<1g	
C. 7	red CBM =<1g	curved green glass =2g			chalk =4g	

**Table 17:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/4*

Test pit 5	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red CBM x55 =322g, dirty yellow CBM x10 =192g, white ceramic plug fragment? =31g, modern dark red flat tile =12g	orange bottle glass =2g, clear flat glass x2 =2g	fragments of corroded metal bike chain x2 =48g, modern nail =8g, square nail =5g, slag x2 =21g	coal x18 =28g, slate =2g	concrete/mortar? =56g, concrete x4 =150g	
C. 2	clay pipe stem =2g, red flat tile x2 =60g, yellow flat tile x5 =117g, yellow CBM x15 =119g, red CBM x22 =94g	degraded green bottle glass =2g, clear flat glass x2 =5g, blue container glass =8g	thin metal rod curved into an oval loop =18g, slag x3 =27g, corroded metal scraps x2 =234g, corroded metal nail =7g	slate =10g, coal x7 =19g	mortar x5 =28g, concrete =23g, oyster shell =1g	
C. 3	dark yellow flat tile x9 =601g, dark yellow CBM x18 =361g, red flat tile x9 =225g, red CBM x20 =167g, grey glazed flat modern tile =6g, clay pipe stem =<1g	green bottle glass x2 =22g, degraded container glass x3 =6g, pink container glass x2 =11g, clear container glass x2 =8g, clear flat glass x4 =2g	corroded metal nails x4 =15g, modern nail =2g, slag =61g, corroded metal scraps x7 =29g	coal x3 =9g	mortar x2 =25g, oyster shell x2 =3g	
C. 4	yellow flat tile x3 =84g, yellow CBM x11 =170g, red CBM x7 =60g, clay pipe stem =<1g	pink container glass =<1g, degraded green glass x3 =15g, clear flat glass =2g	corroded metal nail =6g		concrete x3 =327g	
C. 5	yellow CBM x14 =315g, red CBM x3 =22g, clay pipe stem =1g	degraded green bottle glass =2g			mortar =11g, oyster shell =1g, mussel shell =<1g	
C. 6	red CBM x2 =4g				mussel shell =2g	
C. 7	red CBM x2 =21g		corroded metal scrap =4g	coal x2 =2g	oyster shell x17 =41g, mussel shell x10 =9g, mortar x12 =217g	
C. 8				sand stone? x32 =44g	mortar =90g, oyster shell x48 =213g, mussel shell x20 =26g	
C. 9	red brick fragment =353g				oyster shell x33 =164g, mussel shell x32 =44g	

**Table 18:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/5*

Test pit 6	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 2	red flat tile =53g, yellow CBM x10 =28g		corroded metal nails x20 =83g, handmade nail =3g, clay pipe stem =1g	charcoal x12 =8g	flower plaque =<1g	



C. 3	clay pipe stem x2 =1g		corroded metal nails x11 =33g	long thin flint rods x4 =5g, charcoal x11 =13g	plastic fragments x2 =3g, oyster shell =1g	
C. 4	red CBM x7 =12g, clay pipe stem =2g	curved clear glass x3 =5g		charcoal x18 =19g, long thin flint rod =2g		
C. 6	yellow CBM x9 =176g, red CBM x8 =17g	flat green glass =1g	metal bottle cap =3g	charcoal x5 =6g	plastic red circular object =<1g	

**Table 19:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/6*

Test pit 7	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	flat red tile x3 =117g, red CBM x9 =30g, flat yellow tile =78g, yellow CBM x16 =87g	ancient glass =3g	handmade nail =2g			
C. 2	red flat tile x2 =108g, red CBM x19 =156g, flat yellow tile =65g, yellow CBM x15 =168g		corroded metal nail =1g			
C. 3	clay pipe stem =4g, red CBM x5 =101g, yellow CBM x6 =55g					

**Table 20:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/7*

Test pit 8	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 3	yellow flat tile x3 =29g, yellow CBM x5 =8g, red CBM = <1g		handmade nail =5g	charcoal =1g		
C. 4	flat yellow tile =4g, yellow CBM =12g, red CBM x3 =21g	curved green glass =11g			snail shell =<1g	
C. 5			nail =9g			

**Table 21:** *The rest of the finds from SBU/12/8*

Test pit 9	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
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C. 1	clay pipe stem =2g, yellow CBM x3 =13g, flat yellow tile x2 =10g, flat red tile x2 =72g, curved red tile x2 =94g, red CBM x10 =168g	marble =5g, flat clear glass x3 =7g, curved clear glass x10 =51g, curved green glass =4g	corroded metal fragments x3 =16g, corroded metal nails x5 =57g, remains of metal hinge =1g, metal tine base =4g, metal label with writing =1g	slate x6 =23g, charcoal x7 =15g	plastic button =<1g, paper label =<1g, chalk x5 =54g, painted plaster =5g, wood x2 =3g, shell =<1g
C. 2	red CBM x6 =51g, yellow CBM x3 =16g, flat yellow tile x4 =132g	curved clear glass x7 =53g, curved green glass x2 =25g	circular metal base =43g, metal coin (modern) =<1g, handmade nail =6g, screw =2g, corroded metal nails x5 =11g	slate x5 =80g	plastic wrapper =6g, trowel (head and handle) =221g, remains of a plastic container =<1g, shell =8g, painted plaster x2 =73g, felt x3 =5g
C. 3	flat red tile x6 =207g, yellow CBM =143g	curved clear glass =14g	corroded metal nails x3 =17g, handmade nail =9g, modern coin =2g	charcoal x2 =27g, slate =15g	wood =2g
C. 4	flat red tile x4 =314g, curved red tile x2 =101g, curved yellow tile =22g, red CBM x3 =25g	curved clear glass x2 =34g	corroded metal fragments x2 =44g, corroded metal nails x3 =32g	slate x4 =56g	sellotape =2g, snail shell =21g
C. 5	curved yellow tile =70g	complete glass bottles – all clear but varying sizes x4 = 131g, 255g ('sauce'), 341g, 65g ('Zenobia'), clear curved glass bottle base =171g, curved clear glass fragments x5 =120g, curved green glass =42g	corroded metal fragments x43 =36g, metal container =18g		snail shell =1g, paper label with barcode =<1g

Table 22: The rest of the finds from SBU/12/9

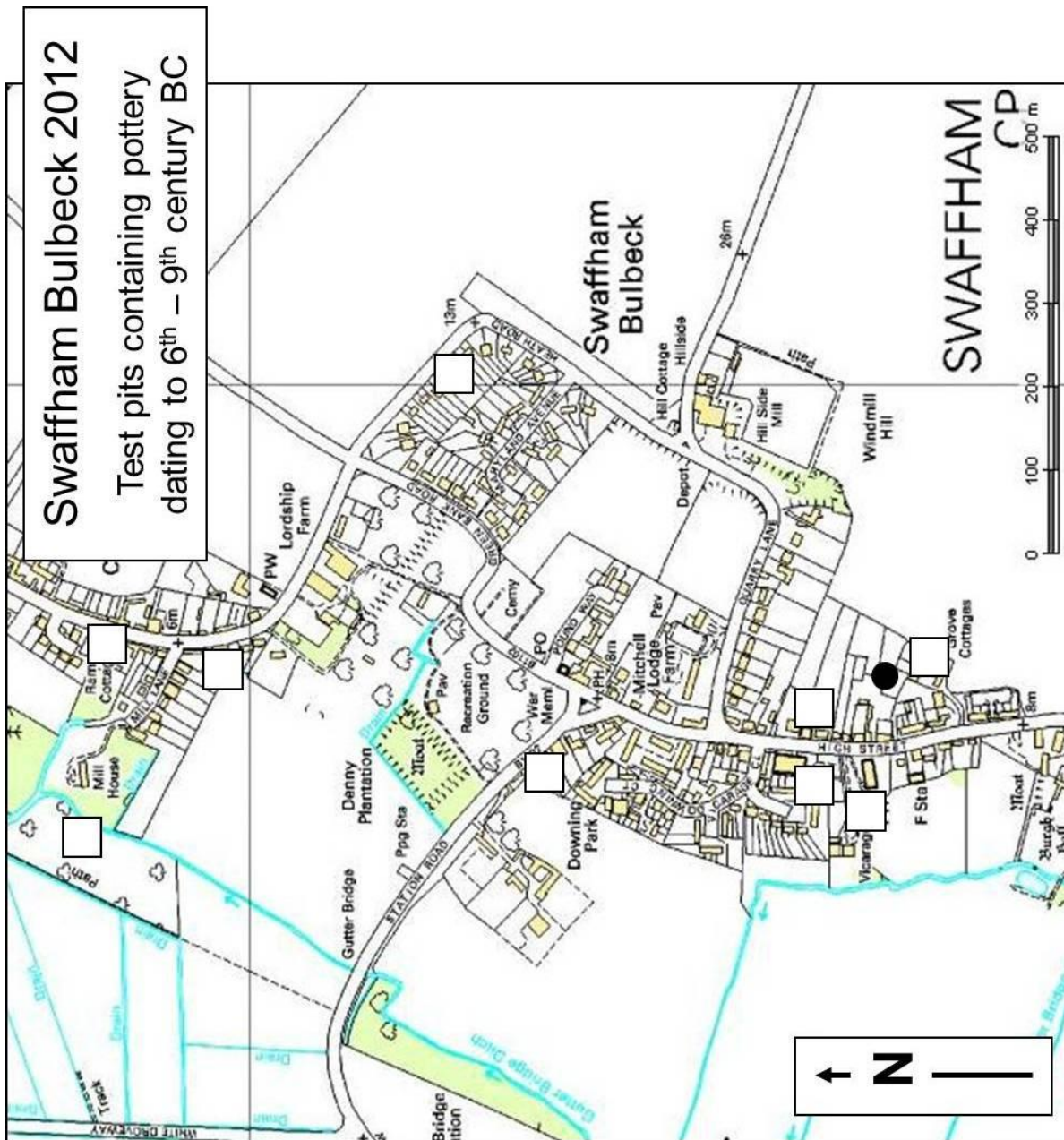
Test pit 10	Ceramic (excluding pottery)	Glass	Metal & metal-working	Stone	Other	Date range
C. 1	red CBM =7g, curved yellow tile =27g					
C. 2	flat yellow tile =31g		slag =201g		chalk x3 =19g	
C. 3	yellow CBM x22 =224g, red CBM =14g, curved red tile =271g	flat clear glass =1g		charcoal x3 =8g	chalk x2 =29g, bent oval shaped component – corroded with section missing =79g, oyster shell =1g, snail shell =<1g	
C. 4	red CBM x2 =9g, yellow CBM x9 =73g, flat yellow tile x2 =71g	curved clear glass =6g	curved metal item =10g		wood x2 =<1g, oyster shell =3g, mollusc shell x12 =9g	
C. 5	red CBM x2 =24g			charcoal =2g	mollusc shell x6 =2g, chalk x2 =5g	
C. 6	red CBM x2 =13g				burnt shell x3 =24g, mollusc shell =1g	

Table 23: The rest of the finds from SBU/12/10



## 13.5 Maps

Much of the value of test pit data from currently occupied rural settlements are derived from a holistic consideration across the entire settlement. Maps showing a range of the data from the test pit excavations in Swaffham Bulbeck in 2012 are included below. These may be read in conjunction with relevant sections of the main report. Some of these maps are available online at <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/swaffham.html> and these can be used, if wished, to prepare maps showing the distribution of other classes of data not depicted in this appendix.



Test Pit with no pottery of this date

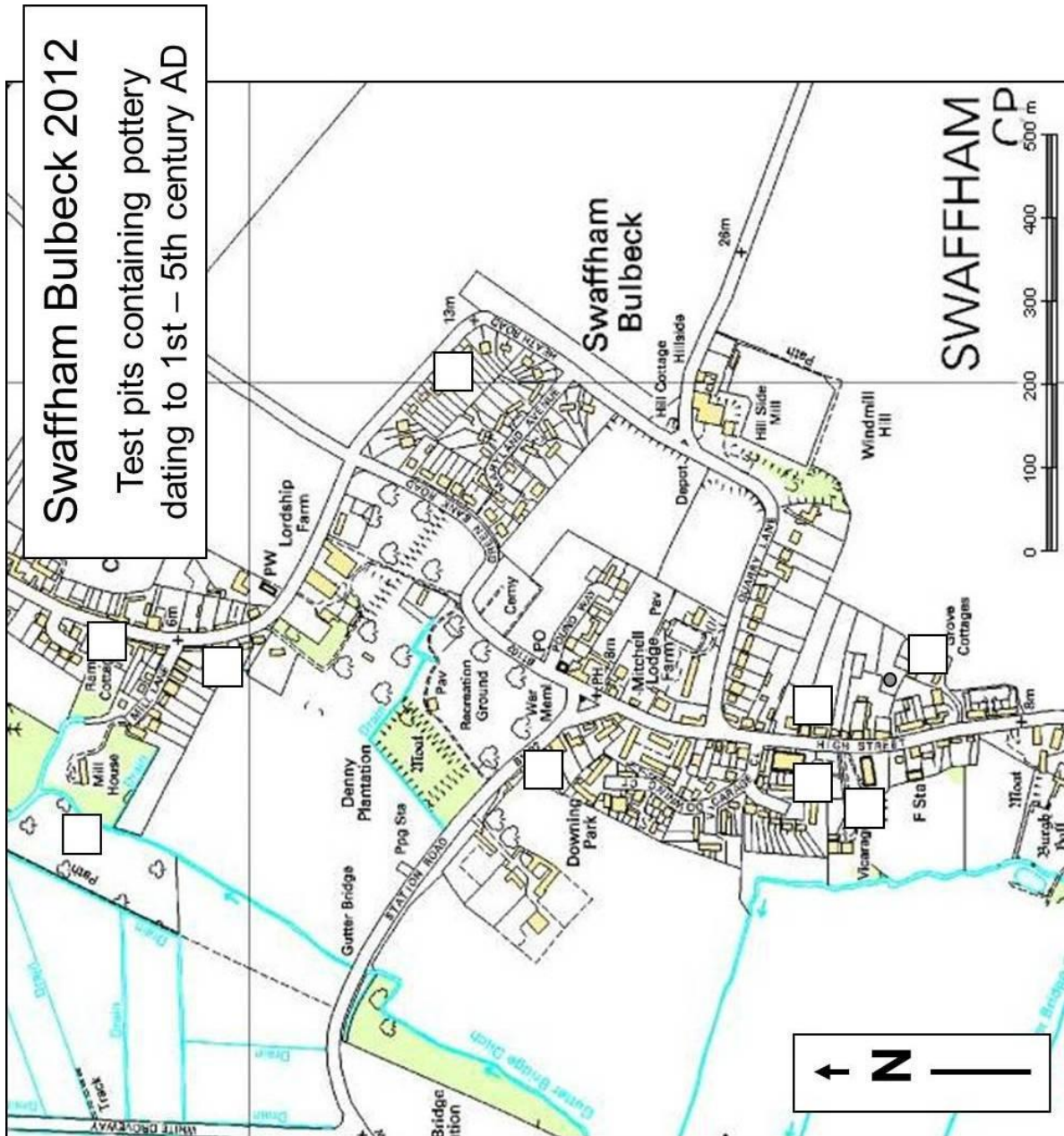
**Disturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

**Undisturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Figure 16: Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age Pottery from Swaffham Bulbeck test pits



Test Pit with no pottery of this date

**Disturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

**Undisturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Figure 17: Roman pottery from Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

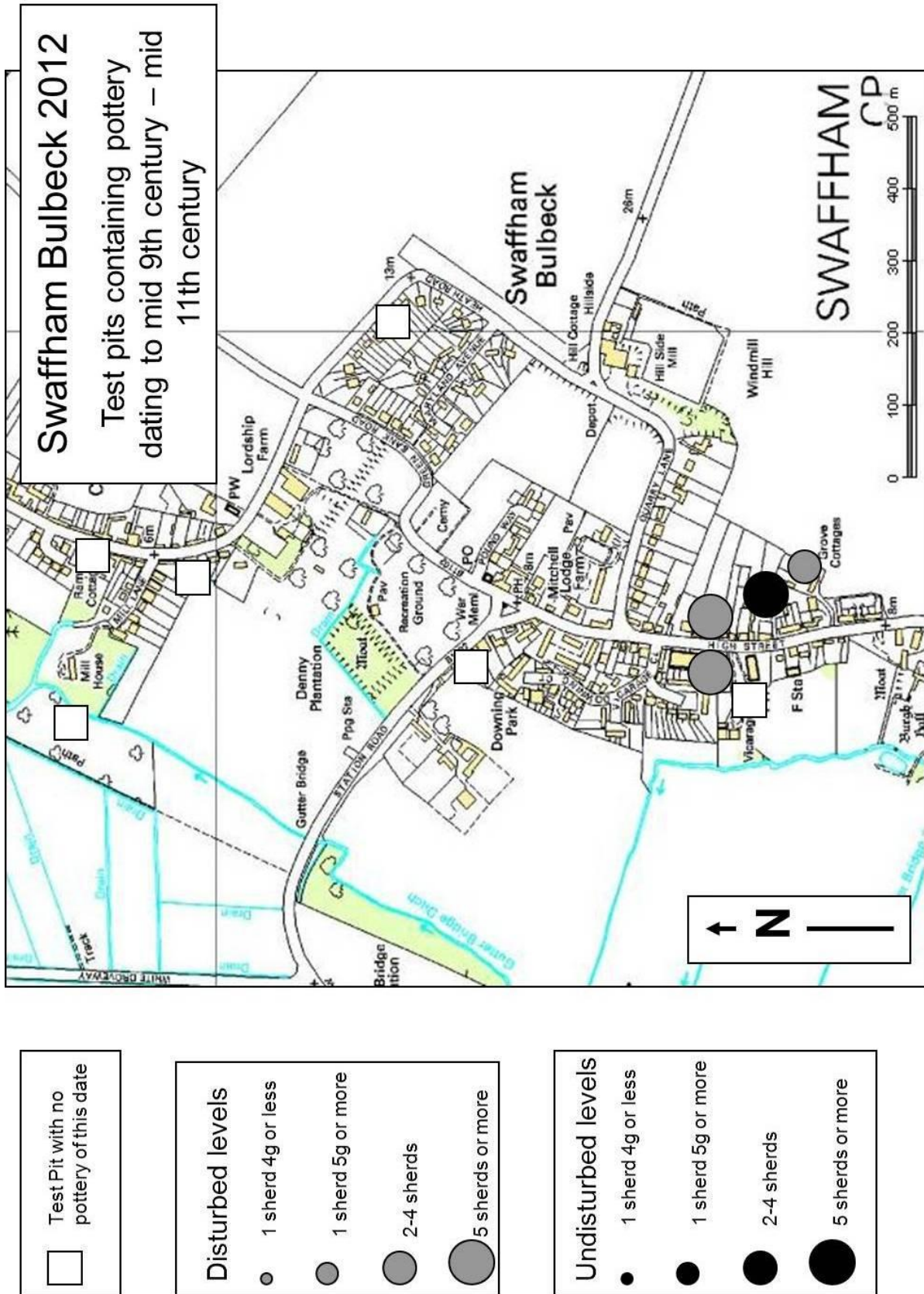
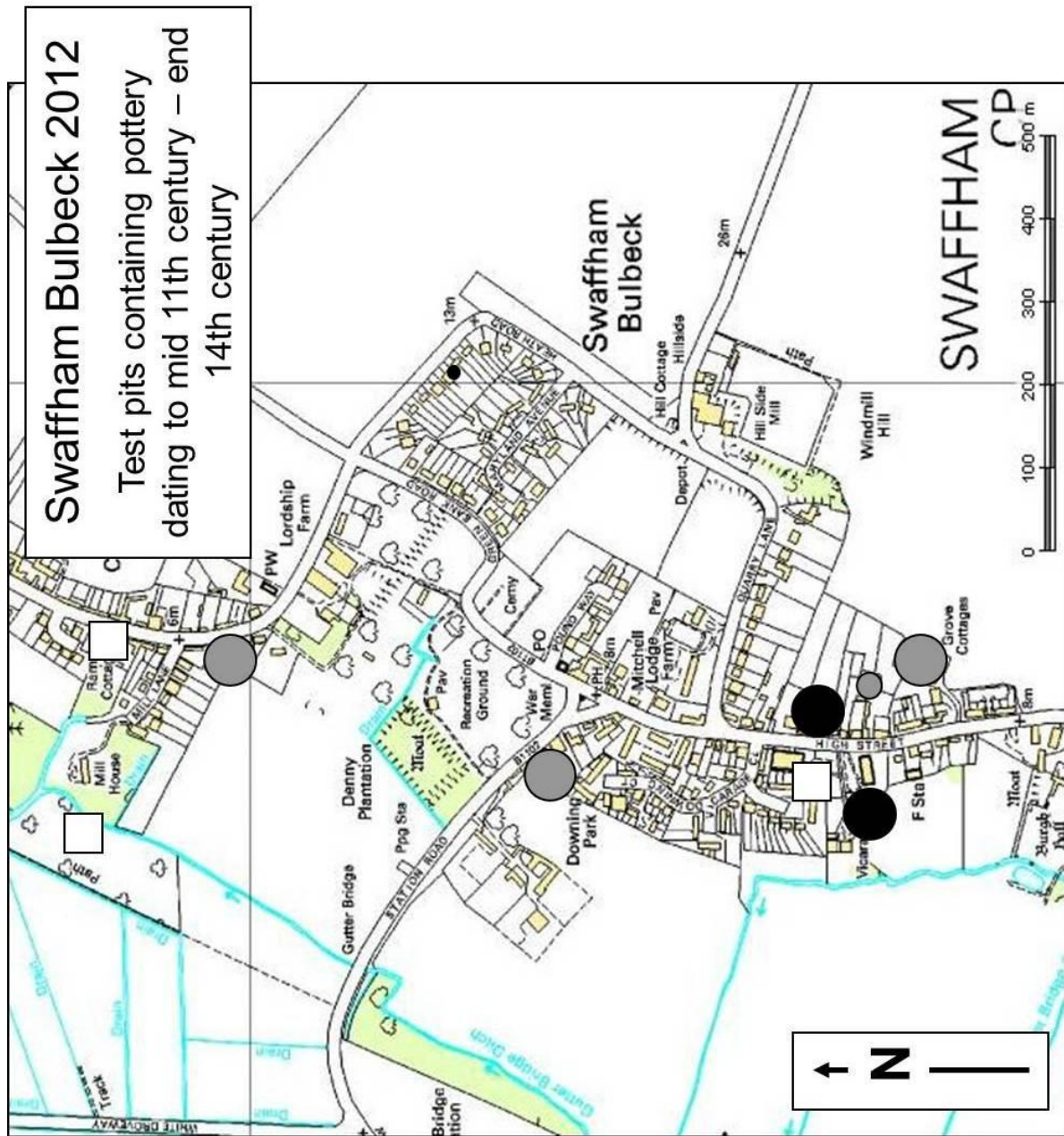


Figure 18: Late Saxon pottery from Swaffham Bulbeck test pits



Test Pit with no pottery of this date

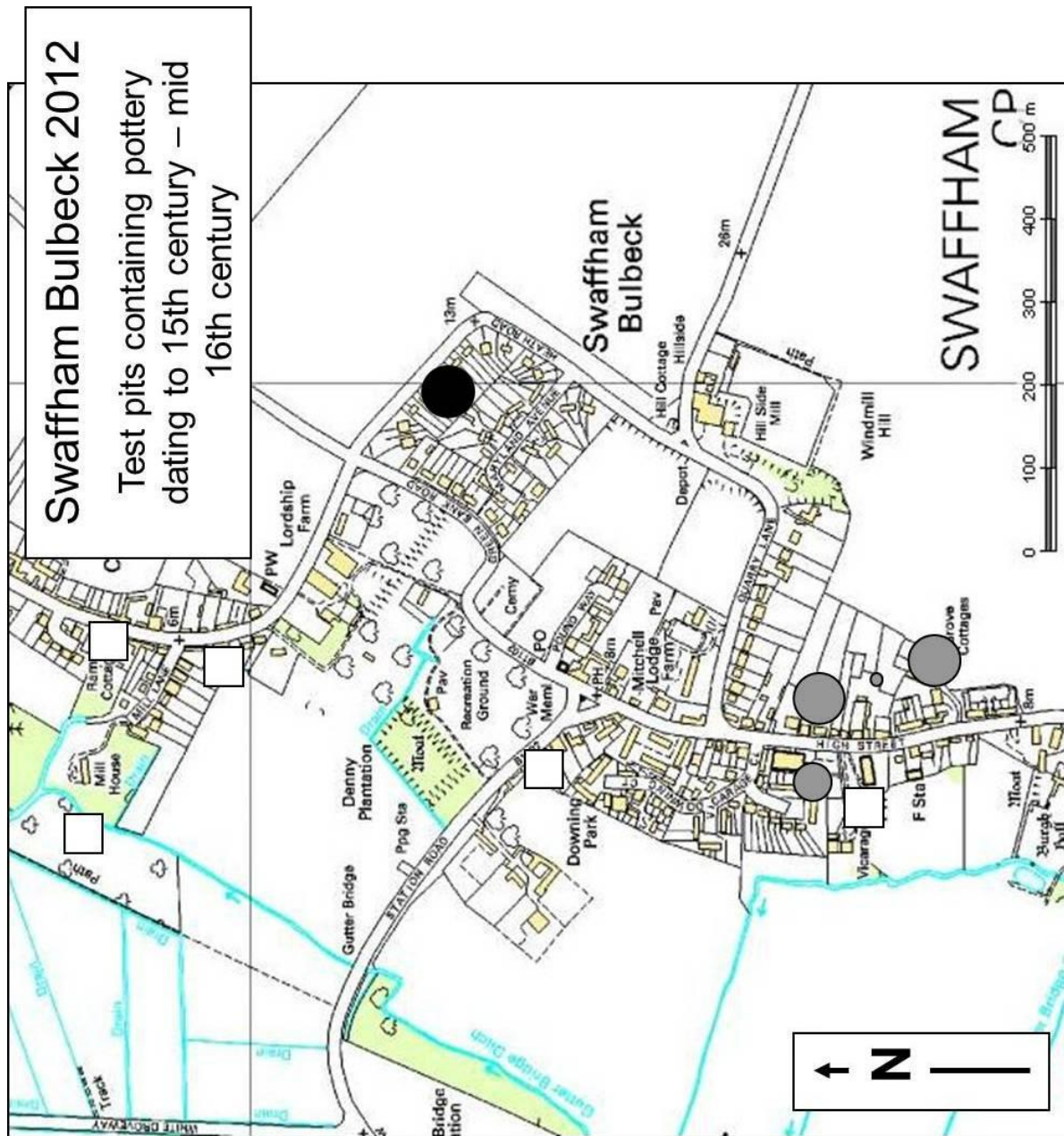
**Disturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

**Undisturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Figure 19: High medieval pottery from Swaffham Bulbeck test pits



Test Pit with no pottery of this date

**Disturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

**Undisturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Figure 20: Late medieval pottery from Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

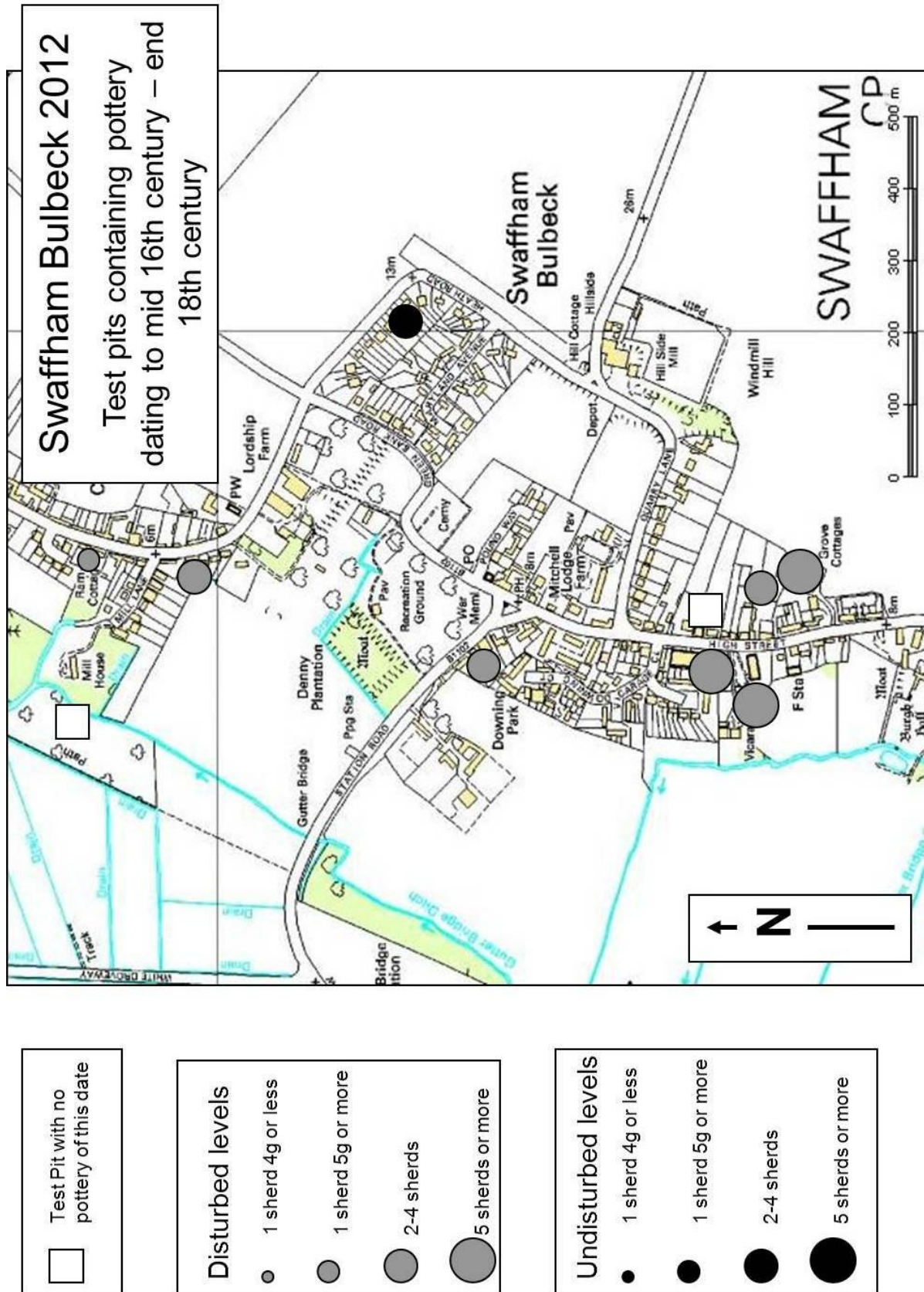
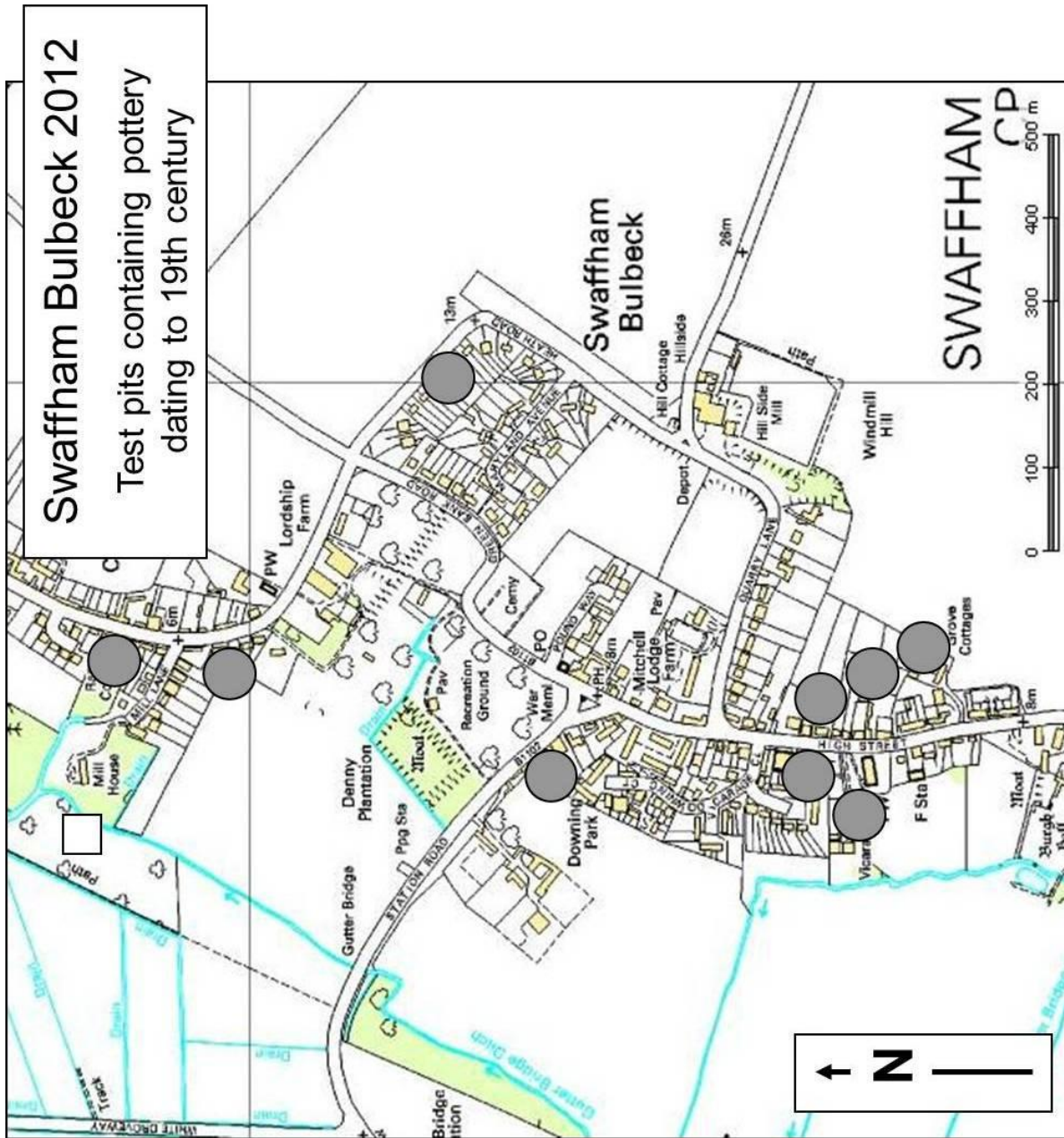


Figure 21: Post-medieval pottery from Swaffham Bulbeck test pits



Test Pit with no pottery of this date

**Disturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

**Undisturbed levels**

- 1 sherd 4g or less
- 1 sherd 5g or more
- 2-4 sherds
- 5 sherds or more

Figure 22: Victorian pottery from Swaffham Bulbeck test pits



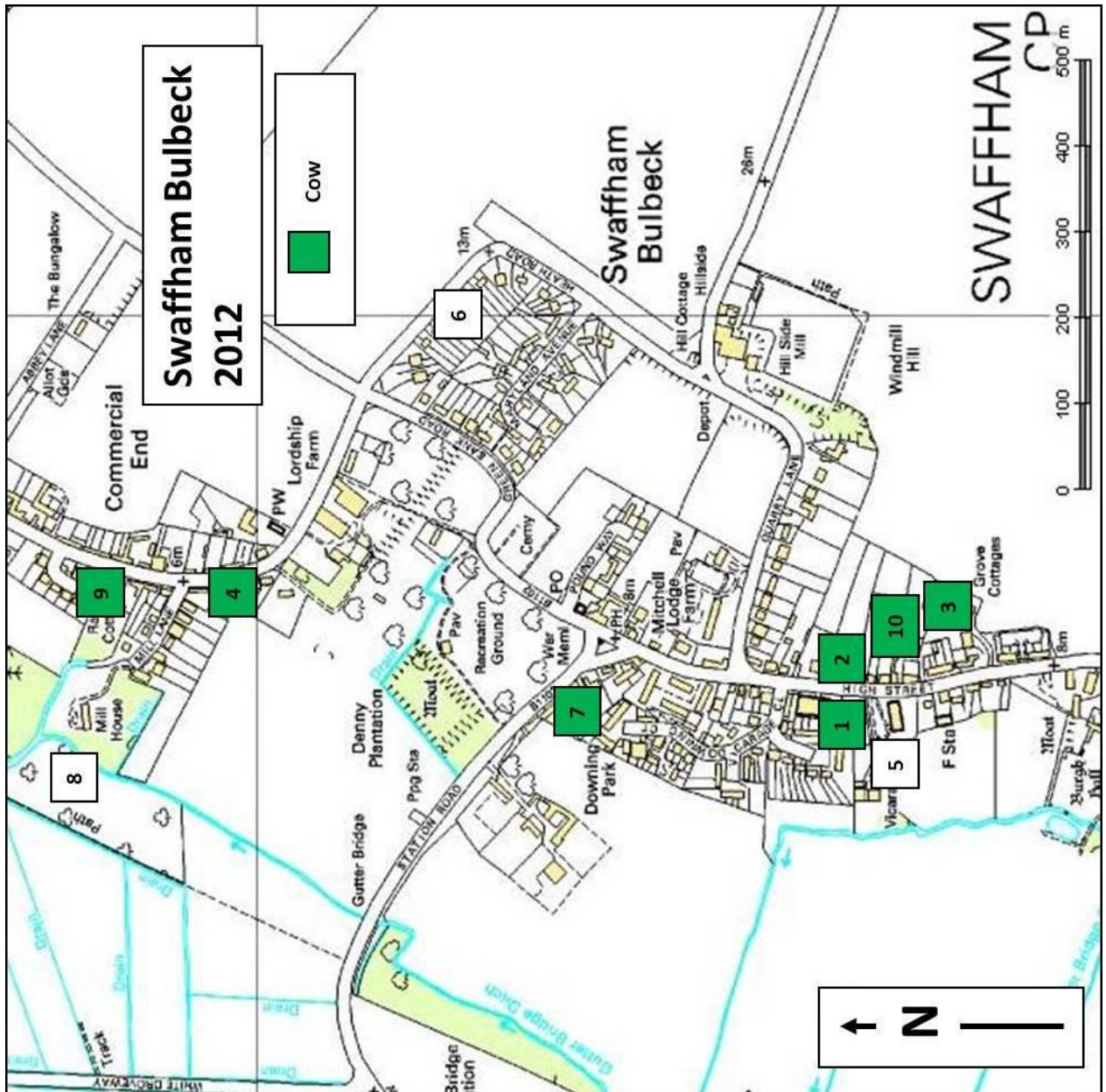


Figure 23: Distribution of cow bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

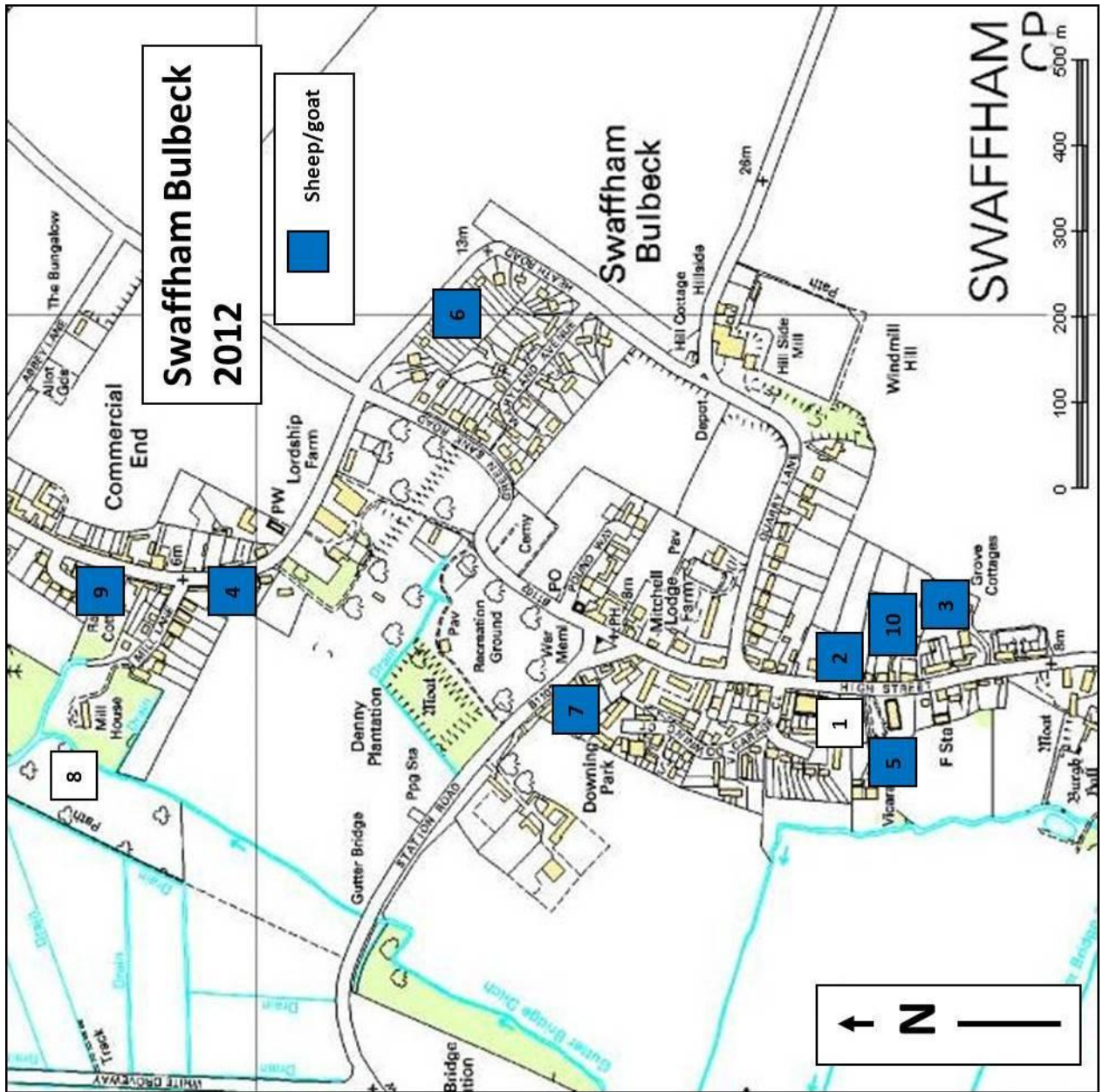


Figure 24: Distribution of sheep/goat bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

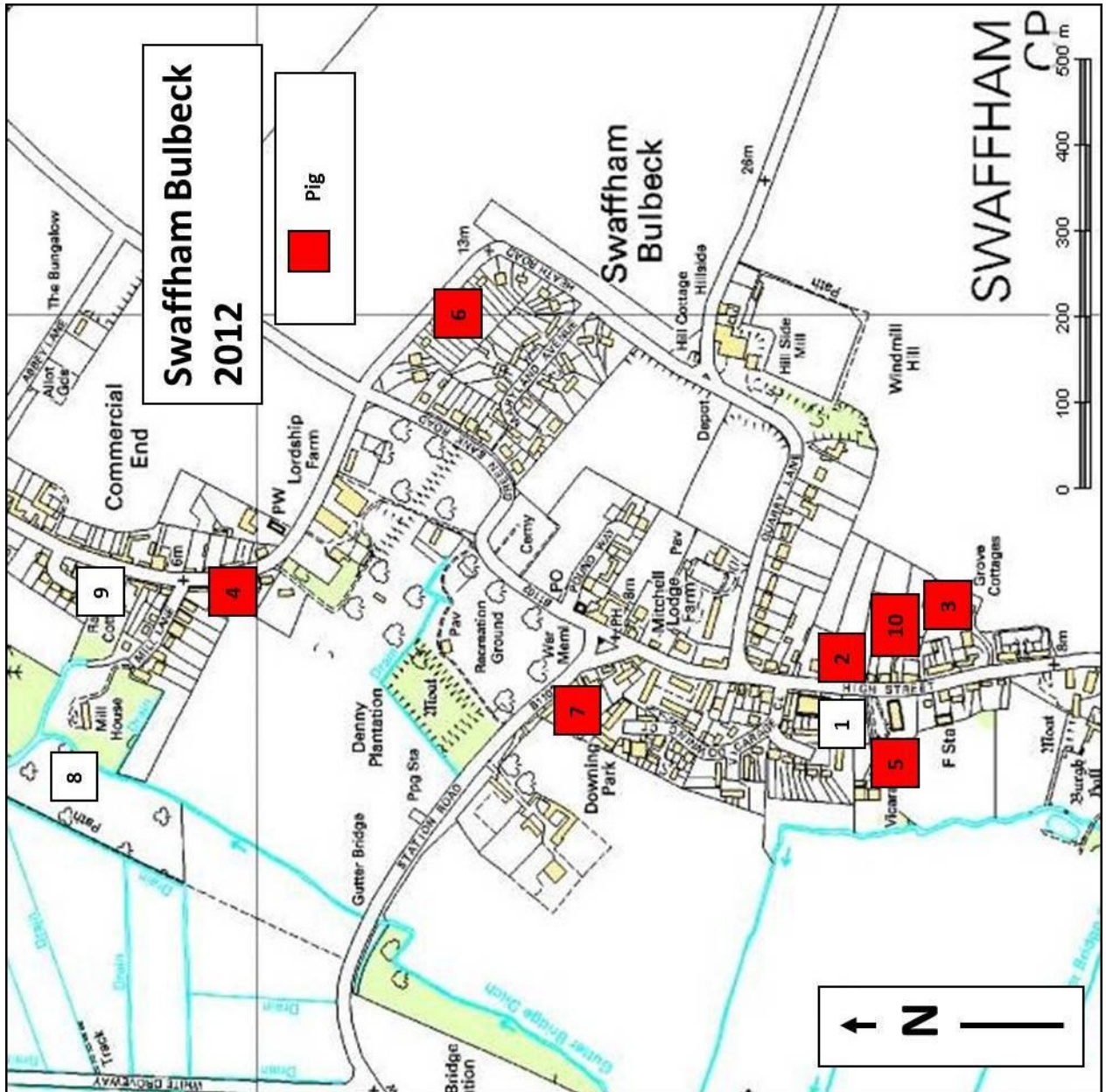


Figure 25: Distribution of pig bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

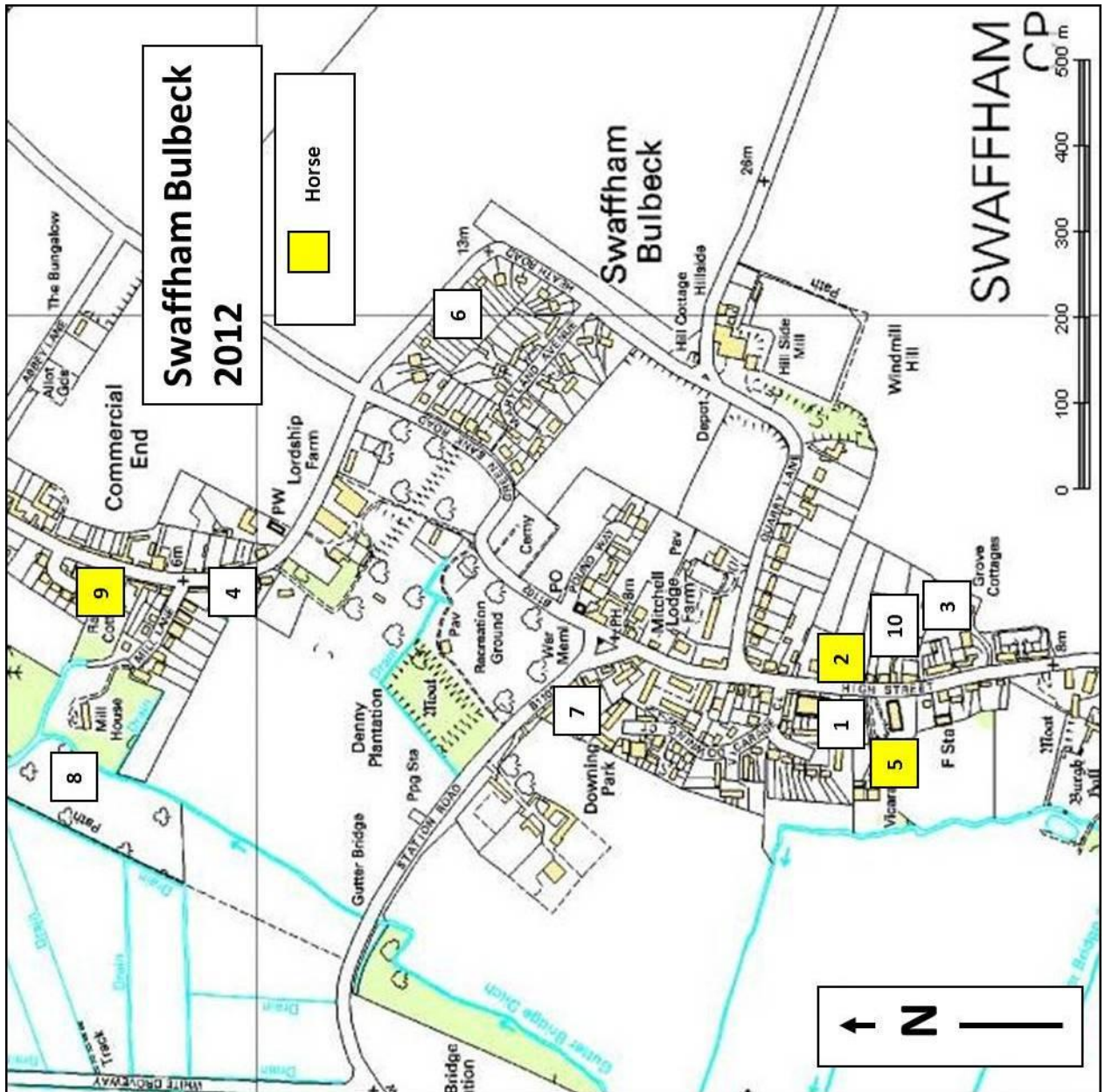


Figure 26: Distribution of horse bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

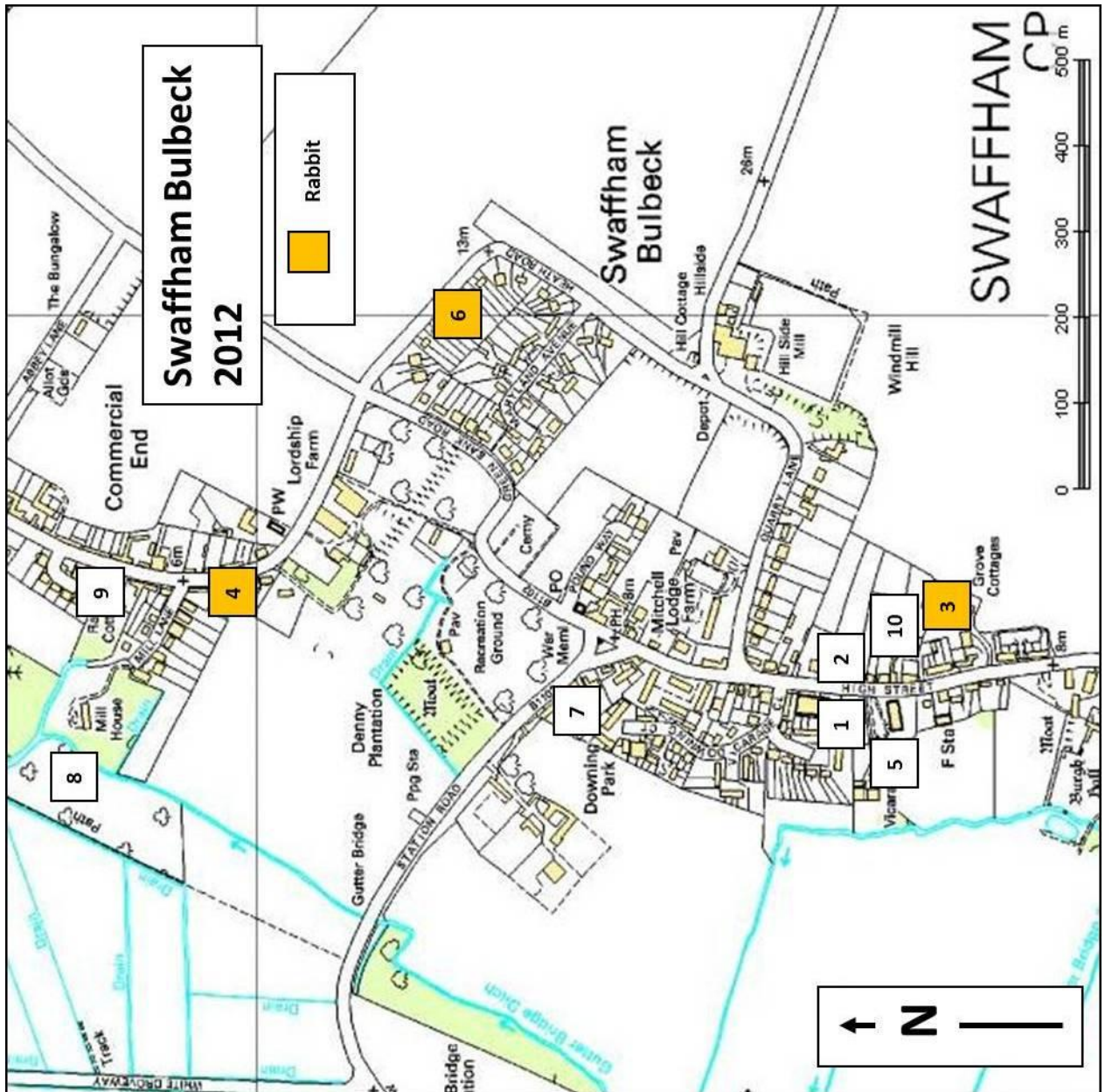


Figure 27: Distribution of rabbit bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

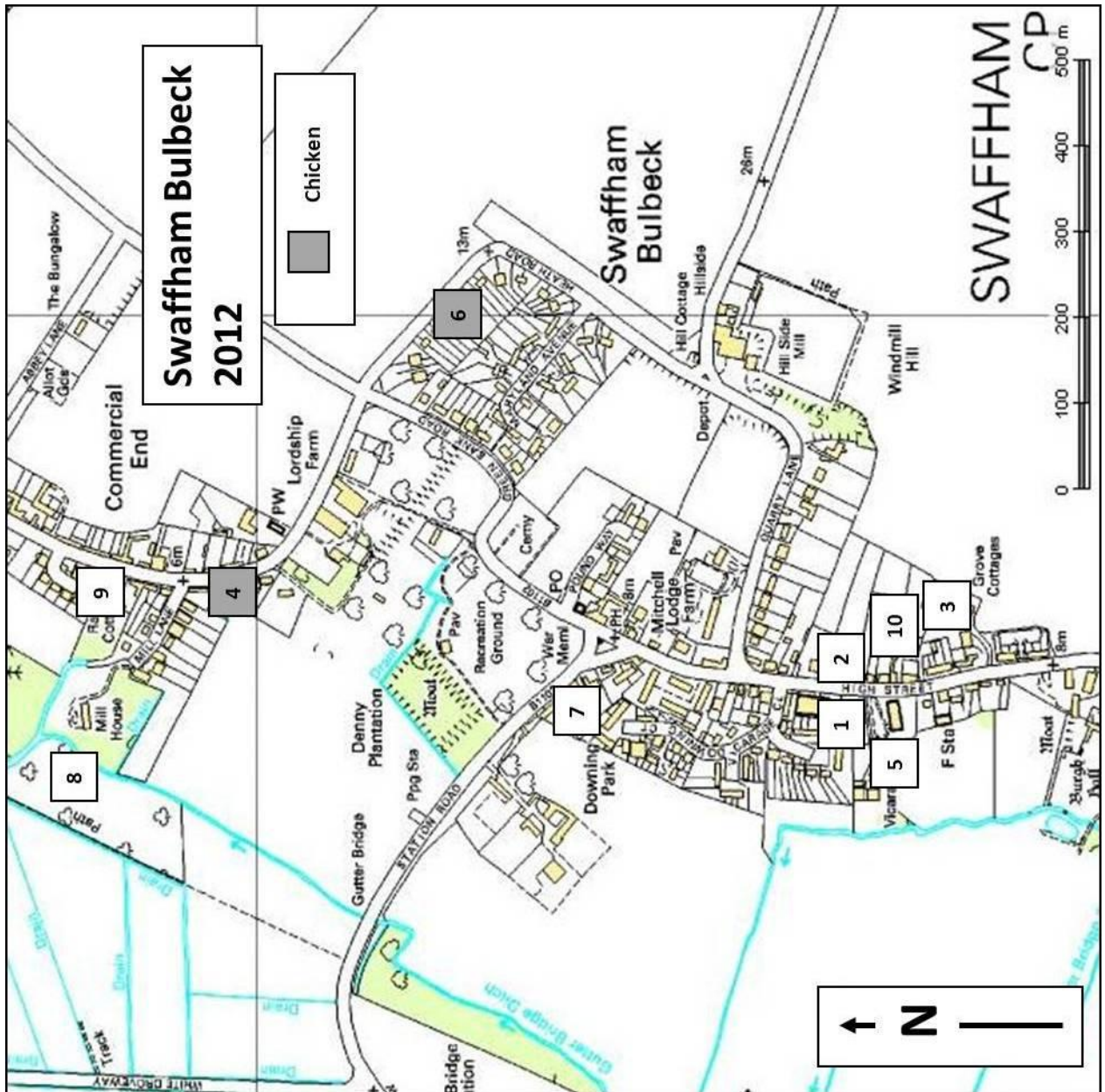


Figure 28: Distribution of chicken bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

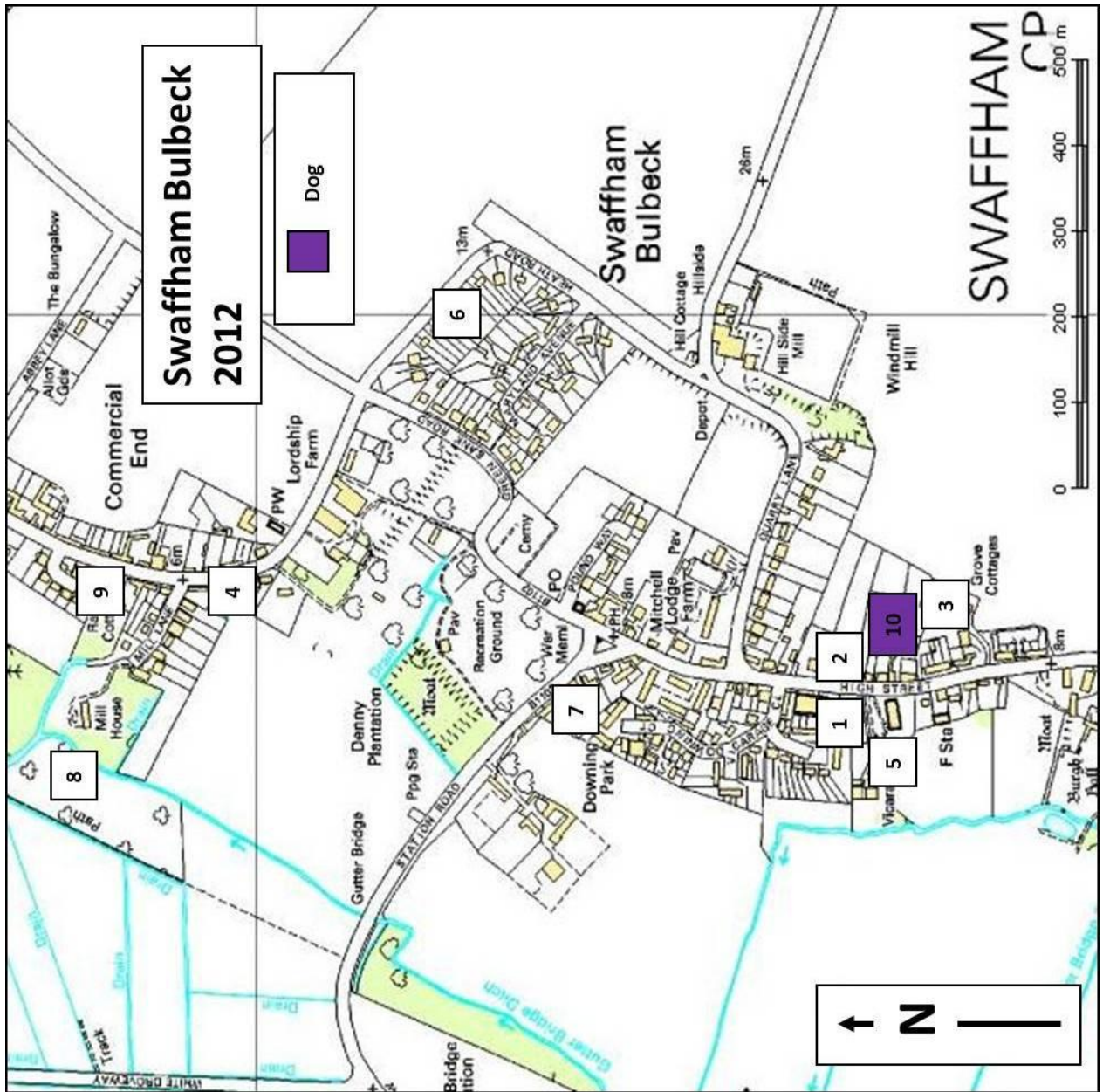


Figure 29: Distribution of dog bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

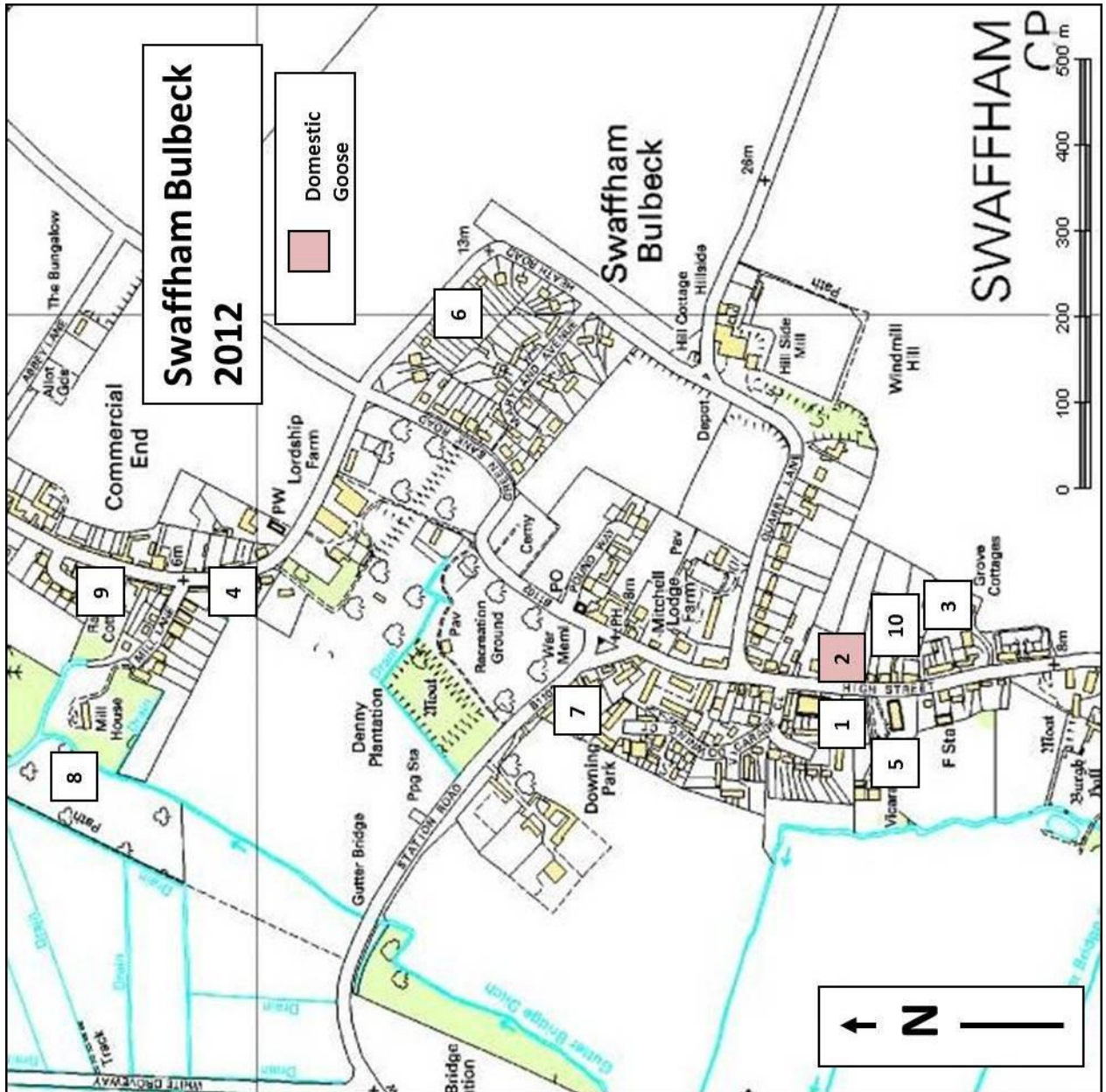


Figure 30: Distribution of domestic goose bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits



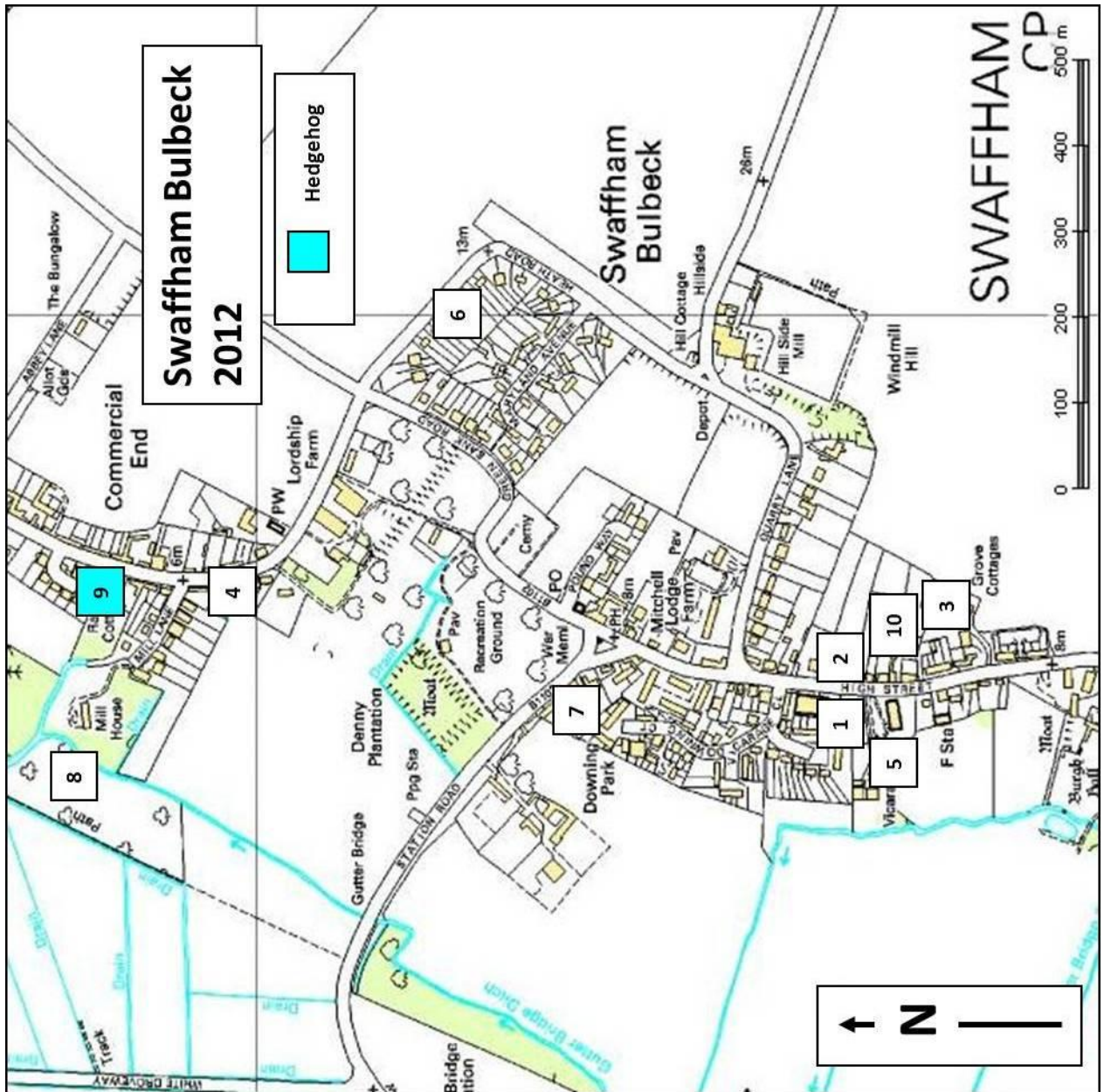


Figure 31: Distribution of hedgehog bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

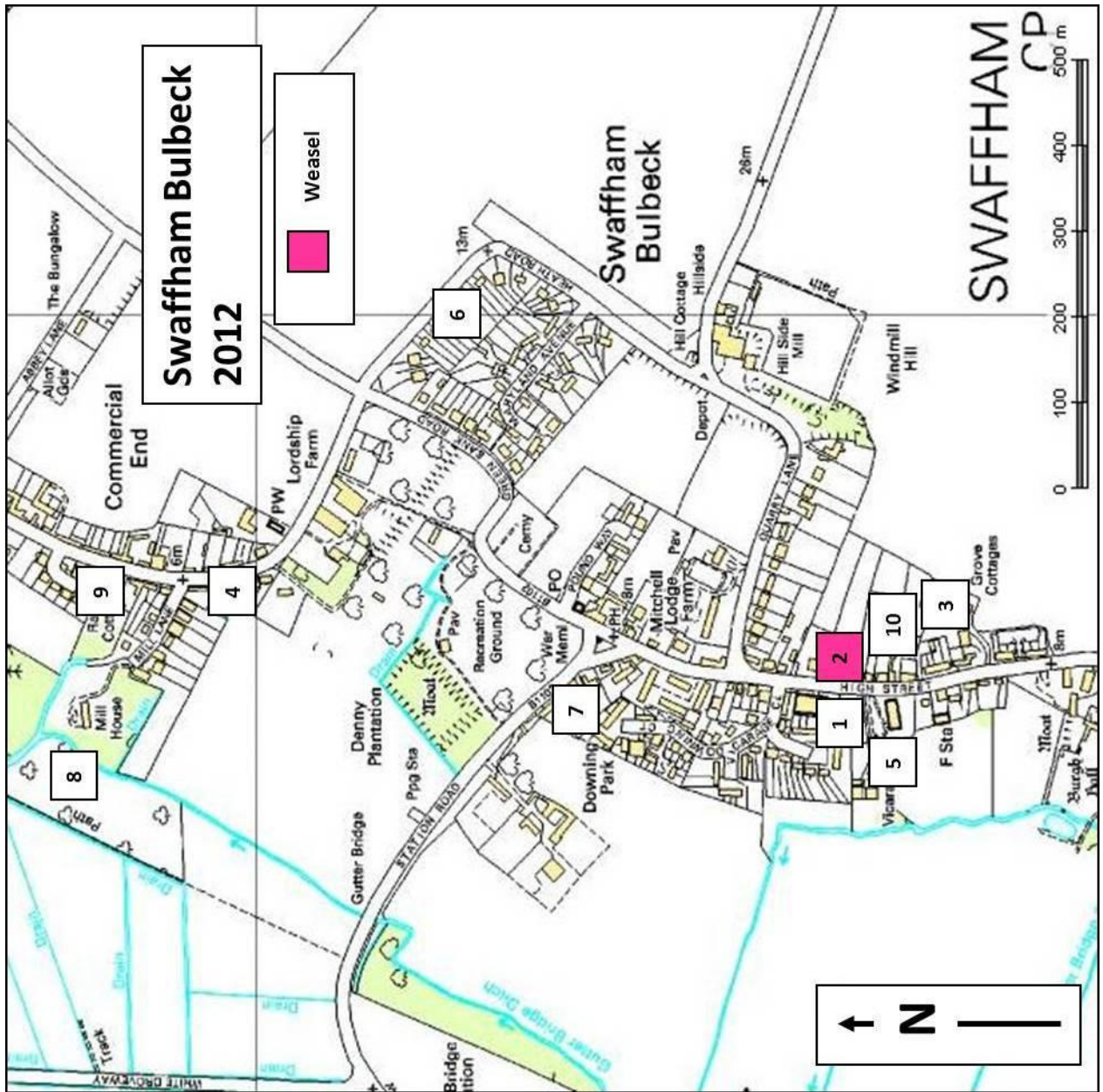


Figure 32: Distribution of weasel bone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

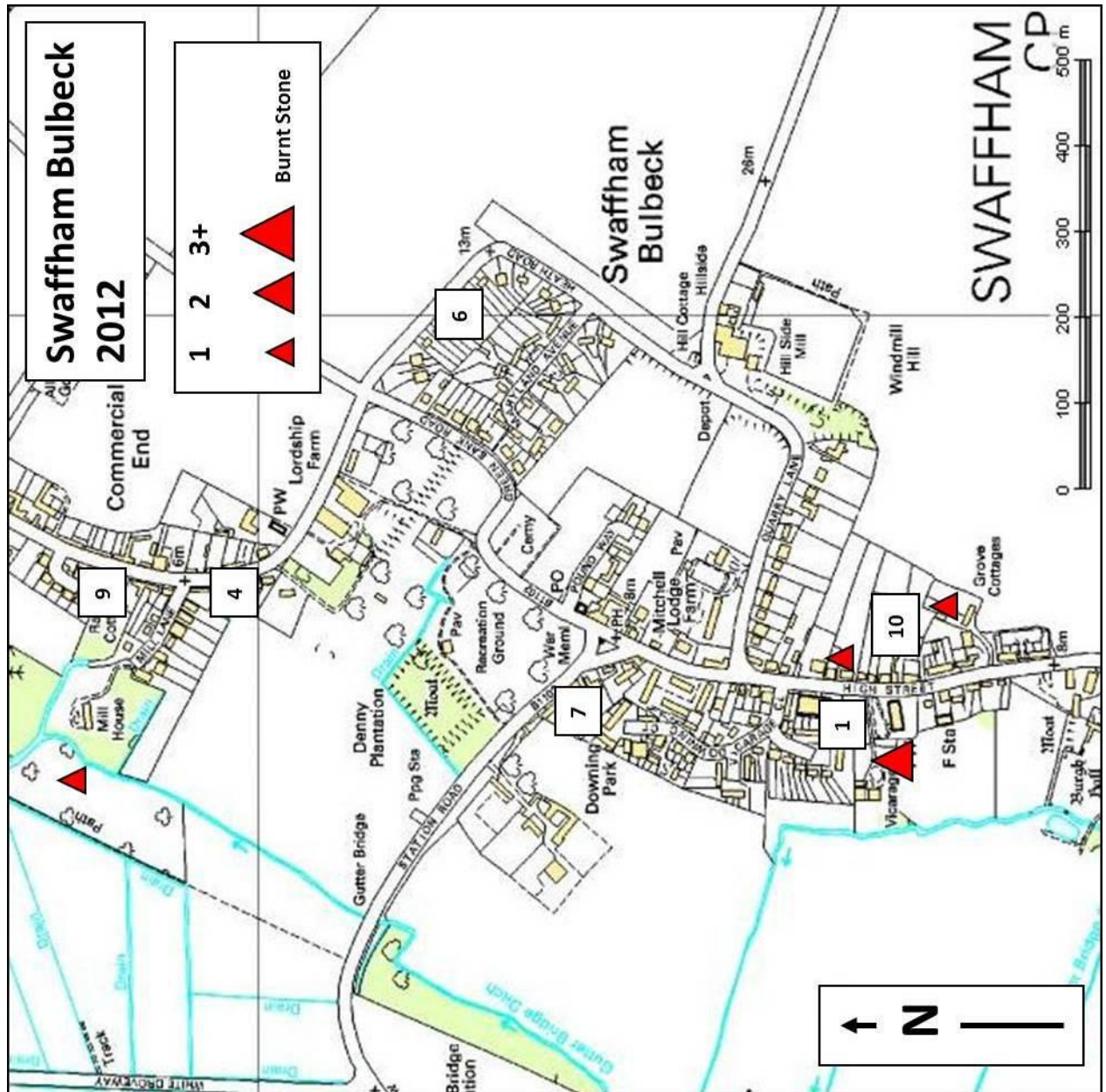


Figure 33: Distribution of burnt stone through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

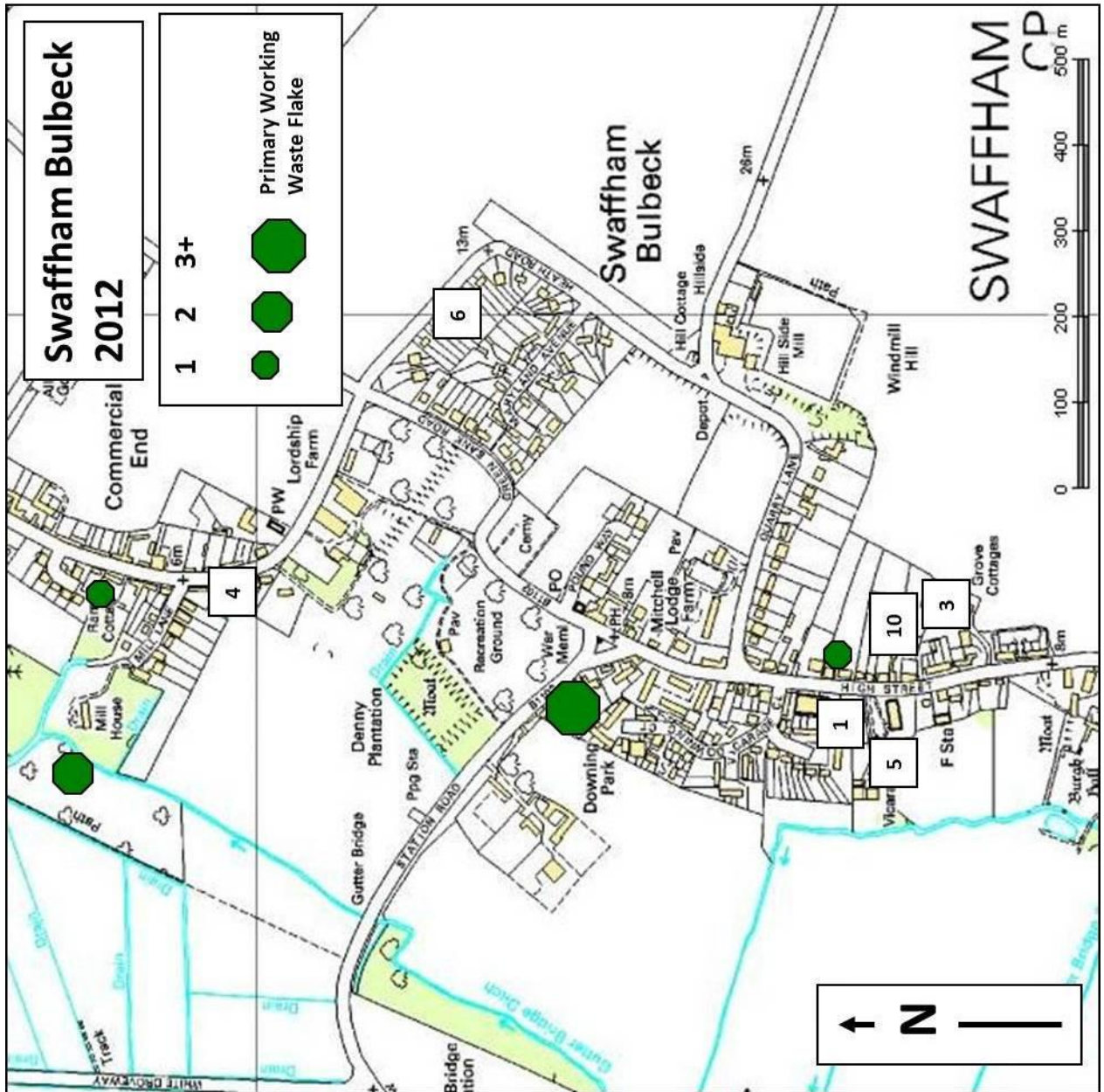


Figure 34: Distribution of primary working waste flint flakes through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

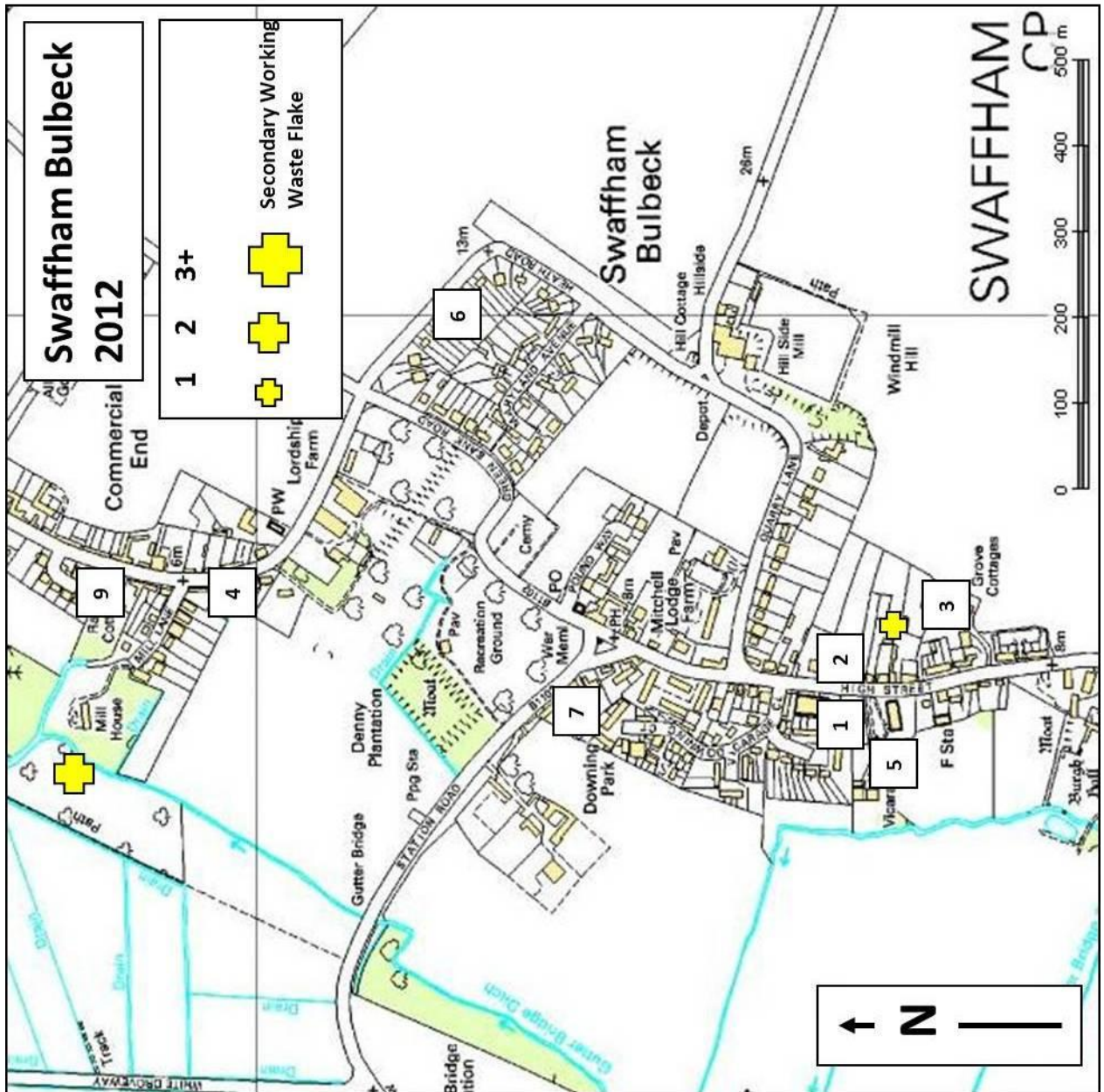


Figure 35: Distribution of secondary working waste flint flakes through the Swaffham Bulbeck test pits

## 13.6 Social outcomes - *Kathryn Muir*

The social outcomes of the project were assessed by Kathryn Muir, a sociology graduate from the University of Leeds in order to measure how well it met its stated aims of increasing participants' understanding of, and passion for archaeology/local history; developing skills in learners: including teamwork and communication skills and improving community integration for people with autistic spectrum conditions. The outcomes detailed below will be published separately, but are included here for reference

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Observation**

On the first and second days of the project, the researcher rotated between the dig sites with learners from Red2Green working on them, assisting them with the excavation, whilst observing them to gain a sense of their experience of the project. On the third day of the project the researcher rotated around all ten dig sites to get a sense of the project as a whole.

#### **Interviews**

14 structured interviews were conducted with learners from Red2Green: each learner was asked a number of set questions, and their answers were recorded. One learner also answered the questions as a self-completion questionnaire as he preferred this method.

Throughout the project unstructured, informal interviews were also carried out with three of the managers of the charity, who volunteered on the project.

#### **Questionnaires**

11 of the students from Soham Village College filled in self-completion questionnaires at the end of the project.

As a follow-up to the research project, teachers at Red2Green ran sessions with learners about their experience. Two teachers filled in a questionnaire, enabling the researcher to gain more insight about what learners gained from the project.

In addition, 3 archaeologists from Access Cambridge Archaeology answered a brief questionnaire assessing the success of the project in terms of the finds that had been made, and the involvement of different community groups.

#### **Analysis**

The methods outlined above generated both quantitative and qualitative data. The researcher analysed this data in terms of the 'aims of the project' outlined above, and also the participant's level of enjoyment of the project. The results are displayed below, by theme.

### **RESULTS**

The data was analysed in terms of 4 key themes:

1. Enjoyment
2. Understanding of, and passion for, archaeology/local history.
3. Developing skills
4. Improving community integration for people with autistic spectrum conditions.

The results are displayed below:

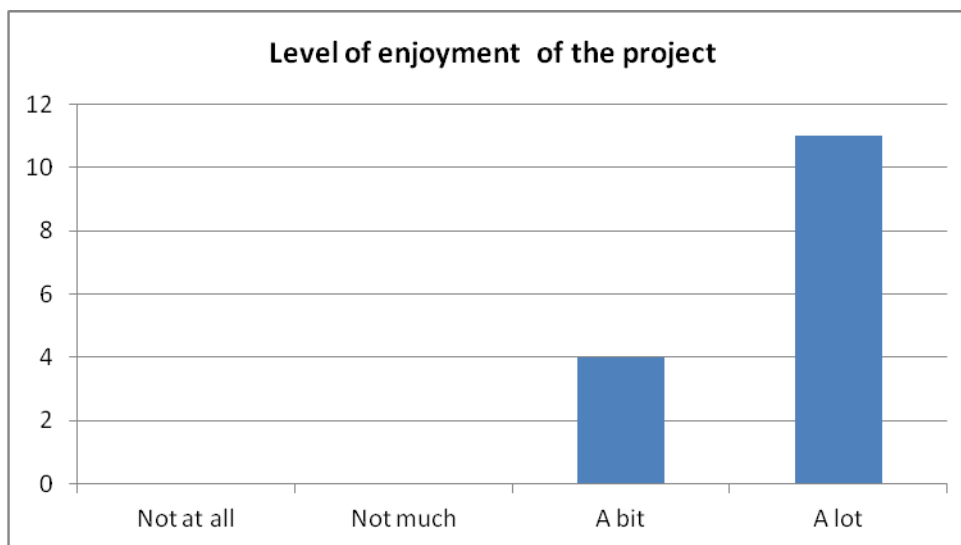
## **1. ENJOYMENT**

### **Learners from Red2Green:**

In **Question 4** of the interview learners were asked ‘Overall, how much did you enjoy the project?’ and were given the options: ‘Not at all’ ‘Not much’ ‘A bit’ and ‘A lot’

Results are shown below:

Table 1.1: Overall how much did you enjoy the project?



Level of enjoyment	Participants	
	Number	%
Not at all	0	0
Not much	0	0
A bit	4	27
A lot	11	73

Clearly the majority of learners from Red2Green greatly enjoyed the project. In accompanying comments, learners described the project as “good” and “brilliant”. One learner said that “some bits were interesting, some were very hard work”. One learner gave the project 8/10.

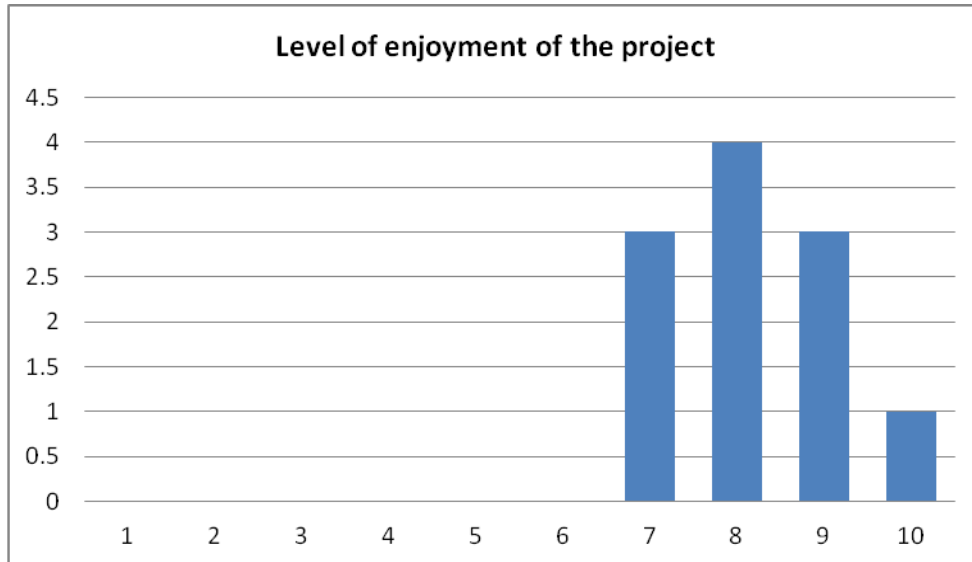
Many of the learners expressed surprise at how much they had enjoyed the project, stating that it had exceeded their expectations.

During an interview, one of the managers of Aspirations explained that one of the ways they measure the success of their activities for the learners is *attendance*. Since the learners attend on a voluntary basis, if they do not enjoy an activity they will sometimes simply stop attending. The full attendance of almost all the learners is therefore further evidence of their enjoyment of the project. Furthermore, several learners enjoyed the project so much that they arranged to attend Aspirations on days they would not normally do so, so they could continue their involvement.

### **Soham Village College pupils**

In **Question 3** of their questionnaire, pupils from Soham Village College were also asked to indicate their level of enjoyment of the project – asked to give it a rating out of 10.

Table 1.2: Overall how much did you enjoy the project?



Level of enjoyment (score out of 10)	Participants	
	Number	%*
1-6	0	0
7	3	27
8	4	36
9	3	27
10	1	9

\*totals 99% due to rounding

The pupils rated their level of enjoyment highly, with all participants giving a score of 7 or higher. Many of the pupils stated that they had enjoyed the project far more than they had expected to.

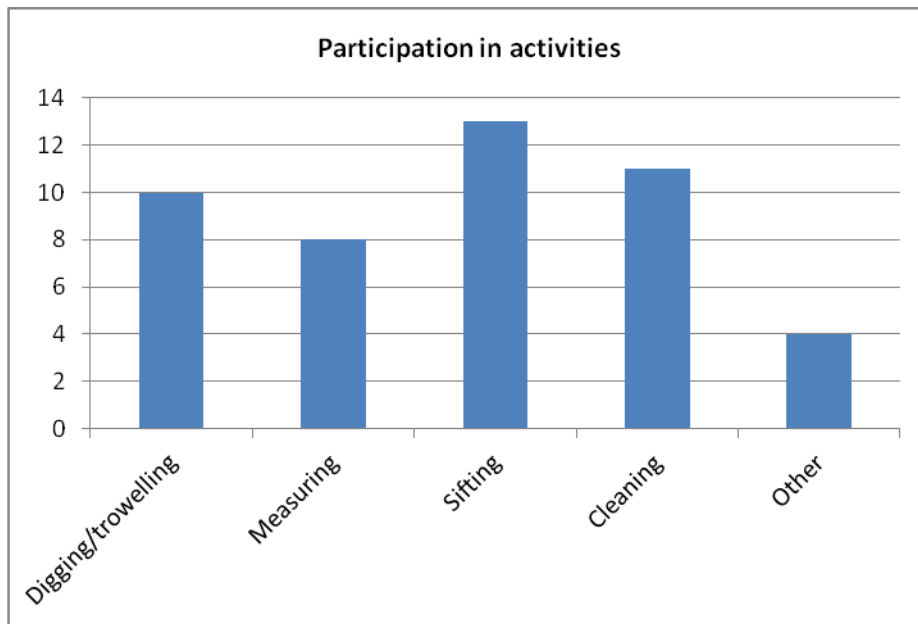
## **2. INCREASING PARTICIPANT'S UNDERSTANDING OF, AND PASSION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY/LOCAL HISTORY.**

### **Learners from Red2Green:**

**Question 10** in the interview asked which activities learners had taken part in. Results shown below

Table 2.1: Did you do any of the following?





Activity	Participants	
	Number	%
Digging/trowelling	10	67
Measuring	8	53
Sifting	13	87
Cleaning	11	73
Other	4	27

The above results demonstrate that the learners took an active part in the excavations. Through completing the above tasks, learners will have gained skills in the processes of conducting an archaeological excavation.

**Question 5** in the interview asked learners to highlight their favourite part of the project. Their answers are displayed in the table below:

Table 2.2: What was your favourite part of the project, and why?

Favourite part of the project	
<i>Sieving - looking for finds</i>	<i>Finding part of a buckle!</i>
<i>Identifying what archaeological objects you get at different levels</i>	<i>Watching people sieving</i>
<i>Digging</i>	<i>Scrubbing pottery- it's amazing how much dirt sticks to it!</i>
<i>Cleaning</i>	<i>Washing</i>
<i>Teamwork</i>	<i>Digging with the Mattock</i>
<i>Finding interesting things</i>	<i>Digging and putting it back in</i>

The answers above demonstrate an interest in the physical process of excavation (digging, sieving, cleaning) and also an interest in the historical objects which were found (finding a buckle, observing the difference in objects that are found at different levels). Overall this demonstrates learners'

enjoyment of the project, and also demonstrates that the learners were fully engaged in the project.

Similarly, **questions 11-13** asked participants whether they had found anything ‘interesting’ or ‘surprising’ during the project, and overall whether they felt they had learnt anything about the people who used to live in the area. These questions, similarly, aimed to measure how engaged participants were with the project, and how much they had learned:

Table 2.3: Further questions about findings

Question	Participants who answered ‘yes’	
	Number	%
Did you find anything interesting?	12	80
Did you find anything surprising?	9	60
Did you learn anything about the people who used to live in the area?	9	60

**‘Interesting finds’ included:**

- *Ornamental glass*
- *Pottery*
- *Shaped flints*
- *Bone*
- *Shell*
- *A buckle*
- *A bottle top*
- *A nail*
- *Charcoal*
- *Asbesdos*
- *A 16<sup>th</sup> century roof tile*

**‘Surprising finds’ included:**

- *A butchered lamb bone*
- *Bones – a rat skeleton*
- *A clay pipe*
- *A solid floor of chalk!*
- *The way the soil changes as you go deeper*
- *A carpet (impossible to cut through, so had to move the dig site!)*

It is important to note the part of the archaeologists in aiding learners’ understanding of their findings. Many learners (and volunteers) commented on the archaeologist’s ability to ‘bring to life’ the findings by ‘telling the story of the people who previously lived in the area’.

**Question 14** in the interview attempted to measure more specifically whether being involved in the project had *increased* learners’ passion for archaeology/local history, by asking whether they would be more likely to do certain activities now than before:

**(Please note, two participants chose not to complete this question, so percentages are out of 13 rather than 15)**

Table 2.4: Would you be more likely to do any of the following activities now than before?

Activity	Number of participants 'More likely to carry out activity now than before?'	
	Number	%
A) Read books about archaeology or local history	8	62
B) watch TV programmes about archaeology or local history	8	62
C) get involved with more practical archaeology projects	11	85
D) visit museums to learn more about archaeology/local history	6	46
E) discuss archaeology or local history with others	9	69

The results suggest that learners would be more likely to take part in all of the above activities relating to archaeology/local history.

The activity which most learners suggested they would be more likely to take part in now was *getting involved with more practical archaeology projects* (85% of learners stating they were more likely to do this than before). This further demonstrates how much the learners enjoyed this particular project, as well as showing that it had fostered a more lasting interest in archaeological projects of this kind. The activity which was ranked second was *'discuss archaeology or local history with others'*.

In **Questions 1-3** of the questionnaire given to teachers after the dig, teachers were asked the following questions (shown with responses):

Table 2.5: Questions about learner's increased interest

<b>Q1. Do you feel taking part in the project has increased the learners' <i>understanding</i> of archaeology/local history?</b>
Yes
<b>Q2. Do you feel taking part in the project has increased the learners' <i>interest</i> in archaeology/local history?'</b>
<i>Yes, definitely with those who showed interest before the dig, but surprisingly some others enjoyed the sifting and sorting of objects</i>
<b>Q3. Can you give some examples of things the learners have been interested in, or shown a desire to learn more about, since the project?</b>
<i>Some have returned wanting to investigate and identify objects found, using the internet They have also shown an interest in dating items.</i>

These answers confirm the impact the project had on learner's understanding of, and passion for archaeology and local history.

### **Soham Village College pupils**

In **Question 7** of their questionnaire, pupils from SVC were asked to rate their level of *knowledge* about archaeology before and after the project. Their individual ratings are shown below:

Table 2.6 : Please rate your level of *knowledge* about archaeology before/after the project

Participant number	'Knowledge' rating before project	'Knowledge' rating after project	Increase
1	8	9	1
2	2	7	5
3	1	2	1
4	1	8	7
5	3	4	1
6	4	7	3
7	6	8	2
8	8	8	0
9	1	8	7
10	1	8	7
11	4	8	4
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>

In **Question 8** pupils were asked to rate their level of *interest* in archaeology before and after the project:

Table 2.7 : Please rate your level of *interest* in archaeology before/after the project

Participant number	'Interest' rating before project	'Interest' rating after project	Increase
1	8	8	0
2	4	8	4
3	1	2	1
4	1	6	5
5	5	5	0
6	4	6	2
7	8	10	2
8	6	6	0
9	1	6	5
10	1	7	6
11	4	8	4
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>

These results demonstrate that the project increased the pupil's knowledge about archaeology and local history. Some of the stated increases were very great - for example 3 pupils' rating of their knowledge of archaeology increased from 1/10 to 8/10.

**Question 9** in the questionnaire asked whether pupils would be more likely to do certain behaviours now than before:

Table 2.8 : Would you be more likely to do any of the following things now than before participating in the project?

Activity	Number of participants 'More likely to carry out activity now than before?'	
	Number	%
A) Read books about archaeology or local history	2	18
B) watch TV programmes about archaeology or local history	7	64
C) get involved with more practical archaeology projects	8	73

D) visit museums to learn more about archaeology/local history	2	18
E) discuss archaeology or local history with others	2	18

As with the learners from Aspirations, *getting involved in practical archaeology projects* was the activity the most pupils stated they would be more likely to do now than before. *Watching TV programmes about archaeology or local history* was ranked second highest.

**Question 4** of the questionnaire for SVC pupils asked them to highlight their favourite part of the project:

Table 2.9: What was your favourite part of the project, and why?

#### **Favourite part of the project**

<i>Digging</i>
<i>Washing the finds and trying to guess what they were</i>
<i>It was cool to see things from ages ago, something that someone hasn't touched for hundreds of years</i>
<i>Finding lots of interesting objects</i>

These results demonstrate that the Soham Village College students were engaged in the project, and that it increased their interest and understanding of archaeology and local history.

## **DEVELOPING SKILLS**

### **Learners from Red2Green:**

As well as teaching learners about archaeology, a key aim of the project was that it should help them develop skills such as social interaction, teamwork and confidence. These skills are explored below:

#### **Working with new people**

All of the learners worked together with new people on the project. As well as interacting with the young people and adult volunteers working at their dig site, learners also had to interact with the owners of the houses, and the archaeologists and film crew rotating between the different sites. Talking to new people is something that many of the learners find challenging, so successfully managing these interactions was a big achievement.

In the questionnaire given to the teachers after the project, one teacher responded that the learners had demonstrated a *"noticeable increase of confidence when talking to new people"*. Clearly this is a skill that the learners can take forward and apply to everyday situations, meaning the project may have a lasting positive impact.

#### **Communication of ideas**

Taking part in the physical task of excavation promoted communication with other people on the dig, as participants discussed the tasks that needed to be completed, and the finds that had been made. This required learners to vocalise their thoughts and opinions about several topics, which is a useful skill.

The learners' confidence in this area grew over the course of the project. One of the archaeologists commented: *"It was really rewarding to see their transition from quiet observation to active participation over the course of the days, and to see everyone sharing and swapping between the roles of digging, sieving and finds processing."*

The project also promoted further communication outside of Aspirations. One parent commented that her son, who usually does not talk much about his day in the evenings *"would not stop talking about*

*the project!*" This highlights his enjoyment, and also the impact the project had on his ability/desire to vocalise his experiences.

### **Communication with children**

Something which was of particular note was learner's interaction with children on the project. Many of the learners rarely come into contact with children, and therefore managing this different relationship was a challenge for them.

Not all of the learners had children working on their dig sites, but all of those that did rose to this challenge. Several commented that working with children was one of their favourite aspects of the project. One learner in particular managed this new experience very well. He was placed on a dig site with several primary school children and only one adult leader. He therefore stepped into the role of assistant leader – helping manage the children by directing them on the various tasks, 'rounding them up' at the end of the day, and keeping them in check when they were misbehaving. Despite expressing some frustration at times, he ultimately thoroughly enjoyed taking this leadership role, which is one he would not usually have the opportunity to take.

### **Persistence and remaining focused on a task**

Completing the project involved hard work and perseverance. Some parts of the process were tiring and repetitive, but the learners (with encouragement from the volunteers) remained focused on the end goal and worked hard to achieve this.

One of the archaeologists commented: "*The R2G people seemed to gain in a wide range of individual ways - some were very engaged with the task and clearly loved being entrusted and able to get on with something, and took pride in what they were doing. Others who were less obviously engaged nonetheless in many cases showed dogged persistence, sustained interest and clearly enjoyed being part of something which was different and new to them - a good win for individuals on the autistic spectrum*".

The ability to work to a set goal, by following a specific process, is clearly one which we all encounter regularly in day to day life. Giving the learners the opportunity to experience this will have helped them developed useful skills that can be applied in many other contexts.

### **Teamwork**

There was a large element of teamwork involved in completing the project, as participants had to divide the work between them, and listen to each other's ideas. By giving learners the opportunity to work together in small groups, together with new people, the experience built on their teamwork skills, which can be applied in many other areas of their life. One archaeologist commented that the project had demonstrated that...

*It is perfectly possible for autistic people to benefit from and enjoy archaeology, and everything that comes along with it (being outside, working with their hands, being in contact with others, and working towards a common goal).*

It is clear that the project will have helped the learners develop several skills which are useful in everyday situations.

### **Soham Village College pupils**

In a similar way to the learners from Red2Green, working on the project will have also helped develop skills for the pupils from SVC:

#### **Working with new people**

The experience of working with new people on the project will have increased the pupil's confidence to do this in the future.

### Leadership and support:

The project involved working together with primary school children and adults with autistic spectrum conditions. This gave pupils the opportunity to take a leadership role on the project, taking charge of the tasks to be completed and guiding other members of the group through these. Many pupils rose to this challenge, as observed by the archaeologists:

*“The secondary school (SVC) children developed mentoring and leadership skills from the responsible positions they could hold within their teams.”*

*“It was good to see the secondary school children taking responsibility for helping less able members of groups to get stuck in; there was one in particular that I remember, who seemed to really enjoy and excel in discovering and then taking on this leadership role.”*

### Communication

The process of conducting the dig encouraged the SVC pupils to communicate with all of the other people at the dig site – sharing ideas about how the task should be completed, and the items that have been found. The experience will have helped develop the SVC pupils’ skills in communicating with adults, children and people with disabilities, all of whom require slightly different communication styles. These are skills which they will be able to apply in many future situations.

### Persistence and remaining focused on a task

In a similar way to the learners from Red2Green, the pupils will have developed skills in staying focused on a project, and seeing it through to its fruition. Again, this is a useful skill for many other situations, including school work!

### Teamwork and research skills

Questions **10a** and **10b** of the questionnaire for Soham Village College pupils asked them to indicate whether taking part in the project had developed their research and teamwork skills.

Table 3.1: Taking part in the project has developed my research skills

10a. Taking part in the project has developed my research skills	Participants	
	Number	%
Strongly agree	0	0
Agree	5	45
Neither agree nor disagree	5	45
Disagree	1	9
Strongly disagree	0	0

Table 3.2 Taking part in the project has developed my teamwork skills

10b. Taking part in the project has developed my teamwork skills	Participants	
	Number	%
Strongly agree	0	0
Agree	6	55
Neither agree nor disagree	3	27
Disagree	2	18
Strongly disagree	0	0

Around half of the pupils felt that the experience had developed their research and teamwork skills, while the others did not feel that the project had had this impact.

It is clear that involvement in the project will have been beneficial for the learners from Red2Green and SVC students. One of the archaeologists summed up one of the main reasons the project had

this effect:

*“Being treated like responsible adults while also having the supervisory support they needed (both archaeological from the specialists and personal from test pit supervisors) enabled everyone to feel responsible while not being overwhelmed by the demands of the task, which were quite heavy, requiring physical and mental input.”*

### **IMPROVING COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM CONDITIONS**

#### **Soham Village College Questionnaires**

As part of **Question 10**, SVC students were asked to indicate whether, overall, taking part in the project had increased their understanding of people with autistic spectrum conditions.

Table 4.1 Taking part in the project has increased my understanding of people with autistic spectrum conditions

“Taking part in the project has increased my understanding of people with autistic spectrum conditions” – response	Number of participants	
	Number	%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	1	9
<b>Disagree</b>	0	0
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	4	36
<b>Agree</b>	4	36
<b>Strongly agree</b>	2	18

Results were mixed, probably reflecting the fact that some of the pupils did not work directly with the learners. Overall just over half of the pupils either ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that they had gained an increased understanding of people with autistic spectrum conditions.

Question 11 gave pupils the opportunity to reflect on the experience of working with people with autistic spectrum conditions. The answers below reveal that the experience did raise awareness and change perceptions.

Table 4.2 Further comments about working with people with autistic spectrum conditions.

<b>Please add any further comments you may have about the experience of working together with people with autistic spectrum conditions (if applicable). Do you feel this experience has changed your perceptions in any way? If so, how?</b>
<i>Before this I didn't feel comfortable around people with autistic spectrum conditions, but now I've spoken to them, interacted, and know now how they feel. I have great respect for them, and feel comfortable around them.</i>
<i>It really makes you realise that people judge them and say they are different but they are just the same as you and me and shouldn't be treated negatively differently.</i>
<i>I now understand the difficulties one with autism may have.</i>

As a final way of measuring the impact, pupils were asked (as part of Question 9) whether they would be more likely to participate in projects with people with disabilities, or look for opportunities to learn more about autistic spectrum conditions.



Table 4.3: 9. Would you be more likely to do any of the following things now, than before participating in the project

Activity	Number of participants 'More likely to carry out activity now than before?'	
	Number	%
F) participate in projects with people with disabilities	7	64
G) look for opportunities to learn more about autistic spectrum conditions	7	64

The majority of pupils suggested that they would. This is clearly a sign that the project raised the pupils interest in learning about (and helping) those with autistic spectrum conditions. It is also, hopefully, an indication that the project will have a lasting positive impact (if pupils do go on to look for opportunities to learn/volunteer).

### **Primary school children**

In addition to the secondary school pupils, some of the primary school children also worked in groups with people with autistic spectrum conditions. Both the archaeologists and the managers from Red2Green commented at the fact that the children treated these learners as they would any other adult:

*“ enthusiastically showing them their finds if they had missed anything and simply ignoring behaviour they might have been expected to find unusual or even unsettling: They clearly learnt a lot about autism from this experience”*

The children on the project completely accepted the learners, whatever their level of ability or involvement. This acceptance is something really positive for them to take away, along with their increased understanding of archaeology and local history.

### **Impact on wider community**

Other members of the community were involved with the project, acting as volunteers, or hosting the digs in their gardens. These individuals all seemed to enjoy the experience, and seemed very happy that they had been able to help.

The project will have encouraged many people to interact with people with autistic spectrum conditions, in a way that they would never usually have an opportunity to do.

As observed by one of the archaeologists, even “ *for villagers not directly involved, seeing R2G people out and about the village, engaged, purposeful and part of a project making new discoveries, should have a positive impact of perceptions”.*

This will be further enhanced by the ‘celebration event’ being held on 15 October, where Red2Green will show film footage of the dig, and bury a time capsule at the primary school. It is hoped that this event will spread further awareness and understanding about individuals with autistic spectrum conditions.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall this report has highlighted the positive impact of the Swaffham Bulbeck dig on everyone involved in this project.

The report has demonstrated that the project increased participants’ understanding of, and passion for, archaeology/local history, and increased the likelihood of them getting involved in related

activities in the future.

It has also demonstrated that the project developed useful skills for the participants, including teamwork, communication and dedication to a task.

Lastly, the report has demonstrated the positive impact the project had on improving community integration for people with autistic spectrum conditions: raising awareness and understanding for participants, volunteers and individuals in the wider Swaffham Bulbeck community.